

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Goff, Nathan, Jr., House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 463 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN Clarksburg VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

STATE West Virginia CODE 54 COUNTY Harrison CODE 033

**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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mrs. Judge Nathan Goff

STREET & NUMBER 463 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN Clarksburg VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE West Virginia

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harrison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER West Main Street

CITY, TOWN Clarksburg STATE West Virginia

**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"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Goff property sits like an oasis in the city of Clarksburg, an old house surrounded by an office building, fire station and parking lot. An ornate iron fence with two gates encircles the lot and its several buildings. A concrete walk leads through one of these openings to the front porch, while a driveway leads along the eastern edge of the property to a collapsed carriage house near the southeast corner through the other, a large, double gate at the northeast. The three-story brick house is situated near the western edge of the lot and has a large yard on the eastern side. A few sizable trees are dispersed over the property, and there are rhododendron and other shrubs around the house. To the rear of the main dwelling stands a two-story brick building which was used at one time as a servants' quarters.

Nathan Goff's house is a high brick structure with mansard roof, giving the appearance of the French Second Empire style of architecture with several features which may be related to the Queen Anne. The two-story brick walls are broken in numerous places by bays and projections, some of which are two stories while others are only one. A projection on the front elevation, to the west of the porch, is three stories tall, including mansard roof and dormer.

The red brick walls are laid in a common bond. Double horizontal bands (made up of two courses of dark, almost black, bricks separated by a course of red brick) encircle the house at four different levels. The first set is located about two feet above the bottom of the first-story windows, and the second is one course above the lintels on these windows. On the second floor the bands are one course above both the stone sills and lintels.

The slate-covered mansard roof is broken on all sides by dormers which are capped with steep gabled roofs which have decorative woodwork in their peaks. An interesting feature of the rear elevation are the two small dormers located between the three major dormers and set back near the top of the first slope of the mansard roof. The windows in the dormers contain a small, one-over-one, sash toward the front of the house, while those nearer the rear have two lights in each sash. All dormer openings have dressed sandstone lintels and sills. The slope of the mansard roof is broken about two feet from the cornice by a rain gutter which is drained by down-pipes located at the sides of the house. Four wide, ornate brick chimneys project from the corners at the front of the building and near the center of the roof.

Windows on the first floor are about twelve feet high, and those on the second level are roughly ten feet high. Openings over the front and side porches contain stained-glass sash. All windows have dressed sandstone label moldings and sills.

Decorative woodwork and brackets make up the cornice. The flat-roofed front porch also has decorative scroll brackets under its eaves and is supported by two square brick pillars topped by a cut-sandstone capital. The porch floor and steps are constructed of cut-sandstone blocks, as in the foundation of the house.

A full basement underlies the building. The first floor contains five large rooms with ceilings between thirteen and fourteen feet high. The window wells house folding interior wooden shutters. When the building was constructed, the second floor included four large bedrooms and two baths, one of which was a private one for Mr. Goff, while the third floor was devoted to servants' quarters, with space for ironing and drying clothes and a large water tank which supplied the baths and water closets.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1880-1883

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Sloan and Balderston

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nathan Goff, Jr., House, a fair and well-preserved example of modified Second Empire style of architecture with features adapted from the Queen Anne, is representative of the lifestyle of its builder, one of Clarksburg's most prominent citizens of the post-Civil War era. Goff was considered to be one of the area's great orators and politicians of his day, and during his lifetime he held the positions of Congressman, United States District Attorney, United States Circuit Court Judge, United States Secretary of the Navy, United States Senator and, for many years, head of the Republican Party in West Virginia. Although he spent much of his life in public service, his business enterprises were also of great value to Clarksburg and the surrounding area, for his interest and investment in many of the early industries and commercial enterprises were instrumental in the establishment and development of much of the commerce and industry of the vicinity.

The three-story, mansard-roofed brick house was built between 1880 and 1883 of mostly local materials gathered from Goff's own lands. The house was designed, following Goff's explicit instructions, by the Philadelphia architectural firm of Sloan and Balderston, which purchased building materials not readily available in Clarksburg, such as hardware, furnace and bathroom equipment, and hired experienced bricklayers for the outside brick work. Goff supervised every detail of the construction, chose the materials, contracted for delivery, hired the necessary labor, and corresponded at length with his Philadelphia agents about construction problems.

Excavation for the basement began early in the spring of 1880, and the stone foundation and much of the exterior brick were in place by late fall. The brickwork was done with special care, each brick being hand-rubbed, painted and laid with black mortar. The house was under roof in June of 1881, but, as usual, interior work went more slowly and the furnace was not installed until the fall of 1882. The residence was completed in the summer of 1883. Meanwhile, Goff had constructed other brick buildings to the rear of the dwelling to house the servants and the carriages. The \$10,000 residence (Goff's original estimate) was forty-eight feet wide with two brick stories and a slate mansard roof. It was probably one of the more imposing houses in Clarksburg, befitting one of its most prosperous citizens.

Nathan Goff, Jr., son of a businessman of note, was born in Clarksburg in 1843. He attended Northwestern Academy, a local subscription school, until 1860, when he enrolled at Georgetown College in Washington, D.C. With the beginning of the Civil War, Goff became a lieutenant in Company C, Third Regiment of Virginia Volunteers (Union), and after much action and many conflicts the then Major Goff was captured at Medley, West Virginia, by the Confederates in 1864. Taken to Libby Prison in Richmond, he was put in solitary confinement and held as a hostage for a Confederate major, Thomas Armsey, who was being held by the United States as a spy. After much letter writing and requests by numerous people, the Federals were persuaded to exchange Armsey for Goff. After his exchange, he had an interview with President Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton, and this is said to have contributed to the adoption of a more liberal policy by the federal government toward releasing and exchanging sick

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

and wounded prisoners.

Goff was discharged after his exchange and then attended law school in New York for three months. In March 1865, he applied for and received admission to the bar in Harrison County. After marrying Laura E. Despard in November 1865, he joined the law firm of his father-in-law, Burton Despard. Henceforth, his professional and business careers flourished. In 1866 he became active in politics and was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates. He was appointed United States District Attorney for West Virginia in 1868. In 1870 and 1874 he was a candidate for United States Congress and ran for governor in 1876. He was temporary Secretary of the Navy for three months in 1880 and 1881, and in 1883 he was elected to Congress from the state's first district. Elected governor by a small majority of the popular vote in 1888, the legislature decided against him when his opponent contested the election. By this time Goff had become head of the Republican Party in West Virginia and was well known in other areas of the country. He was appointed a judge of the United States Circuit Court in 1891, a position he retained until 1913, having been offered and declining a cabinet post in President McKinley's administration during this service. After resignation as judge, he accepted the position of United States Senator and remained in that office until 1919. His son, Guy D. Goff, was also a U.S. Senator.

Goff's business and financial dealings advanced as rapidly as his public career. After the Civil War, he invested in and helped to organize coal, oil and gas companies, but these were not of much consequence. In 1881, though, upon the death of his father, Goff became administrator of a sizable estate, and as the years went by he gradually purchased the interests of other heirs. He became president of the Merchants National Bank upon the death of his uncle, Nathan Goff, in 1885 and chief heir and executor of this man's estate.

Goff and his associates bought Clarksburg's Republican newspaper in 1890. In 1891 they formed the Elk Hill Coal and Coke Company and the Commercial Coal and Coke Company. When the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad bought some of his land in 1892 for a station and roundhouse to be located north of Clarksburg, Goff laid out a development on both sides of the tracks and built a bridge over Elk Creek to connect the area with Fourth Street in Clarksburg, thus opening up what was called Glen Elk. In 1898 he sold the bridge to the city.

In 1889 Goff began buying land for oil speculation. Oil wells were a good investment for Goff, and by the time of his death in 1920 he had an oil investment worth almost \$700,000. His income from oil sales between 1899 and 1907, alone, amounted to over one million dollars. By 1903 Goff and his associates owned and controlled both the gas and electric utilities supplying Clarksburg and combined them into one company. Much of his oil income was invested in the city, and here he built three large commercial and office structures and the Waldo Hotel. The latter, seven stories high with 135 rooms and costing over \$400,000, was the largest in Clarksburg and one of the most elaborate in West Virginia when it was completed in 1904.

In 1911 and 1912 Goff drilled thirteen gas wells on his Oak Mound farm. The Owens Bottle Company established a factory on part of this land, and to supply the operation with gas, Goff drilled twenty-one additional wells. His total gas

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

investment in the Oak Mound property amounted to slightly over \$214,000; his return on these investments in gas sales between 1914 and 1919 totaled more than \$200,000. Such were the fortunes of Judge Nathan Goff.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Haymond, Henry. History of Harrison County, West Virginia. Morgantown, W.Va.: Acme Publishing Co., 1910. (pp. 192, 250, 257, 290, 292, 321, 329, 351, 379, 404, 410, 424)

Smith, G. Wayne. Nathan Goff, Jr., A Biography. Charleston, W.Va.: Education Foundation, Inc., 1959.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Dorothy. History of Harrison County, West Virginia. Clarksburg, W.Va.: American Association of University Women, 1970. (pp. 112, 147-49, 161-65, 197, 220, 245, 253-55, 277, 303-07, 318-20, 335-38, 443-47, 616, 718, 724, 733-39, 757, 779, 806, 826, 883)

Davis, Leonard M. and James H. Henning. "Nathan Goff - West Virginia Orator and Statesman," West Virginia History, XII (July 1951), 299-337.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	55,67,0,0	4,34,78,3,0	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 Phillip R. Pitts, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE May 12, 1976

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 630

TELEPHONE (304) 296-1791

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Leonard M. Davis*

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE September 13, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

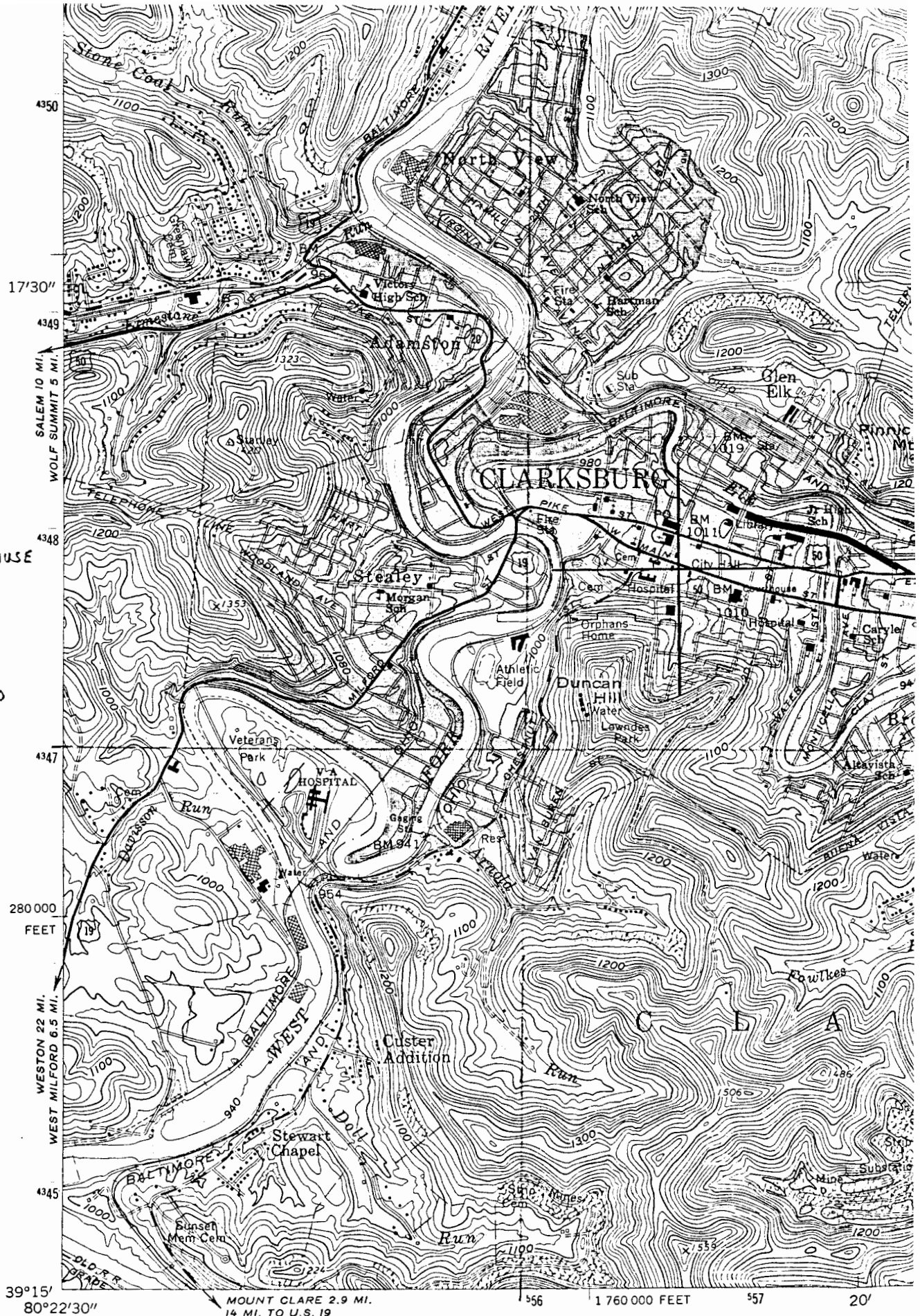
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GOFF, NATHAN, JR., HOUSE  
 CLARKSBURG,  
 HARRISON COUNTY,  
 WEST VIRGINIA  
 UTM REFERENCES:  
 17/556700/4347830



(WEST MILFORD)  
 4962 III NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
 Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1958

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on West Virginia coordinate system,

