

Thornburg House

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: _Thornburg House

other name/site number: na _

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2. Location

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Street and number: 700 Main Street

not for publication: na

city/town: Barboursville

vicinity: na

state: WV county: Cabell

code: 011

zip code 25504

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

 2

_____ buildings

_____ sites

_____ structures

 2

_____ objects

 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: na___

Name of related multiple property listing: na

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Actio

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6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

Current: Commerce/Trade

Sub: Bank

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Queen Anne _____

Other Description: na _____

Materials: foundation _stone___ roof _ metal shingle
walls _ brick___ other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. _X_ See continuation sheet.

Thornburg House

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local

Applicable National Register Criteria: C,B

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : na

Areas of Significance: Architecture _____
Commerce _____

Period(s) of Significance: 1901 to 1935

Significant Dates :1901

Significant Person(s): George E. Thornburg

Cultural Affiliation: na

Architect/Builder: not known

State significance of property, and justify criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

na preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

na previously listed in the National Register

na previously determined eligible by the National Register

na designated a National Historic Landmark

na recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

na recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State historic preservation office

Other state agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 0.47 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	17	386990	4251850	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Lot number 3 of the town of Barboursville.

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

This encompasses the entire property of the Thornburg House.

Thornburg House

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: _Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant

Organization: _ na Date: Jan. 2, 1991

Street & Number: 612 Main Street Telephone: 304 765 5716

City or Town: Sutton State: WV ZIP: 26601

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NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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The Thornburg House is significant under Criterion C as a good and uncommon example of the Queen Anne style of Architecture in Barboursville and the vicinity. It is significant under Criterion B for its association with a prominent family and individual in the history of the Town and County, George Thornburg.

The Thornburg House, constructed in 1901, is a very good example of the Queen Anne style of Architecture that was popular in the country at the time. The style was made popular by the distribution of style and house books throughout the country for contractors and home owners. It was characterized by irregular massing, varied roof shapes, large porches, the combination of materials in a single structure, and ornate interior and exterior detailing.

The Thornburg house contains all of these characteristics. The house is a large irregular shape with a corner turret with a pointed roof. The porch wraps around three sides of the building and there was originally a second floor balcony in the center of the porch. The house is predominantly brick but there are other materials in the surfaces such as wood siding on the rear. The brick is jointed with a thin "butter" joint in a tinted mortar to give it a finished and smooth appearance. This was common for Queen Anne and other 19th and 20th Century Victorian styles in this region of the country.

The most prominent feature of the house is the varied array of extant interior and exterior detailing. The decorative porch columns with their Ionic capitals; the curved glass in the tower windows; the roof cresting; the finial at the top of the tower; the corbeled tall chimneys; and the leaded diamond paned glass of the first floor windows; are all indicative of the ornament that is prevalent in houses of this style. The interior is just as ornate. There are interesting decorative ceramic tiles in the entrance foyer. All of the mantels are pilastered and ornamented. The floors are hardwood parquet or patterned with alternate hardwoods to give a color texture.

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All of the elements of the building combine to make it a good example of this particular style of architecture. While the Queen Anne Style was popular in West Virginia, and particularly in southern West Virginia at the turn of the century, it is not found in Barboursville in any quantity. A recent historic resource survey of Barboursville conducted in 1986 by the Geography Department of Marshall University for the Cabell County Historic Landmark Commission recorded a number of significant residential structures in Barboursville, but only recorded one other Queen Anne Style. This is the residence constructed by P.A. Vallandingham. Though it is also a Queen Anne, it is simpler in nature, being a frame house with shingle siding and simpler massing and detailing. Other styles are identified in the Survey, including, Greek Revival, Federal, and Colonial Revival. Of the twelve structures identified as "historic sites", five fit within the period of construction of the Thornburg House. The remainder were either pre-Civil War or post 1928. This indicates that the Thornburg house fits into one of three significant periods of development for the Town.

The house was constructed by George E. Thornburg, who was born in 1846, the son of Thomas Thornburg. The Thornburgs were already a prominent family in Cabell County at this time. Solomon Thornburg emigrated to Cabell County from Jefferson County following his marriage in 1812. He was a prominent citizen of the new county, being sheriff in 1842 and serving in the General Assembly of the State. Thomas followed in his fathers footsteps, also serving in the Virginia General Assembly, and attending the Constitutional Convention of 1872 for the State of West Virginia. He was also one of the County's first school superintendents.

George E. Thornburg was born in 1846, one of five children. He attended local schools and received an education from Marshall College while it was affiliated with the Methodist Church. He was a Democrat, but never held office. He was prominent in the Masonic Order and was Grand Master of the State in 1885. He married Nancy Wilson.

In business, the Thornburgs were successful in the mercantile trade. When Barboursville was growing and prospering as the Cabell County seat, 1814-1887, business in the community boomed. The business started as the Henderson Miller Store, then became the Miller Thornburg Store when Thomas Thornburg married Margaret

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Miller. The store was established prior to the Civil War and operated during the War as a commissary for the Union. Though Thomas was a Democrat he did not sympathize with the secession movement. The store is mentioned in a report on the September 8, 1862 skirmish between the 2nd West Virginia Volunteer Cavalry under William H. Powell and the 8th Virginia Cavalry under General Albert G. Jenkins. The Confederate troops entered into town to see the Yanks "...as far as Thornburg's store on top of the hill...".

Following the Civil War George Thornburg took over the store and operated it successfully. It is mentioned in all of the contemporary accounts of the town as one of the prominent mercantile establishments. George was a successful businessman and was one of the charterers of the First State Bank in Barboursville in 1905. By 1906 the Bank found it necessary to construct its own building. It is still in operation today. George also founded the Barboursville Clay Manufacturing Company, a brick producing company in 1904. The Barboursville area was noted for its brick manufacturing at the time. The Barboursville Clay Manufacturing Company is reputed to have supplied the tile for a 1921 remodeling of the White House.

The house is also tied to the history of Barboursville through Morris Harvey College. This started in 1887 as the Barboursville Seminary, moving into the vacant Courthouse following the relocation to Huntington. It later became the Morris Harvey College when Mr. Harvey, a wealthy coal baron, donated a large sum in 1901. It continued in operation as Morris Harvey College until it relocated to Charleston in 1936. As a large institution in the town it naturally contributed to the economic stability. With the Thornburg House being located opposite the old Court House it was in a prime location to service the College. Following George Thornburg's death in 1927, the house was converted to apartments, as were a number of homes in the area for use by the school. Dormitories were constructed in 1928 and 1929. Oral history states that the Poindexter Apartments' (Thornburg House) cistern provided water for the tubs of the female residents of the school.

Following the loss of the school, the house continued to serve as

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apartments until 1989, when it was restored and reused as offices
for the First State Bank. It is fitting that the residence of
one of the founders of the Bank has reverted to their use.

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The Thornburg House is a brick two story Queen Anne building located on the corner of Main and Central Streets in Barboursville, Cabell County, West Virginia. It sits on the northeast corner of the intersection. It is located in the southwest corner of the lot with an open yard to the east, side, and north, rear. The lot is on a slight rise with Main Street dropping in elevation to the east. The lot also slopes to the east. The slope of the lot allows for the west elevation to be two stories tall and the east one to have an exposed basement or lower level.

There is a small outhouse, privy, that has been converted into a storage shed in the rear of the lot. This is a wood frame structure that dates from the period of construction of the house. It is a contributing structure.

The exterior of the Thornburg House is two stories tall with red brick in a stretcher bond. The brick is smooth hard fired and has narrow "butter" joints that are tinted. There is a tower on the southwest corner of the building with an attic story and a conical roof. The brick in the tower is rough faced. The house is generally a large rectangle with the tower in the southwest, a projecting bay in the northwest, a projecting bay addition in the northeast, and a frame addition on the north. The roof is hip shaped with the projecting bays having hip roofs also. There are large central hip roof dormers on the north, east and south elevations. The west projection has a gable dormer. The northeast corner addition has its own shallow hip roof.

There is a wraparound one story porch along the west south and east elevations. The main entrance is on the south elevation, fronting Main Street. The porch has a shed roof and is supported by Ionic columns.

The main roof is metal shingles that imitate wood shingles. The current ones are duplicates of the originals. The porch and tower roof have standing seam metal roof. The dormer siding is also metal shingles.

The rear addition was added in 1929. It has asbestos siding. The northeast corner addition was added prior to 1929, but its construction date is unknown. It is brick, with a brick basement level. In the basement is the cistern. There are brick arches leading to the cistern that are now filled. The cistern

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area was once open to the yard through the brick arches. The effect is that of a campanile tower with an arcaded base. On the east elevation the area under the porch is supported by brick piers with wood diagonal lattice between the piers.

Windows are one over one wood with stone lintels and sills. The windows in the tower are curved to fit the tower. Windows in the projecting bays are paired. There is an entrance from the rear of the porch on the west, in the center on the south, and in the rear on the east. The center main entrance has a transom and sidelights. These are leaded glass in a diamond pattern. The southeast corner room on the first floor has triple windows in the south elevation. These have diamond leaded glass upper sash. There is fanlight in the gable dormer on the west elevation with radiating spoke muntins. Windows in the rear additions are eight over eight and six over six Colonial Revival style. The north-east corner addition on the second floor is all windows and forms a sunroom. The 1929 addition is predominantly windowed.

Ornamental detailing consists of shingles in the tower attic level and dormer walls, scroll brackets on the tower cornice, and scroll balusters on the porch. The chimneys are also decorative with corbeled tops. There is a finial on the tower roof.

The first floor plan consists of the entrance hall with a 90 degree stair facing the entrance door, with a parlor to the east and a dining room to the west. There is a small nook in the entrance hall adjacent to the door with a wood bench. Behind these three rooms, to the north, is a hall which separates the dining room, pantry and kitchen. Behind these are the sunroom and 1929 kitchen additions.

The sitting room, entrance hall and parlor have fireplaces located in corners of the rooms. The one in the parlor does not have its original mantel and has been enclosed. The other two contain original veneered decorative mantels and tile surrounds and hearths. Other decorative elements in the first floor included the wooden Eastlake-style grill work in the entrance hall nook, the built in china closet in the dining room, the pocket doors in the parlor, and the decorative balustrade and newels of the main entrance stair. There is a secondary servants' stair in the rear of the building with simple wood balustrades. All doors are five panel wood. There is hardwood three-piece base trim as well as door and window trim. The windows and doors have hoods with projecting cove moldings. The main stairs in the entrance hall

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have paneled soffits and the balusters rise from the stringers to the ceiling. They are turned wood with a twisted rope pattern. The newel posts are paneled with button rosette accents. The doors for the dining room closet are leaded Art Nouveau Style.

All floors in the original portion of the building are hardwood tongue and groove with alternating woods creating a patterned effect. Most have a wood inlaid border. In the additions they were vinyl asbestos tile covered with linoleum or carpeting. Walls and ceilings are plaster on wood lath.

The second floor plan is similar in massing with a hall way running along the south wall. This connects the bedrooms. Trim, finishes etc are all the same as on the first floor with the exception being the use of softwoods for some of the doors and a simpler trim detailing.

The basement is finished with plaster walls and ceilings in most areas except the boiler and work rooms.

The attic is finished also with plaster ceiling and knee walls.

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Bowers, Robert R., Barboursville on the Guyandotte, Wonderful West Virginia, September, 1989

Cabell County Court Records

Drawings, floor plans titled "Additions and Alterations, Brick Residence to Apartment Building at Barboursville" undated

Gunter, Frances B., Barboursville, unpublished manuscript

Gillenwater, Dr. Mack, Historical and Architectural Survey Barboursville, September 30, 1986

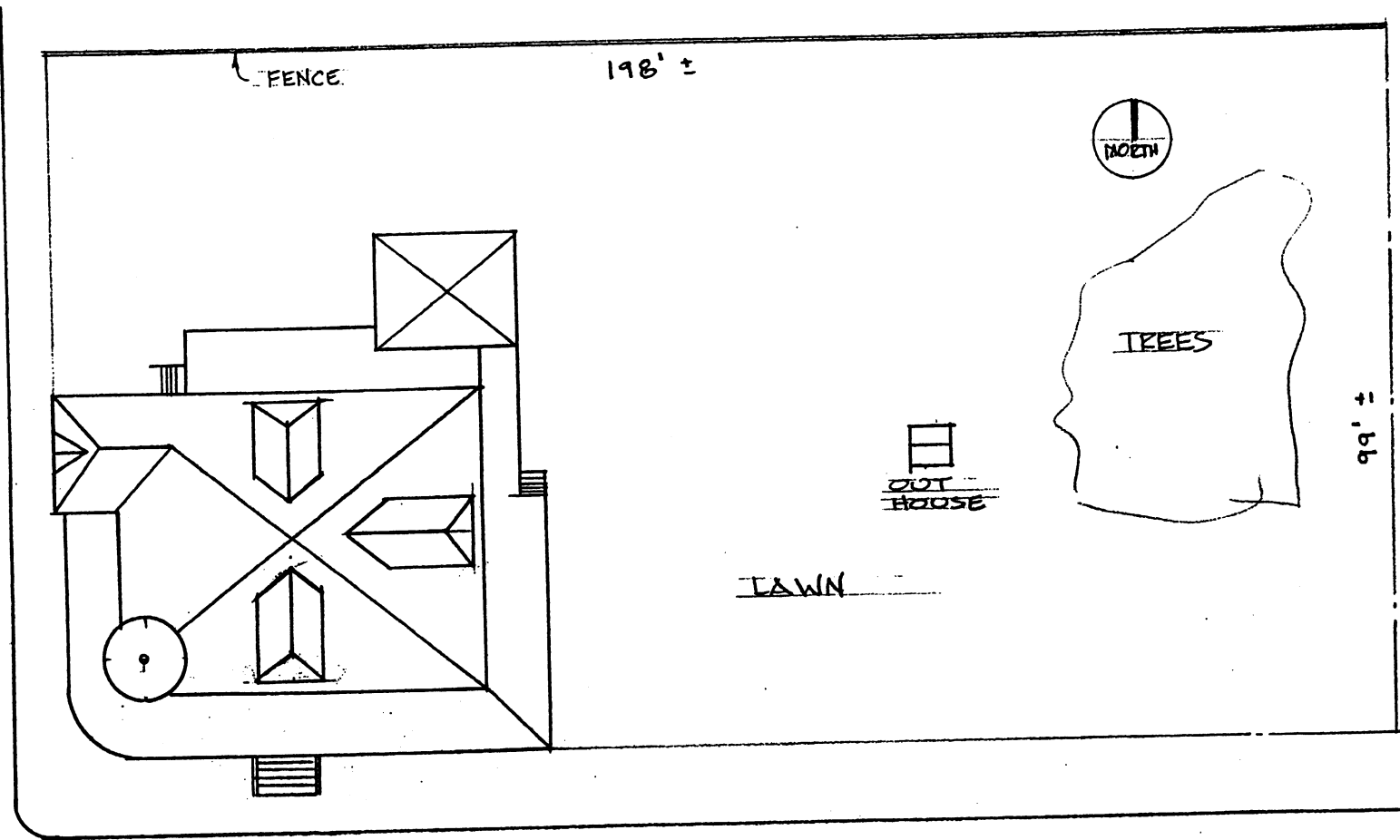
Men of West Virginia, Vol II, 1903, Biographical Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill.

Miller, J.W., History of Barboursville Community, 1925, Agricultural Extension Division, Morgantown, WV

Peterson, C. and Reid, M., Historic Properties Inventory Form, 1986

Wallace, George Seldon, Cabell County Annals and Families, 1935, Richmond

CENTRAL



MAIN STREET

NOT TO SCALE

SKETCH
MAP

THORNBURG RESIDENCE
BARBOURSVILLE WEST VIRGINIA

MICHAEL GIOULIS
JANUARY 2, 1991



THORNBURGH HOUSE



Hastings Ridge

Oaklawn Memorial Park

Guiding

Sewage Disposal Pond

White Chapel Cem.

91000451

Golf Course

Barbourville

Golf Course

CUYANDOLPH

PIPELINE

Martha