

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 4
date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Lucy Tarr Mansion; Tarr, Lucy, House #5

and or common Little, Nellie, House; "Highland Place"

2. Location

street & number 1456 Pleasant Avenue not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
M.R.A. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Nellie V. Little

street & number 1456 Pleasant 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		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lucy Tarr House is a unique Queen Anne style mansion* situated high on a bluff overlooking Pleasant Avenue and the Ohio River. This brick, two and one-half story structure with high pitched roofs and richly appointed porches shows also the clear influence of Eastern Stick style.

As is typical of Queen Anne houses, the roof is steeply pitched and of irregular shape. The ridge runs from front to back parallel to the sides. The lower cross gable on the south side is hipped.

The west front facade is dominated by a wide gable, not quite full-width. This wide front gable is dominated by a tall, corbeled chimney at its apex. Offset on the north side of the house is a three-story, square tower. This tower, showing the influence of Eastern Stick style on the designer, is located where one would expect it in Queen Anne style. Its steeply pitched, hipped roof is decorated with metal cresting. Fishscale slate tiles add to the decorative character of the almost pyramidal roof of the tower. A mahogany stairway beside the tower is lighted by a two-story window on the north side which is floor length on the first floor.

An extensive one-story porch accentuates the asymmetry of the front facade. It includes the front entrance area, covers almost all of the front facade and extends around the northwest corner to the tower. This ell shaped veranda has three bays on the west front. The veranda is supported by turned columns.

The entrance bay on the front veranda is the northernmost of the three bays. It is topped by a projecting gable with a decorated tympanum. Here are the most clear examples of Stick style, i.e. within gables "Stick work" resulted in a series of boards intersecting at right angles and applied over a clapboard surface to symbolize the structural skeleton of the house.

Similar decoration is found with slanted bay on the south side and in the diagonal boards, resembling half-timbering, under the side porch. The barge board below the roof line on the front veranda is composed of richly appointed sawn and turned woodwork.

The southside has a squared bay with hipped roof topped by a gable dormer. Of special interest is the porch on the south side. Flanked by small side windows and capped by a beautiful slant bay window, with segmented sashes, this porch is richly decorated in sawn and turned woodwork. The double-leafed, panelled French doors are flanked by the only external shutters in the house. Over these clear panelled doors is an overlight with colored glass panes. All other windows in the house have inside louvered shutters.

In contrast to many Queen Anne style houses, the Lucy Tarr house uses relatively little wooden detailing except in the verandas. The brickwork itself is commonbond with header courses at irregular intervals. Instead, the effect of asymmetry and ornate decoration so desired by Queen Anne architects has been accomplished by the frequent use of bay windows, porches, the tower and variations in the windows. Some windows have simple stone lentils while others are set beneath relieving arches. While single-pane sashes predominate, the variety of rectangular panes occur in the long windows on the west front and in the tower.

The inside of the house is also richly appointed in unique ways. The two front rooms and the entry hall have chestnut floors and all woodwork throughout the house is mahogany.

* Unique to Wellsburg and Brooke County.

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Continuation sheet

The Lucy Tarr Mansion

Item number

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CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

The only two buildings on the lot are the Lucy Tarr house and a late 19th century frame garage/barn. The small frame building complements the main house at the rear of the lot; it is a good example of period small-scale frame carpentry.

Contributing Buildings	2	(1 house, 1 barn/garage)
Noncontributing Resources	0	
Total Contributing Resources	2	

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 checked="" 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 c. 1885 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lucy Tarr House is significant not only because it is a unique example of Queen Anne style,* and one which shows clearly the influence of Contemporary Stick style; but it is also the best preserved example of Queen Anne style in Brooke County. Designed by Ellen Hunter Tarr to resemble a Swiss chalet, it represents the high style of a special period in the history and prosperity of Wellsburg.

Lucy Tarr, her sister, Ellen Hunter Tarr, and her brother E.R. Tarr, were the unmarried heirs of Campbell Tarr, Jr. Their father, noted for his anti-slavery and pro-Union sentiments, played a key role in the establishment of West Virginia as a Free State and served as the first state treasurer. He was the heir of one of the most important families in the development of Ohio River commerce and the financing of industry in the Wellsburg area.

Ellen Hunter Tarr, the designer of this house, attended the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts and was an artist friend of Mary Sarat. She constructed a model of the house, as she envisioned it, for herself, her brother and her sister; this model was used in turn by the architects and builders.

Although there are many examples of low-style Queen Anne houses in Wellsburg and Brooke County, the Lucy Tarr House is certainly the best preserved example of the high-style of Queen Anne houses. With its strong influence of Eastern Stick style, it is truly unique in this entire area.

The very name Queen Anne Style suggests the eclecticism of the originators of this style. Coined in England and inspired by the transitional architecture of the pre-Georgian period which grafted Classical ornamentation onto Medieval forms, the Queen Anne style ideally expressed the informality, freedom and growing prosperity of post-Civil War America. Deeply pitched roofs of irregular shape, usually with a dominant front-facing gable; asymmetrical facade with partial or full-width porches, which are usually one-story high and extend along one or both side walls, a tower placed at one corner of the front facade; all of these are identifying features of Queen Anne style and are descriptive of the Lucy Tarr House.

Just as the Queen Anne style in America tended to combine Gothic and Classical traits, so also the Stick style, which flourished in mid-19th century, evolved out of Carpenter Gothic. This style, which was wood construction, was characterized by angularity, verticality and asymmetry. Porches and verandas in Stick style were common and, in contrast to the Lucy Tarr House, were often decorated with simple diagonal braces. The principle characteristic of Stick style was the expression of the inner structure of the house through exterior ornament. This was most often found in gable ends where the "Stick Work" was usually a series of boards intersecting at right angles and applied over a clapboard surface to symbolize the structural skeleton of the house. Although the Lucy Tarr House is clearly Queen Anne style, it equally, clearly shows the number of transitional characteristics of Stick style architecture, especially Eastern Stick style.

* Unique to Wellsburg and Brook County.

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

Acreage of nominated property .85 acre

Quadrangle name Steubenville, Ohio East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Brooke County Tax Maps, Wellsburg District Map #10, Parcel #61.
189' x 196' (see map)

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

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

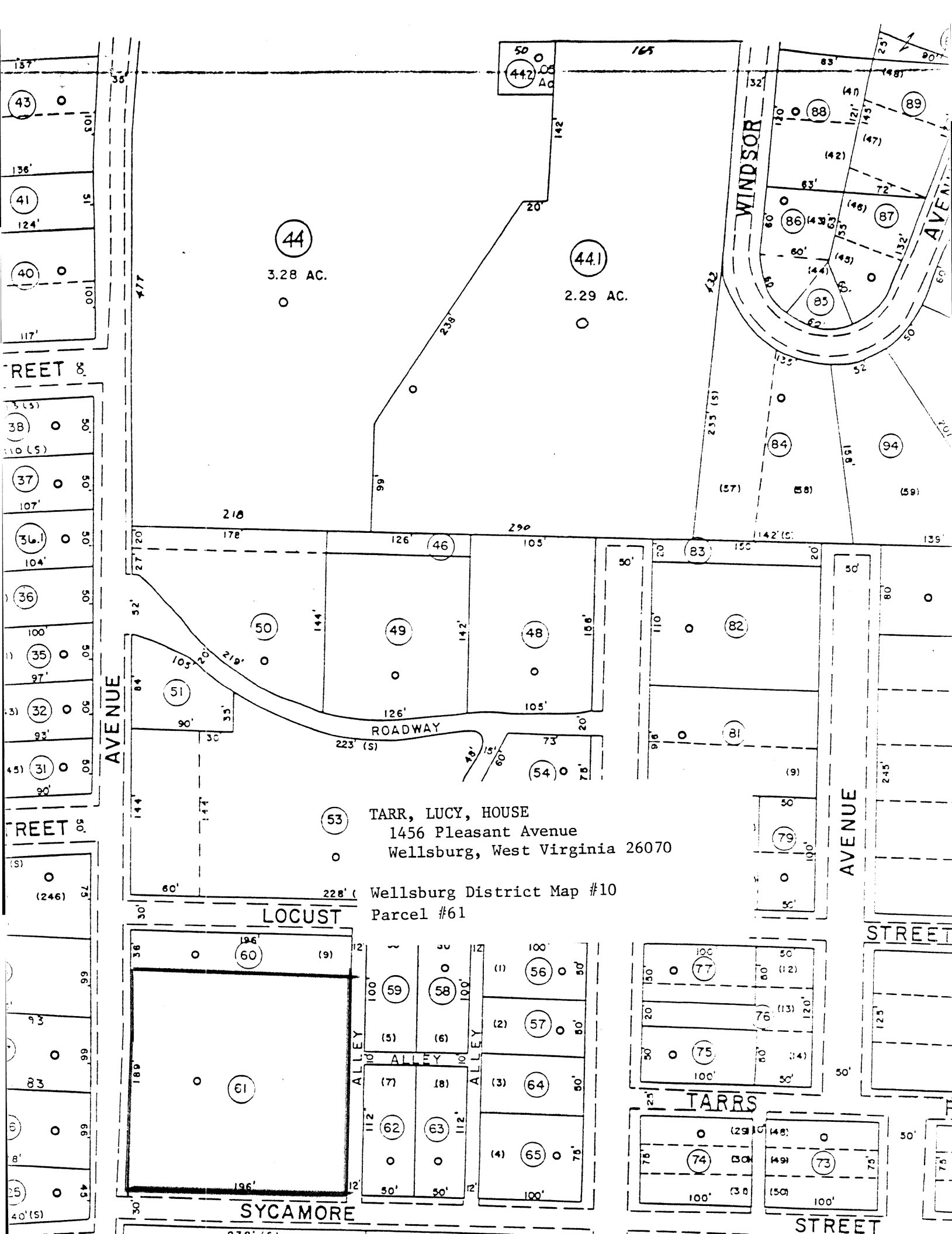
date 5/16/86

for Patrick Anderson
Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration



44

3.28 AC.

44.1

2.29 AC.

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TARR, LUCY, HOUSE
 1456 Pleasant Avenue
 Wellsburg, West Virginia 26070

Wellsburg District Map #10
 Parcel #61

LOCUST

SYCAMORE

WINDSOR

AVENUE

STREET

TARRS

STREET