

908

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

1. Name of Property

historic name: Carskadon, Thomas R., House
other name/site number: Carskadon Mansion; "Radical Hill"

2. Location

street & number: Carskadon Road not for publication: N/A
city/town: Keyser vicinity: _____
state: West Virginia WV county: Mineral code: 057 zip code: 26726

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Susan M. Pierce 7/2/02
Signature of Certifying Official 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/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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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.

Edouard Beall 8/22/02

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:

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
3	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	1	objects
4	2	TOTAL

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

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions	Current Functions
<u>Domestic/Single Dwelling=House</u>	<u>Vacant/Not In Use</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification:	Materials
<u>LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate;</u>	<u>Foundation Stone</u>
<u>French Second Empire</u>	<u>Walls Brick</u>
<u> </u>	<u>Roof Other</u>
<u> </u>	<u>Other</u>

Narrative Description
(See continuation on 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** 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.

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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 Politics/Government
Invention

Period of Significance 1866-1905

Significant Dates _____

Significant Person Carskadon, Thomas R.
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(See continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of Repository: Mineral County Historical Foundation, PO Box 1325
Keyser, WV 26726

10. Geographical Data

Acree of Property: 1.009 Acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Quad Map Name: Keyser, WV

17 673176 4366367
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Geoffrey B. Henry, Architectural Historian

Organization: GAI Consultants, Inc. Date: March 10, 2002

Street & Number: 570 Beatty Road Telephone: 412-856-6400

City or Town: Monroeville State: PA Zip: 15146

Property Owner

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

Name: Mineral County Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Street & Number: PO Box 1325 Telephone: 304-788-5481

City or Town: Keyser State: WV Zip: 26726

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LOCATION AND SETTING

The Thomas R. Carskadon House (also known as the Carskadon Mansion or “Radical Hill”) is located on the northwest side of Carskadon Road and US Route 220 (Mineral Street) at the southwest end of the corporate limits of the City of Keyser, the county seat of Mineral County, in northeastern West Virginia. The 1.009-acre nominated property is bordered on the southeast by Carskadon Road and US Route 220, on the northeast by a paved parking lot, on the northwest by a vacant field, and on the southwest by several post-World War II, single-family residences. The Thomas R. Carskadon House has been vacant since late 1999 and has been mothballed pending rehabilitation by the Mineral County Historical Foundation, Inc.

The surrounding topography consists of a narrow valley flanked by New Creek Mountain on the southeast and Fore Knobs (part of the Allegheny Front) on the northwest. This valley is traversed by New Creek, located to the southeast of the Thomas R. Carskadon House property. Surrounding land use consists of a mix of commercial and residential buildings, as well as the buildings and athletic fields of the Mineral County Schools, which are located on the southeast side of US Route 220, across from the Thomas R. Carskadon House.

The immediate setting of the main house and outbuildings consists of a grass lawn, planted with mature trees and scattered shrubbery. A stone retaining wall runs along the southeast and east boundaries of the property, between the lawn and Carskadon Road. The wall is pierced by a flight of three stone steps to the southeast of the Carskadon House. A gravel driveway provides access from Carskadon Road.

CONTRIBUTING/NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

The 1.009-acre Thomas R. Carskadon property contains one contributing building—the main house; and three contributing sites—the ruins of a brick dairy, the cement foundations of a silo, and the stone foundations of another outbuilding (possibly a barn). There is one non-contributing building—a frame garage that postdates the house’s period of significance; and a non-contributing object—a brick barbecue—within the boundaries of the nominated property.

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THOMAS R. CARSKADON HOUSE

ca. 1866

1 Contributing Building

Exterior Description:

The main house on the Thomas R. Carskadon property is located on a cleared bluff and is oriented to the southeast. The main house was constructed ca. 1866 by its owner Thomas R. Carskadon and combines features of the Italianate and French Second Empire styles. The house consists of two original sections: a two-and-one-half-story, five-bay, rectangular-section, brick main block and a one-story, two-bay brick ell on the northwest elevation. The house is built on a partially raised foundation of cut fieldstone and brick. Fieldstone (now painted green) is used along the southeast foundation, while brick, also painted green, is used on the other three elevations. There is a below-grade entrance on the northeast leading to an unfinished cellar. The bricks for the house reputedly were manufactured on the Carskadon property and are laid in six-course common bond with queen closers on all four elevations.

The exterior brickwork is painted white and is somewhat deteriorated in several locations, particularly at the north corner and on the southeast and southwest elevations. There is no evidence that any of the original brickwork has been replaced.

The Thomas R. Carskadon House has a hip-on-mansard roof. The roof presently is covered with tarpaper and is in the process of restoration. (Documentary evidence states that the roof was formerly painted, suggesting that the house at one time had a metal roof). The roof is pierced by two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps. A modern metal gutter runs along the ridge separating the hip and mansard roofs. The roof is trimmed with a wooden box cornice; below this is a row of evenly spaced, curved wooden brackets.

There are three dormer windows with segmental-arched heads on the northeast, southwest, and southeast elevations and one dormer window on the northwest elevation. These windows have 6/6 double-hung sash. Several of the dormer window panes have been replaced on the northeast and southwest, although the majority of window panes are original.

Most other windows on the first and second stories have 6/6 double-hung sash with molded frames and plain board sills. Each window is topped by a molded, flat-headed wooden architrave. Although some windows have broken or cracked glass panes, enough glass in the sashes remain to determine their age and construction. (One window pane on the southwest is scratched with the

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name "Luther," probably for Luther Carskadon, one of Thomas R. Carskadon's sons). As part of the mothballing effort, a few windows have been boarded up entirely. The second-story windows on the northeast and southwest elevations have louvered wood shutters. Some shutters have been moved inside for safekeeping. There is an arched window in the middle bay on the second floor of the southeast elevation. It is trimmed with two rows of brick header bond. Its metal casement window dates from the mid-twentieth century.

There are two one-story, brick polygonal bays on the southwest façade and a one-story brick polygonal bay on the northeast elevation. Each polygonal bay has a bracketed cornice and two 4/4 double-hung sash windows. The polygonal bay near the west corner on the southwest facade has an additional 6/6 double-hung sash window on the southwest face.

The main entrance is at the center of the southeast facade, facing Carskadon Road. There is no evidence that there was ever a porch on this elevation. The slightly recessed entrance consists of a door (recently removed and replaced with a plywood board) flanked by four-pane rectangular sidelights and topped by a 7-pane rectangular transom. The entrance is flanked by fluted pilasters and is topped by a dentil architrave. This architrave does not appear original and may date from a twentieth-century remodeling. Above the entrance is the arched window described previously.

The principal feature of the southwest elevation is a one-story, one-bay, flat-roofed frame porch. The porch is supported on brick piers and has chamfered wooden posts with molded caps and bases. Only a portion of the original balustrade remains on the southeast. This balustrade consists of a molded handrail below which are flat, jig-sawn balusters in a lozenge-and-circle design. The concrete steps and the brick floor, the latter laid in a basket-weave pattern, both date from the mid-twentieth century. The entrance on the southwest elevation consists of a center door with four raised panels, flanked by four-pane rectangular sidelights with molded frames. Above the rectangular transom is a panel with raised woodwork in a swan's neck pediment design. This pediment is typical of the Colonial Revival style and probably dates from the early 1900s.

The northeast elevation is three bays wide, with the windows unevenly spaced. The 6/6 double-hung sash windows have louvered wood shutters. Near the north corner is a casement-and-fixed pane window with metal mullions; it probably dates from the 1930s. Based on changes in brickwork at this location, this window may have replaced an earlier window. There also is evidence of either a door or a window on the north corner, since bricked over.

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The one-story, two-bay brick ell on the northwest is original and has a brick foundation partially faced with concrete. The ell is trimmed with a cornice and small, evenly spaced wooden brackets. On the second story of this elevation is a doorway. It probably dates from the early- or mid-twentieth century and was accessed by exterior steps, since removed.

The one-story, two-bay, flat-roofed screened porch on the north corner of the northwest elevation has a brick half-wall and exposed rafter ends. This porch dates from the mid-twentieth century. It is faced with brick and is partially boarded up.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The Thomas R. Carskadon House interior consists of finished living space on the first, second, and attic floors, along with an unfinished cellar. The interior was damaged by two recent fires and through vandalism, but is awaiting restoration and rehabilitation by the Mineral County Historical Foundation, Inc. Most of the interior fabric on the first and second floors is historic. The attic floor was finished in the 1930s, and retains most of its original appearance, although it too is in deteriorated condition.

The main stair hall (identified as "hall" and "entry" on the accompanying floor plans) is L-shaped and is accessed from the exterior doors on the southwest and southeast. The main staircase rises in two stages from the southwest arm of this L-shaped hall. It consists of a heavy, turned mahogany newel post, a molded mahogany handrail and two painted balusters per stair tread. A molded baseboard parallels the stair rail.

The stairhall features hardwood floors, a molded baseboard, a plaster cornice, and a central plaster ceiling medallion with a foliated and floral design. There are wooden doors leading to separate closets in both arms of the stairhall. The door and closet beneath the staircase are not original.

A wide segmental-arched opening separates the stairhall from what was probably the dining room at the west corner of the main block. This room has a modern dropped ceiling and modern wooden paneling on the northeast wall. The fireplace on the northwest wall has an original marble mantel with a central keystone with a scrolled ram's head design, a molded shelf, and an arched opening. To the left of this is a built-in china cupboard consisting of an enclosed cabinet below and three shelves above. This cupboard probably dates from the 1930s. The molded baseboard in this room is original. The wood floor is in poor condition due to fire damage. A door leads from this room to the one-story ell. This contains a small room, possibly a bedroom, along with a closet and a tiled bathroom. The bathroom dates from the mid-twentieth century period.

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The south room on the first floor, possibly used as a parlor or study, is currently in poor condition, with deteriorated floors and ceiling. The room retains its original molded baseboard, molded window and door surrounds, and an oval plaster ceiling medallion decorated with a foliated and egg-and-dart design. There are original four-panel wooden doors with porcelain knobs on the northeast and northwest.

The east corner room is the largest and most formal in the house and was possibly used as a drawing room by the original owner, Thomas R. Carskadon. It retains its narrow-width hardwood floors and molded baseboard trim. A plaster wainscot with raised plaster moldings extends to a point just below the window bottoms. It is finished with a wooden chairrail. The windows and doors have deeply molded Italianate-style surrounds. The fireplace on the northwest wall has an original marble mantel consisting of a curved, molded shelf and some incised decoration around the hearth opening. The central plaster ceiling medallion is lozenge-shaped and is decorated with carvings in a foliated and anthemion design. The ceiling perimeter has a plaster molding strip forming a rectangle with clipped corners. Plaster starflowers are at the four corners of the room.

The walls above the chairrail are covered with hand-painted wallpaper. The wallpaper design consists of various scenes from the "Old South," including a Greek Revival-style mansion, a foxhunting scene, cotton fields, agricultural fields, and a cotton mill. The wallpaper appears to date from the nineteenth century, but it is not known if it is original.

The present kitchen and pantry near the north corner of the house were remodeled in the mid-twentieth century. The appliances and most of the counters have since been removed, and the kitchen is in poor condition. A back stair connects the kitchen/pantry with the second floor. An enclosed stair also leads from the kitchen/pantry to the unfinished cellar. There is no evidence that the cellar ever contained a kitchen.

The second floor consists of four bedrooms and two bathrooms. Water damage has resulted in deterioration of both the floors and plaster walls on the second floor.

The west corner bedroom (identified as "bedroom 1" on the accompanying floor plan) retains only a portion of its plaster walls. Renovations to this room include the built-in closets with doors and a built-in vanity. There are storage closets above the doors in this room.

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The south bedroom (identified as "bedroom 2") is in poor condition due to water damage. There is a small fireplace (possibly originally a coal-burning fireplace) with wooden mantel shelf, pilasters and a plain frieze. There is a closet to the right of the fireplace.

The east bedroom (identified as "bedroom 3") is in poor condition, due to water damage. Only the wood floors and baseboard trim are historic. There are two closets, one lined in cedar and one lined in pine, with mid-twentieth century wooden doors and moldings. To the southeast of this room is a large tiled bathroom.

The walls of the north corner bedroom or master bedroom (identified as "bedroom 4") are covered with mid-twentieth-century wallpaper. The window frames and sash also date from this period. The fireplace has an original mantel with molded mantel shelf, plain pilasters and a plain frieze. This room has built-in closets and a built-in vanity. A door on the southwest leads to a modern tiled bathroom. A door to the left of the closet opens to the outside; it probably had an exterior staircase.

A renovated staircase leads to the third (attic) floor, most of which appears to have been renovated in the 1960s or 1970s. There are four finished rooms, closets, and a bathroom. Although floors, doors, trim, baseboard and window surrounds date from the mid-twentieth century, some late nineteenth-century doors have been reused on this floor. This floor is in fair condition.

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DAIRY BUILDING

ca. 1866

1 Contributing Site

The remains of a brick dairy building dating from the mid-nineteenth century stand to the west of the main house. The building is in ruinous condition and lacks a roof as well as most of its southeast wall. The brick building has a brick foundation and is painted white on the exterior. There is an opening on the southwest, presently lacking a window. A small portion of the wooden rakeboard is visible on the southwest gable end. A narrow brick interior chimney is at the northeast gable end.

SILO FOUNDATION

ca. 1890-1920

1 Contributing Site

To the north-northwest of the main house is the stone-and-cement foundation of a silo. It is overgrown with underbrush. There is not enough physical evidence remaining to establish a date of construction. Given Thomas R. Carskadon's professional interest in silos and their construction, this silo was probably constructed during his lifetime, and is thus a contributing site.

STONE FOUNDATION

ca. 1890-1920

1 Contributing Site

Near the north corner of the property are the remains of a stone foundation. The stones form a rectangular footprint. The foundation is overgrown with underbrush and could not be photographed. The foundation consists of cut fieldstones, similar in size and appearance to the stones used for the retaining wall along the front of the property. The proximity of the foundation to the silo foundation suggests they may have been part of a barn or other agricultural outbuilding. Because a barn is referenced throughout historic descriptions of the Thomas Carskadon farm, these foundations are a contributing site.

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GARAGE	ca. 1930	1 Non-Contributing Building
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A one-story, two-bay, gable-roofed frame garage stands to the north of the house and probably dates from the 1930s. The building is covered with German siding and is trimmed with a box cornice. It has a pedimented gable end on the southwest with a lunette window trimmed with a wooden surround. The two side-by-side entrances on the southwest are not original; neither is the metal garage door, also on the southwest. The fixed-sash windows on the northeast and southeast have board trim and are original.

Brick Barbecue	ca. 1960	1 Non-contributing Object
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A brick barbecue stands twenty feet from the brick dairy building. It consists of a shouldered brick hearth above which is a brick chimney. It dates to the 1960s and has not been altered. It is a non-contributing object.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas R. Carskadon House (also known as the Carskadon Mansion, or "Radical Hill") is significant on the state and local levels under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government between ca. 1866 and 1905 for its association with the life and political career of Thomas R. Carskadon. Carskadon (1837-1905) began his political career in the early 1860s as an opponent of both slavery and of Virginia's secession from the Union. In 1861, he was elected to the West Virginia Constitutional Convention where he voted in favor of the creation of the state of West Virginia. In 1864, President Lincoln appointed Carskadon Assistant United States Assessor for West Virginia. Carskadon supported the formation of Mineral County from Hampshire County in 1866, the same year he purchased and moved to a 512-acre farm property near the town of New Creek Station, designated as the county seat of the new Mineral County (later renamed Keyser). Carskadon soon commenced the building of his large Italianate/French Second Empire-style brick mansion, dubbed "Radical Hill" for his radical Republican political views. Active in local and state Republican politics, Carskadon served as a Republican Presidential Elector in the 1868 and 1876 elections. In the mid-1880s, Carskadon left the Republican Party for the Prohibition Party, which advocated an end to the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. In 1888, he ran unsuccessfully for Governor of West Virginia on the Prohibition Party ticket. In 1892, Carskadon was considered for the Vice-Presidential nomination on the Prohibition Party's national ticket.

The Thomas R. Carskadon House also is significant on the state and local levels under Criterion B in the area of Invention between 1886 and 1905. Frustrated in his political ambitions, Carskadon retired to "Radical Hill" and pursued his agricultural interests. He patented several designs in the 1880s and 1890s, among them a collapsible building, a hat, and a roofing device. He also wrote widely on the design of silos and other agricultural reforms.

In the early 1900s, Carskadon was instrumental in the creation of the town of South Keyser and served as its first mayor. He died at "Radical Hill" in 1905. Although its interior was partially remodeled in the 1930s and 1960s, the Thomas R. Carskadon House retains much of its appearance from Carskadon's nearly 40-year residence.

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HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Thomas Rosabaum Carskadon (1837-1905) was the grandson of Thomas Carskadon (1750-1813), who emigrated from Ireland in the 1770s and settled in Carlisle, Pennsylvania (Manlove 1950: 1). In 1797, he and his wife Elizabeth Adams Carskadon moved from Pennsylvania to the Reese's Mill area along Patterson Creek in Hampshire (now Mineral) County, (West) Virginia and produced four children. Around 1801, the family purchased 250 acres near Stagg's Run in Headsville (Shea 1941: 1). Politically active, the elder Carskadon served as both Justice of the Peace and Hampshire County Sheriff (Shea 1941: 1).

One of their sons, Thomas Carskadon II (1793-1856) married Mary Johnson (1798-1855) on 6 November 1817. They had seven children: James, Catherine, Elizabeth, William, Isaac, Thomas R., and John R. (Manlove 1950: 1). In 1819, Thomas Carskadon II bought and rebuilt a grist- and lumber mill in Headsville (Manlove 1950: 6). Carskadon, a member of the Whig Party, served in the Virginia General Assembly for six years during the 1820s. Although he was a slave owner, Carskadon favored legislation for the abolition of slavery (Manlove 1950: 6). He also served as a Hampshire County justice in 1837 (Maxwell 1897: 277).

Thomas Carskadon II's third son, Thomas Rosabaum Carskadon, was born 17 May 1837 at the family farm in Headsville. Little is known of his early years or education, other than that he was an active member of the Methodist Church in Headsville. In 1860, he married Sarah Ann Babb (1838-1914) and produced five children: Newton R., Carrie, Luther, Henry, and Jane (Manlove 1950: 7). He is listed as a farmer living in Hampshire County in the 1860 US Population Census schedules. Like his father, Thomas R. Carskadon was known as an opponent of slavery; he is not listed as owning any slaves in the 1860 Slave Enumeration of the US Census (Census Bureau 1860: Population Census, Hampshire County, Virginia).

At first, Thomas R. Carskadon adhered to his father's Whig political views and voted in the 1860 Presidential election for the Constitutional Union ticket of Bell and Everett (*Mountain Echo* 1905: 1). (In that same year, Thomas's brother James was elected to the Virginia State Senate). In 1861, he left the disintegrating Whig party for the new Republican Party, voicing strong public opposition to Virginia's secession from the Union (Comstock 1976: 832). In 1861, Thomas R. Carskadon was elected as one of Hampshire County's delegates to the West Virginia Constitutional Convention, where he was reputedly its youngest member (Manlove 1950: 6). In 1863, he voted for the formation of the new state of West Virginia, which was thereafter admitted to the Union.

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Although western Hampshire County was strongly Unionist in its political leanings, the presence of the Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) Railroad in Keyser (then known as New Creek Station) made it a target for Confederate attacks. There were at least two forts (Forts Fuller and Piano) in or near the community protecting the B&O depot and the surrounding town and farmland. On 28 November 1864, Confederate troops under Col. William Payne marched upon New Creek Station from the south, passing the log home of Robert K. Sheetz (Shea 1941: 1).

A few of the troops stopped to search the house, taking as prisoners James H. and John Robert Carskadon, brothers of Thomas R. Carskadon (Shea 1941: IV/1). Although the two brothers escaped, the incident is said to have convinced Thomas R. Carskadon to temporarily flee Hampshire County for Ohio. According to one source, Thomas R. Carskadon suffered financial hardship for his vocal Republican political beliefs, reputedly losing 125 cattle and 25 horses to theft (Atkinson 1890: 399).

In 1864, Thomas Carskadon was rewarded for his Republican affiliations by being appointed Assistant United States Assessor by President Abraham Lincoln (Goodspeed 1895: 353). President Andrew Johnson appointed Carskadon Assessor for the Second District of West Virginia but reputedly removed him in 1866 because of Carskadon's Radical Republican views (Goodspeed 1895).

On 1 February 1866, Mineral County was formed from the western half of Hampshire County (Wolfe 1974: 18). Carskadon is thought to have actively campaigned for the creation of the new county. New Creek Station was selected as the county seat (the town was renamed Keyser in 1874 after a vice-president of the B&O Railroad).

On 13 March 1866, Thomas R. Carskadon purchased two tracts totaling 512 acres from his brother-in-law Robert Sheetz (Mineral County Deed Book 1, Page 34). This property was at that time improved only by the Sheetz's log house that was the site of the Carskadon brothers' capture by Confederate troops in 1864. It is not known exactly when Carskadon commenced construction of a new home on his property. Family tradition holds that Carskadon held off construction until after the death of his father-in-law in 1871 and receipt of his wife's inheritance from her father. The Mineral County land tax records for 1866 through 1869 are incomplete. In 1870, however, the land tax records valued his property at \$9,065, with \$4,515 worth of improvements including a house (Mineral County Land Tax Book 1870). Pending further research, a ca. 1866 date of construction seems reasonable.

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Contemporary accounts described the Thomas R. Carskadon House as the largest and most ornate in Mineral County (Manlove 1950: 12, 15, 18). According to an 1895 description of the Carskadon property, there were, in addition to the main house, "a commodious and well-constructed barn, and other necessary farm buildings . . . making it one of the best improved and finest country homes in the county" (Goodspeed 1895: 354).

To date, no known builder or architect has been connected with the design and construction of this house. There is also no information on the number and appearance of agricultural and service outbuildings on the Carskadon farm. The ruins of a brick service building, probably a dairy building, stand to the west of the Thomas R. Carskadon House. The foundations of a silo and another building (probably a barn) stand to the north of the house.

Carskadon remained a prominent member of the West Virginia Republican Party throughout the 1860s and 1870s. He served on the West Virginia Republican Party Central Committee between 1866 and 1878 (*Mountain Echo* 1905: 1). In the 1868 Presidential election, Carskadon was chosen to be a Republican Elector for Ulysses S. Grant. In 1876, he again served as a Presidential Elector, this time for Rutherford B. Hayes. This disputed election, which resulted in both the election of Hayes and the end of Reconstruction in the South, signaled the beginning of the decline of the Radical wing of the Republican Party, both nationally and in West Virginia.

The 1870 population and 1870-1880 agricultural census schedules for Mineral County give information on both Thomas R. Carskadon and his farm. According to the 1870 Population census, Carskadon was a farmer (age 33) living with his wife Sarah (age 31) and children Newton (age 10), Carrie (age 5), and Luther (age 1)(US Census Bureau 1870: Population Census, Mineral County, West Virginia). According to the 1870 census information, Carskadon's real estate was valued at \$12,500 and his personal property was valued at \$7,000.

According to the 1870 Agricultural Schedules of the US Census, Thomas Carskadon owned 600 improved and 650 unimproved acres of land in Mineral County (US Census Bureau 1870: Agricultural Census, Mineral County, West Virginia). His main farm was valued at \$12,000 and his farm implements were valued at \$520. He owned the following livestock: 6 horses, 2 mules, 56 cows, 72 sheep, and 250 pigs; together they were valued at \$1,450. According to this enumeration, his farm produced 330 bushels of winter wheat, 600 bushels of corn, 300 pounds of butter, and 60 bales of hay (US Census Bureau 1870: Agricultural Census, Mineral County, West Virginia).

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By 1880, Carskadon's farm holdings were listed at only 390 acres, but the farm was valued at \$20,000 (US Census Bureau 1880: Agricultural Census, Mineral County, West Virginia), along with \$350 worth of farm implements, and \$1,000 worth of livestock. Carskadon's farm was mostly devoted to dairying by that point, and the farm produced 3,000 gallons of milk, and 375 pounds of butter. In addition, the farm produced 500 bushels of corn, and 350 bushels of winter wheat. Carskadon also possessed small apple and peach orchards of 100 trees each. All his life, Carskadon listed his occupation as farmer.

Throughout his life, Carskadon was a staunch adherent of the Methodist religion. He was a contributing founder in 1870 of the New Creek Station Methodist Episcopal Church. A plaque on the interior of the First United Methodist Church, located at 32 Davis Street in Keyser, was placed there by the Women's Christian Temperance Union in recognition of Carskadon's role as founder and financial supporter of the church.

Based on his strong religious beliefs, Thomas R. Carskadon had a moral objection to alcohol consumption and was influenced by the nationally popular Prohibition movement. Starting in the early 1880s, Carskadon turned his political attentions to the prohibitionist cause of outlawing the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages, both in West Virginia and the United States. In West Virginia, he advocated including a prohibitionist plank in the state Republican Party platform. According to one account, his efforts to convince the 1884 Republican State Convention to endorse a prohibition amendment to the West Virginia and US Constitutions were greeted "with jeers from the Convention Hall" (Shea 1941: 3).

Shortly thereafter, Carskadon abandoned the Republican Party for the Prohibition Party. The Prohibition Party was founded in 1854, and emerged as a powerful political force in many regions of the country, including West Virginia, in the 1880s (Storms 1972: 12, 48).

Carskadon was a forceful advocate for the Prohibition Party's positions throughout West Virginia. In the gubernatorial election of 1888, the state Prohibition Party's nominating convention was held in Parkersburg on July 31 (Jacobs 1942: 2). The ninety attending delegates were presided over by the Rev. L.L. Stewart of Moundsville, the party's temporary chairman. The party soon received the important endorsement of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. After an address by the Hon. George Christian "in which both major parties (Republican and Democratic) were tremendously scathed," the party's nominating committee reported on its selection of Thomas R. Carskadon of Mineral County as the Prohibition Party candidate for Governor (Jacobs 1942: 3). In November,

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Carskadon finished in third place, trailing both the Republican (Goff) and Democratic (MacCorkle) candidates, but ahead of the Greenback Party ticket.

Over the next four years, Carskadon worked tirelessly for the Prohibition Party and its cause in West Virginia. In 1892, he headed the West Virginia state delegation at the national party's presidential and vice-presidential nominating convention in Cincinnati (Storms 1972: 78). The West Virginia delegation placed Carskadon's name in nomination for Vice-President, but James B. Cranfill of Texas received the nod instead (Goodspeed 1895: 355)(Storms 1972 88).

Although continually frustrated in his tries for statewide and national political office, Carskadon was elected numerous times to local offices. Between 1889 and 1896 he served on the Mineral County Board of Commissioners. Between 1890 and 1895 he served on the Keyser Town School Board (Goodspeed 1895: 355).

At the same time, Carskadon took a keen interest in his farming activities and developed and patented several farm implements and farming methods. His particular interest was the design and construction of silos. In 1886, he produced his most important work on this subject: *The Book of Ensilage: A Practical Guide for Constructing the Silo, Storing and Feeding Ensilage to Livestock with Exhibits of the Results and Testimonials from Agriculturalists*. Published by the Wheeling Intelligencer Press, the book went through three additional printings in 1888, 1889, and 1893.

In a letter dated 29 April 1889 James Carskadon described his brother Thomas R. Carskadon as "monkeying with patent houses, silos, stud horses, chickens, machinery, sheep, fish, patent caps, and farming" (Manlove 1950: 14). This "monkeying" resulted in the issuance of at least four separate patents to Carskadon between 1886 and 1899 for his inventions.

The first of these, issued on 16 March 1886, was for a traveling cap that inflated to form a small head pillow (US Patent Office No. 338,033). The second, issued on 18 August 1885, was for a collapsible wooden building. In his patent application, Carskadon stated that the purpose of this invention was to "construct portable buildings so the same may be manufactured and shipped ready to set up wherever desired and to so construct them that they can be readily taken down, removed and be set up again whenever and wherever desired" (US Patent Office No. 324,456).

Among the portable buildings illustrated in the application was a square silo. This invention was more fully described by a nephew, James Carskadon, who wrote about his uncle:

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“He patented a house that was put together by pressure, almost without nails. His first silo, built in the seventies (1870s) was a square brick bin built in his bank barn, To fill it, you drove in on the barn floor with the corn, run it through a cutter turned by hand. When the bin was full, he covered it with 2-inch boards across which he put a 6 by 6. Above that he gadgeted up a device like an old cider press that he would turn down occasionally until the ensilage settled. When feeding time came, he attached a pulley to a rafter and a rope to a basket, he climbed down, filled the basket, back on the floor, pulled it up, then carried it down a flight of steps to feed the cows” (Manlove 1950: 27).

Carskadon also patented a roofing method (US Patent Office No. 429,013) in 1890 and a farm-wagon with detachable body parts (US Patent Office No. 630,032) in 1899.

By the 1890s, Carskadon was an honored and revered man in Keyser and Mineral County. Another of Carskadon’s nephew, Edward B. Carskadon, described his uncle: “He was a brilliant man of scholarly attainments, diversified interests, and a brilliant writer and speaker who spoke in many states of the Union. He built a fine home one mile out of Keyser of aristocratic proportions, kept fine blooded horses and grand carriages and lived there in almost regal style. He dealt largely in the sale of carriages, buggies, and farm machinery, and sent out hundreds of circulars” (Manlove 1950: 24).

Defeated in his bid for national political office, Thomas Carskadon concentrated not only on his inventions and his farm, but also on several lucrative real estate developments. In four transactions between 1892 and 1895, Carskadon subdivided and developed the northern half of his farm property, south of present-day 175 South Main Street for residential use (Wolfe 1974: 29). Carskadon had previously utilized this area as a commercial market garden. He platted streets and approximately 100 residential lots. This area, known as Carskadon’s Addition, adjoined the southern corporate limits of Keyser.

With the expansion of land from the Keyser city limits to the Carskadon house, sentiment grew to create another town. On 10 December 1903, “The citizens of that part of the Town of South Keyser known as Carskadon’s Addition met to take such action as may be deemed best to incorporate said Carskadon’s Addition” (Wolfe 1974: 29). The West Virginia Legislature incorporated South Keyser in 1904, after which a mayor, recorder, and council were elected. Thomas R. Carskadon was

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elected as the new town's first mayor. South Keyser retained separate operations, with a council chamber and town jail, until it was united with the City of Keyser in 1913 (Wolfe 1974: 30).

According to newspaper accounts, Carskadon spent most of 1904 in St. Louis, MO "where he had important business interests in connection with the (St. Louis) Exposition" (*Mountain Echo* 1905:1). After consulting a physician in St. Louis, he was sent to Chicago for a series of unsuccessful medical operations. In Chicago, he met with the Prohibition Party National Committee of which he was still a member. Accompanied by his son Luther, Thomas Carskadon returned to his "Radical Hill" farm on January 17, 1905. He lapsed into a coma and died the following day. His burial, on January 23, was "a day of mourning everywhere in Keyser" (*Mountain Echo* 1905:1).

Carskadon's will left bequests to his numerous grandchildren for their education. He directed his executors to put his patented "Dump Wagon on a royalty basis with income to be paid to my grandchildren" (Will Book 1, page 553). Carskadon was survived by his wife Sarah, who lived at Radical Hill until her death in 1914. Executor's accounts filed between 1905 and 1914 indicate that the house and barn were regularly maintained during this period, with expenses listed for roof painting, barn painting, and stair repairs. In 1936, the main house and 112 acres were sold by Thomas Carskadon's heirs to his granddaughter Suit Newcomb, and Cornelius Reynolds, Orlando Reynolds, and Jean Coffman (Mineral County Deed Book 55, page 93). The house and property finally passed out of the Carskadon family's hands in 1952, when 3.51 acres were sold to Earl and Georgeanne Hess (Mineral County Deed Book 140, page 158). The Vandalia Foundation purchased the property in August 2000 from the last private owner, Dr. Thomas Pennington From. The current owner is the Mineral County Historical Foundation, Inc., who purchased the property on February 14, 2001 (Mineral County Deed book 302, page 847). The Foundation plans to restore the house and grounds.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundaries of the 1.009-acre Thomas R. Carskadon property are shown on the accompanying plat of survey, dated 2 July 2000 and correspond with the legal boundaries shown on Mineral County Tax Map K-12, Parcel 12, New Creek District. The map is being used as the verbal boundary description.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries include the main house, dairy building ruin, and barn (?) Foundation, and silo foundation associated with the ownership between 1866 and 1905 of politician and inventor Thomas R. Carskadon (1837-1905).

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Name of Property: Thomas R. Carskadon House

Address: Carskadon Road

Town: Keyser

County: Mineral County

Photographer: Geoffrey B. Henry, Lead Architectural Historian, GAI Consultants, Inc.

Date: August 2001,

Negatives: Negatives at WWSHPO

Photo 1: Thomas R. Carskadon House, southeast facade, looking northwest

Photo 2: Thomas R. Carskadon House, southwest elevation, looking north

Photo 3: Thomas R. Carskadon House, northeast elevation, looking southwest

Photo 4: Thomas R. Carskadon House, northwest elevation, looking northeast

Photo 5: Thomas R. Carskadon House, detail of balustrade on southwest porch

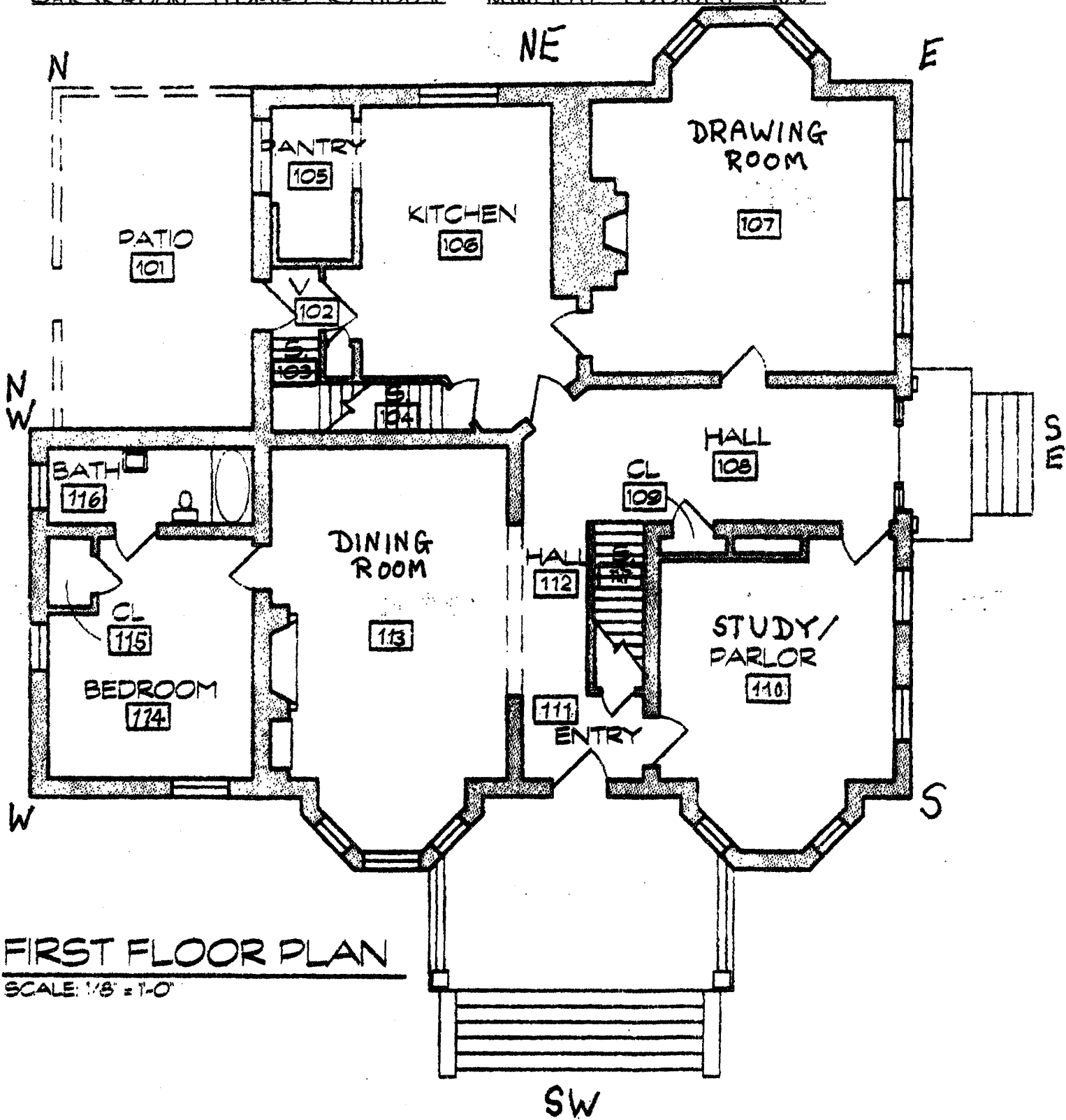
Photo 6: Thomas R. Carskadon House, view of stairhall, looking northeast

Photo 7: Thomas R. Carskadon House, ceiling medallion in drawing room

Photo 8: Thomas R. Carskadon House, fireplace in Bedroom 4, looking northeast

Photo 9: Thomas R. Carskadon House, dairy ruins and barbecue, looking north

CARSKADON THOMAS R. HOUSE MINERAL COUNTY WV



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

CARSKADON MANSION

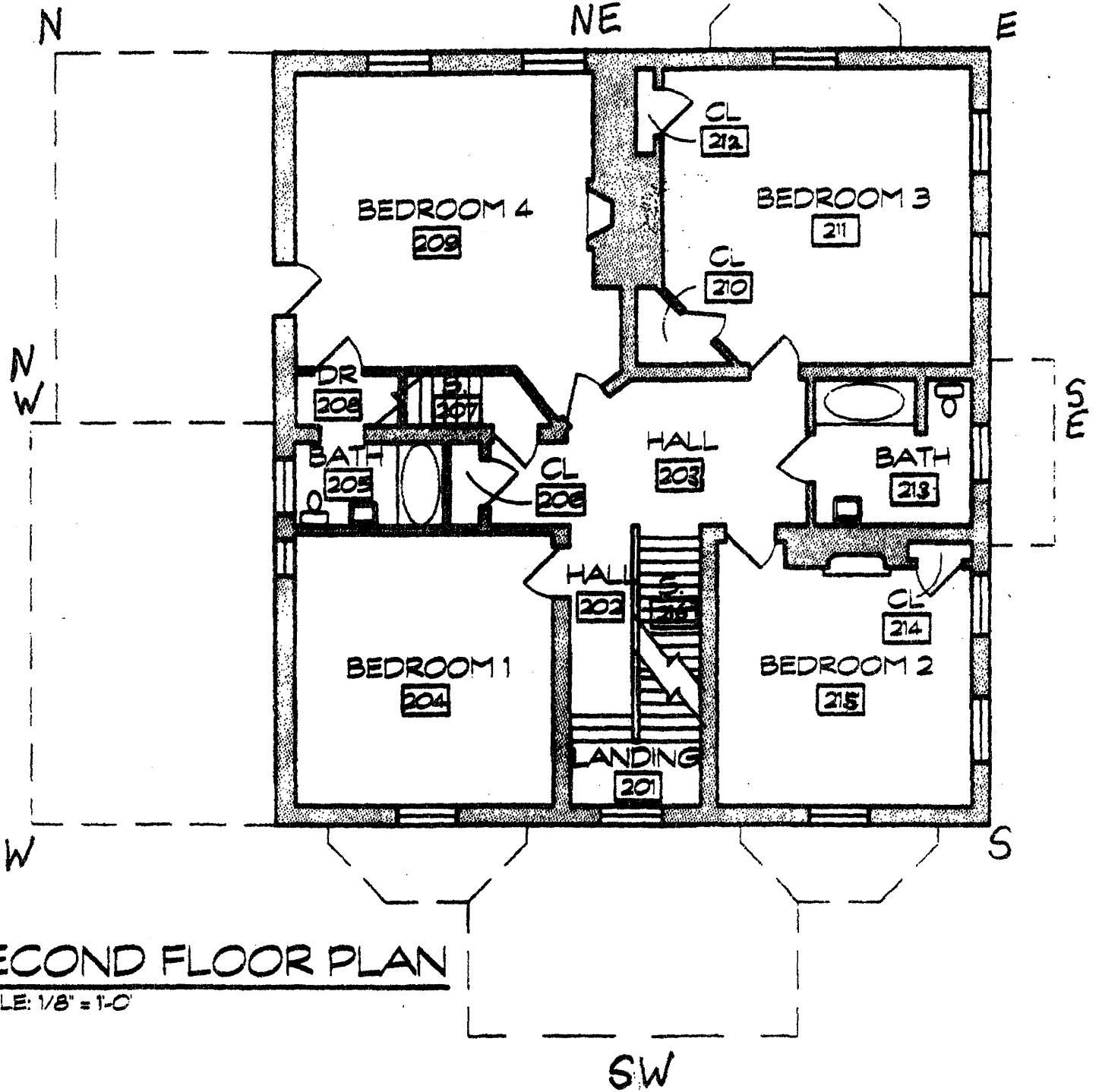
KEYSER, W.V.

DATE: 11/19/01

FP-1

THOMAS R. CARSKADON HOUSE

MINERAL COUNTY, W.V.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

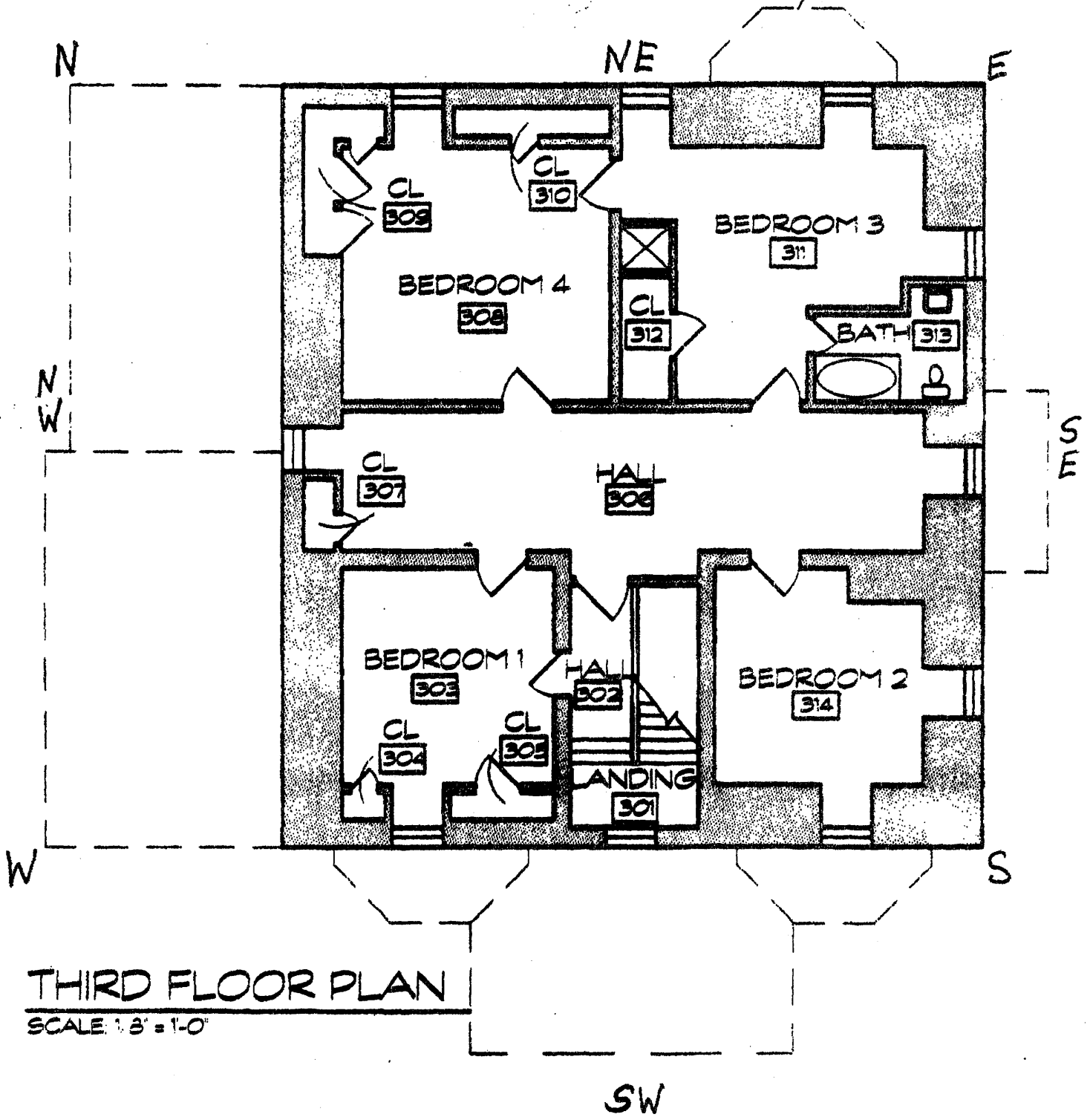
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

CARSKADON MANSION
KEYSER, W.V.

DATE: 11/19/01

FP-2

CARSKADON THOMAS R. HOUSE MINERAL COUNTY WV



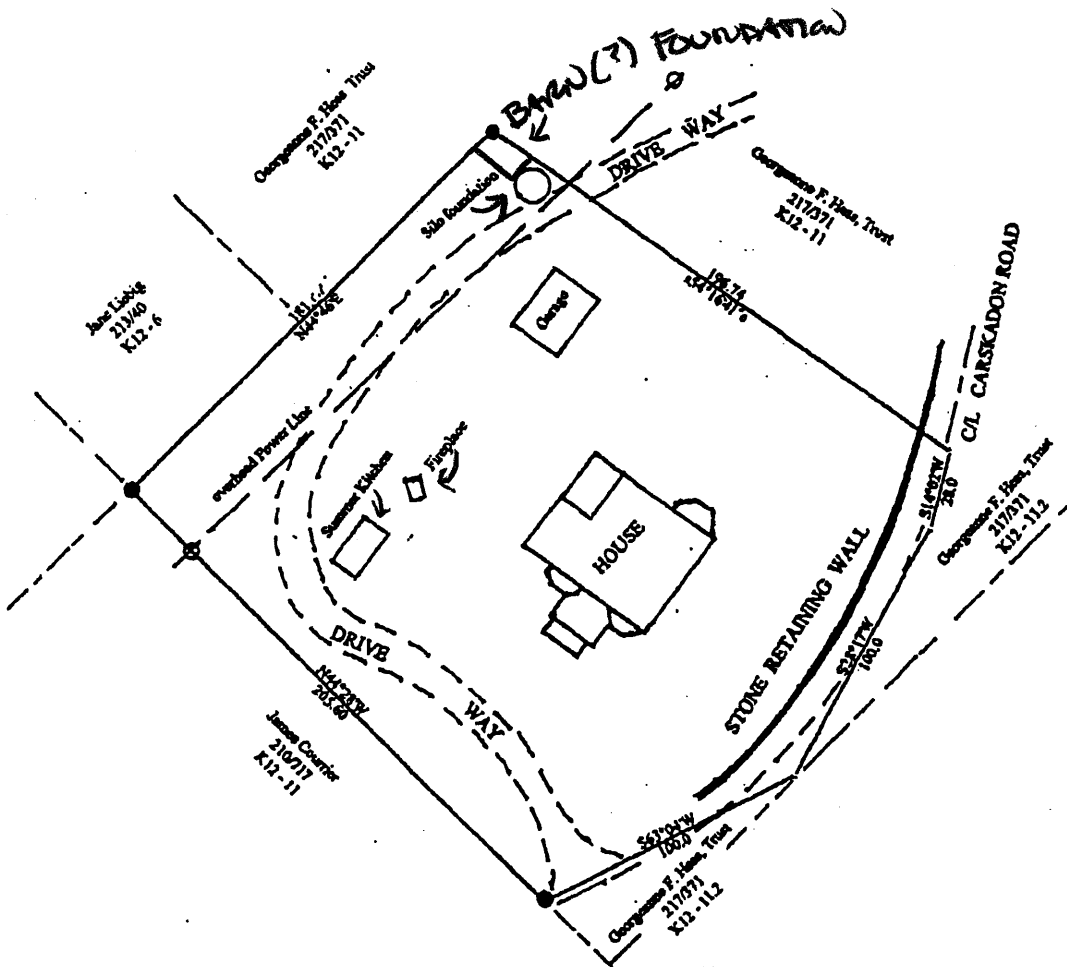
THIRD FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

CARSKADON MANSION
KEYSER, W.V.

DATE: 11/15/01

FP-3



Title: Survey THOMAS P. FROM		Date: 07-02-2000
Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet	File:	
Tract 1: 1.009 Acres: 43933 Sq Feet: 4081.5 Sq Meters: No significant closure error.: Perimeter = 812 feet		
001=S14.02W 23.0	004=N44.28W 205.60	
002=S28.17W 100.0	005=N44.46E 181.22	
003=S63.04W 100.0	006=S54.1641e 196.74	

NOTE:
 Not mapped in flood zone as per FIRM
 Panel 540129 0039 A, Sept. 27, 1991

- LEGEND:
- Rebar found
 - P.K. Nail set
 - ⊖ Power Pole



PLAT OF SURVEY
 THOMAS P. FROM, Estate
 KEYSER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
 MINERAL COUNTY, WV.
 Scale 1" = 50.0'
 D.B. 140 Pg. 158
 Tax Map K12 Pc. 12