

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCARS use only
received OCT 28 1980
date entered NOV 28 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name Mountain Home

historic "Locust Hill"; "Mountain Home"; Dickson, Robert, House

and/or common "Mountain Home" (preferred)

2. Location SW of White Sulphur Springs on U.S. 60

street & number U.S. Route 60 ___ not for publication

city, town White Sulphur Springs ^{vic.} vicinity of Second congressional district

state West Virginia code 54 county Greenbrier code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name P.L. Gainer; John W. Bell, III

street & number 221 East Washington Street

city, town Lewisburg ___ vicinity of state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Greenbrier County Courthouse

street & number 200 N. Court Street

city, town Lewisburg state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

"Mountain Home", built c. 1833 for Robert Dickson, member of a family prominent in the Greenbrier Valley for four generations, stands on a promontory six miles east of Lewisburg above U.S. Route 60, facing Howard Creek and the southwest.

The architectural character of the house is noteworthy. Late Federal and Roman Revival elements of both the exterior and interior align to form a design of distinction. Prominent among such features are the two-story, single-bay portico with a lunette-adorned pediment, broad windows headed with blind brick arches, and superbly hand-carved interior woodwork that may represent the finest extant example of the work of master carver Conrad Burgess in the Greenbrier Valley.

"Mountain Home" is a large two-story brick house with a kitchen ell. Despite the building's deteriorating condition, the survival of many original details provides a rich source of information on local upper-class housebuilding and decorative technique of the early nineteenth century in West Virginia.

Paired Roman Doric columns of brick construction with plastered surfaces carry the two-tier, single-bay entrance portico. The entryway beneath is surmounted by a delicate semi-elliptical fanlight and is flanked by sidelights with heart and oval-shaped glazing members. Fluted colonnettes (mullions) separating the sidelights from the broad colonial door carry a carved, dentiled cornice.

Classical detail of the exterior is repeated in the large square rooms with 12-foot ceilings and handsomely carved mantels, paneled wainscoting, and ribbed door and window casing. Forty-inch-wide doors retain their box locks. Fine woodwork is evident in a 3-flight stair with a delicately molded continuous rail. Paneled wainscoting adds additional notes of formality to the open-string stair with carved bracket-work decorating the stringer.

"Mountain Home", though in a state of decay, was recently purchased by owners who recognize the historical quality of the property, and who propose in work now beginning to stabilize the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1833 **Builder/Architect** John W. Dunn, master builder
 Conrad Burgess, wood-carver

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Mountain Home", originally called "Locust Hill", is significant because it is one of the best preserved houses of Greenbrier Valley master builder John W. Dunn, and because it retains highly significant and well preserved mantels and other woodwork executed by the master wood-carver Conrad Burgess. Dunn and Burgess are known to have pooled talents on several house building projects; but none, perhaps, exhibit qualities of this association more dramatically than that of the commission by Robert Dickson, a member of a distinguished local family.

Grants of land were obtained by Joseph Dickson in the Howards Creek section of the verdant Greenbrier Valley as early as 1785 (according to Ruth Woods Dayton in her book, Lewisburg Landmarks, p. 59). Mountain Home was built for Robert Dickson, son of Joseph, about 1833 from bricks fired on the premises.

For well over a century the Dickson family resided on the land and became widely known for the breeding of quality horses. Their horses won numerous awards in adjacent counties and at the State Fair in Lewisburg. The Greenbrier Hotel at White Sulphur Springs, according to Dayton, was furnished riding horses for its guests by the Dicksons for many years. Dickson horses were also sought after by patrons in neighboring states.

In recent years intrusive developments in the form of several gas stations have encumbered the landscape along U.S. Route 60 in the vicinity of Mountain Home. Nevertheless architectural integrity of the old landmark has not been compromised.

The significant qualities of the building's late Federal and Roman Revival (which suggest Jeffersonian appeal) design are vernacular and appear in several other residences of the Greenbrier Valley. Single-bay, two-story porticos with fan-lighted tympana may be seen in the region; in some instances these are carried by wood posts and are of simple design. It is the combination of more expensive materials and detail, and the presence of outstanding interior work, that distinguishes the Dickson House.

The late Federal style wood mantel of the parlor represents the high quality of carving produced by Conrad Burgess. A deep shelf carried by enriched consoles is supported by fluted colonnettes. The frieze of the mantel is centered with a tablet incised with an Adam-style oval fan. Flanking the center tablet are recessed empty panels. A running course of incised units outlining the fire surround is duplicated in the mantel shelf cornice, and in the cornice of the room's wainscoting.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dayton, Ruth Wood. Lewisburg Landmarks. Charleston, West Virginia: Education Foundation, Inc., 1957, p. 59.
 Turley, C.E. Report on the "Mountain Home". Department of Culture & History, Oct. 31, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name White Sulphur Springs

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>557000</u>	<u>4180660</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Stands at the center of a 200' square 200' due north of U.S. Route 60 and 1000' east of the Howard Creek Bridge (60/14) intersection. Includes only "Mountain Home" and immediate grounds.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian; C.E. Turley, Field Research Ass't.
 organization W.V. Department of Culture & History date July 8, 1980
 street & number The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex telephone 304/348-0244
 city or town Charleston state West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Clarence Illsra

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 3, 1980

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
John W. Ray Luce date 11/28/80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration