

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Decatur Hedges House

and/or common

2. Location

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 _____ not for publication

city, town Hedgesville vicinity of congressional district

state West Virginia code 54 county Berkeley code 003

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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" 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 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gantt

street & number Route #6, Box 328

city, town Martinsburg 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

H - 38 Berkeley County Historic
title 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

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

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 out-building that is contemporary with the dwelling house. It also is in excellent condition.

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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1874 **Builder/Architect** Decatur Hedges

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, "L" 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet

Decatur Hedges House

Item number

8

Page

1

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

The Berkeley Journal, Issue Three (#3), 1974, published by the Berkeley County Historical Society.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Hedgesville, WV

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24,000

UMT References

A

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2	4	4	4	8	0
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4	3	7	7	7	7	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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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

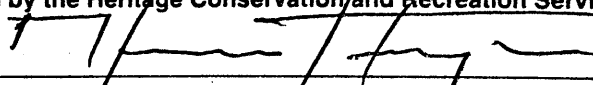
city or town Martinsburg state West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

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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

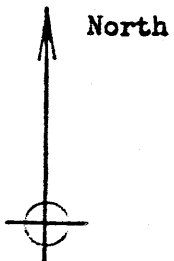
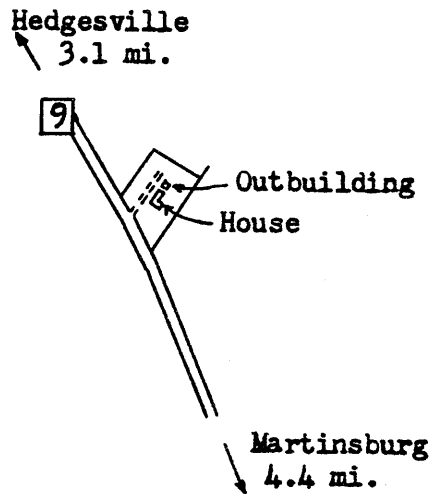
DECATUR HEDGES HOUSE

H-38

Hedgesville Quadrangle

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 1 acre



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,
 Hedgesville vicinity,
 Berkeley County,
 West Virginia
 Hedgesville Quadrangle
 U. T. M. Coordinates
 18/244480/4377770



(TABLERS STATION)
 5362 / NE

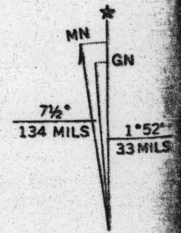
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1974. Map edited 1979
 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



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC DECLINATION AT CENTER

