

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Jarvis, Anna, House

AND/OR COMMON

Jarvis, Anna, House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Routes 119 and 250

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Webster

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Taylor

CODE

091

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

X UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

X OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

West Virginia State Organization,
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Mrs. Homer P. Martin, State Regent
1138 Berwood Drive

CITY, TOWN

Morgantown

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 26505

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Taylor County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Grafton

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
EXCELLENT	___DETERIORATED	___UNALTERED	XORIGINAL SITE
___GOOD	___RUINS	XALTERED	___MOVED DATE_____
XFAIR	___UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in 1854 for use by a small family recently removed to this small railroad town, the Jarvis House has always been a dwelling. Because it stands on an open lot and is approximately fifteen feet above road level, the building appears somewhat imposing when approached. Simple lines, a generally smooth exterior and little decoration soon announce a hominess about the place, however, and one quickly realizes that this is, or was, a common house for its time and place, without significant stylistic or design features.

The large rectangular frame section that now fronts on the road is original; a smaller rectangular frame ell was added at the rear, slightly indented from the south elevation of the main part, around the turn of this century and a covered walkway near the old water pump atop the well forms a transitional element to a small board-and-batten storage building by an alley that serves as the property's southern boundary. While each unit has two stories, the older part includes a low basement, and its overall height is considerably greater than that of the nondescript ell. The main house has a five-bay entrance (west) elevation and is two bays deep. Both sections have rather low-pitch gable roofs covered by standing-seam metal; common weatherboarding unites the whole into a seemingly uniform complex with a recessed southern appendage.

Most notable about the exterior are tall, corbeled brick caps on inside end chimneys and the return cornices within gables. Fenestration is regular--indeed symmetry is evident throughout--with windows on the second floor being slightly shorter than those on the first; there are no openings on chimney walls. Doors on either side of the ell are plain and functional, but the front entrance is set back from the face of the exterior wall and has a transom, giving it a dimension absent in most features. This is not to say there is no character to the house or that decorative elements are completely lacking, for even in this smoothness of surface there is differentiation within narrow weatherboarding, a subtle curved molding above the frieze board and projecting cornice over main entrance door.

If anything, though, the interior is simpler yet than the outside. A single-pile, center-hall plan is followed, and it includes an open-well, two-run stair with landing. Except for the southern second-floor room, the original part has fireplaces, surrounded by plain mantels, in each room. A chimney is located in the addition, but it apparently has always served wood or coal stoves. Woodworking in both floors and trim has no distinction, a description equally applicable to hardware and lighting fixtures.

The older section of the house sits atop a fairly high foundation of smooth ashlar sandstone. At one time it had a small, open porch fronting the bay around entrance door, but this was replaced by a

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Jarvis, Anna, House; Webster, Taylor County, West Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

larger, three-bay-wide porch with squared posts, sawn brackets and shingle-covered sides during what must have been a general renovation in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. It is probable that the rear ell was added and side porch changed then, too, and that 6/6 windows were replaced with single-pane sashes (basement windows at the front retain 3/3 windows). Alterations of this period may have detracted from the living area to some extent, but they pleasingly transformed a high, open porch on the south side near the well by adding nicely turned posts and other wooden decorations.

House, side breezeway and board-and-batten storage building may be simple and plain in features and lines (the ell is even deteriorating significantly); viewed as a unit, however, they form what has always been a suitable dwelling on a good site. A run-down state detracts greatly, yet removal of weeds and brush, repair or replacement of steps that lead from the road to the deteriorated front porch, and general stabilization and rehabilitation of the main house should do much to reinstate this structure to a utility that has been denied by neglect. It is anticipated that the West Virginia State Organization of the National Daughters of the American Revolution, owners of the property, will proceed toward reuse of the Anna Jarvis House with due consideration given to the character evident in its simplicity.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PL	D	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
___PREHISTORIC	___	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION	
___1400-1499	___	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE	
___1500-1599	___	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE	
___1600-1699	___	___ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	☒ MILITARY	☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
___1700-1799	___	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	___	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION	
___1900-	___	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☒ OTHER (SPECIFY) History of Women	
			___INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1854, 1861

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Granville E. Jarvis

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Within a few years of their marriage in 1850, Anna Maria Reeves and Granville E. Jarvis moved to the town of Webster, Taylor County, (West) Virginia. In the house built by Jarvis in 1854, Anna was to mature her thoughts on active social participation by women and transform them into practice to improve family and community life. During this time the Civil War directly contributed to that local turmoil which fostered her ideas, and military activity around the railroads brought Union General George B. McClellan to use a room in the Jarvis home as an office during some parts of May or June of 1861. Of significance, too, it was here that Miss Anna Jarvis, that indefatigable and irrepressible promoter of formal and organized recognition of mothers, was born on May 1, 1864.

The Reeves family had settled at Philippi, (West) Virginia, in 1845 when Rev. Josiah W. Reeves, a Methodist minister, was assigned to church work in the area after serving in Culpepper County, Virginia, where daughter Anna was born. It was here that Anna met Granville Jarvis, son of a Baptist minister who also ran a feed and supply store at Philippi, and in the early 1850s they married. Within a few years the young family that now included two children, moved to Webster, some fifteen miles north of Philippi where the Fairmont and Beverly Pike and the Northwestern Virginia Railroad (later a B&O branch line between nearby Grafton and Parkersburg on the Ohio River) intersected. Here Granville went into the feed and supply business and commenced to build the two-story frame house in which his family would live until 1865.

While residing at Webster they had several children, only two of whom lived to maturity. Such infant mortality as experienced by Anna-- she would lose seven of eleven children--was not uncommon for the time, but causes of these deaths greatly disturbed her. She soon set about to do something to console herself and help others. Sanitation was primitive by today's standards, of course, yet there was a realization by some that certain diseases were somehow associated with unknown impurities in foods or infestations around trash heaps. In 1858 she visited several nearby towns and called upon the women to meet at local churches to discuss health conditions and plan action to help correct these. Groups were formed under the name of "Mothers Day Work Clubs." They made a general survey of existing conditions, received advice and lectures from Doctors James Edmund Reeves, Anna's brother, and Amos Payne, provided medicine for indigents, inspected milk to be consumed by children, and helped in the care of families with tubercular mothers.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Work such as this spearheaded by Mrs. Jarvis continued despite upheaval of Civil War, for even then she led a group of club members to render aid to sick Union soldiers at Grafton.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad became of strategic importance early in the war, and, running across northwestern Virginia as it did, it contributed to division within what was to become the state of West Virginia. Anna and her husband apparently remained neutral during this trying period, but location of railroad shops at Grafton and a branch line passing through Webster was a natural lure to combatants of both sides, especially in 1861 while upheaval was fresh and passion far outweighed logic. It was under such circumstances that Union troops billeted for a time at Webster and Gen. George B. McClellan, their commander, set up his office in the Jarvis home. Soon the railroad had been secured (for the moment) in this area, and direct warfare moved to other parts. The ordeal left an indelible impression on Anna, however, and healing of local divisiveness caused by the Civil War would be her main project for years to come.

Sometime in 1865 the Jarvis family moved to Grafton, where daughter Anna, born at the Webster home in 1864, grew up and worked alongside her mother. Here Granville continued in commercial enterprises and served on the city council, but it was his wife, the activist, who made the Jarvis name memorable. Consideration of reconciliation between local supporters and sympathizers of Confederacy and Union had troubled mother Anna even while war dragged on and the family remained at Webster. She had an idea, though, and it came to fruition at the then county seat of Pruntytown where a "Mothers Friendship Day" was called to bring all members of the surrounding community together in fellowship. Here in 1868 Anna Jarvis, dressed in gray as counterpart to a woman dressed in blue, led a large gathering. With tensions seemingly high, she succeeded in bringing the group to sing "Dixie" and then the Star Spangled Banner. Needless to say, this accomplishment was an important step in dismantling stubborn barriers to friendship.

Activities such as the above, which had begun before war's end and continued long thereafter, did much to heal division. It was the idea of honoring all mothers in an organized way that became the crusade of daughter Anna, however, and her mother was to serve as the model. Eventually a Mother's Day service was held at Andrews Methodist Church in Grafton on May 12, 1907, two years after the death of Anna Reeves Jarvis on May 9, 1905. The following year services were held at Grafton and Philadelphia, and on May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

that "the second Sunday in May shall hereafter be designated and known as Mother's Day...." And now as all mothers are "officially" recognized in the United States on a single day in May, one can look back to those years Anna Maria Reeves Jarvis lived at her Webster home and realize that this was a formative period for her work of social activity. What is more, it was this activity that both materially and spiritually benefited her community and later spurred her daughter to win a Congressional resolution stating that "the service rendered the United States by American Mothers is the greatest source of the country's strength and inspiration."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"DAR Project is Anna Jarvis Home Restoration," Sunday Dominion-Post
(Morgantown, W.Va.), Nov. 12, 1978
Kendall, Norman F. Mothers Day: A History of Its Founding and Its
Founder. Grafton, W.Va.: D. Grant Smith, 1937 (?).
Morgantown, W.Va. West Virginia Collection, West Virginia University
Library. Anna Jarvis Papers, A&M Nos. 1175 and 1439.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Grafton, W.Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 582420 4349580

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The nominated property is bounded by U.S. Routes
119 and 250 on the west, unpaved alleys along the south and east, and a
line of shrubs and trees approximately 50 feet north of the structure.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James E. Harding, Historian

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Unit
Dept. of Culture and History

DATE
January 12, 1979

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 X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Clarence Moran

3/26/79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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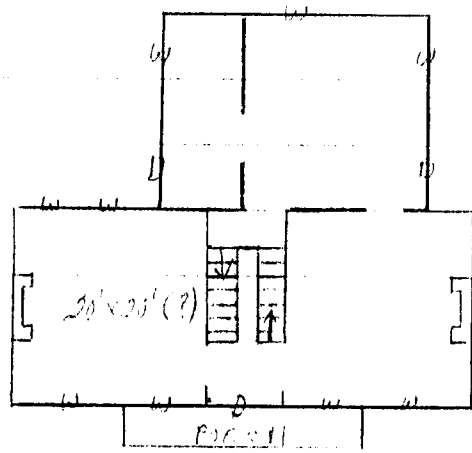
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

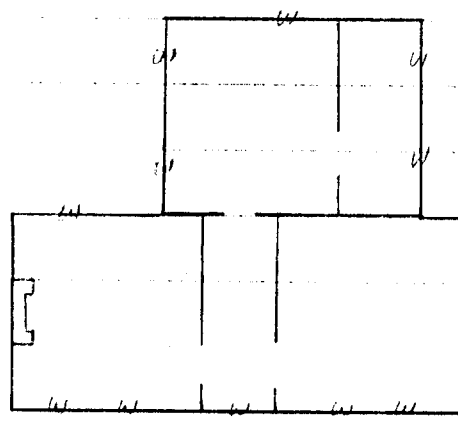
Tyler-McGraw, Marie. "'But After All Was She Not a Masterpiece as a Mother and a Gentlewoman...", Goldenseal, III, Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 1977, 29-34.

Wolfe, Howard H. Mothers Day and the Mothers Day Church. Kingsport, Tenn.: by the author, 1962.

ANNA JARVIS HOUSE WEBSTER, TAYLOR COUNTY



1ST FLOOR



2ND FLOOR

Dimensions approximate

N

