

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

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MAY 15 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUN 20 1975

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Price, ~~Governor~~ Samuel, House

AND/OR COMMON

The Preston House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

224 N. Court Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Greenbrier

CODE

025

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

—DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
—STRUCTURE  
—SITE  
—OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
—BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS  
—BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

OCCUPIED  
—UNOCCUPIED  
—WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED  
—YES: UNRESTRICTED  
—NO

## PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE —MUSEUM  
—COMMERCIAL —PARK  
—EDUCATIONAL  PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
—ENTERTAINMENT —RELIGIOUS  
—GOVERNMENT —SCIENTIFIC  
—INDUSTRIAL —TRANSPORTATION  
—MILITARY —OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Silas M. Preston

STREET &amp; NUMBER

224 N. Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

— VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Greenbrier County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Court and Randolph Streets

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

STATE

West Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The "Governor" Samuel Price House in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, was built in the mid- or late- 1830s on a large lot along Court Street. The two-story brick structure, which fronts south, consists of a rectangular main section and an ell to the western side of the rear. A one-story wooden dependency is attached to the back of the ell, and there is an older wooden outbuilding and modern garage to the northeast part of the grounds. Of special interest are the two brick dependencies, both octagonal in shape, which are at the eastern end of a brick patio. These formerly served as bath house and smokehouse.

The structure is placed on a cut-stone foundation. Entrance may be gained through any of four doors, the main one being a heavy, forty-eight inch wide unit. Each room on the first floor of the ell (a kitchen and separate servant's room) has an opening onto the brick patio, and double doors afford entrance on the east side of the main section. Both the front and side approaches to this section are dominated by one-story porticoes supported by four square columns, and their doors each have a rectangular overlight.

Window placement on the south features two openings to either side of the door on the first level and five openings on the second floor. The west side has four windows on each floor of the main part and two on each level of the ell, while the east has two on the second floor of the ell, three on the second level of the front part and two (one on each side of the door) on the first floor of the main section. All first floor windows are 9/6, double-hung sash, and all second floor windows are 6/6. Each opening is shuttered.

The front section of the house has a hipped roof of a low pitch; the ell has a gable to the north. Brickwork in the main section is in Flemish bond and that in the ell is common. All twelve interior rooms are served by fireplaces housed in six chimneys. There are two chimneys on each side of the front part of the house, one in the partition of the ell and one on the gable. Exterior walls are eighteen inches thick, and partitions are a stout twelve inches.

Woodwork on the interior is rather plain and heavy, and this is especially evident in the mantels. The same may also be said of the exterior, for the cornice is of a simple white trim. There are several built-in, recessed cupboards on the first floor, constructed with wooden pegs and brass latches. Most woodwork is painted white, but there is some of natural, honey-colored maple, indicating that this type of wood was probably used throughout the trim.

# 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/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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1830s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Governor" Samuel Price House is one of many fine brick homes in Greenbrier County which is more than one hundred years old. It is large and well constructed, consisting of twelve rooms and having several dependencies. This is another structure indicative of the growth in western Virginia prior to the Civil War and the increasing importance of Lewisburg as a political center. The Price house is also significant because its owner was an outstanding figure in the community, having served its people as attorney, legislator and friend. Samuel Price was also a church elder of high standing and eventually became Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia.

The house is handsomely proportioned with a main section and ell to the north side of the rear. Excluding one attached and one detached dependency, all construction is of brick. Some Greek Revival elements exist, such as the use of rectangular block plans set against each other without transitional features, the trabeated doors and windows and the small porticoes, but the outstanding architectural qualities seem evident, rather, in the clean facade, the fine brickwork, the high chimneys on the sides, and the interesting design of the octagonal brick bath house and smokehouse.

Samuel Price was apparently the first to occupy the house in about 1838. He had located in Lewisburg and married Jane Stuart, of the well-known Greenbrier family, in 1837, after having practiced law in Nicholas County and serving Nicholas and Fayette counties in the Virginia Legislature. His reputation as a good and fair man increased in Lewisburg, and he was again elected to the legislature in 1848. The growing importance of western Virginia was on his mind frequently, for he saw its interests first hand and pressed them firmly as a representative of the Greenbrier area. With such in mind, he took his place as member of the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1850 and increased his reputation at home and in government.

The coming of the Civil War apparently affected Price's position. During the "Secession Convention" of 1861, he represented Greenbrier County with feelings strongly supporting continued union, and he expressed his beliefs before the committee of twenty-one on Federal relations. Price was among those voting against secession, but his conscience required that he sign the final ordinance, for his constituents were overwhelmingly in favor of ratification. This done, Samuel Price stayed with the Confederacy.

After the Battle of Lewisburg in 1862, Mr. Price was detained by Union troops for refusing to take a "test oath" of allegiance. He was eventually taken to Charleston and jailed temporarily before being paroled. When Confederate forces finally recovered much of the Kanawha Valley, he was released and returned to Lewisburg. Through all of his trying experiences, Price remained honorable and true to his beliefs, and he was rewarded in 1863 with his election as Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia. He served in this capacity until the war's end.

It took several years for West Virginia to settle politically and socially after the Civil War, and "Governor" Price was refused at least one commission because he would not take a "test oath." Elected a delegate to the West Virginia Constitutional



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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Convention of 1872, however, the barriers apparently were removed, and he was selected as president of the body. His practice of law continued in Lewisburg, and his public career was appropriately capped in late 1876, when he was named to fill the United States Senate seat left vacant by the death of his old friend, Allen T. Caperton. Both had remained with the Confederacy, stayed at their pre-war homes, and gave respectable and beneficial service to the new state of West Virginia. "Governor" Price died in 1884 at Lewisburg, but more than memories are alive in his old dwelling, for the present owner is his great-grandson.