

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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# 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 "The Bower"

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number County Route 1/1 (Warm Springs Road) not for publication

city, town Leetown ☒ vicinity of congressional district Second

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 type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name E. P. Dandridge, Jr., Elizabeth D. McDonald, and heirs of Bishop E.P. Dandridge, Sr.

street & number c/o Angus W. McDonald, Secretary, 1056 Thirteenth Avenue, S.E.

city, town Minneapolis vicinity of state Minnosota

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number Washington and George Streets

city, town Charles Town state West Virginia

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 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 Bower" sits majestically atop a hill overlooking old Warm Springs Road and Opequon Creek, commanding a scenic view of unspoiled rural beauty, in the western end of Jefferson County, West Virginia. "The Bower", as the name suggests, is set among large groves of oak trees (as well as other species) which gives the setting a serene, wooded appearance.

"The Bower" is basically a Federal style building that has been "Gothicised", while containing some classical elements as well. The basic, Federal style, building was constructed by slave labor in 1805-06 and "Gothicised" in 1881. A disastrous fire gutted the interior of "The Bower" in March of 1892, though it did not damage the walls significantly. The house was carefully restored immediately afterward, using the same floor plan, room designs, and exterior features as existed prior to the fire.

"The Bower" is a 2 ½ story brick building, the brick being Flemish bond. The main building, rectangular in configuration, is surmounted by a hipped-gabled roof, with twin interior corble capped chimneys on either end. The front of "The Bower" has five bays on both the first and second stories, each containing a 4/4 window with a plain cornice trim and surmounted by header lintels. All windows are flanked by exterior louvered shutters. A one story raised veranda extends along the front and south-end of the house and is carried by fluted wooden Ionic columns. The veranda is an 1881 addition, replacing a single bay porch. The roof line of the veranda contains a bracketed cornice. The second story of the house is surmounted by a bracketed cornice with three-part entablature. The second story of the house is dominated on the front elevation by a central three-sided extended bay, containing three 4/4 lights and, at the upper level, by a Gothic style cross-gable (or Peak) with returned cornices and shingle roof of alternating imbricated and plain pattern shingles. The cross-gable contains one "Gothic sash" window and is faced with imbricated pattern wood shingle. This Gothic element, the cross-gable, was added in 1881. The third, or half, story of the main building, with a shingle roof, is pierced by two gabled dormers flanking either side of the cross-gable.

One of "The Bower"s most prominent exterior features is the front entrance. The front entrance consists of a double doorway with a semi-elliptical fanlight and paneled side lights enclosed by a significant Federal-period frontpiece. The frontpiece contains a hoodmould at the fanlight arch-point, paneled spandrels, surmounted by a rectangular entablature supported by fluted pilasters.

The rear of "The Bower" duplicates the front elevation in most respects. The major exception is a graceful two-tiered gallery at the central bay, supported by six turn posts, capped by East Lake style brackets and spindels, on each level. A wooden balustrade extends around the second tier (upper tier) of the gallery.

There is a one and a half story gabled roof wing, added in 1881, attached to the north end of the main house, containing the kitchen and several bedrooms (and the houses only bathroom). The roof of the wing, which has returned cornices (a Classical element) has two gabled wall dormers on each plain of the gabled roof. The rear of the wing is entered via a one story, single bay wooden enclosed porch.

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The main section of the house contains fourteen rooms. On the first floor, to the south of the central, or Great, hall are a formal parlor and an expansive sitting room, decorated in Victorian period wallpaper and furnishings. From the walls of the parlor, the portraits of Adam Stephen Dandridge I, the original owner, his wife Sarah Pendleton Dandridge, and their son Adam Stephen Dandridge II look down upon what was clearly one of their favorite rooms. To the north of the hall, on the first floor, is a large dining hall and a small "butler's pantry" that opens onto a hallway leading to the kitchen in the 1881 wing. Prior to 1881, the kitchen was in the basement. At the east end of the central hall is a graceful geometrical stairway, of oak construction, leading to the second floor.

The second floor contains four large bedrooms and a "bay window" room located directly above the front hall and faces westward. A hallway on the second floor leads to the second floor of the wing, which contains two bedrooms and a bathroom (added in 1893). The third, or top-half story, of the main building also contains four bedrooms and a "Peak" or "Gable" room. Both second and top floors contain large hallways.

There is a one story square masonry outbuilding with a pyramidal shingle roof. This outbuilding, referred to as the "smokehouse" has six slit-like openings on each side that serve ventilation purposes.

There is also a one story, rectangular outbuilding with a gabled wood shingle roof and wooden clapboard siding. This building, which presently serves as a combination barn and garage, was previously the Carriage House and is said by some sources to predate the residence, though this cannot be proved at this time.

"The Bower" is a significant "Gothicised" Federal residence, with classical elements, located in an expansive rural environment that has changed but little in the past two centuries.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				LOCAL HISTORY

Specific dates 1805-06, 1881

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"The Bower", located in a rural, agricultural section of Jefferson County, West Virginia, is significant as the home of the Dandridge family, locally prominent in Jefferson County for two centuries,<sup>1</sup> and as a significant site associated locally with the Civil War and Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart.<sup>2</sup> "The Bower" is also significant as being the focal point of important literary works, contributing to both national and local literature,<sup>3</sup> and as a locally recognized historical and architectural landmark.<sup>4</sup>

### Explanatory Notes

1. "The Bower" as it has been known since it first appeared in historic annals, is situated atop a hill overlooking extensive farm lands in rural Jefferson County. Thick groves of oak trees atop and around the "Bower Hill" suggested the name "Bower" as early as 1753 when Major General Adam Stephen first took up residence there in a wooden hunting lodge. A preserved letter of General Stephen's, dated 1774, is headed "The Bower."

Adam Stephen, Major General in the Revolutionary War and founder of Martinsburg, West Virginia, purchased "The Bower" property on May 10, 1750 and lived at his "Bower Lodge" from 1753 until 1772, when he moved to his large home in Martinsburg (entered on the National Register of Historic Places, October 15, 1970). About 1780, General Stephen gave "The Bower" property to his daughter Ann Stephen and her husband, Captain Alexander Spottswood Dandridge (a first cousin of Martha Dandridge Custis Washington) and the couple resided here at least until Alexander S. Dandridge's death in 1785.

"The Bower" property passed, upon the death of General Stephen in 1791, to his only grandchild, Adam Stephen Dandridge I. Adam Stephen Dandridge was married on January 1, 1805 to Sarah Pendleton and, soon after the marriage, construction began on "The Bower" mansion. Built by Black slave labor, the house was completed in 1806, and became the home of Adam and Sarah Dandridge and their rapidly growing family. The couple had six children, one of whom, Mary Evelina, married Robert M.T. Hunter. Upon the death of Adam Stephen Dandridge in 1833, "The Bower" passed to his eldest son, Adam Stephen Dandridge II, whose marriage to Serena Pendleton produced ten children. A.S. Dandridge II was a man very prominent in Jefferson County affairs, as well as Virginia politics, and his home at "The Bower" quite naturally became a center for county social events. A "gentleman farmer", Adam Stephen Dandridge II (a graduate of Princeton) presided over an estate of about 1000 prosperous acres. In addition to his farming pursuits, Dandridge was known far and wide as a breeder of fine horses. This is evidenced by a letter,

(11/78)

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written in 1866, of General Robert E. Lee's in which he is attempting to regain possession of his beloved horse "Lucy Long". In the letter General Lee states, "The mare about which my son wrote you was bred by Mr. Stephen Dandridge, of "The Bower," Berkeley (sic) County, Virginia, and was purchased from him for me by General J. E. B. Stuart in the fall of 1862--after the return of the army from Maryland." A description of "Lucy Long" follows and General Lee then goes on to state, "I think she might be recognized by any member of the Army of Northern Virginia." The lengthy visit of General J.E.B. Stuart and his staff in 1862 (see note 2) is also indicative of the high regard in which Adam Stephen Dandridge II and "The Bower" were held in local and Virginia opinion.

Of the children of Adam Stephen Dandridge II, a number achieved prominence. His son Adam Stephen Dandridge III served three terms in the West Virginia House of Delegates (1891-1897) and married Danske Bedinger, daughter of Congressman Henry Bedinger, who became a well known poet and author (see note 3). Another son, Lemuel P. Dandridge, who inherited "The Bower" in 1881, was a prominent Jefferson Countian and was the father of Edmund Pendleton Dandridge. Edmund Pendleton Dandridge was a well respected scholar and graduate of Oxford University, who became Episcopal Bishop of Tennessee, serving in that post for twenty years. He was raised at "The Bower" and always spent his summers, it is said, there.

Since the death of Lemuel P. Dandridge in December, 1919, "The Bower" has not been a permanent private residence. Rather, it serves as the focal point and home-place for the large Dandridge family. A caretaker lives nearby and farms the land as well as maintains upkeep on the house. Various members of the Dandridge family spend alternating weeks at "The Bower" during all but the Winter season and, in August of every year, the entire Dandridge family comes home to "The Bower" for their annual re-union.

2."The Bower was the setting for one of the most memorable events of the Civil War to occur in Jefferson County. In the aftermath of the fierce Battle of Antietam, the Confederate cavalry under Major General J.E.B. Stuart fell back into Jefferson County. On September 28, 1862, General Stuart arrived at "The Bower", where he and his staff were invited to set up headquarters by Adam Stephen Dandridge II. General Stuart had his tent-headquarters placed in the shade of a large oak tree (known afterwards as "Stuart's Oak") on the front lawn of "The Bower." His staff, which included General Wade Hampton and General Fitzhugh Lee, encamped in the oak grove nearby. They began what Davis (see part 9) describes as "weeks in idleness, rarely interrupted by prowling Federal patrols. ...the cavalry command was left largely to itself, and the campaign was forgotten in pleasant fall days." Davis also relates that "Stuart's headquarters entourage was now perhaps the army's largest, and his camp at The Bower was the envy of all the commands." General

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Stuart and his command stayed at "The Bower", in this spirit of restful merry-making and endless rounds of balls, parties, and flirtations (the Dandridge's had six daughters), until General Stuart left on October 10, 1862 on his famous raid into Pennsylvania. After another week, the remainder of the command left "The Bower" and re-joined Stuart, now camped at Leesburg, Virginia, leaving "The Bower" with many memories of an almost "fairy-tale" experience.

Before Stuart's departure, he purchased a fine mare from Adam Stephen Dandridge II for General Robert E. Lee. This incident is related above in note 1.

3. "The Bower" has served as the focal point for a variety of literary works, and was the residence of one major 19th century West Virginia author.

As early as 1832 "The Bower" made its appearance in the pages of literature. Prominent novelist John Pendleton Kennedy visited "The Bower" that year and enjoyed a lengthy stay as the guest of the Dandridge family. Later in the year his novel Swallow Barn, a work of fiction describing country life on a southern plantation, was published. It is established fact that much of the book is based upon life at "The Bower" as viewed by author Kennedy.

The visit of General J.E.B. Stuart to "The Bower" in 1862 sparked a flurry of literary activity, beginning with novelist John Easton Cooke who was serving with Stuart and did some of his writing under the trees of "The Bower". After the end of the war, a number of authors wrote of "The Bower" and its connection with the almost legendary Stuart. Henry Kyd Douglas' book I Rode with Stonewall speaks at length of the pleasant and entertaining nature of life at "The Bower", as does Burke Davis' JEB Stuart, the Last Cavalier (1957) and W. W. Blackford's War Years with JEB Stuart (1945).

The most important literary figure to be directly linked with "The Bower" is unquestionably Danske Bedinger Dandridge. Born in Denmark in 1858 ("Danske" means "Little Dane") she was the daughter of Henry Bedinger, U.S. Congressman from Virginia 1845-1849 and Minister to Denmark, 1854-58. She married Adam Stephen Dandridge III at "The Bower" in 1877 and they lived there for a time before moving to the nearby estate of "Rose Brake." Mrs. Dandridge was a prolific poet, her work appearing in such prestigious publications as The Century and Harpers, as well as a local historical writer of note. Her chief poetical works were Joy and Other Poems (1888) and Rose Brake, published by G.P. Putnam's of New York in 1890. Her serious historical works include George Michael Bedinger, a Kentucky Pioneer, a biography (1900), American Prisoners of the Revolution (1911) and Historic Shepherdstown (1910), an important local history. Danske Bedinger Dandridge died in 1914.

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4. "The Bower" stands as an important architectural landmark of Jefferson County. The mansion is basically a two and a half story Federal style masonry structure, built by slave labor in 1805-06. In 1881 Gothic accouterments were added, which include the Gothic cross-gable on the roof level, a small kitchen wing, and large, wrap-around veranda on the first floor. A fire in March of 1892 gutted much of the interior of the building, though it was re-built to the original design and with the original walls intact. "The Bower" is mentioned as a significant example of "landmark architecture" in Jefferson County in numerous local and state publications.

The State of West Virginia has erected a historic highway marker on the Leetown road, three miles away, entitled "The Bower." In 1977 the Jefferson County Landmark Commission designated "The Bower" as a County Landmark, and there is a bronze plaque affixed to "The Bower" to that effect.

"The Bower", as it has always been known in historic times, is an architectural landmark in Jefferson County which has played a prominent and significant role in a wide variety of areas on the local, state, and national levels.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Blackwood, W. W., War Years with JEB Stuart, Charles Scribner & Sons, New York, 1945.  
Bushong, Millard K., Historic Jefferson County, Carr Publishing Co., Boyce, Va., 1972.  
Davis, Burke, JEB Stuart, the Last Cavalier, Rinehart & Co., New York, 1957.  
Freeman, Douglas Southall, Lee's Lieutenants, a Study in Command, Vol.2, Scribners, N.Y., 1948.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property eight (8) acres

Quadrangle name Middleway, West Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

A 

1	2	4	4	5	10	10
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4	3	6	10	1	10	10
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point on Jefferson County Route 1/1 (known as Warm Springs Road) where the High Hedge/Fence meets the County Route, thence in a line northeast 350 feet following the High Hedge, thence in a line due East following the High Hedge 400 feet

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian

Historic Preservation Unit

organization W.Va. Dept. of Culture & History

date November 1, 1981

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 X state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date December 7, 1981

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



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Lee, R. E., Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee, Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1924.  
Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society, Vol. VII, 1941, Vol. XVIII, 1952, Vol. XXIV, Dec. 1958. Jefferson Co. Historical Society, Charles Town, W.Va.  
McDonald, Angus W., "The Bower", unpublished manuscript, W.Va. Antiquities Commission Files, Charleston, W.Va., 1976.  
"Oral Interview with Dr. John A. Washington" by Michael J. Pauley, "Harewood", Charles Town, W.Va., August 12, 1981.  
Spirit of Jefferson Advocate, "Designated as County Landmark" article, Charles Town, W.Va., June 9, 1977.

Item 10, Verbal boundary description and justification....Continuation

thence northeast following the High Hedge (as it encloses the rear garden area) to the point where the High Hedge meets the private road of The Bower. Thence due west along the north side of said private road 850 feet to where the private road meets County Route 1/1, thence due south 600 feet along the east side of County Route 1/1 to the point of origin: enclosing an area of approximately 8 acres, containing The Bower, its principal supporting structures and garden, and its historic setting.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Nominated Area  
for the Survey

STATE OF  
A



