

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Charles Downs II House
other names/site number Downs House

2. Location

street & number W. Va. Secondary Route 1 (CR1) not for publication
city, town Marlowe vicinity
state West Virginia code 54 county Berkeley code 003 zip code

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature]

Date 3/11/91

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Residential
Agricultural

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Residential

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls masonry

roof slate

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Charles Downs II House, Berkeley Co. WV

The Charles Downs II House is located at the end of a private drive that runs west off of W.Va. Secondary Route 1, two-and-a-half miles west of the village of Marlowe in Berkeley County, West Virginia. The house is located on a slight rise, and the Potomac River can be seen to the east from the front elevation of the property.

The Downs House is a two-story "L" shaped masonry residence with inside end chimneys. The house measures forty-three feet across and is fifty feet deep. The Downs House was constructed in 1835 using Flemish bond brick with raked mortar and five row common bond on a stone foundation. It is situated on a hill within a ten acre tract. The house is five bays across and three bays deep, with a two-tiered recessed porch that has been partially enclosed for use as a sunporch.

The Charles Downs II House is stylistically Federal in appearance, with 9 over 6 and 6 over 6 double hung sash windows that have bonded brick flat arches on the ground floor at the front elevation and plain flat arches over all other windows. The entrance door has a plain wooden lintel over a six-panel door with a seven-light transom and sidelights set within panelled reveals. A molded wooden cornice extends across the front, while the gable ends have beaded barge boards.

The front section of the Downs House has a central hall plan, one room on each side. The open-well, open-string stair of four flights has a delicate appearance. There are two round-in-section balusters per riser under the oval-shaped handrail and a single starting newel post with a molded flat cap. Of the house's six fireplaces, the four in the front section have nearly identical mantels with a molded edge shelf and a series of bed moldings of echinus, cavetto, bead, and fillet. There are slight differences between the mantels in the bed moldings. The single panelled frieze is supported by Doric columns. In the dining room, located in the two room deep ell, flat pilasters in the Doric style are used. Two rooms have two-tiered, double panelled door cupboards and there is a beaded board enclosed double winder for the rear staircase leading from the kitchen to the second floor to the attic.

The ground floor windows in the front section of the house have panelled reveals, the roundel and symmetrically molded facings are carried to the floor, and the area below the window is panelled. The roundel trim is used in the front part and plainer, though period, architrave trim is used in the ell. Panelled doors have original hardware and most have Carpenters box locks. The board-and-batten stair doors in the ell have hand forged Norfolk latches. Roof construction is of pegged rafters marked with Roman numerals.

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Charles Downs II House, Berkeley Co. WV

There are two outbuildings on the property. One is a gabled roof dressed cement block garage, and the other is a wood frame shed. Both are from the 1920's and are contributing.

The Charles Downs II House, sitting on its rise above the Potomac River in northeastern Berkeley County maintains a high degree of integrity, both in its appearance and environment, having changed but little since the 19Th. century.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Politics/Government

Period of Significance
1835-ca.1925

Significant Dates
1835

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Significant Person

Charles Downs II
H. A. Downs

Architect/Builder

Not Known

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

Charles Downs II House, Berkeley Co. WV

The Charles Downs II House, located in the vicinity of Marlowe in Berkeley County, West Virginia, is significant under National Register Criterion B for its association with the locally important Downs family. It is also significant under Criterion C as an excellent local example of intact Federal period vernacular architecture.

Charles Downs II was the son of Charles Downs I who came to Berkeley County in 1815 from Washington County, Maryland. In 1832, Charles Downs II purchased 184 acres from Henry Myers and built the brick residence in 1835. Downs was involved in a number of business enterprises, owning three mills in Berkeley County and another close to Washington, D.C. At one time, he advertised for 100,000 bushels of wheat to purchase for his mills. He owned his own canal boats to transfer his products to market on the C & O Canal (just a mile to the east of his house) to the eastern cities. Charles Downs II served as an election official, a court justice, a committeeman for improving the Williamsport Turnpike (presently U.S. Route 11), and later as a committeeman for a reception given for the returning soldiers from the Mexican War. In 1852 he was elected Justice of the Peace, and served in that office until 1856. There are numerous mentions of his activities, both commercial and civic, in the Martinsburg Gazette, the leading newspaper of the area. In 1930, his name was included among those of other historical personages on a marble tablet placed in the Berkeley County Courthouse as having contributed to the growth and development of the county.

Another prominent member of the Downs family, though of a slightly more recent period, was H. A. Downs. A prominent attorney, he served as Republican Congressional Committeeman from 1911 to 1913, and was the party's nominee for State Attorney in both 1912 and 1916. In 1913 he was appointed U.S. Commissioner for the Northern District of West Virginia, serving in that office until his election to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1920. He served in the legislature for the single term 1921-23.

The residence is architecturally significant as being a classical expression of a Federal period country dwelling house. The house is almost completely intact stylistically from the period of its construction, on both the exterior and interior.

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Section number 8 Page 3

Charles Downs II House, Berkeley Co. WV

The Charles Downs II House is a well proportioned building with impressive mass. The raked Flemish bond, the bonded brick flat arches over the large windows, the classical entrance doorway and other features clearly define the Federal style of the house. The Federal theme is carried throughout the interior as well, being represented by all of the five mantelpieces the tiered cupboards, symmetrically molded trim with roundel corner blocks, the open-well stairway, panelled doors with original hardware, and original random width wood floors. There is a high degree of craftsmanship throughout and few later alterations. This is a rare example, in Berkeley County, of a large Federal period home, the seat of a prosperous farm, that eluded the "Victorianization" that occurred to so many such properties.

All three structures on the property contribute to the property's significance. The period of significance, 1835 to ca. 1925, represents the period of the Downs family occupancy.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Berkeley County Deed Books, Will Books, Courthouse, Martinsburg, W.Va.
Frederick County, Va., Deed Books, Land Grant Index and Maps, Historic Records
Book 1. Courthouse, Martinsburg, W.Va.
The Berkeley Journal, Berkeley County Historical Society, Issue 5, 1976.
Martinsburg Gazette, various issues. 1836-1852.
West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia. Comstock Pub. Richwood, W.Va. 1975

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # N/A
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # N/A

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Two (2) Acres

UTM References

A

1	8
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2	5	1	4	6	0
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4	3	8	4	0	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at 129 feet on the fifth line of the 9.636 acre survey plat, thence with said line southeast 350 feet; thence southwest 270 feet; thence northwest 350 feet; thence northeast 270 feet to the point of beginning. (See Sketch Map).

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

A two acre rectangle abutting on the secondary road offering egress, so as to include the residence and ancillary buildings and grounds sufficient to embrace the historic setting of the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frances D. Ruth, Administrator, Berkeley Co.HLC; Michael J. Pauley, Historian
organization Berkeley County Historic Landmark Comm. date January 23, 1991
street & number Berkeley County Courthouse telephone _____
city or town Martinsburg state West Virginia zip code 25401

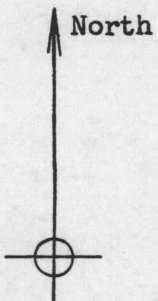
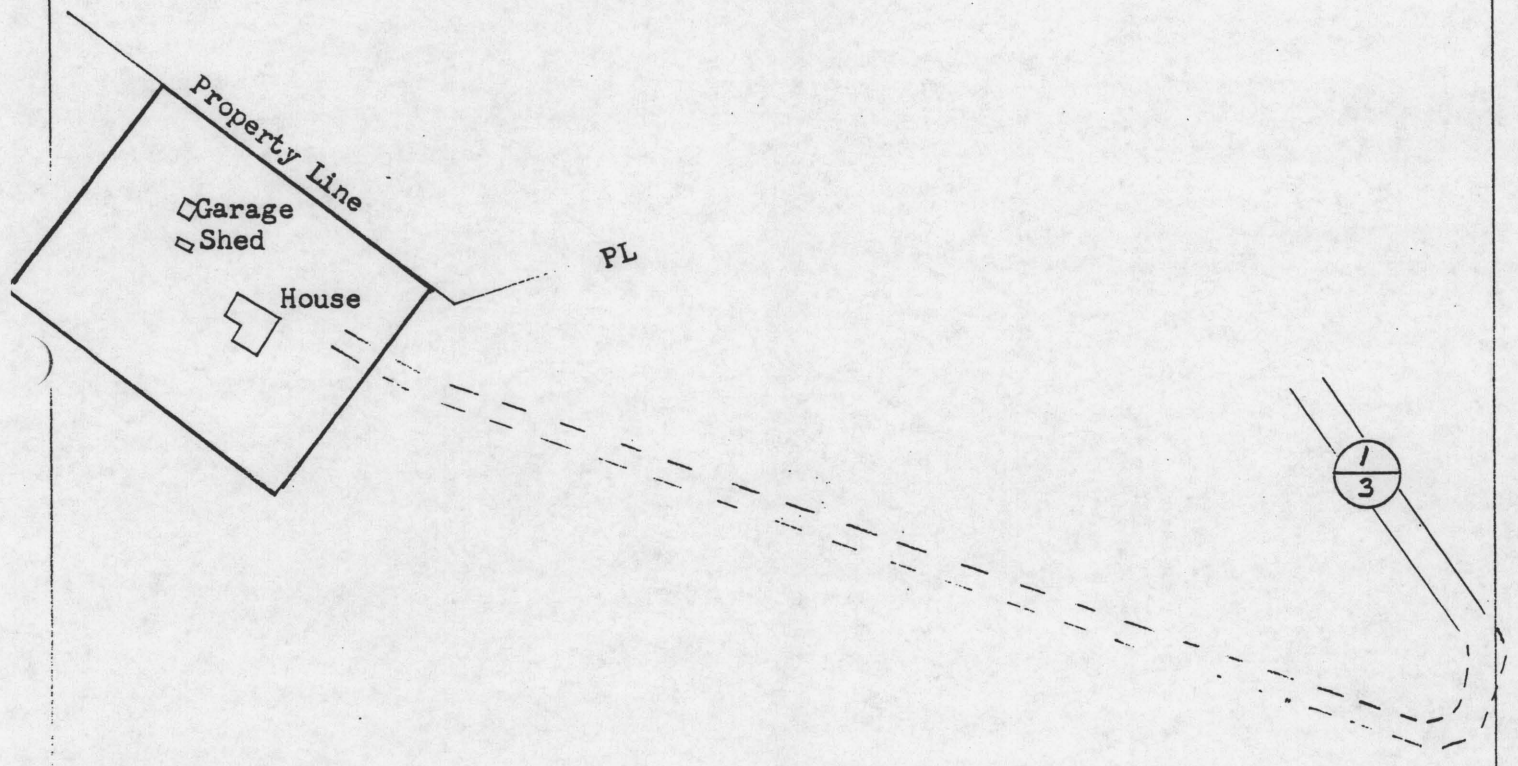
CHARLES DOWNS II HOUSE

H-123

Hedgesville Quadrangle

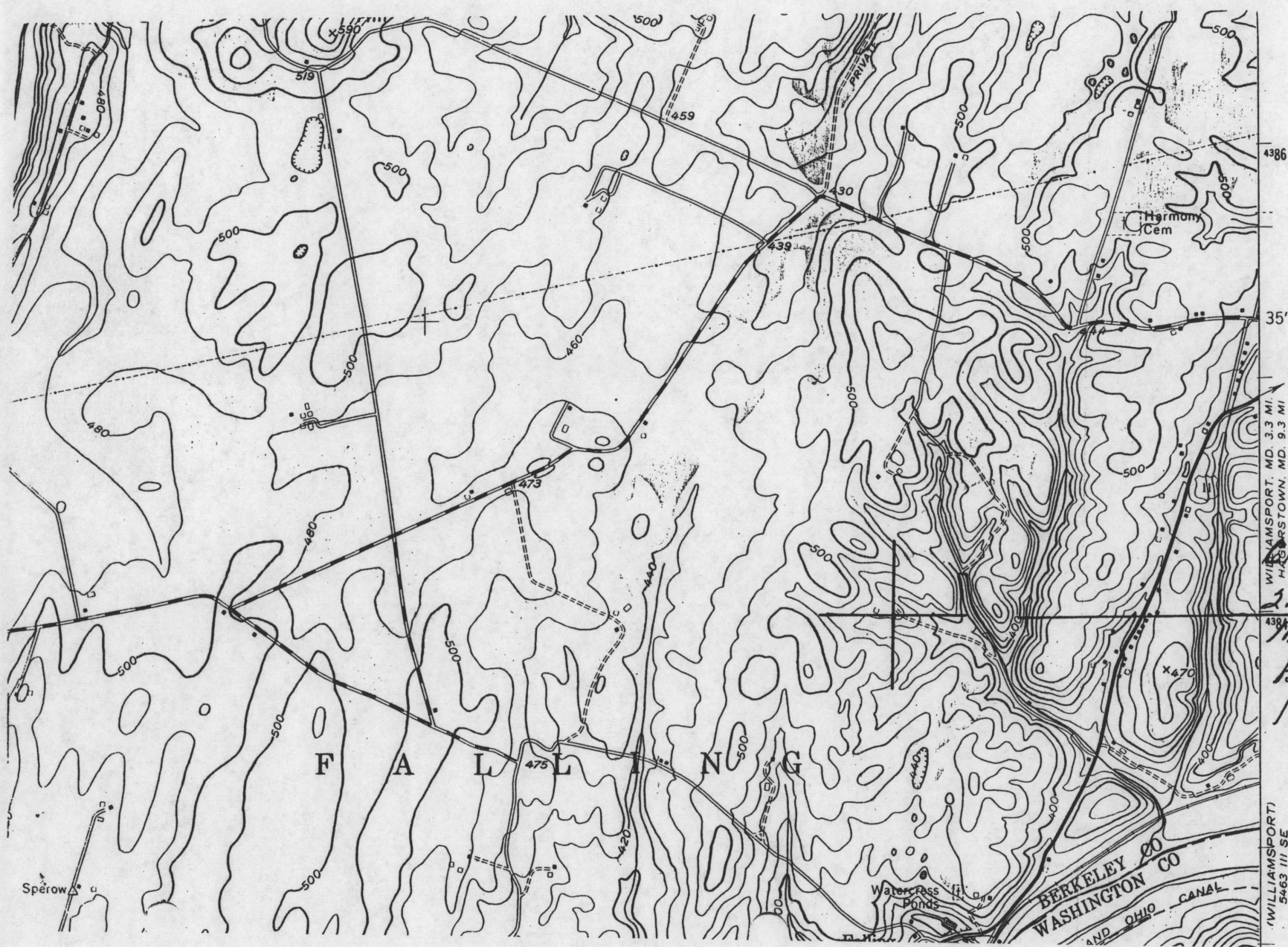
Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 2 acres



SCALE
1 inch = 200 feet
0 200

Copied August 1985
by Galtjo L. Geertsema
from Survey Plat of 9.636 acres
dated 10 December 1984 by
Rickie C. Davy



4386
35'
WILLIAMSPORT, MD. 3.3 MI.
HARRISTOWN, MD. 9.3 MI.
4384
WILLIAMSPORT
5463 III SE

CHARLES DOWNS II 460
2.6 Miles West of
MARLOWE, WV
BERKELEY County
18-251460-4384050

