

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
West Virginia

COUNTY:
Jefferson

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
JUL 25 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Claymont Court

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *about 3 miles S.W. of Charles Town off US 240*
2 1/2 miles west of Charles Town on Route 13, 3/4 mile south of Route 13

CITY OR TOWN: Charles Town *mic.* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54 COUNTY: Jefferson CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Item #4 (Owner of Property) should be changed to read:
The Claymont Society for Continuous Education, Inc.
P. O. Box 112
Charles Town, West Virginia

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charles Town STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

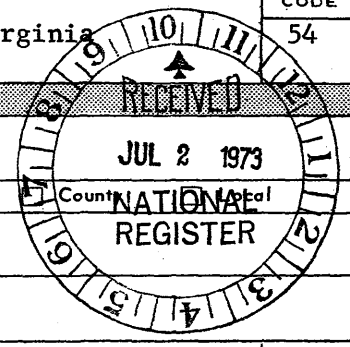
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937 Federal State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Prints and Photographs

STREET AND NUMBER:
Library of Congress

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11



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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

"Claymont Court" is a brick Georgian colonial mansion house painted white with two adjoining wings. The wings and the main unit are two and one-half stories and are covered by a gable roof. Six dormers, front and back, break the line of the roof, and a huge chimney rises at each end of the main portion and at the end of each adjoining wing. A small railed observation platform surmounts the roof of the central unit. The plainness of the front is relieved by a small flat-roofed portico with Ionic columns at the entrance. Wide galleries extend the length of the first and second stories in the rear of the main part of the house, and a glass sun porch adjoins the north wing. Two smaller two story brick buildings with hipped roofs pierced by square central chimneys are joined to the main house by small walled courts. All of the bricks are of Flemish bond and are (2½" x 2½") x 4¼" (8½" x 8¾"), in size.

"Claymont Court" is definitely placed in a beautiful setting. The mansion's spacious lawn is planted with an assortment of shrubs and trees. Unfortunately, two terraces are all that remain of the original seven-terraced garden; however, these two terraces adequately add a crowning touch to the gracious estate.

As far as can be determined from existing records, the entire building was finished in c. 1840.



** after fire in 1838

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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) 1899 (Bought by Stockton) 1943 (Bought by R.J. Funkhouser)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" 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

Claymont Court is not only historically significant because it was built by George Washington's great nephew, Bushrod Corbin Washington, who later became a local justice of the peace, representative in the Virginia House of Delegates, and representative in the General Assembly, but also because it became the home of one of America's greatest authors, Frank Stockton, and in 1943, the home of the well know philanthropist, R.J. Funkhouser. It is also architecturally significant because it is the most pretentious of the Washington homes in Jefferson County, far surpassing its neighbors in size, luxury, and grounds.

Bushrod Corbin Washington built "Claymont Court" in 1820. It was estimated at \$30,000 in value. In 1838, while Bushrod was in his first week of service in the General Assembly at Richmond, his beautiful home was completely destroyed by fire. It is believed that the fire started when the sparks of shelled corn cobs, which had been thrown into a fireplace, were carried to the roof and ignited. However, this fire or a second one which started shortly after, were not entirely disastrous because Bushrod rebuilt his ante-bellum mansion, making it into the beautiful house it is today. The exact date of its final construction is not known, but it is believed to be around 1840.

The Washingtons lived here for many years, and during the Civil War, were joined by many of their relatives when hostilities threatened the neighboring homes.

In June 1899, Frank Stockton, who is best remembered for his classic short story "The Lady or the Tiger?" bought the property and remained there until his death in April 1902. Stockton, who was born in Philadelphia in 1834, worked for nearly fourteen years in Philadelphia and New York as a wood engraver; in 1873, he became assistant editor of Saint Nicholas, and in 1879, he made his first outstanding success as the author of Rudder Grange. Among his noteworthy works, mostly humorous, are "The Lady or the Tiger?" (written in 1882), The Rudder Grange Abroad (written in 1884), The Casting Away of Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine (written in 1886), and its sequel, The Dusantes, (written in 1888), The Adventures of Captain Horn (written in 1895), and Mrs Cliff's Yacht (written in 1896). While living at "Claymont Court," he composed many other popular novels including Kate Bonnet, the famous romance of a pirate's daughter.

In 1943, R.J. Funkhouser, whose life can be compared to that of Horatio

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bushong, Millard K., Historic Jefferson County, Boyce:Carr Publishing Co., Inc., 1972.

"Claymont Court," MAGAZINE OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, December 1949, pp. 25-28.

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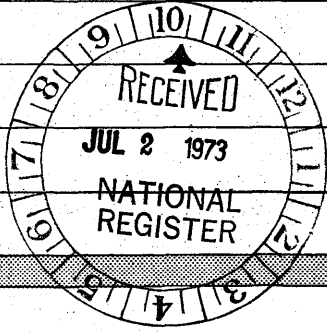
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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	°	'	"	°	'	"	39°	16'	00.12"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	77°	54'	15.3"
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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ted McGee, Field Agent

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission DATE: October 6, 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 26, 1973

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

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

Date: 7/25/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7/23/73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE West Virginia	
COUNTY Jefferson	
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(Number all entries) 8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued) No. 1

Alger, bought "Claymont Court." He had risen from the poor son of a country store-keeper to the owner of the O'Sullivan Rubber Corporation and had interests in such enterprises as the Funkhouser Company and the Victor Products Corporation. From his home at "Claymont Court," he did such acts for the community as establish the Blakeley Bank and Trust Company and donated generously for the construction of a local hospital.

