

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 18 1978

DATE ENTERED

OCT 4 1978

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Waldomore

AND/OR COMMON

Clarksburg Public Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West Pike Street at North Fourth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Harrison

CODE

033

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

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER Library

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Clarksburg Public Library Board

STREET & NUMBER

West Pike Street

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

VICINITY OF

West Virginia

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harrison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

West Virginia

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ?	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Waldomore" is a two-story Neo-Classical Revival brick mansion located at the rear of a tree shaded, block-deep lawn fronting West Pike Street at North Fourth Street in Clarksburg, Harrison County, West Virginia. The building was constructed in 1839 as a residence for Waldo P. Goff whose heirs retained the property until 1931 when it was left to the City of Clarksburg for use as a public library. A Civil War period photograph of the house, presented to the library by Mrs. Osborn Goff, clearly shows the building in its Greek Revival form before it assumed the present Neo-Classical Revival manner at or near the turn-of-the-century.

A nationally popular Greek Revival plan of the 1830s was adopted for Waldomore: the temple-form, two story block flanked by single story wings. Sheltering the three-bay facade of the central two-story unit was the principal feature of the house: a two-story pedimented portico with four plain wooden Doric columns. Narrow brick pilasters divided the front elevation bays of both the central and side units. A raised seam tin surface apparently covered the original roof.

Extensive alterations at Waldomore, c. 1900, provided for additional second floor and rear wing space. The exterior workmanship and detailing was especially well done, to the extent that brick coursing is indistinguishable from the earlier brickwork. Certain Colonial Revival appurtenances in keeping with the Neo-Classical Revival mode made their appearance at this time.

In keeping with the sensitive classical treatment of the front elevation, the side wings were raised one story to meet the temple block roof running front to rear. The existing brick pilasters were then raised to the level of the plain entablature. The newly elevated interior end chimneys were flanked by attic vents that in the case of the southwest gable are unusual triangle shaped openings matching the angle of the sloping roof and framed by the partial return cornices.

Proportions and styling of the portico survive indicating the probability of the retention of the original fabric. Two gable dormers were constructed, but the roof retained its seamed tin surface. The Greek Revival doorway with its undecorated lintel was replaced with an elaborate semi-circular fanlight and pedimented frontpiece. The fanlight is duplicated over the inner vestibule doorway. The spandrels and bay surfaces beneath the portico may have received their grey stucco covering at this time.

The 6/6 double hung windows were replaced with 2 5/1 (25 lights over 1) sashes and protected with double-fold louvered shutters that are probably replacements but today remain essentially as they were when the house was built. In all likelihood turn-of-the-century rear wing additions changed the house plan from a T to a U.

Modifications of the interior are seen in the woodwork and mantles that are standard late nineteenth or early twentieth century types. The mantle in the first floor southwest wing is especially ornate and may predate the other Victorian millwork by a decade or more. When Waldomore became the Clarksburg Public Library in 1931 several walls in the center of the building were removed to provide large reading rooms on the first and second floors.

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Three one-story frame subsidiary buildings with slate roofs stand at the rear of the Waldomore property. These modest Victorian cottages, built near the turn-of-the-century, provided quarters for the servants and groundskeepers at Waldomore.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) WV State and Local History
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

DATE 1839

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The porticoed brick mansion named "Waldomore" served Waldo P. Goff, its first owner, and his heirs for nearly a century until it was bequeathed to the City of Clarksburg by Mrs. May Goff Lowndes (Mrs. Richard T. Lowndes) in 1930 with the condition that it be used "as a public library and museum and for no other purpose." Significant in the building's history of private and public service is its long standing recognition as a community landmark. The character of Waldomore's front elevation today remains much as it was in 1839 when the builder designed the residence in the fashionable Greek Revival style of the time. Despite alterations undertaken at the turn-of-the-century, Waldomore retained its classical image thanks to the owners who rejected the tendency of area property owners to "Victorianize" their period houses.

Waldomore was constructed late in the year 1839 for Waldo P. Goff on part of a four acre tract that extended from Pike Street to Elk Creek. Mr. Goff was born in 1796, the fifth son of Job and Zerviah Goff who moved to Harrison County in 1804 from New York. Of the eight children born to this family, four sons eventually served in legislatures of Virginia and West Virginia. Waldo P. Goff was a member of the Virginia State Senate from 1833 to 1837. A public spirited citizen, Mr. Goff held numerous local minor offices including that of sheriff of Harrison County in 1851. He married Harriet L. Moore in 1839, a union which produced nine children, one of whom was Mrs. May Goff Lowndes. It was Mrs. Lowndes who coined the epithet "Waldomore" from the names of her father and mother; and it will be remembered that it was the same Mrs. Lowndes who left the family home to the City of Clarksburg in 1930.

The most famous of Waldo P. Goff's children was Nathan Goff, born at Waldomore February 9, 1843. After graduating from Georgetown University and the University of the City of New York, Goff enlisted in the Union Army in June 1861. Following the war, Goff passed the bar exam and practiced law for a number of years. On January 6, 1881, he was appointed Secretary of the Navy, a cabinet level post, by President Rutherford B. Hayes. In 1876 Goff was defeated in the West Virginia governor's race by Henry M. Mathews. After serving from 1883 to 1889 in the U. S. Congress, Nathan Goff left office to run again for governor. Despite official returns indicating the election of Republican Goff to the governorship in 1888 (by a paper-thin margin), rival candidate A. Brooks Fleming questioned the results and requested the Legislature determine the winner. During the confusion that followed four men laid legal claim to the office; Goff's chances were squelched, however, when the Legislature in a partisan vote gave the office to Fleming.

Nathan Goff was appointed U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Judicial Circuit by President Harrison on March 17, 1892. He remained on the bench until 1913 when he was elected to a term in the U.S. Senate. Goff died at Clarksburg in 1920. His

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son, Guy Despard Goff, served in the U.S. Senate from 1925 to 1931.

The Clarksburg Public Library found a permanent home at Waldomore in 1931 after it had "wandered" from building to building for a period of several decades. Mrs. Julia Walker Ruhl, a teacher at Broadus College, was instrumental in founding the Library in 1907. Miss S. Scollay Page, who served as librarian from 1910 until 1938, set the institution on a sound professional course and oversaw the move to Waldomore.

A bronze plaque in the vestibule at Waldomore records a simple message written by Clarksburg statesman and presidential candidate John W. Davis:

In Memory of
May Goff Lowndes
Wife of Richard T. Lowndes
Who Bequeathed to the City of Clarksburg
For Use as a Library
This House Built in the Year 1839
By her Father
Waldo P. Goff.

"Books are the Shrine Where the Saint is."

-Francis Bacon

In 1976 a new library building was constructed adjacent to the Waldomore grounds to meet the rapidly growing needs of Clarksburg. Waldomore has since been designated a repository and research center for the Clarksburg Public Library's local and state history collections.

DRAFT

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	556910	4348040
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Waldomore is located at the rear of a long city lot bound by West Pike Street on the south, North Fourth Street on the east, the main brick library building to the west, and three frame subsidiary buildings to the north.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES CROSSING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rodney S. Collins

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Department of Culture and History

DATE

February 14, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Capitol Complex

TELEPHONE

(304) 348-0244

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 ☒

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

AGENT

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DRAFT

Form No. 10 300a
(Rev. 10 74)

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Deibler, Dan G. "Comments on Waldomore, Clarksburg, Harrison County." West Virginia Antiquities Commission, 1977.

Lynch, Lawrence. History of the Clarksburg Public Library. Clarksburg, West Virginia, 1946.

Markesburg Quad



