

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 2 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON:

"Happy Retreat"

AND/OR HISTORIC:

"Mordington"

Washington, Charles, House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1/2 mile south of the intersection of U.S. Rt. 340 and W. Va. St. Rt. 9, right of George Street at the end of Blakeley Place.

CITY OR TOWN:

Charles Town

(2nd. Congressional District)

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 type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific

<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

William G. and Mary B. Gavin

STREET AND NUMBER:

Happy Retreat (Mordington Avenue)

CITY OR TOWN:

Charles Town

STATE:

West Virginia

CODE

54

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☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Division of Prints and Photographs

STREET AND NUMBER:

Library of Congress

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

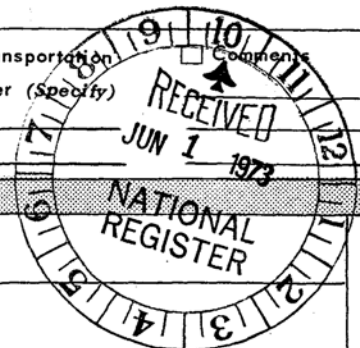
STATE:

District of Columbia

CODE

11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: West Virginia

COUNTY: Jefferson

ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 2 1973

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This white painted structure is a classical-revival brick building with a 2½-story central block and a pair of 2-story flanking wings.

The northern facing front of the main building has a Doric pediment and an elliptical fanlight below its gabled end. Directly below the fanlight on the second floor is a window with 6/6 lights and side lights of 2/2. The centrally placed frontis piece consists of side lights and over lights with evidence of an elliptical relieving arch above the frame. Surrounding the frontis piece is a four-columned Doric portico. There is a first and second story window to the left and right of the portico. Each has 6/6 lights splayed brick lintels, stone sills, and black painted shutters.

The wings' three-part second story windows are smaller but similar to the central second story window of the main house, but instead of side lights there are side wooden panels into which narrow wooden louvered shutters have been inserted. The first floor window frames in the wings show pin construction in the 18th Century manner while window construction in the main building shows later revival detail.

The primary unit is separated from the flanking wings by a five-foot brick connecting wall, and is projected about eight feet from them. Both wings have stepped north-south gables and a brick cornice to the extreme east and west.

There is a low stone foundation with no watertable.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☒ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1780 (wings built) 1837 (main portion built)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Phi-

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Theater

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Happy Retreat is architecturally significant because it is an example of 18th Century and 19th Century architecture combined; it is historically significant because it was built and occupied by Colonel Charles Washington, founder of Charles Town and brother of General George Washington.

Charles built Happy Retreat in 1780. It was a house of two wings connected by a covered runway. Colonel Washington died before his plans for the central portion were fulfilled and it was not until Judge Isaac R. Douglas purchased the property in 1837 that the center structure was added. Judge Douglas renamed the house Mordington after his home in Scotland. It was known as Mordington until 1945, when its original name was restored.

In George Washington's remaining diaries are mentioned two visits to Happy Retreat. He is said to have spent the night in the "pink room" in the upstairs west wing of the house. The famed Virginia Revolutionary warrior, General Daniel Morgan, met here with General Washington during one of the visits.

The west wing dining room was used by Charles Washington as a study. Here in 1786, he laid out plans for Charles Town, named for himself, to be built on 80 acres of his land. The town square, where the courthouse stands, was deeded by Colonel Washington as a gift to the town.

At the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, a ball was held at Happy Retreat in the celebration of the event. Charles Washington's son, Lt. George Augustine Washington, was a distinguished Revolutionary officer and was aide-de-camp to General Lafayette.

The original stone kitchen and adjoining smoke house are believed to pre-date the original wings of the house. An octagonal white school house, similar to the one in the garden at Mount Vernon, still survives in excellent condition. The stone slave quarters and barn have long since disappeared.

Charles Washington served in the Virginia militia during the Revolution and was also the builder of the famed Rising Sun Tavern in Fredericksburg which was a favorite gathering place for Virginia patriots prior to the war.

Charles Washington died in 1799 and is buried on the estate. In the 1930's

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annual Report of the 1970 West Virginia Antiquities Commission.
 Bushong, Millard K. Historic Jefferson County. Boyce: Carr Publishing Company, Inc., 1972
 "Happy Retreat" Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society, December, 1947.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		39° 16' 55"	77° 51' 34"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ted McGee, Field Research Agent for the

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission DATE: March 9, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: May 30, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Wiley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/2/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6 19 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

H/B
 17
 435/780
 253340

**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)

the Bee Line Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a memorial to Colonel Washington at the supposed site of his grave.

At the present time, Happy Retreat is occupied by Mary and William Gavin and their eight children.





the camera is looking South

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

182

1. NAME COMMON Happy Retreat		AND/OR HISTORIC Mordington	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) JUL 2 1973
2. LOCATION STATE West Virginia (54)		COUNTY Jefferson (037)	TOWN Charles Town
STREET AND NUMBER $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the intersection of U. S. Rt. 340 and W.Va. St. Rt. 9, right of George Street at the end of Blakeley Place.			
3. PHOTO REFERENCE PHOTO CREDIT Tim Sinn		DATE February 18, 1973	NEGATIVE FILED AT West Virginia Antiquities Commission
4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Camera is looking South.			



GPO 932-009

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



camera is looking southwest

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

2072

1. NAME COMMON		AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Happy Retreat		Mordington	JUL 2 1973
2. LOCATION			
STATE	West Virginia (54)	COUNTY Jefferson (037)	TOWN Charles Town
STREET AND NUMBER $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the intersection of U.S. Rt. 340 and W.Va. St. Rt. 9, right of George Street at the end of Blakeley Place.			
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT	
Tim Sinn	February 18, 1973	Morgantown, W.Va. West Virginia Antiquities Commission	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Camera is looking Southwest.			



GPO 932-009

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER