

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gilmore, Elizabeth Harden, House; Minotti-Gilmore House
other names/site number Harden and Harden Funeral Home

2. Location

street & number 514 Broad Street not for publication N/A
city, town Charleston vicinity N/A
state West Virginia code 54 county Kanawha code WV 039 zip code 25301

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official _____ Date 7/28/88

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Mortuary/ funeral home
Single Dwelling/ residence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Mortuary/ funeral home

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival
Other: Neo-classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Brick
Stucco
roof Slate
other Wood
Concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The nominated property is a Classical Revival building on an approximately one-half acre lot in a business area of town. The building is a detached residential dwelling built by 1900. It is a brick house with a columned portico and has undergone some alteration and deterioration.

The house reflects an architectural style prevalent about 1900. While it contains several styles, it fits into the Classical Revival style and is predominately of the sub-category Neo-classical Revival. The house is a vernacular representation of this style. The house also has certain four-square or cube features: it is rectangular and has a hip roof and hip dormers. The house is of brick, is 2½ stories, and contains 5 bays. The brick work is a common bond with a 7 coursing, and the workmanship is unpolished in nature. The mortar between the brick is at least a half inch thick and has not been smoothed. The house rests on a stone foundation, probably sandstone. The stones in front are large rock-faced even stones. Elsewhere, there is a concrete veneer over the foundation; but, one broken area reveals an uncoursed rubble-stone foundation.

A 3-bay section of the front is recessed, and this area is fronted by a 2-tier portico with 4 concrete Ionic columns, probably a mass produced item of that era. This portico is topped by a stucco-faced pediment with a Palladian window. The flooring is wood, and the first floor balustrade is also wood. A metal railing is on the second floor. Another porch is on the northeast side of the house. This has a concrete slab floor and has two entries into the house which have been blocked off.

There are a number of different windows. These are primarily double sash windows. These windows have variously 6 x 6, 6 x 1, 2 x 2, or 1 x 1 lights. The four first floor windows are double sash windows with aprons. The heads and sills are primarily smooth stone, but some toward or on the rear are rock-faced stone. Additionally, there are two windows which were added later: one on the southwest side and one in the rear. There is also a circular window in the rear on the second floor. The front bay window enclosure has one large arched window and two small double sash windows.

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There are seven doors on the outside. There is a double door of wood on the southwest side and a wood door in the rear that are additions. The other rear door and a door on the northeast side have panels at the bottom and a place for a glass pane at the top. Another door on the northeast side has fifteen lights. These three doors are beneath transoms. The front door is a more intricately patterned wood door with leaded glass and is surrounded by a leaded glass transom and side lights. It is located in the center of the front. Directly above it is another door opening to the second floor porch.

Additional features include five chimneys and three dormers. Four of the chimneys are corbeled, and the dormers are hipped. There are three hip knobs on the roof. The front bay window has a hexagonal slate mansard style roof and a carved wood frieze. The roofing on the rest of the house is slate shingle with the exception of the enclosed back porch which has a tin roof.

The interior of the house is divided by a hall which runs from front to back. At the front door is a stairway to the second floor. A second stairway is at the rear of the hall and gives access to the second and third floors. The area on the northeast side of the hall is one large room but was originally three rooms. There are three openings from this room to the hall. The mid-section of this room has a marble floor and was originally the dining room. In the front area is a fireplace typical of the late 19th or early 20th centuries. On the southwest side, there are three divisions: a room at the front, a room at the back, and a mid-section consisting of an enclosed porch and a small foyer leading from this porch to the main hall. There is a window in the wall shared by the front room and the enclosed porch and a door with transom connecting this porch to the rear. There is a double door between the porch and the foyer. On the back wall of the foyer is a bookcase built into the wall. It is of the size and placement of a window but is in a wall shared by the foyer and the back room. In the rear of the hall, a door gives access to the rear of the house which is a one story area. The walls in the house have exposed plaster, and the woodwork is plain. The first floor rooms serve as a funeral home, and the upper floors are vacant.

There have been several alterations. The porch on the southwest side has been enclosed as has the back porch. That on the side was on both the first and second floors. The northeast porch floor is not original. A small one-story cinder block addition has been added to the rear. The red brick has been painted white, and the black shutters have been removed. Inside,

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several walls have been removed on the first floor. Additionally, at least one fireplace has been covered over and one removed. In 1976, the upstairs was converted into two apartments. Walls and doors have been added at the top of each stairway as part of this alteration. The two exposed apron windows have had metal insertions placed over the aprons. The other two are enclosed in a Victorian style bay windows and storm doors. Most of the changes took place after Elizabeth Gilmore bought the property.

Deterioration is evident. In some places, the mortar is crumbling. The roof shingles are broken. There have been leaks under the cornice, and some of the wood is rotted. Repairs have been made using larger pieces of wood inconsistent with the original. The concrete veneer around the foundation has some broken places and shows evidence of past repairs. The paint is flaking on both the bricks and the columns. Plywood has been used to replace part of the porch flooring. The volute on one column is broken.

Aside from the house, there are two resources on the property. In the rear, there is a noncontributing cinder block garage which spans the width of the property and which was probably built in the early 1950's. In the front, there is a stone balustrade. It was constructed in the early 20th century by the property's owner, Dominic Minotti. This railing has several cracked places in it. On either side of the house is a driveway, and the rear has been paved.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage/ Black
Architecture

Period of Significance

1947-1986
ca 1900

Significant Dates

N/A
ca 1900

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Gilmore, Elizabeth Harden

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This property is significant in two areas. First, it is significant because of its association with Elizabeth Gilmore, a prominent black in the Kanawha Valley. Because Mrs. Gilmore's association with the house occurred in the last fifty years, criterion consideration G applies. She was highly visible as a funeral director and for her involvement in civic affairs, particularly as a leader in local civil rights activities and as a member of the West Virginia Board of Regents. This house is also significant architecturally. This significance derives primarily from the historical evolution of the area in which this property is located. Also, this house, while containing many elements common to period houses locally, has some distinguishing features.

Elizabeth Mason Harden Gilmore was associated with this property from her purchase of it on August 20, 1947 until her death on April 8, 1986. During that time, it served as not only her home but also as the location of Harden and Harden Funeral Home. She acquired this property in her late 30's, having already become the "first woman to be licensed as a funeral director in Kanawha County" and a co-founder of this funeral home with her husband, Silas Harden. In an era when blacks were still excluded from involvement in many community activities, a black funeral home was one center for the black community. Being the owner of a black funeral home gave her some recognition in the black community as one of its leaders.

Elizabeth Gilmore was very active in the 1950's and 1960's in the push by blacks for civil rights and has been described as a "pioneer of the civil rights movement in West Virginia." Her active role began when her daughter was young. She was able to get her group of black Girl Scouts into Camp Anne Bailey, and they were the first such group admitted. In 1958, she helped found the local chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality. She served as CORE's co-chairman and executive secretary, and the local chapter's headquarters were located at 514 Broad Street. Mrs. Gilmore led the first sit-in against a local store (The Diamond) in an effort to open lunch counters

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to blacks. In 1960, The Diamond opened its lunch counters after a year and a half long fight by CORE. Other local stores targeted by CORE also opened their lunch counters to blacks.

Another organization with which Elizabeth Gilmore has a close association was the Kanawha Valley Council on Human Relations. She was a charter member in its 1959 creation and served as its first vice-president. Under its auspices was the Panel of American Women, a group devised for public discussion of racial and religious differences. Mrs. Gilmore participated in these public forums. Another project of this organization was CHOOSE: Clearing House for Open Occupancy Selection Effort. This project tried to help blacks get housing in areas from which they had been excluded by getting them together with willing renters and sellers.

Elizabeth Gilmore was also active in other organizations. She was a member of the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce and served on its education task force. She was on the advisory committee of the Volunteer Service Bureau, on the community Welfare council, and involved with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Mrs. Gilmore was also on the Executive Board of "Citizens Committee For a West Virginia Human Rights Law", a group which pushed for passage of an "enforceable civil rights law" in W.Va. It was a grass roots organization which received credit for the eventual passage of such a law. In 1969, she became one of the initial appointees to the W.Va. Board of Regents. She served on the Board of Regents until the late 1970's; and, during that time, she served a term as its vice-president and one as its president.

In addition to its association with Elizabeth Gilmore, the property is also significant architecturally. As indicated earlier, the house is a vernacular neo-classical house. It has a fairly typical style, but it does have some distinctive features. The columned portico is a fairly uncommon feature on local houses and particularly on middle class houses. The apron windows across the front are very unusual. Unfortunately, two of the aprons have been covered with metal and the other two are obscured by the bay window addition and its raised floor. The size of the house is also somewhat atypical in this area. This house is a 5-bay house while most local houses built in roughly the same time period are 2- or 3-bay houses.

This house is, however, mainly important as one of the last vestiges illustrating the earlier character of this part of Charleston. Broad Street and the contiguous area was once a fashionable middle or upper middle class neighborhood in which there were many fine homes. In the late 1800's, this

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area was inhabited by locally prominent people: merchants, doctors, and lawyers. Some local political figures resided here. By 1900, some parts had become mixed residential/commercial in character. As land prices increased, the trend toward commercial development continued. Presently, there is only one other building on Broad Street which was originally a residence; however, it has been so altered as to destroy its residential character. Other buildings have long since been torn down to make room for businesses or the interstate highway ramp.

The house at 514 Broad Street fits into this history and therefore evidences the architectural style of this area. This house was there by 1900. Census and other records indicate residence here from 1900 by the family owning the property until 1947. Other records indicate that a house, possibly a part of the present house, was on the property by about 1876 and that people lived on this property until its purchase by the above mentioned family. While the house has undergone alteration in its use as a funeral home, these have been primarily interior alterations and have not destroyed the architectural or historical character of the building. Of course, significant additions would have been made if this house incorporates the earlier house, but they would have been done early in the house's history and would not destroy the house's relationship to this area. If this house dates from 1900, then it was built when commercial development was already beginning; nevertheless, this house does represent the kind of architecture existing historically in this area.

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"Charleston 1907", Pub: W.M. Barnes Directory Co., Parkersburg, WV, 1907.

The Charleston Gazette, located on microfilm in the Archives Search Room at
The Cultural Center or at the Kanawha County Public Library.
The Charleston Gazette, September 7, 1958
The Charleston Gazette, December 8, 1958
The Charleston Gazette, April 13, 1960
The Charleston Gazette, May 4, 1960
The Charleston Gazette, May 22, 1960
The Charleston Gazette, July 2, 1969
The Charleston Gazette, July 6, 1969
The Charleston Gazette, June 5, 1973
The Charleston Gazette, December 15, 1975
The Charleston Gazette, April 9, 1986

Collins, Rodney, State Historic Preservation Office, date: November 23, 1987.

Gray's New Map of Charleston, pub. ca 1876, located in the Archives Search
Room at the Cultural Center.

Illustrated Charleston, Pub: Cincinnati Illustrated Publishing Co., 1911,
located in the Archives Search Room at the Cultural Center or at the
Kanawha County Public Library.

Kanawha County Deed and Will records, located in the Kanawha County Courthouse.

Minotti, Joseph, grandson of Dominic Minotti, 1108 Kanawha Blvd. E., date:
November 8, 1987.

Scott, James, owner Scott Funeral Home, 514 Broad Street, dates: November 7, 1987
and November 11, 1987.

West Virginia Board of Regents Minutes: 1975, 1977, located at the Kanawha
County Public Library.

United States Federal Census records: 1880, 1900, 1910, located on microfilm
in the Archives Search Room at the Cultural Center.

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(cont. verbal boundary description)

the west line of Sentz Alley; thence with the west line of Sentz Alley and parallel with Broad Street N 46°00' E 84.75 feet; thence leaving Sentz Alley and parallel with the second line above described N 43°27' W 245 feet to the place of beginning..."

(cont. boundary justification)

piece of land into the lots of the Hansford and Smith Addition. This property is Lot "V" of this addition.

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The following is the same for all the enclosed photographs:

NAME OF PROPERTY: Gilmore, Elizabeth Harden Home
LOCATION: Charleston, West Virginia
NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: Mary Johnson
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: November 11, 1987
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVE: Mary Johnson

1. View of the front of the house, taken from across the street under the Interstate ramp facing in a southeasterly direction.
2. View of the northeast side of the house, taken from the north corner of the property facing in a southerly direction.
3. View of the southwest side of the property, taken from the rear facing in a northerly direction.
4. View of the rear of the property, taken from the rear facing in a northwesterly direction.
5. View of the one story extension on the rear of the northeast side of the property, taken from that side facing in a southeasterly direction.
6. View of the Bay window addition in the front of the house, taken from the front yard facing in an easterly direction.
7. View of the railing on the front of the property, taken from the sidewalk on Broad Street facing in an easterly direction.
8. View of a window in the house on the northeast side, taken from that side facing in a southwesterly direction.
9. View of a window on the southwest side of the house, taken from that side facing in a northeasterly direction. These two pictures are to show the different head and sill.
10. View of the front door area, taken from the front walk facing in a southeasterly direction.
11. View of the door close-up, taken from inside the house facing in a southwesterly direction.
12. View of the railing on the front stairway, taken from the hall facing toward the front in a northerly direction.
13. View of the mantle in the front room on the northeast side of the house, taken facing in a northerly direction.

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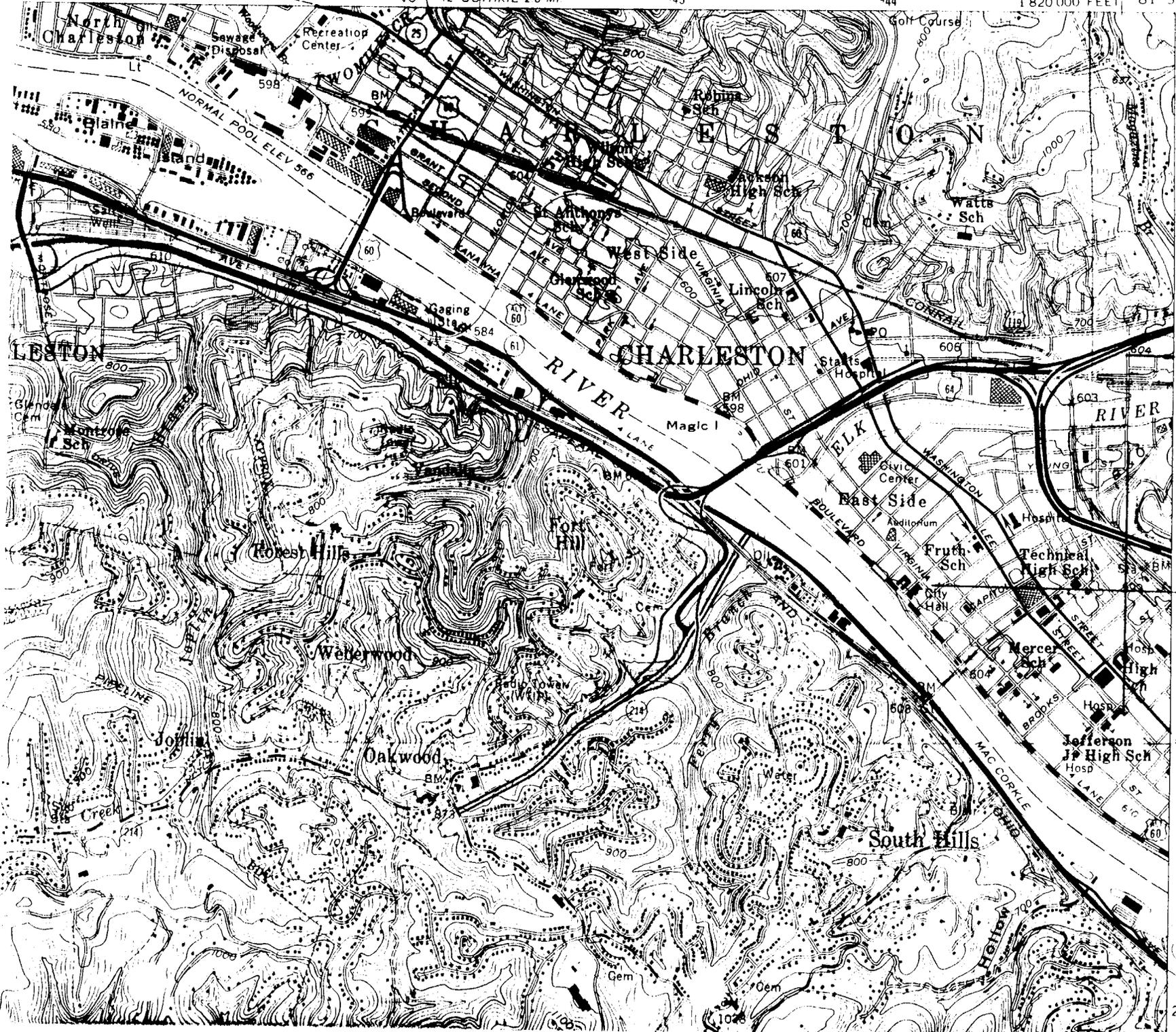
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Gilmore, Elizabeth Harden Home

14. View of the apron window at the front of the house in the northeast side, taken facing a northwesterly way. This photograph is not very clear but if you look beside the table, you can see the apron in the window.

15. View of the cracked place in the foundation at the northern corner of the house, taken facing in a southwesterly direction. This photograph is not very clear either, but you can see the difference between the stone on the right side of the photograph which is that going across the front of the house and the stone on the left side which is on the side of the house. The former is large even stones while the latter is evidently uneven.

1.5 MI
POCATALICO 9 MI
GUTHRIE 28 MI
40° 42' 443
SW 4 CHARLESTON IS QUADRANGLE
444
1820 000 FEET
81° 37' 30"
38° 22' 30"



500 000
FEET

BIG CHIMNEY 7 MI
TELKVIEW 12 MI

UTM

11 441 170 / 9 21 11

4245

STATE CAPITOL 1 MI
WEST VIRGINIA TURNPIKE 4.2 MI

KANAWHA CITY 2.3 MI
WEST VIRGINIA TURNPIKE 3.4 MI

20'