

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic Echols, Brigadier General John, House

and or common

**2. Location**

street &amp; number Corner of Elmwood and Second Street North not for publication

city, town Union vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Monroe code 063

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Eunice D. Smithson and Mrs. Louise Massey

street &amp; number P. O. Box 162

city, town Union 24983 vicinity of state West Virginia

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monroe County Clerk's Office

street &amp; number Monroe County Courthouse

city, town Union state WV 24983

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

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

The General Echols House stands at the corner of Elmwood and Second Street North, in Union, Monroe County, West Virginia. The house is one of the county's oldest and best preserved landmarks of the pre-Civil War period.

Nearly square in massing, the two-story, brick house features a five-bay front, medium pitched hip roof, and trabeated, front elevation doorways centered above and below a one-story entrance portico. The transom lights and sidelights of the entrance and classical design of the portico suggest strong Greek Revival influence, while the roof profile and rectilinear character of the edifice recall late Georgian, local style elements. Of particular interest are the columns of the porch whose capitals resemble no particular classical order.

Both the latticed crawl space screen and porch balusters of the porch date from a later period.

Another architectural feature of the house's front elevation is the locally significant treatment of the eaves, which are relatively deep and embellished with a scroll-like brackets.

The General John Echols house in Union was built by John W. Lanus, who owned the property between 1845 and 1848. However, it is thought that General John Echols, during the twenty years that he owned the house, improved or completed work on it during his ownership. The foundation of the house is constructed of native blue limestone which is abundant in the area. The walls of the house are constructed of handmade brick made in a nearby brick kiln. The making of brick at this time was usually done by slave labor. Abundant clay for the making of the bricks was nearby. Several buildings in and around Union were constructed of these handmade bricks, including: Elmwood, Walnut Grove, the Monroe County Court House and the Baptist Church.

The brick walls of the Echols house are three bricks thick. The house is forty-four and a half feet wide and fifty-two feet long; two-stories high; the porch is twenty-four feet by ten and a half feet; the main hall, running the length of the building, is eighteen and one half feet wide; the living room is eighteen by eighteen feet, which is on the left side of the front door and joins the dining room which is twenty by eighteen feet; the ceilings of all the rooms and hallway on the first floor are eleven and one half feet high. On the right of the hallway are three bedrooms. All floors are of dressed six-inch wide clear pine in excellent condition. The house had been well preserved.

There are six bedrooms on the second story with a hallway corresponding with the hallway on the first floor. There is a small basement with walls of native limestone. In the basement can be observed the hand hewn beams supporting the first floor, which is an exhibit of skilled workmanship of that time.

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Description

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There is a kitchen and pantry extending the width of the house, twelve feet wide and one story high, which appears to have been built to the main house at a later date.

At the rear of the house is a frame two story house fifteen by twenty feet which appears to have been used for servants' quarters; it is a contributing structure.

## 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
<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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
West Virginia History				
Specific dates	c. 1845	Builder Architect	Unknown	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The General Echols House at Union, Monroe County, West Virginia, is significant for its association with John Echols, a Brigadier General in the army of the Confederate States of America. The house possesses additional distinction as one of Monroe County's oldest and best preserved examples of Greek Revival architecture.

John Echols, of Monroe County, is remembered for his loyal service to the Confederate Army from the beginning to the end of the Civil War; but he enjoyed prominence in other life endeavors including support that helped Collis P. Huntington build the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad to the Ohio River. Echols played another historically significant role as a pioneer in the development of higher education in Virginia.

John Echols, son of Joseph (1789-1824) and Eliza F. (Lambeth) Echols of Halifax County, Virginia, was born at Lynchburg, Virginia, March 20, 1823.

In 1843, he graduated from Virginia Military Institute and in 1844, he married Mary Jane Caperton, the daughter of Hugh and Jane Erskine Caperton. Hugh was the builder of "Elmwood" at Union, now in the National Register of Historical Places. Mary Jane was a sister of Allen T. Caperton, who was born at "Elmwood", November 21, 1810 and served in the West Virginia State Senate and the United States Senate. Allen T. Caperton married Harriet Echols, a sister of John.

In 1845, the Echols' moved to Union and this remained their home for twenty years. In 1848, he bought this property, Echols House, from John W. Lanus for \$2,400.

Echols was a large man, six feet four inches tall, weighed 260 pounds, very commanding in appearance and an avid public speaker.

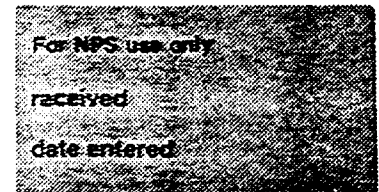
By 1860, he had won distinction as a lawyer, orator and statesman. He was President and Director of the Bank of Virginia Branch Bank in Union, and an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

He was very public spirited and a firm believer in higher education and was interested in good schools for both sexes. In Monroe County he was active in the establishment of a female seminary and tried to secure for it the best teachers. He was the leader in the establishment of a high school for boys, and for this he freely gave of his money, time and ability. Both schools were very successful until the outbreak of the Civil War.

In 1851-53, he was a Delegate to the Virginia Assembly, and in 1861, he was a member of the convention that passed the ordinance of succession.

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Continuation sheet Echols, Brigadier Gen. John Item number 8

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Before the war began he organized the Monroe Guards, of which he was the first captain. He entered the Confederate Army as Lieutenant Colonel of the 27th Virginia Infantry of the famous Stonewall Brigade. The Monroe Guards was the first company from Monroe to enter the service of the Confederacy. On May 9, 1861, the volunteer company was ordered into camp at Staunton, and on May 13, 1861, one hundred and eight volunteers left Union for Staunton. General A. A. Chapman addressed the soldiers and Col. John Echols gave a reply. Dr. S. E. Houston, pastor of the Union Presbyterian Church, commended the group to the gracious protection of God.

The Monroe Guards was one of the companies that formed the 27th Virginia Regiment. This was one of the five regiments composing the brigade commanded by Colonel Thomas J. Jackson, who was soon made a brigadier general. At Manassas he and his brigade alike won the immortal name of "Stonewall".

General Echols, after the first battle of Kernstown in which he commanded his regiment and was wounded, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and served under General Loring in the Kanawha Valley. In the fall of 1862 he succeeded Loring and was put in command of the Department of Southwest Virginia. In 1863, he was placed on the court inquiry as to the fall of Vicksburg. Later in the same year he took the field again and was in command at the battle of Droop Mountain. At New Market he led the right wing of the army under Breckenridge, and joining General Lee he took part in the fighting before Richmond. In the fall of 1864 he was again transferred to Southwest Virginia, and the next spring with the rank of major general he succeeded Early in command of the Army of the Valley and Southwest Virginia. Eight days after the surrender of Lee he disbanded his army at Christiansburg, escorted the Confederate president to Goldsboro, N.C. and was paroled with the army under Johnston.

In the fall of 1865 General Echols made his home at Staunton and lived there until his death May 24, 1896. A plan in which he was greatly interested was the building of a railroad to the Ohio River. He induced C. P. Huntington, the railway magnate, to ride horseback with him over the proposed route so as to convince him of its practicability. He did more than any other man to cause Huntington to build the Chesapeake and Ohio. Echols was an excellent financier as well as an organizer and accumulated a large fortune. He was mainly instrumental in organizing the National Valley Bank of Staunton, and was its president.

Echols' son, Edward, attained great prominence in business and political life and served a term as lieutenant governor of Virginia. He had a cordial feeling for Monroe County where he spent his boyhood, and was by far the heaviest subscriber to the fund for the Confederate monument at Union, which was a pledge of his father.

The General Echols House is a significant landmark of the Greek Revival style in Union, county seat of Monroe County. The nearly square, two-story red brick house features a hipped roof and prominent, exterior side chimneys (2 per sidewall). Overall symmetry characterizes the architectural scheme, with trabeated, Greek Revival-style

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doorways dominating the center bay above and below a three-bay, one-story entrance portico. Both entrances feature transom lights and sidelights. An unusually formal element of the house's design is a balustraded, one-story portico in which vernacular, semi-classical columns present a local builder's interpretation of a classical order. The windows, with stone lintels and sills, are shuttered; they are doublehung, have six over six lights per sash, and are taller at the first story level than are their second story counterparts.

The Echols house is historically and architecturally significant in Union where its tree-shaded setting and spacious lawn serve to set it apart from the less formal, frame residences of the neighborhood.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet, Item No. 9, p.2.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/2 acre, approximately

Quadrangle name Union, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	7
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5	4	0	4	2	0
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4	1	6	0	5	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification Inclusive of city lots 71, 72, 73 and 74, in the City of Union, Monroe County, WV; Survey Record, Book 5, p.4, certified by J. E. Hines, Clerk of the Monroe County Court. (See Map)

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Monroe County Historical Society

organization  date December 10, 1984

street & number c/o Martha N. Banks telephone 304-348-0240

city or town Union 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 [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 2, 1985

For NPS 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

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Continuation sheet Major Bibliographical Ref. Item number 9

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GENERAL ECHOLS' HOUSE  
Sources of Information

1. The Caperton Family by Bernard M. Caperton.
2. The Monroe Watchman.
3. The History of Monroe County, West Virginia by Oren F. Morton, pages 338-339-340-322-323-324-368.
4. 200 Years From Good Hope by James W. Banks.
5. The Border Watchman, April 21, 1876.
6. Gleanings of Monroe County History by Charles B. Motley, pages 178-179.
7. Hardesty's History of West Virginia Counties, page 66.
8. West Virginia Blue Book, 1941 page 138.
9. Monroe County, West Virginia Clerk's Office Records.
10. A History of the Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory by David E. Johnston, pages 135, 266, 292 and 309.
11. "The Battle at Droop Mountain" by Dr. Dallas B. Shaffer.
12. "Monroe County, West Virginia in the Civil War" (A Thesis) by Leona Lynch Kessel, pages 70-71 and 72. (Aug. 21, 1950)
13. West Virginia Stories and Biographies by Charles H. Ambler, pages 265-267, 297-299.



UNION QUADRANGLE  
 WEST VIRGINIA-MONROE CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
 SE/4 ALDEPSON 15 QUADRANGLE

4959 III NW  
 (RONCEVERTE)

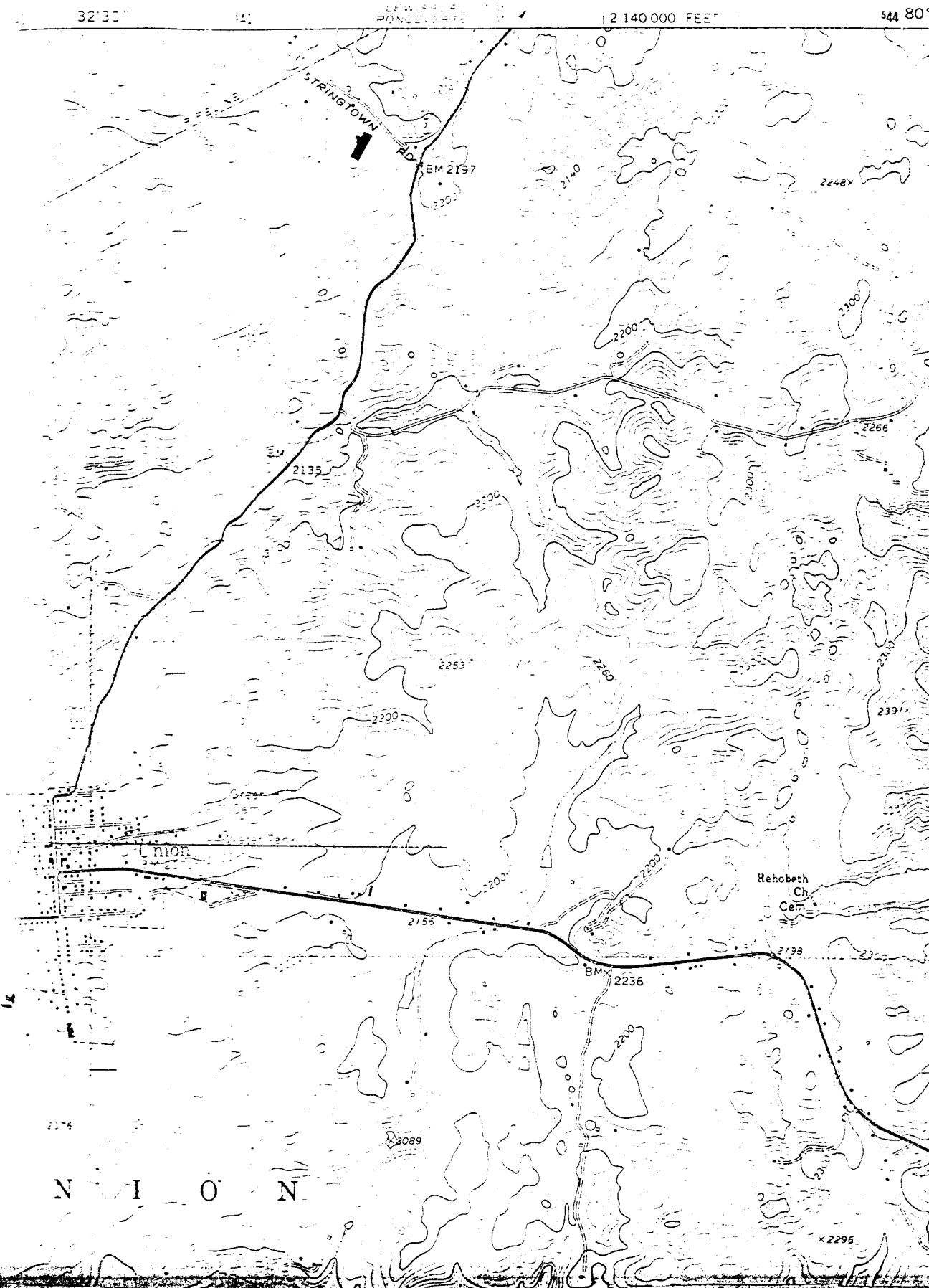
32°30"

LEWIS & CLARK  
 RANCE, FEET

2 140 000 FEET

544 80°30'

37°37'30"



4164

4163

4162

220 000  
 FEET

GENERAL ECH  
 HOUSE  
 CORNER OF  
 4161 ELMWOOD  
 SECOND

UNION, MONROE  
 W. VA.

UNION

4160

17/540 400/416

35'

N I O N

1/4 MILE

I, James H. Jones, Clerk of the County Court of Monroe County, West Virginia, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Survey made by James H. Jones on the 5th day of January, 1924.  
James H. Jones  
 MONROE COUNTY, W. VA.

By \_\_\_\_\_

Book 5  
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