United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 "Locust Hill"; "Mountain Home"; Dickson, Robert, House

and/or common "Mountain Home" (preferred)

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 60

city, town White Sulphur Springs  X  vicinity of congressional district Second

state West Virginia  code 54  county Greenbrier  code 025

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district X  public</td>
<td>X  occupied</td>
<td>X  museum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)  private</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure both</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site Public Acquisition</td>
<td>X  unoccupied</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object Accessible</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in process</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X  being considered</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yes: restricted</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yes: unrestricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Owner of Property

name P.L. Gainer; John W. Bell, III

street & number 221 East Washington Street

city, town Lewisburg  vicinity of state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Greenbrier County Courthouse

street & number 200 N. Court Street

city, town Lewisburg  state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes X  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town Lewisburg  state West Virginia
7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Check one</th>
<th>Check one</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>deteriorated</td>
<td>unaltered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>ruins</td>
<td>altered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X fair</td>
<td>original site</td>
<td>moved date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

"Mountain Home", built c. 1833 for Robert Dickson, member of a family prominent in the Greenbrier Valley for four generations, stands on a promontory six miles east of Lewisburg above U.S. Route 60, facing Howard Creek and the southwest.

The architectural character of the house is noteworthy. Late Federal and Roman Revival elements of both the exterior and interior align to form a design of distinction. Prominent among such features are the two-story, single-bay portico with a lunette-adorned pediment, broad windows headed with blind brick arches, and superbly hand-carved interior woodwork that may represent the finest extant example of the work of master carver Conrad Burgess in the Greenbrier Valley.

"Mountain Home" is a large two-story brick house with a kitchen ell. Despite the building's deteriorating condition, the survival of many original details provides a rich source of information on local upper-class housebuilding and decorative technique of the early nineteenth century in West Virginia.

Paired Roman Doric columns of brick construction with plastered surfaces carry the two-tier, single-bay entrance portico. The entryway beneath is surmounted by a delicate semi-elliptical fanlight and is flanked by sidelights with heart and oval-shaped glazing members. Fluted colonnettes (mullions) separating the sidelights from the broad colonial door carry a carved, dentiled cornice.

Classical detail of the exterior is repeated in the large square rooms with 12-foot ceilings and handsomely carved mantels, paneled wainscoting, and ribbed door and window casing. Forty-inch-wide doors retain their box locks. Fine woodwork is evident in a 3-flight stair with a delicately molded continuous rail. Paneled wainscoting adds additional notes of formality to the open-string stair with carved bracket-work decorating the stringer.

"Mountain Home", though in a state of decay, was recently purchased by owners who recognize the historical quality of the property, and who propose in work now beginning to stabilize the house.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prehistoric</td>
<td>archeology-prehistoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td>archeology-historic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500-1599</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>1600-1699</td>
<td>architecture</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800-1899</td>
<td>commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>communications</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Specific dates: c. 1833

Builder/Architect: John W. Dunn, master builder

Conrad Burgess, wood-carver

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Mountain Home", originally called "Locust Hill", is significant because it is one of the best preserved houses of Greenbrier Valley master builder John W. Dunn, and because it retains highly significant and well preserved mantels and other woodwork executed by the master wood-carver Conrad Burgess. Dunn and Burgess are known to have pooled talents on several house building projects; but none, perhaps, exhibit qualities of this association more dramatically than that of the commission by Robert Dickson, a member of a distinguished local family.

Grants of land were obtained by Joseph Dickson in the Howards Creek section of the verdant Greenbrier Valley as early as 1785 (according to Ruth Woods Dayton in her book, Lewisburg Landmarks, p. 59). Mountain Home was built for Robert Dickson, son of Joseph, about 1833 from bricks fired on the premises.

For well over a century the Dickson family resided on the land and became widely known for the breeding of quality horses. Their horses won numerous awards in adjacent counties and at the State Fair in Lewisburg. The Greenbrier Hotel at White Sulphur Springs, according to Dayton, was furnished riding horses for its guests by the Dicksons for many years. Dickson horses were also sought after by patrons in neighboring states.

In recent years intrusive developments in the form of several gas stations have encumbered the landscape along U.S. Route 60 in the vicinity of Mountain Home. Nevertheless, the architectural integrity of the old landmark has not been compromised.

The significant qualities of the building's late Federal and Roman Revival (which suggest Jeffersonian appeal) design are vernacular and appear in several other residences of the Greenbrier Valley. Single-bay, two-story porticos with fan-lighted tympana may be seen in the region; in some instances these are carried by wood posts and are of simple design. It is the combination of more expensive materials and detail, and the presence of outstanding interior work, that distinguishes the Dickson House.

The late Federal style wood mantel of the parlor represents the high quality of carving produced by Conrad Burgess. A deep shelf carried by enriched consoles is supported by fluted colonnettes. The frieze of the mantel is centered with a tablet incised with an Adam-style oval fan. Flanking the center tablet are recessed empty panels. A running course of incised units outlining the fire surround is duplicated in the mantel shelf cornice, and in the cornice of the room's wainscoting.


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 1 acre

Quadrangle name: White Sulphur Springs

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification: Stands at the center of a 200' square 200' due north of U.S. Route 60 and 1000' east of the Howard Creek Bridge (60/14) intersection. Includes only "Mountain Home" and immediate grounds.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>code</th>
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</table>

11. Form Prepared By


organization: W.V. Department of Culture & History
date: July 8, 1980

street & number: The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex
telephone: 304/348-0244

city or town: Charleston
state: West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

- national
- state
- local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-655), 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: [Signature]

date: October 3, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date:

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1970 and 1971. Field checked 1972

Projection: West Virginia coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
10,000-foot grids based on West Virginia coordinate system, south zone, and Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

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DECLINATION AT CENTER