

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lewisburg Historic District
Name of Property
Greenbrier County, West Virginia
County and State
78002795
NR Reference Number

State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this additional documentation move removal
 name change (additional documentation) other

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.

Susan Pierce

4/15/2021

Signature of Certifying Official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date of Action

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- additional documentation accepted
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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The Lewisburg Historic District in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, West Virginia was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 7, 1978. The district, which covers approximately 350 acres, has 120 contributing resources that fall within a Period of Significance of 1769-1928 (1928 being the 50-year mark although resources were identified and described up to the year 1977).

The early 1920s home at 200 North Court Street, the Jackson House, was originally classified within the district as an “intrusion” but based on additional documentation and new research, the home should be reclassified as contributing to the Lewisburg Historic District. Additionally, due to threat of demolition in 2021, the home was moved within the district to an adjoining lot (Figure 1) resulting in minimal-to-no loss of integrity.

Setting

The Lewisburg Historic District is a mix of commercial, residential, civic and religious buildings, centered on the historic commercial core along Washington street. North Court is a tree-lined street that runs perpendicular to Washington and residences become more numerous as one moves away from it. The houses and buildings along North Court possess a variety of styles and materials. The grand yet unembellished 1837 Greenbrier County Courthouse dominates the corner of North Court and Randolph and the 1840 Governor Samuel Price House is found at the other end of the street. Setbacks are shallow to moderate with the exception being the Price House which is surrounded by mature trees on a larger lot. Large parking lots for the courthouse and associated civic buildings have developed at the rear of the Greenbrier Courthouse, Jackson House and Samuel Price House.

History of the Jackson House

The Westly Sears kit house at 200 North Court Street (originally 204 North Court Street) is located in the Lewisburg Historic District. Based on information obtained from deeds, tax records, and Sanborn maps the home was constructed between 1920 and 1922. It was built for Henry, a local meat merchant, and Blanche Jackson. The home is situated on Court Street between the ‘Greenbrier County Courthouse and Lewis Spring’ and the stately Governor Samuel Price Home, both of which are contributing resources in the district and individually listed on the National Register.¹

The house was identified as the Westly type in 2010 by Rosemary Thornton, author of *Finding the Houses That Sears Built* (2004) and other publications about kit homes. At the request of Lewisburg’s Historic Landmarks Commission, Ms. Thornton surveyed the kit homes in Lewisburg. The house is an early version of a Westly and was priced at \$2,392 in the 1928 Sears Modern Homes Catalog. This two-story bungalow of seven rooms was one of the best-selling homes sold by Sears.²

Most kit homes are found in railroad towns because the “already cut and fitted” materials were delivered in boxcars. The boxcars were parked on a side rail, and the purchaser had a few days to unload the materials. While Lewisburg is not considered a “railroad town,” it has several kit homes from the early

¹ NRHP #73001900 and #75001890, respectively

² Rosemary Thornton, “The Wonderful World of Westlys,” Sears Modern Homes (<http://searshomes.org/index.php/2011/07/02/wonderful-world-of-westlys>, accessed Apr 2021)

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1900s. Lewisburg had a railroad from 1906 until 1931. The Lewisburg and Ronceverte Railway built a line from the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad main line in Ronceverte to downtown Lewisburg and offered passenger and freight service. It is plausible that kit homes were delivered in Lewisburg or in Ronceverte, only a few miles away.

In an effort to acquire more property adjacent to the courthouse for a new jail, the Greenbrier County Court (now Greenbrier County Commission) bought the Jackson House in 1941. After the purchase, the County Commission rented it as a residence for jailers and other law enforcement officers. Ernest Wade and other law enforcement officers would live there until the 1960s. When the old jail burned, the Department of Welfare used the building for offices. In the early 1970s the building was leased to West Virginia University Extension Service. Most recently, it has been a temporary office for the Greenbrier County Sheriff.

Moving the Jackson House

Due to threat of demolition, the Jackson House was purchased in 2020 with the intent to move it to the adjacent vacant lot immediately to the northeast on North Court (Figure 1). In March 2021, the home was lifted and moved to the new location (Photos 2 and 3). The original orientation and setback are retained and the home is still in close proximity to the Courthouse and Price home.

Integrity

The home possesses good integrity. Despite its varied uses, Lewisburg's Westly is distinguished by the fact that few alterations have been made to the house. Except for large parking lots that are encroaching at the rear of the property, the setting is largely unchanged and the building's relationship with the Courthouse can still be inferred due to its continued presence on North Court. The original floor plan has not been altered, and nearly all of the original materials are intact. The house has the original windows and exterior doors. It has all the original interior woodwork, doors, hardwood floors, and plaster walls and ceilings.

Around 2017, the County Commission covered the exterior original wooden clapboard siding with vinyl. An examination by Lewisburg's Historic Landmarks Commission found the wood siding to be in good shape underneath and recommended it be scraped and repainted.³

Alterations to the house include a windbreak on the front porch and a small porch at the rear of the house. Most Westlys had railings in front of the front dormer. The builder of Lewisburg's Westly may have omitted it when it was originally built because the area in front of the dormer was prone to leakage and enclosing the space was one way to solve that problem.⁴

The Jackson House would also meet Criterion Consideration B; as an intact Sears kit home, the Jackson House is primarily significant for its architecture and as an example of evolving building trends within the district.

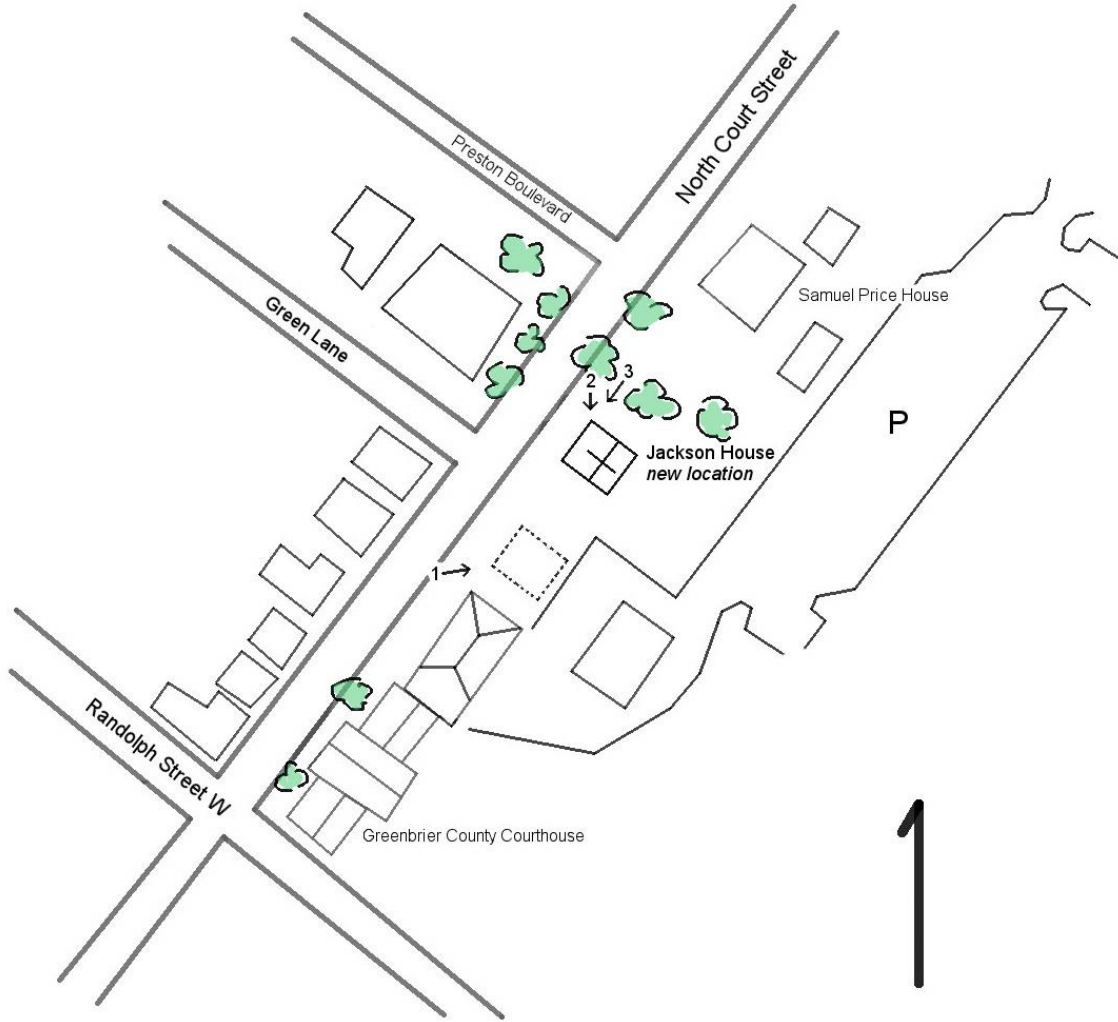
³ The new owner plans on a full restoration and will remove the vinyl siding.

⁴ Rosemary Thornton, "The Wonderful World of Westlys."

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Jackson House Sketch Map
 Lewisburg Historic District
 200 North Court Street, Lewisburg, Greenbrier County WV

- ↑ photo vantage points
- original footprint

Note: not to scale

Figure 1. Sketch Map

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Photo 1: The Jackson House prior to the move, December 2020, courtesy of William “Skip” Deegans



Photo 2: The Jackson House mid-move, March 2021, courtesy of William “Skip” Deegans

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Photo 3: The Jackson House at new location, original lot and Greenbrier County Courthouse in background, March 2021, courtesy of William "Skip" Deegans