



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

NATIONAL REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Mattie V. Lee Home
other name/site number: _____

2. Location

street & number: 810 Donnally Street not for publication: N/A
city/town: Charleston vicinity: N/A
state: WV code: _____ county: Kanawha code: 039 zip code: 25301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally statewide _____ locally. (____ See continuation sheet.)

[Signature] February 10, 1992
SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL DATE

STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY AND BUREAU DATE

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL DATE

STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY AND BUREAU DATE

Mattie V. Lee Home
Name of Property

Kanawha, WV
County and State

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	<u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	<u>6/16/92</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	TOTAL

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER. N/A

Mattie V. Lee Home
Name of Property

Kanawha, WV
County and State

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6. Function or Use

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HISTORIC FUNCTIONS

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic

Multiple Dwelling

CURRENT FUNCTIONS

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic

Social/Education

Multiple Dwelling

Education-related Housing

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7. Description

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ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century

Revival

Neo-Classical Revival

MATERIALS:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Brick

Walls Concrete Block

Roof Rolled

Other

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Mattie V. Lee Home
Name of Property

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CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- Property is:
- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
 - B removed from its original location.
 - C a birthplace or grave.
 - D a cemetery.
 - E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
 - F a commemorative property.
 - G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education
Ethnic Heritage: Black
Social History

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE
1920-1958

SIGNIFICANT DATES
1920

SIGNIFICANT PERSON
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION
N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER
Not Known

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Mattie V. Lee Home
Name of Property

Kanawha, WV
County and State

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of Repository: Mattie V. Lee Home, Charleston, WV

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than 1 acre

UTM References: (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>444880</u>	<u>4244820</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Mr. James D. Randall; Ms. Trina Newell; Rodney Collins, WV
SHPO

Organization: Mrs. Trina Newell is director of the Mattie V. Lee Home.
Mr. James Randall is a Charleston writer and historian.

Date: December 10, 1991

Street & Number: _____ Telephone: (304)348-0240

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 25301

Mattie V. Lee Home
Name of Property

Kanawha, WV
County and State

=====
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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PROPERTY OWNER
=====

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Mattie V. Lee Home, Inc.

Street & Number: 810 Donnally Street Telephone: (304) 340-3693

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 25301

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

The Mattie V. Lee Home stands in a densely packed commercial block close to the center of Charleston within a neighborhood long associated with the traditions of African Americans. Significant changes in the neighborhood have witnessed the loss of many residences and a decline in population, although the following National Register-listed properties survive: Sam Starks House, 413 Shrewsbury Street; Elizabeth Harden Gilmore House, 514 Broad Street; Garnet High School, Dickinson and Shrewsbury Street; and Simpson Memorial (Methodist Episcopal) United Methodist Church, 607 Shrewsbury Street. Among these neighborhood anchor buildings the Mattie V. Lee Home, at 810 Donnally Street, provides one of the strongest continuous links with the early social fabric of the community. Significantly, the building appears in the late 20th century almost exactly as it did in 1920 when it opened to provide a home for young black women seeking better employment and educational opportunities.

The building at 810 Donnally Street is a 2-story concrete block structure with a prominent raised basement and 2-tier front porch. The deep lot is occupied almost completely by the building which is skirted on the east and west by concrete walks. The walls, which exhibit a singular decorative pattern, are composed of cast concrete, rock-faced block laid in alternating courses with bands of smooth faced concrete blocks. The stone-like effect extends to the step-down parapet at the roofline. A smooth watertable and smooth stringcourses at the window head and sill levels provide a striated effect in the masonry. Eight double-hung windows line the side elevations at the first and second floors.

Occupying the three center bays of the front elevation is a 2-tier porch. Square masonry columns with parged surfaces carry the structure. Solid paneled rails encircle the first level and an open balustrade of vertical members encircles the second tier of the porch. A wide plain cornice caps the structure. Crowning the building's facade above the front porch roof is a deep boxed cornice with partial returns. Access to the porch is provided by concrete steps flanked by solid concrete wingwalls.

Construction in 1988 at the rear of the Mattie V. Lee Home extended the length of the building by about ten feet. The unobtrusive design of the addition is the result of complementary concrete split-face veneer.

Interior spaces are divided by center halls running the length of the first and second floors. Rooms and suites open onto these hall corridors. Originally designed with single sleeping rooms, the building after recent renovation provides for nine residential units with full baths and kitchen appliances. The rear addition encloses a stairwell. Otherwise, little that is part of the form or function of the Mattie V. Lee Home has changed since the building opened its doors to the service of women in 1920.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1

The Mattie V. Lee Home is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its association with a pattern of events significant in the ethnic heritage of black Americans of West Virginia, and Charleston in particular; for its primary role as the focal point of a unique early 20th century corporation promoting the spiritual, intellectual, social, physical and vocational development of Young African American Women; and for the home's long-standing social impact on the community, from the incorporation of the home in 1920, to its emergence as a full community partner about 1958, during the period of integration. The Mattie V. Lee Home thus meets Criteria Consideration G for the exceptionally important role it has played within the last 50 years.

MATTIE V. LEE HOME
by James D. Randall

The Mattie V. Lee Home is a familiar name to countless numbers of Blacks across the United States. Many young women remember "The Home" as the place where they lived (when no other place was available) while working or attending school in Charleston. Many Charlestonians remember it as the place where they attended many social affairs; or the place where they went to civic and community meetings; or the place where they enrolled in certain classes; or attended Day Camp sponsored by "The Home."

Stately standing at 810 Donnally Street since 1920, the building still offers a helping hand and facilities for varied activities. From the files at the Home there are two histories of it recorded. Part of this column is gleaned from both of them, one of which is written by Mrs. Josephine Morris Rayford.

It was in the fall of 1915, over 71 years ago, that the Reverend Herman Francis Gow, then pastor of the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church of Charleston, who finding a large number of Negro girls coming to Charleston in search of employment, called a meeting of interested persons to discuss the matter of a safe living place for these persons. After several such meetings, nothing tangible seemed to be taking place and the Reverend Mr. Gow became discouraged.

However Miss Rebecca Bullard, a teacher interested in youth welfare, who knew Miss Caroline Gentry, went to her for help. She explained the differences which had arisen in the meeting. Miss Gentry, who at that time managed an exchange where she had many calls for girls for domestic service, decided to work for the Home. She appealed to friends who subscribed funds for the first month's rent. These persons were Mrs. W.C. Kelly, Mrs. W.V. Chley, Mrs. V.B. Smith, Mrs. Malcolm Jackson, and Miss Norvell Jackson.

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Section number 8 Page 2

The Mattie V. Lee Home was established in the Fall of 1915 by Miss Carolyn Jenkins, Mrs. W. Gaston Caperton, Mrs. Malcolm Jackson, Mrs. Harrison B. Smith, Mrs. Frank Woodman, Miss Katie Bell Abney, Mrs. Edward W. Knight, the Reverend Herman Francis Gow, Miss Rebecca Bullard, and other influential citizens.

The formal opening was held the first week in October, 1915. The Home had been opened in September in the old building owned by Steele Hawkins at 1007 Quarrier Street. At the time of the opening, an appeal was made for donations of furniture. Among the larger gifts received in response to this appeal were: reception room furniture from the Charleston Woman's Improvement League; dining room from the Loyal Union; bedroom by attorney T. G. Nutter and Mr. W. O. Lee (the Home was named for the wife of the latter); piano from Mr. Lee; another bedroom by a card club headed by Mrs. W. O. Terry; papering for the Home by I. M. Carper, Chris Campbell, John W. Essex, and Bascon Smith; office furniture from Mrs. Sallie Brooks in memory of her brother, Samuel Starks. Contributions of money and furniture were sent to the Reverend Herman Francis Gow (who later became a Bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church), who was then president of the Executive Board and/or to Miss Carolyn Gentry, at the Industrial Exchange.

The first matron was a Mrs. Dorsey, who after a few months resigned. An assistant, Mrs. Mattie Moss, continued to head the institution until Miss Bullard consented to assume the management, and she held the position for a number of years.

Dr. Mattie V. Lee, West Virginia's first Black woman physician (MD, Howard U. '11') labored untiringly among the people of Charleston for social betterment -- not once hesitating to discuss class or creed -- and when it became apparent that her earthly career was drawing to a close, she fervently expressed the regret that she had not been able to do more in a tangible way for the widows and girls in her city. However, she still hoped that some way might be opened whereby their need might be adequately supplied. In the naming of the Institution -- destined to carry out many of the ideas she had in mind -- Lee's name was selected to perpetuate her legacy of good deeds.

The Home occupied the old building for five years, but it would accommodate but 12 girls at a time. Part of the work accomplished there was finding employment for 620 girls, lodging and caring for 2,080 girls, teaching of Bible classes by Mrs. J. B. Houston, and use of the building as a community center where girls and their friends could come each Thursday evening for classes and social meetings.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 3

"The Home" served as an industrial social center and was equipped to offer ample and varied facilities for rest and recreation. It was supplied with carefully selected books and magazines, daily papers, and the leading journals of the race. It was also adaptable as a most desirable meeting place for various organizations among women -- both religious and social.

The Institution was maintained by persons who agreed to meet the requirements of membership, by an Executive Board and Honorary Advisory Board, and finances were secured by annual dues and by public subscriptions.

With this service record behind it, friends of the Home felt they were justified in making an appeal for funds to enlarge its activities. Consequently a campaign was launched for \$35,000 to purchase a building in which to take care of these activities.

The committee named to head the drive was composed of Mrs. Frank Woodman, attorney T.G. Nutter, the Reverend Pat Withrow, and Miss Rebecca Bullard.

A large response resulted from this campaign, and through Mr. A.H. Brown, realtor, the present property at 810 Donnally Street, Charleston, was secured. Through the efforts of Mr. C.H. James large sums of money from businessmen were contributed.

The Charter of Incorporation was issued on January 16, 1920 by the Secretary of State, Houston G. Young, to the Mattie V. Lee Industrial Home of Charleston; the purpose of which was to promote the spiritual, intellectual, social, physical, and industrial development for black girls. Incorporators were C.H. James, T.G. Nutter, Miss Rebecca Bullard, Miss Mary L. Williams, Mrs. Hattie Clark, the Reverend Mordecai W. Johnson, Mrs. Mary A. Clark, C.H. Woody, Mrs. Maria Alexander, Charles A. Page, Mrs. M.J. Hazelwood, W.W. Sanders, Mrs. Nancy C. Carper, Mrs. Leota Claire, the Reverend C.G. Cummings, R.H. Thomas, Williams O. Lee, Jim Lewis, the Reverend I.N. Patterson of the A.M.E. Church, and Mrs. Lucinda Y. Sanders -- all of Charleston, West Virginia.

Before 1958 total financial support came from annual membership, pledges and donations. In the year 1958 the Home began receiving funds from United Way. These funds at the present represent 45% of the annual budget for approximately \$75,000; rental fees (15% residential and 10% group rentals); and 28% through financial donations, which are lagging.

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In these days of inflation it is increasingly difficult to maintain the Home in a manner befitting the building's history and community contribution. As with all properties, yearly upkeep must be done and the Home has weathered over 71 years. Charleston salutes the past board of directors, trustees, and executive directors of these past years for keeping the doors open.

Some of the past executive directors -- aside from Mrs. Bullard -- were Mrs. Katherine Ferguson, Miss Mary Preston, Miss Phyliss Kimbrough, Mrs. Mary Lewis, Mrs. Emma Pinkard, Mrs. Lucy McNeill, Mrs. Kaye Thompson, and at present Miss Patricia Rosebourgh.

Among the past presidents of the Executive Board have been Mrs. Ellen Christian, Miss Elsie Davis, Mrs. Carolyn Franklin, Mr. Dayton Perry, Mrs. Elva Jones, Mr. George B. Rayford, Mrs. Corrine D. Joyner, attorney Nathan Hicks, the Reverend Braxton Broady, Mrs. Betty Tate, and the current president Andrea Johnson.

In 1988, a \$250,000 renovation project was undertaken to expand and upgrade the facility. The Home's outreach programs were also broadened. The recent rehabilitation was funded by the City of Charleston, by a foundation, and by the Charleston East Community Development Corporation.

The Mattie V. Lee Home, the only organizational facility of its type in the state, has served for the better part of the 20th century as West Virginia's first and only corporation dedicated to improving employment, educational, cultural, and housing opportunities for young black women. During the late 1950s, the Home expanded its mission to include young white women. In addition to providing low-cost housing for women, the Home traditionally welcomes a variety of community organizations who utilize the building's meeting rooms.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

Mattie V. Lee Home, 810 Donnally Street, Charleston, Kanawha County,
W.V.

Section 8, page 5
PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The period of significance is inclusive of the years 1920-1958. Beginning with the incorporation of the Mattie V. Lee Home in 1920 (see Sec. 8, p. 3), the organization extended its community service from the present building at 810 Donnally Street. During this period of segregation in West Virginia the home served a largely African American community. With the coming of desegregation, prompted in large part by the landmark Supreme Court decision of BROWN VERSUS BOARD OF EDUCATION in 1954, many Charleston businesses, social and entertainment facilities, and schools became accessible to blacks in the late 1950s. The integration movement continued in the early 1960s. In 1958 (see Sec. 8, p.4), the home expanded its mission to include white women. At that time the home began to receive assistance from the United Way (see Sec. 8, p. 3). Early, in parts of West Virginia, black women were denied many public social and training opportunities that were routinely available to white women. Incorporation of the Mattie. V. Lee Home in 1920 helped to remedy the problem, well into the 1950s, when social changes widened the home's community outreach.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Certificate of Incorporation. Jan. 16, 1920. Mattie V. Lee Home.
Charleston, W.Va.

Randall, James D. Black Past. Charleston, W.Va. 1989, pp. 250-252.

Winefordmer, Terri. "Historic Home." Charleston Daily Mail, Sec. 1C,
Charleston, W.Va., Jan. 25, 1989.

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Inclusive of Tax Parcel 61, measuring approximately 76' (front), 117' (side), and 68' (rear), East Charleston, City of Charleston, Map No. 11, 11/17/65. Kanawha County Office of the Assessor.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The Mattie V. Lee Home occupies the city lot historically associated with the building.