

ISABELLA SCOTT HOUSE
683 Park Avenue
Meadville
Crawford County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5928

HABS
PA
20-MEDVI,
7-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ISABELLA SCOTT HOUSE

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Location: 683 Park Avenue, Meadville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania

USGS Meadville, Pennsylvania Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.570800.4610340

Significance: The Mrs. Isabella Scott House is a relatively unaltered example of late 19th century middle-class housing in central Meadville. It is a contributing structure in the Park Avenue Historic District.

Description: The house is located on a predominantly residential street north of the central business district. The surrounding neighborhood contains mostly c. 1880-1900 frame gable front houses which are of both single- and multiple-family occupation.

The houses are set quite close, about 10', to each other, many shaded by mature trees in the lawn next to the street. The nearby residences are quite similar in height, scale, construction materials, and architectural elements to the Mrs. Isabella Scott House.

The 2-1/2 story, rectangular plan house is of frame construction on a dressed stone foundation. A two-story rectangular plan section with a flat-roofed porch on the north side is located on the rear and is an original part of the building's construction. Both sections have gable roofs covered with slate tiles. Brick chimneys with corbelled tops are on the north side of the front section and on the east end of the rear section. A cross-gable section is located on the south side of the front section, and a one-story bay is located on the north side of the building towards the rear. A small c. 1910 second story addition on the rear of the back section is supported by a narrow post and braces. An open set of wooden steps leads to this addition from the north. A small gable-roofed addition, probably also dating from c. 1910, which leads to the basement is also located on the rear directly below the second story addition. A two-story wraparound porch is located on the front (west) and south sides of the house. The porch features tall, quarry-faced concrete block column bases, Tuscan columns grouped in pairs and in threes on the first floor and individually placed on the second floor, turned balusters, and a pediment in the southwest corner of the porch roof. This porch replaced a one-story full-width front porch between 1905 and 1912, according to porch configuration changes shown on Sanborn Insurance Maps.

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The building is sheathed in shiplap siding. Two side-by-side entrances are located on the front facade. The windows have 1/1 wood sash and are framed by simple wood surrounds with distinctive corner blocks and molding at the top.

The interior layout is basically unchanged, although it was converted to a two-family residence around 1902. The interior elements include wood trim around doors and windows with a floral motif in the corner blocks, a marbleized slate and cast iron mantel in the first floor front room, and the original balustrade and newel post of the front stairway.

History:

Mrs. Isabella Scott, the widow of Charles Scott, had this house built in 1888, soon after her cash purchase of the lot for \$600.00 on this recently laid-out section of Park Avenue. Mrs. Scott previously lived on Chesnut Street in Meadville's central business district, near her confectionary store on the same street. She was also a news dealer in the same location. The ownership of the house passed to Mrs. Scott's daughter, Elizabeth Scott, upon her death in 1897. The property was subsequently sold in 1903, when it was converted to a two-family rental property for working-class individuals. It was sold again in 1909, and remained in the same family's ownership until it was sold to Capabilities of Crawford County, Inc. in 1991.

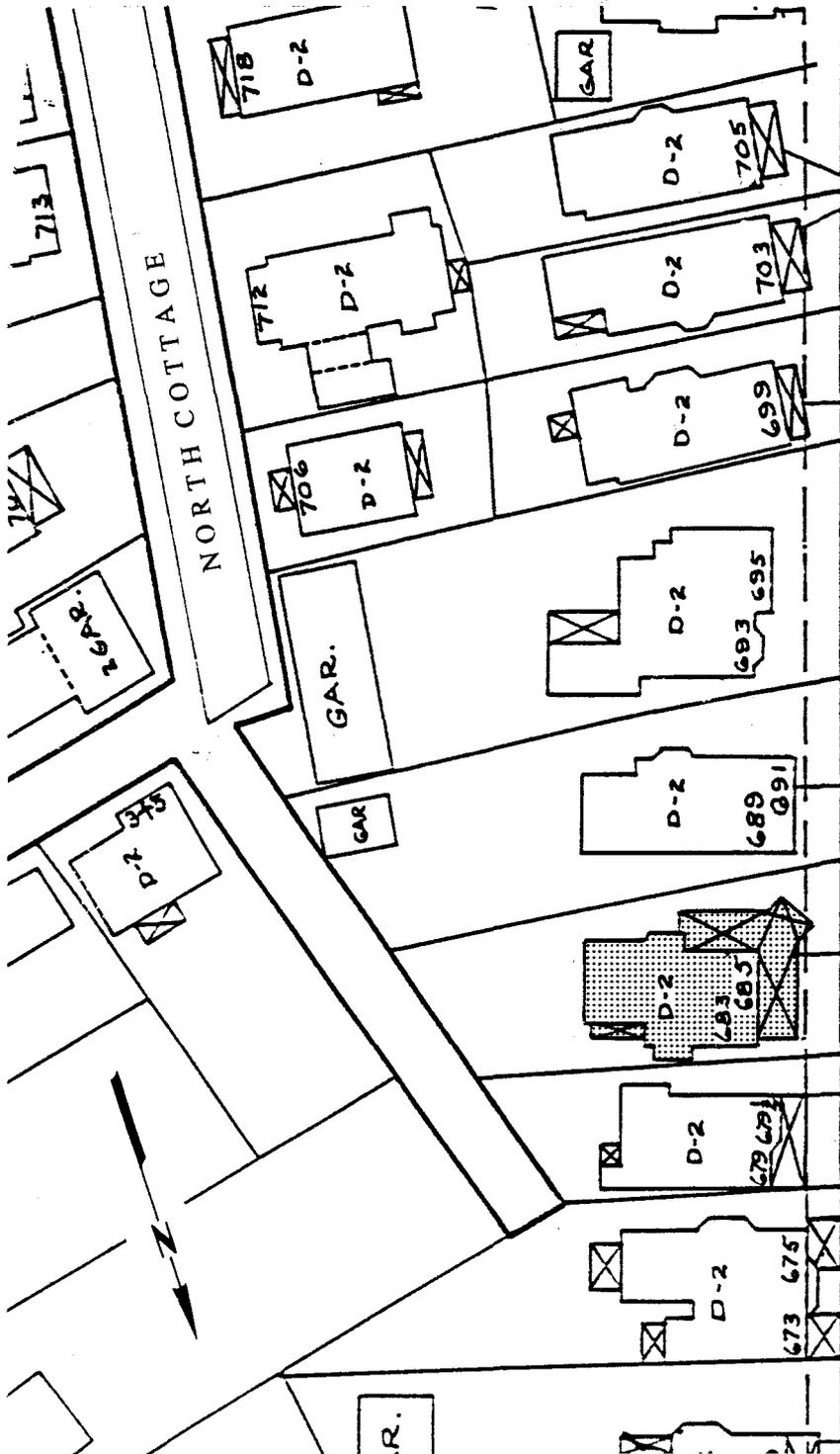
The house is a contributing structure in the Park Avenue Historic District, which was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on July 28, 1991 as part of an investment tax credit certification application for another building on the street. The nature of proposed demolition to most elements of the house in order to accommodate housing for handicapped individuals is considered an Adverse Effect.

Source:

Crawford County Courthouse - Deeds Q-5:73, 159:675, 182:210; Will Book H: 699-700
Meadville Public Library and Historical Society Library - Meadville City Directories and Insurance Maps of Meadville, PA, Sanborn Map Company, New York (1905 and 1912)

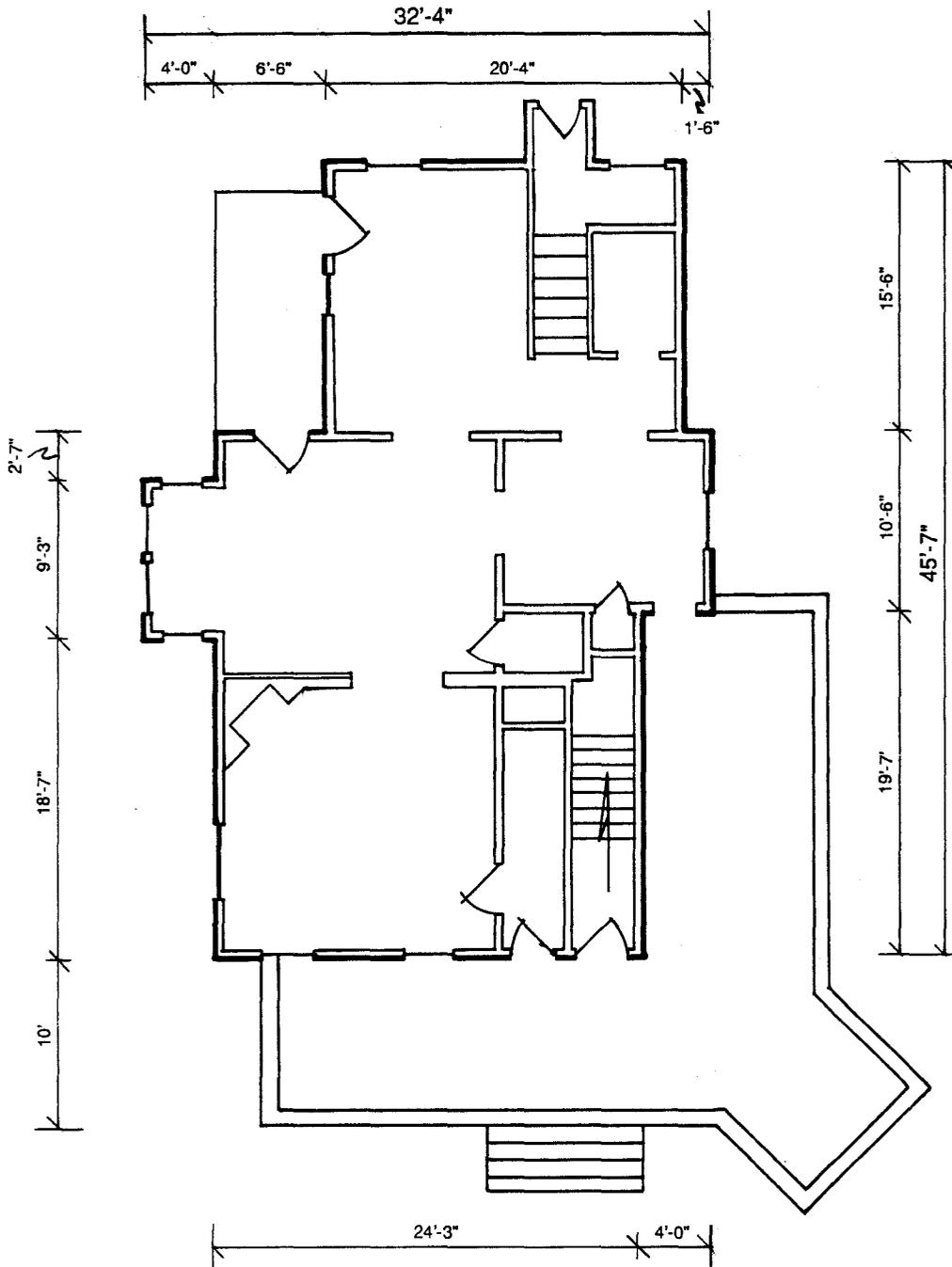
Historian:

Rita G. Walsh
Gray & Pape, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio
July 1992



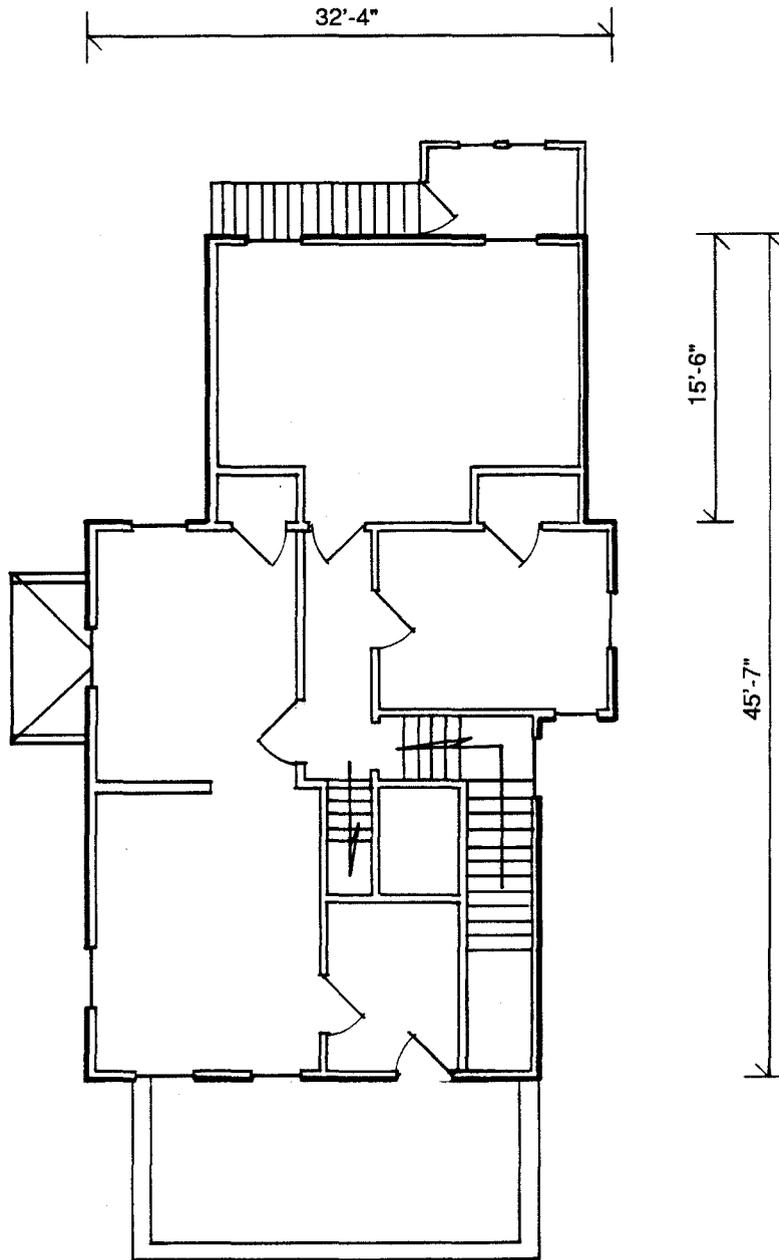
PARK AVE.

Immediate Setting of House on Park Avenue, July 1992
Source of Map: Water Line Map, June 1992, Technical Support Services,
City of Meadville, PA



First Floor Plan
July 1992

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Second Floor Plan
July 1992