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

1. Name

historic
Decatur Hedges House

and/or common

2. Location

On the northern side of West Virginia State Route #9, 3.1 miles
southeast of the town of Hedgesville. not for publication

street & number

city, town
Hedgesville

state
West Virginia

code
54

x vicinity of congressional district

3. Classification

Category

Ownership

Status

Present Use

district

public

occupied

agriculture

x district

private

unoccupied

commercial

structure

both

work in progress

educational

site

Public Acquisition

Accessible

entertainment

object

in process

government

being considered

industrial

x no

religious

scientific


4. Owner of Property

name
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gant

street & number
Route #6, Box 328

city, town
Martinsburg

code

x vicinity of state

West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.
Berkeley County Courthouse

street & number
100 West King Street

city, town
Martinsburg

state
West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title
Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date
1973 - 1983

federal

state

county

local

depository for survey records
Berkeley County Courthouse

city, town
Martinsburg

state
West Virginia
7. Description

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
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<tr>
<td>☑ excellent</td>
<td>☑ unaltered</td>
<td>☑ original site</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ good</td>
<td>___ altered</td>
<td>___ moved date</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ fair</td>
<td>___ unexposed</td>
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on West Virginia State Route #9 three and one-tenth miles south of Hedgesville, the two story, five bay, brick, "L" shaped Decatur Hedges house has a rural setting and is very visible from the road. Constructed in 1874 of six row common bond on a stone foundation, the dwelling house measures thirty-eight feet (38') across by forty-eight feet (48') deep. Architectural features include brick arched lintels, 4/4 double hung sash windows, louvered shutters, four corbelled chimney tops, a two-tiered (enclosed) recessed porch in the ell, and a delightful one story, one bay Victorian Gothic entrance porch with scroll brackets and lyre balustrade. The four-panel entrance door with sidelights is decorated with enriched moldings and is set within panelled jambs with a segmentally arched transom.

The plan of the house is central hall, one room each side, with a two room deep ell. The main entrance door opens into the central hall which has a two-flight open-well stairway with turned spindles and a large, turned newel post.

In the ell is a winder stairs enclosed by a board wall with four-panel doors. Also, in the kitchen and dining room, are two-tiered, panelled, double door cupboards.

Interior doors are four-panel and have the original small box locks with porcelain knobs. Trim is nicely molded and highlighted with a backband.

There are several fireplaces in the house and all have heavy and solid looking mantels. Those on the first floor are decorated with applied panels whereas those on the second floor are unadorned. All have decorative, chamfered edges, and shelves with rounded corners.

To the rear of the house is a one story, gable roofed, brick outbuilding that is contemporary with the dwelling house. It also is in excellent condition.
8. Significance

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<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
<th>Specific dates</th>
<th>Builder/Architect</th>
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Decatur Hedges house is significant for its historical associations with the Hedges family and the development of the Hedgesville area. It is also significant as an excellent example of vernacular Victorian Gothic architecture.

By 1754, five Hedges families had settled in Berkeley County on a total of nearly two thousand acres of land. These people were very important as early settlers of the area and many continued to make important developmental contributions. They built houses and farm buildings of log, brick, and stone, greatly enriching the architectural heritage of the area. In 1832, Josiah Hedges laid off some of his land in lots and established the town of Hedgesville. Decatur Hedges in 1874 built his brick house on land that was willed to him by his brother, Owen Tudor Hedges, who died on July 11, 1863, as a result of wounds received on July 3rd at Gettysburg. The two brothers had enlisted in Virginia, August 29, 1861.

The house is architecturally significant as being an excellent example of vernacular Victorian Gothic architecture. Constructed in 1874 by Decatur Hedges, the house is representative of several period houses in the area, all built in the two story, "T" shaped plan with the five bay front façade. There is a place in the development of area historic architecture for houses of this type as exemplified by the Decatur Hedges house.

These post Civil War farm houses are more restrained in their use of the more obvious of fussy Victorian woodwork and trim and therefore have a more classical feeling than their bric-a-brac counterparts. Beginning ca. 1830 with "Edgewood" in the southern part of the county, this "L" shaped brick plan became very popular and continued to be used until well into the 1890's. All of these houses exhibit classical overtures, but stylistic identity is found in the entrance porches, eaves trim, cornice work, fenestration, and interior trim.

The arched windows with their original shutters, give the Decatur Hedges house a very neat and distinct appearance from the road. The entrance porch is truly of excellent design, proportion, and workmanship and is very Gothic. Visually, the stress of the house is vertical and the details are heavy so that the building has the solid appearance associated with Victorian Gothic brick architecture.
The interior workmanship is also excellent with period design evident throughout but especially visual in the solid looking mantelpieces with their Gothic applied panels, and in the "pattern book" stairway. The tall baseboards, dark floors, and four-panel doors with original hardware all help to create and maintain the atmosphere and charm that the dwelling house was originally built to have.

The Decatur Hedges house is significant as an excellent example of vernacular Victorian Gothic architecture of 1874.
9. Major Bibliographical References


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre
Quadrangle name Hedgesville, WV
Quadrangle scale 1 : 24,000

UMT References

A 1 8
Zone
Eastings
4 3 7 7 7 7 0
Northing

B Zone
Eastings
Northing

C
D
E
F
G
H

Verbal boundary description and justification
Nominated property includes 100' on each side of the house and extends to the northeast side of West Virginia State Route #9 (see map).

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

state N/A
code
county
code

state
code
county
code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frances D. Ruth - Chairperson
organization Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission
date September 30, 1983
street & number Route #2, Box 320
telephone (304) 754 - 7097
city or town Martinsburg
state West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local X

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 Commissioner, WV Department of Culture & History
date November 18, 1983

For HCRA use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

title Keeper of the National Register
attest date

Chief of Registration
Hedgesville Quadrangle

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 1 acre

Hedgesville

\( \triangleleft 3.1 \text{ mi.} \)

[\text{Outbuilding}]

[\text{House}]

\[ \text{Martinsburg} \]

\( \downarrow 4.4 \text{ mi.} \)

SCALE 1 : 7,920

Copied September 1983 from photo AGS-57-91, Jan 5, 1938 by Galtjo L. Geertsema
Decatur Hedges House
W.Va. Route 9,
Hedgerville vicinity,
Berkeley County,
West Virginia
Hedgerville Quadrangle
U.T.M. Coordinates
18/44480/4377770

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA


Supersedes map dated 1971.

Projection: West Virginia coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
10,000-foot grid ticks based on West Virginia coordinate system, north zone and Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18
1927 North American datum

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.