

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received MAY 29 1985

date entered SEP 16 1985

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

## 1. Name

historic Hays-Gerrard House

and/or common Gerrard House

## 2. Location

street & number Located on the east side of Congress Street, Just off the intersection with W.Va. State Route #51 — not for publication

city, town Gerrardstown — vicinity of congressional district N/A

state West Virginia code 54 county Berkeley code 003

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" 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	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Marshall J. Beverly

street & number Mill Creek Manor

city, town Gerrardstown — vicinity of state West Virginia

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berkeley County Courthouse

street & number 100 West King Street

city, town Martinsburg, state West Virginia

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

G-5 Berkeley County Historic  
title Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Berkeley County Courthouse

city, town Martinsburg state West Virginia

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

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

N/A

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

Located on Congress Street in Gerrardstown, the Hays-Gerrard House was built ca. 1743 reveted into a knoll overlooking Mill Creek and has many large trees in the yard. Constructed of 23" coursed rubble limestone walls, the three bay front facade is a full two stories and the rear two bay facade is one story with a huge interior double flue stone chimney centered on this wall. The house measures sixteen feet by twenty-seven feet and has a steeply pitched gable roof. Ground floor windows have 6/3 double hung sash and second floor windows have 6/6. The windows are of heavy pegged construction with a beaded backband trim. A three bay, cantilevered, hand hewn beam, shed roof porch extends across the front.

The ground floor contains a single large room with a straight jambed stone fireplace and rough plastered walls. The hand hewn ceiling joists are exposed and the ceiling boards painted white. The entrance door is of board-and-batten construction, as are all the doors, with a casement sash window on one side, very unusual. In the southwest corner of the room is a ladder that gives access to a board-and-batten trapdoor leading to the second floor (there is no stairs in the house but there is an exterior door to the second floor).

The second floor is divided into two rooms with a hand planed, beaded board wall. The stone fireplace, located in the larger room, has an arched opening with a recessed two-tiered board-and-batten door cupboard on one side. The exterior entrance door to the second floor is on the west wall next to the trapdoor. Both rooms are plastered and are decorated with a chair rail. The windows are set in pegged frames with plastered jambs. Under the windows are "hidden drawers" that when closed are concealed as part of the chair rail, a very interesting feature. The smaller rear room has a peg board, on the board wall, to hang clothing.

The early stone lined well is located in the front yard. It was originally dug after a tannery was established which tainted the water of Mill Creek. This would have been in the late 1700s.

Alterations are stone steps leading to the second floor entrance door.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1743

Builder/Architect John Hays, Sr.

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hays-Gerrard House is historically significant for its associations with John Hays, Sr., an early settler and church founder, and the Reverends John and David Gerrard, the first Baptist Minister west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the founder of Gerrardstown, respectively. It is architecturally significant for being an excellent example of early permanent settler housing in stone construction, the only such example in restored condition known in Berkeley County of this era and type.

The house is located on land that was part of a 1,315 acre King's Patent to John Mills, Sr., of Prince George County, Maryland, November 12, 1734. Mills sold two hundred acres to John Hays, Sr., March 11, 1743. Hays had come to Mill Creek in that year with a group of Baptists, approximately fourteen families, from Sater Church in Maryland. They founded the first Baptist Church in the area. John Hays, Sr., organized the founding of the church, was a deacon, and was the clerk who recorded the constitution and acts of the church. This first Mill Creek Baptist Church was located just behind Hays' small stone house. A privately funded historic marker is on the site in the old graveyard.

Reverend John Gerrard purchased John Hay's house and land in 1770. Reverend Gerrard first came to Berkeley County ca. 1754 and he, with Reverend David Thomas, both Baptist Ministers, travelled and preached in all the upper counties of Northern Virginia. The West Virginia Department of Culture and History erected a state plaque (road marker) at the Gerrard House in 1978 which recognized Reverend John Gerrard as the first Baptist Minister west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Gerrard sold the house with ninety acres to his son Reverend David Gerrard May 18, 1779. In 1784, David Gerrard greatly enlarged the village of Middletown by laying off an additional one hundred lots, "each lot joining a street sixty feet wide now laid through the plantation where the said David Gerrard now lives." The name of the town was soon changed to Gerrardstown.

The Hays-Gerrard House was purchased in 1976 by Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Beverly as part of Mill Creek Manor. It was in poor condition. Mr. Beverly, realizing and appreciating the historic and architectural importance of the little stone building has restored and furnished it as a free museum that is always open by appointment to the public and on various public days. It was dedicated September 11, 1977.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Land Grant Records, Richmond, Va.  
Virginia Baptist Historical Society Records, Richmond, Va.  
Frederick County Deed Books 6, p. 54; DB 13, p. 178.  
Berkeley County Deed Books 5, p. 268; DB 30, p. 131; Will Book 1, p. 460.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Inwood

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	7	7	5	0	0	8	0	4	3	6	1	5	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning in the run below the bridge, thence northeast along Congress Street 180', thence nearly through the middle of lot #51 southeast 206', thence southwest 190', thence up the run northwest 210' to the beginning (See map).

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frances D. Ruth, Administrator

organization Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission date September 30, 1984

street & number Route 2, Box 320 telephone 754-7097 (304)

city or town Martinsburg, 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Cornie Money Ginsberg, Deputy SHPO*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 2, 1985

For NCRS use only

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

*Patrick W. Andrews* date 9/16/85  
Keeper of the National Register

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

Chief of Registration

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

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5/29/85

date entered

Continuation sheet Hays-Gerrard House

Item number 8

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The restored Hays-Gerrard House is architecturally significant as a rare example of early permanent settler housing in stone construction. Only two others of this era and type are known at the present time in Berkeley County. One is located on the nearby "Prospect Hill" estate and has been heavily remodelled as a tenant house. The other was the home of "Hunter" John Boyd and is located on North Mountain above Gerrardstown. Boyd was a well known local Indian fighter and scout during the Franch and Indian War period of the 1760s. His small, one story stone house with log addition is in ruinous condition. The Hays-Gerrard House, through Mr. Beverly's generosity and concern for history, has been accurately restored and is available to all for study and appreciation.

The Village of Middletown was raided several times by Indians who came through Mills' Gap, and various unlucky families were massacred. The Hays House, reveted into the hillside and facing Mill Creek, was built in a defensible situation with an ample water supply. The craftsmanship is evident in the coursed rubble construction, hand hewn beams, hand planed board walls and board-and-batten doors, and arched firebox openings. The "hidden drawers" located under the windows and concealed by part of the chair rail is a fascinating feature as is the trapdoor access to the second floor. This was a well designed little house, obviously built with safety and security in mind, and is a significant example of early settler architecture.

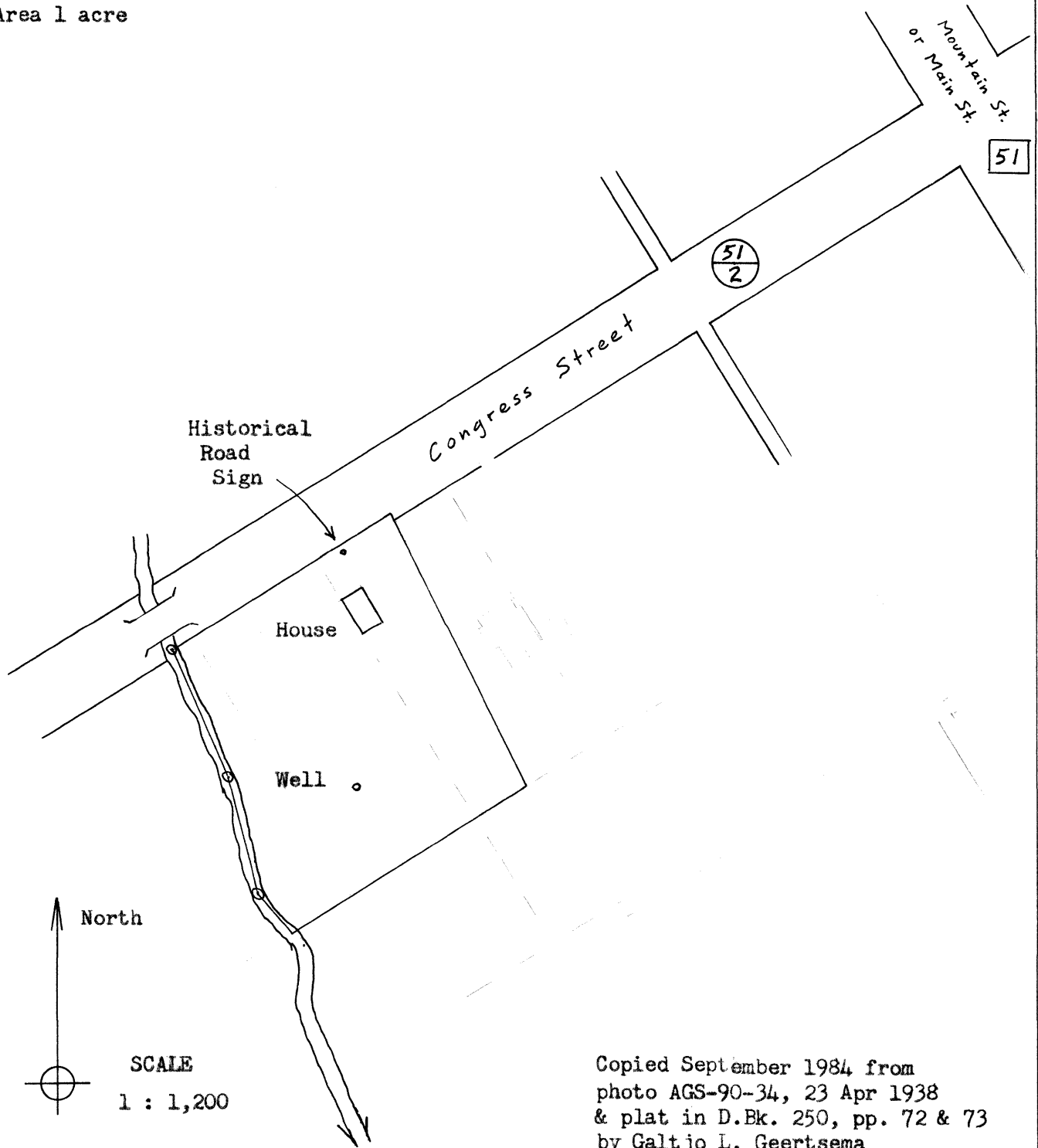
HAYS - GERRARD HOUSE

G-5

Inwood Quadrangle

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 1 acre



Copied September 1984, from  
photo AGS-90-34, 23 Apr 1938  
& plat in D.Bk. 250, pp. 72 & 73  
by Galtjo L. Geertsema