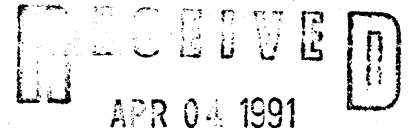


551

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Robert C. Woods House  
other names/site number Jacob S. Rhodes House

2. Location

street & number 923 North Main Street  not for publication  
city, town Wheeling  vicinity  
state WV code \_\_\_\_\_ county Ohio code 069 zip code 26003

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 3/11/91  
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

[Signature] 5/2/91  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the National Register

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/clubhouse

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate and Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation ashlar sandstone block  
walls brick, American bond

roof asphalt rolled roofing

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

A brick residence with a distinguished Italianate facade, this building was the residence of several prominent Wheeling businessmen and their families (photo 1). Architectural details show that this is an early remnant of the second cycle of construction on Wheeling's main street, postdating eighteenth century log structures. It is a witness to the grandeur of Wheeling that came with the 1849 completion of the nearby Suspension Bridge. While altered by an Italianate facade and side bay window and removal of two interior partitions in the main block, this building still retains much of its original interior and exterior detail. The site has been altered with a parking lot in the rear and neighboring buildings to the south have been removed. It is located between two National Register districts in an area that does not qualify as a district (photo 3). The building is presently home of a private drinking club, The Snake Club.

The two and one-half-story, thirteen room residence faces a mixed commercial/residential street that once was lined with fine residences of the mid- to late 1800s. This building is set directly on the sidewalk edge as are its neighbors. There is a concrete street curb and sidewalk about 8' wide. In the rear, the lot slopes steeply to a former railroad grade and the Ohio River. On the south there is an easement and driveway access to the back of the lot (photo 2). Most windows and the rear door access this side of the house. The north side has had three exterior openings and faces the neighboring Second Empire residence, the Robert W. Hazlett house. The rear of the house recently has had a porch removed. The 1901 Sanborn map notes a rear bay window with wooden shingle roof where the recent porch was located. The map also shows an octagonal building in the rear, center of the lot. The latter may have been a carriage house or garden pavilion.

The house is 32 feet x 90 feet, three bays wide, with a front block of 45' and wing of 45'. The front block of the house shows its ridge to the street and has parapet end walls with sandstone caps. There are two chimneys in the south end wall. This block originally had a north stair hall and two south parlors. The rear wing is a shed with stone capped parapet on the north. It has a front room, south hall, middle room and two back rooms. The house has a full basement. Exterior foundation walls are ashlar sandstone with bushhammered faces and chisel-cut edge dressing. The interior basement walls are cut, coursed sandstone with stone chimney piers. The front of the house has 9'-6" ceilings on the first two floors; 8'-6" ceilings are in the two floors of the wing. The secondary exterior walls are brick bearing walls in American bond with header courses every sixth row on the south, every seventh row on the west and every eighth on the north. The south side of the building has been painted. The front

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

---

facade brick has been replaced with wire-cut, smooth finish bricks with butter joints. The front block gable roof has asphalt shingles. The wing has a shed roof with asphalt shingles.

The front exterior facade expresses Italianate details with curved cast-iron window lintels in an egg and dart pattern (photo 4). They are plain on the first floor with center and corner acanthus crests on the second floor. The window lintels are supported by narrow, incised volutes that end in acanthus leaves. The window sills are molded stone with supporting acanthus leaves on the upper window sills. The simple, recessed front doorway is faced in wood, with side "pilasters" that have applied Italianate brackets supporting the plain, overhanging door head. The inner doorway has a transom, side lights with panels below. The Italianate, wooden building cornice has a plain, narrow fascia, bracketed soffit and plain, board frieze set off with applied, round bull-eyes. The front facade shows one course of large, sandstone foundation stones. There is one sandstone step from the entry way to the sidewalk.

The south facade, west side of the main block and rear facade have regular fenestration. All windows are similar with 1/1 double hung sash, except the north, attic where 6/6 original sash survives. Most windows on the sides and rear have sandstone chiselled lintels and stone sills. There originally was a two-story porch, as the first and second floor side doorways with transoms each are federal/Greek revival style (photo 8). Latter additions to the wing are a late nineteenth century, two storey bay window and an 1870-90 spindle and turned post two-storey porch with entry. Part of the second floor of the porch has been enclosed. There originally was a basement entryway and stair access to the front block basement on the west side.

The two front block chimneys are missing caps and corbels. One rear chimney is missing, the other is missing caps and corbels.

The interior of the building has been altered. The partition dividing the two parlors has been removed, the fireplaces on the first floor also have been removed and a south window closed. This room has become the barroom with panelling covering the walls, ceiling dropped, original oak floors covered. Other partitions have divided the hall and stairwell. An 1880s mantle has been added to the front portion of the hall. In the rear wing, the middle room has been divided, the back rooms may have been changed. Paint, paneling, later flooring and false ceilings obscure the history of the original and subsequent room alterations. On the second floor, the partition dividing the rooms above the parlors has also been removed. A rear apartment has been made of the wing. Most of these changes reflect alterations by the Snake Club. Most changes are fairly recent and reversible.

Many details of the original building survive. The front main block has oak flooring under later floors. The rear wing has poplar floors. The wall finish is soft, locally

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

---

made plaster placed directly on the exterior brick bearing walls. Second floor rooms were originally whitewashed. The first floor parlors doorways and windows have wide, Greek revival door architraves with lintels extend beyond the jambs (photo 6). Flat cyma moldings surround the jambs and lintels. The jamb plinths are plain. Windows have panels beneath the sills. The stair newel and balustrade are turned, heavy, mahogany (photo 5). The second floor rooms in the main block retain oak floors, two-panel Greek revival doors (photo 7), mitered door and window jambs and lintels, marbled iron fireplaces with sandstone hearths. In the attic, the only surviving 6/6 window has federal-style moldings applied to the window jambs and lintel (photo 8).

Alteration from the original construction to the time of occupancy by the Snake Club mostly dates from the 1860's when the facade changed, the bay window and rear wing brackets were added, the window sash replaced and the various porches added.

9. Bibliography, continued

Ohio County Probate Record. Book 3, pp. 53-60.

Ohio County Registry of Deeds. Book 3, p. 154; Book 31, p. 209; Book 31, p. 479; Book 40, p. 52; Book 48, p. 435; Book 100, p. 188.

Ohio County Tax Record. 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849.

Wheeling City Directory. 1839, 1851, 1880-1.

Wilde, Joseph L. "History of Wheeling During the Past Forty Years." In Wheeling City Directory, 1879.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social history  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1830's-1890's

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Robt. C. Woods, Jacob Rhodes, Morgan Ott

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

This imposing, single family dwelling fulfills National Register criteria A and C. As the home of two of Wheeling's many expansionist businessmen, this building illustrates the historic context of Wheeling as residence of successful merchants. It is eligible under criterum B for its association with three prominent Wheeling businessmen. It also is a rare early surviving structure built before the opening of the Wheeling Suspension Bridge [1849] along the original route of the National Road.

Along the Ohio River, Wheeling was known as a major port and supply center during the nineteenth century. First as the western terminus of the National Road, in 1818, Wheeling became a major outfitting center for persons continuing down the Ohio-Mississippi River system or traveling over-land into Ohio. The National Road followed Main Street from North Wheeling, passing the site of this building, lot 13, part of the original 112 lots of Wheeling. With the opening of the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, this block just north of the bridge became very prominent in community social affairs.

Buildings dating from before the construction of the suspension bridge are few in Wheeling. This house was constructed sometime between 1839 and 1845. This large and expensive brick building, sited on the National Road and just north of the Suspension bridge, gives a clear understanding of how the importance of both transportation elements enhanced the prestige of Wheeling and encouraged major residential development. It was built all of a piece, with thirteen rooms, with Greek revival detailing in the front rooms and late federal, simple details in the wing and third floor. Many hints of this grandeur survive in the ceiling heights, oak and poplar floors, stone window sills and lintels, iron fireplaces, two-panel doors and restrained Greek revival door and window architraves on the sides and wing.

This lot, the south half of lot 13, Old Town of Wheeling, was deeded to Robert C. Woods by his father's will, probated in 1831 [Probate 3/53]. Robert Woods, the father, was one of three brothers prominent as Ohio County residents who came west from Botetourt County, Virginia, about 1790. Each bought extensive lands east of Wheeling and in the village. At the time of his death, Robert Woods owned a farm, town house, summer house

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Barthel, O. H., H. E. Halfpenny, Thomas W. Hassen, Joseph B. Doyle. Atlas of the City of Wheeling. Philadelphia: A. H. Mueller. 1901.  
Cranmer, Gibson Lamb. History of Wheeling City. Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company. 1902.  
Gilchrist, Joseph. Map of City of Wheeling. Wheeling: F. W. Beer & Co. 1870.  
History of the Upper Ohio Valley. Madison, WI: Brant & Fuller. Vol 1, 1890.  
Insurance Maps of Wheeling, West Virginia. New York: Sanborn Map Company. 1902.  
Newton, J. H., G. G. Nicholas and A. G. Sprankle. History of the Pan-Handle. Wheeling: J. A. Caldwell. 1879.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data: 1

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

FRIENDS OF WHEELING, INC.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property .2 acres

UTM References

A 17 523480 4434465  
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D         

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Robert C. Woods house occupies the south part of lot 13, Old Town of Wheeling. The frontage on Main Street is 27 feet 9 inches according to the deed of November 28, 1848 conveying the land to Jacob S. Rhodes [Deeds 31/479]. The south lot line abuts the north side of Pine Alley.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

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

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

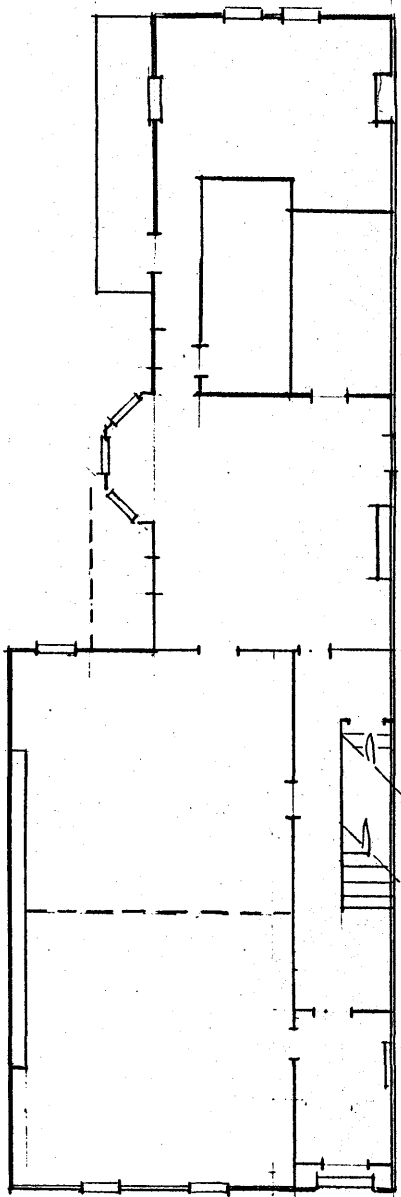
---

and extensive country and city land. The son, the Ohio County surveyor who established the Marshall County/Ohio County line in 1835, invested in local real estate, becoming increasingly prominent in Wheeling through his business successes. The development of this house and lot 13 is an example of one of his earliest investments. He had the late federal/Greek revival house constructed between the time of his inheritance, 1831, and the oldest surviving tax record, 1845. This early tax record evaluates the house at \$3000 and lot at \$2000. When the house was sold to Jacob Rhodes in November, 1848, for \$2900, the deed noted it as "the residue of said lot 13." Woods sold the north side of the lot earlier that year, in August, for \$3000, a price large enough to include buildings on that lot, too. Woods sold the properties at a profit, \$900 above tax appraisal [Deeds 31/209 and 31/479]. There is no record that Robert C. Woods occupied the house.

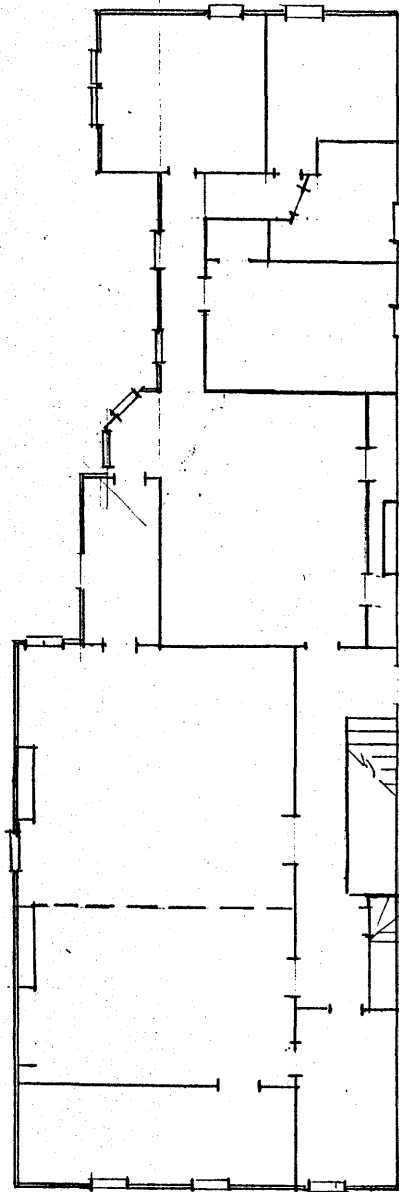
The first known resident of the house, Jacob S. Rhodes, established his store on the corner of Main Street at the entrance to the bridge about the time he bought Woods' house, in 1848. His dry goods business, J. S. Rhodes & Co., was one of the largest in Wheeling from its founding until the turn of the century. He helped finance the construction of several of the commercial buildings of the city and was an organizer of the First National Bank of Wheeling. He was on the founding board of Greenwood Cemetery [Brant & Fuller]. Rhodes sold the house to Mrs. Mary Wilson in 1854 for \$5000 [Deeds 40/52] .

In 1865, Morgan Ott bought the house, still a prominent residence, for \$6000 [Deeds 48/435]. Ott added \$600 in improvements to the house in 1868 [Taxes 1868]. Morgan Ott and his brother Henry were the second generation of hardware merchants in their family. The firm, S. Ott, Son & Co. was the principal hardware dealer in the city [Wilde]. Ott sold the house in 1898 [Deeds 100/188].

Buildings dating from before the construction of the suspension bridge are few in Wheeling. This large and expensive brick building, sited on the National Road and just north of the suspension bridge, gives a clear understanding of how the importance of both transportation elements enhanced the prestige of Wheeling and encouraged major residential development.



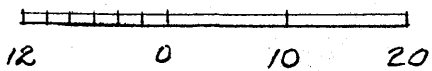
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

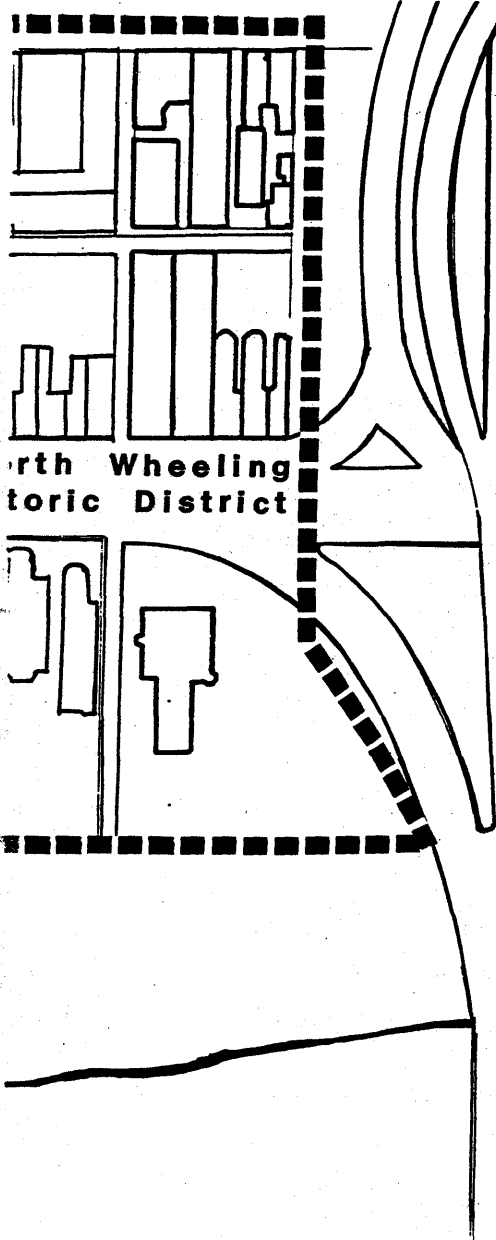
ROBERT C. WOODS HOUSE

WHEELING, WY



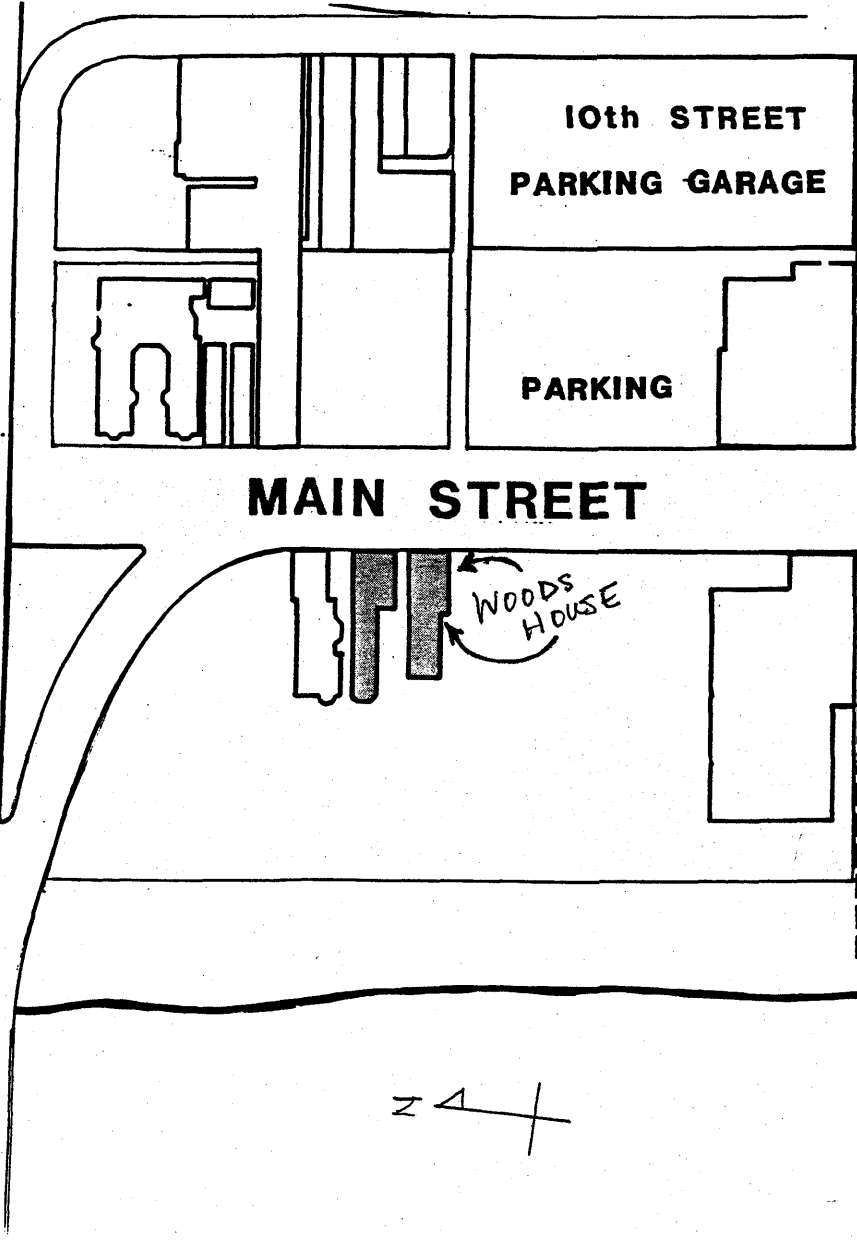
12/90





North Wheeling  
Historic District

STATE 70

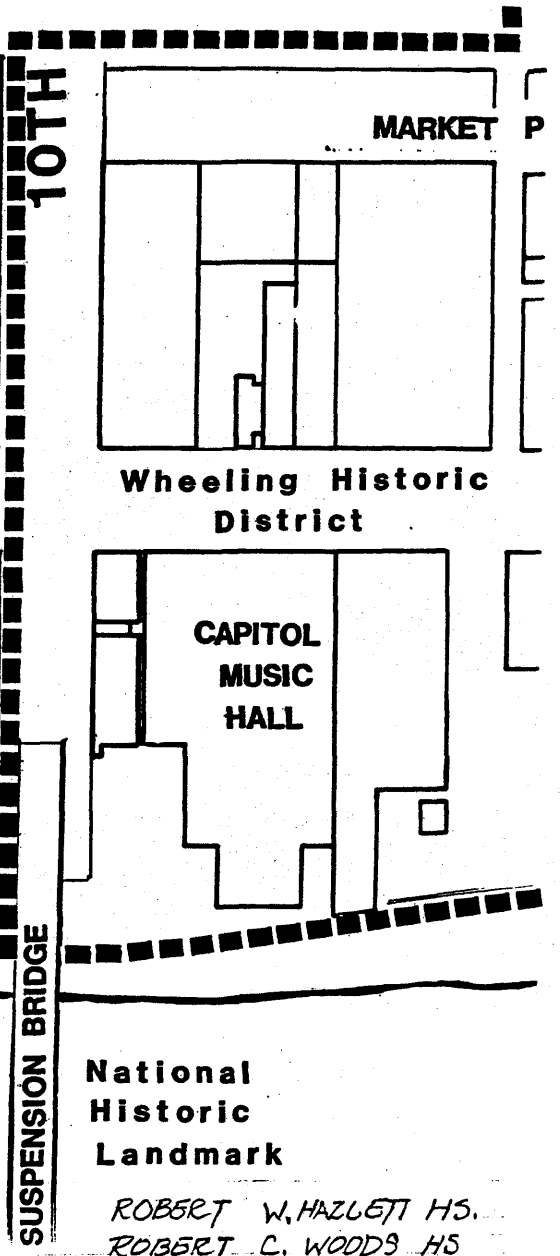
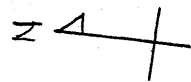


MAIN STREET

10th STREET  
PARKING GARAGE

PARKING

WOODS HOUSE



10TH

MARKET P

Wheeling Historic  
District

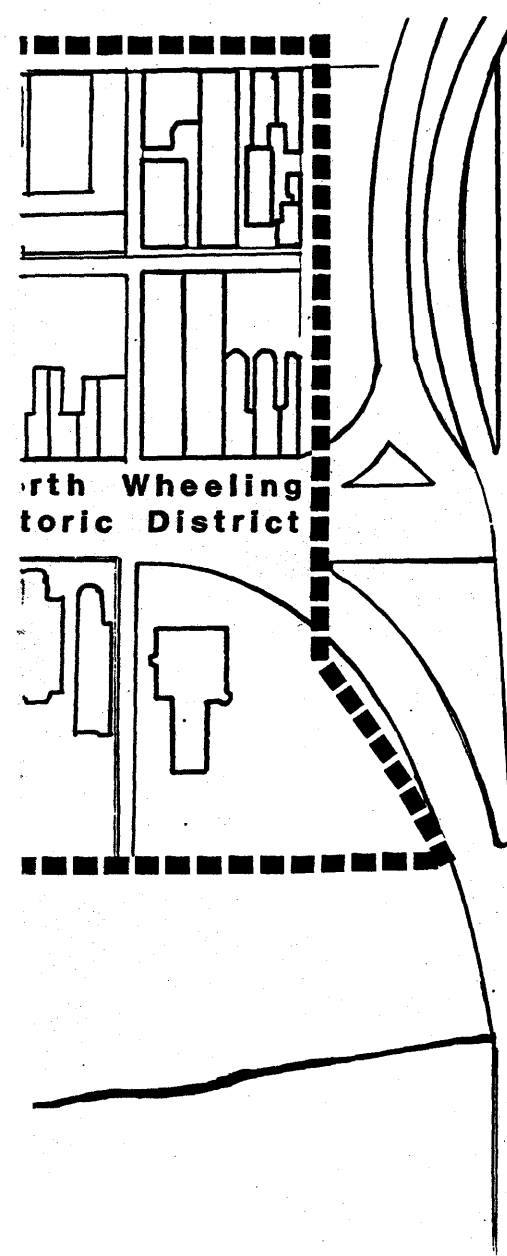
CAPITOL  
MUSIC  
HALL

SUSPENSION BRIDGE

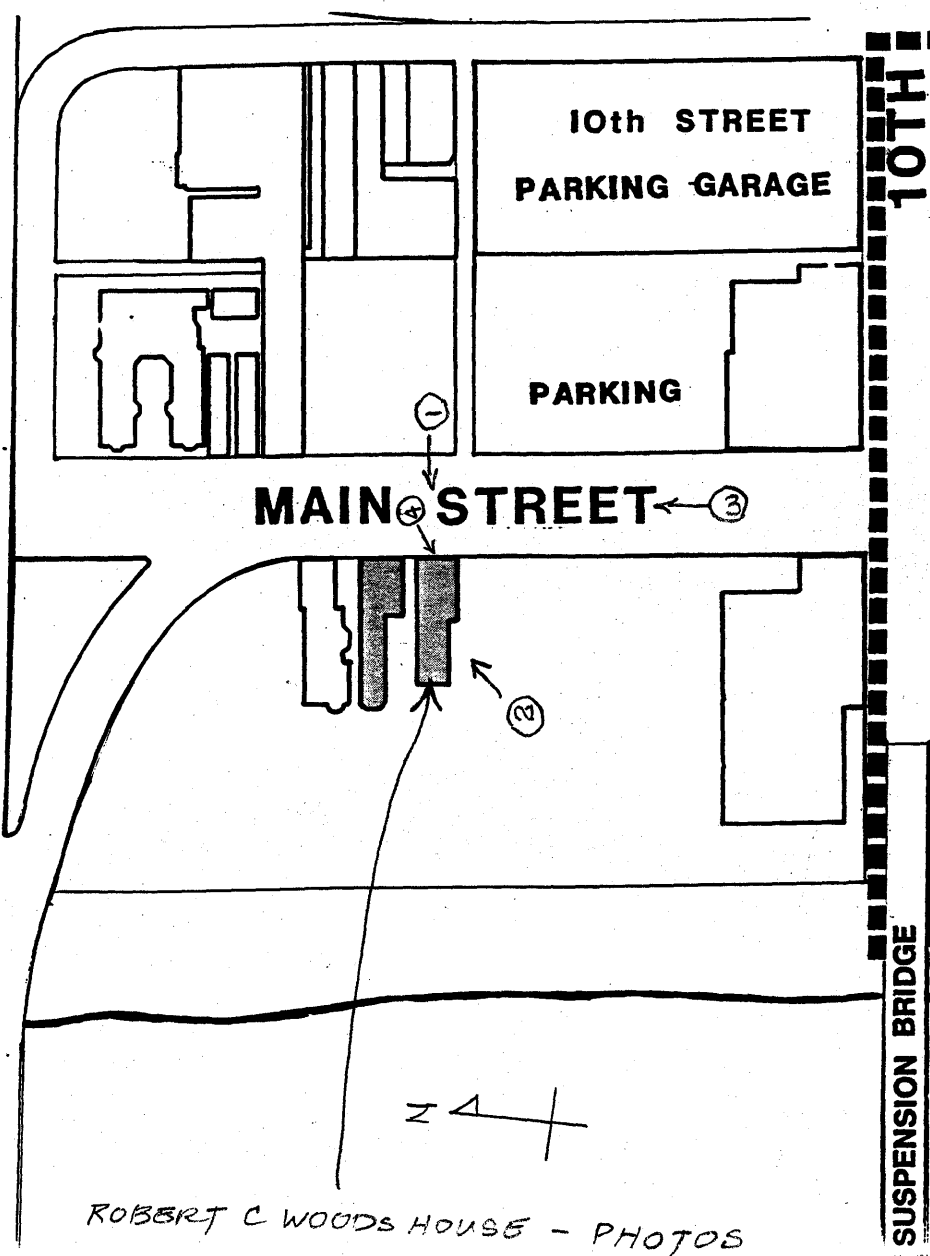
National  
Historic  
Landmark

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

12/90

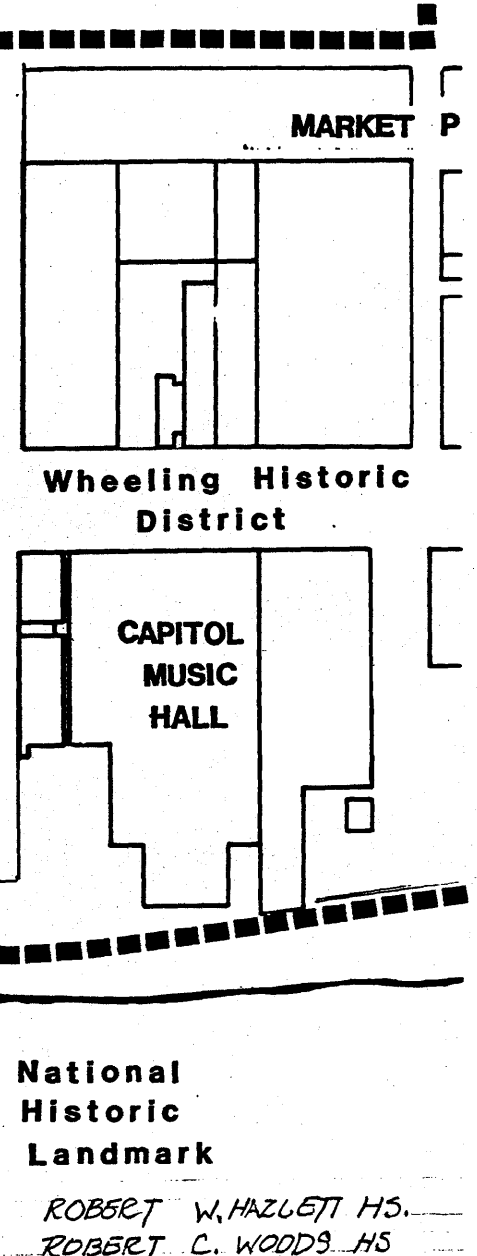


**ERSTATE 70**



**10TH**

**SUSPENSION BRIDGE**



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

12/30

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

---

Robert C. Woods House  
923 Main Street  
Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia

Photographer & location of negatives:  
Rebecca M. Rogers  
44 Audubon Road  
Youngstown, OH 44514

Photographed September, 1990

1. East and north facades, looking west
2. South and west facades, looking northeast
3. Main Street, looking north
4. Detail, first floor, front window
5. First floor stair newel
6. First floor parlor/hall doorway
7. Second floor front room/hall doorway
8. Second floor wing, exterior doorway transom
9. Third floor, north window casing detail