

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED *FOR COPYING*  
DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC "Montescena;" David S. Creigh Place

AND/OR COMMON Boone Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Davis-Stuart Road

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Lewisburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Second

STATE  
West Virginia

CODE  
54

COUNTY  
Greenbrier

CODE  
025

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Io and Neva Boone

STREET & NUMBER  
Davis-Stuart Road

CITY, TOWN  
Lewisburg

VICINITY OF

STATE  
West Virginia

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Greenbrier County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Randolph and Court Streets

CITY, TOWN  
Lewisburg

STATE  
West Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 71 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"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Montescena," or the David S. Creigh Place, was constructed in 1834 along the old Lewisburg-Ronceverte Road about two miles southwest of Lewisburg. Probably built by the highly regarded area brickmason, contractor and architect, John W. Dunn, the house is a high, two-and-one-half story structure with interesting exterior features. Constructed of brick, the front (east) has a typical arrangement of five openings on the first and second floors. Each has a central door (the first level door has an overlight) surrounded by two windows to the right and left. Originally, there was a Greek Revival portico on this elevation, but a wide Victorian veranda replaced it about 1900 and extended across the east and north sides. The present design of the facade was accomplished about 1925 when the veranda was removed and a deep, two-story porch supported by six large, wooden columns was built. A small, semi-circular balcony was put outside the second-story door.

The original section of "Montescena" has stepped gables on the north and south with two high chimneys projecting from either end. Windows on these elevations are unusually placed, for they are located within the space between the chimneys, two on both the first and second floors and one on the third. Windows here, as throughout the structure (except the dormers), have stone lintels and are 1/1 double hung. The front has Palladian windows in the two projecting dormers.

Until the early twentieth century the house consisted of four rooms on first and second floors and two rooms and a storage area on the third. Then a two-story addition was made to the rear, increasing the number of rooms by six. The style of the addition is completely in keeping with the original, and it complements the overall fineness of the building. When the Victorian veranda was removed in 1925, it was decided that the area where the new section began on the north side should be improved by the construction of a two-story porch. This projects from the back of the north side of the original and continues flush with the walls in the new section.

Interior woodwork is bold and matches the mood of the large, high-ceilinged rooms. Some of the fireplaces now have handsome Victorian mantels with mirrors above, but the originals were massive, hand-carved versions. Of greatest interest of the farmhouse's several dependencies is the small, wooden unit to the northeast of the main house. This has a root cellar and may have been used at sometime as an outside kitchen.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1834 (constructed); 1863 BUILDER/ARCHITECT John W. Dunn (?)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Montescena," or the David S. Creigh Place, is a large and well-proportioned brick structure with many Greek Revival details (loosely interpreted) and other outstanding architectural features. Built in 1834 for David S. Creigh, the site is most remembered for the death of a Union soldier in 1863 and the tragic implications which led to the hanging of its owner by Federal troops in June of 1864.

When first constructed, "Montescena" was a two-and-a-half story house, rectangular in shape and consisting of four rooms on the first and second floors and two rooms (plus storage areas) in the upper level. Wall surfaces were rather smooth, having no re-entrant angles, and the roof was of a moderate pitch between stepped gables which housed two chimneys each. All windows and doors were trabeated with a rectangular overlight above the main entrance. Originally, there was a Greek Revival portico on the east elevation, but this has been changed twice. Presently, there is a two-story porch on the facade. The structure is larger now, having had an ell added to the rear, but its grandness is still apparent, prominently expressed in the two dormers with Palladian windows which grace the front.

David S. Creigh had his house built in 1834 along the old Lewisburg-Ronceverte Road about two miles southwest of Lewisburg. Creigh was a member of a prominent area family which had been associated with the mercantile business. David was himself a merchant until about 1833, when he married Emily Arbuckle (descendant of another noted Greenbrier line) and settled to a life devoted to agriculture. An honorable man in his community, he refused many offers to participate in public activity, only agreeing to serve as a magistrate and bank director. After 1857, David was also an elder of the Old Stone Presbyterian Church at Lewisburg.

Creigh, as so many others in this region, was of Southern sympathies during the Civil War. Above all, though, he was a man of compassion and helped Union and Confederate alike after the Battle of Lewisburg in 1862. There is a limit to anyone's tolerance, however, and David Creigh reached his on or about November 8, 1863. A Union soldier had entered the Creigh house and began pillaging and verbally abusing Mrs. Creigh. When David entered and found the man, a fight ensued and a gun accidentally fired as they struggled to the portico. The soldier was either killed in this manner or with an ax which one of Creigh's slaves urged him to use. At any rate, it was decided to get rid of the body without release of news, for a proper civil court trial could not be had, and the military atmosphere was not inviting.

Word of the incident apparently spread among neighboring slaves, and one informed Union soldiers at nearby Bunker's Mill. Creigh was arrested and transported there for "trial." Although his wife, two daughters and two friends, John W. Dunn and Mrs. James Arbuckle, were taken there also, they were not permitted to speak in defense. A court martial was held on June 2, 1864. Creigh was adjudged guilty of murder and sentenced to hang.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE one

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Since the army was to proceed into the area of Staunton, Virginia, David Creigh was forced to walk about one hundred miles. While the force encamped in Rockbridge County on June 10, he was hanged, his body left in place for the wife of a minister and other local residents to remove. Creigh was temporarily buried nearby. Before his death, he had written his wife to "bear up" under the loss and mentioned that their house was to be burned as part of the sentence. This latter portion was not carried out.

On July 28, Creigh's body was taken to his homeplace by a son who received leave from General Breckenridge's command. On July 31, he was removed to the cemetery of the Old Stone Church and interred. The funeral cortege was reported to be more than a mile long, and the grief imparted to Lewisburg was carried heavily by many.

The David S. Creigh Place stands today as a fine example of building on the interior frontier of the 1830s. More importantly, it is a monument to the so-called Greenbrier martyr.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Donnelly, Clarence Shirley. David S. Creigh - the Greenbrier Martyr. Oak Hill, W.Va.: privately printed, 1950 (1972 reprint).

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Creigh, Thomas. A Brief Sketch of the Life and Character of the Late David S. Creigh, Esq., with an Authentic Account of the Circumstances of His Cruel and Lamented Death. Lewisburg, W.Va.: "Weekly Times" Print, 1865.  
 Dayton, Ruth Woods. Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes. Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1942. (p. 318)  
 Lewisburg Landmarks. Charleston, W.Va.: Education Foundation Inc., 1957. (p. 35)

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	54,611,7,0	4,18,02,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

C.E. Turley, Research Assistant and James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

March 12, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

TELEPHONE

(304) 292-1527

CITY OR TOWN

Morgantown

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Leonard M. Davis*

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 12, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

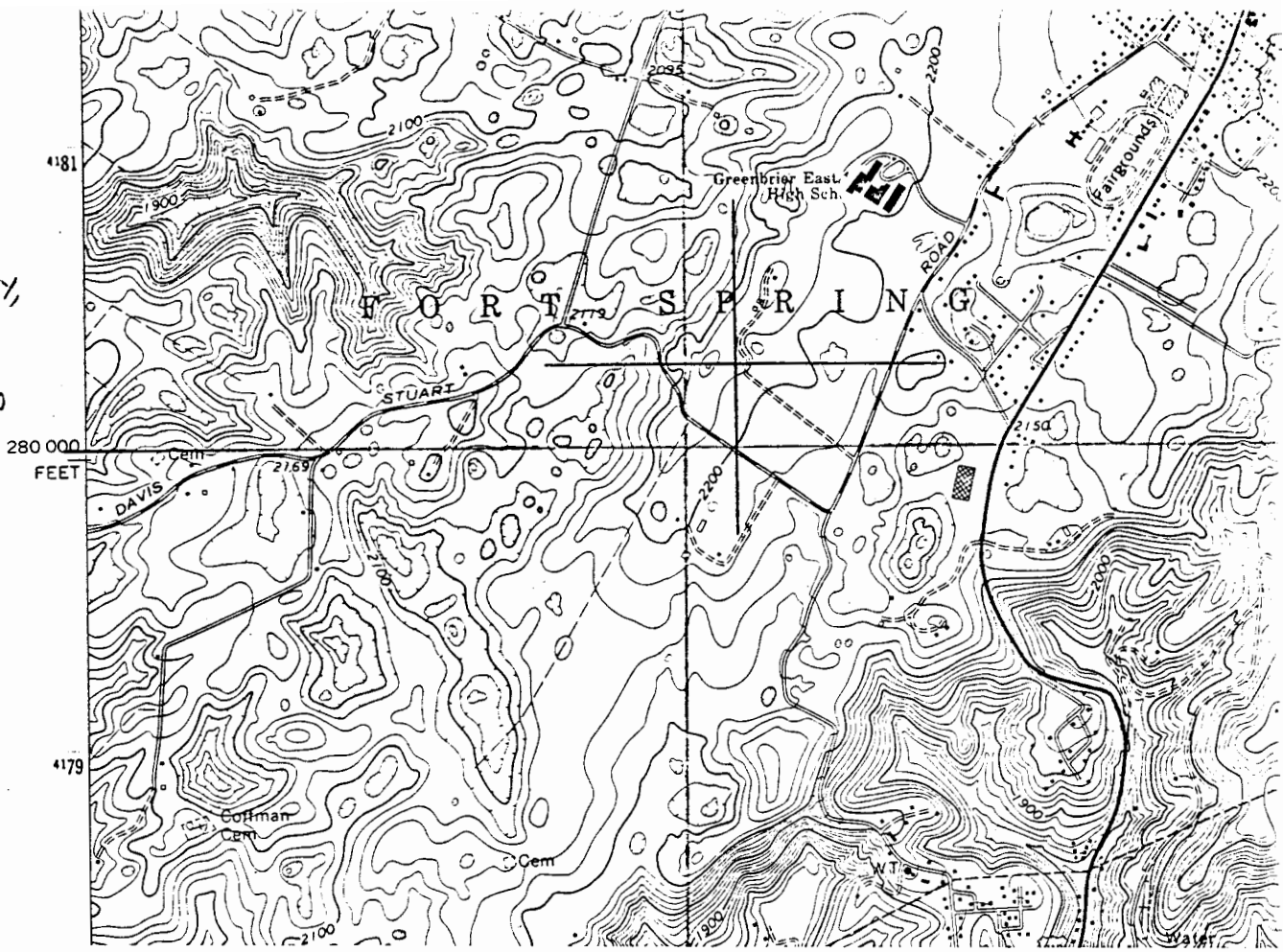
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

"M. MONTESCENA"  
 GREENBRIER COUNTY,  
 WEST VIRGINIA  
 UTM REFERENCES:  
 17/546170/H80280



Form No. 10-301  
 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC "Montescena;" David S. Creigh Place

AND/OR COMMON Boone Farm

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN	<u>X</u> VICINITY OF	COUNTY	STATE
Lewisburg		Greenbrier	West Virginia

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey  
 Lewisburg, W.Va.  
 SCALE 1:24000 DATE 1972

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
  2. NORTH ARROW
  3. UTM REFERENCES

