

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

" FOR COPYING

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

1. NAME

COMMON:

Montgomery, John, House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Withrow, James, House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

200 North Jefferson Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Lewisburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY:

Greenbrier

CODE

025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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	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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Dr. John F. Montgomery

STREET AND NUMBER:

200 North Jefferson Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Lewisburg

STATE:

West Virginia

CODE

54

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Greenbrier County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

Court and Randolph Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Lewisburg

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

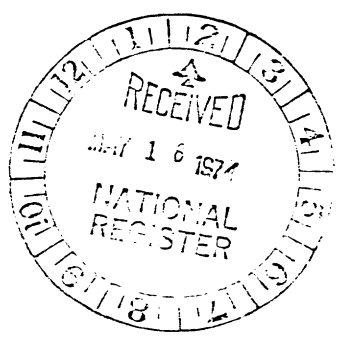
STATE:
West VirginiaCOUNTY:
GreenbrierFOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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corrected copy

7. DESCRIPTION						
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>One of the oldest brick houses in the town of Lewisburg, West Virginia, this structure was constructed and occupied by James Withrow I about 1818. On a low hill just north of the original town survey of 1782 by Thomas Edgar, the building overlooks the Lewis Springs and nearby site of Fort Savannah.</p> <p>The colonial house with classic revival innovations has survived splendidly with almost no exterior changes from its original lines. It is a tall, wide structure with a two-story wing extending to the rear in lean-to fashion from the gabled roofline. The front entrance is graced by a large double portico supported by massive plastered columns of rounded brick reaching to a high pediment. This portico has a railed gallery, and the lower porch is approached on hand-hewn, stone steps with nearly four-foot high columns on either side of the entranceway.</p> <p>The central doorway has an attractive fan window above and unique side-lights which extend only from the top of the door to the level of the interior wainscoting. On the gable ends are large brick chimneys which project high above the roof.</p> <p>A large, square hallway on the main floor opens to four rooms, and a stair to the left of this hall leads to a similarly laid out second floor. The central part of the house was constructed over a stone-walled basement, the floor joists of which are of oak logs hewn only on the top and to which wide pine floor boards are secured. All walls are about twelve inches thick, of brick burned locally. The main rooms have a paneled chair rail to the window sills, and trim is simple and uncarved.</p> <p>Near the east side of the main building, and separated from it by what is apparently a one-story, later addition, is the two-story kitchen which housed servants and slaves on the second floor. In a design complementary to the central unit, it is set off by the enormous outside chimneys on either end which provide great oval fireplaces at which the cooking was done.</p> <p>In the rear yard stands an attractive one-story, plastered brick building which was used as an office by James Withrow II. This was moved from another part of the grounds to its present position sometime after 1901.</p> <p>There are several acres of lawn with old trees and tall boxwoods surrounding the house. The walks are of beautiful flagstones, a type of sandstone that looks to be slate and hardens when exposed to air. One slab, in particular, measures fifteen feet long by five feet wide.</p>						

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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) c. 1818

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input 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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James Withrow House was one of the earliest brick structures built in Lewisburg, West Virginia, seventh oldest town in the state. Representative of the work of John Weir, one of the area's first architects and brickmasons, the building also attests to the growing stabilization of the old frontier and the establishment of enterprise on a regular basis. Its owner was a tanner first and foremost, but his children became substantial merchants and represented their community in county court and state legislature.

James Withrow I was at Lewisburg within thirty years of its founding in 1782. He did well as a tanner and lived for a time in a small, one-story stone building. As business increased he prospered to the point where he joined in the expansion of the area by adding one of the more substantial homes about 1818.

Withrow hired John Weir, a man who had come to the Lewisburg area to practice a trade as architect and brickmason. His work was well known and thought of, and Withrow's house represents a fine example of good construction in a design well suited to its environment. Bricks were either burned on the site or nearby. Exterior walls and interior partitions were made a stout twelve inches thick. Withrow's affluence was further provided for in a two-story outbuilding which housed kitchen and servants or slaves, a structure which Weir planned with enormous chimneys on either end serving large, oval ovens.

Withrow's wife was the daughter of Thomas Edgar, the man who surveyed the original town plat in 1782. Of their children, two sons, James II and John, became prominent citizens of the area, the former carrying on the tanning business and serving as a court commissioner and member of the state legislature and the latter doing well as a merchant.

The house passed to James Withrow II when his father died, and he furthered the established position of the family. In 1850, at age thirty-one, he was ordained a ruling elder of the congregation of the Old Stone Presbyterian Church, which was organized in 1783, and served as a representative to some of the highest Presbyterian Church bodies in the Virginias. After the Civil War he was several times elected to the West Virginia Legislature and maintained a reputation for intellect and judgment fair to all men.

It was during the ownership of James Withrow II that this house was the scene of a dinner and informal reception in honor of General Robert E. Lee. Lee was visiting the nearby White Sulphur Springs resort in August 1867, when Withrow invited him to spend a quiet day at Lewisburg. The great Confederate leader rode to the town on "Traveler," his famous horse,

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE West Virginia	
COUNTY Greenbrier	
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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

but it was impossible for him to expect any amount of privacy. Southern sympathies had run high in the area, and Lee represented deep-felt pride. In deference to the wishes of the General, though, there was no public expression of esteem, but in the afternoon many men, women and children could not refrain from calling to see and speak to him, and they were graciously received in the parlor of the home.

The Withrow House, then, saw an expression of pride in ideals as it in itself expressed quality of design and workmanship. The family which maintained the dwelling complemented the fine structure and continued in a high place in the affairs of the area.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cole, J.R. History of Greenbrier County. Lewisburg, W.Va.: published by the author, n.d. (pp. 190-91)

Dayton, Ruth Woods. Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes. Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1942. (pp. 236-41)

_____. Lewisburg Landmarks. Charleston, W.Va.: Education Foundation, Inc., 1957. (p. 36)

Montgomery, John F. Collector. Unpublished research notes. In the possession of the collector, Lewisburg, W.Va.

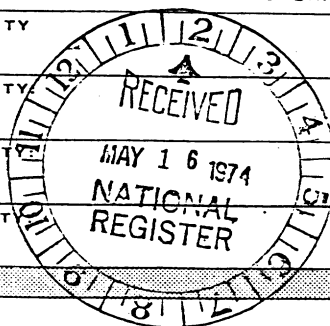
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	37°	48'	14"
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres

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:

C.E. Turley, Field Agent and James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

April 18, 1974

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

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:

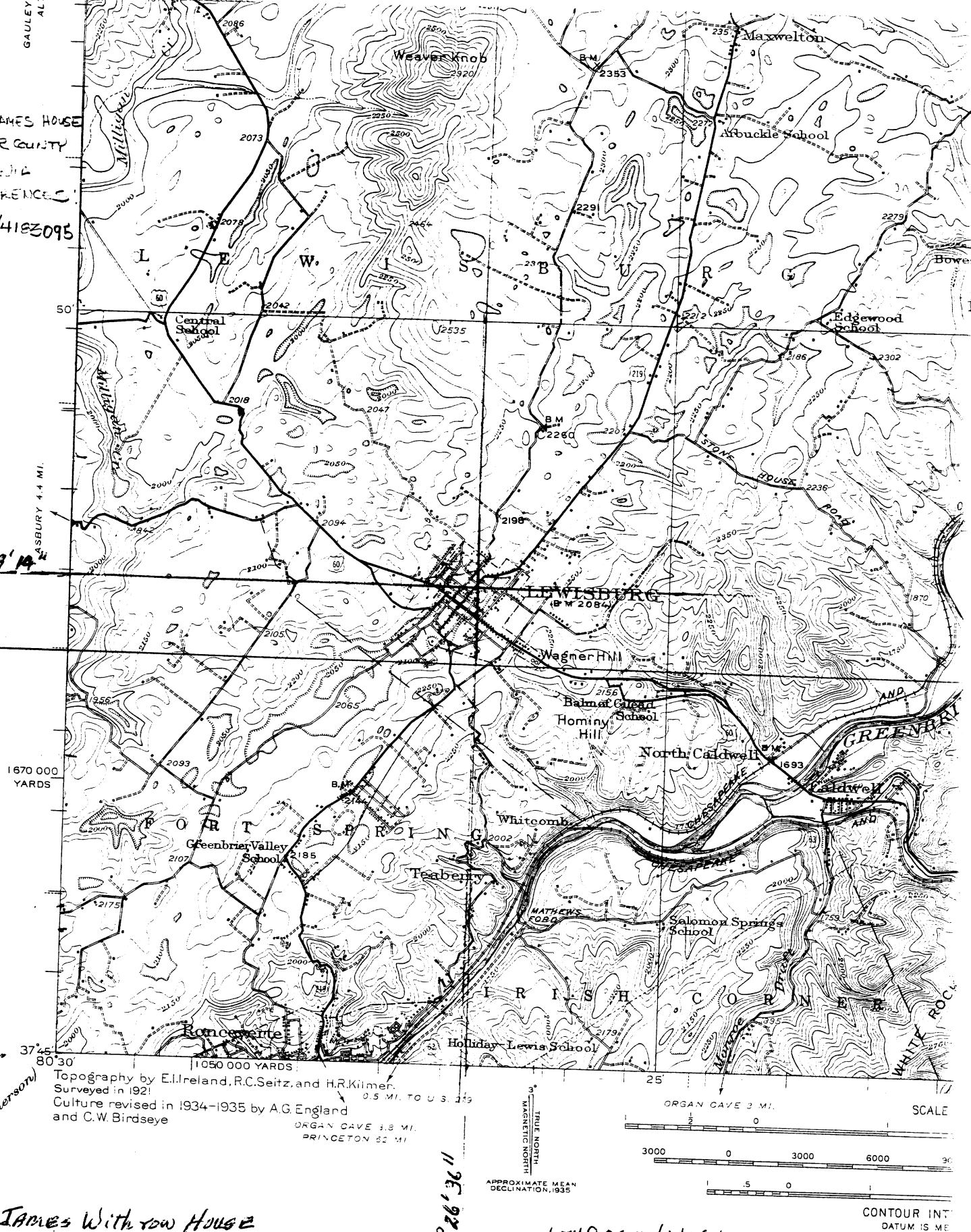
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GAULEY AL

W. (Row), JAMES HOUSE
GREENBRIER COUNTY
WEST VIRGINIA
UTM REFERENCE:
17/549000/4183095



The James Withrow House
(John Montgomery House)
Lewisburg, West Virginia

