

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| STATE: West Virginia | |
| COUNTY: Jefferson | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | JUN 2 1973 |

1. NAME

COMMON: "Happy Retreat" Washington Charles House

AND/OR HISTORIC: "Mordington"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1/2 mile south of the intersection of U.S. Rt. 340 and W. Va. St. Rt. 9, right of George Street at the end of Blakeley Place.

CITY OR TOWN: Charles Town (2nd. Congressional District)

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54 COUNTY: Jefferson CODE: 037

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 type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: William G. and Mary B. Gavin

STREET AND NUMBER: Happy Retreat (Mordington Avenue)

CITY OR TOWN: Charles Town STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charles Town STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937 Federal State County Local

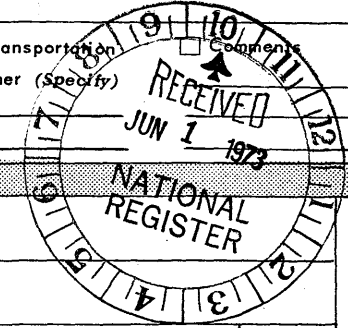
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Prints and Photographs

STREET AND NUMBER: Library of Congress

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

*5 of Charles Town
off W. Va*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: West Virginia

COUNTY: Jefferson

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7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

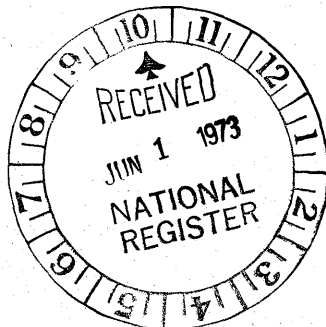
This white painted structure is a classical-revival brick building with a 2½-story central block and a pair of 2-story flanking wings.

The northern facing front of the main building has a Doric pediment and an elliptical fanlight below its gabled end. Directly below the fanlight on the second floor is a window with 6/6 lights and side lights of 2/2. The centrally placed frontis piece consists of side lights and over lights with evidence of an elliptical relieving arch above the frame. Surrounding the frontis piece is a four-columned Doric portico. There is a first and second story window to the left and right of the portico. Each has 6/6 lights splayed brick lintels, stone sills, and black painted shutters.

The wings' three-part second story windows are smaller but similar to the central second story window of the main house, but instead of side lights there are side wooden panels into which narrow wooden louvered shutters have been inserted. The first floor window frames in the wings show pin construction in the 18th Century manner while window construction in the main building shows later revival detail.

The primary unit is separated from the flanking wings by a five-foot brick connecting wall, and is projected about eight feet from them. Both wings have stepped north-south gables and a brick cornice to the extreme east and west.

There is a low stone foundation with no watertable.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1780 (wings built) 1837 (main portion built)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 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

Happy Retreat is architecturally significant because it is an example of 18th Century and 19th Century architecture combined; it is historically significant because it was built and occupied by Colonel Charles Washington, founder of Charles Town and brother of General George Washington.

Charles built Happy Retreat in 1780. It was a house of two wings connected by a covered runway. Colonel Washington died before his plans for the central portion were fulfilled and it was not until Judge Isaac R. Douglas purchased the property in 1837 that the center structure was added. Judge Douglas renamed the house Mordington after his home in Scotland. It was known as Mordington until 1945, when its original name was restored.

In George Washington's remaining diaries are mentioned two visits to Happy Retreat. He is said to have spent the night in the "pink room" in the upstairs west wing of the house. The famed Virginia Revolutionary warrior, General Daniel Morgan, met here with General Washington during one of the visits.

The west wing dining room was used by Charles Washington as a study. Here in 1786, he laid out plans for Charles Town, named for himself, to be built on 80 acres of his land. The town square, where the courthouse stands, was deeded by Colonel Washington as a gift to the town.

At the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, a ball was held at Happy Retreat in the celebration of the event. Charles Washington's son, Lt. George Augustine Washington, was a distinguished Revolutionary officer and was aide-de-camp to General Lafayette.

The original stone kitchen and adjoining smoke house are believed to pre-date the original wings of the house. An octagonal white school house, similar to the one in the garden at Mount Vernon, still survives in excellent condition. The stone slave quarters and barn have long since disappeared.

Charles Washington served in the Virginia militia during the Revolution and was also the builder of the famed Rising Sun Tavern in Fredericksburg which was a favorite gathering place for Virginia patriots prior to the war.

Charles Washington died in 1799 and is buried on the estate. In the 1930's

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annual Report of the 1970 West Virginia Antiquities Commission.
 Bushong, Millard K. Historic Jefferson County. Boyce: Carr Publishing Company, Inc., 1972
 "Happy Retreat" Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society, December, 1947.

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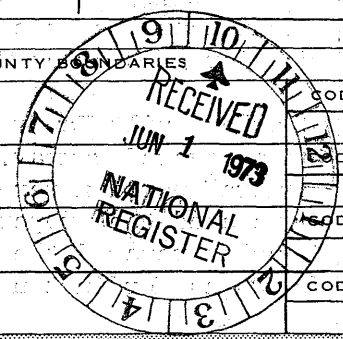
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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 | | | | |
| | Degrees | Minutes | | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | |
| NW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 39° 16' 55" | 77° 51' 34" |
| NE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | |
| SE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | |
| SW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 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 |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ted McGee, Field Research Agent for the

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission DATE: March 9, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: Maurice G. Brooks
 Maurice G. Brooks

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: May 30, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert W. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/2/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6-19-73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

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| STATE | West Virginia | |
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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

the Bee Line Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a memorial to Colonel Washington at the supposed site of his grave.

At the present time, Happy Retreat is occupied by Mary and William Gavin and their eight children.

