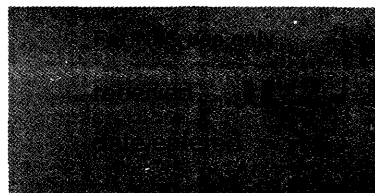


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



983

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

1. Name

historic The Z. D. Ramsdell House

and/or common The Ramsdell House

2. Location

street & number 1108 B Street not for publication

city, town Ceredo vicinity of ~~Washington~~

state West Virginia code 54 county Wayne code 099

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>VACANT</u>

4. Owner of Property

name Ceredo Historic Landmark Commission

street & number P.O. Box 544

city, town Ceredo vicinity of _____ state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Deed Book No. 446, Page 459

street & number Wayne County Court House

city, town Wayne state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

A. The Z. D. Ramsdell House is an individual building designed and built as a residence in 1857/58 and is standing today in its original location at 1108 B Street, Ceredo, West Virginia, and is today generally as originally built.

A1. The building served as a residence for 122 years, but is unoccupied at present (1983).

A2. The house is detached from any adjacent building; located atop a mound claimed to be an Indian burial mound, on a 46' x 150' lot in downtown, residential Ceredo. (See accompanying copy of deed.)

A3. The house is of generally rectangular configuration approximately 30 feet wide by 48 feet long. (See accompanying floor plan.) It is two story red brick and frame construction. The brick was made in a brickyard about one mile away and laid by Mr. Denney Shine who came to Ceredo about 1857 as a mason with Chase Brothers Contractors. (He also plastered the interior of the house.) Native stone forms the foundation, entrance stoop, and low retaining wall at the front of the house. The frame portion of the building is narrow weatherboarding. The architecture is Greek Revival with gabled roof. Roof eaves are stately ornate. (See accompanying exterior photographs.)

A4. The front door is accessed by way of a native stone stoop. The back door exits to a concrete cloored back porch (probably added in the early 1900's). An over-porch is accessed from an upstairs bedroom. An attached kitchen addition, storage room or porch has been removed from the rear of the building exposing a fairly small excavated basement, root or wine cellar. The house has 16 double-hung four pane windows with wavy glass. Exterior doors are solid paneled. The original house had two chimneys (see accompanying 1880' sketch), but the exterior chimneys have since been removed. The house has been recently re-roofed (1981) with asphalt shingles.

A5. Evidence exists that a wrought iron fence once stood in the stone retaining wall at the front of the house.

A6. The house contains seven rooms downstairs and four bedrooms with stairway and hallway upstairs. (See accompanying floor plan.) The downstairs is comprised of an entrance way or foyer graced with a majestic stairway, a living room bricked-up fireplace and simple elegant mantle; dining room with very similar fireplace; a bed (or borning) room; a kitchen; and a storage room. Walls are plastered directly on brick on outside walls and wooden lath on interior walls. Most walls are wallpapered. (Remnants of what are believed to be original or near original wallpaper have been found in the attic.) All interior trim is full and original. All floors are broad plank (but have been covered with, in most rooms, wall to wall carpeting). Gas-light pipes protrude from some ceilings. (See accompanying photographs of interior.)

A7. Type and exact location of outbuildings are unknown at this time. However, some foundation stones exist in place.

A8. No other manmade elements are in the immediate area.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1857/86 **Builder/Architect** Z. D. RAMSDELL

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Z. D. Ramsdell property is the first brick house built (in 1858) in the town of Ceredo. It is an important part of the local history of this area being a visible link with the formation and progress of the Town of Ceredo and the Wayne County area. Mr. Ramsdell was a strong supporter of the town by his activities in the formation and continuation of the town itself, the military history, his advancements in education, industry, governmental and religious issues and the preservation of freedom for slaves through his work with the "Underground Railroad" until the Emancipation Act was enacted. The property was occupied by Mr. Ramsdell from its completion until his death in 1886. It has remained in the heir's ownership until 1977.

Mr. Ramsdell came to Ceredo in 1858 at the personal invitation of Eli Thayer, who founded Ceredo in that same year. Thayer was a Boston abolitionist and Congressman who was interested in the emigration of free people and the formation of new communities for manufacturing and business expansion in new areas.

Mr. Ramsdell, a native of Maine, then living in Massachusetts, was also an abolitionist and businessman. He joined in this colonization enterprise, came to Ceredo in 1858, and built a shoe and boot factory. At the outset of the Civil War in 1861, he was one of the first to enlist in the Union Army as a member of the Quarter Master Corp in the Fifth Regiment Virginia Volunteer Infantry which was organized in Ceredo. He was later promoted to the Commissary Staff of General Milroy and rose to the rank of Captain.

After the war, Ramsdell was contacted by President Grant to urge him to undertake the rehabilitation of the mail service which had been nearly destroyed in the war. Mr. Ramsdell took the assignment with the U.S. Government and though facing many obstacles and hazards he completed the job thoroughly. He was then appointed as special agent of the post office department, a position corresponding to the present post office inspector. He remained in the service until his death in 1886.

Mr. Ramsdell also served as legislative representative in the West Virginia State Senate during 1868 and 1869. He was a delegate to the National Conventions that nominated Grant, Hayes, and Garfield.

In bringing industry to the West Virginia region, Ramsdell represented West Virginia as a trustee on the Board of the Original Covington and Ohio Railroad that later became the Chesapeake and Ohio.

He was also active in education for the children of the new area and served in forming one of the first Free School laws for the newly formed Ceredo Educational District.

From his abolitionist leanings Ramsdell also took an active part in the "Underground Railroad" system. It is a tradition which has persisted down through the years that Ceredo was a jumping off place for slaves fleeing to free states. A secret or concealed basement in the Ramsdell House was claimed to be a secret hiding place for slaves before being smuggled at night across the Ohio River into Lawrence County, Ohio, which was a free state. Many local citizens have had personal discussions with descendants of Ramsdell regarding his activities in the slave movement.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Herald Advertiser, December 1, 1929
2. The Ceredo Advance, December 16, 1886
3. Storm Clouds, article by local historian, Byron Morris, 1983

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Catletsburg, Ohio-W.Va.-Ky.

Quadrangle scale 1, 24;000

UMT References

A

1	7	3	6	4	2	0	0	4	2	5	0	8	3	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 Beginning at an iron pipe in the north line of (B) St., said iron pipe being the S.W. corner of the land recorded in Deed Book 450, at Page 94; thence with the north line of "B" St., N. 79-30' W. 46.00 ft. to an iron pipe; thence leaving "B" St., N. 10-30' E. 150.00 ft. to a point; thence S. 79-30' E. 46.00 ft. to an

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 Jack Jordan, Chairman

organization Ceredo Historic Landmark Commission date 5/17/83

street & number PO Box 544 telephone 304 453-2482

city or town Ceredo state West Virginia 25507

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 July 10, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 8/18/83


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet 3. Classification Item number 3 Page 2

Ownership:

The Z. D. Ramsdell House remained in the ownership of the Ramsdell family from 1850 until October 1978 when it was sold to Mr. Floyd Start and Mr. Dan Ferguson of Ceredo. They built an apartment building on adjacent property, and in turn donated the Ramsdell House and lot to THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF CEREDO, a body corporate and politic. The housing authority re-roofed the house, but nothing more. Ownership of the house is presently being transferred from the Housing Authority to the Historic Landmark Commission. The property will be restored. The ground floor will contain an Arts and Crafts shop of heritage type articles (quilts, handmade items, etc.) made by local citizens and a room for display of items and artifacts belonging to members of the Ramsdell family, plus articles related to the history of the property. On the second floor, rooms will be used for a cultural and arts enrichment program for citizens of the surrounding tri-state area with classes and workshops being offered in many artistic and crafts subjects. An artist's studio and small gallery will occupy one room.

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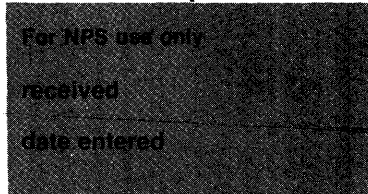
Continuation sheet	Description	Item number	7	Page	2
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B. Site (Historic)

The Ramsdell House is located on its original site in the downtown residential area of Ceredo--within four blocks of the City Hall. It is on the "main" street of town, one block removed from US Route 60. The house sits atop a knoll (claimed to be an Indian mound) and commands an excellent position in the heart of the community. At present, the house is in desperate need of attention and repair, but once restored to its original elegance of just prior to and during the Civil War and first days of our town, could easily become a focal point of historical and cultural interest. (Once restored, the plan is for the building to contain a heritage arts type shop, a small concise museum, a library, and space for heritage/arts/culture exposure and learning and to act as a spring-board for possible restoration and/or preservation of additional historic bklldings in our town and immediate area.

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

Casual reference has been made over the years that Mr. Ramsdell was a special assistant to the US Patent Office. To date this fact has not been confirmed; however, numerous Patent Office books and publications dated in the 1860's (some of which are signed and dated by him) have been recovered from the attic of the house.

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National Park Service

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliographical References Item number 9 Page 2

McClintic, Elizabeth. Ceredo: An Experiment in Colonization. N.P., 1937.

Thomson, C. W., History of Ceredo and Kenova. N.P., N.D.

Stewart, Fay Jean. Ceredo-Kenova West Virginia's Gateway to the West. Morgantown, W.V.: 1942.

Stewart, Faye. "History of Ceredo," Wayne County News. Wayne, W. Va. 1948

Conley, Phil, and William Thomas Doherty. West Virginia History. Education Foundation, Inc.: Charleston, W. Va. 1974.

Hardin, Jack. "Ceredo has an Abolitionist Background." The Advertiser: Huntington, W. Va.: Feb. 16, 1976.

Hardesty, "Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia

Herald Advertiser, December 1, 1929

Herald-Advertiser, December 8, 1929

#10 Verbal boundary description:

iron pipe; thence S. 10-30' W. 150.00 ft. to the place of beginning.
(Deed Book 446, Page 459 Wayne County Court).