

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

| |
|------------------|
| For NPS use only |
| received |
| date entered |

1. Name

historic Taylor - Condrey House

and/or common "Ednalea"

2. Location

street & number 1700 Taylor Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Elkins N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state West Virginia code 54 county Randolph code 083

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 type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u>N/A</u> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Metheny

street & number 1700 Taylor Avenue

city, town Elkins N/A vicinity of state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Randolph County Courthouse

street & number Randolph Avenue and High Streets

city, town Elkins state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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7. 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

The Taylor-Condrey House, or "Ednalea" as it was known for many years, stands on a slight rise at the end of Taylor Avenue in Elkins, county seat of Randolph County, West Virginia. In contrast to the close packed, development type housing along both sides of Taylor Avenue, the Taylor-Condrey House is at the center of a four acre property that is surrounded by trees that nearly mask the property from view. A graceful, curved driveway (originally a carriage way) leads to the main residence.

The Taylor-Condrey House, constructed in 1880-81 on the site of an 1820 structure, is a striking example of Colonial-Revival architecture, based obviously upon the design of Washington's "Mount Vernon". A two story masonry residential structure on a stone foundation, the house has a red asphaltic shingle hipped roof that contains four gabled dormers, two on the north elevation and two on the east elevation. Each dormer has a triangular pediment over 9 lights. The roof is surmounted in the center by a lantern, or cupola, capped by a steeply pitched pyramidal roof with a concave profile, and projecting finial.

The other outstanding feature of the Taylor-Condrey House is the full, two story columned portico that extends along the full facade of both the front (east elevation) and the north side elevation and includes nine Tuscan-style columns. This portico was originally surmounted by a wooden balustrade that was removed, probably in the mid 1920's. It is this portico, along with the lantern, that gives the house its principal Colonial Revival appearance.

The plan of the house is the very common antebellum central passage plan, and the rather plain transom and sidelights that frame the front entrance harken to an earlier, more Federal style, period. It is speculated that this feature, and the interior plan, harkens back to the original (1820) house on the site, but no documentation of this is known to exist. The house is constructed of brownish red brick, laid in a common bond.

There is a small addition to the main residence, on the south, rear elevation. Added in 1945, this addition is but a single room in depth and houses the kitchen (first floor) and two bathrooms (second floor). The addition is built of klinker blocks and stuccoed. When the addition was built, no new openings were made in the existing brick walls and no existing openings were altered or closed.

There are also two garages on the property, both constructed in the 1940's.

The Taylor-Condrey House exists as an outstanding example of Colonial Revival architecture in a somewhat pastoral setting that is unique to Randolph County.

8. Significance

| Period | 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/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History |

| | | | |
|----------------|---------|-------------------|-----------|
| Specific dates | 1880-81 | Builder/Architect | Not Known |
|----------------|---------|-------------------|-----------|

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Taylor-Condrey House, located at the end of Taylor Avenue in Elkins, Randolph County, West Virginia is significant as one of the earliest extant homes from the settlement period of Elkins,¹ for its regionally unusual Colonial Revival architectural style,² and is significant as having been home to several individuals of local historic significance.³

Explanatory Notes

1. When Andrew Taylor had this house built in 1880-81, the present city of Elkins did not exist. Indeed, the individual for whom Elkins was named, Senator Stephen B. Elkins, was not yet a resident of the state. What is now the thriving city of Elkins, county seat of Randolph County, was then the tiny village of Leadsville. The county seat was some seven miles to the south in the sleepy town of Beverly, and would remain there for another eighteen years.

The house built by Andrew Taylor was constructed on the same site as one built in 1820 by Jacob Ward, one of Randolph County's early prominent figures, as the seat for his plantation. The 1820 structure was constructed by slave labor and the plantation itself is reported to have "employed" approximately 200 slaves. At his death in 1866, Jacob Ward willed the house and property to his son-in-law Andrew Taylor. Taylor apparently had the 1820 structure demolished in 1880 when he began building the present residence, which was completed a year later. A brick in the northeast corner exterior wall bears the date 1881. This construction date makes the house built by Andrew Taylor one of Elkins's oldest extant buildings, predating other landmark residences of the city such as "Halliehurst" (1890), "Graceland" (1892), and "Pinecrest" (c.1892), all listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

2. The Colonial Revival style of the Taylor-Condrey House is its most striking aspect, and is unique to the Elkins area. It appears as if the architect (presently unknown) used the well known design of Washington's Mount Vernon as an inspiration, for the lantern, or cupola, dormers, and especially the two story full colonnade that extends along the front and north side of the building gives the house a very definite colonial-era ambiance. Other architectural features, such as the plain transom and sidelights that highlight the front entrance are not, strictly speaking, Colonial Revival elements but do lend character to the house, while its extremely balanced overall proportions give it a simple elegance that is in keeping with the true Colonial Revival style.

3. The gracious Colonial Revival style residence at the end of Elkin's Taylor Avenue has been home to a number of individuals of local historic signifi-

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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"Ednalea", Randolph County, West Virginia

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cance. Andrew Taylor, who built the house in 1880-81, lived in the residence until he deeded it to his son, Blaine W. Taylor (1859-1930) in 1904. Blaine W. Taylor, who received his law degree from Columbia University, served in a host of public offices that gives him a secure niche in the annals of local history.

Blaine W. Taylor served as Superintendent of Randolph County Schools (then an elective position) from 1881-1885. For four years he was Committee Clerk for the West Virginia Legislature, before going on to become Chief Clerk for the West Virginia State Department (1890-93), Chief Clerk of the U.S. Dead Letter Office (1894-95), and Chief Clerk for the U.S. Postal Department (1897-1904). Taylor was heavily involved, as a Congressional District Manager, in the Parker-Davis presidential campaign in West Virginia in 1904. After this campaign, he settled down to a thriving law practice in Elkins, though apparently losing most of his assets toward the end of his life at the onset of the Great Depression. Mrs. Blaine Taylor founded the 1st chapter in Elkins of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Taylor residence was purchased in 1930 by Dr. R.J. Condrey, a prominent Elkins physician. Dr. Condrey named the residence "Ednalea" and it was known as such during his nearly fifty year ownership. Dr. Condrey died in 1978 and two years later his widow sold the residence to Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Matheny, the present owner.

The Taylor-Condrey House stands as one of the oldest and most significant of landmark residences in the city of Elkins, with an architectural style unique to this West Virginia city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bosworth, A.S., A History of Randolph County, McClain Printing Co., Parsons, W.Va., 1975 (1916)

"Correspondence: Ruhama Ferguson (Akron, Ohio) to Mrs. Mary Hartman, November 27, 1982", Dr. Jerry Metheny Collection, Elkins, W.Va.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Two acres

Quadrangle name Elkins, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 1 7 5 9 9 5 8 10 4 3 0 7 0 2 10
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the western side of the southern terminus of Taylor Ave., where there begins a fenced tree-line, following said fenced tree-line in northwestern line 245 feet; thence southwest in a line 242 feet to an iron pin; thence in a line southeast 200 feet to a point opposite the southern end of a private drive,

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian

organization Historic Preservation Unit

W.Va. Dept. of Culture and History date July 12, 1983

Cultural Center

street & number Capitol Complex telephone 304/348-0240

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 X local

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 [Signature]

title Commissioner, Department of Culture and History date July 12, 1983

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

"Ednalea", Randolph County, West Virginia

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Acme Publishing Co., Morgantown, W.Va., 1906.
Maxwell, Hu, History of Randolph County, Acme Publishing Co.,
Morgantown, W.Va., 1898.
"Oral Interview with Dr. Jerry Metheny" by Michael Pauley and
Rodney Collins, February 2, 1983, Elkins, W.Va.
Patrick, James, "Taylor-Condrey House", W.Va. Historic
Inventory Form, Dept. of Culture and History, Charleston, W.Va.

#10 Verbal boundary descriptions

thence northeast approximately 300 feet along the eastern edge of
said driveway to the eastern side of the southern terminus of Taylor
Avenue, thence fifteen feet north across said terminus to the point of
origin.

Taylor-Condrey House
1700 Taylor Avenue,
Elkins,
Randolph County,
West Virginia

Elkins, W.Va.
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle
U.T.M. Coordinates
17/599580/4307020



