

3249 CYRUS ROAD, HOUSE
Cyrus
Wayne County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-267-A

HABS
WVA
50-CYRUS,
4A-

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

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Location: 3249 Cyrus Road (County Road 1/6), at Cyrus, Wayne County,
West Virginia

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17. 362515. 4241060.
USGS Quadrangle: Burnaugh, West Virginia/ Kentucky

Significance: The Albert Thacker House is the best preserved and most ornate example of the small, T-plan, modified hall-and-parlor house built in the village of White's Creek upon construction of the Kenova and Big Sandy Railroad in 1903-04. The Thacker House was built by (or for) Albert Thacker, a blacksmith and part-time farmer who owned a number of village lots in White's Creek. The Thacker House is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Description: The Albert Thacker House is a one-story wood-framed house with a modified T-shaped ground plan. Though now less apparent, at first the T-plan was symmetrical and enclosed four rooms, two running across and two trailing behind. Now, the house has seven interior rooms, and a stone-lined cellar (an original feature). Ground floor rooms include: in the front part, a bedroom (with closet) (Room 1) and living room (2); and back of these, a bedroom (with closet) (3), bathroom (4), dining room (5), kitchen (6), and utility shed (7).

The portion of the house nearest the public road is side- and cross-gabled, and has a hipped-roofed small front porch. The porch has six ornate turned square posts (two being pilaster-posts), floral post brackets, and freize rail, all original. The porch floor now is a concrete slab covered with green outdoor carpeting. The side porch has retained its wooden tongue-and-groove flooring, laid as well over the cellar hatch-door, which lies flush to the floor; the lonely post remaining on the side porch stylistically is identical with the six posts on the front porch. At first, water was obtained via hand-pump from a below-ground cistern along the east end of the side porch, just outside a former entrance there. Raised-seam lapped metal sheets roof over most of the house; aggregate shingles cover only the western-most room. After 1977 the house was sided

with aluminum. The house has been raised in place and its piers replaced with a modern concrete foundation.

Present windows are aluminum-framed sash. Originally, the house was fitted with 2-over-2 double-hung wooden sash, all now removed and nearly all replaced with aluminum-framed sash. The only 2-over-2 sash now in the house was used ca. 1960 to fill in the original doorway from the side porch; the sash was brought from elsewhere in the house. All doors in the house are of recent design. Two of the original doors were used to replace two old doors in the Wash House (HABS No. WV-267-C) -- into the cellar, and into the meat room.

The interior has been changed considerably over the years. The house got gas in 1945, and was electrified around 1950. Two fireplaces, in Rooms 1 and 3, were removed in the late 1940s. The interior was remodelled extensively in 1960 and 1961. The front rooms were remodelled in 1960 and their layout was rearranged. The doorway now leading into Room 1 formerly led to a closet off Room 2, and one entered Room 1 via a door to the inside right (north) of the front entry. The bathroom (4) was built in 1961 onto part of the then-longer side porch. Its doorway previously had been a window. The dining room (5) originally had been a kitchen and dining area. The Chadwicks added the present kitchen room in the late 1920s, and the Newmans modernized it in 1961, and extended in onto part of the side porch. The utility room (Room 8) was built in 1977 by Bennie McSorley, a fifth cousin of Pauline Newman, whose daughter Doris married a McSorley.

Original wide-board flooring, walls, and ceilings apparently exist largely intact beneath most present treatments. Modern oak tongue-and-groove flooring now is found in Room 1, wall-to-wall carpetting in Rooms 2, 3, 4, and 5, and vinyl tiles in Rooms 6 and 7. Ceilings are of drywall in Rooms 1, 2, 4, and 6, and of acoustic tile in 3, 5, and 7; ceiling height is (a) 91 inches in Rooms 1, 2, and 7, (b) 96 inches in 3 and 5, (c) 84 in 4, and (d) 89 in 6. Surficial wall treatments are: (a) drywall (Rooms 1, 2, 4, and much of 6), and (b) oak panelling (Rooms 3, 5, 7, and the south end of 6). All moldings, architraves, and door and window hardware in the house, except where specifically noted,

are of post-1950 manufacture.

History:

The Thacker House was built by (or at least for) Albert Thacker in 1903. Tax records suggest that it was built between October, 1902, and September, 1903, probably in the summer of 1903. The Thacker House resembles in plan the line of small houses -- known as "Rat Row" -- which were built ca. 1903-1910 on White's Creek Road near the Depot and were rented to railroad workers and common laborers.

Albert Thacker (1862-1939) was a well-known local blacksmith and part-time farmer in White's Creek, and owned a number of village lots. Thacker did work for local farmers and occasionally for the railroad section shop located nearby at Cyrus Station.

Pauline and Willie Newman lived in the house after 1942, renting it from L.M. "Lou Johnny" Chadwick and her husband John C. until 1959 when they bought it. Lou and John owned the Thacker House between 1922 and 1947, but lived at the mouth of Docks Creek in a log house that burned in the late 1970s. Frank and Mary Chadwick lived in the Thacker House "for a long time" until 1942, when they exchanged houses with the Newmans who until then lived nearby in the old house of George B. Dixon, White's Creek F.O.'s long-time postmaster.

Sources:

Press-Observer (Kenova-Ceredo)

1979 Ashland businessman's roots are deep in Wayne County.
Vol. 8, No. 4, Pp. 1 and 6. November 5 issue.

Eustace A. Chadwick

Interview with D. Bailey, 1-2 P.M., August 10, 1992

Frank Chadwick, Jr., and Marie Chadwick

Interview with D. Bailey, 3-5 P.M., August 3, 1992

Pauline Newman

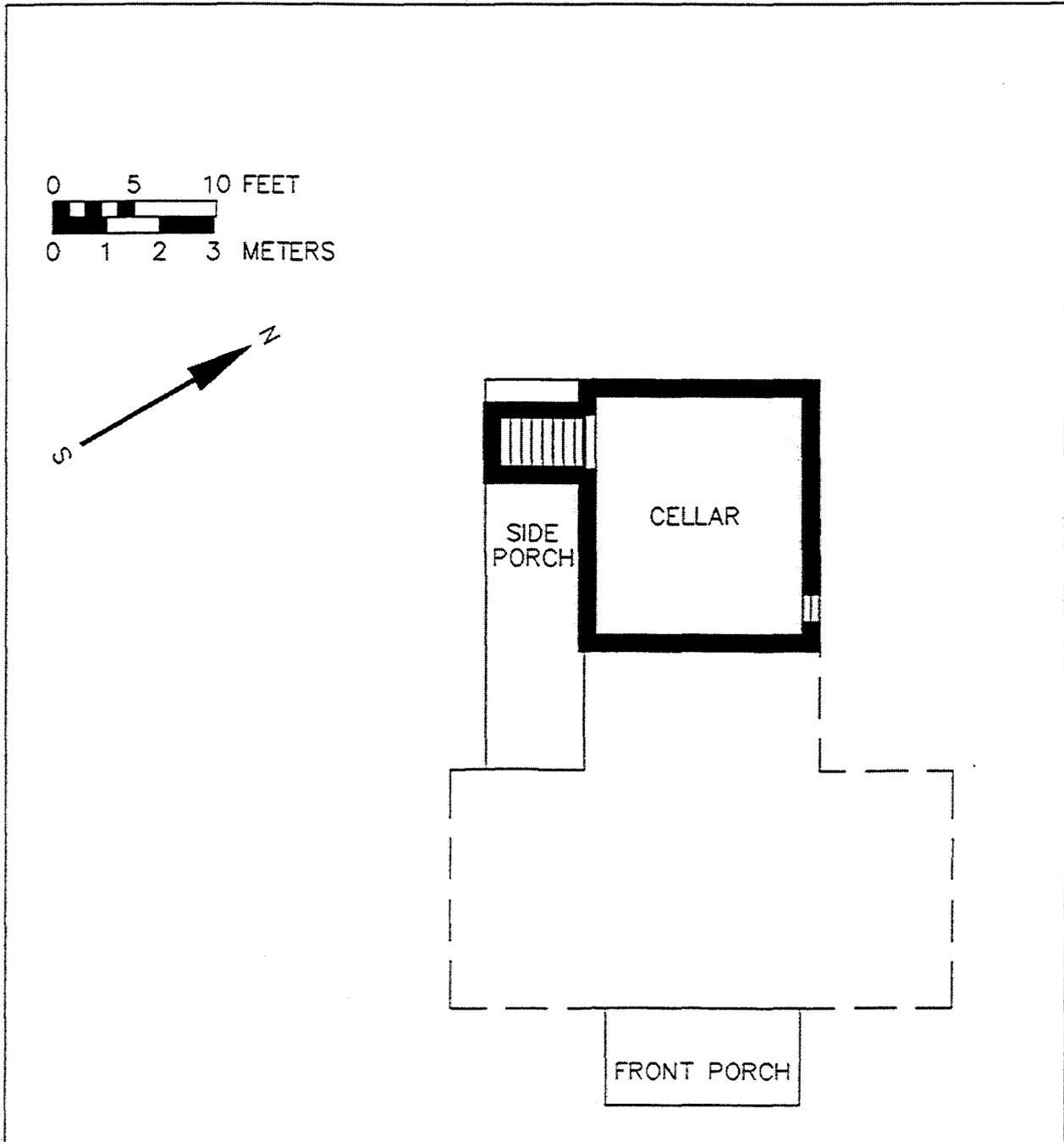
Interview with D. Bailey, 2-3 P.M., February 1, 1993

Historian:

Douglas L. Bailey, Consulting Archaeologist
618 Grant Street, Fairborn, Ohio 45324
May 31, 1994

PLAN OF CELLAR AND STEPS

(Based on field data collected by D. Bailey, 1993.)



FLOOR PLAN OF THE HOUSE UP TO ABOUT 1920

(This drawing is based on field data collected by D. Bailey in 1993, but for certain details relies considerably on the interview with Pauline Newman.)

