

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
West Virginia

COUNTY:  
Greenbrier

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE  
AUG 17 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Greenbrier County Courthouse and Lewis Spring

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Corner of Court (~~Old Market~~) and Randolph *streets*

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lewisburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

COUNTY:  
Greenbrier

CODE:  
025

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"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Greenbrier County Court

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lewisburg

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of Clerk of County Court, Greenbrier County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lewisburg

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Thomas Edgar Survey of 1782, Survey of 310 acres made for William Wright on May 22, 1751.

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lewisburg

STATE:  
West Virginia

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

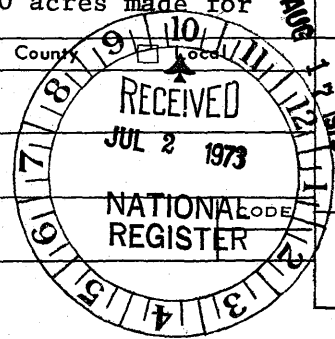
STATE:  
West Virginia

COUNTY:  
Greenbrier

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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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 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

The Lewis Spring is on Lot No. 8, enclosed in a small, well-preserved stone building. A high stone retaining wall was constructed between 1785-1795 to support the steep bank between the two lots. Both the building and wall are believed to have been constructed as one project. They are of similar materials and appear to be of the same workmanship.

Lot No. 7 was unused until 1837 when the present Greenbrier County Courthouse was erected. This building has been added to and has had some slight alteration. It is in excellent condition, has been in constant use since 1837, and is an example of the architecture of that period. It was constructed of locally fired brick by a well-known brick mason, John W. Dunn.

The large, square, massive characteristics are typical of the historic period in which the Courthouse was erected. The structure is two-storied on Court Street but the slope of the lot allows for another floor (basement) on the rear (east) side of the building. Facing west, the "T" shape allows the tail of the "T" to serve as a roof over the large patio type porch for the center section. Four large brick columns, plastered and painted white, raise to and support the roof. The building is constructed of locally fired brick which measures generally 8 3/4 x 3 x 4 1/2 inches. A cupola belfry adorns the building, with the bell, which announced that Court was in session. It still does. There are large double doors in the center section with one door on each side to mark the west entrance on Court Street.

The interior has been modified to handle the need of the changing society, but the building is essentially unchanged.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**4. 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) 1837

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 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	<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  
 The existence of water is an influencing factor to any settlement, and Lewis Spring was certainly no exception. It was discovered in the early 1750's by Andrew Lewis and his father. Soon after its detection, immigration to the area began; cabins were promptly built; and the now defunct Fort Savannah was erected. (According to Dayton's Lewisburg Landmarks, p. 11, "... as a precaution in the event of an Indian attack or seige, the spring may well have been enclosed with the fort stocade.") Along with these additions, the present stone structure was placed above the spring.

For nearly thirty years, the village went unchartered, but in 1782, an act of the Virginia General Assembly incorporated it as Lewisburg in honor of General Andrew Lewis. Soon thereafter, a survey and plat were made of the town dividing its forty square acres into half-acre lots. Lewis Spring was on lot No. 8. Because of the critical influence the spring had had over the formation of Lewisburg, its lot and lot No. 7 were set aside as county lots. This acre was also distinguished from the others so that protection could be better afforded to the spring and a site would be provided for forthcoming county buildings.

In 1837, one such building, the Greenbrier County Courthouse, was erected. One reason for its construction was a decree of the Virginia General Assembly stating that Lewisburg be the annual seat of the state's Supreme Court of Appeals for those living west of the mountains.

Just as Lewis Spring had attracted those seeking water, so did the Greenbrier County Courthouse attract those seeking judicial fairness. This phenomenon is understandable since the Courthouse was one of the first such establishments west of the Appalachians and contained within its hallowed walls such "greats" as William Cabell, Henry St. George Tucker, and Patrick Henry.

The proximity of Lewis Spring to the Courthouse only helps to show the relationship between the two. If it were not for the spring, settlers would probably have chosen elsewhere to reside; if it were not for the increased number of residents, the General Assembly would not have incorporated as readily; if not for the incorporation, survey, and existing spring, lots No. 7 and 8 would have received no specific protection; and if lot No. 7 had not been set aside by the county, the Greenbrier County Courthouse would not have been necessarily placed where it was. Thus, the Courthouse, in a sense owes its very existence to near-by Lewis Spring.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dayton, Ruth Woods, Lewisburg Landmarks, Charleston, W.Va., Education Foundations, Inc., 1957.

Dayton, Ruth Woods, Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes, Charleston, W.Va., West Virginia Publishing Co., 1952.

Cole, Jr., History of Greenbrier County.

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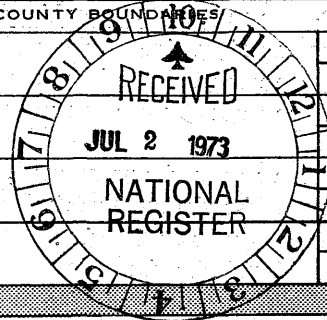
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	80°	26'	46.2"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	37°	48'	10.8"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 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:  
**C. Doyle Kester, Research Field Agent**

ORGANIZATION: **West Virginia Antiquities Commission** DATE: **May 12, 1972**

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: Maurice G. Brooks  
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Date: June 29, 1973

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

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

Date: 8/17/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 8/15/73