

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Greenbrier
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 9 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
North, John A., House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Frazier's (Star Tavern)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
100 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lewisburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

COUNTY:  
Greenbrier

CODE:  
025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Museum - 7-8-76 <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of West Virginia

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1800 Washington Street, East

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charleston

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

*Greenbrier County Commission  
Greenbrier County Courthouse  
Lewisburg, W. Va.*

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Greenbrier County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court and Randolph Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lewisburg

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  
 State  
 County  
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

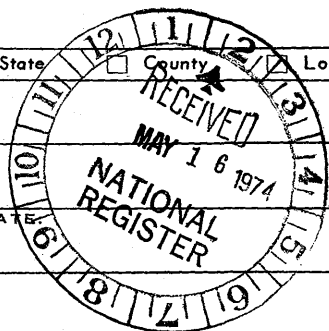
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lewisburg

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: West Virginia

COUNTY: Greenbrier

ENTRY NUMBER: 7

DATE: OCT 9 1974

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**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built by John A. North, clerk of the Greenbrier District Court of Chancery of Virginia, about 1820, this pleasant red-brick building, surrounded by trees, stands nearly faithful to the original design. As one approaches the house, the double portico which reaches on heavy columns to support the high pediment invites him to an attractive, hand-carved entrance doorway with sidelights and fanlight. The second floor has a smaller carved door which opens through a similarly designed columned entrance to a balustraded porch.

Large, shuttered windows are in abundance around the structure which has a chimney projecting from each end of its hipped roof. On the north, a two-story addition containing a sun-parlor and porte-cochere was completed sometime before 1905.

Not long after the house was built, perhaps about 1824, some very elaborate hand-carved woodwork was added in the central hallway of the first floor and the room to the right of the entrance. Around the deep-set windows and doors, and as a part of the mantel, are heavy reeded column pediments, above which are dentil moulding and beading. There is a low paneled wainscot the height of the window sills, and above the windows is an extended carved cornice.

The main part of the house consists of nine rooms, five on the lower floor and four on the upper. The plan is a customary one of high-ceilinged, square rooms opening into a central hall. All of the interior woodwork, now painted ivory, is said to be solid walnut, including the wide flooring.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **c. 1820**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John A. North house, built in 1820 as the home of the clerk of the Greenbrier District Court of Chancery of Virginia, is an example of an architectural style common to the developing interior valleys of western Virginia as the internal improvements of canals and roads opened better passage to the Ohio River from the east. About ten years after construction, the building began use as a tavern along the main route from Richmond and catered to the jurists of the District Court of Chancery and the western sessions of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia which began at Lewisburg on August 1, 1831.

The house is a two-story, red-brick structure with a double portico and some elaborate carved wood features. The plan is a customary one for the time and area, for as the old frontier became more prosperous and settled, those who could afford it built well-constructed and substantial homes. High-ceilinged, square rooms open into a central hall. Fireplaces in each of the major rooms supplied warmth, and large and abundant shuttered windows invited light.

John North was the third generation of his family in America and had lived in the western valleys of Virginia all of his life. In 1818 he was appointed clerk in an expanding court system and settled at Lewisburg where the Greenbrier Chancery District was located, building his house on the western edge of town. As the area grew and western Virginia's status increased, the legislature provided for annual sessions of the state's Supreme Court of Appeals at Lewisburg. North was appointed to serve as its clerk and became also the first caretaker of the unit's library.

This prosperous public servant sold his house in 1830 to James M. Frazier, who converted the building to an ordinary and called it the Star Tavern. Frazier's business was good, for he catered particularly to the court sessions, and new roads were bringing increasing numbers of travelers to the area while visiting the White Sulphur, Salt Sulphur, Blue Sulphur and Sweet Springs resorts. This patronizing paid off in more ways than one for the proprietor, for he constructed a new two-story building into which the law library was moved in 1854. The structure serves even today in a similar capacity as the Greenbrier Library and Museum.

After the Civil War, which perhaps saw the use of the tavern as a temporary hospital, the building reverted to a more private existence. Frazier's estate was settled in 1871, and the property passed to a Colonel Joseph McPherson and his daughter, wife of a Major John W. Harris. With the sale of the building in 1905 to the Lewisburg Seminary and Conservatory of Music, use as part of an educational establishment was begun, ending only in 1972.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dayton, Ruth Woods. Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes. Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1942. (pp. 84-88)

\_\_\_\_\_. Lewisburg Landmarks. Charleston, W.Va.: Education Foundation Inc., 1957. (p. 30).

Hagerman, Kathryn H., comp. "A History of the Greenbrier County Library and Museum." Pamphlet. Lewisburg, W.Va. (?), 1973 (?).

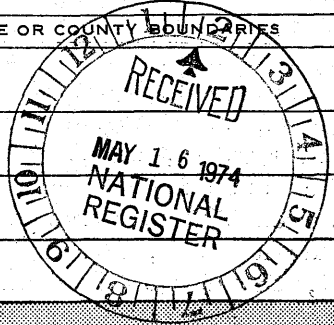
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0	0		37° 48' 11"	80° 26' 55"	
NE	0	0				
SE	0	0				
SW	0	0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3/4 Acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NTM  
17/548540  
4183900  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
C.E. Turley, Field Agent & James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission DATE: April 11, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Leonard M. Davis</u> Leonard M. Davis</p> <p>Title: <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>May 9, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>A. B. Winters</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>10/9/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Charles A. Bennett</u> Acting Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>10-8-74</u></p>
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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE West Virginia	
COUNTY Greenbrier	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 9 1974

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

A landmark in Lewisburg, W.Va., the old North house or Star Tavern played a common role in early national development. Representative of a style of building much in evidence at the time, its use as an ordinary on the growing east-west network from Richmond and tidewater, Virginia, to the Kanawha and Ohio valleys played its part in westward movement. Such movement was ever evident in the reason for construction of the house for it was built by a man who moved to Lewisburg to take up duties in an expanding court system and soon became clerk to a western session of established Virginia's highest court.

