NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Harriman, John, House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
2233 Third Avenue

CITY, TOWN
East Bank

STATE
West Virginia

CITY: TOWN: STATE: CODE: COUNT: CODE:

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC

STATUS
X OCCUPIED

PRESENT USE

XAGRICULTURE

XCOMMERICAL

XPRIVATE

XPUBLIC

XPRIVATE RESIDENCE

XUNOCCUPIED

XPARK

WORK IN PROGRESS

XEDUCATIONAL

XUNOCCUPIED

XENTERTAINMENT

Xboth

XRELIGIOUS

IN PROCESS

XGOVERNMENT

XACCESSIBLE

XSCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

XMILITARY

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Edgar L. and Erna F. Keeney

STREET & NUMBER
2233 Third Avenue

CITY, TOWN
East Bank

STATE
West Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Kanawha County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Virginia and Court Streets

CITY-TOWN
Charleston

STATE
West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL

STATE

COUNTY

LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
The John Harriman House is a rectangular building with projecting ell that is centrally placed in a detached position on a town lot. Walls are of brick laid in a common bond that is quite irregular in the main section but symmetrical in the ell with a 6/1 ratio. Five vertical bays are across the front of this two-story house with hip roof, while the ell is three bays deep with end gable. The entire structure sits atop a cut sandstone block foundation, a basement being located beneath the ell.

Windows form the major element of the facade, and fenestration is symmetrical. Though the long openings in the original rectangle now have 2/2 sash, it seems probable that their original configuration was 6/6 or 9/6, for windows in the ell addition all have multi-pane sash. The center door of the five-bay front has a single-light transom and is now the only entrance to the building other than the door on the outside of the wing. East and west sides of the main unit lack openings but house interior chimneys with corbeled brick caps; the latter feature is repeated in the center chimney of the ell.

Exterior detail and decoration is dominated by the five-bay front porch and the deep cornice with brackets around the early section. The former is supported by eight Doric columns that sit atop brick pedestals and are concentrated in pairs at the center. This long, deep porch probably replaced a double or two-story portico that was originally around the center bay, for lines on the brick seem to indicate such a feature. The cornice may have consisted of only a deep frieze when the house was constructed, but brackets that encircle the base of the hip roof now provide a break in lines. A porch with plain balusters and rail is on the outside of the ell. Porches and bracketing possibly date from about the same period as the 2/2 sash windows and could have been changed sometime around the mid-1870s or thereafter (ownership changed in 1876).

Interior configuration follows a single-pile, center-hall plan in the main section with two rooms on each floor of the ell. The wide stair hall includes a two-run, open-well stair with plain balusters and rail and turned (but simple) newel posts. Each room in the earlier section includes a fireplace, three of which have attractive wood mantels that appear original while the fourth has an elaborate late 19th century fireplace piece with overmantel. The center chimney in the ell is relatively narrow; it probably included no more than two fireplaces. All window reveals and door reveals on the first floor of the main section are splayed, with early doors displaying a six-panel design with two vertical and four horizontal segments. Lighting fixtures are modern electrical outlets for the most part, but 19th century gas lines are still in place and several gas lights remain.
Because of the lesser height of the ell, its regular and symmetrical brick bonding system and slightly different window configuration, it appears that this addition was built sometime after the earlier rectangle. Stone sills slightly higher than the floor level of the ell lead into the main unit. Stone sills are also at the doors to the rear of the center hall, indicating former exterior entrances (probably onto a porch) that now lead into bathrooms that were added in the 1930s. The only outbuilding is a well house with lattice-work sides, probably a late 19th century structure.
SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PERIOD | ARCHEOLOGY:PREHISTORIC | ARCHEOLOGY:HISTORIC | COMMUNITY PLANNING | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | RELIGION | LAW | LITERATURE | MILITARY | SCIENCE | SCULPTURE | SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | THEATER | TRANSPORTATION | OTHER (SPECIFY)
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
PREHISTORIC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
400-1499 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
500-1599 | ART | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
500-1699 | XARCHITECTURE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
700-1799 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
900-1899 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
1900- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1826

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Harriman

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Harriman House at East Bank, Kanawha County, West Virginia, stands in evidence to the river valley's coming of age and attaining a degree of sophistication by the 1820s. From a period of frontier development through one of subsistence settlement and finally to a time of prosperity, the Harriman name continued a strong association with the community in the Kanawha Valley. The substantial brick house with some Greek Revival lines was both stylish and refined, contributing to the note of its builder and owner.

First reference to a Harriman in what is now Kanawha County is to Shadrack, a sergeant at the Fort Lee garrison in 1788. He married to Susanna Pryor, daughter of William Pryor, owner of large tracts of land in the area, some of which was awarded to him for participation in the French and Indian War. Shadrack was apparently killed by Indians in 1791. In 1794 Susanna married David Milburn, and in 1804 she and her husband deeded 13½ acres of land near Paint Creek to John Harriman, a son by her first marriage. It was upon these lands that a fine brick house was constructed about 1826, along the much traveled road on the south side of the Kanawha River.

The center-hall, single-pile floor plan of the main section of the building is characteristic of its five-bay front, rectangular shape. There appears to have been a two-story or double portico at the center bay of the front at one time, and the ell, apparently constructed later, may have provided an anchor for a former double porch to the rear. Trabeated openings with stone sills and lintels are standard (there is an overlight above the main entrance), but the small-paned sash in the main unit were changed, probably about the same time that the full-width porch was added. Corbel-capped interior end chimneys serve fireplaces in each room of the earlier section; three mantels retain rather simple but tasteful treatment. Among interesting design features are the cornice brackets, six-panel (two vertical and four horizontal) interior doors, and splayed window and door reveals.

Both John Harriman and his step-father, David Milburn, served as justices of the peace in Kanawha County in 1830, and the families continued in close association with economic, social and political activities of their section.
The house remained in family hands until the mid 1870s, passing to Joshua Harriman, John's son, around 1840 and then to Fenton Morris, a cousin by marriage, in the 1860s. In 1876 it was sold to Abram C. Shaver, who had come to the area in association with the expanding coal industry. The present owners take justifiable pride in the historic and architectural significance of this fine building that is probably the oldest house between Paint Creek and Quincy. Their concern for preservation should assure continuation of its important place in the annals of the area.
Cunningham, Lelia Morris. "Morris Family History." Typescript, 1968. (Copy obtained from Mr. Edgar L. Keeney, 2233 Third Avenue, East Bank, W.Va.)


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre (approximate)

QUADRANGLE NAME Cedar Grove

UTM REFERENCES
A

B

C

D

E

F

G

ZONE EASTING NORThING ZONE EASTING NORThING ZONE EASTING NORThING ZONE EASTING NORThING

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The house is located on a town lot with about 120 feet of frontage on Third Avenue. It extends roughly 165' along a driveway on the east side, and a cyclone fence forms the boundary to the north and west.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME/ TITLE
James E. Harding, Historian

ORGANIZATION
W. Va. Department of Culture and History

ADDRESS
The Cultural Center
Capitol Complex

CITY OR TOWN
Charleston

STATE West Virginia

TELEPHONE (304) 348-0244

DATE August 1, 1978

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION


Pryor, John Houston. "Family History of the Pryor Family with some Interesting Information." Typescript, 1939. (Copy obtained from Mr. Edgar L. Keeney, 2233 Third Avenue, East Bank, W.Va.)