

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

and or common Lee-Longworth House

2. Location

street & number 1141 Washington Street

not for publication

city, town Harpers Ferry

N/A vicinity of

state West Virginia

code 54

county Jefferson

code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Mary Longworth

street & number 1141 Washington Street

town Harpers Ferry

vicinity of

state West Virginia 25425

Location of Legal Description

e, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Court House

number

Charlestown

state West Virginia

Representation in Existing Surveys

N/A

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nofederal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

by records

state

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

Summary Description

This house is located at 1141 Washington Street in the village of Bolivar adjacent to Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, West Virginia. It is situated on the south side of the road, facing north and, unlike other dwellings along Washington Street, is set back some distance from the roadway. The house is a two story three bay brick structure set on high stone foundations. A two story kitchen wing is attached to the east end wall. The extension was originally one and a half stories high and was raised during the late 19th century to two full stories. Notable exterior features include Flemish bond brickwork at the front elevation, an entrance with a semicircular fan light; nine over six light first story windows gabled domers with stylized pilasters and a foundation covered with stucco struck to resemble cut blocks. The interior plan consists of a side entrance and stairhall, original painted graining and wood work showing evidence of the Federal style. Architectural evidence suggests a construction date of 1800-1810.

Additional Descriptive Information

Situated on high ground, the house has a commanding and dignified appearance as it overlooks the roadway. In addition to the features mentioned in the preceeding paragraph, exterior evidence shows that the house had painted and strick joints in its brick work. This early treatment is still visable beneath the porch of the kitchen wing. Above the first story windows of the main section are high flat or jack arches and the entrance fan light is held within a panel-lined brick area with a slightly projecting "keystone" of bricks. All walls other than the front elevation of the main section are laid in common bond with 5:1 stretcher to header ratio.

The foundation treatment was applied in 1975 following evidence remaining of the original stuccoing. Similar stucco finish is found on other stone structures in Harpers Ferry. Evidence is clearly visible in the east end wall of the kitchen wing of its original height and a small upper gable end window. The proportion and detailing of the upper section clearly identifies it as mid 19th century construction, after about 1850. A modern kitchen addition of frame construction was attached to the rear of the house in 1975.

The roofing material consists of wood shingles. They were applied in 1975, but resemble closely the original roof. A pair of inside end brick chimneys extend from the east wall.

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The main entrance of the house opens into a formal stair and entrance hall. The principal feature of the hallway is the staircase which rises along the west wall. The stairway is delicate with long thin elements characteristic of the Federal style. The ends of the risers are decorated with applied scroll work following Federal style motifs. The staircase is sheathed in wood which has been grained to resemble paneling with alternating oak and walnut boards. This treatment is an original finish and is a significant feature of the house. Architraves in the stairhall are trimmed with oval molding a characteristic more typically associated with the 18th century.

The rest of the main block of the house is divided into two rooms, most likely front and back parlors. The front parlor or northeast room is the more elaborately finished. The focal point of this room is the fireplace which features oval reeded free standing colonettes further trimmed with a carved band which appears to bind the reeds together. This fireplace is an unusually elaborate example for the region in which the house is located.

The rear parlor or dining room (southeast room) is simpler in form. Its fireplace is trimmed with a mantelpiece having pilasters made of symmetrical architrave moulding. An unusual element in this room is the painted treatment of the dado which consists of a mottled grey paint applied in waved brush strokes to resemble slate or marble. Part of the original finish remains in the east wall. The rest of the dado and the fireplace surround was reproduced in 1975 following the original pattern. A narrow cupboard with recessed paneled doors is located in the northeast corner of the room.

The eastern extension in its original area has one room of similar proportions to the rest of the house. Its fireplace, doors and windows have symmetrical molding and decorated corner blocks. The work in this room is of the federal period but different from that used elsewhere in the house. The extension or east wing is probably contemporary with the main section or was built slightly later.

The basement contains a kitchen or service fireplace. No original out buildings remain on the property. The house is situated on 1/2 acre of land, although it once was the principal dwelling on a 196 acre farm. It is in excellent condition.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	X architecture	education	military	social
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
X 1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates 1800-1810 Builder Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Meets Criteria C

Summary Statement of Significance

The Lee-Longsworth House is primarily significant for its architecture as a remarkably well preserved example of the transition between the Georgian and the Federal styles as they were expressed in eastern West Virginia. The house has a number of distinguishing characteristics such as the exterior form and proportions and the interior woodwork which remains entirely intact, and probably most importantly, the unusual survival of the original painted finish of the staircase and dado. Secondly, the house is significant for its association with the famous Virginia dynasty, the Lee family, who also had extensive land holdings in what was to become Jefferson County, West Virginia. It was they who owned the property when it was built - 1800-1810. Of historical interest is the property's early 19th century association with the federal government as a leasehold because of its proximity to the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry and its 1820's connection with George Rowles who sold off parcels of the original 196 acre tract in small lots to begin the town of Bolivar.

Additional Background Information

The farm that once contained the nominated parcel was 196 acres which in 1799 was leased by its owner, Thomas Wilson to the US government, under authority of James McHenry Secretary of War (Deed Book 8, Page 514). At some point after that time, the property was purchased by the Lee family because in 1813, Richard B. Lee, Elizabeth, his wife, Edmond I. Lee and Walton Jones, Jr. sold the property containing 196 acres to Ferdinando Fairfax a member of another famous Virginia family for \$3000 subject to the government lease (8/514). The Lees were land speculators who owned thousands of acres in Jefferson County. The present village of Leetown, named for the Lee family attests to the prominent position of the family in the county. The Lees during the late 18th and early 19th century owned nearly 1700 acres in the immediate vicinity of Harpers Ferry, including this property.

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By December 10, 1821 Ferdinando Fairfax had died and the administrators of his estate sold the 196 acres to George Rowles, subject to the federal lease(12/48). The property was described in the deed as "corner to the land purchased to build the arsenal on..."

In 1830 the heirs of George Rowles in separate deeds conveyed their interest in the property to Amos Janney (16/427, 16/429). Shortly, Amos Janney divided the property into smaller parcels, selling slightly more than 15 acres which contained the house for \$1400 to John R. Hayden (17/393), December 8, 1831. Hayden was unable to pay \$500.00 of the purchase price and put the property in trust to John Janney to secure the amount owed in 1834 (19/313). During these years Hayden was indebted to several individuals or businesses and each time used his residence to secure the money he owed. In all of these transactions reference is made to the "brick dwelling house now occupied by John R. Hayden, including as well as said dwelling, the brick storehouse nearly in front there of and now occupied as such by said John R. Hayden..."(18/203). The store house is not on the present property and is possibly the brick structure in front of this house on the opposite side of Washington Street.

The property then became entangled in a series of court cases which resulted in the sale at public auction of the real estate of John R. Hayden who had died about 1843. The property owned by Hayden was divided into smaller lots, and the parcel which contained his brick dwelling eventually came into the hands of James and Mary Fisher of Bolivar in 1844 (4/314, 27/216). The land descended to James Fisher, Jr. and Charles Fisher and was held by them until Feb. 20, 1878 when the property was sold to Eugenia Burton for \$1050.00. It by that time contained 1 acre and 23 perches.

The Fishers owned the property longer than anyone else and were responsible for the enlargement of the east wing. The house is said to have been occupied by Stonewall Jackson briefly during the Civil War as indicated by an historical marker located in front of the property. In a biography of Stonewall Jackson written by his widow, a letter from him is quoted in which he describes his quarters in Harpers Ferry. Jackson's description seems to fit this property. If true, this association with General Jackson gives added historical significance to the house. Before they sold the house in 1878, James and Ellen Fisher had moved to Cave Spring, Floyd Co., GA.; thus it is likely that they may have been confederate sympathizers.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jackson, Mary Anna. The Life and Letters of Stonewall Jackson. NY: Harper & Bros. 1892
(p. 159)

Jefferson County Land Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 1/2

Quadrangle name Harpers Ferry

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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4	3	5	6	3	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated area includes the entire property, as contained in its legal description. It is a lot of about 1/2 acre bounded on the north by Washington Street, on the west by Fisher Alley and on the south and east by fences which mark the property line.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula Stoner Reed

organization Preservation Associates, Inc. date September, 1984

street & number 207 S. Potomac Street telephone (301) 791-7880

city or town Hagerstown state Maryland 21740

State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

Indicate significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

I, Paula Stoner Reed, State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), do 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.

Signature of State Historic Preservation Officer

State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 2, 1985

I certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

National Register

date

LEE-LONGWORTH
HOUSE

141 WASHINGTON ST

BOLIVAR/HARPERS
FERRY,

JEFFERSON CO.,
W VA

UTM: 18/263200/
4356300

HARPERS FERRY
QUAD.

590 000 FEET
(VA.)



