

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

MAR 15 1991

NATIONAL REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Young - Noyes House

other name/site number: University of Charleston President's House

2. Location

street & number: 2122 Kanawha Avenue

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Charleston

vicinity: N/A

state: WV county: Kanawha code: 039 zip code: 25304

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of relate property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification  
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Wm De \_\_\_\_\_ 3/5/91  
Signature of Certifying Official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
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  
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I, hereby certify that this property is: Entered in the National Register

- entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_ Shelene Byers 4/25/91  
\_\_\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

fu \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current : Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
7. Description  
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Architectural Classification:  
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: Colonial Revival

Materials: foundation Brick roof Asphalt Shingle  
walls Brick other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1922 - 1940

Significant Dates : 1922 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Ludwig Theodore Bengston, architect  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 -- Specify Repository: University of Charleston, West Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 1.5 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>17</u>	<u>445980</u>	<u>4242850</u>	B	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
C	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	D	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:      See continuation sheet.

Beginning at the northeast corner of Kanawha Avenue, S.E. and 22nd St., S.E., and running in a straight line approximately 250 ft. north to the edge of the Kanawha River, thence westward in a line along the water's edge approximately 300 ft., thence in a line approximately 200 ft. to the north edge of Kanawha Ave., thence eastward in a line approximately 300 ft. along the north edge of Kanawha Ave., to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:      See continuation sheet.

The nominated property constitutes the principal tract historically associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

Organization: WV SHPO Date: January 15, 1991

Street & Number: The Cultural Center Phone: 304-348-0240

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 22305

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Standing since 1922 at South Ruffner, a suburban Charleston enclave on the south side of the Great Kanawha River opposite the West Virginia Capitol, the Young - Noyes House (University of Charleston's President's House) is centered within a tree-shaded green space at the west end of the University of Charleston (formerly Morris Harvey College) campus. The traditional design of the house and its setting have endowed the property with a special status among residences in the eastern section of Charleston.

The white - painted 15-room brick house is a balanced composition featuring a central 2-story gabled block and a shallow 2-story gabled ell. An air of formality is the result of the river-facing flat-roofed tetrastyle portico; the 2-story smooth shaft columns are of the Doric order. The shallow cornices and restrained classical ornament, and the even placement of gabled dormers along the roof planes, are architectural characteristics of the Neo Colonial Revival style.

Highlighting the formal design elements of the front elevation is the central doorway flanked by sidelights and crowned with a heavy entablature. A wrought iron balcony projects above the entrance beneath a 3-part window. The cornices of both the portico and house proper are detailed with an empty frieze, dentil row, and modillion blocks. The raking cornices of the gable ends are plain. Within the west gable end is a semicircular window; quartercircular windows pierce the east gable. Brickwork at the front elevation is skillfully laid in a common bond with a stretcher/header arrangement every seventh course.

Interior spaces flow freely between rooms. Central to this plan is the hallway at the south end of which rises an openstring stair with a long and short flight. Doorways are finished with architrave trim, rooms with deep crown cornices, and fireplaces with single shelf Adam-style wood mantels.

Like all houses through time, the Young - Noyes House has witnessed some changes and alterations. A garage, once occupying the space beneath the rear ell, was determined to take up valuable space. It was eliminated and a detached frame, noncontributing garage, dating to the 1950s, was constructed. The sunroom at the east end of the house was enclosed. Large first floor windows facing the river were also introduced during later occupancies to provide an unobstructed "picture window" view.

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The Young - Noyes House, purchased in 1951 to serve as the Morris Harvey College President's home, is significant under Criterion C of the National Register as a locally significant example of Neo Colonial Revival architecture. The house is also significant as a work of the Charleston architect L. T. (Ludwig Theodore) Bengston.

At the time of construction in 1922, the Young-Noyes House was the only substantial brick residence in the South Ruffner hamlet, a scattering of small frame houses and buildings above the south bank of the Kanawha River. A photo from the famous Bollinger Capitol series, dated March 1931, shows the West Virginia Capitol under construction and the Young-Noyes House in the background occupying a largely undeveloped tract. In later years residential development, in part associated with the growth of the nearby Morris Harvey College campus (later University of Charleston) during the 1950s, surrounded the house. The house has always stood out in its setting.

The original owners, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Atkinson Young, commissioned the house in the Colonial Revival style, reflecting national tastes of the early 20th century, and evidencing a renewal of interest in architecture of early America. The architect chosen was L. T. Bengston, of Charleston. Bengston was to gain prominence among professional architects of southern West Virginia for his design of many fine residences and public buildings during the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. These include some of the finest homes in Charleston's South Hills, St. George Orthodox Church and Fruth School of Charleston, and the Raleigh County Courthouse, Beckley. Bengston's repertoire was varied, ranging from the traditional revival styles, to superb Art Deco and Moderne designs. Bengston is remembered as a perfectionist who demanded quality construction on his work sites.

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HOUSE HISTORY  
By Dr. Janet Welch

THE PRESIDENT'S HOME, also known to older people in the community as THE BRADFORD NOYES HOUSE, is located on the present-day campus of The University of Charleston.

The house was built in 1922 and a photo, which appeared in the National Geographic magazine later in the decade when the West Virginia State Capitol was built, shows the three-story, red brick house standing all alone on the opposite side of the river from the partially-built capitol building. The C&O Railroad, which had a spur line in the area, owned most of the vacant land to the east of the house. The area southwest of the home was to fill up very quickly with houses that were moved from the site of the State Capitol to the opposite side of the river. Older citizens remember the excitement generated by the spectacle of large houses being transported across the river by barge and summarily deposited on lots near what is now Blackwell Field.

The red brick home, which stood in such lonely splendor for a time, was the dream home of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Atkinson Young. Mr. Young came to West Virginia from Staunton, Virginia, and with him came a vision of the many stately, Georgian architectural-style homes that were dominant in Virginia. Mrs. Young had been a school teacher in Juneau, Alaska, during the year before she returned to Hinton, West Virginia, to marry her husband and she, too, had given much thought to the type of dream home they would eventually have. Mr. Young was originally a freight agent for the C&O Railroad but left the railroad and entered the real estate business in Charleston. His business was extremely successful in the rapidly growing area and the young couple were indeed able to build the home they had envisioned, a house worthy of many of those in Mr. Young's native Virginia, with its tall, white columns overlooking an expanse of lawn leading down to the Kanawha River.

Mr. and Mrs. Young's daughter, Elizabeth (Mrs. Paul Revercomb), presently resides in South Ruffner a few doors down from the house where she spent many pleasant girlhood days. Her girlhood chums were Mary Price Ratrie and Ruth Edmunds Shepherd. Mrs. Ratrie, vice chair of The University of Charleston's Board of Trustees, also recalls the youthful activities which made the house a delightful place to visit. Mrs. Young often entertained as many as 15 to 20 youngsters in the house and on the spacious lawn. The river was much less deep then and young people would swim and picnic on sand bars in front of the house. Swimming across the river and back was not an unusual feat at the time. Dances were held on the first floor of the house and Elizabeth Revercomb remembers these as quite boisterous affairs with much lively dancing, so much so that at one late 20s dance, the chandelier in the dining room came crashing to the floor.

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The pleasant days were not to last. At the end of the 20s came the Crash and then the Depression. Real estate was no longer selling. Mr. Young had built the homes across the street from his own house and had sold them to eager buyers who now were not able to pay for the properties. Much to Mrs. Young's deep distress, the Youngs were finally forced to give up their dream home and move around the corner to a smaller property which they owned, and which had been one of the houses moved across the river. The Youngs rented their larger house and for a time, Judge James B. Riley of the West Virginia Supreme Court and his family lived in the house.

The house was eventually sold to Mr. Young's sister, Mrs. Bradford Noyes, who was forced to move from her Kanawha Street house across the river when her property was taken to make way for the new Kanawha Boulevard. Mrs. Noyes and her husband lived in the house until the late 1940s. Their heirs, son, Bradford Noyes, Jr., and daughter, Agnes (Mrs. John D. Preston), sold the house to Morris Harvey College in 1951.

The house has been occupied by consecutive presidents of Morris Harvey College/The University of Charleston since 1951, except for 1988-89 when the house remained largely empty for a short period.



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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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"Noyes Residence May Become M H President's Home." Charleston Daily Mail., June 14, 1951.

Welch, Dr. Janet. "The President's Home." {History of the President's Home brochure} Charleston, W.Va.: University of Charleston, October 1990.