

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 11 1977
DATE ENTERED APR 29 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Chilton House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

off us 60
~~Unassigned~~

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Albans

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Third

STATE

West Virginia

CODE
54

COUNTY
Kanawha

CODE
039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Albans Urban Renewal Authority

STREET & NUMBER

88 Clarks Court

CITY, TOWN

St. Albans

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 25177

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kanawha County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

416 Kanawha Boulevard, East

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE 1975-76

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chilton House is essentially a T-shaped brick structure in a Gothic Revival style transplanted to an area which was little more than a small river town about 125 years ago. The front portion of the building faces south, and the leg runs toward the north, set well to the east of center of the cross section and connecting at about one-fourth of the distance from the east corner as from the west. Such an arrangement gives a picturesque east elevation with three gables, the front having a pitch slightly less than those in the leg of the "T." The west elevation shows two gables, that in the front projecting well to the west of that in the leg. There is also one gable on both the south and north elevations, that on the former being placed in the center of the facade. The Chilton House, then, has a total of seven gables, three in the head and four in the leg of its "T" shape.

At the original location, there were two wooden elements which jutted from the brick face. The front had a one-story porch symmetrically placed below the gable. It was supported by two attached and four free-standing posts, and the continuation of attached pieces above the roofline and patches in the metal roof of the porch indicate that a balustrade formerly surrounded the second floor. On the west elevation, between the northern end and the head of the "T," there was a frame leanto addition. This housed an enclosed storage-type area and an open porch. Its supporting columns, like those of the front porch, were well proportioned and showed fine workmanship in notching along the four edges of their square shape. At one time, there was also a porch to the rear, for lines on the brickwork clearly indicate a covering just below the second-story door. At the new location, the porches have not been replaced as yet, and it is uncertain if or when they will be.

The brickwork is interesting. There has been some speculation that the house was enlarged about 1883 when the Chilton family purchased the property. If this were so, however, the brickmason did an excellent job, matching brick and mortar and continuing the same haphazard detail in bonding, which is repeated throughout. Basically, the front section is of a common bond above the first-story windows, and the rear (or leg) is common bond in its entire height above the large, cut-stone foundation (in the new location, a course of sandstone is below the brick, but it is supported on a high cinder block foundation that is exposed on all but the east elevation. It is uncertain whether the grade will be raised to cover the cinder blocks). In placing the brick, though, many odd sizes appear within bond arrangements, and two, three, four, six and eight inch sections are visible in many unusual places.

The exterior openings are symmetrical in placement. Windows or doors appear in both levels below all gables (except the west side of the front segment where a window appears only on the second floor). All windows have double-hung, wooden sash and a 2/2 pane arrangement (most panes are original), and though most remain boarded after the move, it is expected that they will be retained in original form. Door openings on the first floor of the front and second floor of the rear are flat headed, with the front door having a transom-like overlight. The double-door on the second floor of the front has a typical pointed-arch design with divided and arched panes set above the panels of the lower portion. There are also two doors leading from the dining room (the first room in the leg section as approached from the main entrance hall) to the exterior of the west elevation.

Roofs are steep and coated with a metal covering. Beneath the roofline are deep-set cornices with decorative brackets. The brick chimneys project high above

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the house and have an interesting flange near the top (one chimney cap was removed while the house was being transported, but it is expected that it will be replaced).

A total of eight rooms, four on each floor, provide living space on the interior. Arrangement is such that two are across each level of the head of the "T" and two stretch toward the back of the leg. Chimney placement allows each room to be served by a fireplace, but the present condition does not show openings in the first- and second-floor rooms to the rear and the second-floor room to the east of the front section. Those fireplaces which have original mantels show a heavy board in a plain and pleasing style. Most floors are of wide pine boards. The stairway is rather narrow, but it has a touch of elegance in its curvature, stability and simple lines. Windows are unique, having a spring latch which holds the lower sash at pre-set intervals. Molding on windows, doors and baseboard is plain, but well worked.

The only major alteration has been the placement of a window on the first floor of the rear where a door used to be. In the interior, the only change has been the placing of a brick front on the fireplace in the south room of the first floor in the front section. No major changes were made to the interior of the house prior to its being moved.

Because of urban renewal plans in the City of St. Albans, the Chilton House had to be physically moved. Preparations for this move took place during the latter portion of 1974 and the first half of 1975. During the last part of 1975, the structure was placed on a trailer and transported approximately 200 yards to its new location. The house remained elevated on this trailer for several months into 1976 until a cinder block foundation (capped with a course of cut sandstone) was prepared for its placement. Although the building was physically on its foundation by mid-1976, the completion of the move with the replacement of porches, backfilling to a line about even with the cut sandstone course of the foundation, unboarding of the windows, and the recapping of two chimneys was left in abeyance.

The move of the Chilton House has altered its orientation and environment substantially. Formerly placed on an east-west axis, the building now faces south. When located along "B" Street, the structure was part of a residential setting which included several older houses, a church, commercial and civic buildings. In its new location it is relatively close to only the backs of buildings of much later construction and to open areas. In addition, the Chilton House is now within 100 yards of the Coal River whereas before it was about 300 yards distant, and to its side is a new "loop" highway which is heavily traveled.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1857 (constructed) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chilton House was constructed as a town house in an area which had not long before been frontier and wilderness. Its location on flat land along the waters of the Coal River near its junction with the Kanawha, however, made it a prime area for growth. When the boundaries pushed outward, new buildings in this section were constructed in interesting designs and well-laid brick. The Chilton House stands out, though, in its Gothic lines and compactness of style. Add to this its association with families of position in both the local area and to the east, and the structure takes on a value which has become increasingly appreciated as a better understanding of its history unfolds.

The Chilton House is a good example of Gothic Revival architecture applied to the middle-class living standards of a small river town. Built about 1857, the main features of the unpretentious structure are its numerous and steep gables. These are enhanced by a rather exaggerated roof overhang which allows a deep, bracketed cornice. The Gothic lines are also represented in the arching of both the outline and glass arrangement in the double doors on the second floor of the facade. The main entrance door has two elongated panes which have a high, though not pointed, arch.

True to the lifestyles of the period, the house was probably arranged so that the dining room (the first room in the leg as approached from the front entrance) was the central point of concentration. It had two doors leading to the south exterior of the house and once was approached by a stone walkway to the street (it was probably used as the family entrance and the route to a hitching post for horses). The dining room also has a direct path to the kitchen, the front entrance and the stairway.

A man named Allen Smith apparently had the house built soon after he purchased the lot in 1856. Smith was a local businessman, and the location of his residence near the center of the town's activity attests to the importance of this place. The building is quite close to the Coal River (from which the old name for the St. Albans area--Coalsmouth--was taken) and is believed to be the oldest remaining structure in what was once the business district of the town.

In April 1883, the daughter and son-in-law of Smith sold the property to Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Wilson Chilton, wife of William E. Chilton I. It was this union which brought together two illustrious families and produced as illustrious a group of offsprings. In fact, Mary Elizabeth's mother was the daughter of a Teays, one of the earliest families to have explored and settled the area, and a Carroll, a direct descendant of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. William and Mary Chilton had two daughters and five sons. All of the sons became well-known business and professional men, Samuel Blackwell having been a highly regarded physician (who died in the Chilton House in 1893) and Joseph and William E. having been trained in the law.

It is uncertain whether or not the son, William E., lived in the house for any length of time, but it is known for sure that he frequently visited his family

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burnett, Sarah Abigail. Family history notebook. In the possession of Mary Frances (Burgess) Bowen, 3206 Kanawha Terrace, St. Albans, W.Va.
 Capehart, Stephen P. "Coalsmouth." West Virginia Historical Magazine, V (Jan. 1905), 35-46.
 Charleston, W.Va. Clerk's Office, Kanawha County Courthouse, Various deeds relating to the property, dated 1883 and 1915.
 Interview, Messrs. Clarence Moran, Paul Marshall and Paul Vaughan, architects, with

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	4,2,6	6,4,0	4,2	4,8	8,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James E. Harding, Historian

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

December 29, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 630

TELEPHONE

(304) 296-1791

CITY OR TOWN

Morgantown

STATE

West Virginia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Leonard M. Lewis

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE December 30, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE 4/29/77

ATTEST: Keeper of the National Register

DATE 4-29-77

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there while practicing law and serving in public office at nearby Charleston. He was prosecuting attorney for Kanawha County from 1883 to 1885, Secretary of State for West Virginia from 1893 to 1897 and a United States Senator from 1911 to 1917. Along with his older brother, Joseph, and William A. MacCorkle (governor of West Virginia from 1893 to 1897), William established the law firm of Chilton, MacCorkle and Chilton.

Chilton House remained in the hands of this family until sometime after 1915, having been sold to the youngest son, John Savary, in that year. These family associations give the structure an importance that enhances its fine lines of a simple version of Gothic Revival architecture.

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James E. Harding, Research Analyst, West Virginia Antiquities Commission.
Information on file at the West Virginia Antiquities Commission, P.O. Box
630, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Laidley, W.S. History of Charleston and Kanawha County, West Virginia and
Representative Citizens. Chicago: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., 1911
(?). (pp. 468-69 and 964-65)