

Dr. George Lewis House
Name of Property
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Greenbrier, West Virginia
County and State

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Dr. George Lewis House

Other names/site number: GB-2499

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 123 Rich Hollow Road

City or town: Lewisburg State: WV County: Greenbrier

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. 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
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID 19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK

BRICK FOUNDATION

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Dr. George Lewis House is located approximately three miles west of the City of Lewisburg, the county seat of Greenbrier County. It is located in a predominantly agricultural area at the intersection of Blue Sulphur Pike (County Route 33) and Rich Hollow Road (County Route 33/2), a one-lane road. The Dr. George Lewis House is a Greek Revival style two-story, brick single-family dwelling and is situated on a small rise above Blue Sulphur Pike. Significant features include its symmetrical five-bay façade arrangement, side-gabled roof, brick structure, full-width front porch, original wood sash windows, and gable-end chimneys, including twin chimneys on the west elevation. The surrounding landscape features rolling hills with mature trees and agricultural fields. This nomination includes a 2.47-acre portion of the property containing the house.

Setting

This residence is accessed via Rich Hollow Road, a one-lane road and a gravel driveway with a circular drive. Agricultural buildings line both sides of the driveway. A brick sidewalk extends from the drive to the rear entrance. This residence consists of two attached sections: the original

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residence (1838) and a brick addition (1985-1990). Both sections are constructed of red brick and have side-gabled roofs covered with cedar shingles. The primary elevation of the house faces north towards Blue Sulphur Pike. Two curved stone walls extend along Rich Hollow Road on the property's west elevation, and a wood fence extends along Blue Sulphur Pike and the remainder of the property.

Narrative Description

Dr. George Lewis House

1838; ca. 1985

Contributing Resource

Location and Setting

The Dr. George Lewis House is located approximately three miles west of the City of Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, West Virginia. The current farm encompasses approximately 169 acres of farmland in a predominantly agricultural area. The surrounding area is sparsely populated and consists of single-family dwellings, agricultural structures, and farmland. Blue Sulphur Pike (County Route 33), the main thoroughfare in this area, veers off the Midland Trail (US Route 60) and travels in a westerly direction towards Alta, an unincorporated town in Greenbrier County. The residence was constructed on a hillside overlooking the rural landscape to the north (Photo 1) while the outbuildings, including a pump house, two barns, and three storage buildings, were constructed to the south of the house.

The residence is accessed from Rich Hollow Road via a gravel driveway. Historic aerial imagery indicates that the driveway formerly was located directly west of the residence where two stone walls curve from Rich Hollow Road towards the house (Photo 12). Between 1982 and 1990, the driveway was relocated approximately 200 feet south to its current location, and the circular drive was extant by 1997.¹ Mature trees surround the property on the western, eastern, and northern elevations. Agricultural land and fields surround this residence. A small cemetery where George Lewis, his wife, and descendants are buried is situated to the west of this residence and is not included in this nomination.

Exterior

The Dr. George Lewis House was constructed in 1838 with a one-story addition added between 1985-1990. The original section of the house is a two-story, brick, single family dwelling with a side-gabled roof. The brick walls of the original section are laid in Flemish bond pattern. The house has 5 x 2 bay rectangular plan and a symmetrical design.

The front (north) façade (Photos 1, 2, and 4) is five bays wide and features a full-width one-story porch with a shed roof supported by simple square posts. The first floor on this side of the house is elevated due to the sloped lot. The porch has a brick foundation and is accessed by a wide set of brick stairs. The first-floor fenestration consists of a central main entrance with a four-pane transom (Photo 6) and nine-over-six wood sash windows in the remaining bays. The second floor

¹ HistoricAerials.com.

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contains a six-over-six wood sash window in each of the five bays. A corbelled brick cornice with an ogee profile extends across the top of the façade below the roof eave.

The west elevation (Photo 4) is dominated by prominent twin exterior brick chimneys. The chimneys are constructed in a common bond pattern with shoulders above the second-floor level. Six-over-six wood sash windows are located on the outer sides of both chimneys on the first and second stories. Between the two chimneys at the attic level is a nine-pane wood window.

The south (rear) elevation (Photo 3) faces the driveway and is now the primary entrance for the house. This elevation is three bays wide and is constructed in common bond brick. A one-story shed-roof addition extends across the rear elevation and contains a central doorway with a semicircular fanlight and multipane sidelights. This addition appears contemporaneous with the east addition, constructed ca. 1985-1990. The outer bays on the first-floor addition contain triple multipane full-height casement windows. A one-bay gabled porch with square post supports and a barrel-vaulted ceiling extends from the shed roof over the main entrance. The visible portion of the original house above the shed roof contains a six-over-six wood sash window in each of the three bays. The corbelled cornice from the front elevation is repeated on this elevation. Three gabled dormers were added to the main residence's rear roof. The large central dormer contains triple twelve-pane windows with a semicircular transom. The smaller outer dormers each contain a single twelve-pane window. A brick walk leads from the driveway to the rear entrance of this residence.

The east (side) elevation (Photo 5) is common bond brick and contains a single central exterior chimney with shoulders above the second-floor level. A single six-over-six wood sash window is located on the first floor to the right of the chimney. Due to the topography, the basement level of east elevation is exposed and is accessed via a single wood door below the window.

Additions and Alterations

A brick 1½ story addition was constructed on the east (side) elevation between 1985 and 1990 (Photo 5). The addition consists of two sections: a two-bay wide gabled section extending one bay from the center of the east elevation chimney, and a shorter gabled section extending from the left half of the previous section, so that the addition is set back twice from the front elevation, and the roof steps down twice from the main roof level (Photo 5). The section adjacent to the original structure contains a 2x12 casement window on the basement and first floor levels on the north elevation, and on the east elevation, double French doors at the basement level with an addition 2x12 casement above. The smaller section contains 2x15 casement windows on the basement and first floor of the north elevation, and a large exterior brick chimney flanked by nine-pane windows on the basement level and 15-pane windows on the first floor. Both sections of the addition replicate the corbelled cornice found on the original structure.

The walls and south roof slopes of both sections of the addition are continuous on the south elevation. The taller section of the addition contains a gabled dormer with paired 12-pane windows. The first floor, which is at grade level on this elevation, contains double French doors flanked by full height multipane casement windows and a 2x15 pane casement window.

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Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes, written in 1942 by Ruth Woods Dalton, contains a brief description of the house and notes that “there was a portico on the porch at first, but it is replaced by a long one-story porch.” No further details regarding the original portico could be found. The current one-story porch has a foundation of concrete block with a brick veneer and was most likely reconstructed as part of the work done in the late 1980s.

Interior

This residence’s interior retains much of its original character and consists of two floors and a basement. The original configuration of the residence consisted of two rooms on the first floor, three rooms on the second floor, and two rooms on the basement level. The central hall (Photo 7) contains a prominent staircase which has a wood newel post and simple banister. The entry hall is centered between the parlor/living room on the west (Photo 9) and the dining room on the east (Photo 10).

Each room on this floor is rectangular in shape and extends the entire depth of the structure. They also feature the original heart pine flooring and brick fireplaces with classical wood mantels (Photo 8). Decorative woodwork includes paneled wainscoting, door and window trim, and crown moldings. At the rear of each room on the main floor are wood doors that lead to the enclosed back addition. The doors in the parlor and dining rooms both have single light transoms.

The rear addition provides access to the original main structure as well as the east addition. This narrow addition features red clay tile flooring and exposed rafters. The original exterior brick wall has been painted white. A multipane door provides access to an open plan kitchen, dining area, and living room. This L-shaped room features wood flooring, a fireplace, and a staircase that leads to additional rooms on the attic level of the addition.

The second floor of the original residence consists of three bedrooms and a central hall. One large bedroom is situated on the east side of the house and extends the entire depth of the structure. A bathroom and closet were added to this bedroom. The remaining two bedrooms are smaller in size and situated on the west side of the house. The bedrooms feature the original heart pine flooring and brick fireplaces with wood mantels.

A staircase leads to the basement level which formerly served as a kitchen (Photo 11). The kitchen is centered in the original section and extends the entire depth of the residence. The walls are exposed brick, and the original framing is visible. The original large brick fireplace is centered along the east elevation.

Integrity

The Dr. George Lewis House retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. The residence remains in its original location at the intersection of Rich Hollow Road and the Blue Sulphur Turnpike on a knoll overlooking the landscape to the north. The setting remains agricultural with minimal development or visual

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intrusions, and the house remains associated with a large agricultural parcel. The exterior of the original structure retains its original brick structure, wood sash windows, and characteristic design features including symmetrical fenestration, prominent chimneys, and side-gabled roof. The interior also retains original historic flooring, room layout, and woodwork. The east addition, constructed circa 1985-1990 to add functional space to the house, utilized historically appropriate materials while remaining distinguishable from the original structure. The addition also defers to the original structure through the use of setbacks and lower rooflines and preserves the primary façade of the 1838 structure.

The original portico was replaced prior to 1942 with a full-width one-story porch. The house has had a one-story full-width porch for at least 84 years. The current full-width porch is wood frame with a shed roof and a concrete block foundation with brick veneer to match the house. Although the current porch is not original, the style and materials are in keeping with typical farmhouse-style full-width porches, with a simple shed roof and wood posts and railings.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1838

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Dr. George Lewis House is locally significant for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Constructed in 1838, the house reflects the adaptation of the Greek Revival style to the traditional Georgian house form by local builders, expressed through its symmetrical five-bay façade, side-gabled roof, simple brick cornice, and massive exterior chimneys. The interior retains a high degree of historic architectural integrity, including original wood floors and woodwork such as paneled wainscoting, fireplace mantels, fluted trim, stair railings, and doors with transoms. The construction of a substantial brick dwelling with restrained classical detailing represented a significant advancement in domestic architecture for the rural community. The house is particularly notable within the local context for its similarities to the nearby National Register-listed Tuckwiller Tavern and Morlunda, demonstrating the continued influence and regional adaptation of Greek Revival architectural traditions in Greenbrier County during the 1830s. The Dr. George Lewis House's Period of Significance is 1838, the date of its construction.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Context

Early exploration and settlement

The Greenbrier Valley around Lewisburg was utilized by indigenous people including the Six Nations of the Iroquois and Western Cayuga and Senecas (called Mingo by European settlers). These indigenous people used early trails including the Midland Trail (now US 60) and Seneca Trail (now US 219) for communication, hunting, trading, and migration purposes.² Early European explorers and surveyors traveled along these same trails as they explored the Greenbrier Valley in the early to mid-eighteenth century.

In 1745, the colony of Virginia granted 100,000 acres of land in the Greenbrier Valley to the Greenbrier Company, a land speculator.³ The Greenbrier Valley included land along the Greenbrier River in present-day Greenbrier, Pocahontas, and Monroe counties in West Virginia.⁴ Andrew Lewis, an early explorer and captain in the Orange County, Virginia militia⁵, surveyed the area before the Greenbrier Company started promoting the land to potential settlers. During this survey, Lewis and other surveyors discovered a clear spring in present-day Lewisburg.⁶ Settlers began moving into the Greenbrier Valley in the early 1750s. Early settlements appeared

² *Greenbrier County Bicentennial 1778-1978*, 4. Darla S. Spencer, "Indian Trails," *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia*.

³ Kenneth R. Bailey, "Greenbrier Company," *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia*.

⁴ Otis K. Rice, *A History of Greenbrier County*, 16.

⁵ Donald W. Gunter, "Andrew Lewis," *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*.

⁶ Ruth Woods Dayton, *Lewisburg Landmarks*, 9.

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in the “Big Levels” area (near present-day Lewisburg), Muddy Creek, and McDowell Bottoms outside of Alderson. However, attacks by indigenous people resulted in settlers leaving the area and settling instead in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. One of these attacks occurred in 1763 when Chief Cornstalk led an attack, killing residents of the Muddy Creek settlement.

Greenbrier County was originally partitioned from portions of Montgomery and Botetourt Counties in present-day Virginia. In 1777, the Virginia General Assembly passed an act creating Greenbrier County and the county was officially formed the following year in 1778. Its original boundaries stretched from the Allegheny Mountains to the Ohio River and encompassed seventeen counties in present-day central and western West Virginia.⁷ This act also established the location for the courthouse at Colonel John Stuart’s house, and the day court would be held.

On October 7, 1782, the Virginia General Assembly passed an act establishing the town of Lewisburg, named in honor of Andrew Lewis. Lewisburg encompassed a total of 40 acres of land that were divided into streets with half-acre lots.⁸ During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Lewisburg and the surrounding area were sparsely populated and primarily an agricultural area. Settlers established a farming community in the Rich Hollow and Muddy Creek Mountain area three miles west of downtown Lewisburg. Some of the farmers utilized enslaved people to work on their farms. Muddy Creek Mountain included three grand houses built in the early nineteenth century by the prominent owners of large land tracts and farms, including the Dr. George Lewis House, Colonel Samuel McClung Place and Tuckwiller Tavern also known as the Valley View Stock Farm. Both the Colonel Samuel McClung Place and Tuckwiller Tavern are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Lewis Family and their Descendants

Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes, written by Ruth Woods Dayton in 1942, contains an extensive background of the house and Lewis family. Dayton states that the property was originally owned by John Lewis who obtained a grant for a 700-acre tract of land in 1786-1787. She then states that John Lewis had eleven children, including John, William, Andrew, Erasmus, George, Benjamin, Matilda, Terza, Sallie, Bettie, and Pollie, and that the property was passed to son George, born in 1790 and married to Mary Ann Argabrite in 1814.⁹ This is same Dr. George Lewis who is buried in the family cemetery on the property with a date of death of October 11, 1855, in the 65th year of life, making his birth year approximately 1790. Mary Ann “Polly” Argabrite Lewis (1791-1865) is also buried in the family cemetery.¹⁰

The land grant document is accessible through the Library of Virginia and verifies that on September 25, 1786, Beverley Randolph, the Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of

⁷ *Greenbrier County Bicentennial 1778-1978*, 55.

⁸ William Waller Hening, “Chapter XVIII. An Act to Establish a Town at the Courthouse in the County of Greenbrier,” *The Statutes at Large Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia*, Volume XI, 139.

⁹ Ruth Woods Dayton, *Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes*, West Virginia Publishing Company, 1942, 348.

¹⁰ FindAGrave.com, “Lewis Family Burial Ground Memorials,”

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2554319/memorial-search?cemeteryName=Lewis+Family+Burial+Ground&page=1#sr-136137843>, accessed 21 August 2026.

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Virginia granted John Lewis a 700-acre tract of land in the Rich Hollow area of Greenbrier County. According to the land grant, Lewis paid 3 pounds, 10 shillings for this tract that bordered the land of James Huston, John Rodgers, and John Davis. The parcel was surveyed on September 25, 1786, and the grant was dated June 29, 1787.¹¹

Deed research indicates that it was actually the father of John Lewis, also named John, who received the 700-acre land grant. The two John Lewises are often conflated in secondary sources. The elder John Lewis (ca. 1740-1787) died before the grant was finalized in June 1787. His will was signed March 18, 1787, and recorded by the Greenbrier County Court in April 1787, and stated, "I give and bequeath to my five sons, John, George, Robert, William and Benjamin the Plantation whereon I live to be divided amongst share and share alike with respect to value and not to quantity save that shares of the three youngest boys shall include the House and Cleared Land..." (Note that the "George" listed in this will was the uncle of Dr. George Lewis). The will also bequeathed his livestock to Robert, William, and Benjamin and daughters Sarah and Phebe, and ten pounds each to his married daughters Agnes (wife of Charles Howard) and Catharine (wife of Michael Kieny).¹² Since the elder John Lewis had not yet obtained the 700-acre parcel prior to his death, the house and plantation referenced in his will must have been located elsewhere; its location is not known.

Starting in 1794, the younger John Lewis received several parcels of land from his brothers Robert, William, and Benjamin that were originally part of the 700-acre tract, including:

- 124 acres from Robert Lewis on 29 July 1794¹³
- 124 acres from William Lewis on 29 December 1795¹⁴
- 124 acres from Benjamin Lewis and wife Rachel on 19 September 1797¹⁵

Each deed states that the tract was "part of a survey containing seven hundred acres granted to John Lewis, deceased." These parcels were thus part of the "share and share alike" division of land between John Lewis's five sons as specified in his will. The ownership of the remaining 528 acres is unknown, but it is a reasonable assumption that the son John owned at least part of it through his inheritance and was adding to his holdings by purchasing parcels from his brothers.

The younger John Lewis married Rachel Viney in 1785. Cole's *History of Greenbrier County*, written in 1917, contains a profile of John Lewis, although it also makes the mistake of combining the father and son into one person. Cole states that John Lewis received 700-acre land grant in 1787 and proceeded to construct a "large, two-story house of hewn logs, with a good stone chimney, a smoke or meat-house in the yard, a large double barn, and these buildings are yet standing and in use."¹⁶ Since the elder John Lewis died in 1787, it stands to reason that the son must have constructed these buildings. The location of these structures is also unknown.

¹¹ John Lewis, Virginia Land Grant, *Library of Virginia*, 29 June 1787.

https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01LVA_INST/17ab9lt/alma990007849580205756

¹² Will of John Lewis, Greenbrier County Will Book 1, page 50, dated 18 Mar 1787 and recorded April 1787.

¹³ Greenbrier County Deed Book 1, p 364, dated 29 July 1794.

¹⁴ Greenbrier County Deed Book 1, p 530, dated 29 Dec 1795.

¹⁵ Greenbrier County Deed Book 1, p 687, dated 19 Sep 1797.

¹⁶ Joseph R. Cole, *History of Greenbrier County*, 115-116.

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John Lewis died suddenly on August 30, 1810, of an “apoplectic fit,” according to his grave marker in the Old Stone Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Lewisburg.¹⁷

John Lewis appears to have died intestate, and his land was tied up in court for many years. An appraisal of his estate and bill of sale for items appear in Greenbrier County Will Book 1.¹⁸ The sale was held at his house on October 6, 1810; of note is a listing for “George Lewis (son of the deceased)” who purchased two horses, one saddle and two bridles from the estate.

466 acres of John Lewis’s land was purchased from three of his heirs (Matilda Lewis Hall, Polly Lewis, and Elizabeth Lewis) by Joel Holly on August 3, 1813.¹⁹ No further deeds granted from the estate of John Lewis are listed in the deed index until 1827, when Andrew Lewis and wife Rachel, John Lewis, Erasmus Lewis and Ruth Lewis conveyed four lots to George Lewis. The deed states that the lots known as No. 4, No. 6, No. 7 and No. 8 were part of a division of land ordered by a decree of the Superior Chancery Court.²⁰ The deed contains scant information on the location of the lots other than that the parcels began at the Rodgers line and ran west towards the mountain. A referenced survey plat could not be located. The acreage of the lots was listed as 46 ½ acres for No. 4, 45 acres for No. 6, 42 acres for No. 7 and 31 ½ acres for No. 8, for a total of 165 acres. Presumably George also inherited his own adjacent lot of similar acreage and was able to amass a property of 200+ acres through the purchase of his siblings’ lots.

In 1836, George obtained a land grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia for 1008 acres on top of Muddy Creek Mountain adjoining Robert Young, Doile William Morrow, and his own land. The boundary description for this tract indicates that it was located west of George’s own land and extended to the “top of the cliffs.”²¹

Minimal information could be confirmed regarding George Lewis’s biography. Secondary sources state that he was a soldier in the War of 1812 and was a member of the Greenbrier Agricultural Society, but this could not be confirmed.²² His grave marker includes the title “Dr.” but no further info was available regarding this aspect of his life. The 1850 census lists George Lewis, age 60 as a farmer with household members Mary A. Lewis (age 58), Ruthy Lewis (age 18), Sarah A. Lewis (age 16), John Vina [Viney] (age 30), Rachel Viney (age 27), George W. Viney (age 2), and Mary C. Viney (age 10 months).²³ Local newspapers indicate that a George Lewis served as a Justice of the Peace.²⁴

¹⁷ FindAGrave.com, John Lewis,” <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14465961/john-lewis>

¹⁸ Greenbrier County Will Book 1, p 405 and 417.

¹⁹ Greenbrier County Deed Book 6, p 467, dated 3 Aug 1813.

²⁰ Greenbrier County Deed Book 12, p 380, dated 3 Feb 1827.

²¹ Virginia Land Office, “George Lewis, 1008 acres, Greenbrier County,” Land Office Grants No. 85, 1835-1836, p. 519 (Reel 151). https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01LVA_INST/altrmk/alma990007848720205756

²² Cole 116.

²³ Ancestry.com. 1850 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

²⁴ “Greenbrier Official Directory,” Greenbrier Era, 15 Apr 1854, p 2.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/632963215/>

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In 1834, a few years before George Lewis constructed his house, the Lewisburg and Blue Sulphur Springs Turnpike was chartered by the Virginia General Assembly.²⁵ This road was to connect Lewisburg to Blue Sulphur Springs west of Muddy Creek Mountain, which was the site of a mineral springs resort that was built in 1834 by George Washington Buster.²⁶ The company was authorized to sell stock and erect one or two tollgates along the road. The act specified that "Nor shall [the company] be compelled to make the said road more than eighteen feet wide; nor to cover the same with stone or gravel; and the said road shall not in any part exceed five degrees of acclivity of declivity." The turnpike stemmed from the James River & Kanawha Turnpike near Lewisburg and passed directly in front of George Lewis's home before crossing the mountain west to Blue Sulphur Springs. It is referenced in deeds after 1836. Since turnpikes were sometimes laid out using already extant roads and paths, it is not known whether the construction of the turnpike influenced George Lewis in the siting of his home. Nevertheless, an improved road would have provided a valuable transportation connection for Lewis and his neighbors.

George Lewis died without a will in 1855 according to the Deed of Partition for his real estate written on December 26, 1856. His heirs included Archibald Lewis and wife Matilda, Samuel G. Lewis, John M. and Rachel Lewis Viney, Uriah N and Mary Ann Lewis Warren, David and Ruth Lewis Hutsonpiller, Joshua and Elizabeth Lewis Knight, and Alfred and Sarah Lewis Tapan. Harvey Handley purchased the interests of Joshua and Elizabeth Knight and Archibald Lewis purchased the interests of Alfred and Sarah Tapan. The land was divided among the heirs with Handley receiving 94 acres, the Warrens receiving a lot in Lewisburg, and Archibald, the Vineys, and Hutsonpillers each receiving a tract of 209 acres.²⁷ The Hutsonpillers did not receive the house until 1858 when they purchased 80 acres of land from Archibald for \$4,052 "including the mansion house in which [George Lewis] resided at the time of his death."²⁸ The deed noted that the property remained subject to the dower right of Mary A. Lewis, who died in 1865 at age 74. David Hutsonpiller died in 1863, leaving his estate to his wife Ruth to be held in trust for their three children Mary Jane, Alice Ann and Charles Henry.²⁹

Ruth Hustonpiller continued to reside in the house until her death in 1888.³⁰ In the 1870 federal census, she resided with her three children and Henry McNeal, who was listed as a 63-year-old farmer born in Ireland.³¹ In 1880, Ruth lived with Alice Ann, age 26 and Charles Henry, age 22. Her daughter Mary Jane married Millard Fillmore Hern in 1873.³² In 1887, a series of deeds were filed wherein Ruth divided her land holdings among her three children with Mary Ann

²⁵ *Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia*, Richmond: Thomas Ritchie, 1834, 166-167.
https://www.google.com/books/edition/Acts_Passed_at_a_General_Assembly_of_the/usc_AQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0

²⁶ Michael M. Meador, "Blue Sulphur Springs." e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 16 February 2024. Web. Accessed: 27 August 2026.

²⁷ Greenbrier County Deed Book 21, p 502, 26 Dec 1856.

²⁸ Greenbrier County Deed Book 22, p 256, 3 April 1858.

²⁹ Greenbrier County Will Book 4, p 91, signed 23 Sep 1863, recorded October 1863.

³⁰ "Deaths," Staunton Spectator, 30 May 1888, p 2. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/72209536>

³¹ Ancestry.com. *1870 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

³² Elizabeth Chapman Denny Vann and Margaret Collins Denny Dixon, *Brumback-Hotsinpiller Genealogy*, 175.

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receiving 64 ½ acres, Alice Ann receiving 81 acres and Charles Henry receiving 92 ½ acres.³³ A fourth 2 ½-acre lot was also divided containing the “Brick Dwelling, barn, stables, spring and outhouses of the late David Hutsonpiller.” Mary Jane granted her 1/3 interest in this lot to her siblings.³⁴

Charles Henry Hutsonpiller (1857-1899) married Emma Jane Winall in 1889. Family history accounts state that they lived in the Dr. George Lewis home and that Charles died at the age of 42, leaving Emma with five children and pregnant with a sixth.³⁵ The 1900 federal census lists Emma as head of household residing with children ages 10, 8, 6, 3, 2, and four months, as well as her father Charles Winall.³⁶ Emma sold the property to A.J. Wilson in 1902 and relocated to Lewisburg.³⁷

20th Century Ownership

Wilson owned the property only five years and does not appear to have resided there. He sold it to Samuel H. McDowell in 1907.³⁸ McDowell was born in Irish Corner, Greenbrier County, West Virginia and worked as a farmer. His family were early settlers of Irish Corner. The 1910 Census shows Samuel McDowell and his wife Bertie Hume McDowell were living on Muddy Creek Mountain with their two children Gladys and Pauline and nephew Robert McDowell. According to this census, two farm laborers and relatives of Bertie, David A. Hume and William H. Hume were also living on the property.³⁹ Samuel McDowell's occupation was listed as a general farmer while his wife Bertie McDowell was a poultry breeder in the 1930 Federal Census.

One change to this property's physical landscape occurred when the West Virginia State Road Commission began planning and constructing highways. One of the highways planned in the 1920s and 1930s was the Blue Sulphur Pike. This road followed the alignment of the Lewisburg and Blue Sulphur Springs Turnpike. The upgrade of the Blue Sulphur Pike impacted Samuel H. McDowell's residence and farm. On June 26, 1934, McDowell and his wife filed a lawsuit against the West Virginia State Road Commission at the Circuit Court of Greenbrier County in Lewisburg. They requested money for the land taken as well as damages to their property. The case was presented on August 3, 1934, resulting in the jurors awarding Samuel McDowell \$2772.38 including interest for the State Roads Commission acquiring 6.32 acres from McDowell for the purpose of building a public road.⁴⁰

³³ Greenbrier County Deed Book 38, p 498 and 500, signed 31 August 1887.

³⁴ Greenbrier County Deed Book 38, p 496, signed 31 August 1887.

³⁵ Elizabeth Chapman Denny Vann and Margaret Collins Denny Dixon, *Brumback-Hotsinpiller Genealogy*, 175-176.

³⁶ Ancestry.com. *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

³⁷ Greenbrier County Deed Index, Deed Book 60, p 624, 1902; Ancestry.com. *1910 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

³⁸ Greenbrier County Deed Index, Deed Book 73, p 248, 1907.

³⁹ Entry for Samuel H. McDowell and Bertie E. McDowell, 1910 Federal Census, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MPN4-JTV?lang=en>

⁴⁰ Land Grant, Greenbrier County Clerk, Deed Book 123, Page 398.

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Between 1945 and 2007, the property changed hands a few times. In 1945, McDowell's daughter Pauline McDowell Stuart subdivided the property and sold a 40-acre lot with the brick house as well as all livestock, crops, and farm equipment to Benjamin H. Spry and Bernie Jones.⁴¹ The Spry family owned the property until 1987 when it was sold to Conrad D. Tamea, Jr., an orthopedic surgeon, and his wife Anne B. Tamea. The Tameas lived in the residence until 2007 when they sold it to Philip N. and Tabatha Light.

Architecture

The Dr. George Lewis House is a local vernacular example of the Greek Revival style of architecture in Greenbrier County. The Greek Revival style emerged from the colonial Georgian and Federal styles in the early 19th century as an architectural statement of the United States' connection to ancient Greek democratic ideals. The first examples to emerge in the 1820s were large Greek temple-form institutional buildings like banks and churches in urban centers including Boston and Philadelphia. Architects and designers began to publish pattern books containing Greek Revival designs that could be used by local builders.⁴² As the style began to spread outside urban centers into the frontier, builders interpreted the Greek Revival using local materials and simplified details. In contrast to colonnaded banks, government buildings, and high-style plantation houses, Greek Revival homes in the Virginia frontier frequently took the Georgian house type and modified it to reflect Greek Revival proportions and details.

Architectural historian Henry Glassie describes the Georgian house type:

*The definitive elements of the type rarely varied; externally, a low pitched roof (hipped on finer houses but usually gabled) and two openings per floor on the ends, five on the façade; internally, a double pile plan with two rooms on each side of a central hall containing the stair.*⁴³

Even as the Georgian style subsided, the house form continued, especially in more remote areas. Key differences between Georgian and Greek Revival houses with the Georgian form include a more austere level of ornamentation with no quoins, dormers, or keystones on the façade. Greek Revival farmhouses often have simple yet bold entry porticos with more massive proportions than would be found on a Georgian house. Side-gabled rather than hipped roofs and large exterior chimneys contribute to the solid massing of the Greek Revival farmhouse.

The subtleties of the vernacular Greek Revival style are communicated in the Dr. George Lewis House through its symmetrical horizontally oriented front façade, side-gabled roof with no dormers on the front elevation, simple brick cornice, and massive external chimneys. The interior of the house retains the original wood floors and woodwork, including paneled wainscoting, fireplace mantels, fluted door and window trim, stair railings, and wood doors with transoms. Prior to the construction of this house in 1838, earlier generations of the Lewis family in Rich Hollow had constructed and were living in log homes. A brick house of this size with subtle

⁴¹ Greenbrier County Deed Book 150, page 101, signed 16 July 1945.

⁴² Leland M. Roth, *American Architecture: A History*, 151-152.

⁴³ Henry Glassie, "Eighteenth-Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building," in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, 400.

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interior and exterior classical details would have represented a step forward in domestic architecture for this rural area of Greenbrier County.

Sources note that the house originally had a portico, but it had been replaced by a one-story full-width porch by 1942. Although the portico is a hallmark of the Greek Revival style, the one-story full-width porch is a characteristic feature of farmhouses across many styles and eras in West Virginia. The front porch, which was reconstructed with historically compatible materials circa 1985, is a historic alteration representing evolving needs and tastes over time and does not detract from the home's architectural significance.

Other Greek Revival-style houses in the vicinity include Tuckwiller Tavern and Morlunda, also known as the Colonel Samuel McClung Place, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and 1977, respectively. Both of these buildings were constructed between 1827 and 1829, approximately ten years prior to the Dr. George Lewis House. Tuckwiller Tavern and Morlunda were designed by noted Lewisburg architect John W. Dunn with the interior woodwork by Conrad Burgess. Tuckwiller Tavern, a brick side-gabled Georgian-form Greek Revival house, has many similarities to the Dr. George Lewis House, including a symmetrical five-bay façade and twin chimneys in one gable end. The Tuckwiller Tavern may have influenced the design of this house. Morlunda is also a brick side-gabled five-bay Greek Revival farmhouse but has a two-story central portico and two one-story wings added in 1935. Both these homes may have influenced the design of the Dr. George Lewis House.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: Greenbrier County Historical Society Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): GB-2499

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.47

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17N | Easting: 544077 | Northing: 4184775 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for the Dr. George Lewis House includes a portion of Greenbrier County Tax Parcel 13-06-0005-0015-0000 encompassing the main residence. Beginning from the corner of the parcel boundary adjacent to Blue Sulphur Pike (CR33) on the east, the boundary follows the parcel line southwest approximately 211 feet to a corner of the parcel boundary, thence N58°05'40"W approximately 234 feet to the parcel boundary adjacent to Rich Hollow Road (CR 33/2), thence follows the remainder of the parcel boundary adjoining Rich Hollow Road and Blue Sulphur Pike to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the Dr. George Lewis House includes the portion of Parcel 13-06-0005-0015-0000 containing the main residence. The boundary was selected based on existing parcel lines and corners, and excludes the current driveway, which was relocated in the 1980s and outbuildings to the south of the main residence, which have undergone various alterations.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sarah Elswick, Architectural Historian and Courtney Zimmerman, Architectural Historian; Tabatha Manon Light, Property Owner

organization: Aurora Research Associates LLC

street & number: 1436 Graham Road

city or town: Silver Lake state: Ohio zip code: 42244

e-mail courtney@aurora-llc.com

telephone: 304-685-7410

date: February 2026

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Dr. George Lewis House

City or Vicinity: Lewisburg

County: Greenbrier

State: West Virginia

Photographer: Sarah Elswick

Date Photographed: August 25, 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1. North elevation of house from Blue Sulphur Pike, camera facing S.

Photo 2. North elevation, camera facing SW, addition at left.

Photo 3. Rear (south) elevation, camera facing NE.

Photo 4. North and west elevations, oblique view, camera facing SE.

Photo 5. East addition, camera facing W.

Photo 6. Front door on north elevation, camera facing S.

Photo 7. Interior center hall, camera facing SE towards back of house.

Photo 8. Interior detail of fireplace in west first floor parlor.

Photo 9. West first floor parlor, camera facing N towards front of house.

Photo 10. East first dining room, camera facing NE towards front of house.

Photo 11. Interior view of former kitchen in basement, camera facing NE.

Photo 12. View of stone walls and original driveway location, camera facing S on Rich Hollow Road.

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Photo 1. North elevation of house from Blue Sulphur Pike, camera facing S.



Photo 2. North elevation, camera facing SW, addition at left.

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Photo 3. Rear (south) elevation, camera facing NE.



Photo 4. North and west elevations, oblique view, camera facing SE.

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Photo 5. East addition, camera facing W.



Photo 6. Front door on north elevation, camera facing S.

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Photo 7. Interior center hall, camera facing SE towards back of house.



Photo 8. Interior detail of fireplace in west first floor parlor.

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Photo 9. West first floor parlor, camera facing N towards front of house.



Photo 10. East first dining room, camera facing NE towards front of house.

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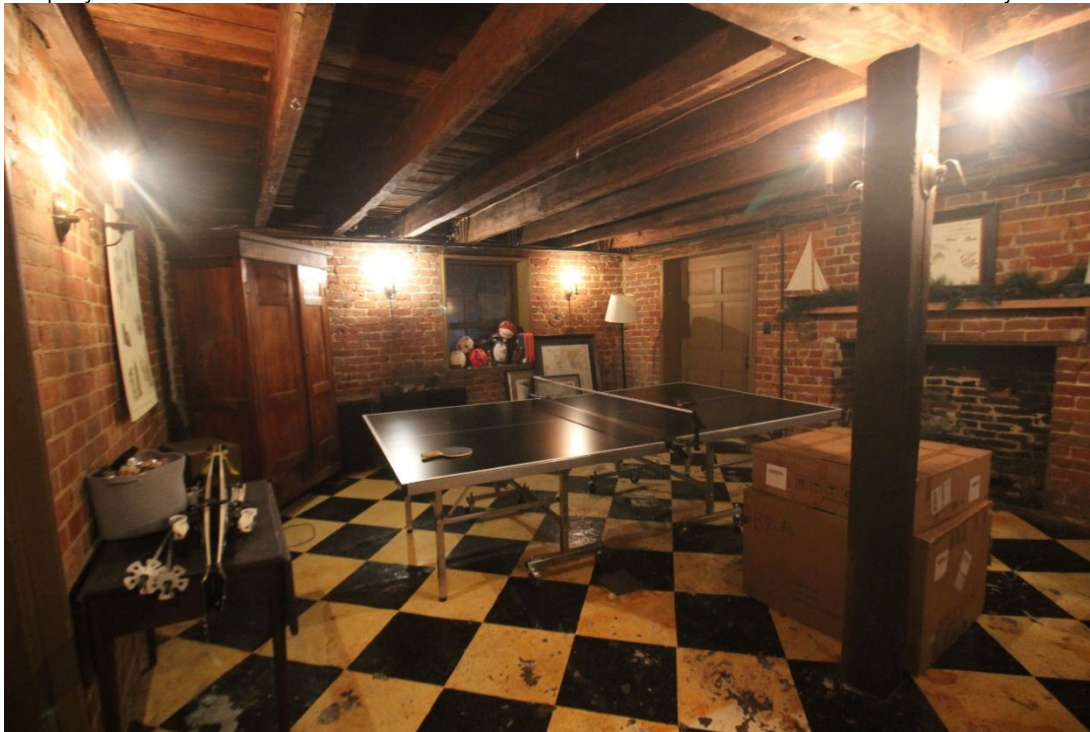


Photo 11. Interior view of former kitchen in basement, camera facing NE.



Photo 12. View of stone walls and original driveway location, camera facing S on Rich Hollow Road.

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Figure 1 First Floor Plan and Photo Key - Measurements are approximate

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Figure 2 Second Floor Plan and Photo Key - Measurements are approximate

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

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