

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON

Richwood Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Richwoods

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 3½ miles west of Charles Town off State Route #51 and
3/4 mile south of 51/1 on the O'sullivan Road toward Summit Point

CITY OR TOWN:

Charles Town

(2nd. Congressional District)

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY:

Jefferson

CODE

037

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" 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) _____ _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mr. David-Potter

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 1, Box 270

CITY OR TOWN:

Charles Town

STATE:

West Virginia

CODE

54

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Charles Town

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Richwood Hall

DATE OF SURVEY: December 1970

☐ Federal☐ State☒ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

P.O. Box 485

CITY OR TOWN:

Charles Town

STATE:

West Virginia

CODE

54

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: JeffersonFOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

Richwood Hall is an imposing two story brick home. The brick of the front elevation was laid in Flemish bond and that of the other side in common bond with a row of headers every sixth course. The window lintels are flat and are composed of gauged brick set soldier style. The wood cornice at the eaves has closely spaced modillions with the architrave beneath decorated with a hand carved serpentine band.

The existing entrance portico appears to be of a later vintage, its detail is not contrived as elaborately as the other wood work nor scaled to the breakfront of the facade. Porches are always more vulnerable to weather than other components and as a result were frequently replaced and not necessarily in the mode of the original.

A wood architrave surrounds the main entrance door with sidelights set to the sides of the brickwork. A fanlight surmounts the doorway. This same motif was used in the window immediately above the doorway and portico except that the architrave was capped with a pediment. A fanlight lunette appears in the gable of the breakfront. The window sash have six panes over six panes. A Victorian period slate roof covers the structure.

It is conjectured, from what can be seen without probing into the building fabric, that an earlier structure occupied the site on line with and immediately south of the main portion of the house. This could have been the earliest house on the grounds and probably served as a kitchen and servant quarters sometime after the main portion was built. Later it may have been decided to upgrade the kitchen quarters and the existing brick structure at the southwest corner was added. When this was completed, the earliest structure was removed and a connecting L-shaped porch was added to complete the renovation.

Very fine wood carving can be found in most of the rooms of the interior. It has been suggested by a former occupant that the name Richwood may have derived from the richness of the wood carving. The carving is geometrical in character and is meticulously executed. The mantelpieces are in excellent scale and reeding details from these are recalled in the decoration of the chair rails. The dados below the chair rails are paneled and the baseboards have simple cap mouldings. The window and door frames complement the mantelpieces.

An outstanding feature is the main stairway with tastefully executed fret-work at each tread along the outer stringer. The stringers at the landing are more ornate with delicately carved decoration.

Unusually fine large brass rimlocks adorn the main doors. These contrast with the simpler but later Carpenter locks found on the doors in the addition on the southwest.

On each floor the large single rooms at each end of the house open into a central hall 11 ½ feet x 20 feet. Ceiling heights downstairs are 12 feet. The kitchen wing contains two rooms on each level separated by a

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

7

staircase which ascends from a central entrance to the east. A large colonial type kitchen fireplace extends across the southernmost end. A double porch runs the entire length of the east side.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE two

"Richwood Hall" in Jefferson County, West Virginia, consists of the two-story main section and a two-story southwestern wing connected by enclosed wooden porches. The southwestern wing is located to the west of the area where an earlier structure may have existed, and this was either incorporated in the southwestern wing or removed completely when the wing was constructed.

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) 1796 (L.A. Washington acquired property) 1864

(Battle of Cameron's Depot)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☐ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☒ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Richwood Hall is historically significant because it stands on land which George Washington received from Lord Fairfax and subsequently turned over to Samuel. Several years later it was the site of a Civil War battle.

When Samuel Washington died, George took charge of his nephew, Lawrence Augustine, and sent him to school in Georgetown and Alexandria. In 1792, Lawrence was apprenticed to the famous Edmund Randolph to study law; in 1796 he acquired the property on which Richwood Hall is now located, and in 1797 he married Mary Dorcas Wood, the daughter of Robert Wood and granddaughter of James Wood who founded Winchester. They either built or moved into a small brick house which now forms a wing of Richwood Hall. Although Mary had been given a handsome home in Winchester named Hawthorne, she and Lawrence spent much of their time at "Richwoods" until 1802, when the property was sold to Smith Slaughter.

It is not known if the present brick house was built by Mr. Slaughter or by Joseph Shewater who bought it in 1829 from Slaughter's heirs. Nevertheless, only the best materials were used. Bricks were imported from England and possibly many of the carved pieces of woodwork were imported as well. There is a theory that Hessian soldiers, who settled in this area after the Revolution, made many of the fancier pieces of carved woodwork which decorate the interior.

In 1846, Shewater sold the property to John R. Flagg. During the Battle of Cameron's Depot, General Early located his men around Flagg's house and fired at Sheridan's forces which were located at "Locust Hill." A missile can still be seen embedded in the brick wall of the latter house and Richwood Hall still stands on its scenic knoll overlooking the beautiful countryside just as it did in 1846.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1970 Annual Report of the West Virginia Antiquities Commission.

Millard K. Bushong, Historic Jefferson County, Boyce: Carr Publishing Co., 1972

"Richwood Hall," Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society, December 1970, pp. 11-15

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 17' 34"	77° 55' 24"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "		10/247980	4353100	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

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:

Ted McGee, Field Agent

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

October 6, 1972

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

Maurice G. Brooks

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date May 30, 1973

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

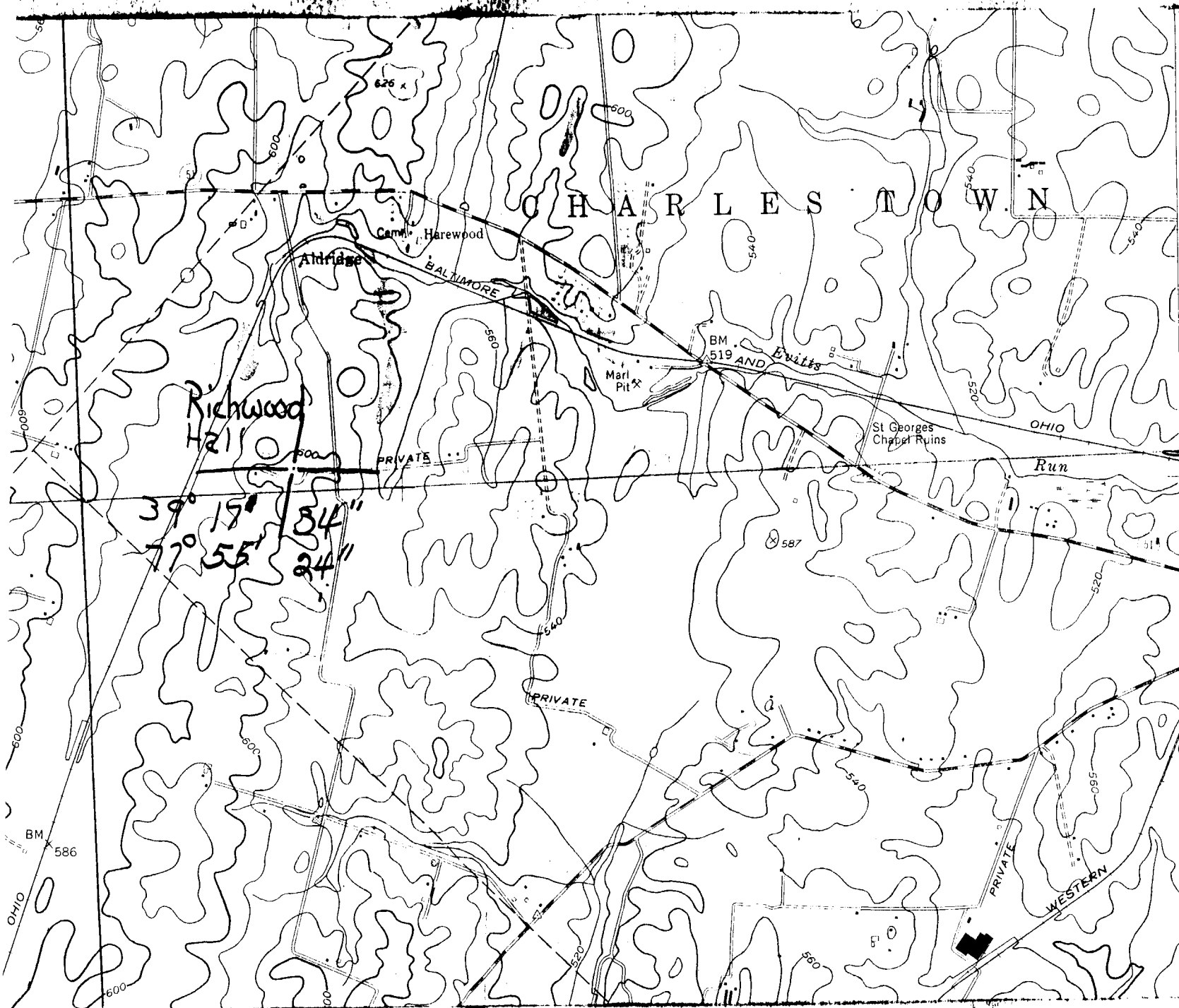
Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



(CHARLES TOWN)
5462 IV SB

RICHWOOD HALL
JEFFERSON COUNTY
WEST VIRGINIA
UTM REFERENCE:
18/247960/4353100

4354

4353

17'30"

CHARLES TOWN (USING UTM 18/247960)

4351

(HOUSE) 21 M

