United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections  

1. Name  

historic Judge John W. Wright Cottage  
and or common "Wisteria Cottage"  

2. Location  

street & number 305 South Green Street  

state West Virginia code 54 county Morgan code 065  

3. Classification  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
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<td>occupied</td>
<td>museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>X building(s)</td>
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<td>commercial</td>
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<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
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<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>park</td>
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4. Owner of Property  

name Grace Rogers Cooper  

street & number Route 9  

city, town Great Cacapon vicinity of state West Virginia  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morgan County Courthouse  
street & number N. Washington and Fairfax Streets  

city, town Berkeley Springs state West Virginia  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes X no  

date federal state county local  

depository for survey records  

city, town state
7. Description

<table>
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<tr>
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<td><em>unaltered</em></td>
<td><em>original site</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>good</em></td>
<td><em>deteriorated</em></td>
<td><em>moved</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>fair</em></td>
<td><em>ruins</em></td>
<td><em>date</em></td>
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Judge John W. Wright Cottage is located at 305 South Green Street (though facing in the direction of Mercer Street) in Berkeley Springs, Morgan County, West Virginia.

The cottage sits on the eastern hillside overlooking the main downtown area of Berkeley Springs. The house is a two story frame residence of board and batten construction in the late Italianate style. The first floor appears to be somewhat larger than the second, having a three-sided Victorian-era veranda and a one story gable roofed kitchen wing (with a rear porch) which, though physically attached to the first floor is, in fact, a separate structure that was attached to the house c.1900. The cottage has a simple hipped roof, from near the center of which rises a high corbeled brick chimney. Two other corbeled chimneys rise from the first floor roofs. The eaves of the roof are wide and are supported on all sides by very heavy scroll-type brackets, the most prominent decorative feature of the cottage. The brackets have a rather unusual arrangement; the brackets in the eaves are of two sizes, one size being twice the length of the other. The larger brackets are widely spaced, and between them are sets of two and then three and again three, then two of the smaller brackets. This tends to give the bracketed eaves a rather rhythmic effect. The facade openings are three ranked at each elevation, and second floor windows have six over six lights. Functional wooden shutters flank all windows.

The three sided veranda that is the most prominent feature of the first floor exterior are upheld by typically Italianate posts. One unusual aspect of the cottage, however, concerns these posts. Rather than all the posts being of the exact same type, as is typical, the posts along the front elevation of the veranda are simple turned, or "natural" posts, while those along the two side elevations are chamfered rectangular posts. These posts were boxed-in earlier in this century, although restoration to their original appearance is underway. Metal railings along the veranda, another 20th century innovation, are being removed.

There is a bay window on the first floor that graces the dining room. The seven original windows of the first floor are very high and rather narrow, so as to allow for full ventilation during summer months.

The interior floor plan is simple, as the building is basically rectangular. The first floor is divided into three basic rooms (excluding the bath and wash room area); library, parlor, and dining room that may all be entered from the commodious entrance hall. A delicately turned wood spiral staircase leads to the second floor, which contains four bedrooms of nearly equal size.

An important landscape feature of the property is the wisteria that, despite several 20th century cuttings, grows freely about the house and provides the veranda with shade, and the house with a common local name. The wisteria was apparently part of the original landscape features of the Wright property.

The Judge John W. Wright Cottage is the only remaining Italianate cottage in Berkeley Springs and, sitting on the hill overlooking this once famed resort, is one of the area's most significant architectural landmarks.
8. Significance

### Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

<table>
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<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance</th>
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<td>1900-</td>
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**Specific dates** *1872*

**Builder Architect** *Not Known*

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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Judge John W. Wright Cottage, located at 305 South Green Street, Berkeley Springs, Morgan County, West Virginia, is significant for having been home to John B. Wright, an influential Nineteenth century Federal jurist and associate for Lincoln; as well as for being an excellent example of Italianate residential architecture in a resort setting.

**Explanatory Notes**

1. John W. Wright rose to prominence in Indiana politics as a member of the democratic party, serving in local and state legislative office. However, in the tumultuous times leading up to the outbreak of the Civil War, Wright joined the new and growing republican party which quickly came to dominate Indiana politics and, in 1859, was elected to a state judgeship. He was a leading member of the Indiana delegation to the Republican National Convention of 1860, a delegation that, after some negotiation, was solidly for Abraham Lincoln and contributed significantly to his nomination for president. In recognition of his services, Wright was appointed a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals by President Lincoln.

   In 1871 Judge Wright acquired property in Berkeley Springs, then a fashionable "summer retreat" for Washingtonians, and the following year built the cottage as his "summer cottage" until his retirement from the federal bench in 1883, at which time he took up permanent residence there with his wife Mary. The Wrights occupied the house until the mid-1890s. The cottage was for many years the home of educator Lillie Rockwell, who served as a missionary to India.

   The lot on which the cottage stands is also of some local historical significance, having belonged at various times to Lord Fairfax and members of his family, to Henry Whiting (a cousin of George Washington), and to David Hunter Strother, Union general during the Civil War and, as "Porte Crayon", famed Nineteenth century writer and illustrator.

2. The Judge Wright Cottage is an excellent example of Italianate residential architecture in the small community of Berkeley Springs. Berkeley Springs has flourished, during several periods, as a summer resort for those seeking to escape the heat of Washington and other low lying coastal areas and to "take the waters" at the mineral springs located here. One such period was after the close of the Civil War, when many prominent Washingtonians built "summer cottages" at Berkeley Springs. The most striking example is the Suit Cottage, also called "The Castle" (listed on the National Register November 28, 1980) which overlooks the community and is a local tourist attraction. Judge John W. Wright, as recounted above, built one such residence here in 1872. Most of the "summer cottages" that once dotted the hills around the resort are either gone or have been so radically altered as to be unrecognizable.

   The Judge Wright Cottage, by contrast, is marvelously intact. Although there have been some minor alterations over the years, such as the boxing-in of porch posts, these are in the process of being restored to their original appearance by the present owner. The house
itself is a lovely two story Italianate residence, having been constructed as that style of architecture was passing from the scene. The house bears some striking resemblances to "small country houses" described in the famous architectural pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downing published in the 1840s and 50s, although whether in fact, Judge Wright used such a pattern book is in doubt. The style was a popular one, whose disappearance would be heralded by the financial panic of 1873, so that the judge would have had many examples to draw upon. For a more detailed treatment of the architectural features of the cottage, see Part 7.

The Judge Wright Cottage is, then significant as an excellent late example of its architectural style in this former "resort" town, and one of the few remaining structures that can be readily identified with the post-Civil War summer resort period in this community. It is also significant for its historical association with John W. Wright, noted jurist of the 19th century.
9. Major Bibliographical References
The Morgan Messenger, Berkeley Springs, W.Va., various issues
Newbraugh, Frederick T., Warm Springs Echoes about Berkeley Springs and Morgan County, 3 vols, Berkeley Springs, W.Va., Morgan Messenger, 1976
Correspondence from Grace R. Cooper to R.S. Collins and M.J. Pauley,

10. Geographical Data
Acreage of nominated property  .359 acre
Quadrangle name Stotlers Crossroads, W.Va.
Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification
(See Continuation Sheet)

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

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<th>county</th>
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11. Form Prepared By
name: title Michael J. Pauley, Historian
organization Hart and Pauley
date January 28, 1986
street & number 4651 Victoria Road
telephone (304) 744-9342
city or town Charleston
state West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>national</th>
<th>state</th>
<th>local</th>
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</table>
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

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration
Judge Wright Cottage

Historic Preservation Unit Files, Department of Culture & History, Charleston.
West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia, Richwood, W.Va., Comstock, publisher, 1975
Verbal Boundary Description

The Judge Wright Cottage is situated at the center of a rectangular lot that is .359 of an acre in area. The rectangular lot begins at a point on the east side of Mercer Street 45' south of the southeastern corner of Mercer and Market Streets; thence in a line 165' east to the western side of Green Street; thence south 95' along the western side of Green Street; thence in a line 165' west to the eastern side of Mercer Street; thence 95' north along the eastern side of Mercer Street to the point of beginning; this being the central portion of Lots 11, 12, 21, and 22 the original 1776 survey of Bath.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

Contributing resources (bldg.)  -  1
Noncontributing resources  -  0
Total contributing resources  -  1