United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

historical: Felix G. Hansford House; Hansford, Felix G., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Centre and 14th Streets

city, town Hansford

state West Virginia

city, town vicinity of

3. Classification

Category
district
X. building(s)
structure
site
object
Ownership
public
private
both
Public Acquisition
N/A

Status
occupied
uncoccupied
work in progress
Accessible
yes: restricted
yes: unrestricted
no

Present Use
agriculture
commercial
educational
entertainment
government
industrial
military
museum
park
private residence
religion
scientific
transportation

4. Owner of Property

name Good Shepherd Church

street & number Centre and 13th Street

city, town Hansford

state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kanawha County Courthouse

street & number Court and Virginia Streets

city, town Charleston

state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pratt Area Multiple Resource District has this property been determined eligible? yes no

Survey

date June 9, 1963

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Unit, Dept. of Culture and History

state West Virginia
7. Description

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
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<tr>
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<td>fair</td>
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Felix G. Hansford House, located at the corner of Centre and 14th Streets, in the small community of Hansford, Kanawha County, West Virginia, built in 1824, is the oldest building extant in that community and one of the oldest buildings in the Kanawha Valley. Originally the seat of a large plantation-like farm, the Felix G. Hansford House still looks over an expanse of land and retains a certain rural ambiance.

The three-bay vernacular Federal style Hansford House is L-shaped, two stories in height, and of brick construction. Among the least altered of historic buildings in this section of West Virginia, the structure displays a number of architectural elements of local distinction. Among these are a single story pedimented entrance portico centered in the front elevation, a broad doorway with three-quarter length sidelights, and prominent interior end chimneys with corbeled caps. The interior room arrangements reflect the simple single-pile plan of the dwelling's main block: two rooms over two rooms. The ell, also of brick construction, reflects the finish of the main block. It is one story, gable roofed and lighted with three evenly spaced double-hung windows. The rear portion of the house contained a summer kitchen and storage facilities. The roof composition of the ell and main block are standing seam metal. The roofing material is of the type that was used on the house in the 19th century, and may be an original part of the historic fabric.

The central hall of the Felix G. Hansford House is flanked by one room deep rooms on both the upper and lower floors. The stair is narrow yet graceful, with turned balusters and rail. A low horizontally paneled wainscoat scurts the first floor rooms and hallway. The doors are original and still feature an iron drop bar security device. Both doors retain their English-made box locks, marked with the British coat-of-arms. At the east side of the house is a small frame building used as an office.

While there has been some deterioration in recent years, the historic Felix G. Hansford House is of interest to area preservationists as a candidate for restoration.
8. Significance

<table>
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<th>Areas of Significance—Check and Justify below</th>
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Felix G. Hansford House, located in the small community of Hansford across Paint Creek from the Pratt Historic District in Kanawha County, West Virginia, is significant as one of the oldest extant houses in the Kanawha Valley and one of the few surviving examples of Federal-style architecture in the area. It is also significant as the home of one of the Kanawha Valley's most prominent early families.

Explanatory Notes

1. Constructed in 1824, the Felix G. Hansford House is one of only about a dozen houses in the Kanawha Valley that survive from the period before the Civil War. Of these, this house is one of the very oldest and one of the few that survive from their original state nearly intact. It is also one of only a few surviving houses in the Kanawha Valley that displays the Federal period in architecture.

2. This historic house was constructed by and for Felix G. Hansford, a prominent member of one of the early leading families in the settlement period of the Kanawha Valley. Major John Hansford (1765–1850), father of Felix Hansford, was one of the early Kanawha Valley's largest landowners, and represented the county in the Virginia Assembly from 1811 to 1818, as well as being a magistrate and militia commander. Felix Gilbert Hansford (1795–1867) was equally as prominent as his father, operating a large farm with the help of around thirty Black slaves. He constructed his two-story home on the James and Kanawha River Turnpike in the same year that the turnpike was completed through the Valley, and he was interested in transportation all his life. He served as president of the Giles, Fayette, and Kanawha Turnpike Company, beginning with its incorporation in 1843. The prominence of Felix Hansford is evidenced by some of the individuals who are known to have been visitors in his home, including Albert Gallatin, Chief Justice John Marshall, and Collis P. Huntington. The community of Hansford is named for him and his family.

Members of the Hansford family continued to reside in the house until the death, in 1982, of Eleanor Bailee Brannen, great granddaughter of Felix G. Hansford. Her will left the property to the Good Shepherd Church, of which she was a life-long member.

The Felix G. Hansford House is significant for its age, architectural style, and for the leading role that its inhabitants have played in the history of this region. It is a vital link to the heritage of the Kanawha Valley.
9. Major Bibliographical References


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: One acre

Quadrangle name: Cedar Grove, WV

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification: Beginning at the southeastern corner of 14th St. and Centre St., thence in a line 150 feet to the right-of-way of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad line; thence in a line 200 feet due west along said right-of-way; thence in a line 150 feet due north to Centre Street; thence 200 feet east along the southern side of Centre Street to

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries:

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian, and Michael J. Pauley, Historian

organization: WV Dept. of Culture and History

Cultural Center

street & number: Capitol Complex

telephone: (304) 348-0240

city or town: Charleston

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

title: State Historic Preservation Officer

date: December 7, 1983

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:
date

Chief of Registration

GPO 494-789
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet: Hansford, Felix G. House Item number: 9


10. Geographical Data

Verbal boundary description and justification:

the point of beginning, encompassing approximately one acre.