

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

For HCRS 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 Wood, Colonel Henry Hewitt, House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 6560 Roosevelt Avenue, S.E. not for publication

city, town Charleston vicinity of congressional district Third

state West Virginia code 54 county Kanawha code 039

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Heber Pittman

street & number 6560 Roosevelt Avenue, S.E.

city, town Charleston vicinity of state West Virginia 25304

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kanawha County Courthouse

street & number Virginia and Court Streets

city, town Charleston state West Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  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

The Colonel Henry Hewitt Wood House stands at the rear of a neat, tree-shaded lawn facing the Kanawha River in the Kanawha Estates section of Kanawha City, Charleston, West Virginia. The two-story, white-painted brick house was formerly the seat of a large farmland that disappeared among dozens of small residences as Charleston, the West Virginian capital, expanded along the river valley during heavy growth periods following the world wars. The house is a significant reminder of the prosperity of the once bustling salt producing industry that provided the first major growth stimulus of the Kanawha Valley in the early nineteenth century. The industry was centered on the north bank of the Kanawha at Malden, opposite the brick house built in 1829-31 for Colonel Henry Hewitt Wood a leading saltmaker.

The Colonel Wood House is a slightly modified "L". The major elevation facing the river is symmetrically divided among five bays and is centered with an especially broad entrance. The wide paneled door is flanked by sidelights and surmounted with an unusual rectangular overlight whose brilliant glass panes alternate in colors of dark blue, red, green, and amber. Tradition ascribes the unusual panes to the construction period, a not improbable likelihood considering the presence of wavy imperfections normally associated with early American window glass.

Unlike nineteenth century brick farmhouses of West Virginia with generally similar massing and floor plans, the Wood House combines features of formality suggested, in part, by the previously mentioned entrance glazing and by floor-length windows in the parlor right of the Roosevelt Avenue entrance and in the dining room across the hall. Raised acanthus leaf plaster molding in two evenly spaced bands embellish the ceiling of the parlor centered with a plaster rosette and crystal chandelier. Wood trim in both the parlor and dining room is outstanding; the door and window casing is ribbed and fluted and detailed with rose blocks. The stringer of the central hallway staircase, which rises to the second floor in two flights, is finished with scroll brackets.

Following change of ownership in the 1870's, Victorian alterations were almost certainly undertaken. Modification is evident in the placement of wood brackets in the eaves and in the probable construction of the neat small room, now used as a bedroom, at the west end of house's main block (off dining room). The three-sided window bay of this room, with its floor-length windows, is particularly charming. Other Victorian additions include a mid-century round-arched fireplace opening in the kitchen ell.

A long succession of distinguished owners has not left the Colonel Wood House without an imprint of change. Two-tier porches at the front (river elevation) and rear have disappeared, though the one-story porch facing Roosevelt Avenue retains one-half the height of the original (Two-tier porches are common features at the rear of West Virginia farmhouses; they frequently occupy angles formed by convergence of ells with the major building mass.); its post supports were replaced by the present owners with fluted Doric columns. Space adjoining the Roosevelt Street entrance has been landscaped and designed by the current owner (1980), the Heber Pittman family, to form a fountain courtyard with plantings of miniature boxwood.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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Additional changes to the original fabric are seen in the stone chimney built by the Pittmans at the end of the kitchen ell. The family room in this section opens onto a walled patio and pool constructed in recent years on the west side of the ell. Despite such changes, the owners have guarded much of the traditional character of the house.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1829-31 Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Colonel Henry Hewitt Wood House is significant because it is a reminder of the prosperity of the once bustling salt producing industry that provided the first major growth stimulus of West Virginia's Great Kanawha Valley. The early industrial ventures of Colonel Wood provided the means for a spacious farmhouse overlooking the Kanawha River opposite Kanawha Salines (Malden), the salt manufacturing boomtown of the early nineteenth century. Several formal architectural features of Wood's modest L-shaped brick residence suggest the handiwork of a master builder. Though typical in style of area settlement period houses, amenities in form of floor length windows, a colored glass entrance surround, and ornate acanthus-style parlor plasterwork provide the house with a distinct identity. The house built in 1829-31, is the oldest surviving on the south bank of the Kanawha River in the Malden area (once called South Malden), and is the second oldest extant residence on its original foundation in Charleston, the West Virginia capital.

The house built for Colonel Henry Hewitt Wood (1810-83) has been owned or occupied by a succession of distinguished families including: Mrs. Sallie Lewis Dickinson (whose husband Henry C. Dickinson was a salt producer and Mayor of Charleston), Lawrence Christy, Charles Cunningham, Judge John N. Charnock, and Heber Pittman. Colonel Wood arrived in the Kanawha Valley from New York. He lost a great amount of money in the Civil War as a Southern sympathizer. Despite the setback in later life, Colonel Wood and his wife, Ann Ruffner Reynolds (1814-79), enjoyed the prosperity of the pre-Civil War era salt manufacturing business which produced the finest grade salt from sub-surface brines. This commodity was widely used particularly in the Ohio Valley, and for curing and preserving meats. The brines also contributed to the emergence of the Kanawha Valley's famed chemical industries of the twentieth century.

In her book, Pioneers and Their Homes on Upper Kanawha, Ruth Woods Dayton wrote the following about the Wood family:

Colonel and Mrs. Wood had four children, all born here: Lavinia Cabell, mother of C. A. and Hewitt Cabell; Bettie, wife of J. H. Huling, member of Congress, and former mayor of Charleston; Margaret, who married William Donnally, son of Colonel Andrew Donnally, Jr.; and Elizabeth (1833-1880), who married William R. Cox, Jr. (1825-1870), whose father, a farmer and salt-maker, had come to Charleston from Campbell County, Virginia, about 1823. One of his farms lay in the center of Charleston's present business district, and the route taken to drive his cattle to the river for water came to be called Cox's Lane, and is now Capitol Street.

Present (1980) owner of the Colonel Wood House, the Pittman family, has adapted the landmark to conveniences demanded of contemporary comfortable living, while preserving the quality of the historic period.

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Names of master builders or architects who may have designed the Colonel Wood House have not survived. Yet oral tradition attributes the house to a Philadelphia architectural firm. The plasterwork of the parlor has been attributed to itinerant craftsmen. Given the growth of the community of Malden (Kanawha Salines) in the early nineteenth century, and the heavy traffic along the James River and Kanawha Turnpike, it is not unlikely that sophisticated plans were occasionally available in the area, and that services of master builders could have been secured by local squires from Eastern sources. Sustained growth of the Malden-Charleston area of the 1830s did, however, witness the rise of a small building industry centered about the name of at least one master builder.

9. Bibliography

Map. "Map of Lands Purchased by Sally J. Dickinson on the 20 May 1874." Kanawha County County Court, Charleston, W.Va.

Palmer, Diddy Mathews. "Historic Home Is Being Restored by Charnocks," Charleston Daily Mail. c. 1954, n.d. (newspaper clipping filed at Historic Preservation Unit, W.Va. Dept. of Culture and History).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Dayton, Ruth Woods. Pioneers and Their Homes on Upper Kanawha.  
Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Publishing Company, 1947, pp. 203-05  
Map. East Kanawha Estates, Collins Corporation. C.B. Holsclaw, Civil Engi  
Charelston, West Virginia, August 1934.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre

Quadrangle name Charelston East, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	7	4	50	7	80	42	3	90	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing				

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing				

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Located on a city lot, no. 93, East Kanawha Estates, Charleston, on a parcel 100'x 350' between the Kanawha River and Roosevelt Ave., S.E. (Map of East Kanawha Estates, C.B. Holsclaw, August 1934, Kanawha County Court)

**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 Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

organization W.V. Department of Culture & History date June 26, 1980

street & number Cultural Center, Capitol Complex telephone 304-348-0240

city or town Charelston 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 Clarence Moran date October 6, 1980

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

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

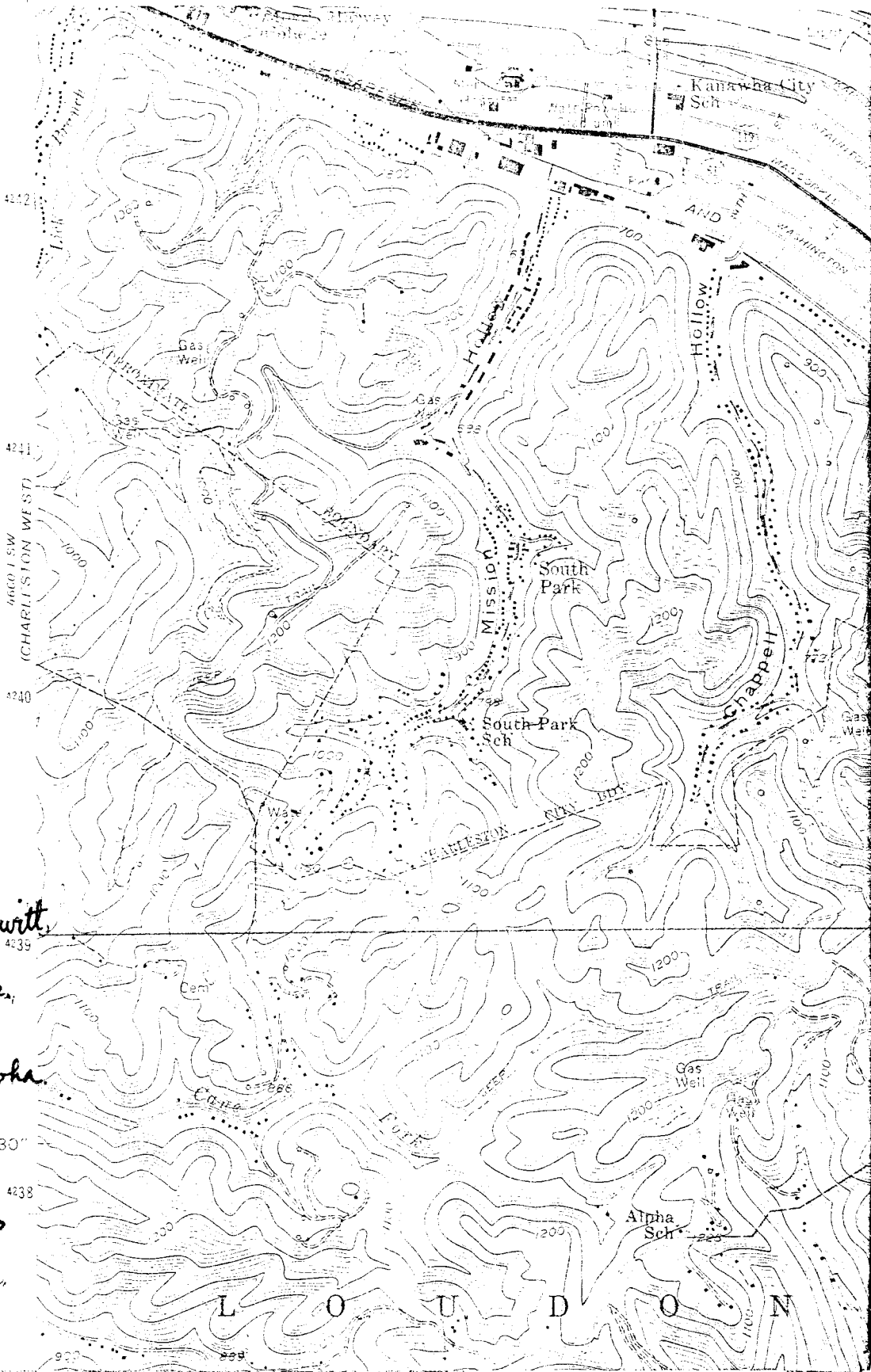
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Wood, Col. Henry Hewitt,  
House  
6560 Roosevelt Ave.  
S.E.  
Charleston, Kanawha  
Co., West Va.

UTM:  
17/450 780/4239 040  
Charleston East QUAD,  
W.VA.

L O U D O N

