

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: The Gold Houses

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number: 503 and 505 N. Second St. not for publication: N/A

city/town: Mason vicinity: N/A

state: WV code: WV county: Mason code: 079 zip code: 25260

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant     nationally     statewide x locally.

(    See continuation sheet.)

William C. Tanner 6/4/97  
Signature of Certifying Official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau Date

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

Gold Houses  
Name of Property

Mason County, WV  
County/State

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date  
of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 5. Classification

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Ownership of Property:

Category of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National  
Register 0

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### 6. Function or Use

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#### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling

Domestic - single dwelling

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### 7. Description

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#### Architectural Classification:

(Enter categories from instructions)

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian - Queen Anne Foursquare

Foundation

Stone

Walls

Wood Frame

Roof

Asphalt Shingle

Slate

Other

#### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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Criteria Considerations  
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.  
 B removed from its original location.  
 C a birthplace or grave.  
 D a cemetery.  
 E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.  
 F a commemorative property.  
 G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Commerce - Fruit

Period of Significance  
1908-1928

Significant Dates  
1908

Significant Person  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
Gold, A. Fremont  
Gold, W. Alfred

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: Approximately one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Pomeroy, OH USGS Quadrangle Map

<u>17</u>	<u>411325</u>	<u>4319810</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing

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Verbal Boundary Description  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Susan M. Pierce, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
for Resource Protection

Organization: WV State Historic Preservation Office Date: May, 1997

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East Telephone: (304)558-0220x158

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 25305-0300

Gold Brothers' Homes  
Name of Property

Mason County, WV  
County and State

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Kathi and Ben Polis

Street & Number: 503 N. Second Street Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: Mason State: WV Zip: 25260

Name: Rocky and Sabra Pearson

Street & Number: 505 N. Second Street Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: Mason State: WV Zip: 25260

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Gold Brothers' Houses are located on North Second Street, the main thoroughfare in Mason, West Virginia. Their front entrances face south. The rear lawns slope downward toward the CSX railroad tracks which serve as the rear boundary of the properties. The Ohio River lies north beyond the railroad track.

The homes at 503 and 505 N. Second Street were built c. 1908. They are a mirrored pair with subtle differences. Both are two and a half stories and are clad in wood shingles. The foundations are composed of a rough stone block. The pyramidal shaped, slate roofs curve outward to the eaves. The building at 503 N. Second Street has an asphalt shingle roof; the roof of 505 N. Second Street is slate. The front gable dormer is clad with fish scale shingles. A semicircular vent is located above a flat roofed projecting bay in the dormer. This projecting bay extends below the gable dormer at the second story level. There are gable dormers on the side elevations. The cornice consists of a plain entablature.

Both buildings have wraparound porches enclosed by a spindled balustrade with a circular roof at one corner. The porch roofs are supported by wooden, Ionic columns. The porch foundations are cut stone of a different pattern from the main foundations.

The front elevation of each building has a first story bay window located at the corner of the wraparound porch. On the opposite side of the front doorway is a large, one over one window. The second story windows are eight over one; with star muntins in the upper sashes. The building at 505 N. Second Street has a balustrade porch around the second story bay window; 503 N. Second Street does not. However, the current owners of 503 N. Second Street plan to restore this second story porch. It is shown in an early picture postcard of the two houses and is stored in the garage.

The east facade of 503 N. Second Street and the west facade of 505 N. Second Street have projecting bays at the first and second stories. Above which is a gabled dormer. Large, wooden, one over one windows remain in 503 N. Second Street; however, these have been replaced with a single pane window with applied muntins at 505 N. Second Street. The pitch of the siding flares out above the first story windows in these bays. A large band of shingling interrupts the elevations to divide the



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stories of each building.

The first floor interior plan of 503 N. Second Street is divided into three primary rooms: the entry "sitting room", parlor and dining room. The sitting room features a fireplace with an oak mantel piece supported by a bracket at each end. Above the mantel is a mirror with Ionic columns at each side. In 503 N. Second Street, the hearth is covered by an Arts and Craft breast plate detailing a Grecian styled woman swinging on a tree limb. This fireplace opening is framed by tile, originally colored green. The rear of this room is framed by two large oak columns which frame an open, winding staircase. Pocket doors opposite the fireplace open into the front parlor. Behind the parlor is the dining room; pocket doors separate these rooms. A halfbath, kitchen and back porch complete the first floor behind the staircase.

The second floor of 503 N. Second Street has a central hallway opening into a bath and enters four bedrooms. Two bedrooms include the bay windows and a full bath. An oak staircase leads to the third floor which is a large open room distinguished by the various ceiling angles created by the pyramidal roof and dormers. This room at 503 N. Second Street was originally used by the Gold brothers as a recreation room complete with a pool table. The third floor also features a dramatic view of the Ohio River.

The garage at 503 N. Second Street (contributing) is rusticated concrete block on the first level; underneath the gambrel roof the finish is bevelled siding. There is a door in the second floor over the garage door with one large glass panel and three wooden panels. There are two six over six double-hung windows on each side elevation. The property of 505 N. Second Street does not have a garage. An early postcard photograph shows the orchard nursery office to the east of the residence at 505 N. Second Street. It has been removed.

The property at 503 N. Second Street also has an original privy (contributing). It is a one story framed building with a brick foundation and a slate, gable roof. There is a four paneled door and rectangular vents in the gable ends.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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The pair of Gold Brothers Houses at Mason, West Virginia are nominated to the National Register according to Criteria B and C for their association with locally significant agricultural merchants and the represented architectural significance. The co-owners of the property, A. Fremont Gold and W. Alfred Gold, were locally significant merchants that introduced a profitable nursery and orchard business to Mason County at the beginning of the twentieth century. Their pair of homes signify the success of the business in the community. The early twentieth century architectural style of the two buildings are unique to the town and region.

In 1899 the Gold Family business moved to Mason, West Virginia. The brothers' father, T.H. Gold, started the business in Bedford Township, Meigs County, Ohio growing plants and trees for his neighbors and local tradespeople. A.F. Gold and W.A. Gold, his sons, worked with their father. By 1899 the business had outgrown the Bedford Township Farm. Land was purchased from Albert McDaniel of Mason County and the nursery was transferred to Mason, West Virginia in 1900. The Gold Nursery and Orchard were located directly across the street from the brothers' houses on N. Second Street.

About 1910, the Gold Brothers decided to enlarge their business by starting commercial orchards in the area. They secured a large acreage near Clifton and in 1912 set out their first commercial orchard. Despite public disbelief that their orchards would succeed, they planted both apple and cherry trees in their orchard, hosting a celebration of their first harvest.

At their heyday, the brothers owned and operated the following commercial orchards:

- Clifton Orchard - 800 apple trees and 1,200 cherry trees
- Hartford Orchard - 8,000 apple trees and 3,000 peach trees
- Mason City Orchard - 3,000 apple trees and 2,000 peach trees
- West Virginia Orchard - 13,000 apple trees, 500 cherry trees and 3,500 peach trees
- Davis Orchard - 10,000 apple trees (200 acres)

All were located within Mason County. The orchards represent the extensive pomological success of the brothers. In 1926, an Apple Blossom

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Festival was held under the auspices of the Gold interests. To quote an observer, "a veritable ocean of apple blossoms greeted the eyes of everyone."

The brothers lived side by side in the two matching homes. As confirmed in the 1910 Census records for "Mason Village", Fremont Gold, a 46 year old Ohio native, lived with his 36 year old wife, Lona, and children, Arthur and Helen, 25 and 12 respectively. Lona may have been his second wife. Fremont is listed as a nursery general manager and Arthur as a nursery man. His brother, Alfred, is also a nurseryman, living with Emma, his 40 year old wife and children, Maggie and Homer, 20 and 18. A historic postcard reveals that additional cousins may have remained in Ohio. The brothers' parents are buried outside Pomeroy, Ohio in the Burlingham cemetery.

Unlike the majority of surrounding residences, the two buildings are larger and stylistically later and grander. Built in 1908, they are also later than the majority of residential stock in the town. Both are derivative of the Queen Anne style with a Foursquare massing that is not repeated in Mason. The interior has simple detailing that signifies the success of the brothers' nursery endeavors. The Ionic columns, brackets and breast plate of the mantel and fireplace reflect the use of classical elements in the stylistic features of the beginning Arts and Crafts movement. The panel doors are fine wooden features of the interior. The buildings reflect the modern, popular styles of the era.

Although the Gold Brothers were successful through the 1920s, it appears from the chain of title for the property that they were forced to retrench in 1928, selling their property to George G. Somerville, Trustee. There remains little evidence of the orchards or nursery buildings beyond the two residential properties in the town of Mason. A storage building on the south side of Second Street may be associated with the nursery, but this is speculation.

Today, the two Queen Anne, Foursquare homes sit together on N. Second Street as reminders of the success of a family's business and their use of an early twentieth century architectural style to demonstrate their success. They are eligible to the National Register for their association with two individuals that introduced a profitable fruit nursery to Mason County at the turn of the century.

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Census Bureau, 1910 Census for Mason Village, Enumeration District 116, Family 201-202, House 190-191.

Fowler, Mary. "Winding Stairways Marked Mirror Homes Built by Gold Brothers." The Messenger, (newspaper) no date.

Gibbs, Mildred C. The History of Mason. Housed at the Mason County Public Library, Point Pleasant, WV.

Mason County Land Records, Deed Book 63, page 547. (1899)

Mason County Land Records, Deed Book 99, page 518. (1924)

Polis, Kathi and Sabra Pearson. "WV State Historic Inventory Forms". July, 1996. Located at the WV SHPO.

Postcard, no date.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point at the southwest corner of the property at 503 N. Second Street; thence running with the west property line N 14 30' 00" W, 264.67' to a point, thence east N 73 08' 45" E approximately 145' to a point; thence along the east property line of 505 N. Second Street S 23 51' 00" East approximately 237.76' to a point thence at the southeast corner.

Boundary Justification

The boundary matches the existing tax parcel limits of the two properties. The surrounding neighborhood has been subdivided. No apparent trace of the orchards is visible in Mason.

503 and 505 N. Second Street correspond to the tax map 105, parcel 15 and tax map 105, parcel 16. The plat is also referenced in Will Book 27, Page 312 being situate in Waggener District of Mason County, West Virginia

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INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

1. South and east facades of 503 and 505 N. Second Street - camera facing northwest
2. Front/South facade of 503 N. Second Street - camera facing north
3. Rear/North facade of 503 N. Second Street - camera facing south
4. Interior view of sitting room, 503 N. Second Street - camera facing northwest
5. Garage, 503 N. Second Street - camera facing northwest
6. Privy, 503 N. Second Street - camera facing northwest
7. Front/South facade, 505 N. Second Street - camera facing north
8. West and south facades of 505 N. Second Street - camera facing northeast
9. Rear/North facade of 505 N. Second Street - camera facing south

Photographers: Katherine Jourdan and Susan Pierce, WV SHPO  
Date: February 12, 1997 and July 12, 1996  
Negatives are on file at WV SHPO



