

VLR-8/18/93 NRHP-10/14/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Killahevlin

other names/site number (none) VDRR File No. 112-24

2. Location

street & number 1401 N. Royal Ave. N/A not for publication

city or town Front Royal N/A vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Warren code 187 zip code 22630

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 for additional comments.)

W. C. Miller 9/3/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State of 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

4. National Park Service Certification

<p>I hereby certify that the property as</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other. (explain:)</p>	<p>Signature of the Keeper</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Date of Action</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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Killahevin
Name of Property

Warren County, VA
County and State

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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	1	structures
0	0	objects
4	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel
WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

WOOD: shingles

roof SLATE

other WOOD
METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Killahevin
Name of Property

Warren County, VA
County and State

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.

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

CONSERVATION

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

ca. 1905-1934

Significant Dates

ca. 1905

ca. 1926

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Carson, William E.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mullett, A. B., and Co., Architects

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Killahevin
Name of Property

Warren County, VA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.9 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 | 743 | 240 | 43 | 13 | 29 | 0
Zone Easting Northing

2 | | | | | |

3 | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

4 | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shirley Maxwell, Partner

organization Massey Maxwell Associates date April 23, 1993

street & number P. O. Box 263 telephone (703) 465-4566

city or town Strasburg state VA zip code 22657

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name John M. and Susan A. Lang

street & number 1401 N. Royal Ave. telephone (703) 636-7335

city or town Front Royal state VA zip code 22630

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Front Royal, Warren Co., VA7. Architectural DescriptionSummary Description

Killahevlín (1401 N. Royal Avenue) is a large, detached, two-and-one-half-story brick house built ca. 1905 in a modified Queen Anne style and located on 2.92 landscaped acres at the northern edge of Front Royal, Virginia. (Photo 1) Designed by the firm of A. B. Mullett and Co., Washington, D. C., as the home of William E. Carson, who later was the first director of the Virginia Development and Conservation Commission, the house has been altered by the addition ca. 1926 of an enclosed sleeping porch, covered in wood shingles, across the second-floor front; the enclosure (date not known) of the north end of the original wraparound front porch; the extension (ca. 1926) of the dining room at the south side, replacing a portion of the original porch; and the screening of the remainder of the porch. The terraced grounds, originally part of a nine-acre tract, contain many mature evergreens, deciduous trees, and shrubs amid a series of stone retaining walls. A narrow, gravel road winds from Royal Avenue to a parking area behind the main house. Northeast of the main house is a two-story brick guest house with a water tower at its west side. At the northwest and southeast sides of the main house are two gazebos of wood, stone, and concrete; a large swimming pool, in poor condition, is on the east side. The house and grounds are in fair to good condition and are currently being renovated for use as a bed-and-breakfast guest house. The property contains two contributing buildings (the main house and the guesthouse/water tower), two contributing structures (the two gazebos), and one noncontributing structure (the swimming pool).

Architectural Analysis

Ten sheets of extant undated architectural drawings in the form of blueprints from the office of A. B. Mullett and Company include elevations of all four original facades, a longitudinal section, a cross section, plans of the first floor, attic, and

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Front Royal, Warren County, VA7. Architectural Description (continued)

basement, and a plan for the attic flooring.¹ However, it appears likely that a number of design changes occurred between the preparation of these drawings and construction of the house, particularly in regard to the wraparound porch. The most significant differences are noted in the analysis below.

On the east, north, and south sides of the house are several minor, brick or frame one- and two-story additions constructed at various times before 1960. (Photos 3, 4, 5) The brick walls that are visible are unpainted. Shingles on the second-floor front are now painted white; they were originally stained a dark brown and later painted dark green. (Photo 1)

Roofs

On the original, or main, block of the house, the ridge of the steeply pitched hip roof runs east-west, with an intersecting gable roof on the north facade and an intersecting hip roof on the east facade. The roof has a kick at the eaves. There are two hipped dormers on the west side, one small hipped dormer on the south, and one small hipped dormer and one large gabled dormer on the east. The main roof is covered in gray slate shingles in square-butt and fish-scale shapes. There are four tall, corbelled brick chimneys. Two large sheet-metal attic ventilators are at the east and west corners of the hipped section. Low-pitched shed roofs in standing-seam metal cover the one- and two-story additions on all four sides. There are projecting eaves and a plain wood cornice.

Main (West) Facade

¹The blueprints are in the possession of the owners of Killahevlín; copies are in the files of the Department of Historic Resources. The construction date attributed to the house (1905) is taken from a 1958 newspaper article written during the ownership of William Carson's daughters.

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Front Royal, Warren County, VA7. Architectural Description (continued)

The five-bay principal facade faces west, toward Royal Street. (Photo 1) Now largely hidden by shingled, screened, and glazed additions, the original walls are of eight-course common-bond brick above a high basement of rock-faced random-ashlar gray limestone. The main entrance is at the center of the west facade. At the entrance is a high, three-bay, one-story portico with flat roof, simple, deep, wood cornice, and four Tuscan columns set atop rock-faced random-ashlar stone pillars separated by wood balustrades. Three sets of five brick steps with stone sides and broad stone coping approach the entrance landing from the west, north, and south; another set of seven brick steps with stone sides and broad coping lead to the portico. A one-story, 14-bay wraparound porch with brick and stone pillars extends the width of the house on the west side and onto both the north and south sides. (The original architectural blueprints show the porch with a sloping roof line and a shallow pediment at the entrance. It is only three bays wide on the west facade and does not extend on the north side of the house. However, a ca. 1920 photograph of the house² indicates that the porch was either built with a flat-roofed center portico and a flat roof with balustrade over the main porch, or that the porch was substantially altered less than twenty years after the house was constructed-- certainly before 1926 when the sleeping porch was added.) The two northernmost bays of the porch have been enclosed with stone, brick, and wood. Three bays at the south end of the west facade and three bays on the south side of the house have been screened. The house was enlarged ca. 1926 by the

²The photograph originally appeared in Front Royal-Riverton, Virginia: An Ideal Industrial Center with Exceptional Advantages and Attractions (Front Royal, Va.: Front Royal Chamber of Commerce, n.d. [ca. 1921]). A copy of the booklet is in the files of the Warren Sentinel, Front Royal. The photograph, reproduced directly from the booklet, appeared in the Sentinel on Wednesday, January 15, 1992.

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addition of a 14-bay, full-width sleeping porch faced with fish-scale wood shingles across the second-story front of the house. There is a continuous line of 14 1/1 windows with wood sash; the lower portion of the sash slides down into the wall.

North Facade

On the north facade (Photo 5), the presence of an interior stair near the center of the main block is indicated by a projecting two-and-one-half-story bay with a pedimented gable roof rising through the main cornice line. A small, four-light, fixed oculus window with wood sash and round, wood frame is in the tympanum, which is covered in fish-scale dark gray slate shingles at the attic level. The gable has a broad, curving, wood fascia and plain cornice. A three-part window ensemble lights the landing between the second and attic stories. A round-arch lintel composed of three rows of vertical bricks and a limestone keystone is above the center section. The center window is 6/1 lights in double-hung wood sash, with a semicircular one-light fanlight with wood sash. The two stationary 12-light side windows have wood sash and plain stone lintels; there is a single, continuous plain wood sill. Between the first and second floors are three tall, narrow, fixed windows, each containing a small rectangular, hinged, one-light panel above a taller, stationary one-light panel; there is a continuous stone lintel and continuous plain wood sill. At the first floor two small narrow window openings with round-arched heads of two rows of brick with stone keystones have been removed and the openings enlarged to allow the insertion of a large wood door to the basement.

The western end of the north facade, formerly part of a wraparound porch, has been enclosed in stone beneath the original brick porch piers. The western end of the second floor, originally a flat deck atop the porch, has been enclosed in frame and covered in shingles. A single hipped dormer with paired six-light windows with plain wood sash is near the front (west end) of the original main block of the house. On the first floor, a side entrance to the former porch has been bricked in between two brick porch pillars, but the original seven-step brick stairs

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Front Royal, Warren County, VA

7. Architectural Description (continued)

with stone cheeks and coping remain. Two sets of paired six-over-one-light double-hung wood windows with plain wood trim are on the first floor. There are three basement windows. On the second floor is a 6/1 double-hung wood sash window with plain wooden lintel and sill.

The eastern section of the north facade contains two narrow, 1/1 double-hung wood windows at the first floor and two identical windows at the second. All have arched two-course brick lintels with keystones and plain wooden sills. There is a single, small basement window. The windowless wall of the one-story, shed-roofed kitchen addition is at the rear.

East (rear) Facade

The two-and-one-half-story main block of the rear, or east, facade (Photo 5) is in four irregular bays, with a two-story, one-bay extension at the south end. The south extension contains a modern service entry door opening to the east; the door is of paneled wood with one large light in the upper half. The brick stoop has two steps and two small brick pillars. A former service porch has been enclosed in brick to form a one-story addition. A shed roof in standing-seam metal extends over the entry at the southeast corner and also covers a small, weatherboarded 1-bay X 1-bay frame extension covered in weatherboard. This extension contains modern metal casement windows. The brick addition contains two windows on the east facade: a small, narrow, 1/1 double-hung wood sash with round arch head and plain wood lintel, and a 6/1 double-hung wood sash; and one elliptical stained glass window on the south facade with wood frame and arched brick lintel. A modern metal storm door is in the main block. Three windows on the south face of the main block second story, one wood flat lintel, wood double-hung sash 6/1, one 6/1 round arch brick lintel with wood sill. There are two dormers: one gabled dormer with paired 6/1 double-hung wood sash windows and one hipped roof dormer with 1/1 double-hung wood sash. There is a gable roofed wood-shingled projection built ca. 1940 to serve as an elevator shaft (although the elevator was never installed) at the second floor above the south end of the

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Front Royal, Warren County, VA7. Architectural Description (continued)

enclosed section. The shaft has one fixed, plain, four-paned, wood-sash window.

South Facade

On the first floor of the two-story, four-bay south facade (Photo 2), the three side bays of the original wraparound porch have been screened between brick and stone pillars; each bay of screening is two sections wide by three sections high with wood framing and brackets. The shingled front (west) end of the second-story south facade contains two sets of paired 1/1 windows with wood sash and plain wood frames, continuous wood lintels and sills, plus one pair of windows with 6/1 double-hung wood sash, wide board frames, and wood lintel and sills. The rear (east) end of the south facade contains four grouped 12/1 windows with diamond-paned upper sash, continuous wood lintel and sill, and wood frames between windows at the first floor. The second floor has three grouped 6/1 double-hung windows with wood sash and separate wood lintels and sills. An oval, stained-glass panel is in a one-story addition at the easternmost end of the south side. The east (rear) facade has a service exit with modern storm door. A small, one-story porch has been enclosed to enlarge the kitchen and is covered in aluminum siding, with modern aluminum windows. The upper terminus of the elevator shaft on the second floor is marked by a small dormer.

Interior

The plan of the house is generally rectangular. The primary entrance is located in the center of the west facade, behind a screened entrance porch. The large front door, set behind a pair of glazed French doors, opens to a large reception hall on the north side of the house (Photo 7); a parlor of similar size is to the south (Photo 9). The reception hall, parlors, and dining room are separated from the stair hall by paneled pocket doors of wood. The dining room door is missing, but the pockets are visible. On the west wall of the reception hall, original windows look onto an L-shaped sun room created by enclosing an addition to the northern end of the original porch,

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Front Royal, Warren County, VA7. Architectural Description (continued)

and double French doors lead from the sun room to the screened portion of the front porch.

The dining room (Photo 10), at the southeast corner of the house, was enlarged 12 feet to the south ca. 1930. An elevator shaft added to the east wall ca. 1940 was never used, and the shaft was converted to storage areas. A pantry, lit by a single-light, oval, stained-glass panel, was also added or relocated to the east wall of the dining room.

On the north (rear) wall of the reception hall, a large wooden staircase with paneled walls and turned balusters leads to the second floor. (Photo 8) The landing between the first and second floors is lit by a three-part window ensemble, with three small, fixed windows above three tall, narrow windows.

Significant first-floor woodwork consists of painted, paneled wainscoting (some panels damaged or missing) in the reception hall and on the stairway (Photos 8), turned balusters and handrail on the staircase, and original mantelpieces in each of the three major rooms. (Photos 7, 9, 10) Door and window frames have bulls-eye corner blocks and pilaster trim. The flooring throughout the first floor except for the kitchen is of narrow varnished boards. Walls and ceilings in all the rooms are plastered, but those in the reception hall were covered with modern textured plaster ca. 1985. In the reception hall, a fireplace placed diagonally across the northeast corner has a wooden mantelpiece with plain mantel and slender Doric columns beneath a broad, plain frieze and a brick hearth. In the south parlor, a fireplace on the south wall has a green glazed tile fireplace surround and hearth and an Adamesque mantelpiece with fluted columns and swags. The dining room fireplace has an Arts-and-Crafts-style mantelpiece of wood with applied carved details.

Between the vestibule and kitchen a narrow service stair with a door at the first floor rises on the north wall to the second and attic floors. A door to the basement staircase is to the west under the service stairs.

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Front Royal, Warren County, VA

7. Architectural Description (continued)

At the rear of the house, the kitchen (Photo 11) was enlarged ca. 1950 and 1985 by enclosing a rear porch, and a group of modern, metal, fixed and casement windows was installed across the new east wall. The walls are of plaster. There are two doorways: one leading to the rear service hall connecting the dining room to the kitchen and the back door, and another to the front service stair hall. A modern laundry room is at the rear of the service hall near the back door.

The second floor is comprised of four bedrooms (Photos 17, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 23), three large bathrooms, a small bathroom, an enclosed sleeping porch across the front of the house, and a central corridor. Each of the bedrooms has a fireplace and mantel. Those in the southwest, northwest, and northeast bedrooms are original, but the fireplace in the southeast bedroom, while in the original location on the north wall, has a replacement mantelpiece in a Victorian style with mirrored overmantel and replacement hearth in large modern tile squares. The original hearth and mantel were removed at an unknown date by previous owners in order to build a closet, which was in turn demolished by the present owners in 1990.

A long, narrow sleeping porch added across the second-floor front of the house ca. 1926 (Photo 12) is reached from the corridor and a doorway to the northwest bedroom. Three flimsy partitions (date unknown) separating the porch into four small rooms were removed in 1990.

The main stair continues to the third (attic) floor; it is lit by a three-part Palladian window ensemble at the landing. Formerly occupied by a servant's room and storage area, the attic was converted to a two-room bedroom/living suite with bath in 1990. (Photo 24)

Grounds and Outbuildings

Approximately 100 feet northeast of the house is a two-story, three-bay, T-shaped, brick guest house with a one-bay, four-story water tower at its west side. (Photo 26) The

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7. Architectural Description (continued)

construction date of this building is unknown, but it is probably contemporaneous with the main house, ca. 1905. The entrance to the building is through a wood-paneled door in the south face of the water tower. A one-story, hipped-roof porch with a single plain wood post and concrete stoop is at the entrance. The intersecting gable roofs of the main block are covered in composition roofing; the hipped roof of the water tower is in slate. The south-facing main block of the building has a large, broadly arched, flat fascia in wood, similar to those on the north and east gabled sections of the main residence; a small, single-pane oculus air vent with wood frame is at the attic level. On the first floor of the main block are three two-over-two double-hung wood windows; the center window has a low-arch lintel and wood sill, and the two end windows have plain wood lintels and sills. The two-bay ell at the east end has one window and a door on the first floor, and one window on the second floor, all with wood sills and low-arch wood lintels. The water tower has a hipped roof of fish-scale slate with metal snowbirds.

Two open, octagonal gazebos (22' in diameter) with modern composition roofs, concrete floors, and low, stone and concrete sides are located northwest and southeast of the main house. They are both contributing structures. The rustic gazebo on the northwest, constructed before 1921, is supported by rough timber posts of cedar set on stone side walls topped by broad concrete coping. (Photo 28) The gazebo on the southeast side, built ca. 1924, has Tuscan columns set on low stone pillars. (Photo 27) An elaborate landscaping plan of driveways, footpaths, trails, and plantings, was proposed for the southern half of the lot by Outdoor Arts Company, Landscape Engineers and Horticulturists, of Flourton, Pennsylvania, in 1924.³ It is unclear how much of the

³The two sheets of drawings, entitled "Planting Plan for the Grounds of Mr. W. A. Carson, Riverton, Va." and "Profile of Proposed Entrance Drive on the Residence of Mr. W. A. Carson," are both dated January 23, 1924.

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7. Architectural Description (continued)

plan was ever carried out. However, an open, octagonal "summer house" on the plan is probably the one that now exists, although it was suggested for a location at the south side of the house, well to the south of where it was actually built. A large, concrete-lined swimming pool in poor condition (a noncontributing structure; date unknown but after 1924) is at the rear (east) of the house, south of the water tower building. The pool may have been built instead of, or may later have replaced, a tennis court proposed on the Outdoor Arts plan.

The house is approached from Royal Street by means of a narrow, graveled drive that winds from the northwest corner of the lot across the steeply terraced front yard, passing in front of the house from north to south, joining a loop around a garden area south of the house, and ending in a parking area directly behind the house. Another drive in the southern portion of the original lot led from the street to a parking area at the rear; it was lost as a result of a later subdivision of the property. Neither driveway is the one proposed in the Outdoor Arts plan. An old alley leading straight from Royal Street along the northern edge of the property to the rear of the lot has recently been added to the Killahevlín holdings. Low retaining walls of rough limestone and a brick walkway from the street to the house were present by 1921, but large trees and shrubbery are of more recent date.

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Front Royal, Warren County, VA8. Statement of SignificanceSummary

Killahevlín is significant under National Register Criteria B and C. It is historically significant for its association with William E. Carson, a noted conservationist and first chairman of the Virginia Development and Conservation Commission. Carson directed the formation of Virginia's recreational parks system, established the state's system of historical road markers, and was instrumental in the creation of the Shenandoah National Park and the Skyline Drive. As president of Riverton Lime Corporation, he played a prominent role in the early 20th-century economic life of Front Royal, Warren County, and Virginia. Killahevlín is locally significant for its architecture. Although the original ca. 1905 design by the Washington, D.C., firm of A. B. Mullett and Company has been obscured by additions made during the historical period, Killahevlín is a distinctive Front Royal landmark, and the house contains much fine, early 20th-century, interior woodwork and other architectural detail. The wooded and terraced site retains many of the distinctive landscape features that distinguished it during the Carson occupancy in the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s. The property is also reputed to have been the scene of various Civil War activities, including use in 1862 as a campground by Union troops under the command of Colonel John Kenley and the 1864 hanging by Union troops of two captured members of Mosby's Rangers.

Historical Background

The site on which Killahevlín stands, near the Front Royal city limits, once comprised part of a small community near the North and South Forks of the Shenandoah River. The area was called "the forks" or "Confluence" until 1892⁴, when it was given a post office and officially named Riverton.

⁴Rebecca Good, The Forks of the River (Front Royal, Va: n.p., 1973)

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Front Royal, Warren Co., VA8. Statement of Significance (continued)

The high land on which Killahevlín would rise gained a grim notoriety because of events reputed to have occurred there during the Civil War. On May 23, 1862, Union troops under Colonel John Kenley were encamped on the property when Stonewall Jackson, moving against Union forces under General N. P. Banks, captured the town of Front Royal. On September 23, 1864, two captured Confederate soldiers serving with Mosby's Rangers were hanged by their Union captors. Local historians believe that a walnut tree growing near the site of the present water tower/guest house served as the gallows. The execution was part of a short-lived policy ordered by General Sherman to discourage Mosby's attacks on Union forces under General Philip Sheridan. Seven Confederates in all were hanged or shot as a result of the policy, six of them near Front Royal. After Mosby ordered the retaliatory execution of seven captured Union soldiers, Sherman's policy was abandoned. (In 1899 pieces of the walnut tree were sold as relics to finance a monument memorializing the Confederate victims at Prospect Hill Cemetery.)⁵

The large brick house at Killahevlín was constructed ca. 1905 as the residence of William E. Carson, president of Riverton Lime Company, who served as the first chairman of the Virginia Conservation and Development Commission from 1926 until 1934. Designed by the Washington, D.C., firm of A. B. Mullett and Co., Killahevlín postdates the death in 1890 of Alfred Bult Mullett, founder of the firm, who had formerly held the position of Architect of the Treasury. Mullett, perhaps best known as the architect of the State, War, and Navy Building in Washington, was also responsible for the design of many other federal structures. Although there are extant undated architectural drawings of Killahevlín (with some variations from what is believed to be its as-built appearance), surviving firm records and Mullett and

⁵Laura Virginia Hale, "The Mosby Monument," in Memories in Marble: The Story of the Four Confederate Monuments (Front Royal, Va.: Warren Rifles Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1956).

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 13Killahevlin
Front Royal, Warren Co., VA

8. Statement of Significance (continued)

Carson family papers offer no further clues about Killahevlin or who, among the several architects working with A. B. Mullett and Co. at that time, might have designed it. According to Mullett family historians, it was most likely the work of Frederick M. Mullett (1870-1924), Alfred B. Mullett's younger son, who was the principal designer in the Mullett office during that period. His older brother, Thomas Mullett (1868-1935), is said to have been the firm's business manager.⁶ After attending Washington public schools, both Thomas and Fred Mullett studied architecture under their father's tutelage.⁷ The firm's other known designs include Capitol Park Hotel, Hotel Harris, Farmers and Merchants Bank, and (with Walter G. Peter) the Annex to the Union Trust Building, all in Washington; the Jefferson County Jail, Charlestown, West Virginia; Visitation Monastery, Alta Vista, Maryland; and residences in Washington and the environs. Thomas Mullett was elected to the Washington Chapter of the AIA in 1920 and served as its treasurer for many years.

William E. (Will) Carson was born October 8, 1870, in Enniskillen, in what is now Northern Ireland. His father, Samuel Carson, immigrated to the United States soon after the Civil War and established a prosperous ground lime business, Carson & Sons, in Riverton, near Front Royal, in the northern Shenandoah Valley. William Carson spent most of his boyhood in Ireland before coming to Virginia in 1885; he joined the family business in 1888 and became its general manager in 1895.

⁶ Interview with Daisy Mullett Smith, granddaughter of Alfred B. Mullett, ----, 1991.

⁷ Suzanne Mullett Smith and Daisy M. Smith, A. B. Mullett Diaries, Etc.: Annotated Documents, Research, and Reminiscence Regarding a Federal Architect Engineer.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 14Killahevlín
Front Royal, Warren Co., VA8. Statement of Significance (continued)

In 1906, at the age of 36, Carson married Agnes Holladay McCarthy in Richmond.⁸ Perhaps impending marriage provided an impetus for the construction about 1905 of the Riverton home in which the couple would live together for the next thirty-six years. The house was called "Killahevlín," after the Irish home of a boyhood friend where Carson had often visited.

Carson's older brother, A. C. Carson (generally known as Kit), had studied law at the University of Virginia and, in 1893, had gone to work in the Winchester legal firm of Richard Evelyn Byrd.⁹ For many years, the Carson family enjoyed a friendly and fruitful relationship with the Byrds and, through them, with Virginia's Democratic party. Will Carson's business interests led naturally to his involvement in statewide activities such as the banking reform movement that resulted in the creation of the Federal Reserve System. He served as president of the Virginia chapter of the National Citizens' League for the Promotion of a Sound Banking System and on the board of the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond. On Harry Flood Byrd's recommendation, William Carson was appointed to the Hampton Roads Port Commission in 1922.

Then, in 1925, Will Carson served as campaign manager in Harry Byrd's successful bid for the governorship. When Byrd reorganized the cumbersome state bureaucracy after the election, reducing more than one hundred government agencies to fourteen departments, he chose William Carson to head Virginia's new and influential Conservation and Development Commission.

The Conservation and Development Commission included among its many duties oversight of the Water Power and Development Commission, the State Geological Commission and Survey, and the offices of the State Geologist and Forester; it also had the

⁸John Horan, Jr., "Will Carson and the Virginia Conservation Commission," The Virginia Magazine, Oct. 1984, pp. 391-415.

⁹Father of the famed explorer of the same name.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15 Killahevlín
Front Royal, Warren County, VA

8. Statement of Significance (continued)

authority to condemn and acquire land and other property for public park purposes. Although Carson favored a generally conservative pace for the state's efforts toward economic growth, he took a broad and active view of the commission's responsibility for the "future development and constructive policies of the state." Since he considered Virginia's historical and recreational facilities its most marketable commodity, he was tireless in forging an ambitious program to encourage tourism in the Old Dominion.

Carson's energy, persuasiveness, and persistence over a period of ten years did much to ensure the creation of the Shenandoah National Park. He successfully promoted a plan for blanket condemnation of lands in the park area, a controversial but important step toward speeding the land acquisition process that was approved and funded by the General Assembly in 1928, with the backing also of the governor and the federal government.

Carson never failed to make the most of Virginia's proximity to Washington and of his personal ties to federal officials and agencies such as the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps. He captured the attention of President Herbert Hoover, an avid fisherman, with tales of superlative trout fishing in on the Rapidan River. A presidential retreat was built near Luray in Madison County (where Hoover held world disarmament talks with British Prime Minister Ramsay McDonald in 1929). Although the Madison County camp, Camp Rapidan, was not used during the Roosevelt administration, Hoover's interest had lasting results. In 1930, Carson persuaded Hoover to use drought relief funds to construct the first leg of the Skyline Drive, an essential aspect of the new park.

Carson also proposed and worked toward the development of the Colonial National Historical Park, uniting the towns of Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown into a single historic shrine by means of a landscaped scenic parkway that would connect the three sites while concealing any modern intrusions along the road. His idea came to fruition in 1930 when Congress passed a bill authorizing the parkway.

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Front Royal, Warren County, VA8. Statement of Significance (continued)

The activities of the Conservation and Development Commission took yet another tack during the Roosevelt Administration. With the aid of federal funds and labor (the latter supplied through the Civilian Conservation Corps, established in 1934), Carson pushed through the beginnings of Virginia's state park system on lands already owned by the state or proposed to be donated to it. The first six parks employed a total of 4,500 men in the CCC program, who were stationed within the parks and built "parkways, bath houses, water and sanitary systems, nature trails, and fire barriers." The success of Virginia's program occasioned some criticism from other states whose representatives felt Virginia was getting more than its fair share of the federal aid.¹⁰

Carson is also credited with conceiving and setting in place Virginia's much-admired system of roadside historical markers. More than a thousand of the markers sprouted "thick as Coca Cola signs" beside the state's roads, making the entire state an "open-air classroom" for the study of history.¹¹

At home in the Shenandoah Valley, Carson and his wife were active in setting up local recreational facilities as well. In 1933, as a memorial to their only son, who had died of pneumonia at the age of 17, the Carsons donated 62 acres of land for a public golf and country club to the town of Front Royal. Again, the club house and golf course were built by Virginia CCC camps.¹²

Carson served for thirty years on the Democratic State Central Committee (1910-1940), and his work with the Conservation

¹⁰Horan, p. 406.

¹¹Horan, p. 403.

¹²"Front Royal Recreational Park Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1991.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 17 Killahevlín
Front Royal, Warren County, VA

8. Statement of Significance (continued)

and Development Commission was highly praised by the press and public, despite a controversy¹³ over his highly personalized management of its programs. He was mentioned as a possible candidate for the governorship in 1929 and again in 1933. However, the Depression made funds for the Commission's projects increasingly difficult to obtain, particularly under the stress of a cooling relationship with Byrd. Carson's friendship with now-Senator Byrd had been seriously compromised by a disagreement over the proposed reorganization of the Conservation and Development Commission and Carson's reluctance to support a Byrd candidate as executive secretary of the commission. Their relationship was virtually destroyed when Carson backed the head of the state parks department, who had been inundated with applications from Democrats thrown out of work by the Depression, in urging that applicants for parks jobs be judged solely on the basis of ability rather than on political expediency. By 1934, Carson and Byrd had come to a bitter parting of the ways. When the commission was reorganized, Carson was not reappointed. He retired from the political arena to Killahevlín.

Even after Carson's death in 1942, however, his wife and daughters were so convinced of the Byrd faction's unrelenting animosity toward the former chairman that they sequestered all of Carson's correspondence and other records relating to his career with the Conservation and Development Commission at the Riverton house for many years, refusing all requests for access to them lest his ill-wishers use the records to impugn Carson's reputation. His daughters burned the papers nearly thirty years after Carson's death, keeping only several scrapbooks of newspaper clippings. A few months later, they learned of the existence of a biographer whose credentials they felt they could trust: John F. Horan, Jr., editor of the Northern Virginia Daily. Although he was unable to use his subject's personal files, Horan

¹³Part of the controversy centered about the commission's payment of legal fees to A. C. Carson. See Horan, pp. 410-11.

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Section number 8 Page 17a

8. Statement of Significance (continued)

found the material for his master's thesis on Carson's years with the commission in the state archives.¹⁴

After a subdivision that reduced its original nine acres to less than three. Killahevlín was sold in 1970 and again in 1984 and 1990. It is currently being rehabilitated for use as a bed-and-breakfast inn.

¹⁴Virginia Carson Lipscomb, in a letter to Ray Collins (who had purchased the house in 1984), dated May 25, 1985.

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Section number 9 Page 18

Killahevin
Front Royal, Warren Co., VA

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Section number 10 Page 19

Killahevlín
Front Royal, Warren Co., VA

10. Geographical Data

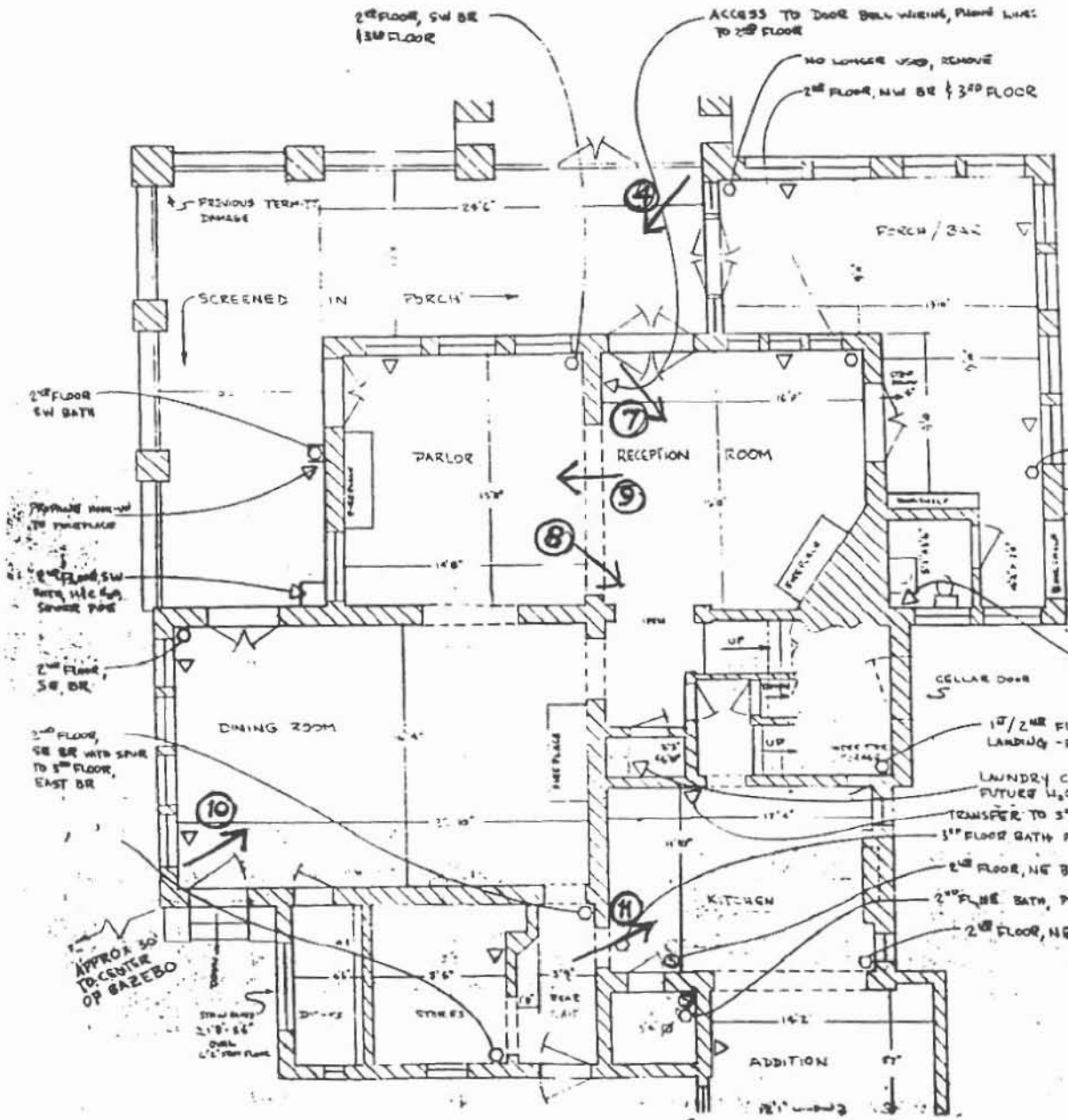
Verbal Boundary Description

Tract "A" as shown on plat entitled, "A Resubdivision of the William E. Carson Subdivision," dated September 6, 1984 (Deed Book 317, p. 355, Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court of Warren County), plus the alley to the north of Tract A, which was purchased by Killahevlín owners in 1992.

Boundary Justification:

Boundary includes all land legally remaining in tract containing the residence and outbuildings, plus the narrow alley to the north, which was purchased by Killahevlín's owners in 1992. The property is comprised of sufficient area to suggest the original landscaped appearance of the Carson property as it would have been seen from the house and from North Royal Avenue.

KEY TO PHOTOS FIRST FLOOR



APPROX 50' TO CENTER OF GAZEBO

NORTH

NOTES:

- 1- O INDICATES LOCATION OF HOT WATER (HEAT) PIPES / RETURNS
- 2- ▽ INDICATES LOCATION OF HEAT RADIATORS
- 3- ◁ INDICATES IN WALL ACCESS AREAS
- 4- ⊙ INDICATES LOCATION OF SEWER LINES

2ND FLOOR, NW BATH: H/C-H₂O, SEWER PIPE, FUTURE POWER / PHONE TO 3RD FLOOR

LAUNDRY CHUTE, FUTURE H₂O / SEWER LINES, TRANSFER TO 3RD FL EAST BR

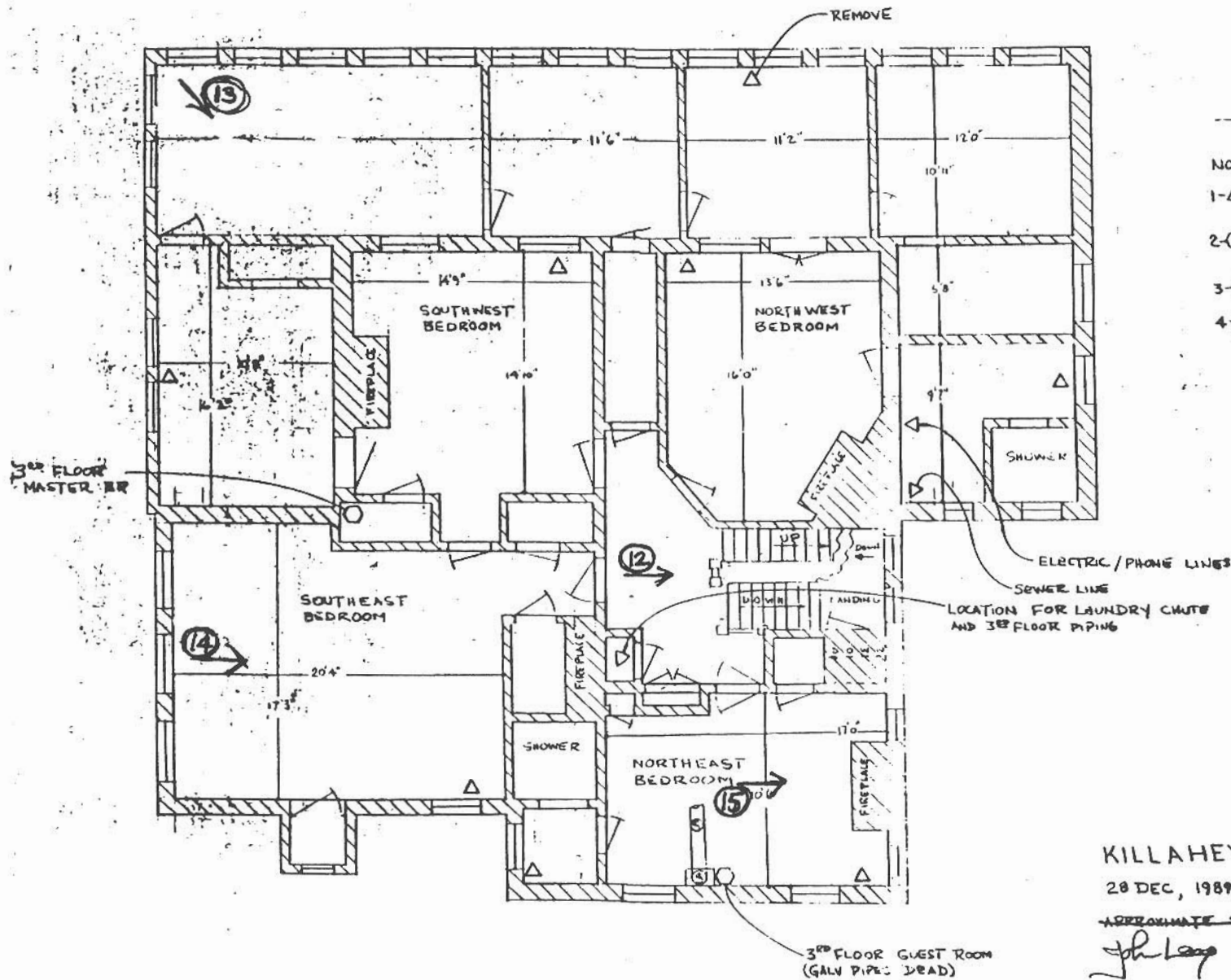
3RD FLOOR BATH PLUS H/C H₂O

2ND FLOOR, NE BATH, 3RD FLOOR BATH
2ND FL, NE BATH, PLUS H/C H₂O
2ND FLOOR, NE BR, NORTH

KILLASHEVLIN - 1ST FLOOR - PHOTO KEY
28 DEC, 1989 - REV A
APPROXIMATE SCALE 1/4" = 10' NO SCALE

John King

KEY TO PHOTOS
2ND FLOOR



————— NORTH

NOTES

- 1-△ INDICATES LOCATION OF RADIATORS, BRACES
- 2-○ INDICATES LOCATION OF HEAT PIPES
- 3-↑ INDICATES ACCESS AREAS
- 4-⊙ INDICATES LOCATION OF SEWER PIPES

KILLAHEVLIN - 2ND FLOOR - PHOTO KEY

28 DEC, 1989, REV A

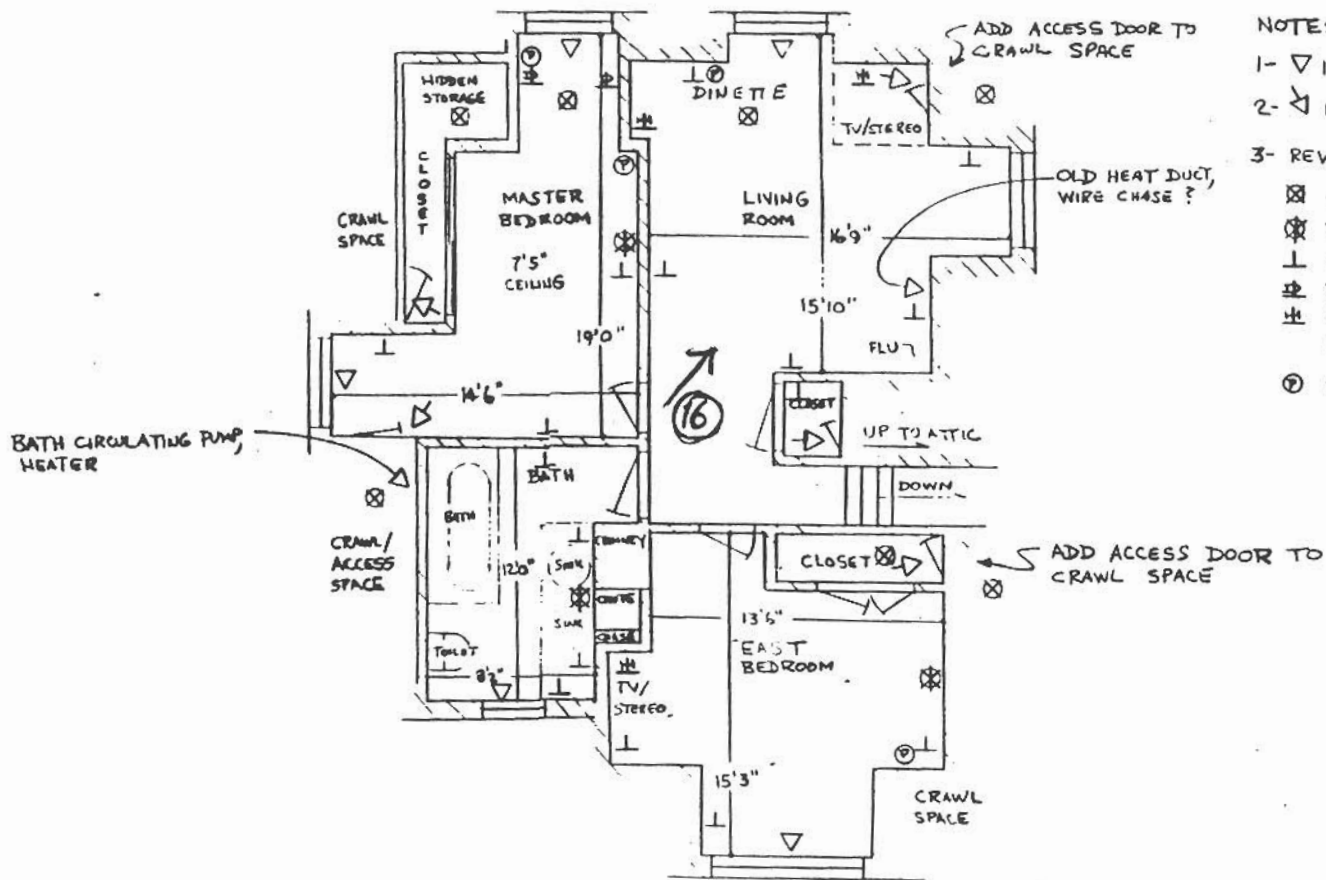
APPROXIMATE SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0" NO SCALE

John Leary

KEY TO PHOTOS
THIRD FLOOR

OUTSIDE CONFIGURATION NOT SHOWN
DIMENSIONS ARE AT FLOOR
MANY WALLS TAPERED TO CEILING
PART WAY UP

→ NORTH



NOTES:

- 1- ▽ INDICATES LOCATION OF RADIATORS
- 2- ▽ INDICATES WALL ACCESS AREAS

3- REWIRING INSTRUCTIONS:

- ⊗ CEILING LIGHTS, 7 REQUIRED
- ⊗ WALL LIGHTS, 4 REQUIRED
- ⊥ REGULAR OUTLETS, 16 REQUIRED
- ⊥ DEDICATED OUTLET FOR PC, 2 REQ'D
- ⊥ HIGHER CURRENT OUTLETS FOR MICROWAVE, REFR, ETC, 3 REQ'D
- ⊙ PHONE JACK 4 REQ'D

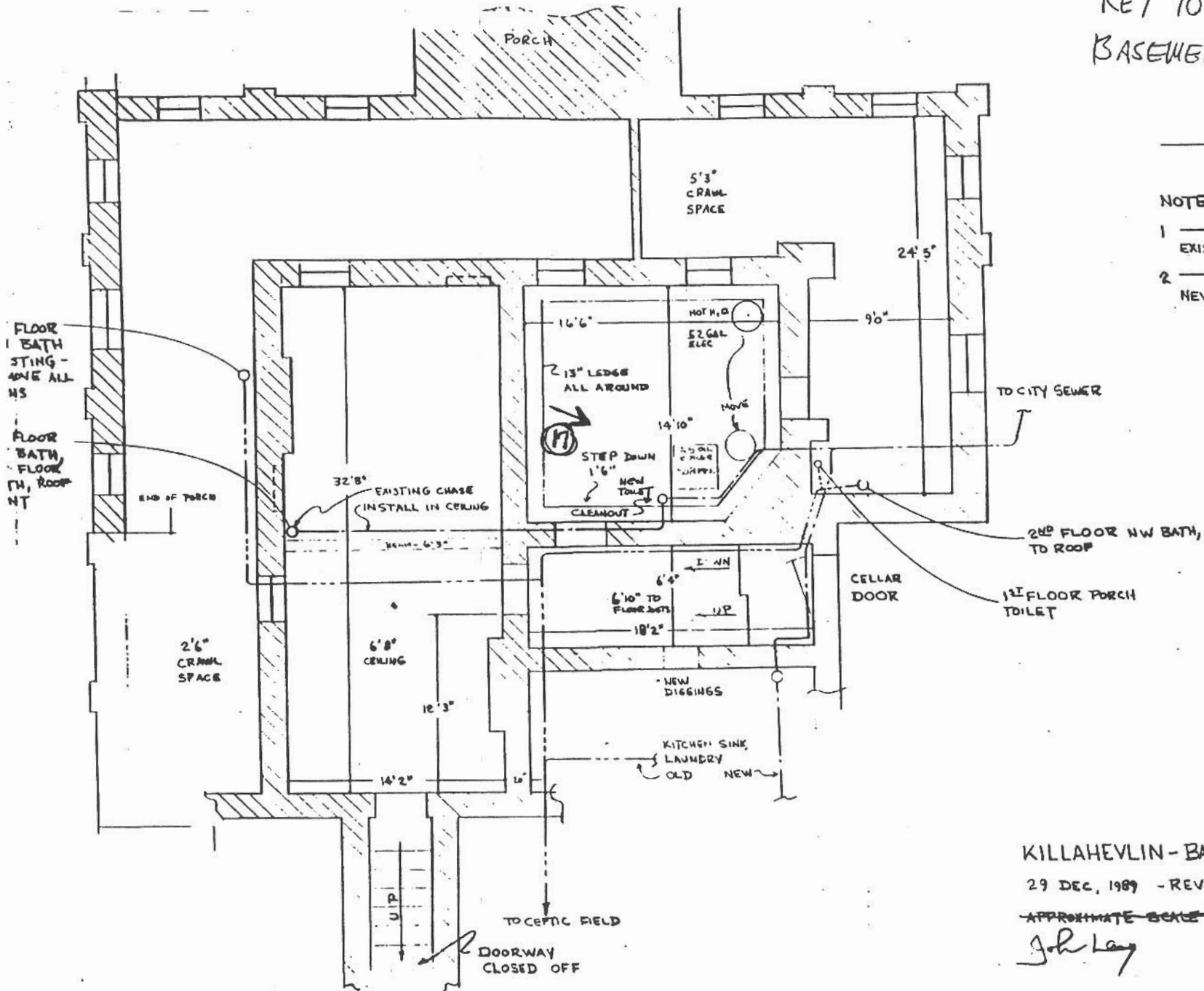
KILLAHEVLIN - 3RD FLOOR - PHOTO KEY

28 DEC, 1989 - REV A

~~APPROXIMATE SCALE 1/4" = 1'0"~~ NO. SCALE

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KEY TO PHOTOS BASEMENT



————— NORTH

NOTES

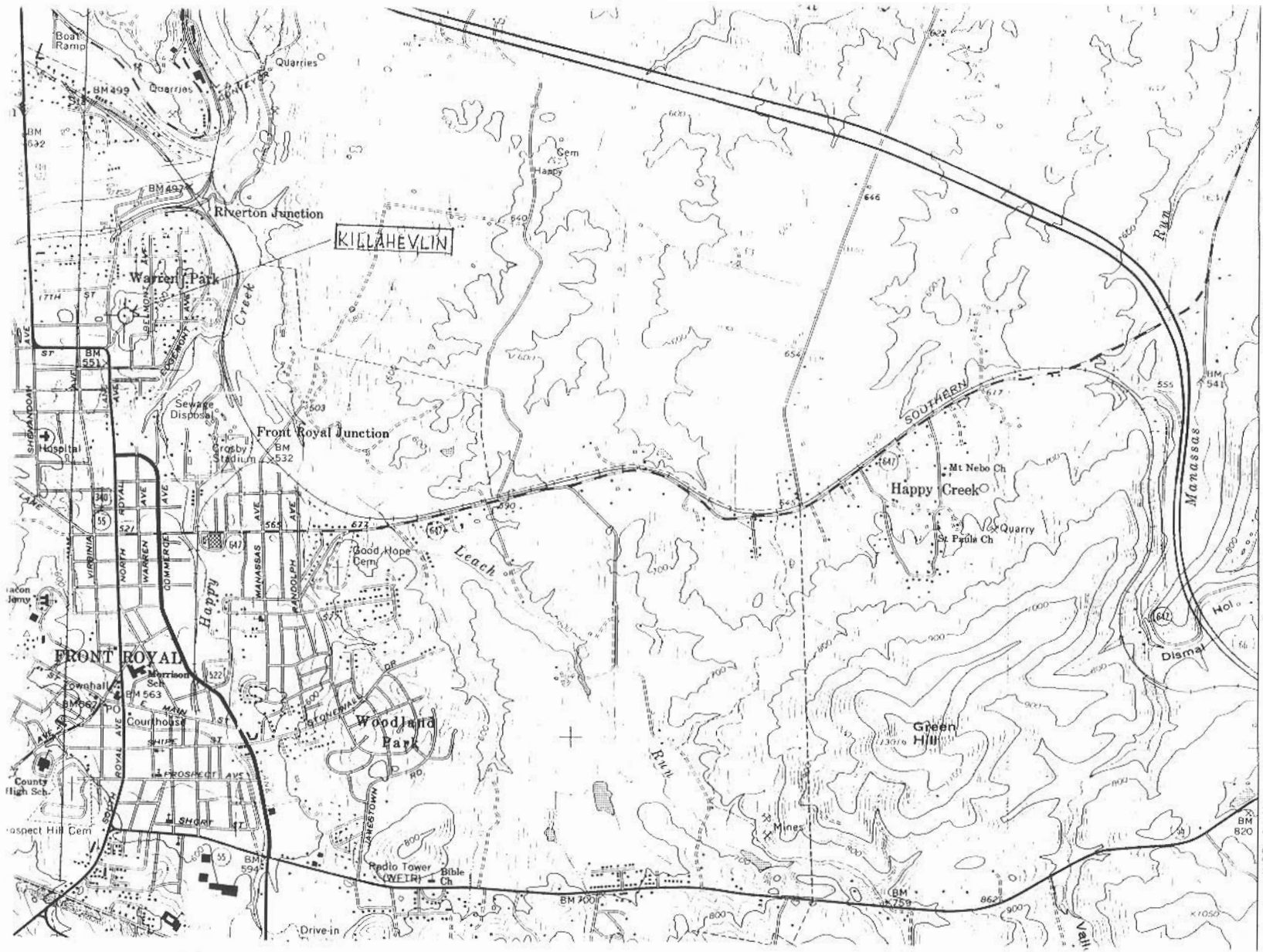
- 1 ——— INDICATES EXISTING SEWER LINES
- 2 ——— INDICATES NEW SEWER LINES

KILLAHEVLIN - BASEMENT - PHOTO KEY

29 DEC, 1989 - REV A

~~APPROXIMATE SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"~~ NO SCALE

John Lay



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