

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic "Blakeley"

and/or common Washington-Chew-Funkhouser House

## 2. Location

street & number County Route 13/3

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Charles Town X vicinity of congressional district Second

state West Virginia code 54 county Jefferson code 037

## 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>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</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>X</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> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Thomas Kerns

street & number Route 1

city, town Charles Town \_\_\_ vicinity of

state West Virginia 25414

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number Washington and North George Streets

city, town Charles Town

state West Virginia

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes X 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

Blakeley is situated on a small rise that is the focal point of an eleven acre, neatly landscaped plot. Large bushes and stately spruce and poplar trees are laid in symmetrical patterns along the borders of the gently curving driveway that leads both to the side and front entrances of Blakeley. Blakeley is situated on the south side of County Route 13/3 (a road that has existed since at least 1820) and faces across the small valley of the North Fork of Bullskin Run Creek near Charles Town in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Facing Blakeley from the north side of the valley is the stately mansion of Claymont Court.

Blakeley was constructed in 1820 by John A. Washington II. As originally constructed it was a two story masonry building with a gable roof and two end chimneys. Basically Federal in style, the front facade of Blakeley was three bays in fenestration, with a one story, four columned portico extending from the central bay. A limestone foundation supports the house. There was a two story open porch on the east end of the main building and to the west is a detached two story masonry "guest house", attached to the main building by a one story level stone wall with an arched opening. To the rear of the "guest house" is a one story stone spring house with a pyramidal roof, that was constructed at the same time as the main building. Originally the roof of Blakeley was made of wooden shingles. The front entrance to the main house was a rather ordinary door surmounted by a rectangular transom. The original main residence of Blakeley contained eight rooms, exclusive of the two central hallways on both floors.

Blakeley burned in November of 1864. The roof was completely destroyed in this fire, as was much of the second floor except for the outer walls. Excepting smoke and water damage, the first floor was spared. Richard B. Washington, Blakeley's owner at the time, rebuilt the burned portion of the house on the same plan as the original, though the roof was replaced not by wood but by metal.

The 1943 rehabilitation of the house by Raymond J. Funkhouser included the rehabilitation of the finely finished interior woodwork, the hanging of glass chandeliers in the main rooms, removal of the second floor of the east end open porch and enclosing the first floor of the porch, converting it to a solarium. A two story masonry ell was added to the eastern section of the house, and the three bay fenestration was extended to a five bay one, each of the double-sash windows being surmounted by stone lintels and flanked by louvered shutters. By far the most striking aspect of Funkhouser's rehabilitation was the removal of the one story portico at the front facade and its replacement by a two story, decked three bay portico, supported by four Roman Doric columns and two pilasters. The front entrance was also changed, the transom over the door being replaced by an elliptical fan light and side lights added. The door's lock was returned to its original box lock. The gabled roof was retained, though converted to standing seam metal from the 1864 tin, and has "snowbirds". In keeping with Funkhouser's "Period" rehabilitation, the grounds were landscaped in a more formal manner than had previously been the case, and an iron lamppost inserted at the beginning of the walkway leading to the side, or east, entrance.

At the rear of the house, the addition of a two story ell created a two sided courtyard that is slightly elevated and paved with brick. The wooden, rear doorway is original.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

"Blakeley", Jefferson, West Virginia

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Blakeley, sit in its historic environment, is a good example of a "period renovation" that, despite some major alterations, retains the basic historic fabric and features and is recognizable as well as recognized by all as a historic landmark.

## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

Specific dates 1820, 1864, 1943

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Blakeley" is significant as having been home to a succession of prominent Jefferson County families that have contributed significantly to the history and development of both Jefferson County and the State of West Virginia.<sup>1</sup> "Blakeley" is also significant as an important and recognized landmark in the community,<sup>2</sup> and as being an important local example of historic rehabilitation as it was viewed in the earlier part of this century.<sup>3</sup>

### Explanatory Notes

Blakeley was built in 1820 by John Augustine Washington II, a great-nephew of President George Washington, at the same time as his brother Bushrod Corbin Washington was building Claymont Court which faces Blakeley across the small valley of Bullsken Run. As originally constructed, the home was not a pretentious one and was not meant as a rival to the far grander Claymont Court. The reason for this is that John A. Washington II was fully aware that he was in line to inherit Mount Vernon, then owned by his childless uncle Justice Bushrod Washington. John A. Washington's II two sons, John A. Washington III and Richard Blackburn Washington, were both born at Blakeley. In 1829 John A. Washington II inherited Mount Vernon on Justice Bushrod Washington's death and moved there, although he continued to use Blakeley as a part-time residence and his wife Jane seems to have spent most of her time in residence at Blakeley. Upon the death of John A. Washington II at Mount Vernon in 1832, his elder son John A. Washington III inherited Mount Vernon and the younger son Richard B. Washington inherited Blakeley, though it continued to be administered by his mother Jane who lived there until her death in 1855. John A. Washington III was the last Washington owner of Mount Vernon, selling it in 1858-59 to the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. John A. Washington III was killed at Elkwater, Va. (now WV) on September 13, 1861 while serving as aide-de-camp to General Robert E. Lee. He was the first nationally known figure to be killed fighting for the Confederacy and his death had a strong psychological effect on many Americans, both North and South.

Richard Blackburn Washington, living at Blakeley, had married his cousin Christian Washington of Harewood in 1844. They continued to reside at Blakeley after the death there in 1855 of Richard's mother Jane. Richard Washington was a member of the "posse" that pursued some of John Brown's raiders in 1859 and is supposed to have shot and killed one of them. When Richard's brother John was killed in 1861, John's eight orphaned children came to live at Blakeley with their uncle, who already had seven children of his own. In February of 1864 Blakeley's roof caught fire and in the resulting conflagration the roof and most of the second floor were destroyed, along with most of the families clothes and many of the furnishings. Richard Washington rebuilt the burned upper floor on the original plan and he and his family continued to struggle on there until 1875. They had lost much of their livestock and property during the war and that, coupled with the cost of rebuilding and the generally depressed conditions immediately following the war, made life difficult. Richard B. Washington did, however,

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

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

"Blakeley", Jefferson County, West Virginia

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

have the wherewithall to be one of two individuals who, in 1869, successfully pressed an injunction that stopped the radical County Board of Supervisors from selling at public auction the historic Charles Town Courthouse and Jail (entered on the National Register of Historic Places, July 10, 1973). In 1875 Richard B. Washington was forced to sell Blakeley and he and his wife & family moved to her old home of Harewood.

The purchaser of Blakeley in 1875 was Louise Fontaine Washington Chew, niece of Richard B. Washington. Mrs. Chew, besides being a Washington, had another, more personal, reason for wishing to see Blakeley kept in the Washington family; she had been married at Blakeley in 1871 to the dashing Colonel Roger Preston Chew. Roger Preston Chew, generally referred to as R. Preston Chew, had been the commander of Jefferson County's only artillery unit in the Confederate Army, known as "Chew's Battery". He began the war as a captain and rose to be a lieutenant colonel. According to Bushong "...Chew's Battery was engaged in more skirmishes and battles than any battery in the entire Confederate army." At the close of hostilities Col. R. Preston Chew was in command of all the horse artillery of the Army of Northern Virginia. After the war and his marriage in 1871 (related above) Col. Chew engaged successfully in farming and business enterprises, including heading up the Charles Town Mining, Manufacturing and Improvement Company which founded the town of Ranson, WV. Col. Chew also served on the citizen's committee that oversaw, in 1896, the first experiment at rural free mail delivery in the United States. That his fellow Jefferson Countians held Col. Chew in high esteem is evidenced by the fact that they elected him three times to represent Jefferson County in the WV House of Delegates, his term of office spanning 1884 to 1891.

Blakeley was sold in 1892 to John Burns, a prominent local farmer and community leader who is mentioned in several local histories as playing important roles in Jefferson County social and political history.

In 1943 the property passed to the prominent businessman and philanthropist Raymond J. Funkhouser (1888-1968). Funkhouser, who is responsible for the changes (discussed below) that have been made to Blakeley, was a native West Virginian who, born in poverty, had risen to great wealth, being the owner of the O'Sullivan Rubber Corp., the Funkhouser Company and the Victor Products Corp. He had moved to Jefferson County in 1939 and was, in 1943, residing at nearby Claymont Court. Funkhouser undertook the restoration of Claymont Court, Blakeley, and a number of other of the great Jefferson County homes associated with the Washington family. He also founded the Blakeley Bank & Trust Company in Ranson and gave large sums of money toward the building of a new hospital for the county (heading its Building and Finance Committee) and to Alderson-Broadbush College, one of whose major buildings is named for him. R.J. Funkhouser was a strong candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1942, receiving 23.9% of the vote in the Republican primary and losing to Chapman Revercomb (who won the general election). In 1944 he sought the governorship of West Virginia and ran a very strong race, receiving 39.3% of the Republican primary in a four man race, though losing the election. Funkhouser also owned a prominent county newspaper, The Jefferson Republican, from 1942 until 1955. After Funkhouser's "rehabilitation" of Blakeley, it was occupied for a number of years by his son Justin Funkhouser.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

"Blakeley", Jefferson County, West Virginia

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

2. Blakeley has been recognized as an important historic landmark on both the state and local level. In 1937 a West Virginia state historic highway marker was erected across from the house acknowledging the historic nature of Blakeley. It has, in addition, been officially designated a Jefferson County Historic Landmark by the Jefferson County Landmarks Commission, and was presented with a bronze plaque to that effect in March of 1977.

3. When Blakeley was purchased in 1943 by Raymond J. Funkhouser it was in a somewhat run down condition, as were a number of the other great "Washington homes" of Jefferson County. Mr. Funkhouser, as mentioned above, was a man of great personal wealth and immense civic pride. He undertook the "restoration" of these homes, especially Claymont Court and Blakeley, with his own personal funds. While the work done on Claymont Court was a careful rehabilitation of that great architectural masterpiece, Funkhouser took more liberties with Blakeley, apparently feeling that the rather modest facade of Blakeley was not compatible with the much grander one of Claymont Court (which it faces across Bullskin Run) and the rather elevated concept of what a "Washington home" should be. Funkhouser was apparently infected with the "Williamsburg syndrome" then at its height; i.e. that historic preservation consisted of restoring or reconstructing buildings to conform to some preconceived notion of a particular "period" or "style" and "freezing" the building in time. Accordingly, Funkhouser had the rather modest one story portico of Blakeley removed and replaced by the imposing, though elegant, two story Greek Revival portico, surmounted by a ballustrade, which graces the facade today. A one story side porch was enclosed for use as a study, the second story porch removed. The interior features of Blakeley were rehabilitated at great expense, yet here the rehabilitation followed much more closely the original appearance of the features. The front entrance, which had been a rather modest doorway surmounted by a rectangular transom, was replaced by a "period" door flanked by segmented sidelights and surmounted by a rather elaborate fanlight. The entrance was re-done in this way in order to make it more compatible with the elegant reconstructed facade.

In summary, Blakeley was rehabilitated thirty-eight years ago to accommodate a more grandious living style and in manner that typifies ideals and practices in historic preservation of that era.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bushong, Millard K., Historic Jefferson County, Cass Publishing Co., Boyce, Va., c. 1972  
Carpenter, Charles, "The Monuments of West Virginia", West Virginia Review, Charleston, WV, February, 1932.  
Hardesty's West Virginia Counties, Vo. 8, Richwood, WV (1882), c. 1973

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8 1/4 acres

Quadrangle name Middleway, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	7
---	---

2	4	9	2	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	4	9	4	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the southeast corner where Jefferson County Route 13/3 meets Blakeley private road, thence due south following the eastern side of said private road (which is bordered by a fence/High Hedge) 300 feet to where the private road meets another fence, thence due

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Pauley, Historian

Historic Preservation Unit

organization WV Dept. of Culture & History

date January 20, 1980

Science & Culture Center

street & number Capitol Complex

telephone 304/348-0240

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date December 7, 1981

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

"Blakeley", Jefferson County, West Virginia

For HCERS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

Jefferson County Historical Society, The Washington Homes of Jefferson County,  
Charles Town, WV, 1975

"Oral Interview with Dr. John A. Washington" by Michael Pauley, Harewood, Charles  
Town, November 24, 1980.

Poss, William R., Political Almanac of West Virginia, West Virginia University,  
Morgantown, WV 1958

The Spirit of Jefferson Advocate, "Blakeley Presented Plaque," Charles Town, WV,  
March 2, 1977

Stutler, Boyd B., West Virginia in the Civil War, Education Foundation, Inc.,  
Charleston, WV 1966

Item 10, Verbal boundary description and justification....continuation

west 600 feet following said fence to its terminus at another fence, thence due  
north 200 feet following said fence to its junction with another fence (located  
parallel with the first contour line south of the county route) thence 500 feet  
along said fence/contour line to the point of origin: enclosing approximately 8½  
acres that is the historic seeting of Blakeley.





