

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Maslin, Thomas, House; Gamble, Mortimer, House

AND/OR COMMON

Maslin-Gamble House

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

131 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Moorefield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Hardy

CODE

031

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
☐ ACCESSIBLE  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Mortimer Gamble III

STREET &amp; NUMBER

131 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Moorefield

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 26836

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hardy County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Washington and Elm Streets

CITY, TOWN

Moorefield

STATE

West Virginia

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY 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

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.

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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.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	c. 1848	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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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

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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 ante-bellum 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 Mortimer 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 Mortimer Gamble III and Mortimer 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

Judy, E.L. History of Grant and Hardy Counties, West Virginia.  
Charleston, W.Va.: Charleston Printing Co., 1951.  
Moore, Alvin E. History of Hardy County of the Borderland. Parsons,  
W.Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1963.  
Moorefield, W.Va. Hardy County Courthouse. Deed and will books.  
Moorefield, W.Va. Hardy County Public Library. Map and photograph  
archives.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1½ acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Moorefield, W.Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 675720 4325180  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

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
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James E. Harding, Historian

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Unit

DATE

Department of Culture and History

March 30, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

The Cultural Center, 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 X

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

*Charles Moran*

TITLE

DATE

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

MASLIN-GAMBLE HOUSE,  
MOOREFIELD, HARDY COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA  
UTM REFERENCE:  
17/675720/4327100



