

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS 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 Fruit Hill; Robinson-Andrews-Hoxton House

and or common

2. Location

street & number Shepherd Grade (County Route 5) not for publication

city, town Shepherdstown X vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Jefferson code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	X occupied	X agriculture
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	N/A in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
		___ no	___ military
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Robinson Hoxton, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. Taylor

street & number Fruit Hill, Route 1, Box 52

city, town Shepherdstown X vicinity of state West Virginia 25443

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number corner of Washington and George Streets

city, town Charles Town state West Virginia 25414

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Jefferson County, West Virginia
title Architectural Inventory Form SG6, SG6A has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1972-1973 ___ federal ___ state X county ___ local

depository for survey records Jefferson County Planning Commission

city, town Charles Town state West Virginia 25414

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The main house is an outstanding Jefferson County landmark in the Greek Revival style. L-shaped in plan, it incorporates well-preserved exterior and interior details, including two-tiered galleries and an entry porch featuring vernacular Doric-style columns. A classical entablature, with a prominent frieze and pilasters, forms part of an elaborate door surround. The doorway beneath the flat-roofed porch is framed by sidelights and a rectangular transom divided into seven panes. Mullions in the Doric style and smooth-shaft engaged columns frame the double doors.

The exterior of Fruit Hill exhibits several of the building's most impressive details. Among these are the Flemish bond brickwork in the east facade and the flat brick arches with their splayed, or distinctive trapezoidal shape. The ornamental treatment of the corbeled brick cornices at the eaves is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style.

Low pitched roofs, another Greek Revival feature, terminate at the gable ends flush with the end walls. Flush raking cornices are a common Greek Revival element in the design of this type of house in West Virginia. An unusual architectural detail, however, is the presence of end chimneys which are coupled at the apex of the north end wall with a brick parapet, a throwback to Georgian design. Fenestration is appropriate to the period. The sashes incorporate the Greek Revival configuration of six panes over six panes.

The magnificent open-well, three-flight, open-string stair in the entrance hall is the principal ornamental feature of the house. The stringer is decorated with finely cut scroll brackets.

Woodwork is reeded or moulded, terminating in corner blocks with roses or bullseyes. Casing, of both doors and windows, is similar in design. The best example is found in the entrance door surround. An especially fine example of Greek Revival woodwork is the mantel in the east parlor, displaying a simple shelf over a convex, bulbous frieze.

A pre-Revolutionary War limestone rubble house, situated to the southwest of the 1830's brick house, was probably built by Henry Cookus about 1766. On the west side of the structure a stone addition, consisting of a large room and loft, was constructed shortly after the original house was built. A later brick wing with a double gallery, and containing four rooms, was added to the south which doubles the size of the building.

The original stone house faces east and is two stories in height. There is one room on each floor and a cellar with a fireplace. The window openings in the facade have red brick flat arches.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

C. 2 buildings

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 checked="" 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/
<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 1766; 1830 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Meets Criteria B and C

Fruit Hill's significance is twofold: It is an imposing and well-preserved example of Greek Revival architecture in eastern West Virginia, and possesses additional distinction as the birthplace and boyhood home of Matthew Page Andrews, the noted early 20th-century editor, author, and historian. Fruit Hill's companion stone and brick residence is also one of the county's oldest buildings.

Fruit Hill, a Jefferson County Historic Landmark, has been traced from 1750 Lord Fairfax grant to Thomas Swearingen. Henry Cookus purchased the property on 1766. Danske Dandridge wrote in Historic Shepherdstown in 1910, "One of the oldest stone houses in the County is on Fruit Hill now belonging to the Andrews family. This old house was built by a Cookus (one of the area's earliest settlers) and sold several times before it fell into the hands of its present owners." Matthew Page Andrews, the noted historian, lived part of his life at Fruit Hill. The brick house was built in 1830 by Archibald Robinson whose parents had purchased the property in the 1820's. Fruit Hill remains in the possession of Andrews/Robinson descendants.

The main house is an outstanding Jefferson County landmark in the Greek Revival style. L-shaped in plan, it incorporates well-preserved exterior and interior details, including two-tiered galleries and an entry porch featuring vernacular Doric-style columns. A classical entablature, with a prominent frieze and pilasters, form part of an elaborate door surround. The doorway beneath the flat-roofed porch is framed by sidelights and a rectangular transom divided into seven panes. Mullions in the Doric style and smooth-shaft engaged columns frame the double doors.

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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Fruit Hill

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Fruit Hill's interesting history and architecture are recorded, as follows, in a passage in Dr. Millard K. Bushong's Historic Jefferson County, p. 160:

About a mile and a half northwest of Shepherdstown is located a farm named Fruit Hill, which has two interesting old buildings. The oldest one, a two-story stone house, was probably built before the Revolutionary War, supposedly by a man named Cookus. As the house was erected over a stream, it would appear that the builder was apprehensive of Indian attacks and wanted a plentiful supply of water. Other old homes in the Valley have this same feature. The brick house was probably constructed by Archibald Robinson, who received a deed dated November 27, 1830, giving him the property. Archibald's second wife, Anna Kearsley Mines, bore him a number of children, three of whom died of diphtheria. The oldest daughter, Anna, married Matthew Page Andrews, only son of the Reverend Charles W. Andrews, Episcopal rector in Shepherdstown. Their son, also named Matthew Page Andrews, was a noted historian, who continued to make Fruit Hill his summer home until he died in 1947.

Matthew Page Andrews (1879-1947) was a member of the family long associated with Fruit Hill and was a direct descendent of the builder. He and his sister, Sally Page, used the house as a summer home all their lives.

Matthew Page Andrews was educated at Washington and Lee University where he earned A.B., A.M., and Litt. D. degrees. Andrews' career included stints as a teacher, lecturer, and editor. (He served at one time as an editorial adviser to the Yale University Press.) Andrews' was especially well versed in colonial American topics and wrote extensively in this field. Among his books are: A History of the U.S. (1913); A Brief History of the United States (1916); American History and Government (1921); History of Maryland - Province and State (1929); Virginia, The Old Dominion (1937); and The Soul of a Nation, Founding of Virginia and Projection of New England (1943).

9. Major Bibliographical References

see attached sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4 acres

Quadrangle name Shepherdstown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8
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2	5	6	9	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

see attached sheet

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

state	n/a	code	county	code

state	n/a	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynne Kerwin Byron (Mrs. James Edgar Byron)

organization

date April 30, 1988

street & number Windward, Box 1626

telephone (304) 876-3483

city or town Shepherdstown

state West Virginia 25443

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8/15/88

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Fruit Hill

Bibliography

Calendar and Index to Recorded Survey Plats in Jefferson County, West Virginia
(Virginia), 1801-1901

Historic Jefferson County Millard Kessler Bushong, 1972

Historic Shepherdstown Danske Dandridge, 1910 (reprinted 1985)

Interview with Rodney S. Collins, April, 1988

Interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Robinson Hoxton, Jr., 1987-1988

Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society

Volume VIII, pages 19-26, December 1947

Volume XLI, pages 28-30, December 1975

Jefferson County Planning Commission, Charles Town, West Virginia
Jefferson County Architectural Inventory Forms SG6 and SG6A

Who Was Who in America. A.N. Marquis Company, Chicago, 1950, p. 27

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Fruit Hill

verbal boundary description

Beginning at the intersecting point of Easting line 257, Shepherdstown Quad., with the terminus of crushed stone lane/access road, the line runs north along the Easting line 200 feet, thence 400 feet west in a straight line, thence 400 feet south in a straight line, thence 400 feet east in a straight line, thence 200 feet north to the point of beginning, to form a square.

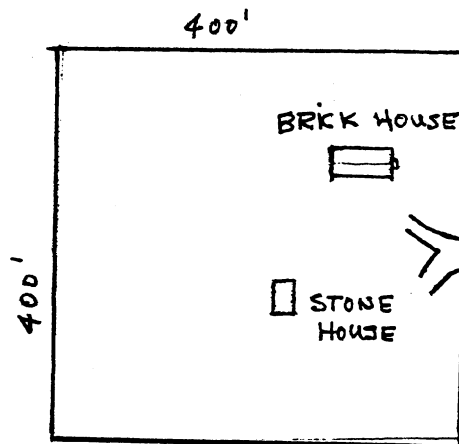
justification

The boundaries enclose the grounds historically associated with the brick and stone Fruit Hill houses.



EASTING
LINE 257
↙

TO COURT. 5
→



FRUIT HILL
SHEPHERD GRADE
SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.VA.

1 IN. = 200 FT. APPROX.

— BOUNDARY

