

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Morgan - Bedinger - Dandridge House

and/or common "Rosebrake"

2. Location

street & number S.W. of Shepherdstown on WV 48 N/A not for publication

city, town Shepherdstown vicinity vicinity of ~~Washington, D.C.~~

state West Virginia code 54 county Jefferson code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Jane W. Snyder

street & number Route 48

city, town Shepherdstown vicinity of _____ state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number Washington and George Streets

city, town Charles Town state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Building Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1937 federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D.C.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

"Rosebrake" stands at the end of a private lane off of West Virginia Route 48, southwest of Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, West Virginia.

"Rosebrake", known as "Poplar Grove" until 1877, was constructed in three distinct phases and has had further embellishment since the last phase of solid construction.

The original portion of the building was of white lath and plaster construction. This one-story settlement period structure was built c.1745 by early settler Richard Morgan, and referred to by later occupants as "the Back Building".

The original structure was incorporated into the second phase of construction, which took place in 1803. The "Back Building" became part of the kitchen of the new "Great House" (as referred to by Daniel Morgan, its builder). A two-story brick structure, this "Great House" contained four main rooms, as well as an attic and a cellar. The house was of brick construction and was painted a cream color. It was during Daniel Morgan's occupancy (1803-1833) that the beautiful wisteria was laid out, as well as formal gardens and other landscaping features which still form an important part of the grounds.

In 1859 what is now the main section of the house was constructed by Caroline Bedinger. It is this main section that gives the house its present "feeling" and orientation, facing west. The 1803 building, which became an ell for the main structure, faced northeast. The main section is a two-story rectangular masonry block on a stone foundation and is surmounted by a hipped roof of raised seamed metal with "snowbirds". The structure has a pronounced classical symmetry, highlighted with a central two tiered portico of classic design. The front facade is of three bays, and is centered with a Greek Revival style doorway with rectangular transom and sidelights. Floor length coupled triple sash windows, a 20th-century modification, flank the central bay on the first level. Coupled double hung windows are at the second level. Balanced interior and chimneys add to the feeling of symmetry in the main block.

The 1859 main block originally had a full length one-story veranda supported by wooden uprights with decorative detail. The feature which gives the front facade its most pronounced element is the Classical Palladian portico, two tiered with Roman Doric columns with a fanlight triangular pediment. This feature, however, was added to the front facade in 1950, being removed from a house in Long Island, New York and shipped to West Virginia for "Rosebrake". A two tiered porch on the rear ell was also brought from New York and added to the house at this time.

"Rosebrake" is the focal point of a lovely, almost classical rural landscaped estate that has existed since the mid-18th century. The house itself has grown and adapted through the years to changing times and circumstances, and remains the locally significant landmark that has always been to the citizens of Jefferson County.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c.1745, 1803, 1859 **Builder/Architect** Not Known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Rosebrake", located near Shepherdstown, in Jefferson County, West Virginia, is significant as a place that has existed since the early development of the area¹, as home to several individuals who have made significant contributions to the social, political, and literary life of the area², and as a significant rural landmark in Jefferson County³.

Explanatory Notes

1. The building now known as "Rosebrake" was built in three separate and distinct sections at approximately fifty year intervals until it reached its present state at the beginning of the Civil War.

Richard Morgan, one of West Virginia's earliest white settlers, began what is now "Rosebrake" when he constructed a white lath and plaster structure soon after his arrival in what is now Jefferson County in 1744. The house passed at Richard Morgan's death in 1763 to his son Abel Morgan and int-urn to his son Daniel Morgan. Daniel Morgan is responsible for the second major construction at "Rosebrake". In 1803 he constructed a four-room brick addition to the original structure, as well as a cellar and an attic. The exterior brick was painted a cream color, and this house, called "Poplar Grove" by Daniel Morgan, was the scene of many elegant social functions including "an elegant dinner" given by Morgan in 1825 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the famous "Bee Line March", celebrated in Jefferson County Revolutionary War annals. Morgan also was responsible for planting the wisteria, which still graces the grounds.

In 1859 "Poplar Grove" was purchased by Caroline Lawrence Bedinger, widow of the former Minister to Denmark Henry Bedinger. Soon after occupying the house, Mrs. Bedinger constructed the Bedinger "wing" (as she referred to it) which is today the main section of the house. This "wing" contains six rooms and is of brick construction. The home has remained substantially unchanged since that time, with the exception of the changing of its name from "Poplar Grove" to "Rosebrake" in 1877 and an unusual alteration made in 1950 (see Description #7).

2. "Rosebrake" or, earlier, "Poplar Grove", has been home to a number of individuals significant to the social, political, and literary life of this part of West Virginia. Richard Morgan (died 1763), the first owner of the property, was one of Jefferson (then part of Berkeley) County's earliest white settlers and landowners. His grandson, Daniel Morgan (died 1833), who made the first major improvements to the structure, was very prominent in Jefferson County affairs. He was a member of Jefferson County's first County Court (1801), was

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography Directory of the American Congress, 1744-1971, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1971.
 Bushong, Millard K., Historic Jefferson County, Carr Publishing Company, Boyce, Va., 1972.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 8 (eight) acres

Quadrangle name Shepherdstown, W.Va.- Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 8	2 5 17 9 16 10	4 13 6 17 7 12 10	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point on West Virginia Route 48, forty feet southwest of the junction of that route with the private road, at the beginning of the Tree Line; thence following said Tree Line as

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 Michael J. Pauley, Historian
 organization Historic Preservation Unit
Department of Culture and History date March 28, 1983
 street & number Cultural Center 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 Rodney Hollins for SHPO
 title Commissioner, Department of Culture and History date March 29, 1983

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Linda McClelland date 5/15/83
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: Patrick Andrews date 5/10/83
 Chief of Registration

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Sheriff of Jefferson County 1819-1821, and represented Jefferson County in the Virginia House of Delegates for seven terms (1805, 1806, 1818, 1824, 1825-26, 1827-28, and 1829). After Daniel Morgan's death in 1833, "Poplar Grove" passed to distant relatives and declined somewhat from the social center it had been during Morgan's life.

On July 13, 1859 "Poplar Grove" was purchased by Caroline Lawrence Bedinger, widow of Henry Bedinger, a former two-term U.S. Representative and Minister to Denmark (1853-1858). Mrs. Bedinger built the large red brick "addition" which is now the main part of the house.

During Mrs. Caroline Bedinger's ownership, the house was occupied for four years (1873-1877) by Col. Alexander R. Boteler, another prominent Jefferson Countian. Boteler (1815-1892) had served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives, (1859-1861) during which time he was a candidate for the Speakership. During the Civil War Boteler served on the staff of General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson before being elected to the Confederate Congress where he served from February, 1862 to February 1864. While living at "Poplar Grove", Boteler was appointed by President Grant to the U.S. Centennial Commission (1876). Boteler subsequently served on the U.S. Tariff Commission and as Pardon Clerk for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Danske Bedinger Dandridge (1854-1914) was the next occupant of the house and she, too, has earned a place in Jefferson County annals. The daughter of Henry and Caroline Bedinger, she was born in Copenhagen while her father was Minister to Denmark. Danske is Danish for "Little Dane". In 1877 she married Adam Stephen Dandridge III and they moved to "Poplar Grove", which she immediately re-christened "Rosebrake", the name by which the property has been known ever since. Danske Bedinger Dandridge was prominent both as a poet and as a local historian. Her poetry was published in numerous national and regional publications, including Harpers and The Century and she published several volumes of verse, including Joy and Other Poems. Her historical works include American Prisoners of the Revolution; George Michael Bedinger, a Kentucky Pioneer; and Historic Shepherdstown, a valued local history. Her husband, Adam Stephen Dandridge III, represented Jefferson County in the West Virginia House of Delegates for three consecutive terms, 1891-1897.

Serena Dandridge and Nina Mitchell, neices of Danske Dandridge, were both locally prominent artists. They lived at "Rosebrake" for four decades after the death of Danske Dandridge, until the property was acquired by the Snyder family in 1970, its present occupants. The Palladian-style portico was added to "Rosebrake" in 1950 by artist Nina Mitchell.

3. "Rosebrake" is considered a significant historic landmark by the historical community of Jefferson County. It was officially designated a Jefferson

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County Landmark in 1977 by the Jefferson County Historic Landmark Commission and marked by a plaque to that effect. It has been the subject of several articles in the Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society, and is prominently mentioned in Historic Shepherdstown, among other publications.

While the addition of the portico in 1950 did alter the appearance of the building, the basic integrity of this landmark is intact. Not considered an architecturally significant structure, it none-the-less retains its 1859 walls, roof-line, chimneys, and interior layout.

"Rosebrake" has witnessed many events and persons pivotal to the history of one of West Virginia's most important counties, and is viewed with pride by its citizens.

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#9 Major Bibliographical References

- Dandridge, Danske Bedinger, Historic Shepherdstown, The Miche Co., Charlottesville, Va., 1910.
- Hardesty's West Virginia Counties, Volume 8, Comstock Publishing, Richwood, W.Va., (1883) 1973.
- Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society, Volume XVIII, "Rosebrake or Poplar Grove", Charles Town, W.Va., December, 1952.
- Musser, Clifford S., Two Hundred Year's History of Shepherdstown, The Independent Press, Shepherdstown, W.Va., 1931.
- "Oral Interview with Mrs. Jane W. Snyder", by Michael J. Pauley, November 12, 1982, Charleston, W.Va.
- Spirit of Jefferson Advocate, "Rosebrake a Landmark", Charles Town, W.Va., March 2, 1977.

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Item 10: Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

it parallels the southern side of said private road 1000 feet to the second contour line east of the main structure; thence following said contour line, first north and then west 1200 feet to where it contacts the northern side of the private drive; thence 100 feet northwest along the northern side of the private drive to West Virginia Route 48; thence 90 feet along the eastern side of West Virginia Route 48 to the point of origin at the Tree Line; encompassing an area of approximately eight acres that has a landscaped, self-contained ambiance that has, historically, made up the immediate grounds of "Rosebrake". The lines of trees and hedges form a natural boundary that, while providing for vistas from both the front and rear elevations, give the property a sense of privacy and place.