NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME
HISTORIC
Maslin, Thomas, House; Gamble, Mortimer, House
AND/OR COMMON
Maslin-Gamble House

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
131 Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Moorefield
STATE
West Virginia

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

_ DISTRICT
_X BUILDING(S)
_ STRUCTURE
_ SITE
_ OBJECT

_PUBLIC
_X PRIVATE
_ BOTH

_PUBLIC ACQUISITION

_IN PROCESS

_BEING CONSIDERED

_X OCCUPIED

_X UNOCCUPIED

_WORK IN PROGRESS

_ACCESSIBLE

_X YES: RESTRICTED

_X YES: UNRESTRICTED

_NO

_AGRICULTURE

_COMMERCIAL

_EDUCATIONAL

_Entertainment

_GOVERNMENT

_INDUSTRIAL

_TRANSPORTATION

_MILITARY

_OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. Mortimer Gamble III

STREET & NUMBER
131 Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Moorefield

STATE
West Virginia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Hardy County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Washington and Elm Streets

CITY, TOWN
Moorefield

STATE
West Virginia

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE

DATE

_FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
DESCRIPTION

CONDITION
__EXCELLENT__ __DETERIORATED__
__GOOD__ __RUINS__
__FAIR__ __UNEXPOSED__

CHECK ONE
__UNALTERED__
__ALTERED__

CHECK ONE
__ORIGINAL SITE__
__MOVED__ DATE______

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Generally incorporating provincial interpretation in a Greek Revival style, the Maslin-Gamble house nonetheless continues vernacular Federal elements that had been well instilled in South Branch (of the Potomac River) Valley architecture by early nineteenth century. This large, detached brick dwelling sits majestically atop a rise from street level, a massive square front unit with lower ell extending from the north rear. Its two-story height appears somewhat cramped with second-floor windows forced against a low frieze and cornice beneath the main section's hip roof (the ell has a gable roof). A characteristic five-bay front is the only elevation constructed in a Flemish bond; others are of a modified American type.

There is a fundamental exterior symmetry, but subtle exceptions can be found in such features as an extra window on each floor of the north side. A simple, open porch runs along the inside of the ell, and there is a small stoop on the north elevation that has had a latticed enclosure added early in this century. The dominant and most impressive projection from exterior wall surface, though, is a single-bay, pedimented portico over the main entrance. It is approached by steps that lead one between pairs of handsome Ionic columns to a sidelighted, four-panel door with semi-elliptical fanlight above (a rather detailed element that defies Greek Revival generalizations but does not detract from overall appeal in the least). This door is surrounded by recessed panels, delicate glazing bars in both sidelights and fanlight, and a beautifully worked area above the latter feature.

Windows have 6/6 double-hung sash, with the first-level openings incorporating jack-arch lintels; fenestration on the second level above the main entrance includes sidelights. While symmetry in placement is the rule, there is an exception in a single window between floors at the rear of the center hall that lights the main stair. Exterior doors are at each end of this hall, doors also lead to the ell porch from both first floor rooms there, and the passage between main section and ell has entrances on both sides.

Symmetrical location of chimneys was also followed, with the four inside end chimneys of the main unit rising high above the roof line (that on the south rear was rebuilt in recent years when a new oil furnace was installed in the full, brick-floored basement of this section). A single chimney is inside the gable end of the ell and is much subordinate to all others.

Aside from main entrance detail, decoration on the exterior consists of a dentil cornice and a roof deck with balustrade. The latter predominates; its diamond-shaped windows at the base and bulbous balusters (identical to those of the main entrance porch) standing out against an open background.
A double-pile, center-hall interior retains most original detailing, including trim that is different on each side of each floor as well as in the halls. An acanthus-leaf motif is used in corner blocks at windows and doors (including sliding doors between double parlors) on the south of the first floor, while a circular design is on the north side and a star pattern appears in the hall. A hood is above openings on the south of the second level, and the north side has plain corner blocks. Doors from center hall into west rooms of the first floor are false grained, the north wall of the northwest room at this level is paneled and includes presses beside the fireplace, windows on the first floor have splayed reveals and an underpanel, floors are of original yellow pine boards, and hardware on first-floor doors features original locks with sliding silver keyhole covers.

What may be most impressive about the interior, however, is the fine open-well stair that is continuous from first floor to attic (two runs with landing between each floor). It is paneled beneath the open string on the first floor, includes a fretwork design under the tread, has two turned balusters per step and a heavy, rather stubby, newel. A well lighted, wide hall emphasizes a graceful curve at each landing.

Alterations have been limited to changes required to provide modern conveniences. Plumbing, electricity and central heating have been added, and the former necessitated partitioning of the northeast upstairs room for a bath. Rooms in the ell have had doorways opened between them, the stairs there have been moved, and the present rear porch was built early in this century.

An outbuilding, what was apparently an original servants' (or slaves') quarters, is at the rear of the property and is approached along a drive on the north side. It is a two-story brick structure with dual front entrances, two rooms per floor, and interior stairs to the second level at either end. This building has a gable roof and a single interior chimney.

Landscaping consists of a considerable number and variety of hardwood trees and rows of boxwood along the sidewalk from street to main entrance. The latter continues along the front of the house with two large plants per side.
## SIGNIFICANCE

### PERIOD

- **PREHISTORIC**
- **1400-1499**
- **1500-1599**
- **1600-1699**
- **1700-1799**
- **1800-1899**
- **1900**

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- **COMMUNITY PLANNING**
- **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**
- **RELIGION**
- **ARCHITECTURE**
- **EDUCATION**
- **ENGINEERING**
- **EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT**
- **INDUSTRY**
- **INVENTION**
- **ART**
- **ENGINEERING**
- **MUSIC**
- **THEATER**
- **COMMERCE**
- **EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT**
- **PHILOSOPHY**
- **TRANSPORTATION**
- **COMMUNICATIONS**
- **INDUSTRY**
- **POLITICS/GOVERNMENT**
- **OTHER** (SPECIFY)

### SPECIFIC DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Dates</th>
<th>Builder/Architect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c. 1848</td>
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</tbody>
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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Maslin-Gamble House in Moorefield, Hardy County, West Virginia, is representative of prosperity in the valley of the South Branch of the Potomac River before the Civil War. Architecturally it continues a tradition of the large Federal-style plantation houses outside of town while introducing a new sophistication in Greek Revival interpretation to the community. As center of area political affairs, it served as home to one of Hardy County's leading spokesmen from the 1840s through the 1870s, and it would later become the residence of another outstanding citizen who was elected prosecuting attorney and state legislator.

Population along this section of the South Branch was sufficient to warrant formation of Hardy County, Virginia, in 1786. Broad flatlands invited large scale farming similar to better areas of piedmont, and a modified plantation-style economy developed. Evidence of land quality was translated into grand houses by the early nineteenth century, and the county town of Moorefield participated in growth and prosperity.

Land was an important influence in the life of Thomas Maslin, a local speculator who bought and transferred more than 7500 acres in Hardy County during his lifetime. In 1847 he purchased a lot on the south edge of town and here set about building the house that his family and that of the Mortimer Gambles would continuously occupy to this day. Tradition holds that two Baltimore builders were brought in by Mr. Maslin to supervise construction. With brick prepared on site and timber from nearby stands, they commenced erecting a house to fit the economic, social and political stature of its owner.

Influenced by popular taste for the Greek Revival but flexible in adaptation to the interior's environment, these builders created a residence of handsome lines and features. Paired Ionic columns of entrance porch combined with a deck atop the hip roof to immediately indicate polish and prestige, and the entrance door surrounded by delicately divided sidelights and fanlight (no matter that it violated the flatness of Greek Revival) was inviting. It was on the interior, however, that workers became artists in carving corner blocks with acanthus leaves and stars. Here they provided splayed window reveals with paneled sections below the glass, applied paneling to the wall of the first floor northwest room, and false grained doors to stand
out against paneled jambs. Detailing was fastidious: a lock was placed on each interior door of the first floor and a silver latch covered the keyhole, beveling of panels on trim was precise, and the stair was finely proportioned and equipped with a curved rail.

One sees and feels much here to remind him or her of the antebellum South. Such is fitting, too, for Thomas Maslin was somewhat of a southern gentleman, and he was destined to be associated with events that marked local division of sympathies about the time of the Civil War. Beginning in 1850 he was elected a justice of the Hardy County court, continuing in this capacity through a session of May 15, 1865, serving as presiding officer through much of the war. What this record does not indicate on the surface, though, is that this was a court of Hardy County, Virginia, to the end, despite the fact that West Virginia had been admitted to the Union in 1863, and Maslin was the leader of the southern-leaning faction.

In 1861 he had represented his section at the Secession Convention in Richmond but abstained from voting on the question at hand. In 1872 he was Hardy County delegate to the West Virginia Constitutional Convention, making a somewhat special contribution to the young state as noted in this resolution that was adopted on April 8:

Whereas, Hon. Thomas Maslin, a member of this body, has presented to the Convention a pen made from a quill which, with his own hand, he plucked from the pinion of the American eagle, with which pen he desires the new Constitution shall be signed;

Resolved, That the Convention thankfully accept the pen...

...and direct that the new Constitution be signed therewith....

His active participation in political affairs ended shortly thereafter, and he died in the late 1870s, a symbol of division healed.

The Maslin property was sold to Fortimer Gamble II in the late 1890s; the latter was a person of distinction in his own right. As a practicing lawyer he was intimately involved in county affairs for much of his life, serving as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1893 to 1895, as a county justice and as prosecuting attorney in 1908-12 and 1920-24. His family has continued a tradition of involvement around Moorefield, and under the guidance of Fortimer Gamble III and Fortimer Gamble IV, the old Maslin house continues to remind residents and visitors of the prominence of this dwelling in local history and the importance of both families in area development.
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Moorefield, W. Va. Hardy County Courthouse. Deed and will books.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1½ acres
QUADRANGLE NAME Moorefield, W. Va.
UTM REFERENCES
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 17 75 12 0 B 14 32 5 18 0
C D E
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The house is located on a town lot bordered by Main Street and Central Avenue on the front (west) and by identifiable fence and vegetation lines on north, south and east. The lot is approximately 200 feet wide and 275 feet deep.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE James E. Harding, Historian
ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Unit
Department of Culture and History
DATE March 30, 1979
STREET & NUMBER The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex
TELEPHONE (304) 348-0240
CITY OR TOWN Charleston
STATE West Virginia

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 89-665), 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

TITLE DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION