

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Kanawha
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 28 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Holly Grove Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Holly Grove Inn, Ruffner Mansion

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1710^{E.} Kanawha Boulevard, East

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Third

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54 COUNTY: Kanawha CODE: 039

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both <i>Public 7-8-76</i>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" 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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Neil and Dudley B. Robinson

STREET AND NUMBER:
1710 Kanawha Boulevard, East

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE:
West Virginia

CODE:
54

*State of W. Va.
State Hospital
Charleston, W. Va.*

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
416 Kanawha Boulevard, East

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE:
West Virginia

CODE:
54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

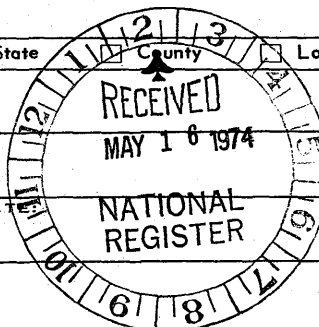
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Holly Grove Mansion is a large brick house with a front section made to accommodate three floors and rear section housing two. The stone foundation supports eighteen inch thick walls of heavy brick made in England, the walls being broken by symmetrically placed windows throughout. The main portion has a low hipped roof with three-window dormers projecting between high brick chimneys on either side and the back of the unit. The rear section has a very gently sloping roof, much lower than that to its fore.

One of the outstanding features of the building is the massive two-story, semi-circular portico at the front entrance. Supported by four white Ionic columns and capped by a flat roof, it shelters a wooden balcony above the main doorway. This doorway is surrounded by three-quarter sidelights and a full overlight and decorated cornice. A similar design is followed in the second-floor Palladian doorway which opens onto the balcony. The building is approached by low stone steps.

Wide hallways are found on all floors in the front section, but the second-floor area has been shortened by a partition placed to form a room behind the balcony entrance. Fireplaces serve the main section, and the house contains no less than thirteen rooms. Column-supported, one-story porches are on the west side of the main unit and the northeast corner of the rear section.

Conforming to a style popular at the time (c. 1815) in Virginia, Holly Grove was originally a square, two-storied structure with a brick dining room wing extending in the rear almost to the separately housed brick kitchen. The large windows were trimmed with green shutters, and a small portico covered the front doorway which opened into a wide central hall whose rear door led to the brick-floored dining room.

High-ceilinged, square rooms open upon each side of the hallway, those on the right being connected with wide folding doors, above which an elaborate cornice, similar in design and workmanship to the front doorway, extends to the ceiling. A fire in 1832 destroyed most of the interior woodwork, but the walls remained undamaged and the rooms were restored.

After sale of the property in 1902, the new owner made numerous alterations which give the house its distinctive appearance of today. In order to make it suitable for the use of two families, he worked out a clever partition involving no noticeable exterior changes or interior disfigurement. At this time the roof was raised and the former attic converted into a usable apartment. Other changes included the removal of the long dining room wing and the substitution of an indoor kitchen for the separate kitchen building. The small front portico was replaced by the present semi-circular entrance porch with its massive white columns. The red brick walls were painted gray, and the structure took a revived grace among the gardens, holly trees and boxwoods which adorned the property.

The State of West Virginia is currently considering acquiring the house for use in conjunction with state functions. Its location is very near the Executive Mansion and State Capitol, and this makes it ideal for expansion of the government complex.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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) c. 1815

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input 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 checked="" 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

Holly Grove Mansion was originally the home of Daniel Ruffner, one of a family which helped develop the early salt industry in the Kanawha Valley. Being as large as it was in an area recently wilderness, the house served as an ordinary as new roads opened through the area. To add to its renown, its owner was holder of a number of official appointments, including one as justice of the peace and another as high sheriff of the county.

Joseph Ruffner had purchased land in the present Charleston, West Virginia, area about the turn of the nineteenth century and moved his family there from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Joseph's sons, David and Joseph, put the salt industry on a paying basis by 1808, and Daniel, fifth son of Joseph, participated in the thriving business which supplied the needed commodity to much of the east and then to the west by way of the Ohio River. As the salines prospered, Daniel built the substantial Holly Grove for his family on the site of his parents' log homestead, attesting to industry and personal good fortune.

Holly Grove was originally a plantation with its barns, shops, granary and other outbuildings placed across an open expanse where the West Virginia Capitol and Executive Mansion now stand. As the area grew and the James River and Kanawha Turnpike opened to Richmond and the east, the Ruffner house became a popular stop. With numerous bedrooms and extensive acres furnishing ample food for man and beast, Daniel Ruffner could advertise in 1826 that:

The subscriber has opened a house of private entertainment at his commodious residence, situate one mile and a half from the town of Charleston on the road leading thence to Lewisburg. Every effort will be made to render the lodging of the traveller comfortable, and his diet palatable. His pastures are extensive and corn abundant. He will therefore be amply prepared to accomodate [sic] the cattle or hog merchant. For travellers on horseback, or in carriages, he will be able to furnish good stables well supplied with all kinds of provender for horses.

Family tradition holds that numerous persons of prominence were entertained there, including Daniel Boone, Henry Clay, John J. Audubon and Andrew Jackson.

As Daniel's position in the community became increasingly solidified and the area grew in population, the governor of Virginia agreed to appoint him as justice of the peace and later as high sheriff of the county. The Ruffner family was dominant in the Kanawha Valley for many years after 1800, and Henry Ruffner, a close relative of Daniel, became nationally known with the publication of the so-called Ruffner Pamphlet on the slavery issue in the 1840s.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ambler, Charles H. and Festus P. Summers. West Virginia: The Mountain State. 2nd. ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1958. (pp. 127-28)

Dayton, Ruth Woods. Pioneers and Their Homes on Upper Kanawha. Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Publishing Co., Inc., 1947. (pp. 103-09)

Writers' Program, Work Projects Administration. West Virginia: A Guide to the Mountain State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941. (p. 190).

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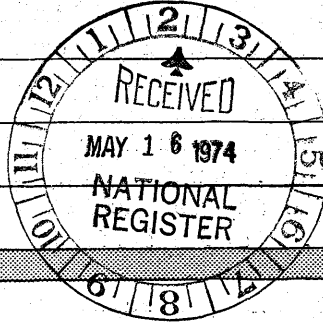
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		38° 20' 10.2"	81° 36' 55.3"	
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission DATE: May 13, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: Leonard M. Davis
Leonard M. Davis

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: May 13, 1974

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

AR. Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/28/74

ATTEST:

Charles D. H... acty
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 8-27-74

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE West Virginia	
COUNTY Kanawha	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 28 1974

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Holly Grove, the home of Daniel Ruffner and his descendants, was an important center of commerce and industry in the Kanawha Valley during the first half of the nineteenth century, and its owner was a prominent citizen who played a substantial part in the development of the area.

