

174

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

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Lang-Hess House  
Other Name/Site Number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

Street & Number: 1625 Wood Street Not for Publication: N/A  
City/Town: Wheeling Vicinity: NA  
State: West Virginia Code: WV County: Ohio Code: 069 Zip Code: 26003

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 Date 1/31/06  
Susan M. Pierce, Deputy SHPO

West Virginia Division of Culture and History  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

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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

Edson H. Beall 3-22-06

\_\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

1

**Non-contributing**

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

1

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**

Domestic: Single Dwelling

**Current Functions**

Work In Progress

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

**Materials**

Foundation: Stone

Walls: Stone

Roof: Asphalt

Other: Concrete, Wood, Metal

**Narrative Description**

(See continuation sheets) See continuation sheet #1

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**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**

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

c. 1865

**Significant Dates**

c. 1865

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Lang, Andrew J. (builder)

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(See continuation sheets)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**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:** Ohio County Public Library, Ohio County Courthouse

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreege of Property:** Less than one

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

Quad Map Name: Wheeling

<u>17</u>	<u>524308</u>	<u>4434670</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**  
(See continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**  
(See continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Rosemary Humway-Warmuth, Esq.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/21/05

Street & Number: 32 Edgewood Street Telephone: 304-234-3636

City or Town: Wheeling State: WV Zip: 26003

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**Property Owner**

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Name: Rose M. (Grossi) Humway

Street & Number: 10 Linden Avenue Telephone: 304-243-5381

City or Town: Wheeling State: WV Zip: 26003

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**Introduction/General Overview**

The property is situated at the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> and Wood Streets, formerly known as Zane Street on the older maps of the City, in the East Wheeling section of the greater City of Wheeling, West Virginia. The structure is adjacent to the established East Wheeling Historic District, which is roughly bounded by Chapline, Eoff, 18<sup>th</sup>, McColloch, 12<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets (listed, NRHP 11/22/1999) [301]. Seventeenth Street was formerly a Wheeling streetcar route. Presently the setting is in an area designated by the City of Wheeling as a revitalization area. Some new construction as well as some demolition has occurred in the East Wheeling area.

The building is a rectilinear cut sandstone mass with cut sandstone architectural features above window openings and the front frieze. It has a full basement with stone forming the foundation walls. There is no attic. The roof is a low slope to the rear. One skylight is present (may not be original). Windows are 8' height and room height is 10 to 12' (approx.). A carriage house, servants quarters and gazebo were once original structures, but have been razed over the years. There is an attached 'sun porch' added to the house circa 1935. Formerly there was a two-story building believed to have been a servant's house which caught fire in the 1970s and was subsequently razed. Presently there is a non-contributing double frame garage where the original carriage house is believed to have been situated. An oval concrete 'fish pond' has recently been uncovered on the property near to where the gazebo is believed to have once stood. In the side yard by the kitchen entrance, there was a gazebo and the path led directly to the structure. The gazebo was moved by the Hess family to the Zimmer farm and is still in existence.

The building contains ten rooms and an entrance hall, and two original bathrooms. A staircase from the entryway contains a large, leaded glass window original to the home. Fenestration consists of twenty-two wood double-hung, high, narrow windows and a beveled glass front door with a beveled glass transom that are also original to the building. Native, glazed Wheeling tile adorns five of the fireplace surrounds found on the first and second stories.

**Lang-Hess House**  
**Exterior Description**

**ca. 1865**

**Contributing Building**

The main façade of the house faces east toward Wood Street. An amazing display of the stone carver's art is the first impression made by the main façade. Regular courses of vermiculated sandstone blocks are broken by a stone belt-course half-way up the façade. A stone bracketed cornice terminates the two story height of the building.

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At ground level, a sandstone balustrade encloses a small, raised paved area in front of the house that sets it apart from the sidewalk. An iron gate is centered in the balustrade, and is accessed from sidewalk grade by three steps. The first story is divided into three bays. The north bay functions as the main entrance, with the center and south bays being tall, narrow double-hung one-over-one sash windows. The main entrance door contains thick beveled glass panes. Each of the first story windows are framed by smooth stone surrounds, and crested with curvilinear broken pediments with scrolled volutes. The main entrance is sheltered by a veranda that curves around the northeast corner of the building, and is supported by square columns built using rock faced concrete blocks. Two columns frame the opening of the main entrance when viewed from the street. The second story windows are three in number, and spaced evenly across the façade. Each window is treated identically, being tall, narrow double-hung one-over-one sash with smooth stone surrounds and sills topped with broken pediments. The cornice is broken into a frieze with three main divisions partitioned by heavy stone brackets. Pairs of brackets are present at the north and south ends of the cornice, with two three-part brackets present in the center. Inset into the three frieze divisions, or panels, are highly figured six-petal flowers.

The south side elevation faces 17<sup>th</sup> Street, and reveals the gradual front-to-rear slope of the flat roof. A raised basement level is visible, rising from the sidewalk to a stone water-table. A series of five basement windows are visible. The east end of the elevation is devoid of windows, with five window bays beginning not quite half-way along the elevation. Each of the five windows on the first and second stories is a tall, narrow double-hung two-over-two sash with smooth stone surrounds and sills topped with broken pediments. The stone belt course visible on the main façade continues around to this elevation. Two stone chimneys spring from the edge of the roof, one present to the east of the first window bay, and one situated between the second and third window bays. A stone coping is present along the top of the side wall.

The rear elevation faces west. The south end of the elevation is devoid of window openings. A single bay exists at the far north end of the elevation, with each window on the first and second story being tall, narrow double-hung six-over-six sash. Plain rectangular sandstone lintels and sills take the place of the fancy carved surrounds and lintels found on the east and south elevations. Likewise, the belt course visible on the east and south elevations is not present here. A sandstone chimney is visible, centered at the roof level of the elevation. The rear elevation reveals that the actual shape of the building is a shallow "tee," as the leg of the tee extends beyond the north edge of the rear elevation. This results in a 90° "cut-out" in the north-west corner of the house. The upper story of this cut-out has been filled in with an enclosed room.



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The north side elevation faces a small yard enclosed with a metal fence. The west side of the elevation shows the cut-out section of the rear portion of the house, revealing fully the upper story that has been enclosed as a room. Below the room enclosure, on the first story level, there is a gable-roof wooden vestibule that shelters a side door into the house. To the east of the vestibule is a small double-hung one-over-one sash window. Below this window is a sloped access door to the basement. To the east of the cut-out are two bays of windows, each bay showing a window for each story, and each window being a tall, narrow double-hung six-over-six sash with plain, rectangular lintels and sills. The belt course visible on the east and south elevations is not present here. Two stone chimneys are visible, one rising from the cornice line between the window bays, and a smaller stone chimney visible near the north-east corner of the building. The first story, north-east corner is dominated by the side of the wrap-around veranda. The west end of the veranda is open, and accessed from grade by a flight of three steps.

### **Interior Description**

The first story of the house is entered from the main elevation through an entry hall offset to the north side of the building. The entry hall, or foyer, opens into a dining room to the west, and a parlor to the south. The north wall of the foyer is filled with a stair to the second story. The stair rises toward the west, and terminates at a landing where the stair turns to climb toward the east, where it reaches the second story. A large, leaded glass window is visible on the north wall of the landing. The window, which measures approximately nine feet by four feet, is constructed from pieces of clear, red, green, and gold glass. The stair displays turned wood balusters, a broad wood handrail, and wood treads. The sides of the stair risers are decorated with a carved, curvilinear design. Tall wood baseboards, an original glass chandelier, and a multi-glass pane wooden door closing the dining room from the foyer complete the treatment of the entry space.

The parlor is entered from the foyer through a wide, door-less opening in the parlor's north wall. Situated against the south wall, the parlor features an elaborate French Baroque style pier mirror acquired by Nora and Vince Grossi approximately 50 years ago along with a stand of pedestal lights. Centered in the ceiling there is a medallion. Hanging from the medallion there is a cast metal light fixture in the form of an elaborate hoop suspended from four bars. Five electric lamps with glass tulip shades hang from the hoop. Woodwork throughout the parlor, and the house, is decorated with an original grained faux wood finish.

The "middle parlor," located to the west of the front parlor, is entered from the front parlor through a wide, door-less opening framed by wide wooden trim. Deep, wood paneled window frame reveals show the thickness of the sandstone walls. A massive, Victorian style pier mirror

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dominates the south wall of the middle parlor. This mirror was acquired by Rose M. Humway approximately 35 years ago. The seller, who was in Moundsville area, claimed that the mirror sat at the top of a grand stairway on a river boat that was sinking in the Ohio River and was one of the articles salvaged prior to the boat going under water.

Access to the dining room may be gained from the middle parlor to the south, or from the foyer to the east. A large glass cabinet against the west wall is used to display glass and china. Several of the pieces on display are Wheeling or West Virginia-made items. The cabinet was purchased in the mid-1960s from the owner of Posin's, a downtown Wheeling jeweler. The weight of the piece necessitated bracing the floor system in the basement to accommodate the load. At one time, the west wall of the dining room displayed an installation of scenic wallpaper, similar to the Zuber et Cie wallpaper present in the dining room of the Waddington Farm mansion, now the Oglebay Institute Mansion Museum, a house museum located in Wheeling's famous Oglebay Park. It is believed that the wallpaper is still in place, but obscured by a coat of paint applied in the mid-1950s. The decorative wood-graining present throughout the house is in strong evidence in the dining room, with every wooden trim surface adorned with fine graining. A door with two wooden panels and a large glass pane opens on the north side of the house, giving access to the veranda. The far west end of the house is taken up by a kitchen in the northwest corner, and a pantry and bathroom in the southwest corner. The kitchen is accessed through a door in the west wall of the dining room. The kitchen is currently under renovation.

The second story is composed of a long hallway with an east-west axis. Midway along the hallway ceiling, there is a glass skylight of later, yet still historic, provenance. The stairs rise from the landing, meeting the second story at the east end of the hall. Immediately to the east of the stairs is a small room. A bedroom is present to the south of the small room, accessed through the hallway. To the west of the first bedroom, and accessed through the hallway, is a second bedroom. The second bedroom features a large built in cupboard along the west wall. To the north of the second bedroom, and across the hallway, is a smaller third bedroom. A kitchen, relict from the use of the second story as an apartment, is present in the northwest corner of the house. A long, narrow bathroom completes the room divisions of the second story, present along the southwest corner of the house. Trim and general finish is less decorative when compared with the high level of finish visible on the first story.

**Garage**

**ca. 1960**

**Non-Contributing Building**

Included on the property is a 20'x35' concrete block garage, built to replace the original carriage house. This building is not considered contributing due to being constructed outside the period of significance.

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**Statement of Significance**

The Lang-Hess House is considered to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion C at the local level for its distinctive architecture and sandstone construction. The period of significance is circa 1865, the approximate construction date for the house.

The builder and first owner of the house was A.J. Lang, a stone mason. Lang was associated with the architect and engineers of the Wheeling suspension bridge, and is believed to have used "extra" sandstone to build his residence following the work on bridge. Lang's stone quarry was located on Warren Street on the east side of Wheeling Creek, near Anton Reymann's brewery in the section of Wheeling known as Manchester. The quarry was only three blocks away from Lang's home across the Creek. East Wheeling's Manchester community was connected to the heart of the City by the Manchester bridge. The bridge was situated so that traffic would flow from the bridge up to the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> and Wood Street where the Lang-Hess property stands.

At its height of activity, the Manchester and adjacent East Wheeling area was home to several prosperous businesses. The Reymann Brewery, owned and operated by Anton Reymann, opened its doors for business in 1880. Reymann owned what today is known as Wheeling Park. The Wheeling & Elm Grove Railroad (initially a steam interurban line, which converted to electric cars in the 1890s), private buggies, and omnibuses patronized the beer garden in the park. The drink of choice was Reymann Beer. Rival beers were not sold in the park. Mr. Reymann's mansion stood on the corner of what is today 15<sup>th</sup> and Eoff Streets only several short blocks from the Lang-Hess property. Another large and prosperous business located in Manchester was the Wheeling Corrugating Company, established in 1890. It closed after being sold to Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel in 1979. The Central Glass Works also maintained a plant in East Wheeling, completing the industrial and working class flavor of the area.

Andrew J. Lang purchased lot 158 on the corner of what was then Zane Street and Seventh Street from Parker and Isabella Campbell on September 9, 1865, and on July 15, 1867, two years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, Andrew J. Lang purchased the east 25 feet of lot 159 from John and Sarah Matthews. The deed was delivered to Anton Reymann. This is the property that is now known as 1625 Wood Street, and where Lang built his stone house. Andrew J. Lang married Margaretha Reymann (also known as Margaret), the daughter of the powerful brewer Anton Reymann, who is mentioned above. Andrew and Margaretha Lang had seven children, Apollonia, Thusnelda, Anna, Emil, Maxemillian, Carl, and Walter. When Andrew Lang died intestate in 1882, the property went to his many children.

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Apollonia married into the Hess family, prominent in Wheeling along several lines of business, and active in the German-American community. The Christian Hess house, located at 811 North Main Street in the North Wheeling Historic District, is a recognized local landmark. Andrew C.M. Hess and Margaret B. Hess, his wife, occupied the home during the period of time that their residence on North Main Street was being constructed and later in 1939 became owners of the house when Andrew's mother, Apollonia, died.

Several other occupancy facts are interesting to consider. At one time, the "flow blue" pigment creator lived in the home and worked at Wheeling China and Glass. During the 1870s, the Wheeling Pottery Company was a leading producer of flow blue transfer ware china in the United States. Records in the City archives provide that Henry C. Hess and John A. Hess were boarders at the home in 1917 and 1918. During the Depression Era, this trend continued, with the property serving formally as a boarding house. Each room was occupied by an entire family.

In recent times, the Grossi family took an interest in the property. The Grossi family lived across the street and operated a business. By the 1950s, the house was overgrown with trees and weeds and in dire need of attention when purchased and rehabilitated. Nora and Vince Grossi later became friends with Mary Ann Hess and the Humway family was and continues to be blessed by such friendship. At the present time, Mrs. Rose M. (Grossi) Humway is the owner of record, and is working toward the complete rehabilitation of the house.

Architecturally, the Lang-Hess House is unique in Wheeling. Sandstone as a building material is common throughout the City and Ohio County, but relatively few dwellings have been built entirely from sandstone. Contextually, sandstone is a common building material in Wheeling, but its use is typically restricted to foundations, window lintels and sills, and carved architectural embellishments. In the East Wheeling Historic District, buildings of the 1850 to 1860 period tend to be Greek Revival in style or influence, and constructed of brick on a sandstone foundation. Later buildings, in the 1870 to 1880 period, tend to be Italianate in style, and again built of brick on a sandstone foundation. Notable domestic uses of sandstone include Monument Place, also known as Shepherd Hall near Elm Grove, which dates to 1798, the David Stewart House, in the Dallas vicinity, which dates to 1812, and the 1920 Willow Glen mansion, on the Bethany Pike, which showcases smooth coursed sandstone quarried near the town of Littleton, in Wetzel County.

Other uses of sandstone in the area are more prosaic, being the main material for property walls, retaining walls, and bridge piers. Not prosaic at all, of course, are the sandstone towers for the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, a National Historic Landmark. Another notable sandstone bridge is the Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge, erected over Wheeling Creek in 1818 by Moses Shepherd

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to serve the National Road. And finally, a significant non-domestic use of locally quarried grey sandstone may be examined in the form of the Wheeling Custom House, completed in 1859 to the designs of architect Ammi B. Young. Now known as West Virginia Independence Hall, and a National Historic Landmark, the heavily rusticated joints display a stone working treatment commonly found on Renaissance Revival buildings.

These examples are given to show the wide range of construction dates and scattered locations of the other sandstone buildings and structures located in Ohio County. Overall, Wheeling and its surrounding territory inclines toward the use of brick as the favored building medium.

As an example of the stone mason's art, executed in a unique interpretation of the Italianate style of architecture, the Lang-Hess House merits inclusion in the National Register under Criterion C as a unique and artistic architectural element of Wheeling's built environment.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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**Bibliography**

Ohio County Deed Book 51, No. 586 City of Wheeling Maps and Records

Relatives of former owners (Hess/Lang Family) provided other information on the structure and residents included narrative of significance.

Local historian, Ms. Margaret Brennan, also provided additional information to the summary mentioned above.

“Wheeling – An Illustrated History” by Doug Fetherling. Photo of East Wheeling area includes building at page 54, see copy attached in appendix.

Wheeling Intelligencer.

West Virginia SHPO National Register nomination files, various.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

All of lot numbered One Hundred Fifty-eight (158) situated at the corner of Seventeenth Street (formerly Zane Street) and Wood Street (formerly Seventh Street) and also the eastern twenty-five (25) feet of Lot No. 159, which part of Lot No. 159 has a frontage of 25 feet along Seventeenth Street (formerly Zane Street) and adjoins Lot No. 158, and extends northwardly from Seventeenth Street an even width of 25 feet to Alley 14 in the rear of said lot, which lots are shown upon the plat of Old Town and East Wheeling, which plat is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Ohio County, West Virginia in Deed Book 57, page 370.

**Boundary Justification**

The nomination encompasses the original .24 acre tract of land associated with the house built by Andrew J. Lang.





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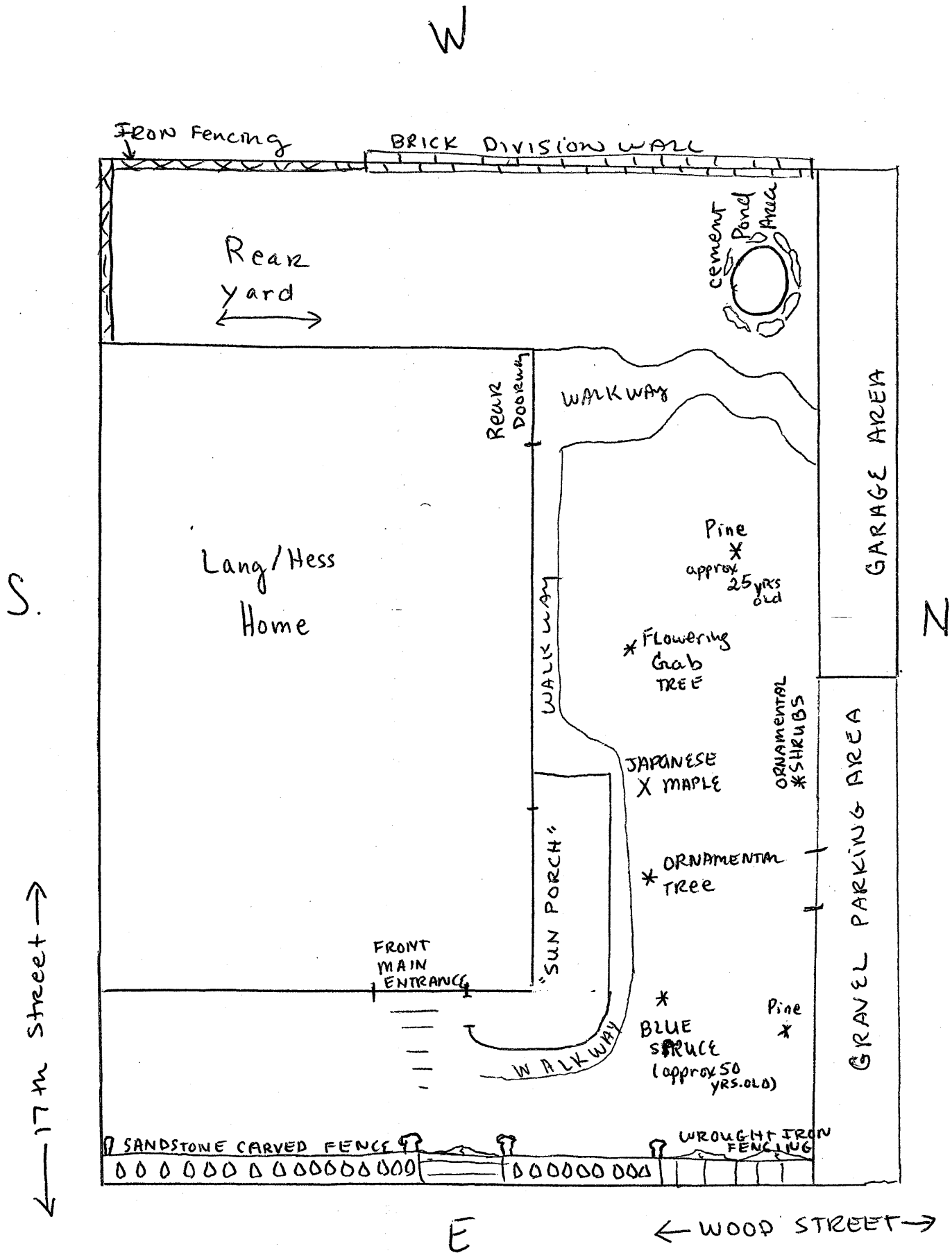
Section number      Photo      Page      11

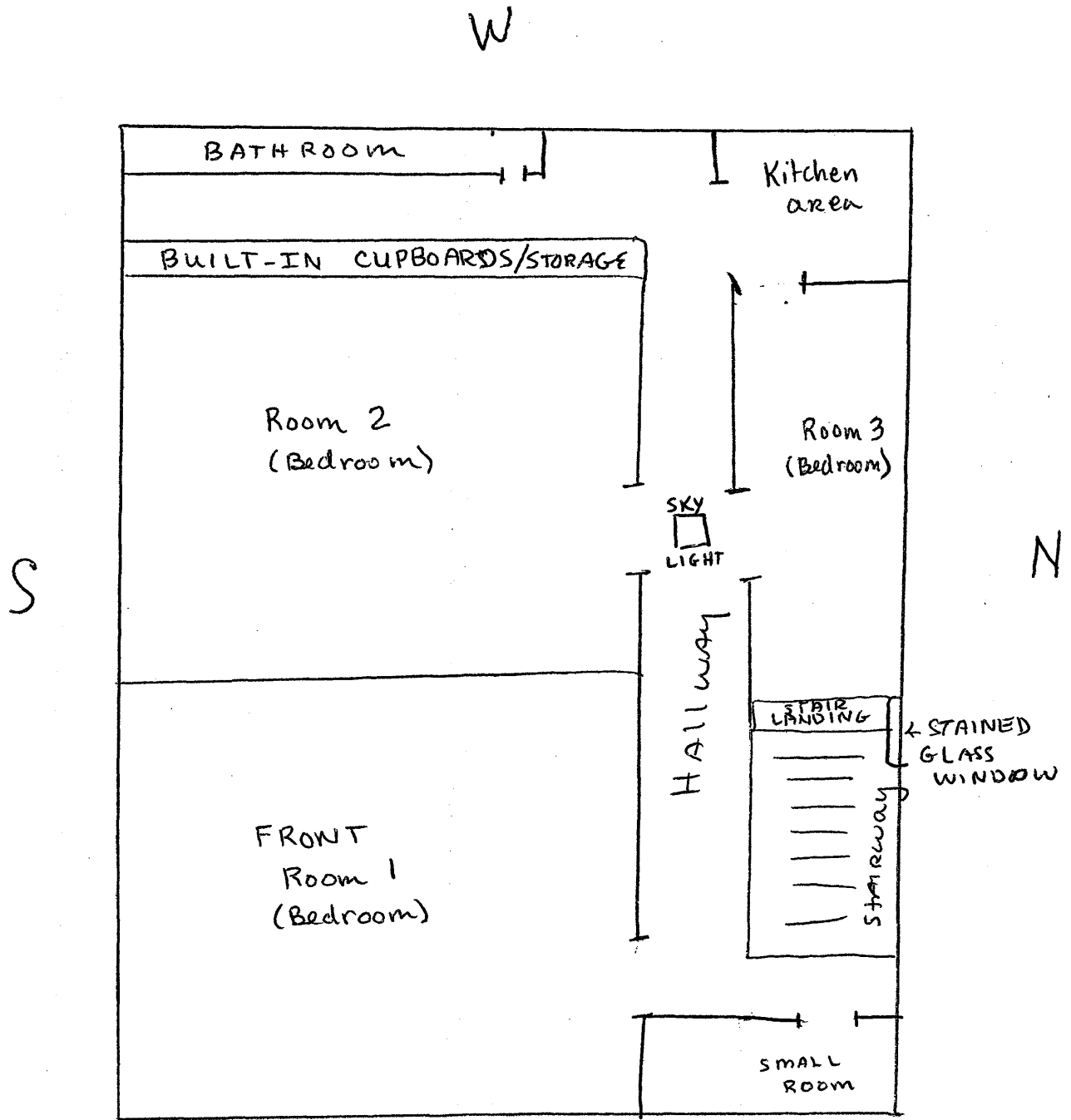
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- Photo 10 of 25:      Exterior Roofline - North Elevation  
Camera facing South
- Photo 11 of 25:      Exterior of Home – Roofline and Chimney – North Elevation  
Camera facing South
- Photo 12 of 25:      Exterior Roofline – North Elevation  
Camera facing South
- Photo 13 of 25:      Exterior of Home Façade – East Elevation and Carved Stone Flowers  
Camera facing West
- Photo 14 of 25:      Exterior of Home Façade – East Elevation and Carved Stone Flowers  
Camera facing West
- Photo 15 of 25:      Exterior of Home – South Elevation – Chimney and Top Carved Stone  
Window Mantle
- Photo 16 of 25:      Exterior of Rear/Kitchen Window – North Elevation  
Camera facing South
- Photo 17 of 25:      Exterior Basement Wall and Wrought Iron Grate – South Elevation  
Camera facing North
- Photo 18 of 25:      Interior Front Meeting Parlor – Original Fixtures – Pier Mirror in Rear
- Photo 19 of 25:      Interior Dining Room Window and Woodworking with Fireplace
- Photo 20 of 25:      Interior Main Living Room Large Mirror over Fireplace, Woodwork,  
Windows, Mantle
- Photo 21 of 25:      Interior Entrance Foyer and Stairway
- Photo 22 of 25:      Interior Central Hallway, Skylight Area Upstairs, Second Floor
- Photo 23 of 25:      Interior Window – Two Panels; Stained Glass at Stairway Landing Area
- Photo 24 of 25:      Interior Kitchen/Pantry Area with Window



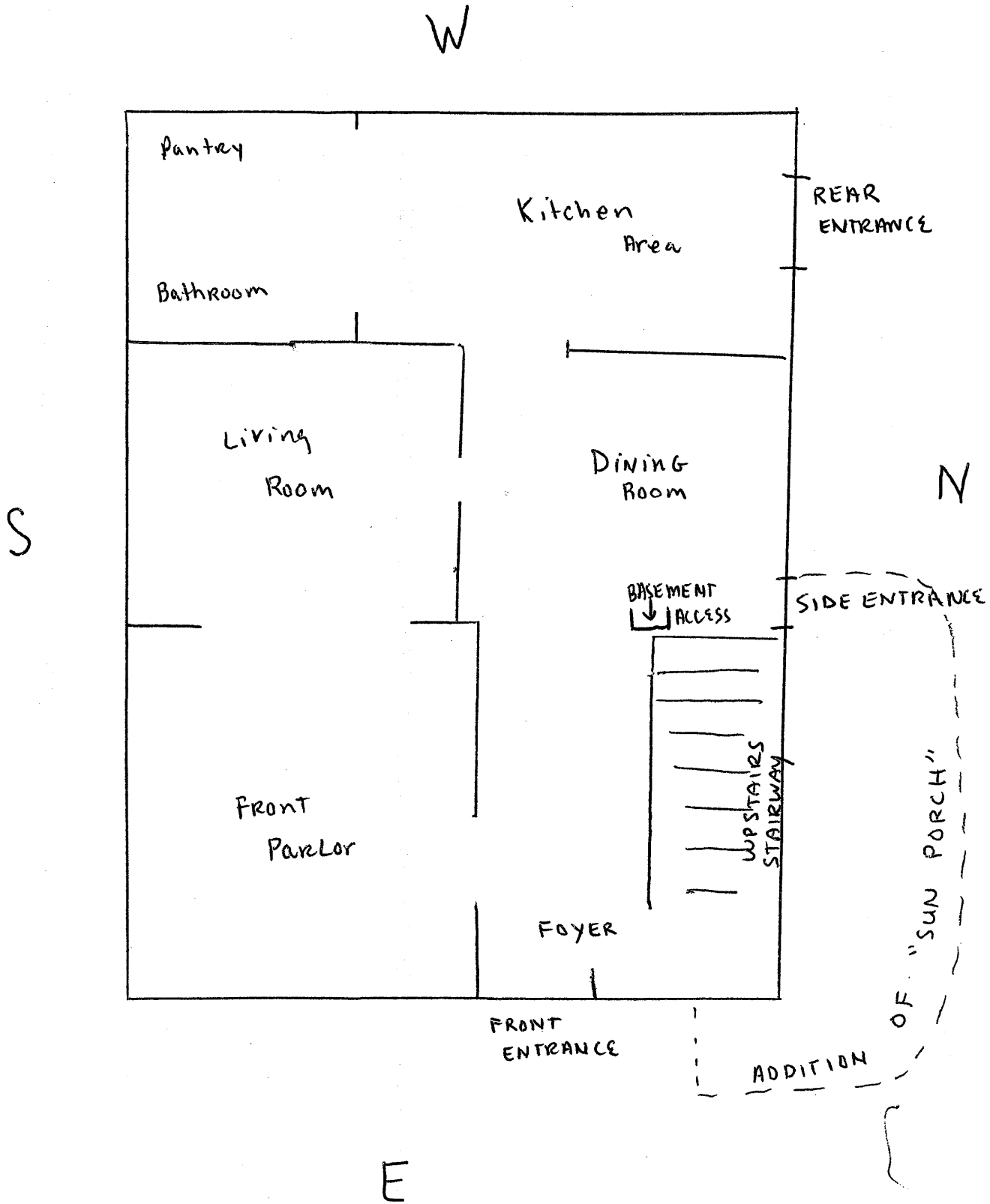
# Lang/Hess House - General Features





2nd  
 FLOOR  
 Floorplan  
 LANG/Hess House  
 Ohio County, WV

Not To Scale



1st  
 Floor  
 Floorplan  
 LANG / HESS House  
 Ohio County, WV

Not to scale