

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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date entered

**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 MacFarland House

and/or common MacFarland - Ruby - Crowley - Hubbard House

**2. Location**

street & number 1310 Kanawha Boulevard \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Charleston \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Third

state West Virginia code 54 county Kanawha code 039

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Miss Elizabeth Hubbard

street & number 1310 Kanawha Boulevard

city, town Charleston \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state West Virginia 25301

**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 25301

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title East End Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1975-76 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Unit, WV Department of Culture and History

city, town Charleston \_\_\_\_\_ state West Virginia 25305

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 MacFarland House stands on a deep, tree-shaded lot, partially hidden from view by a hedge separating the residence and its expansive and neatly kept lawn from busy Kanawha Boulevard and the Great Kanawha River. Despite the twentieth century encroachment of commercial and business establishments upon the house and grounds extensive plantings on all sides insulate the property and preserve its air of tranquility. From the portico of the MacFarland House an impressive vista of the high wooded hills south of the Kanawha suggest little of the urban setting of the MacFarland House in the heart of Charleston, the capital of West Virginia.

A local interpretation of a nationally popular architectural theme - the Classical Revival - was employed in the design of the house. Paramount in this regard is the front elevation two-story modified Roman Doric portico with a plain entablature and triangular pediment centered with a semi-circular fanlight. The residence has undergone few exterior alterations and has witnessed but minor interior modifications from the date of construction in 1836.

The MacFarland House is a nearly square, two-story gray painted brick structure with a small addition (ell) at its northwest (rear) corner. The ridge of the gabled roof running east and west is intersected at its center by the ridge of the front, two-story portico roof running north and south. Twin interior end brick chimneys add touches of additional symmetry to the building.

The temple-form front of the MacFarland House was designed to be seen from the river, a vista that was slightly less encumbered in the nineteenth century when the river bank was more sloping. Though the muddy path between the house and the river at that time was an important transportation route, the James River and Kanawha Turnpike, its continued heavy use in later generations and upgrading as a principal suburban artery (elm-lined Kanawha Street) and eventual four-lane boulevard did not detract from nor alter the basic appearance or immediate setting of the house which stands some 150 feet from the street.

Beneath the portico the side hall of the house is reached through an elaborate mullioned doorway flanked by three-quarter length sidelights and surmounted by a rectangular overlight. The two additional front elevation bays of the ground floor are centered with transomed, floor-length French doors. The upper front facade is centered with a doorway opening onto a metal balustraded balcony flanked by double-hung windows. Flemish bond brickwork, painted gray, ornaments the front wall surfaces.

During the occupancy of Mr. J. B. Crowley after 1922, several remodelings occurred that slightly changed exterior and certain interior details. A porte cochere and a sun-room of matching dimensions were constructed on the west and east sides of the house and their roofs, in addition to the main roof, were covered with green shingle tiles. The front balcony was apparently built at this time to replace a gallery that formerly ran the full front of the house. Leaded glass panels were substituted at about this time to replace the original glass panes of the front door sidelights and transom.

Another change at the MacFarland House occurred in the late 1940s when a second story was added to the rear ell by the Hubbard family. The 1920s period interior alterations witnessed the addition of paneling of first floor walls. The present (1979) owner,

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MacFarland House, Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia

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Miss Elizabeth Hubbard, believes the stairway of the entrance sidehall was taken from the original White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, Hotel. The MacFarland House was flanked on its eastern side (on an adjacent lot) by the Rand House, a residence of nearly identical style and age, that was demolished in the mid-twentieth century to make room for a motel complex.

## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1836 **Builder/Architect** Norris Whitteker, Builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The MacFarland House, built in 1836, faces Kanawha Boulevard and the Great Kanawha River in the heart of Charleston, the capital of West Virginia. The residence is significant because it is one of only six pre-Civil War houses still standing in the city. Of the six, only three are designed in vernacular classical revival themes and, of these, only the MacFarland House presents a full two-story portico. Beyond its significance as an architectural landmark, the MacFarland House possesses a significant history of association with the Civil War in the Kanawha Valley, and with four families, the MacFarlands, the Rubys, the Crowleys, and the Hubbards, who have all distinguished themselves in the growth and development of Charleston.

The site of the MacFarland House is but a short distance east of the site of Fort Lee where pioneers made their first permanent settlement of the Charleston area in 1788. The selection of the house site was influenced by its height above the Kanawha River which escaped the devastating sixty feet of water that inundated the valley in 1861. The land upon which the house was to be built was sold by Isaac and Bradford Noyes (the Noyes name is very prominent in Charleston history) to William Whitteker whose brother, Norris, built the house soon thereafter. The Whittekers were the best known of the early house builders of Charleston. In the words of Ruth Woods Dayton, "If a Whitteker built it, then there was nothing more to be said - it was a good house."

The first owner of the house at 1310 Kanawha Boulevard was Henry Devol MacFarland (1808-1845), who was a merchant associated with an older and successful half-brother, James C. MacFarland (1792-1864). Best known of the MacFarlands, James C. was greatly responsible for bringing a branch of the Bank of Virginia to Charleston in 1832, serving as its president for many years thereafter. James MacFarland also served as president of the town's board of trustees (mayor), and was elected for several terms to the House of Delegates.

John C. Ruby II and his wife, Mary Frances Noyes, daughter of Bradford Noyes, wealthy salt-maker and merchant, were residing in the MacFarland House by 1851. Mr. Ruby established a grocery business on Kanawha Street and his prominence in business affairs in later years no doubt influenced his election to the city mayorship in 1875-77. John C. Ruby III and Bradford N. Ruby, who succeeded their father in the grocery business, conducted their interests under the firm name of Ruby Brothers. Ruby family descendants owned the MacFarland House until 1922, when it was purchased by John B. Crowley.

John B. Crowley (1863-1925) occupied the MacFarland House for the shortest period though, during his ownership, important remodelings occurred that effectively introduced the house to twentieth century standards of amenity. Crowley's career began with the Sterret Brothers of Charleston, and later blossomed into independent ventures in the whole-sale and real estate business under the names Crowley-Prairie Realty Company and Ashton-Crowley Company that secured for him considerable wealth. Crowley underwrote the con-

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struction of Charleston's Hotel Kanawha, Holley Hotel, and Capitol Theater.

The MacFarland House was purchased about 1945 by J. W. Hubbard, a businessman associated with the grocery business of Charleston. His daughter, Miss Elizabeth Hubbard, who currently resides in the old home, has diligently preserved the building and its grounds.

The MacFarland House was not always the quiet residence. During the Civil War John C. Ruby II entered the Confederate Army and his family apparently left the house to locate temporarily in a safer, pro-Confederate area. The house was occupied during this period by Federal officers and was used as a military hospital. When relatives of the Rubys returned in 1865 to regain possession they found the house still occupied by convalescing soldiers. The patients moved out, however, establishing a tent hospital on the lawn where they remained until their maladies were cured. A cannonball, owned by Miss Elizabeth Hubbard, has been passed down by preceding owners recalling an incident when the missile, fired by Federal batteries on the south side of the river, damaged a section of the roof of the house.

Builder Norris Whitteker is credited by historian George W. Atkinson in his History of Kanawha County with manufacturing the bricks for the MacFarland House with his own hands. Architecturally, the house equates nicely with the Greek Revival, temple-form houses mushrooming along the main streets of 1830's American villages and cities. It is possible that the popular style of the period was quickly passed over the mountains from Eastern cities or that it derived from classical style plantation houses of the South. The MacFarland House favors the former as it was apparently built as a suburban townhouse to accommodate a merchant's family.

The two-story modified Roman Doric portico seems especially noteworthy for its excellent proportion. The absence of triglyphs and dentils in the cornice and frieze of the broad entablature is decidedly Greek Revival, though the fanlight of the tympanum and treatment of columns is Jeffersonian and Roman in spirit. The column shafts are plastered and do not appear to have possessed flutes at any time. The horizontal transom above the doorway is another reference to the Greek Revival mode.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Collins, Rodney S. East End Survey: Structure, Findings, Recommendations. City of Charleston, WV (Historic Preservation Unit, WV Dept. of Culture and History) 1975-76.  
 Dayton, Ruth Woods. Pioneers and Their Homes on Upper Kanawha. Charleston, WV: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1947.  
 "Link to Past Endangered" Charleston Gazette-Mail, July 6, 1975.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 city lot

Quadrangle name Charleston, West Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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4	12	4	13	8	16	10
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 Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The MacFarland House is located on a city lot at 1310 Kanawha Blvd. measuring approximately 120 ft. across the front and 270 ft. deep. The lot is located on the north side of Kanawha Blvd. beginning 232 ft. east of the northeast corner of Morris St. and Kanawha Blvd. The lot is bounded on the west by the Charleston Eye and Ear Clinic and on the east by Marvin's Midtown Motel.

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 Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Unit

organization WV Department of Culture and History date July 10, 1979

street & number The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex telephone 304 - 348-0240

city or town Charleston state West Virginia 25305

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Clarence Ellorson

Director, Historic Pres. Unit, WV Dept of Culture and September 27, 1979

title History date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration



