

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

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

For HCRS use only

received **DEC 16 1983**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Decatur Hedges House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number WV 9  
On the northern side of West Virginia State Route #9, 3.1 miles southeast of the town of Hedgesville.      not for publication

city, town Hedgesville    vicinity of    congressional district

state West Virginia code 54 county Berkeley code 003

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture
<u>  </u> building(s)	<u>  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial
		<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military
			<u>  </u> museum
			<u>  </u> park
			<u>  </u> private residence
			<u>  </u> religious
			<u>  </u> scientific
			<u>  </u> transportation
			<u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gantt

street & number Route #6, Box 328

city, town Martinsburg    vicinity of    state West Virginia

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berkeley County Courthouse

street & number 100 West King Street

city, town Martinsburg    state West Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title H - 38 Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible?    yes    no    X

date 1973 - 1983    federal    state    X county    local

depository for survey records Berkeley County Courthouse

city, town Martinsburg    state West Virginia

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on West Virginia State Route #9 three and one-tenth miles south of Hedgesville, the two story, five bay, brick, "L" shaped Decatur Hedges house has a rural setting and is very visible from the road. Constructed in 1874 of six row common bond on a stone foundation, the dwelling house measures thirty-eight feet (38') across by forty-eight feet (48') deep. Architectural features include brick arched lintels, 4/4 double hung sash windows, louvered shutters, four corbelled chimney tops, a two-tiered (enclosed) recessed porch in the ell, and a delightful one story, one bay Victorian Gothic entrance porch with scroll brackets and lyre balustrade. The four-panel entrance door with sidelights is decorated with enriched moldings and is set within panelled jambs with a segmentally arched transom.

The plan of the house is central hall, one room each side, with a two room deep ell. The main entrance door opens into the central hall which has a two-flight open-well stairway with turned spindles and a large, turned newel post.

In the ell is a winder stairs enclosed by a board wall with four-panel doors. Also, in the kitchen and dining room, are two-tiered, panelled, double door cupboards.

Interior doors are four-panel and have the original small box locks with porcelain knobs. Trim is nicely molded and highlighted with a backband.

There are several fireplaces in the house and all have heavy and solid looking mantels. Those on the first floor are decorated with applied panels whereas those on the second floor are unadorned. All have decorative, chamfered edges, and shelves with rounded corners.

To the rear of the house is a one story, gable roofed, brick out-building that is contemporary with the dwelling house. It also is in excellent condition.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**      1874                      **Builder/Architect**      Decatur Hedges

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Decatur Hedges house is significant for its historical associations with the Hedges family and the development of the Hedgesville area. It is also significant as an excellent example of vernacular Victorian Gothic architecture.

By 1754, five Hedges families had settled in Berkeley County on a total of nearly two thousand acres of land. These people were very important as early settlers of the area and many continued to make important developmental contributions. They built houses and farm buildings of log, brick, and stone, greatly enriching the architectural heritage of the area. In 1832, Josiah Hedges laid off some of his land in lots and established the town of Hedgesville. Decatur Hedges in 1874 built his brick house on land that was willed to him by his brother, Owen Tudor Hedges, who died on July 11, 1863, as a result of wounds received on July 3rd at Gettysburg. The two brothers had enlisted in Virginia, August 29, 1861.

The house is architecturally significant as being an excellent example of vernacular Victorian Gothic architecture. Constructed in 1874 by Decatur Hedges, the house is representative of several period houses in the area, all built in the two story, "L" shaped plan with the five bay front façade. There is a place in the development of area historic architecture for houses of this type as exemplified by the Decatur Hedges house.

These post Civil War farm houses are more restrained in their use of the more obvious of fussy Victorian woodwork and trim and therefore have a more classical feeling than their bric-a-brac counterparts. Beginning ca. 1830 with "Edgewood" in the southern part of the county, this "L" shaped brick plan became very popular and continued to be used until well into the 1890's. All of these houses exhibit classical overtures, but stylistic identity is found in the entrance porches, eaves trim, cornice work, fenestration, and interior trim.

The arched windows with their original shutters, give the Decatur Hedges house a very neat and distinct appearance from the road. The entrance porch is truly of excellent design, proportion, and workmanship and is very Gothic. Visually, the stress of the house is vertical and the details are heavy so that the building has the solid appearance associated with Victorian Gothic brick architecture.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

The Berkeley Journal, Issue Three (#3), 1974, published by the Berkeley County Historical Society.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Hedgesville, WV

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24,000

**UMT References**

A 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Nominated property includes 100' on each side of the house and extends to the northeast side of West Virginia State Route #9 (see map).

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frances D. Ruth - Chairperson

organization Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission date September 30, 1983

street & number Route #2, Box 320 telephone (304) 754 - 7097

city or town Martinsburg 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

title Commissioner, WV Department of Culture & History date November 18, 1983

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the **National Register**

date 1/2/84

*for Delores Byers*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

EX. 10/10/04

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet      Decatur Hedges House      Item number      8      Page      1

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The interior workmanship is also excellent with period design evident throughout but especially visual in the solid looking mantelpieces with their Gothic applied panels, and in the "pattern book" stairway. The tall baseboards, dark floors, and four-panel doors with original hardware all help to create and maintain the atmosphere and charm that the dwelling house was originally built to have.

The Decatur Hedges house is significant as an excellent example of vernacular Victorian Gothic architecture of 1874.

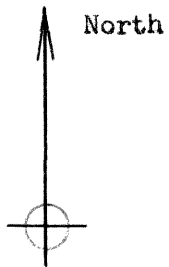
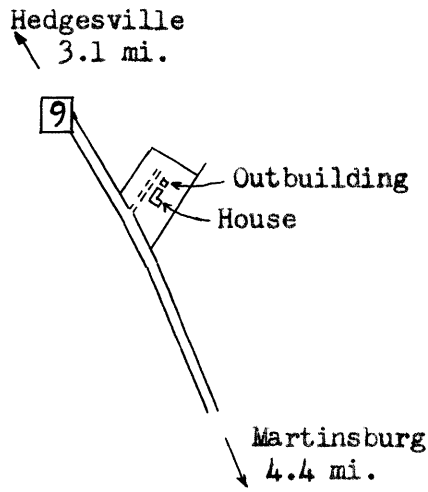
DECATUR HEDGES HOUSE

H-38

Hedgesville Quadrangle

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 1 acre



SCALE 1 : 7,920

Copied September 1983 from  
photo AGS-57-91, Jan 5, 1938  
by Galtjo L. Geertsema