

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property Foster Memorial Home

historic name: Foster Memorial Home

other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number 700 Madison Avenue not for publication N/A

city or town Huntington vicinity N/A

state WV county Cabell code 011

zip code 25704

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Susan M. Pierce
Signature of certifying official

10/2/2000
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

| | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Signature of Keeper | Date of Action |

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| <u> 1 </u> | <u> 1 </u> buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> 2 </u> structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> objects |
| <u> 1 </u> | <u> 3 </u> Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

 N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Health Care Sub: Sanitarium-rest home

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Health Care Sub: Sanitarium- personal care
_____ facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Georgian Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone
roof Slate
walls Brick with Limestone Trim
other Wood Portico and Window Trim

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

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.)

- N/A **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- N/A **B** removed from its original location.
- N/A **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- N/A **D** a cemetery.
- N/A **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- N/A **F** a commemorative property.
- N/A **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Social History
Commerce

Period of Significance 1924-1950

Significant Dates 1924

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Foster, Bradley Waters

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Architect: Day, R.L. and Sidney L.
Contractor: Harer, C.W.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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: The Foster Foundation, Huntington, WV

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1.613 Acres

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

Quad Map Name: Huntington, WV- Ohio 38082-D4-TF-024

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|-------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 17 | 371940 | 4252420 | 3 | _____ | _____ |
| 2 | _____ | _____ | _____ | 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 Gordon Ingerson
organization LukmireGrant Architecture date 17 July 2000
street & number 1001 Derekwood Lane telephone 301-459-8383
city or town Lanham state MD zip code 20706

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Regency Park at Huntington, LLC
street & number 2086 General's Highway, Ste. 101 telephone 301-261-8558
city or town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

Foster Memorial Home
name of property
Cabell, WV
county and State

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Foster Memorial Home is an exquisitely detailed, three story enlarged Georgian mansion which was constructed on the west side of Huntington, West Virginia in 1924 to serve as a home for elderly widows. The building has served as a home for the elderly since its opening and has become a well-known location for seniors in the city. It is set within a green, park-like expanse of mown lawn with perimeter trees, filling an entire block on Madison Avenue, typical of prominent institutional buildings of the period.

Foster Memorial Home •Constructed 1924 •Contributing Building

The main building is constructed of dark red brick in a flemish bond pattern set off by limestone quoins. There are limestone string courses separating the second and third floors as well as a limestone frieze at the roofline. Windows in the building are double-hung, with six over six true divided lights. Window sills and the occasional lintels and keystones are of limestone; many windows have jack or relieving arches. Classically detailed gabled dormers punctuate the pitched slate roof that crowns the complex.

The major street façade on the south side of the property along Madison Avenue is symmetrical with a central mass flanked by slightly recessed three bay wings and terminated by projecting gable-roofed pavilions. Each end of the central mass features a double chimney and the end pavilions each have two chimneys projecting from the roof. These pavilions have classically-detailed pediments facing Madison Avenue with central elliptical windows centered in the brickwork. The window pattern on the gable facades (individual windows on the edges with paired windows in the center) is emphasized by the stone medallions above the single windows on the second floor.

A terrace spans the entire south face of the building between the end bays. This is fronted by a low brick wall interrupted only by the central entrance stair. French doors with glass sidelights connect this terrace to the projecting bays; these doors have been given a Palladian motif, with a semi-circular blank arch above the central doors. The main entrance is set off by a two story portico distinguished by six massive two story tall wooden columns with "Temple of the Winds" (early Greek Corinthian) capitals. A metal balustrade tops this portico. The front entrance is surrounded by carved wooden pilasters and an elaborate wooden "broken" pediment extending to the second floor; the adjacent windows and glass sidelights to either side of the door are incorporated into this composition.

The east and west sides of the building are characterized by the hip roofs that terminate the primary building volume where it extends through the masses of the end pavilions. Separate entrances to the stair wells occur at the ends of the building, both marked by semi-circular porches consisting of wooden entablatures supported by brick columns and surmounted by metal balustrades. The stair towers are further distinguished by Palladian windows on the upper landings that cut across the limestone stringcourse between the second and third floors. These windows are of wood construction inscribed within elliptical brick arches.

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There is a wing on the rear of the building projecting from the central pavilion. This wing historically was used primarily for service and communal functions for the home. The window patterns and wall treatments are relatively utilitarian on this portion of the building. There is a rear service porch and entrance at the alley side of this wing. The porch is defined by segmental brick arches that are set into the masonry of the building. A masonry chimney containing the flues projects through the roof.

The interior features a relatively modest lobby on the first floor. An archway leads from this lobby to the communal facilities in the north wing. There is a double loaded corridor extending between the stairs on the ends of the building on all three floors, and a central stair to the left of the entrance axis. Residential rooms are accessed from the corridor. There is a parlor located in the front of the end pavilions on each floor, connecting with the terrace at the first floor level. The interior retains its original woodwork, doors and transoms, which are of a simplified "transitional" style. Many of the moldings, including the wall base, are of plaster. The floors in the central areas are cement terrazzo.

This is a high quality building that retains most of its original materials and layout. The building has approximately 10,000 square feet on each of three floors.

Garage •Constructed 1924 •Noncontributing Building

A modest one-story garage, built of brick at the time of the construction of the original building, lies adjacent to the alley just west of the north wing. This is a utilitarian "box" without the classical detail present on the main structure.

Car Shelters •Constructed Circa 1980's •Noncontributing Structures

Two modern wooden car shelters have been constructed along the same alley serving the garage. These are plain and wholly utilitarian in nature, without any architectural or historic value. They are open-sided structures with essentially flat roofs, and are not attached to the main building.

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Summary:

The Foster Memorial Home retains all of the character and most of the configuration of the 1924 structure. The exterior is essentially unchanged from the original except for the replacement of some of the doors with modern equivalents and the addition of a ramp for purposes of accessibility to the disabled. The interior has undergone some modifications. Dropped ceilings have been installed in many areas as required for the installation of modern building systems, including sprinklers for the purposes of fire safety. Doors have also been added as required to meet modern fire safety and access regulations. Some modern finish flooring materials have been installed. New partitions have been constructed, primarily outside of the major circulation routes. The character of the primary spaces, including trimwork, etc., has been maintained.

The image that this eminent facility presents to the community has changed very little over the years. Features have been added or modified only as required to meet modern standards and requirements; the original purpose of the building has endured. This continuity has become an important symbol to the residents of Huntington.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Foster Memorial Home, built in 1924, is a monument to the life and works of one of Huntington's founding fathers, Bradley Waters Foster (although the building was actually dedicated to the memory of his wife, Mary Huntington Foster). Mr. Foster endowed the Foster Foundation upon his death with the charge of creating a home for elderly widows. He was a leading citizen in the commercial life of Huntington; the Memorial Home, which was made possible by this prominence, is thus significant under Criteria B, in the area of Commerce. Both the Foster Foundation and the Foster Home are important institutions within the Huntington community and prominent symbols of its commitment to the support of the aged, and as such are significant in the area of Social History, under Criteria A. The building itself is a handsome and physically substantial structure in a Georgian Revival style that has served the needs of the community continuously for over seventy-five years. Its architecture represents the finest design and craftsmanship achievable in West Virginia at the time of its construction and is representative of similar institutions of the period, and therefore is significant in the area of Architecture under Criteria C.

Criteria: B Area of Significance: Commerce

Bradley Waters Foster was one of the most prominent citizens of Huntington in its formative years. He was born in Maine in 1834 and married Mary Lenora Huntington in 1868 in Oneonta, New York. He relocated to Huntington in 1871, the year of its official founding, and lived there for the rest of his life. That same year, he started the business that was to become the Foster-Thornburg Hardware Company, which developed into a major regional wholesale supplier of hardware, furniture, plumbing and electrical supplies, and appliances. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank, which became The First Huntington National Bank, and was the president of the Huntington Bank and Trust Company and the Huntington Land Company (formerly headed by Collis P. Huntington, the railroad magnate who established the city). Foster was also a member of the City Council, helped to organize and charter the Chamber of Commerce, and served on a committee to incorporate the city's first hospital. Through his various business and civic activities he helped to shape the commercial and civic life of Huntington. Many of the business leaders of the city passed through his offices. His extensive landholdings meant that he had a great deal of influence over the growth of the city, and his commercial interests were important to its economy.

The Foster Home is the physical manifestation of B. W. Foster's life and achievements in the field of commerce. It was made possible by Foster's accumulation of wealth over the years via his hardware business and his real estate company, as well as his prominent position in Huntington. Upon his death on March 22, 1922, he left his house at Fifth Avenue and Eleventh Street for the purpose of establishing a Children's Hospital. He also bequeathed the sum of \$800,000.00, a significant portion of his approximately one million dollar estate, to the Foster Foundation for what was to become his primary legacy- the construction and maintenance of a home for unmarried women over the age of 65. The Board of the Foundation, which was set up as a corporation, was made up of leading business owners in the city: D. E. Abbott, E. H. Thornburg, Robert L. Archer, C. P. Snow, Rufus Switzer and Hans Watts. These magnates, who were Foster's friends and business associates, agreed before his death to sit on this body

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without compensation, and procedures were set up to allow for new members to occupy vacant seats as they arose. The charter was also set up to allow other businessmen to bequeath sums, through the Foundation, for their own philanthropic purposes. Foster himself funded the endowment for the Foundation. \$250,000.00 was spent on the construction of the building, an enormous amount at the time. In his era, before governments could afford the social safety net that exists today, private citizens "of means" were the only entities with the accumulations of capital necessary for the establishment of the social institutions that denoted the transition to a more humanized society.

The Foster Memorial Home remains as the only surviving physical manifestation of Foster's prominence in the business community at this pivotal time in Huntington's history as it transformed itself from a rough-and-ready industrial center into a modern city.

Criteria: A Area of Significance: Social History

The Foster Foundation and the Foster Memorial Home have been major factors in the social life of the city since their creation. They embody the community's civic pride and commitment to its residents in a tangible way. Public tours were conducted upon the building's completion in September of 1924; this event was thought to be important enough to merit the publication of announcements in the local newspapers.

Before the Home was constructed, little provision was made for the aged or indigent residents of Huntington. In fact, there were few "public" institutions. The city up to this point had been shaped by commercial interests, primarily the railroad and coal mining; it was originally founded by Collis P. Huntington solely because he needed a railhead in this area for the transfer of cargo to and from the Ohio river. This financial success eventually led to the desire and means to provide for the less fortunate. The Home was set up entirely with funding from the Foundation without any public support at all, and was the only facility of its type in the region.

The widows formed their own society there, as the society outside the walls had no real place for them at this time; this is no doubt one of the most important reasons for the building's construction. The first Matron in charge, Miss Ada Van Ness, was apparently quite a powerful woman. Her personality and the mores of the time came through in the rules of the institution; for example, new residents were admonished that complaints about such things as the vegetables being served at dinner would not be tolerated and that they should be thankful to be there. Social events were held for the benefit of the inhabitants and the community, although apparently of a relatively modest nature as was thought appropriate for widows. The site around the Home was not used for activities in any kind of organized fashion.

The mission has changed very little over time, other than updating to meet present circumstances, and only recently have similar facilities been built in adjacent areas. Many of the current residents have lived in the facility for a number of years, as their mothers did before them. In 1924, the same year that the Memorial Home was completed, St. Mary's hospital was founded, the oldest hospital in Huntington, perhaps influenced by the example set by the Home (as noted above, Foster had a role to play in this area as well). St. Mary's continued as the only major hospital in the area until

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the 1950's. Some health care was administered in the Home as an adjunct to the primary function as a "home," and this aspect has become more dominant over the years as technology has developed, but it has always been essentially a residence rather than a medical facility; those needing serious medical care have been transferred elsewhere.

The Foundation has remained active in the community and has had a useful philanthropic purpose. It has continued its original function since it was established in 1922, serving to build and operate the Memorial Home and to aid others in setting up similar organizations. It has continued to this day to attract prominent citizens to its Board. Recently the Foundation has established a new retirement community, Woodlands, which has led to the present transfer of ownership. However, the facility itself will serve essentially the same function as in previous years. Its constancy and sense of permanence and tradition will continue to be important to the stability of the surrounding community.

Criteria: C Area of Significance: Architecture

The architecture of the Foster Memorial Home is a derivation of traditional styles and construction methods in combination with progressive social intentions. The conservative nature of the design and the construction methods reflects the intention of its builders to erect a substantial structure expressing endurance and stability. The basic massing of the edifice is masculine and planar, composed of simple rectilinear blocks, in recognition of the solidity of the institution. However, aspects of the detailing- the palladian window motifs, the decorative flourishes, and especially the wooden portico with its "Temple of the Winds" columns- add a more delicate, feminine touch, as if to acknowledge the residents within. The building addresses the public street directly with its large portico and terrace, yet exhibits some reticence in the way it is buffered by this same terrace with its restricted entry, by the expanse of lawn, and by the relatively small size of the windows (as would have been considered appropriate for the elderly widows who lived there). This dual nature was also carried through in the function of the building- while it was presented as a place of unchanging tranquility, it also featured the latest concepts of the time. This stolid yet subtle scheme reflects the typical pretensions of the day while tempering these with a certain modesty and sensitivity that seem to be rooted in the personality of the city.

Sidney L. Day was a local architect of some prominence in the region, but of no great national significance. He seems to have been chosen because of his position in the community and connections with the members of the Board of the Foster Foundation. He visited facilities in several cities and incorporated their innovations into the home. An amenity that was thought to be very progressive at the time was the large assembly hall in the first floor of the north wing of the building, "where entertainments of various kinds may be given." Otherwise the building was built of solid masonry and was typical of its era, although larger and more impressive than most of the other buildings in the region; the newspapers called it "magnificent".

The Foster Memorial Home is a material demonstration of a general building type as modified by the social and aesthetic tendencies peculiar to Huntington.

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Summary:

The Foster Home is a typical example of the type of structure that was intended to symbolize the importance and permanence of local institutions and their benefactors. It represents the maturing of the city and provides an historical connection to the evolution of the social structures in Huntington and their relationship to concurrent developments in other communities throughout the United States. This period saw the ascendancy of private philanthropic organizations in this country, before public agencies began to appropriate many of their traditional functions. The pristine condition of the building today demonstrates the care entailed in its creation and maintenance and is clear confirmation of its regional importance and historic integrity.

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Bibliography

- Wallace, Seldon George. *Huntington Through Seventy-Five Years*. pp. 191 & 192. Huntington, WV: Archives of the Foster Foundation, 1947.
- Wallace, Seldon George. *Cabell County Annals and Families*. pp. 386-388. Richmond, VA: Garrett & Massie, 1935.
- "First Families of Huntington." Reprint from *The Huntington Advertiser*. Undated, pp. 15 & 16. Archives of the Foster Foundation.
- "Foster Estate Value is Found Near \$850,000.00." *Huntington Herald Dispatch*. 6 April 1922. Archives of the Foster Foundation.
- "New Building Completed At Cost Of \$250,000, Is Ready For Occupancy." *Huntington Herald Dispatch*. 12 March 1925. Archives of the Foster Foundation.
- "Foster Memorial Home for Aged Women to be Formally Opened for Inspection by Public Today and Tomorrow." *Huntington Advertiser*. 12 March 1925. Archives of the Foster Foundation.
- "Magnificent New Foster Memorial Home will be Ready in September." *Huntington Advertiser*. 1924. Archives of the Foster Foundation.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Please see attached Boundary and Topographic Survey, Drawing No. 4675, by Eastham and Associates Engineers and dated March 3, 1999. This survey is being used as the verbal boundary description.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries were selected because they coincide with the historical limits of the property as they have existed since the building was constructed in 1924.

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Section Photo Page 1

Foster Memorial Home
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Name of Property: Foster Memorial Home
Address: 700 Madison Avenue
Town: Huntington
County: Cabell

Note: The above information applies to all photographs.

Photographer: Mark Bias
Date: June 2000
Negatives: LukmireGrant Architecture
10001 Derekwood Lane
Lanham, MD 20706

Note: The above information on the photographer applies to the following photographs 1 through 8.

- Photo 1 of 17:** View of main front from southwest (on Madison Avenue).
- Photo 2 of 17:** North side of East Wing and east side of North Wing from northeast (alley side).
- Photo 3 of 17:** North side of West Wing and west side of North Wing for northwest (alley side). Carport is visible in foreground with garage beyond.
- Photo 4 of 17:** Main entrance porch from south (Madison Avenue).
- Photo 5 of 17:** Closeup: main entrance porch from south (Madison Avenue).
- Photo 6 of 17:** East end of main block (East Wing) from the east. Madison Avenue is to the left.
- Photo 7 of 17:** West end of main block (West Wing) from the west. Madison Avenue is to the right.
- Photo 8 of 17:** View of main front from southeast (on Madison Avenue).

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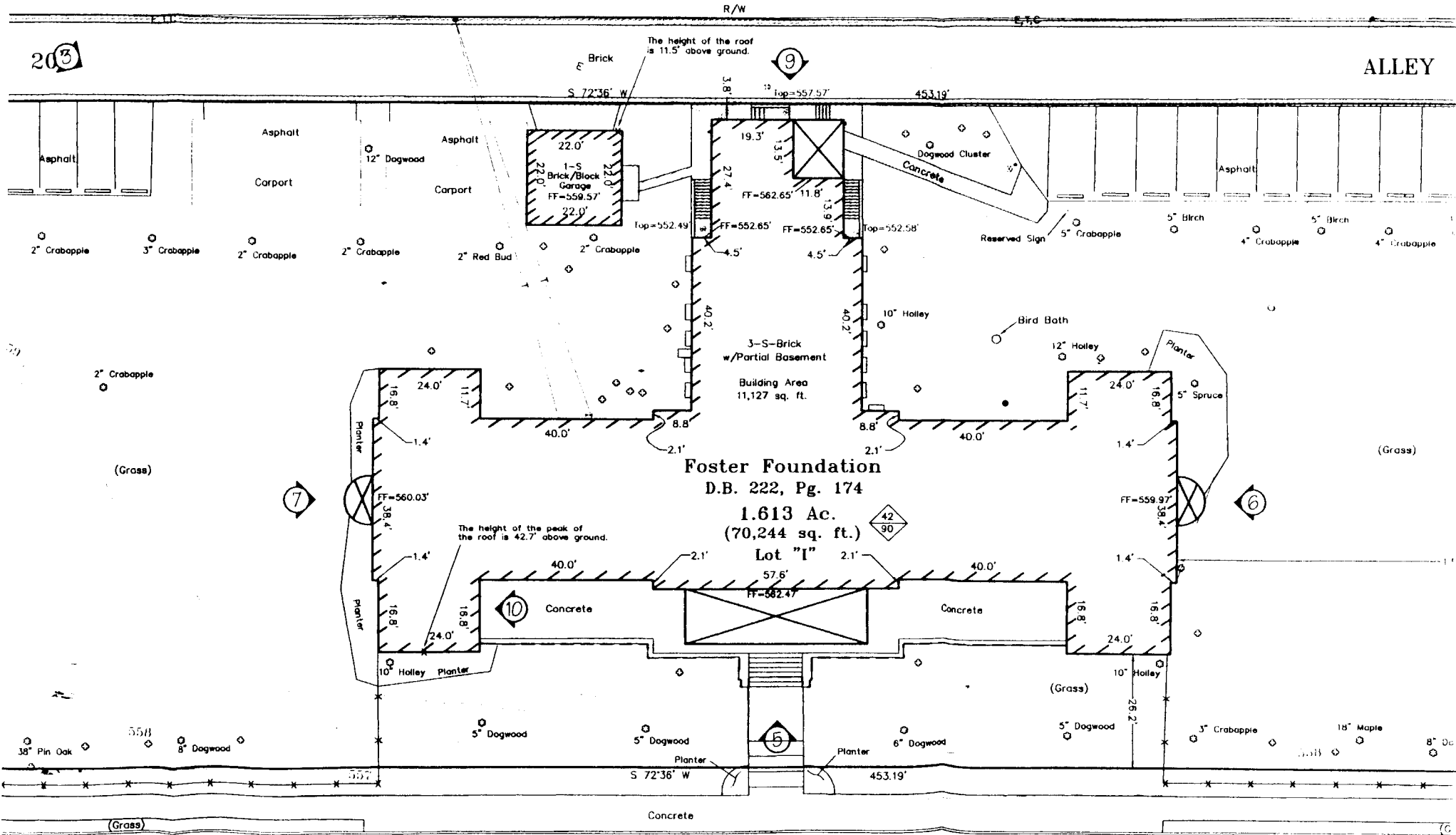
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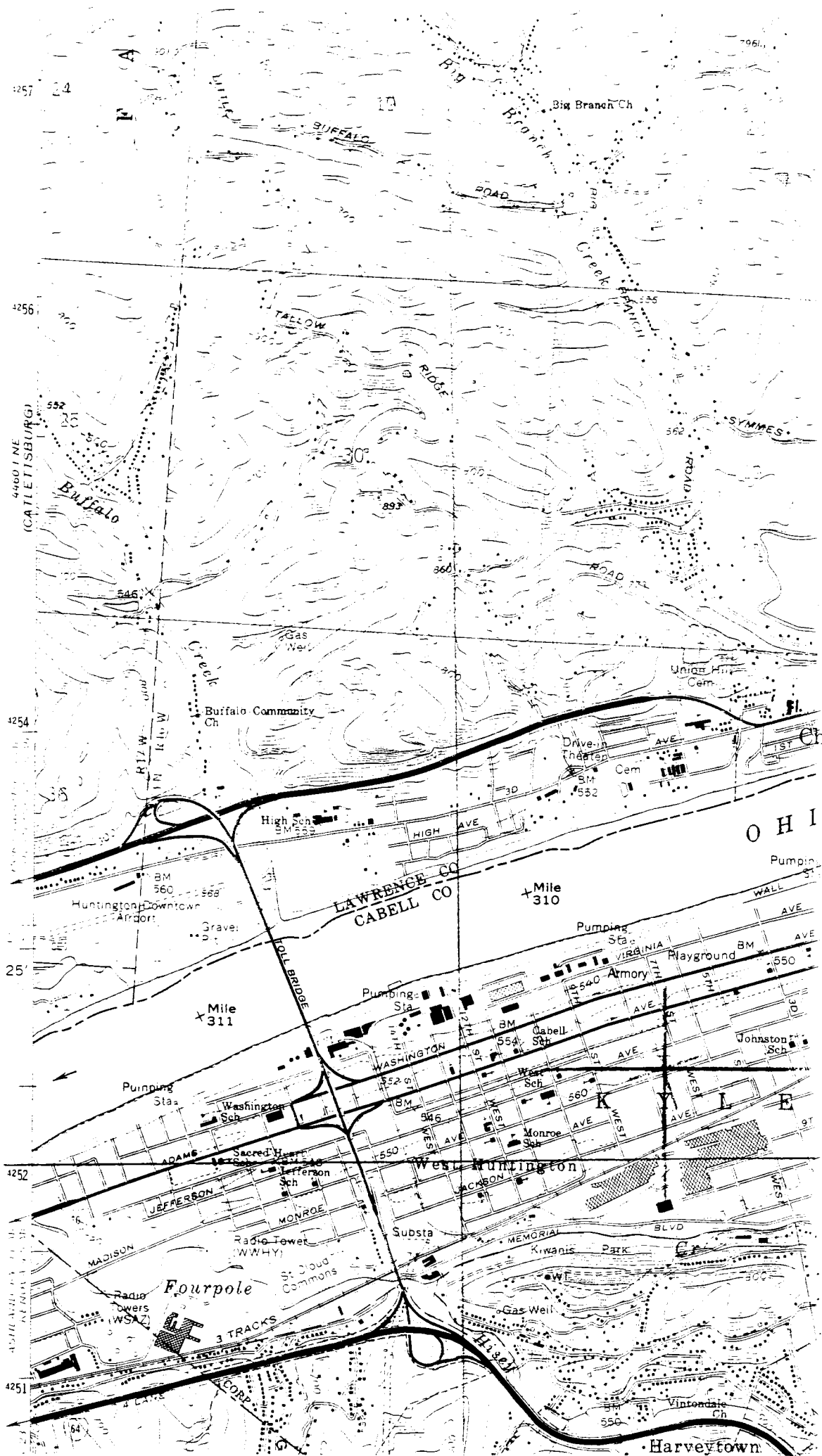
Photographer: James Wilson
Date: March, 2000
Negatives: LukmireGrant Architecture
10001 Derekwood Lane
Lanham, MD 20706

Note: The above information on the photographer applies to the following photographs 9 through 16.

- Photo 9 of 17:** Alley elevation of rear service wing.
- Photo 10 of 17:** Building at western end of front (south) terrace, showing parlor entry.
- Photo 11 of 17:** Stair entry porch, west end of building.
- Photo 12 of 17:** "Temple of the Winds" column capital at main portico.
- Photo 13 of 17:** Parlor mantel.
- Photo 14 of 17:** Dining room interior (1st Floor).
- Photo 15 of 17:** Original bronze plaque.
- Photo 16 of 17:** Railing at stairway.
- Photo 17 of 17:** Historical postcard of the Foster Memorial Home, 1925 (south or Madison Avenue elevation). This view is now somewhat obscured by mature trees. The photographer is unknown; the original is located at the offices of LukmireGrant.

T.B.M. No. 1
RR Spike in
Utility Pole No. 99-171
Elev. = 559.54





FOSTER
 MEMORIAL
 HOME
 17
 371940
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 HUNTINGTON
 QUAD

