

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR: 09/15/99

NRHP: 11/22/00

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 Glencoe

other names/site number The Gabriel Wharton House (126-0045)

2. Location

street & number North side First Street not for publication

city or town Radford, Virginia vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Radford (city) code 750 zip code 24141

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.)

[Signature] 10/4/2000
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 of Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Glencoe
Name of Property

Radford, Virginia
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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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/ Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Second Empire

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof STONE/ Slate

other

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1875-1949

Significant Dates

1875

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Glencoe
Name of Property

Radford, Virginia
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 2.1 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	7
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5	3	7	2	7	0
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4	1	0	9	4	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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 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 Gibson Worsham, Architect

organization Gibson Worsham, Architect date June 25, 1999

street & number 3145 Yellow Sulphur Road telephone (540) 552-4730

city or town Christiansburg state Virginia zip code 24073

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 City of Radford, Virginia

street & number 619 Second Street telephone (540) 731-3603

city or town Radford state Virginia zip code 24141

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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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Glencoe
Radford, Virginia

Summary Description

Glencoe, a large, brick, two-story dwelling, is located on a tract of land overlooking the New River in the West Radford section of the city of Radford, Virginia. The elaborately detailed building incorporates features of the Second Empire and Italianate styles with a variation of the regionally widespread double-pile, central-passage plan. The hip-roofed house stands on a high English basement, its stark rectangularity relieved by one-story, projecting bays, side and front gables, and a wide, one-story, front porch. The four main rooms on each of the floors, including the basement, are served by wide passages containing a generous stairway. The first floor incorporates elaborate graining and molded plaster ceilings. The basement contains an interesting division into family and servant domains.

Narrative

The house known as Glencoe is located on an expansive tract of open land, originally five acres, north of the railroad tracks along the New River on the northwest, and between Wadsworth and Robertson streets to the southwest and northeast. The dwelling is sited on a natural terrace above the south bank of the New River in the west ward of the city of Radford, Virginia. The structure is not centrally located on the tract, but is sited to take advantage of a slight natural promontory near the point where the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad crossed the river on stone piers. The house presents its principal front to the railroad and the bottomlands along the river and its rear to First Street, the city's main street. The house, stripped of its accompanying landscaping and outbuildings, stands alone beyond a large parking lot associated with a neighboring industrial plant. The only visible subsidiary structure is a stone-capped cistern near the south corner.

The house is block-like in form, with its symmetry relieved by off-center, one-story, polygonal bays on the side walls and slightly projecting elements on the principal (northwest) facade. The brick walls are laid in five-course American bond with pencilled joints. Like the walls, the foundation is of brick. The two-over-two sash windows are furnished with wood sills and flush wood label molds that give a segmentally arched appearance to the actually square-headed upper sash. The label molds are made of sawn planks and conceal a timber lintel supporting the masonry above. The first-floor doors on the front (northwest) and rear (southeast) are similar with paneled exterior heads and jambs surrounding each door, its flanking sidelights, and the transom above. The front entry is filled with double leaf door, each leaf with two decorative panels. The rear entry is equipped with a single, conventional, four-panel door.

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The cornice with inset gutter throughout has been restored based on evidence in the fabric, although it had been partially rebuilt in previous decades. The sloping sides of the slate-covered deck-on-hip roof rise to a standing seam metal deck. The roof may have been intended to approximate the fashionable, steep-sided, Mansard roof, but its shallow slope works against the vertical proportions most often intended by architects utilizing the Second Empire style. A pair of large brick chimneys with mousetooth caps rise on each side of the central deck. The center of the roof above the three-bay rear and two-bay side walls are emphasized by small central gables with brick tympanums flush with the main wall. These small gables are also typical of the Second Empire style.

The more complex five-bay front facade steps out from the plane of the cubical mass of the house, first in a shallow hipped projection containing the central entry, and then further in the projecting two bays of the parlor wall, its hipped roof crowned by a small gable like those on the other facades. The irregular and asymmetrical outline of the principal facade is derived from Italian Villa and Italianate styles popularized in popular pattern books. The rear wall contains a window on each floor on either side of the off-center entry bay. The window above the entry, which lights the staircase, is shifted down to relate to the floor level of the stair landing. The side walls each contain windows in a two-bay arrangement. However, on the northeast, a one-story polygonal bay at the northwest end adds square footage and the additional light of three windows to the parlor, and a similar bay with only one window provides extra space for the rear room on the southwest side. All upper-story window bays are filled with two-over-two sashes identical to those on the first floor.

The northeastern three bays of the front facade, including the parlor windows and the main entry door, are protected by a one-story porch. The two front parlor windows are unique in the house in their floor-length, two-over-four-light sash dimensions, which makes a closer connection of that room to the porch and its important river view. The two-bay porch is equipped with chamfered posts and sawn brackets. The ghosts of cornice consoles or brackets are visible. The corners of the main facade at the ends of the porch are provided with corresponding square posts. At the northeast end, the porch cornice and gutter, in a sophisticated detail, continues past the corner of the house to connect with the matching eaves of the parlor bay window. The porch is supported on brick piers infilled with lattice panels. The mortice-and-tenon porch floor structure is supported on three piers against the front wall of the house as well. These piers are not integral to the foundation wall, indicating that the porch was not planned in its actual form as part of the overall house. The lattice, which has been restored, was old, possibly original, and returned under the existing treated wood stairs (rebuilt recently), indicating that their position corresponds to an early stair location.

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The house is raised on an English basement, higher on the rear where the grade is lower. The window bays on the main floor are mostly reflected in the basement windows, but the type of window varies with its location. The five basement windows on the river front and in the two side bays take the form of unusual sliding single-pane casements high in the wall. There were originally no windows in the flat sections of the side walls, but a small opening has been added in the rear room on the northeast side. The rear windows contain six-over-six sashes to provide more light and air to the service rooms at the back of the house. A central basement entry under the rear first-floor door gives grade-level access to the basement through a segmentally arched opening. A wide but short window, added in the twentieth century to help light the basement kitchen near the south corner of the building, has been recently infilled.

The interior layout on each floor takes the form recognized by regional architectural historians as the double-pile central-passage plan. The plan always features a pair of rooms on either side of a long, usually narrow, passage containing the principal stair. In this case each pair of adjacent rooms shares a chimney placed centrally between them. This chimney arrangement provides a more economical and sophisticated solution than the usual provision of end chimneys for each room and gives the house a compact exterior silhouette. The plan is tailored to the requirements of the family by a contracting and stretching of some of the dimensions of the rooms, so that no two rooms are the same shape or size and the two chimneys are not in parallel locations. The largest first-floor room is the parlor, located in the north corner of the house. This size was achieved by pushing the chimney and dividing partition to the rear and utilizing the projection of the front wall and the side bay. The width of the rooms on this (northeastern) side of the passage is, however, actually nearly two feet less than those on the opposite side. Thus the room in the position behind the parlor is the smallest on each floor. The room to the rear on the opposite side is slightly shallower than the front room on that side due to the position of the shared chimney and its flanking closets, but its relative smallness is compensated for by its projecting bay. The relative sizes of the corresponding rooms in the basement and second floor is affected by the inclusion or exclusion of closets or presses flanking the two chimneys.

The finishes and trim are consistent throughout the first floor, with no distinction based on the relative importance of a room except in the type of mantel and the inclusion of ornamental plaster in the front rooms. All walls and ceilings on the first and second floors are plastered. Many of the first-floor walls appear to have been wallpapered originally, although the most recent wallpaper dated from the mid-twentieth century. The plaster received painted finishes recently, in expectation of a future wallpaper restoration project. The door and window trim consists of a beaded frame with a molded architrave. The 9 1/2-inch baseboard throughout has a molded top. The four-panel doors throughout were originally equipped with steeple hinges and mortise locks

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Radford, Virginia

with porcelain knobs. All the woodwork was probably grained originally with lighter panels and trim and darker rails, stiles, and architraves. This survives only in the passage on the first and second floors and in the first-floor rear room on the southwest side of the passage.

The parlor and the opposite front room both open into the passage through large, double, six-panel doors. The two rooms are treated similarly, with identical mantels and plaster crown molds and central, molded, decorative ceiling medallions. The wooden mantels have friezes and flanking pilasters with curved decorative panels and breakfront shelves and stone hearths. The woodwork in the parlor has been painted white and that in the other room brown, probably in the mid-twentieth century. The parlor retains important early picture hooks with porcelain heads on most walls. The chimney breast in the parlor projects slightly into the room, while that across the passage is flush with the wall, providing space for two large closets flanking the chimney, one for each of the rooms served by the chimney.

Originally there was no direct communication between any of the first-floor rooms, but a small door was cut between the southwest rooms in the mid-twentieth century in the back wall of the closet serving the front room. That closet contained added shelves on the northeast side and rear walls provided with labeled vertical dividers to store business papers connected with the family businesses. The side wall shelves remain. The closet serving the rear room contains an early, probably original, beaded board across the rear wall to which iron coat hooks are attached. The room, used for most of the period of occupancy as a dining room, has the best preserved grained woodwork in the house and the only surviving louvered shutters. The room gains space but not added light from the bay on the southwest side wall of the house. Unlike the partition separating the two southwest rooms, that between the parlor and the room to its rear is of brick masonry.

The mantels in the two rear rooms are identical and are simpler versions of the mantels in the front. They have stone hearths, breakfront shelves, and rounded panels in the friezes, end blocks, and pilasters. The fireplace in the room on the northeast side of the passage was narrowed early in its history to contain a coal grate with an ornamental iron surround. This room has a shallow press on the northeast side of the fireplace. A low nailer board on the back wall of the press has coat hooks surmounted by added shelves. This room was converted to use as a kitchen in the second quarter of this century. The woodwork was painted and a simulated tile wainscot added. These additions have been removed as part of the recent restoration. The doors to both rear rooms have with early spring closers.

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The passage contains an open-stringer stair that rises from just behind the western door on the southwestern side of the passage to a broad landing on the rear wall and then returns for a few more risers to the second floor. The stair is furnished with turned newels, two turned balusters per step, and a molded rail. The plastered enclosure below contains a carefully detailed original basement stair opening under the landing. Heat was added to the house in the early twentieth century through the use of a duct system to some first-floor rooms. Small registers at both ends of the passage and in the rooms on the southwest side of the passage kept these rooms habitable in winter. These registers have been patched, including an ornamental circular grill near the front door. The provision of central heat is the most likely reason Gabriel Wharton used the library room as a bedroom in his old age. Later, in the mid-twentieth century, this system was removed and replaced by a floor furnace below a large register in the passage floor.

The second floor features bedrooms over each of the first-floor rooms. An additional small room was originally provided by a cross partition toward the northwest end of the passage. This room opens out of the passage and the bedroom over the parlor and probably served as a dressing or storage room. Evidence of shelves along the southwest wall is visible in the form of three levels of applied picture rail which may have supported them. It contains the open ladder stair to the attic. The room was made into a bathroom in the early twentieth century. The fixtures have been removed and the room is now used as an office.

None of the bedrooms were originally interconnected, but, as on the floor below, a small door was cut between the rooms on the southwest side of the passage. The passage trim is identical to that on the first floor but the trim in the bedrooms does not include the outer molded architrave, as befits their less important status. The second floor features raised-panel, six-panel doors. The doors are grained in one color but the trim is in two colors like that on the first floor. Each bedroom now has painted woodwork. The four bedroom mantels are identical, with a shallow Gothic arch, chamfered pilasters, and brick hearths. All the bedrooms have closets beside the chimneys, except the rear room on the southwest side of the passage, where the door is forced into that location by the position of the stairwell. The closets have shelves and coat hooks.

The basement is divided into service and family spaces. The open-stringer stair is provided with two slender square balusters per step, a slender, tapered newel, a square rail with a curved top, and a tongue-and-groove skirt. It gives access from the upper floors to the front part of the passage. The room below the parlor served at an early date as a dining room and was originally furnished with a beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot slightly more than four feet tall. This does not survive, but sections of it are preserved in the attic for later restoration. The fireplace wall may have had a more elaborate shelving/mantel arrangement, now vanished, but the

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brick, now plastered, was exposed at the start of the restoration. The front room opposite was never completely plastered and seems to have served as a storeroom. The ceiling was finished with a rough plaster coat. Wooden strips with protruding nails set into the rough plaster parallel with the southwest wall may have served for hanging foodstuffs. The room now is finished as a gallery. As in the dining room, this room contained a small firebox but no mantel. The front part of the passage is partitioned off by a brick wall to form a small room opening off the dining room, possibly a storeroom, but the northwestern half of it was fitted up as a bathroom in the mid-twentieth century. Several layers of concrete have been added to the basement floor, resulting in slightly different floor levels from room to room. The floors are now carpeted. The original finish was brick, recently visible in the closet below the stair. The trim throughout, like that on the second floor, is similar to that on the first floor, but minus the outer molding of the architrave, as suits a subsidiary space.

The two rear rooms were apparently connected with service functions. Both were fully plastered. The part of the passage serving the dining room and stair is separated from the rear by an original partition containing a glass panel door for light. This small rear part of the passage connected the two rooms, a small closet under the stair, and the exterior door at the southeast end of the passage, which gave access to a service area under the earlier rear porch. The plaster jamb on the inside of the outer door opening is chamfered. The room on the southwest side was the original kitchen. The chimney breast is flanked on the northeast by a built-in press which retains molded trim, shelves, and tongue-and-groove lining boards. The room was later used as a kitchen connected with a basement apartment and had a hot water tank for use with a coal stove. A sink was added on the rear wall. The room across the passage has been used in past decades as a bedroom. No fireplace is visible, but it may be concealed behind reworked plaster.

The garret, reached by a trapdoor in the second-floor dressing room, is unfinished. The roof is supported on circular-sawn posts and rafters, augmented by an original knee wall around the periphery. The rafters are supported on a knee wall carrying a tilted false plate behind the walls of the small gables on each wall, since there is no top late at those points. The cornice was originally supported on outriggers since the second floor ceiling level is well below that of the cornice. These have been supplemented or replaced in recent decades due to moisture-related damage. The roof deck is reached through a ladder and trapdoor in the roof deck.

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Glencoe
Radford, Virginia

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Statement of Significance

The house is significant under Criterion C as an outstanding example of regionally important architectural traditions, not only in the Italianate stylistic adaptation of the vernacular center-passage form, but in the division of the basement story into servant and family sections distinguished by architectural signs and functional elements. The house is also notable architecturally for the survival of elaborate graining and unusual ornate plaster ceilings in the principal rooms.

Historical Background

Glencoe is one of the earliest and best preserved of the several large dwellings built in the late nineteenth century in the area of the booming industrial city of Radford. These were built for the families that benefitted by their ownership of the acreage now occupied by the city of Radford. These houses included Norwood (demolished), Halwyck (listed in the National Register), and La Riviere (listed in the National Register) built by the Heths, Tylers, and Ingles families in the 1890s. While some of the houses built for these families and for industrial leaders were designed by architects from larger cities associated with the land development companies, the house at Glencoe is more closely related to regional developments in domestic architecture. While it features pattern-book-derived Italianate and Second Empire-style details such as projecting window bays, windows with label molds, and Mansard roof, major elements such as the central-passage floor plan and the basement dining room are related to longstanding local traditions.

This series of major houses seems to have been begun by Dr. John Blair Radford in the 1830s with "Arnheim" and to have been continued by all the local landowners on portions of the land they were developing. Similar houses were built by local developers in the nearby industrial town of Pulaski, but do not survive¹. The first houses, particularly Glencoe, may have been designed to demonstrate the viability of the locality as a site for investment and settlement. The later houses, by contrast, might seem to be designed to place the developers of the towns on a political and social par with the industrial leaders of the new towns, who were simultaneously building sophisticated houses such as the Harvey House, built for capitalist J. K. Dimmick in 1891-2 [listed in the National Register on 4/20/76].

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Radford, Virginia

Glencoe was built by Gabriel and Anne Wharton on land deeded to them by Anne Radford Wharton's parents, John and Elizabeth Taylor Radford, owners of a large farm in the area of the major rail depot at Central Depot. Wharton appears to have planned the house to support his position not only as a major land developer in the area but as a leader in the founding of a branch railroad and other industrial applications exploiting the coal regions to the west. Wharton lost control of the railroad and industrial efforts to northern capital before they were built. In spite of these setbacks, associated with the Depression of 1873, he had the house constructed in 1875. Wharton's considerable personal wealth failed during the succeeding decade. However, the sale of the farm at Glencoe in 1887 for development as an extension of the growing city of Radford partially restored the family's financial standing.

Glencoe stands on a tract of land located west of Connelly's Run on the southeast bank of the New River, just west of the growing town of Central Depot. Substantial settlement there did not begin until after 1854, when the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad was completed as far southwest as Radford. Dr. John Blair Radford and Col. Edward Hammet had arrived in the area in the 1830s and had each married daughters of prominent local landholders. Hammet and his wife, Clementina Craig, settled east of Connelly's Run on part of her father's holdings and built a two-story log house. Their land was selected by the railroad as the site for machine shops, an engine house, and a depot, and the Hammets soon were selling lots in the village of Central Depot. John B. Radford's marriage to prominent landowner John McCanness Taylor's daughter, Elizabeth, in 1836, resulted in his construction of a fine brick dwelling on 100 acres given to them by her father. In time Radford purchased more land adjoining his property, known as Arnheim. Central Depot rose from a population of thirty in 1854 to nearly 100 in 1856 when the railroad was completed to Bristol and regular service was instituted. The railroad crossed the New River west of Connelly's Run as it passed in front of the Radford property.

Essentially the land west of Connelly's Run was controlled by Radford and that to the east by Hammet. Hammet's interest in the land was succeeded by his daughter Isabella and her husband, Stockton Heth. Gabriel Colvin Wharton (1828-1906), a Confederate colonel, met Dr. Radford's daughter, Anne Rebecca Radford (1843?-1890), during a campaign in the area. They were married in 1863. In the same year he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, Civil Engineer Brigade. They are said to have built and occupied a small cottage near the south end of the railroad bridge soon after his return from the war. Wharton, the son of John and Eliza Colvin Wharton of Culpeper County, Virginia, had attended Virginia Military Institute in the late 1840s. He led a brigade at the Battle of New Market in 1864. He served as a civil engineer in the early development of railroading until he entered the Confederate Army.² Gabriel and Anne

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Radford Wharton were deeded 554 acres on the river by the Radfords in 1869, although the deed was not recorded until 1872. The history of the gift of this property is complicated by the re-gift of 300 acres in the same area by Elizabeth Radford to Anne Wharton alone, because the original deed was "null and void," and the confirmation of the original deed of 1869 by the Radford heirs by another deed in 1887.³

In the census of 1870 Gabriel Wharton, listed as a civil engineer, was the third wealthiest landowner in the area, with real estate valued at \$36,000 and personal property worth \$5,210. His assets were exceeded only by Edward Hammet, whose property totaled \$57,000, and Wharton's father-in-law John Blair Radford, who paid taxes on real and personal property totaling \$131,000.⁴ Wharton had joined his father-in-law as a one-sixth partner in the prominent Montgomery County watering place, Yellow Sulphur Springs, in 1867, selling out in 1871.⁵ The household included his wife, known as Nannie, their son, William Radford Wharton (1864-1918), two black house servants, and a five-member black family employed on the farm.

The Radfords and Whartons had strong interests in the village of New River Depot, in Pulaski County across the river from their property at the west end of the railroad bridge. Indeed, Wharton's interests were closely associated with those of his wealthy father-in-law for most of his active life. These interests focused principally on the west side of the river, since the Hammet family controlled the depot village on the opposite shore. They owned a three-story hotel in New River Depot, operated by the Dunlap brothers.⁶ Deed records show that Wharton operated a store in the village and owned a furnished house there as late as 1887.⁷ The Whartons owned substantial farmlands near New River Depot. Wharton furnished lumber for construction of the town's new building stock. In 1870, he brought a mechanic's lien against a house in Central Depot for which he had furnished the materials, worth \$179.42.⁸ This lumber was undoubtedly furnished by Wharton's lumber and grist milling operation in New River.⁹ Wharton published a newspaper, the New River Bulletin, after 1882, with C. W. Scott as the editor. As a sign of the strength of the potential of the village, Wharton founded a Masonic lodge, the Wharton Chapter, which operated from 1872 until 1885, while his wife started an Episcopal congregation known as "Mrs. Wharton's Chapel." The chapel was absorbed by Grace Episcopal Church across the river in West Radford in the 1890s.¹⁰

In time the Radford land would be developed on a large scale, rivaling the Heth developments to the east. Gabriel Wharton served in the post-war period as one the community's strongest leaders, at one time representing Montgomery County in the Virginia General Assembly. According to one source, Wharton was the industrial leader, while the future Governor, J. Hoge Tyler, who had married another of Edward Hammett's daughters, was the political "man of the

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day".¹¹ Wharton had noted evidence of the huge coal deposits of western Virginia during the war and envisioned the locality as playing an important role in the exploitation of these resources. He secured a charter in 1871 for the construction of the "New River Railroad, Mining and Manufacturing Company" which was to build a railroad along the New River from New River Depot into the coal fields and to extract coal and iron ore to be brought to the village for use or sale, part of a large-scale exploitation of metal ores and coal deposits through the region, and one that would take advantage of the community's central geographic location at the junction of two rail lines and a potential railhead for southwestern Virginia. Wharton's plan is said to have stagnated after he and his partners lost control of the project to northern financiers during the Depression of 1873 and the village of New River Depot was rapidly outstripped by nearby Central Depot.

The depression did not, however, deter the Whartons from constructing a large and impressive dwelling on their property across from New River Depot, overlooking the New River, near the railroad bridge. Other than Arnheim, the nearby, elegant, brick childhood home of Elizabeth Radford, no other house in the community approached the scale or expense of Glencoe. It more closely resembles houses from the same period in Wytheville, the established county seat of neighboring Wythe County. Tax records show that Wharton first appeared as a property owner in Montgomery County in 1873, the year after his father-in-law's death, with the 554 acres on the New River. The present house first appeared in the tax records for 1876, with a total value for buildings of \$3,000, implying that it was built in the previous year. Arnheim was given the same assessed value during the period.¹² Family tradition indicates that the house was built in 1870.¹³

The prospects of the town of Central Depot continued to grow, however. In 1881, the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Ohio Railroad, successor to the Virginia and Tennessee, was purchased by a Philadelphia banking house. The track was replaced with steel rails, permitting increased volume and traffic, and the company was renamed the Norfolk and Western Railroad. The spur to the coalfields proposed by General Wharton was built and Central Depot boomed. It was incorporated as the town of Central City in 1887 and received a post office in 1888, relocated from the earlier, nearby community around the Lovely Mount Tavern. In 1890 the town was renamed Radford in honor of John Blair Radford.¹⁴ In 1880 Gabriel Wharton, age 52, occupation farmer, headed a household made up of his wife Nannie, age 36, their son William, age fifteen, four white boarders, and a male, nineteen-year-old, black servant.¹⁵ William R. Wharton later married Susan Hammet Heth, daughter of Stockton and Isabella Hammet Heth, and achieved the rank of Captain in the Spanish American War.

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Gabriel Wharton suffered from the failure of New River Depot to develop, but was able, finally, to profit from the boom across the river near Central Depot. He had apparently fallen into debt in the years that followed the Panic of 1873, for in 1887 he turned over all his property (mostly lots in New River), claims against several companies, and the "contents of his house in New River," including furniture, paintings, books, and household and kitchen furniture to his wife, in return for her having satisfied his debts to the amount of \$6,500.¹⁶ Wharton gave his son, William, power of attorney over his affairs in 1887.¹⁷ However, the family's financial worries must have been eased when, in the same year, Gabriel and Anne Wharton sold their property west of Central Depot to the Radford Land and Improvement Company for \$50,000. The deed was signed by Joseph P. Doran of Philadelphia, president of the company. The 581 acres purchased did not include five acres around the "house occupied by Gabriel and Anne Wharton" and five more acres "near the well in the woods".¹⁸ Anne Radford Wharton died suddenly in 1890 at age 47 from pneumonia, said to be contracted after a walk across the railroad bridge to manage family property in New River Depot.¹⁹ Sue Heth Wharton and William R. Wharton took over management of the family's household and business affairs.²⁰

The area west of Connelly's Run was laid out in lots soon after its purchase. The railroad showed its faith in the area by commissioning a new passenger station and a grand hotel, the Radford Inn. A new curving railroad bridge was built in front of the Wharton property in 1888. Inclusion of the growing population west of the town permitted it to qualify for a city charter and in 1892 the city of Radford came into being with west and east wards. Each had their own post offices and depots. The city charter committee included William R. Wharton and J. L. Radford. The Wharton family continued to be interested in the village of New River Depot, where Gabriel Wharton had been selling lots since the 1870s. In 1890 he sold 110 acres to the New River Land and Development Company but soon bought them back in his own name.²¹

A number of imposing buildings were built in the west ward of the city of Radford by new banking companies, industrial concerns, and institutions. The most important of the city's industries, most of which were located in the west ward, was the Radford Foundry and Pipe Company, financed by northern capital. It failed in the panic of 1893 but later reopened as the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company. In 1890, Gabriel Wharton bought the section of land between his house and First Street from the Radford Land and Improvement Company for the purpose of constructing a hotel. The company required him to construct a "substantial brick hotel building" to cost not less than \$10,000. Money for the building of the hotel was advanced by the company to Wharton.²² General Wharton built a substantial three 1/2-story hotel as specified, on the corner of the tract, at Wadsworth and First streets. When the hotel failed, undoubtedly as a result of the 1893 financial disaster, the building was acquired by the city for use as a

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courthouse.²³ The city suffered severely from the depression resulting from the Panic of 1893, and the west ward never recovered the momentum of investment it had previously known. By 1900, the aging General Wharton lived with his daughter-in-law (his son was probably on the west coast), two grandchildren, a black cook, and a white teacher named Blanche Adams.²⁴

The families associated with the land development companies, the Heths, Tylers, and Ingles, each built large and substantial houses on tracts carved from their earlier holdings, and each with a romantic name, such as Norwood, Halwyck, and La Riviere. Most were built in the early 1890s. The Wharton House, which they called "Glencoe," had been built more than a decade earlier than the others. The house stood originally on a large farm outside the village. By 1890, it was located near the center of a city block with an impressive view of the New River and the railroad bridge. Outbuildings included an icehouse some distance to the west, a barn to the south, and a smokehouse and chicken house near the south corner of the house.

Based on the detailed and carefully transmitted memories of a great-granddaughter of General Wharton dating from in the second quarter of this century, it may be suspected that the outbuildings and site show some continuity with the earliest layout.²⁵ The house was surrounded by a large fenced yard with four rows of silver maples, said to have been planted by Gabriel C. Wharton, stretching from the front of the house toward the river.²⁶ There is a tradition that Anne Radford Wharton had extensive "formal" gardens with plants from her former home at Arnheim.²⁷ Vegetable gardens were located to the west of the yard and house. Entrance to the tract was by a gate on Wadsworth Street. The drive divided and one part curved away toward the river and along the northwest front of the house. The other part proceeded straight ahead past the rear porch and the smokehouse to the area of the barn on the western edge of the tract.

The exterior of the house appeared originally much as it does today, with the exception of the rear porch, several times reworked and finally removed in the third quarter of the century. Tradition says that the porch originally was simply an open structure sheltering the first-floor and basement entries.²⁸ By the late nineteenth century however, it had taken the form of a complex structure incorporating two small service rooms on either side of the rear door on the first floor and a wide porch beyond spanning the rear wall between the two rear window bays. It was approached from the back drive by a wide walk paved with stone. The new back porch probably responded to the altered needs of the household for food storage and preparation facilities on the first floor.

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The interior of the house is equally well-preserved. The Whartons apparently lived in the house only part of the time after the death of General Wharton in 1906. Anne Wharton's tragic early death probably did not encourage her husband and children to make many changes. Changes were limited to installation of electricity, plumbing, a floor furnace, wallpaper, and painted trim finishes. Furniture and decorative objects as they were placed in the second quarter of the twentieth century has been documented by Sally van Solkema.²⁹ The furnishings consisted of a combination of pieces purchased and inherited by the several generations of the family. Many articles had undoubtedly been removed to other family homes by that time. The appearance of the interior at the time of General Wharton's occupancy is less clear. Most of the present wallpaper probably dates from the second quarter of the twentieth century, although fragments of earlier wallpaper may survive in some areas.

There is no unequivocal indication of the original room uses. Family members recall that the front north corner room in the basement was a "summer dining room".³⁰ There is no room on the main floor that appears designed to serve in that capacity (the closet in the small rear first-floor room used for dining in later years holds early coat hooks). The use of basement dining rooms has been documented in houses dating to the 1870s in the region, including similar houses in Wytheville surveyed by the author.³¹ The division of the basement into family and service areas by a glazed door and the original provision of an interior basement stair. Together with the provision of elegant sliding casement windows and a wood wainscot in the basement dining room, evidence suggests that the basement dining room was intended to serve as such year-round in the days when servants were more plentiful. The kitchen, with its characteristic built-in press, was in the south corner of the basement, opposite a small room which may have served as a servant bedroom or laundry. Service activities would have spilled onto the basement porch in fair weather. The west corner room was never finished and seems intended to serve as storage space.

The two first-floor rooms on the front were initially intended to function as twin parlors that, with the passage, could be opened into a large space for entertaining. This widespread design feature, popular from the Antebellum period, may be deduced from the matching double doorways, ornamental plaster ceilings, and identical mantels. The western room is smaller and traditionally known as the library [van Solkema] and served, as well, as a bedroom for the aging General Wharton. The survival of filing shelves in the closet of this room suggests a use as a business office for the Wharton land and industrial interests. The two rear rooms, both with closets with clothes hooks, appear to have functioned originally as bedrooms. The bay with a single window in the western room gives it a higher status but no extra light, and it may have been intended to serve as the master bedroom. First-floor bedrooms were another regionally recognized feature. The woodwork throughout the house probably received the decorative

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grained finish that now survives only in the passage and this room. Evidence of fastenings in the jambs confirms that the wood interior shutters which remain in this room were originally placed at all the windows in the house. The ornate wallpaper that survives on one wall of this room may date from its first use as a dining room.

The second-floor rooms may have been intended to serve as children's rooms, with the room over the parlor as a master bedroom with an adjacent dressing room, if the present first-floor dining room was not intended for that purpose. Certainly it served as a master bedroom for William and Sue Wharton, as remembered by descendants.³² The old wallpaper in this room may date from this period or earlier. Some of the second-floor rooms likely housed the four boarders staying with the family in 1880, who may have helped General Wharton meet expenses.³³

According to family tradition, some sort of original back porch was altered or replaced by Anne Radford Wharton, but the work was never completed, leaving odd brick foundations extending at the basement level almost across the entire rear of the house.³⁴ Historic photographs of 1957 shows brick piers similar to those under the front porch on either side of the porch extending to the ends of the rear facade, suggesting that the original porch, like that on the front, which it probably resembled, was a shallow structure extending across the entire rear of the house on the basement and first-floor levels.³⁵ Family tradition suggests that Anne Radford Wharton reworked the porch during the absence of her husband, who called a halt to the work before it was completed, leading to its incomplete appearance during most of the twentieth century. However, the two small rooms at the rear may have been added after Anne Wharton's death in 1890, in an effort to bring the service functions of the basement to the level of the main floor for the sake of convenience. By the 1930s, any side elements of the porch had vanished and the outer doors of the two rooms opened onto nothing.

Heat was provided by stoves and fireplaces in the early years at Glencoe. By the early twentieth century a coal-fired forced air heating system employing gratings between the second-floor bedrooms and a register in the first floor passage supplemented fireplaces as a heat source. The survival of a small damper control device on the passage baseboard dating from the early twentieth century suggests a date sometime after General Wharton's death for the heating installation.

After General Wharton's death in 1906 the house was used by William Radford Wharton and his wife, Sue Hammet Heth Wharton, only part of the time. He was a mining engineer and spent a good deal of time in California. The Whartons had three children, Anne, Heth, and

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William Radford, Jr. William Rafood Wharton died in 1918 and Sue Heth Wharton lived at Glencoe until her death in 1958. The rooms on the porch served as kitchen and pantry with cold water tap, ice box and a propane stove. In 1953, when Sue Wharton was moved into the first-floor dining room, the east rear bedroom on the first floor was converted to serve as a convenient kitchen. The front bedroom over the parlor had been used by the Whartons as the master bedroom and a bathroom was installed in what tradition says was the master dressing room, which opened off it. In cold weather she preferred the room to the rear, because it was warmer. The furnace in the basement, the fireplaces, and a coal stove in the first-floor dining room were all employed to warm the house in winter. Doors were cut between the front and rear rooms on the southwest side of the passage on both floors, probably to improve circulation. Her last years were spent in the first-floor dining room, which was converted to serve as a sickroom.³⁶ Her daughter Anne Radford Wharton von Poederoyen, a resident of California, spent her summers there until her death in the early 1960s. The basement was outfitted as an apartment for caretakers.

By 1962 there were only two-½ acres left. Deteriorated gutters resulted in severe water infiltration in the walls. The property was sold to Inland Motor Corporation by William Radford Wharton, Jr. in 1981. The house was minimally repaired. The cornice and gutters were stabilized and a small covered stoop replaced the deteriorated historic back porch. Brickwork was inappropriately tuckpointed in limited areas. The house was moth-balled by the installation of plywood over all the windows and used for storage by Inland Motors. The property between the house and First Street was graded and developed as a parking lot for the plant and the house was given extensive foundation planting to improve its appearance.

During the following decade the gutters once more began to leak and the house continued to suffer from moisture infiltration, although the building's fabric remained substantially intact. In recent years, the Radford Heritage Foundation expressed a strong interest in seeing the structure preserved. The house was presented by Inland Motors to the City of Radford in 1997 for use as a visitor center and museum. The exterior of the house was restored in the summer of the same year. Interior restoration was completed by the fall of 1998. Alterations based on the needs of the building as a museum include chiefly a railing on the front porch and a new back porch designed to contain toilets and a handicapped lift and roughly based on the design of the historic porch in that location. The grounds have not yet been fully landscaped.

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3. Montgomery County Circuit Clerk's Office, Christiansburg, Virginia Montgomery County deed books S, 603; W, 70; and 26, 191.
4. 1870 Census quoted in Linda Killen, "The Whartons," Journal of the New River Historical Society 8:1 1995, 2.
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10. Killen 3-4.
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15. 1880 Census quoted in Killen 2.
 16. Montgomery County Deed Book 26, 414.
 17. Montgomery County Deed Book 28, 56.
 18. Montgomery County deed books 26, 181 and 28, 94.
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 21. Killen 5.
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 28. van Solkema.
 29. van Solkema
 30. van Solkema
 31. Worsham, 1992.
 32. van Solkema.
 33. 1880 census quoted in Killen 3.

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- 34. van Solkema.
- 35. Historic photographs, from the collection of Sallie van Solkema, 1957.
- 36. van Solkema.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property are identical to those of the tract described in Radford Deed Book 106, p. 81.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the property have been selected to include only the house and grounds as owned by the City of Radford. The surrounding property, owned by Kollmorgen Corporation, is used principally for parking and retains little visual or physical integrity.

Photographs

All photographs are of :

GLENCOE (VDHR# 126-0045)
Radford, Virginia

Photographer: Kathryn Derr

Date of photograph: Jan. 1999

Location of negative: Library of Virginia

5. VIEW OF: Interior of Library
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 17621
PHOTO 5 of 6

6. VIEW OF: Interior of Passage
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 17621
PHOTO 6 of 6

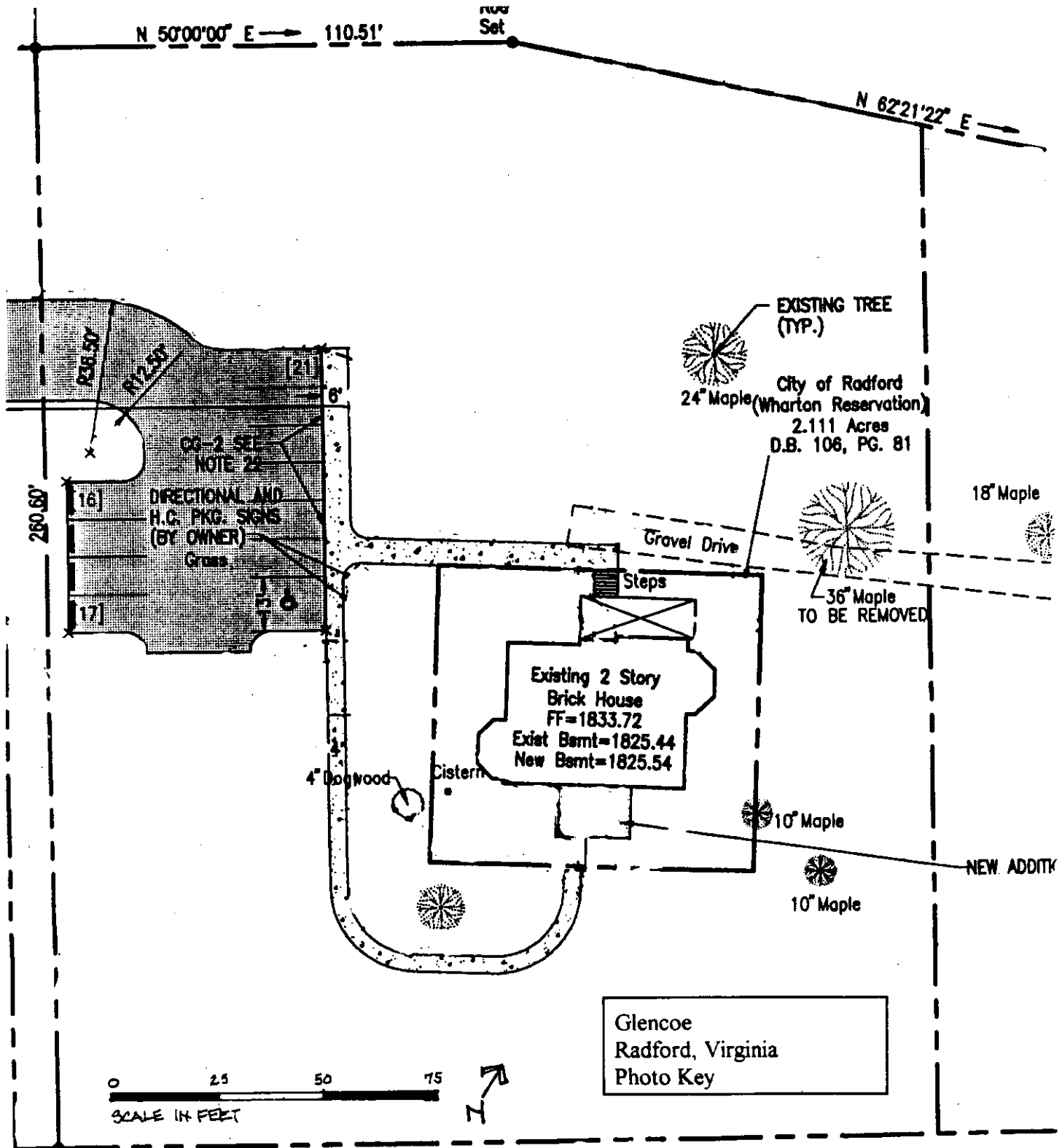
1. VIEW OF: North facade of house
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 17621
PHOTO 1 of 6
2. VIEW OF: South facade of house
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 17621
PHOTO 2 of 6
3. VIEW OF: Northwest corner of house
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 17621
PHOTO 3 of 6
4. VIEW OF: Interior of Parlor
NEGATIVE NUMBER: 17621
PHOTO 4 of 6

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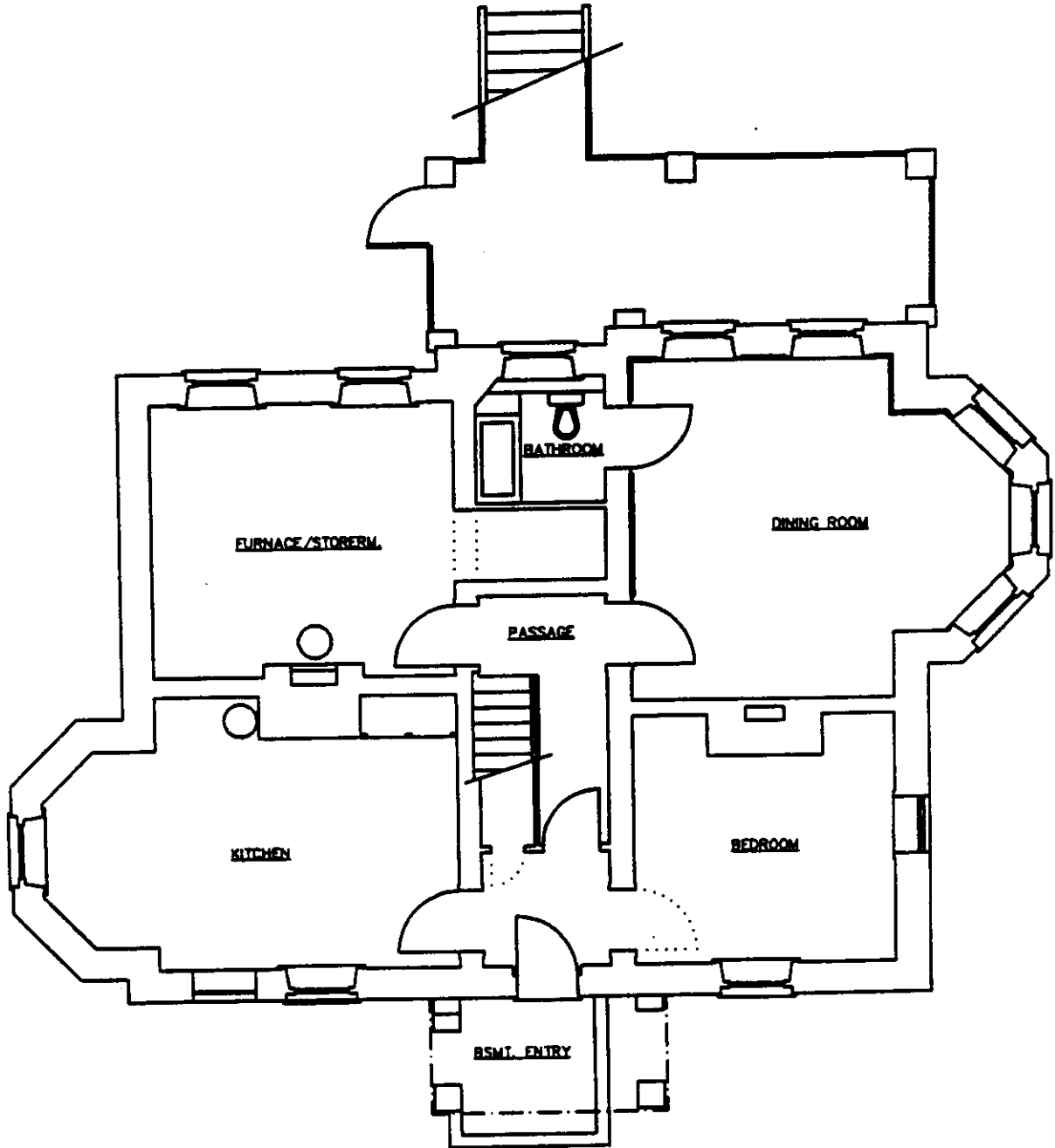


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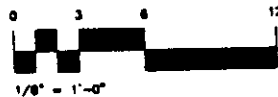
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EXISTING BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN
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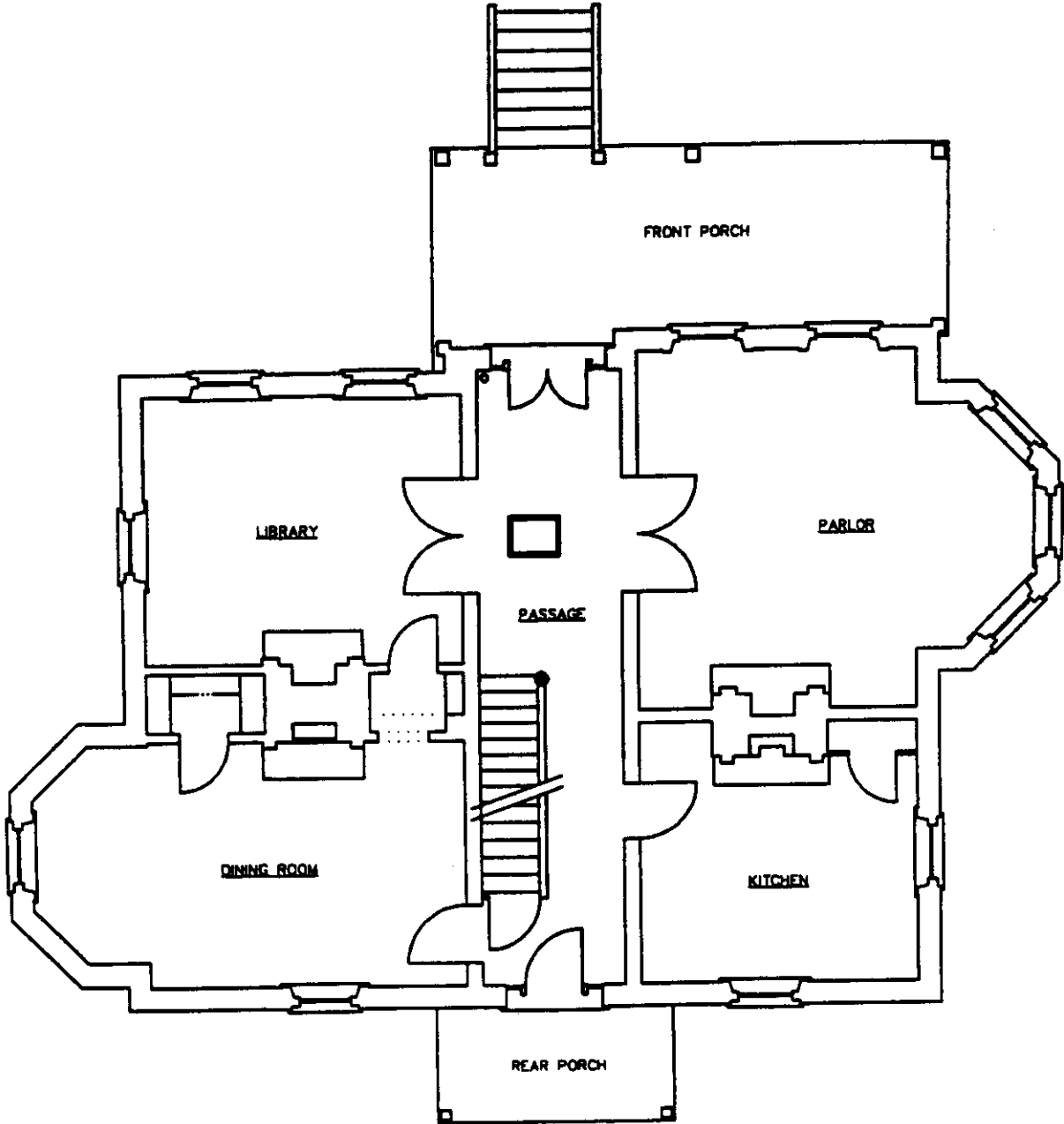


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EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN

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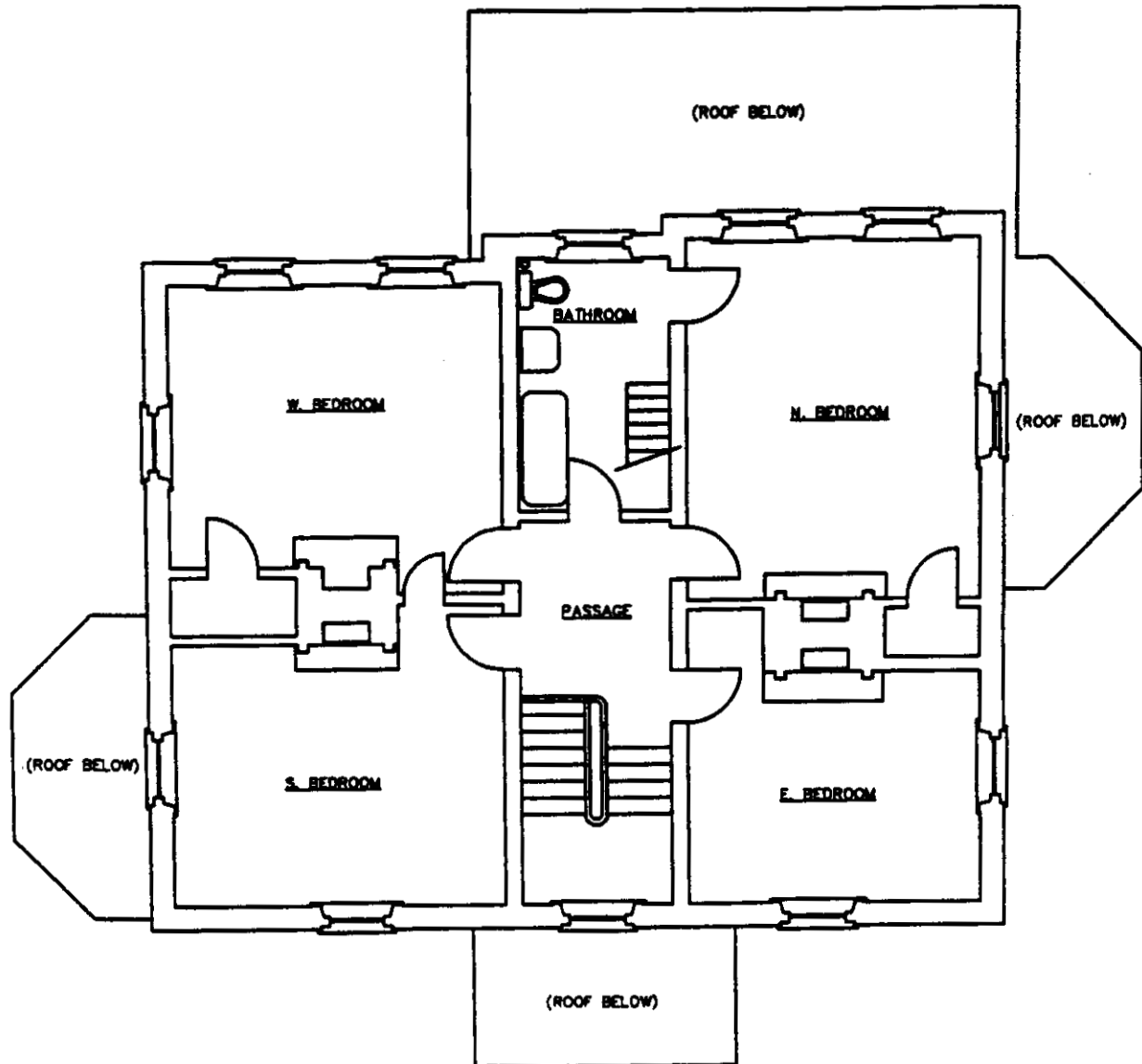


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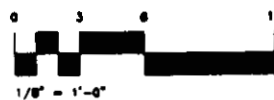
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EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN

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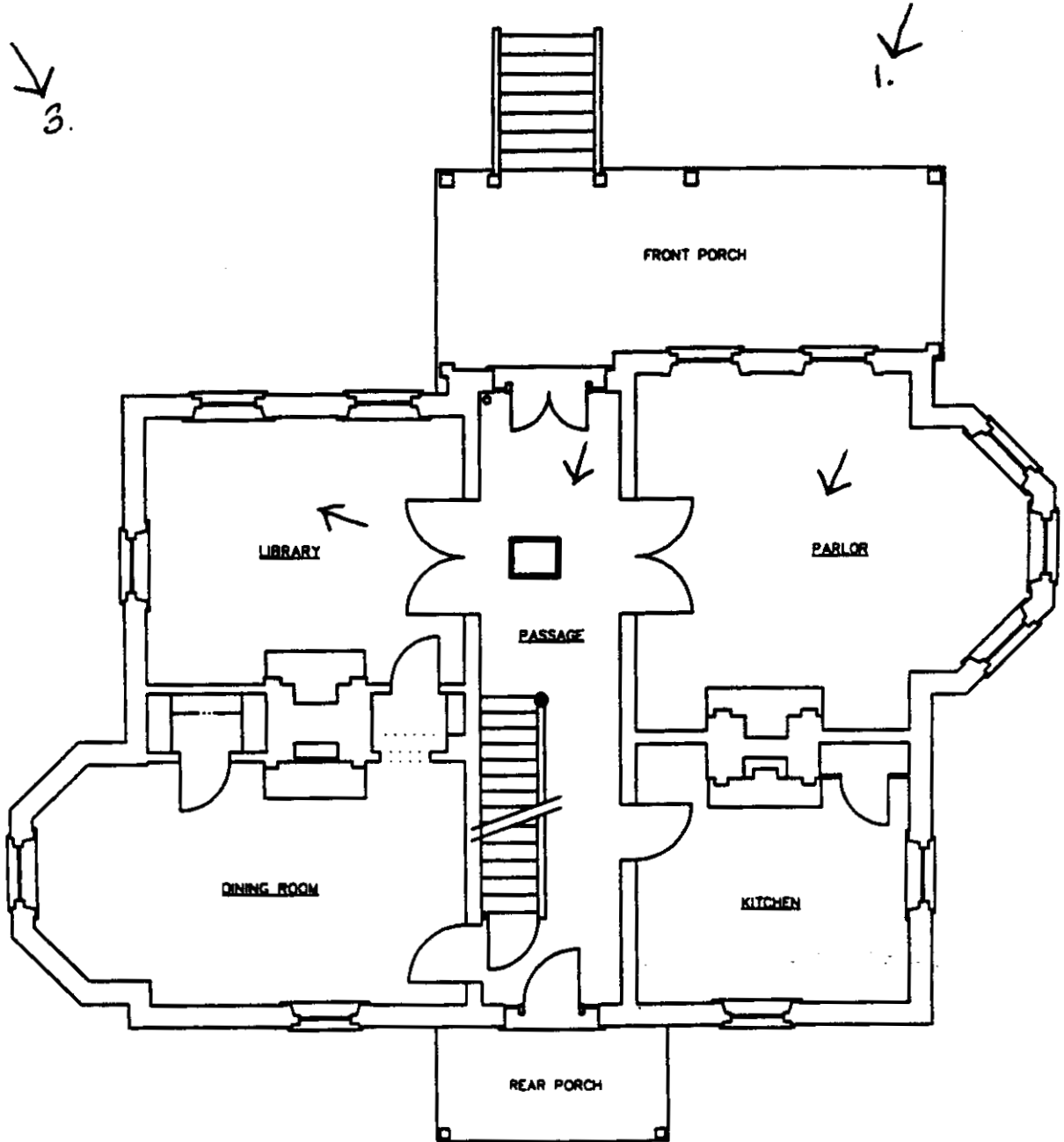


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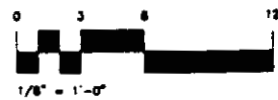
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

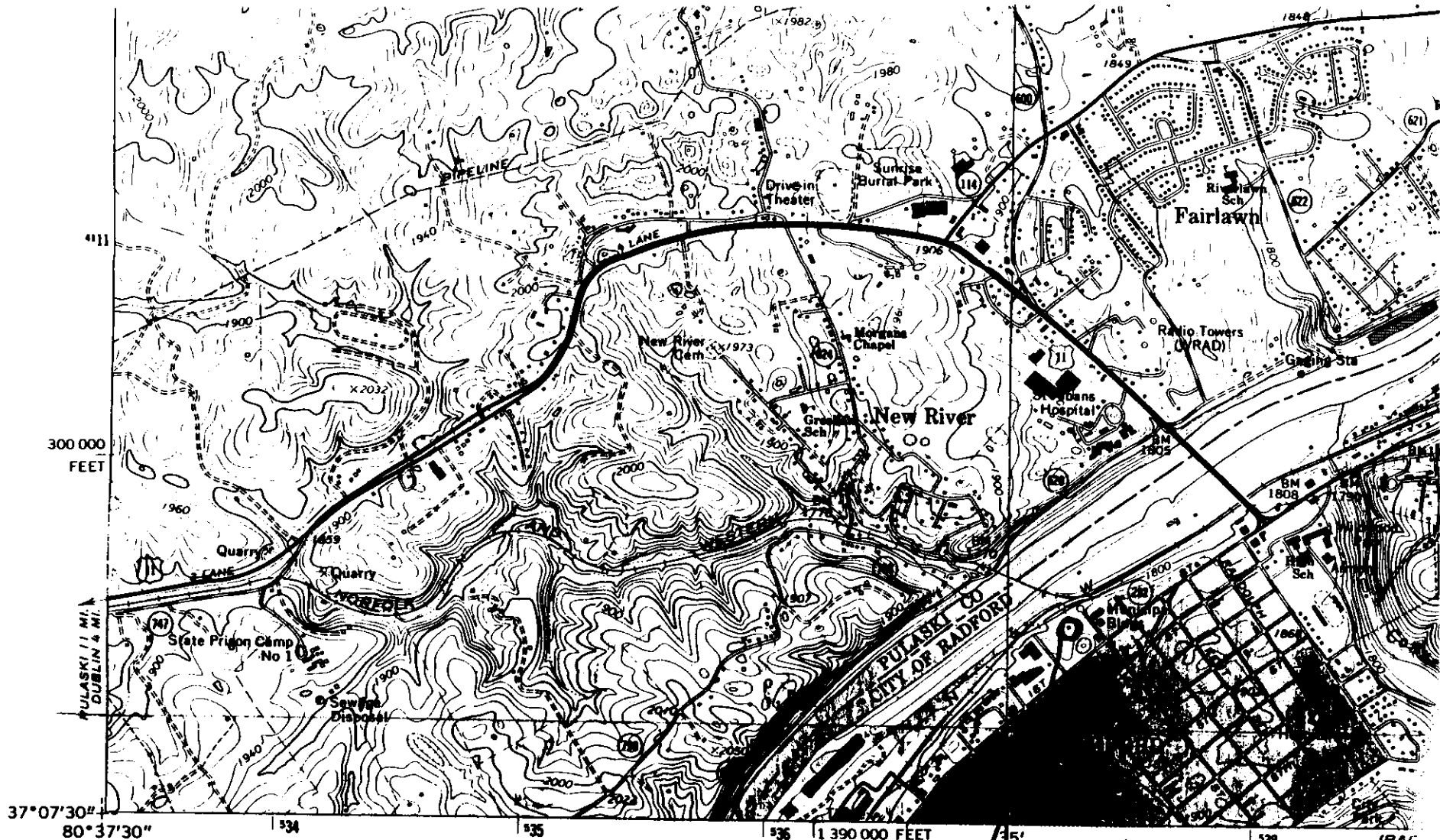
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First Floor Photo Key





(DUBLIN)
4858 17 SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue

1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983

move the projection lines 9 meters south and

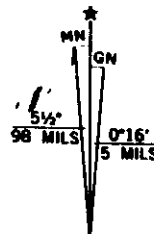
17 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

UTM GRID AND 1984 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



Glencoe