

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
West Virginia
COUNTY:
Hardy
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
"First" Hardy County Courthouse				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
Old Hardy County Courthouse				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
Winchester Avenue and Elm Street				
CITY OR TOWN:			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Moorefield			Second	
STATE		CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
West Virginia		54	Hardy	031
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <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
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
Mrs. Carl B. Allen				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
General Delivery				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	CODE
Moorefield			West Virginia	54
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
Hardy County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
Elm Street				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE	CODE
Moorefield			West Virginia	54
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	CODE

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7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
	(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	
	(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>The Old, or "First," Hardy County Courthouse was constructed in segments, the first built in 1792-93 and the extension added about 1833. A contract for the first section, fronting on Franklin (now Elm) Street, was let by April 1792 to Abel Seymour for the original amount of £ 150. This was apparently completed by late 1793, with other workers having been employed at additional cost to "finish" the structure. Question of need for a new courthouse in 1833 led to a decision to erect the second portion of the "L"-shaped building, to be used as a clerk's office.</p> <p>The 1792-93 section had 18 inch thick brick walls placed atop a sound stone foundation. Approximately 25' x 50', the structure included the court room on the second floor, and the lower level was open so that horses could be taken through the arched, brick passageway into the open courtyard to the back. The gabled roof was topped by a belfry which housed a bell used to announce court sessions. Brickwork was of Flemish bond, and a carved and bracketed cornice underlined the roof's edge.</p> <p>Also of brick, but with walls only 12 inches thick and in a stretcher bond, the second section was a two-story, 50' x 25' addition. Facing Rockaway (now Winchester) Avenue, this segment was placed about six feet from the courthouse, the front ranging with that structure on the gable end. German influence in a slightly upturned gable is prevalent in the addition. Containing two rooms above and two below with a fireplace in each, it was originally roofed with tin. This section was connected to the courthouse by a platform and stair.</p> <p>Over the years the building has undergone a number of changes. At some unknown date between 1860 and 1900, the open stairway between sections was roofed over, and a floor at ground level in the old courthouse closed off the courtyard. A porch, built about 1902 and surrounding the Elm Street and Winchester Avenue fronts, was removed in the latest refurbishing, indicating fine federal lines in the original courthouse building. Windows in the two segments were of various sorts and remained so until remodeling in 1972 when all were replaced by 9/9 or 6/6 double-hung sash. Entrances have been changed as the building has served various functions; now there are two on the Winchester Avenue side. The brickwork has been painted white, and a retaining wall about two feet high and three feet deep serves as a planter around the front. Remodeling was accomplished under the direction of Miss Marjorie Pierce of Weston, Massachusetts, an architect with a fair amount of experience in restoration work.</p>			

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) 1792-93, c. 1833

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally constructed in 1792-93 with a section added about 1833, the Old Courthouse has served Hardy County, Virginia and West Virginia, as its seat of administration and justice, in the capacity of a boarding and finishing school for girls and as the residence and publishing office of one of its well-known citizens.

Hardy County was organized as a separate and distinct county in 1786, in pursuance of an act of the Virginia General Assembly adopted on December 10, 1785, from a part of Hampshire County. This in itself was significant, for it attested to the growing number of inhabitants in Virginia's back-country shortly after the Revolutionary War and the need to serve them with more immediate government.

Moorefield, newly laid out in 1777, provided two lots for county use, and, after about a year of court meetings in a rented residence, the first courthouse, 25' x 26' in dimension, was constructed of logs to house administration and court until 1793. Such quarters apparently proved too confining or too poor to a growing area, for in 1792 the leaders let a contract for a more substantial brick edifice. Built between 1792 and 1793, this structure would be used by the populace of Hardy as the county courthouse until roughly 1860, having an addition made about 1833 to house the clerk's office.

New quarters were opened for county offices just prior to the commencement of the Civil War, and the old courthouse, with lot and all the buildings thereon, was ordered sold. Transferred in private hands in 1861, 1866, and 1867, the structure finally became the property of three enterprising sisters named Forrer from Strausburg, Virginia. Two of them, the Misses Kate and Sally as they were known to their students, conducted a private girls' day and boarding school in the building, thus offering one of the few chances for females of the surrounding area to obtain formal instruction in various subjects.

The Forrer sisters sold the building in 1900 to Captain John J. Chipley, in whose family the property remained until 1970. Chipley, one-time mayor of Moorefield, published the weekly Hardy County Democrat (forerunner of the still published Moorefield Examiner) there from 1897 to 1902. A Mr. C.H. Herbert also conducted a school in the structure, and J. Ed Chipley, a lawyer, and J.D. Chipley, Jr., assessor, had offices there for a number of years.

Besides being one of the oldest buildings in Hardy County, then, the Old Hardy County Courthouse has been functional in its relation to the town of Moorefield and surrounding area. After use as the county courthouse for nearly seventy years, it served as a school, office building,

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE West Virginia	
COUNTY Hardy	
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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

newspaper publishing house and apartment dwelling. Its history has a depth and variety making it impressive beyond the superficiality of its interesting facade.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Hardy First Court House for Sale by Heirs." Moorefield (W.Va.) Examiner, December 2, 1970, p. 1.

"Eighteenth Century County Court House On Winchester Avenue Being Restored." Moorefield (W.Va.) Examiner, March 29, 1972, p. 1.

Judy, E.L. History of Hardy and Grant Counties, West Virginia. Charleston, W.Va.: Charleston Printing Co., 1951. (p. 169)

Morgantown, W.Va. Archives and Manuscripts, West Virginia Collection, West Virginia University Library. Historic Records Survey, Hardy County, Box 39. Hardy County, Minute Book, 1786-1791. Item No. 233.

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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	03	42.6
NE	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	58	05.2
SE	0	0	0	0	0	0	17/675810		
SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	4325400		

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: James E. Harding, Research Analyst		DATE April 15, 1974
ORGANIZATION West Virginia Antiquities Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University		
CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown	STATE West Virginia	CODE 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Leonard M. Davis
Leonard M. Davis

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date May 9, 1974

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Magnetic 1972

5 30' Declination at
Petersburg, W. Va.

ELM STREET (Formerly Franklin Street)

"OLD JAIL LOT"

12,208 square
feet
or
.28 of an acre

Bergdoll Lot

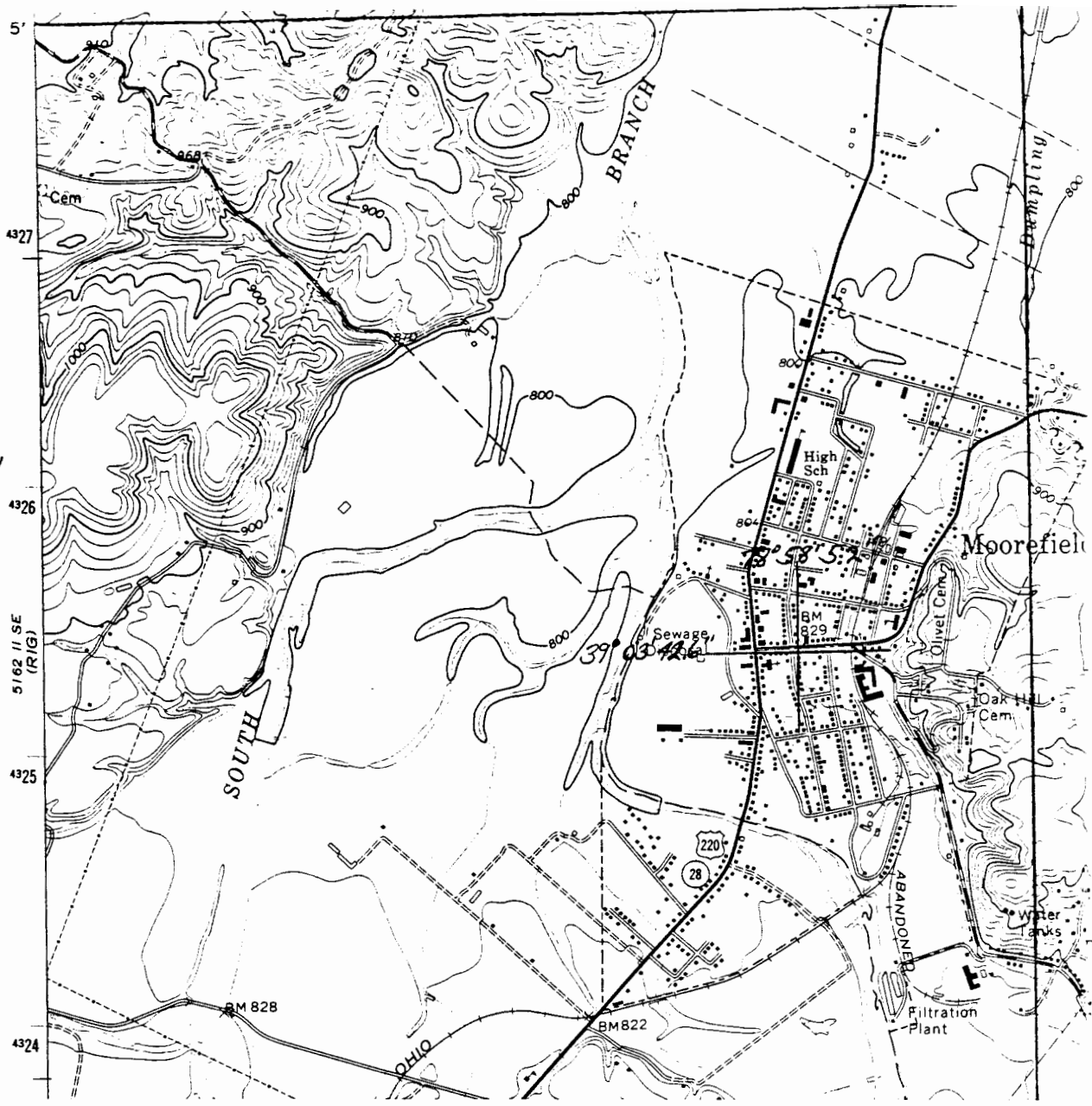
WINCHESTER AVENUE (Formerly Rockaway Street)

Plat showing the "Old Court House and Clerk's Office Lot"
containing .28 of an acre and located at the corner of Elm Street
and Winchester Avenue in the Town of Moorefield in Hardy County
West Virginia.

Scale 1" equals 40'

Survey made March 16, 1972

"FIRST" HARDY COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
HARDY COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

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1. NAME			
COMMON: "First" Hardy County Courthouse			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Hardy County Courthouse			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Winchester Avenue and Elm Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Moorefield			
STATE: West Virginia	CODE 54	COUNTY: Hardy	CODE 031
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: United States Geological Survey, Moorefield, W.Va., 7.5' Quadrant			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1970			
4. REQUIREMENTS			



MOOREFIELD D. WIN