

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

DEC 16 1983

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Felix G. Hansford House; Hansford, Felix G. House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Centre and 14th Streets not for publication

city, town Hansford N/A vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Kanawha code 039

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A 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 Good Shepherd Church

street & number Centre and 13th Street

city, town Hansford vicinity of state West Virginia

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kanawha County Courthouse

street & number Court and Virginia Streets

city, town Charleston state West Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Pratt Area Multiple Resource District Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 9, 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Unit, Dept. of Culture and History

city, town Charleston state West Virginia

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Felix G. Hansford House, located at the corner of Centre and 14th Streets, in the small community of Hansford, Kanawha County, West Virginia, built in 1824, is the oldest building extant in that community and one of the oldest buildings in the Kanawha Valley. Originally the seat of a large plantation-like farm, the Felix G. Hansford House still looks over an expanse of land and retains a certain rural ambiance.

The three-bay vernacular Federal style Hansford House is L-shaped, two stories in height, and of brick construction. Among the least altered of historic buildings in this section of West Virginia, the structure displays a number of architectural elements of local distinction. Among these are a single story pedimented entrance portico centered in the front elevation, a broad doorway with three-quarter length sidelights, and prominent interior end chimneys with corbeled caps. The interior room arrangements reflect the simple single-pile plan of the dwelling's main block: two rooms over two rooms. The ell, also of brick construction, reflects the finish of the main block. It is one story, gable roofed and lighted with three evenly spaced double-hung windows. The rear portion of the house contained a summer kitchen and storage facilities. The roof composition of the ell and main block are standing seam metal. The roofing material is of the type that was used on the house in the 19th century, and may be an original part of the historic fabric.

The central hall of the Felix G. Hansford House is flanked by one room deep rooms on both the upper and lower floors. The stair is narrow yet graceful, with turned balusters and rail. A low horizontally paneled wainscoat skirts the first floor rooms and hallway. The doors are original and still feature an iron drop bar security device. Both doors retain their English-made box locks, marked with the British coat-of-arms. At the east side of the house is a small frame building used as an office.

While there has been some deterioration in recent years, the historic Felix G. Hansford House is of interest to area preservationists as a candidate for restoration.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

**Specific dates** 1824 **Builder/Architect** Felix G. Hansford, Builder

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Felix G. Hansford House, located in the small community of Hansford across Paint Creek from the Pratt Historic District in Kanawha County, West Virginia, is significant as one of the oldest extant houses in the Kanawha Valley and one of the few surviving examples of Federal-style architecture in the area.<sup>1</sup> It is also significant as the home of one of the Kanawha Valley's most prominent early families.<sup>2</sup>

### Explanatory Notes

- Constructed in 1824, the Felix G. Hansford House is one of only about a dozen houses in the Kanawha Valley that survive from the period before the Civil War. Of these, this house is one of the very oldest and one of the few that survive from their original state nearly intact. It is also one of only a few surviving houses in the Kanawha Valley that displays the Federal period in architecture.
- This historic house was constructed by and for Felix G. Hansford, a prominent member of one of the early leading families in the settlement period of the Kanawha Valley. Major John Hansford (1765-1850), father of Felix Hansford, was one of the early Kanawha Valley's largest land owners, and represented the county in the Virginia Assembly from 1811 to 1818, as well as being a magistrate and militia commander. Felix Gilbert Hansford (1795-1867) was equally as prominent as his father, operating a large farm with the help of around thirty Black slaves. He constructed his two story home on the James and Kanawha River Turnpike in the same year that the turnpike was completed through the Valley, and he was interested in transportation all his life. He served as president of the Giles, Fayette, and Kanawha Turnpike Company, beginning with its incorporation in 1843. The prominence of Felix Hansford is evidenced by some of the individuals who are known to have been visitors in his home, including Albert Gallatin, Chief Justice John Marshall, and Collis P. Huntington. The community of Hansford is named for him and his family.

Members of the Hansford family continued to reside in the house until the death, in 1982, of Eleanor Bailee Brannen, great granddaughter of Felix G. Hansford. Her will left the property to the Good Shepherd Church, of which she was a life-long member.

The Felix G. Hansford House is significant for its age, architectural style, and for the leading role that its inhabitants have played in the history of this region. It is a vital link to the heritage of the Kanawha Valley.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Earle, Rosalie, "Since 1824," Charleston Gazette-Mail, Charleston WV, January 14, 1979.

Laidley, W. S., History of Charleston and Kanawha County, West Virginia, and Representative Citizens, Richmond Arnold Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill., 1911.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name Cedar Grove, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

117	4654810	42284810
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at the southeastern corner of 14th St. and Centre St., thence in a line 150 feet to the right-of-way of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad line; thence in a line 200 feet due west along said right-of-way; thence in a line 150 feet due north to Centre Street; thence 200 feet east along the southern side of Centre Street to

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian, and Michael J. Pauley, Historian

organization Historic Preservation Unit

WV Dept. of Culture and History date November 17, 1983

Cultural Center

street & number Capitol Complex telephone (304) 348-0240

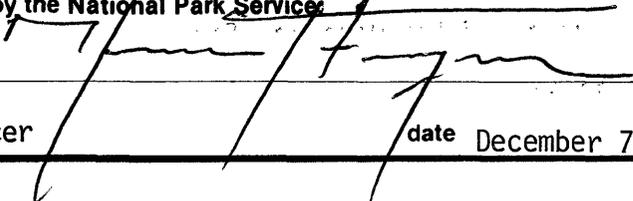
city or town Charleston state West Virginia

## 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 

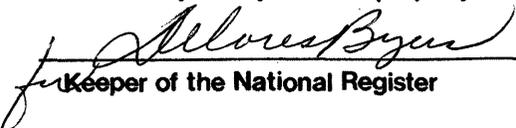
title State Historic Preservation Officer date December 7, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 1/12/84

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Marshall, Paul D. & Associates Inc., Pratt Area Multiple Resource District Survey,  
June 9, 1983, Historic Preservation Unit, WV Department of Culture and History.

Pratt's Bicentennial Book, Norton, Opal, and Nugent, Patty, eds., Old Town Hall  
Association, Pratt, WV, April, 1976.

West Virginia Historical Magazine, W. S. Laidley, ed., Tribune Company Printers,  
Charleston, WV, Vol. 5, No. 1, January, 1905.

Woods, Ruth Dayton, Pioneers and Their Homes on Upper Kanawha, West Virginia  
Publishing Co., Charleston, WV, 1947.

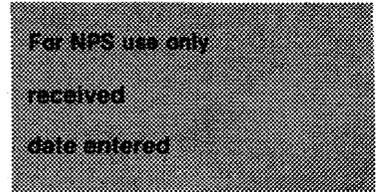
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Hansford, Felix G. House, Kanawha County, West Virginia  
Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal boundary description and justification:

the point of beginning, encompassing approximately one acre.