

NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

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

1. Name of Property
historic name: <u>The Gold Houses</u> other name/site number:
2. Location
street & number: 503 and 505 N. Second St. not for publication: N/A city/town: Mason vicinity: N/A state: WV code: WV county: Mason code: 079 zip code: 25260
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _x 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 _x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide _x locally. (See continuation sheet.)
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/Title Date
State or Federal agency and hureau

Gold	Hou	ises
Name	Of	Property

Mason County, WV County/State

4. National Park Servi	ce Certification		
I, hereby certify that See continua See continua determined eligib National Registe See continua determined not el National Registe removed from the other (explain):	tional Register tion sheet. le for the r tion sheet. igible for the	Signature of	Keeper of Action
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property:	•	Category of Pr	coperty
(Check as many boxes a	s apply)	(Check only on	e box)
<pre>x private public-local public-State public-Federal</pre>	· .	<pre>X building(s) district site structure object</pre>	
Number of Resources wi (Do not include previous		rces in the co	ount.)
Contributing 4 0 0 4 4	Noncontribut 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	ing	buildings sites structures objects TOTAL
Name of related multip (Enter "N/A" if proper N/A Number of contributing Register 0	ty is not part of	a multiple pr	

	<u>Mason County, WV</u> County/State
Name of Floperty	councy/scace
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Domestic - single dwelling	Domestic - single dwelling
7. Description	
Architectural Classification: (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
Late Victorian - Queen Anne Foursque	are Foundation Stone Walls Wood Frame Roof Asphalt Shingle Slate Other
Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current commore continuation sheets.)	ondition of the property on one or
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteri (Mark "X" in one or more boxes for to for National Register listing.)	
A Property is associated with ever contribution to the broad patter	
<u>x</u> B Property is associated with the past.	lives of persons significant in our
or method of construction or re possesses high artistic values,	ve characteristics of a type, period, presents the work of a master, or or represents a significant and mponents lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is lik in prehistory or history.	ely to yield, information important

Name of Property	Mason County, WV County/State
Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that app	oly.)
Property is: A owned by a religious instituti	on or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original loca	tion.
C a birthplace or grave.	
D a cemetery.	
E a reconstructed building, obje	ect, or structure.
F a commemorative property.	
G less than 50 years of age or a 50 years.	chieved significance within the past
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions Architecture Commerce - Fruit	5)
Period of Significance 1908-1928	
Significant Dates	·
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked Gold, A. Fremont Gold, W. Alfred	above)
Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Architect/Builder N/A	

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Gold Houses	Mason County, WV
Name of Property	County/State
9. Major Bibliographical Refer	rences
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and on one or more continuation sl	other sources used in preparing this form neets.)
Previous documentation on file	(NPS):
requested. _ previously listed in the Nata _ previously determined eligiba _ designated a National Histora _ recorded by Historic American	le by the National Register ic Landmark n Buildings Survey # n Engineering Record # data:
Name of Repository:	
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property: Approxim	ately one acre
UTM References (Place additional	al UTM references on a continuation sheet.)
Pomeroy, OH USGS Quadrangle May	p
17 411325 4319810 Zone Easting Northing	

Gold Houses Name of Property	<u>Mason County,</u> County/State	<u>wv</u>
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of		tinuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries	were selected on a co	ntinuation sheet.)
11. Form Prepared By		
Name/Title: <u>Susan M. Pierc</u> for Resource Protection	e, Deputy State Histor	ic Preservation Officer
Organization: WV State Hist	oric Preservation Offi	<u>ce</u> Date: <u>May, 1997</u>
Street & Number: 1900 Kanawh	a Blvd., East Tele	phone: (304)558-0220x158

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 25305-0300

Name of Property	Mason County, WV County and State
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO of	or FPO.)
Name: <u>Kathi and Ben Polis</u>	
Street & Number: 503 N. Second Street	Celephone:
City or Town: Mason State: WV Zip:	25260
Name: Rocky and Sabra Pearson	
Street & Number: 505 N. Second Street	Telephone:
City or Town: Mason State: WV Zip:	25260

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.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Gold Ho	uses	Mason	County,	WV	
Name of	Property	County	/State		
Section	number _	7	Page	2	

The Gold Brothers' Houses are located on North Second Street, the main thoroughfare in Mason, West Virginia. Their front entrances face south. The rear lawns slope downward toward the CSX railroad tracks which serve as the rear boundary of the properties. The Ohio River lies north beyond the railroad track.

The homes at 503 and 505 N. Second Street were built c. 1908. They are a mirrored pair with subtle differences. Both are two and a half stories and are clad in wood shingles. The foundations are composed of a rough stone block. The pyrimidal shaped, slate roofs curve outward to the eaves. The building at 503 N. Second Street has an asphalt shingle roof; the roof of 505 N. Second Street is slate. The front gable dormer is clad with fish scale shingles. A semicircular vent is located above a flat roofed projecting bay in the dormer. This projecting bay extends below the gable dormer at the second story level. There are gable dormers on the side elevations. The cornice consists of a plain entablature.

Both buildings have wraparound porches enclosed by a spindled balustrade with a circular roof at one corner. The porch roofs are supported by wooden, Ionic columns. The porch foundations are cut stone of a different pattern from the main foundations.

The front elevation of each building has a first story bay window located at the corner of the wraparound porch. On the opposite side of the front doorway is a large, one over one window. The second story windows are eight over one; with star muntins in the upper sashes. The building at 505 N. Second Street has a balustrade porch around the second story bay window; 503 N. Second Street does not. However, the current owners of 503 N. Second Street plan to restore this second story porch. It is shown in an early picture postcard of the two houses and is stored in the garage.

The east facade of 503 N. Second Street and the west facade of 505 N. Second Street have projecting bays at the first and second stories. Above which is a gabled dormer. Large, wooden, one over one windows remain in 503 N. Second Street; however, these have been replaced with a single pane window with applied muntins at 505 N. Second Street. The pitch of the siding flares out above the first story windows in these bays. A large band of shingling interrupts the elevations to divide the

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Gold Houses Name of Property	<u>Mason County, WV</u> County/State		
Section number	7	Page <u>3</u>	

stories of each building.

The first floor interior plan of 503 N. Second Street is divided into three primary rooms: the entry "sitting room", parlor and dining room. The sitting room features a fireplace with an oak mantel piece supported by a bracket at each end. Above the mantel is a mirror with Ionic columns at each side. In 503 N. Second Street, the hearth is covered by an Arts and Craft breast plate detailing a Grecian styled woman swinging on a tree limb. This fireplace opening is framed by tile, originally colored green. The rear of this room is framed by two large oak columns which frame an open, winding staircase. Pocket doors opposite the fireplace open into the front parlor. Behind the parlor is the dining room; pocket doors separate these rooms. A halfbath, kitchen and back porch complete the first floor behind the staircase.

The second floor of 503 N. Second Street has a central hallway opening into a bath and enters four bedrooms. Two bedrooms include the bay windows and a full bath. An oak staircase leads to the third floor which is a large open room distinguished by the various ceiling angles created by the pyramidal roof and dormers. This room at 503 N. Second Street was originally used by the Gold brothers as a recreation room complete with a pool table. The third floor also features a dramatic view of the Ohio River.

The garage at 503 N. Second Street (contributing) is rusticated concrete block on the first level; underneath the gambrel roof the finish is bevelled siding. There is a door in the second floor over the garage door with one large glass panel and three wooden panels. There are two six over six double-hung windows on each side elevation. The property of 505 N. Second Street does not have a garage. An early postcard photograph shows the orchard nursery office to the east of the residence at 505 N. Second Street. It has been removed.

The property at 503 N. Second Street also has an original privy (contributing). It is a one story framed building with a brick foundation and a slate, gable roof. There is a four paneled door and rectangular vents in the gable ends.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Name of Property	Mason C County/	ounty, W State	V	
Section number	8	Page	2	

The pair of Gold Brothers Houses at Mason, West Virginia are nominated to the National Register according to Criteria B and C for their association with locally significant agricultural merchants and the represented architectural significance. The co-owners of the property, A. Fremont Gold and W. Alfred Gold, were locally significant merchants that introduced a profitable nursery and orchard business to Mason County at the beginning of the twentieth century. Their pair of homes signify the success of the business in the community. The early twentieth century architectural style of the two buildings are unique to the town and region.

In 1899 the Gold Family business moved to Mason, West Virginia. The brothers' father, T.H. Gold, started the business in Bedford Township, Meigs County, Ohio growing plants and trees for his neighbors and local tradespeople. A.F. Gold and W.A. Gold, his sons, worked with their father. By 1899 the business had outgrown the Bedford Township Farm. Land was purchased from Albert McDaniel of Mason County and the nursery was transferred to Mason, West Virginia in 1900. The Gold Nursery and Orchard were located directly across the street from the brothers' houses on N. Second Street.

About 1910, the Gold Brothers decided to enlarge their business by starting commercial orchards in the area. They secured a large acreage near Clifton and in 1912 set out their first commercial orchard. Despite public disbelief that their orchards would succeed, they planted both apple and cherry trees in their orchard, hosting a celebration of their first harvest.

At their heyday, the brothers owned and operated the following commercial orchards:

Clifton Orchard - 800 apple trees and 1,200 cherry trees
Hartford Orchard - 8,000 apple trees and 3,000 peach trees
Mason City Orchard - 3,000 apple trees and 2,000 peach trees
West Virginia Orchard - 13,000 apple trees, 500 cherry trees and
3,500 peach trees
Davis Orchard - 10,000 apple trees (200 acres)

All were located within Mason County. The orchards represent the extensive pomological success of the brothers. In 1926, an Apple Blossom

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Name of	Property	County/State	
Section	number <u>8</u>	Page <u>3</u>	

Festival was held under the auspices of the Gold interests. To quote an observer, "a veritable ocean of apple blossoms greeted the eyes of everyone."

The brothers lived side by side in the two matching homes. As confirmed in the 1910 Census records for "Mason Village", Fremont Gold, a 46 year old Ohio native, lived with his 36 year old wife, Lona, and children, Arthur and Helen, 25 and 12 respectively. Lona may have been his second wife. Fremont is listed as a nursery general manager and Arthur as a nursery man. His brother, Alfred, is also a nurseryman, living with Emma, his 40 year old wife and children, Maggie and Homer, 20 and 18. A historic postcard reveals that additional cousins may have remained in Ohio. The brothers' parents are buried outside Pomeroy, Ohio in the Burlingham cemetery.

Unlike the majority of surrounding residences, the two buildings are larger and stylistically later and grander. Built in 1908, they are also later than the majority of residential stock in the town. Both are derivative of the Queen Anne style with a Foursquare massing that is not repeated in Mason. The interior has simple detailing that signifies the success of the brothers' nursery endeavors. The Ionic columns, brackets and breast plate of the mantel and fireplace reflect the use of classical elements in the stylistic features of the beginning Arts and Crafts movement. The panel doors are fine wooden features of the interior. The buildings reflect the modern, popular styles of the era.

Although the Gold Brothers were successful through the 1920s, it appears from the chain of title for the property that they were forced to retrench in 1928, selling their property to George G. Somerville, Trustee. There remains little evidence of the orchards or nursery buildings beyond the two residential properties in the town of Mason. A storage building on the south side of Second Street may be associated with the nursery, but this is speculation.

Today, the two Queen Anne, Foursquare homes sit together on N. Second Street as reminders of the success of a family's business and their use of an early twentieth century architectural style to demonstrate their success. They are eligible to the National Register for their association with two individuals that introduced a profitable fruit nursery to Mason County at the turn of the century.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Gold Houses		Mason County, WV					
Name of	Property	County/St	County/State				
Section	number	9	Page	2			

- Census Bureau, 1910 Census for Mason Village, Enumeration District 116, Family 201-202, House 190-191.
- Fowler, Mary. "Winding Stairways Marked Mirror Homes Built by Gold Brothers." <u>The Messenger</u>, (newspaper) no date.
- Gibbs, Mildred C. <u>The History of Mason</u>. Housed at the Mason County Public Library, Point Pleasant, WV.
- Mason County Land Records, Deed Book 63, page 547. (1899)
- Mason County Land Records, Deed Book 99, page 518. (1924)
- Polis, Kathi and Sabra Pearson. "WV State Historic Inventory Forms".
 July, 1996. Located at the WV SHPO.

Postcard, no date.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Gold Houses		Mason Cou			
Name of	Property	County/Sta	ate		
		_,			
Section	number	10	Page	2	

<u>Verbal Boundary Description</u>

Beginning at a point at the southwest corner of the property at 503 N. Second Street; thence running with the west property line N 14 30' 00" W, 264.67' to a point, thence east N 73 08' 45" E approximately 145' to a point; thence along the east property line of 505 N. Second Street S 23 51' 00" East approximately 237.76' to a point thence at the southeast corner.

Boundary Justification

The boundary matches the existing tax parcel limits of the two properties. The surrounding neighborhood has been subdivided. No apparent trace of the orchards is visible in Mason.

503 and 505 N. Second Street correspond to the tax map 105, parcel 15 and tax map 105, parcel 16. The plat is also referenced in Will Book 27, Page 312 being situate in Waggener District of Mason County, West Virginia

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Gold Houses
Name of Property

Mason County, WV

County/State

Section number PHOTOGRAPHS

Page

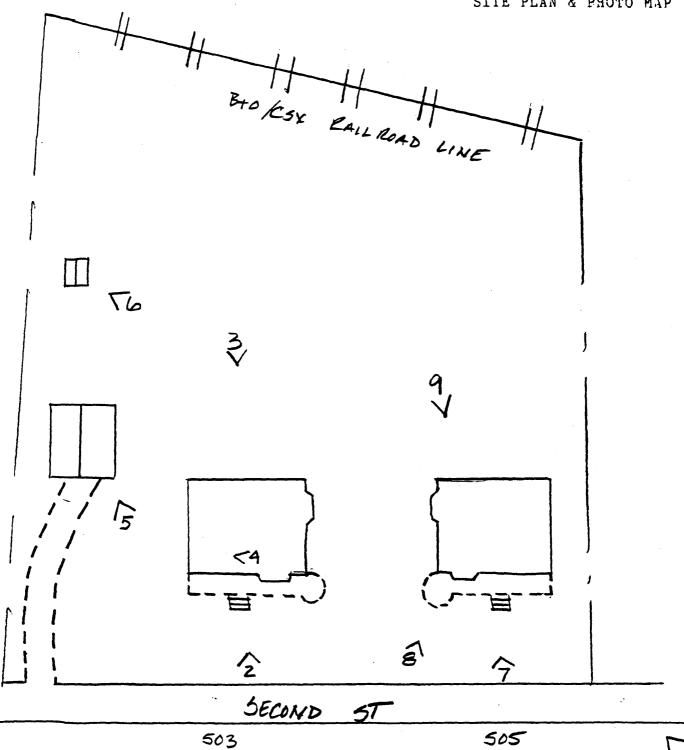
INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

- South and east facades of 503 and 505 N. Second Street camera facing northwest
- 2. Front/South facade of 503 N. Second Street camera facing north
- 3. Rear/North facade of 503 N. Second Street camera facing south
- 4. Interior view of sitting room, 503 N. Second Street camera facing northwest
- 5. Garage, 503 N. Second Street camera facing northwest
- 6. Privy, 503 N. Second Street camera facing northwest
- 7. Front/South facade, 505 N. Second Street camera facing north
- 8. West and south facades of 505 N. Second Street camera facing northeast
- 9. Rear/North facade of 505 N. Second Street camera facing south

Photographers: Katherine Jourdan and Susan Pierce, WV SHPO Date: February 12, 1997 and July 12, 1996

Negatives are on file at WV SHPO

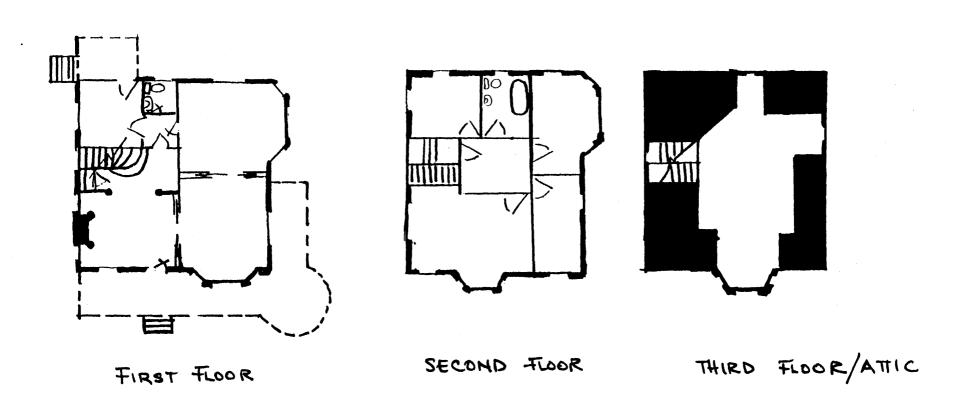
SITE PLAN & PHOTO MAP





DWG NOT TO SCALE

503 N. SECOND ST. MASON, WV



NOT TO SCALE

505 M. SECOND ST IS OPPOSITE PLAN