

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lewis-Capehart-Roseberry House

AND/OR COMMON

"Roseberry"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

#1 Roseberry Lane

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Point Pleasant

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Mason

CODE

053

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trenton M. Stover, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

#1 Roseberry Lane

CITY, TOWN

Point Pleasant

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mason County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

6th Street

CITY, TOWN

Point Pleasant

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

2 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Roseberry" stands on expansive, tree-shaded grounds near the point where Old Town Creek flows into the Ohio River at Point Pleasant, Mason County, West Virginia. It is an idyllic setting for one of Mason County's older residences, constructed around 1820 for Thomas Lewis, one of Mason County's prominent early figures.

Constructed during the late Federal Period of architecture, "Roseberry" stands as an excellent example of Federal style architecture. The house is a spacious brick, double-pile structure, 2 stories high, almost rectangular in configuration, and has 2 twin interior end chimneys. The brick coursing used in the exterior of the house is Flemish Bond. The front elevation of "Roseberry" features five bays, whose windows are double-hung with 12 panes. Over the windows are sandstone lintels and the windows are supported by matching sandstone sills. The front entrance is through an arched doorway that, in typical Federal style, is surmounted by a semi-circular fanlight.

The fanlight motif of the arched front entrance is also seen in the gables at either end of the house.

The fenestration of "Roseberry's" side elevations are an unusual feature of the building; the second story windows are paired in the center of the facade beneath the fanlight of the gable, while the first story windows are located at the corners. Both side elevations were originally identical; the doorway on the north elevation and the wooden porch (as well as the front porch) are late 19th century additions. The front and rear cornice contains enriched mouldings.

The building is surmounted by a standing-seam tin roof, and is supported by a sandstone foundation.

The interior of the "Roseberry" house is decorated in late Victorian style, with some decorative motifs surviving from the earlier periods. The rooms are large and spacious due to their extraordinary depth. A two-flight stairway with landing leads to the interior hallway of the second floor. Each of the major rooms of the house contains an open-hearth fireplace. The window openings on the interior display deep-paneled reveals.

The Lewis-Capehart-Roseberry House, or "Roseberry" as it is known locally, is an excellent example of Federal style architecture in this part of the state, dating from this region's early settlement period.

SIGNIFICANCE

MOD

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 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Local History

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Roseberry", a significant example of Federal style architecture, is one of the oldest brick homes in this area of the state. The historical significance of this fine old home is intimately linked with some of the most prominent families in the area. Situated near the banks of Old Town Creek and within site of the Ohio River, the home was constructed around 1820 by Thomas W. Lewis, Jr., a member of one of this regions most outstanding families.

George Washington, on one of his journeys to the Kanawha and Ohio Vallys, speaks in his Journal of passing this property in 1770 and, during the same journey, camped on or near the site of the present "Roseberry" House.

The property of "Roseberry" dates from the 18th Century Land Grant given to Colonel Andrew Lewis and his four brothers, among them Thomas W. Lewis, Sr., upon whose portion of the grant the house called "Roseberry" now stands. Thomas W. Lewis, Sr. was an individual of no mean achievements. He first appears in chronicles as having been a member of the Virginia Militia, along with his brothers, that accompanied General Braddock's army on its disasterous expedition of 1755 under Colonel George Washington. Thomas Lewis, Sr. later served in the Virginia House of Burgesses as a representative of Augusta County, as well as serving in the Conventions that framed the Virginia Constitution and ratified the Federal Constitution. In addition Thomas Lewis, Sr. was the owner of the first ferry to operate in what is now Mason County (1785) and in 1794 was the primary mover in laying off lots and streets, on his own land, an action that constituted the founding of the town of Point Pleasant.

Upon the death of Thomas Lewis, Sr. in 1813, his son Thomas W. Lewis, Jr. inherited a portion of his father's large land holdings, including the property upon which "Roseberry" is situated. About 1820 Thomas W. Lewis, Jr. built the house, constructing it in the currently popular Federal style of architecture. At the time of its construction, this was one of the grandest homes in the entire area. Only sixteen years before a traveler had written of Point Pleasant that "Goldsmiths 'Deserted Village' was a paradise in comparison." Five years after the house was constructed, there were still only two brick buildings within the town limits of Point Pleasant. The Lewis Home, sitting majestically near the banks of the Ohio just up river from the town, must have seemed a veritable palace to the inhabitants of Point Pleasant who still, in 1815, had no church or resident minister, only one physician, no attorney, and but one mill, owned

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"ROSEBERRY", POINT PLEASANT, MASON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

by John Roseberry. Thomas Lewis, Jr. then, was a man of some means in early Mason County. Besides being one of the principal heirs of his illustrious father, and nephew of the famous Colonel Andrew Lewis, he was a large landowner and farmer. Although he served as a Justice of the Peace from 1822 to 1824 and Commissioner of Revenue for Mason County from 1828 to 1829, he did not participate in public affairs to the extent that his father had.

Thomas W. Lewis, Jr. lived in the house he had built until 1868, when he sold it and most of the surrounding property to James Capehart. Capehart (1847-1921) was, at the time he purchased the property, a young man on the way up. Son of one of the founders of Point Pleasant's first bank, he had within three years of purchasing the Lewis Farm ("Roseberry") risen to be President of the Mason County Court (1871). His first tenure as County Court president lasted only a year, but in 1880 he again achieved the position and held the Court presidency until 1885. In 1890 James Capehart was elected, as a Democrat, to the United States House of Representatives from West Virginia's 4th Congressional District. Re-elected in 1892, Capehart did not seek a third term in 1894. President of the Point Pleasant National Bank in 1901, Capehart moved to Florida in 1903 and died there in 1921.

By this time, however, James Capehart was no longer the owner of the house that Thomas Lewis Jr. had built. Late in 1873, at the close of his first term as County Court president, Capehart had sold the house and property to one Richard Spence, a local farmer. Spence retained the property only until 1880, when it was sold to W. A Roseberry, hence the property came to be known locally as "The Roseberry Farm," and then simply "Roseberry".

Although the property remained in the Roseberry Family until 1977, various members of the family held title to the property over the years. Andrew H. Roseberry, son of W. O. Roseberry acquired the land from his parents in 1909. Later a partial interest passed to Julia Lewis Roseberry Thomas and her husband James Kay Thomas. James Kay Thomas is an individual of some note, having served as Attorney General of West Virginia from 1942 to 1945, and was a leading contender in the Democratic race for governor of West Virginia in 1948.

In 1977 the "Roseberry House" was sold by W. O. Roseberry II and the Thomas family to Mr. Trenton M. Stover, Jr., who presently resides in the house.

"Roseberry" is significant for its close association with individuals prominent in the affairs of West Virginia and Mason County for nearly two hundred years, as well as its significance as an example of Federal architecture constructed in a developing region of the young American republic.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Withers, Alexander Scott, Chronicles of Border Warfare, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1895.

McWharter, Lucullus Virgil, The Border Settlers of Northwestern Virginia,
Richwood, West Virginia, 1973.

Mason County Deed Books, Point Pleasant, West Virginia.

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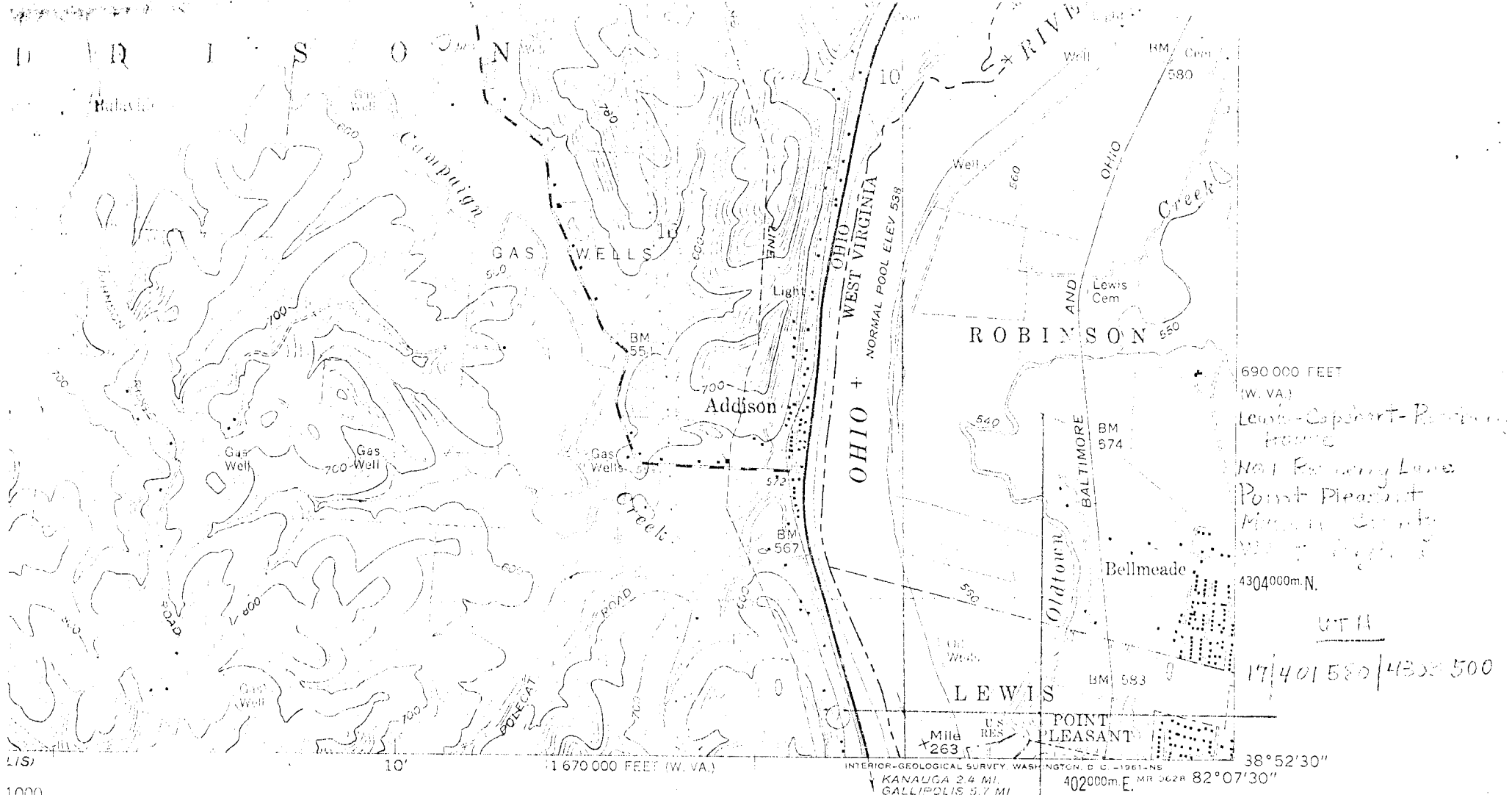
"ROSEBERRY", POINT PLEASANT, MASON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

the boundry line of the parcel owned by the U.S. government N. $32^{\circ}00'$ W. 60 feet to an iron pin; thence n. $57^{\circ}15'$ W. 174 feet to an iron pin; thence N. $11^{\circ}20'$ E. 143 feet to an iron pin; thence N. $31^{\circ}40'$ E. 213.51 feet to an iron pin; thence S. $74^{\circ}55'$ E. 516.93 feet to an iron pin on the Westerly edge of a 20 foot wide right of way and easement; thence S. $15^{\circ}05'$ W. 480.81 feet to the place of beginning, containing 4.82 acres. in the town of Point Pleasant, Lewis District, Mason County, West Virginia.



1000

4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

AL 20 FEET

10 FOOT CONTOUR

SEA LEVEL

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

SRVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ID SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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