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

historic Mountain View

and or common

2. Location

street & number 604 West Union Street

city, town Morganton

city, town

state North Carolina

code 37

county Burke

code 23

3. Classification

Category district building(s)

ownership public

status

occupied

unoccupied

work in progress

accessible

x yes: restricted

no

present use agriculture

commercial

educational

entertainment

government

industrial

military

museum

park

private residence

religious

scientific

transportation

other: museum

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. and Mrs. Beverly D. Hairfield

street & number 604 West Union Street

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Burke County Courthouse, 201 South Green Street

city, town Morganton

state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Burke County Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes x no

date 1983-84

x federal state x county local

depository for survey records North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Western Office

city, town 13 Veterans Drive, Asheville

state North Carolina
Mountain View (1815) is located on a hill to the northern side of West Union Street in Morganton, North Carolina. The Federal-era plantation home, the second oldest extant structure in Burke County, was originally modeled on a modified Quaker plan and one-story ell extension and underwent later Gothic Revival, Victorian and Colonial Revival remodelings. The single entrance and central hall plan of the home essentially merge a more pretentious Georgian interpretation with the Quaker tradition. The structure, which faces east, is oriented sideways along the street, this siting attesting to the home's evolution from a large plantation in a rural setting to an in-town house in the city's preeminent residential neighborhood. A rock retaining wall marks the southern boundary of the property, separating it from the street below. A winding driveway climbs the hill and leads to a parking area to the west of the home. A log storage house, built in the early 1960s with old floor joists from the main house, is located to the west of the parking area. A frame garage is to the east, in front of flower and herb gardens bordered by boxwoods which were planted in 1960. The boxwoods were grown from cuttings taken from an older planting at the northeastern corner of the house.

The two-and-one-half-story home was constructed of handmade brick manufactured on the site, which was stuccoed over and marked to look like stone most likely during an early 1870s Gothic Revival remodeling. The rectangular main block of the structure and its ell extension have asphalt-shingle gable roofs and Gothic Revival-inspired bargeboards, added in the early 1870s, in their gabled ends. A one-story gabled wing, constructed in the 1920s at the northern end of the main block, displays a similar decorative treatment. The entire structure has a molded box cornice with a flat friezeboard and molded lower edge. All the windows on the house have shutters which are not original. Mountain View is in overall good condition.

The five-bay eastern facade has a center entrance with double-leaf Victorian-era wooden doors dating from about 1885 and installed by the present owners. The doors, which were salvaged from a late nineteenth-century home in Morganton, feature nine raised panels in their lower thirds and single glass panels in their upper portions. A Colonial Revival motif of a broken pediment atop abbreviated Doric pilasters, added around 1959, enframes the doorway. In about 1870, a two-story gabled porch with decorative Gothic Revival-inspired bargeboards similar to those employed elsewhere on the house was installed at the center of the facade. Triangular gables with stickwork were placed along the roofline to either side of the porch at this time as well, but both they and the porch were removed in the late 1930s. All the windows are set into recessed openings and are of two-over-two double-hung sash, with the exception of the first floor tripartite window installed at the southern end of the facade during an 1880s remodeling. The two-over-two windows on both sides of the entry are grouped together, rather than evenly spaced across the facade, while a fifth window on the second story is directly over the front door. The one-story gabled 1920s addition at the northern end of the facade has a six-over-six double-hung sash window corresponding to a spare room off the master bedroom. A large one-story Colonial Revival porch with paired Roman Doric columns and a hipped roof with a balustrade was constructed at the southern end of the main portion of the house in the early 1920s.

The southern elevation of the main house block features paired end chimneys, connected at their bases, which rise through the gabled end of the roof. Doors to the east and west of the chimneys open onto the porch from the present living room and have original
three-light transoms above them. Two-over-two double-hung sash windows are located on the second story directly above each door. On the attic story, a rectangular louvered vent occupies the space between the two chimneys. The northern elevation has attached paired chimneys, closer together than those on the south, which rise through the roof gable. The rear of the 1920s wing visible on this elevation features three six-over-six windows, the smaller window in the center corresponding to a bathroom.

The western, or rear, elevation has one two-over-two double-hung sash window on the first floor and three similar windows on the second, corresponding in placement to those at the same levels on the front of the house. A second window on the first floor was bricked in during a late 1930s remodeling. The gabled wing at the northern end of this elevation has a door and a six-over-six window adjacent to it on the north.

The southern elevation of the ell portion has a shed-roofed-side porch along almost its entire length which has enclosed bays at its western end. The remaining open area corresponds in placement to the present dining room and is highlighted by a projecting gable with c. 1870 bargeboards like those used elsewhere on the house which is supported by attenuated Roman Doric columns. The gable covers a fifteen-light door with a single-panel transom leading to the dining room. Two-over-two double-hung sash windows flank the door. Toward the western end of the ell, paired and triple sets of windows with similar sash respectively correspond to a laundry room and dining alcove created in 1959. The northern, or rear, face of the ell has a hip-roofed open porch which proceeds along its entire length. The porch roof is supported by seven square posts with paired scroll brackets at their tops. The wooden floor of this porch features a trap door leading to a partially excavated basement. The wall of the ell on this side has four two-over-two windows and a door leading to the family room/kitchen area at its western end. A brick chimney anchors the western terminus of the ell, while a round terra cotta chimney pot, corresponding to the dining room fireplace, is located toward the center.

The interior of Mountain View reflects the alterations and additions made to the house over the years, but retains substantial historic fabric. The main block of the house is oriented around the central stairhall just inside the front entrance. This part of the structure contains the master bedroom suite and living room on the first floor as well as three bedrooms and two baths on the second. The ell portion houses the dining room and kitchen/family room area. The plastered brick walls on the first floor are eighteen inches thick while those on the second floor are twelve. The entire historic interior portion is finished with plaster ceilings and walls.

The central hall is dominated by a grand-scale c. 1885 quarter-turn staircase. The location of the originally enclosed staircase was changed from the southern to the northern wall of the hall and the run was reoriented so that it ascended from the front to the back of the house. The stair is highlighted by alternating walnut and chestnut panels decorated with scrollwork cutouts in a foliate pattern which support the top rail. The large newel post has a semi-circular barrel with a sunburst design carved on the front and rear. The walnut post itself has decorative recessed chestnut panels.
on all four sides. The walnut and chestnut tongue-and-groove wainscoting on all the walls repeats the alternating panel pattern used for the stairs. Deeply splayed doorways with chamfered edges, applied facings, and corner-blocks with roundels are located on the northern and southern walls of the stairhall. A walnut door with four raised panels set into the splayed doorway on the northern wall leads to the master bedroom and bath. The entry doorway surround on the eastern wall has the same decorative treatment. The master bedroom and living room to either side of the stairhall have splayed window openings incised with reeding at their centers. The door surrounds are finished with a series of echinus and ovolo moldings original to the structure.

The present living room on the southern side of the house was created in 1959 by the removal of an arch originally denoting two separate parlors with individual mantels on their southern walls. At this time one large fireplace was installed, making use of the original chimneys. The original Federal mantel on the southern living room wall was formerly in the master bedroom. With its post and lintel format featuring attenuated half-round fluted columns and four-part entablature with a flat frieze, incised center and corner tablets, and dentilled cornice, the mantel resembles those in Cedar Grove (1825) and Bellevue (1823-26). Doors on either side of the mantel, originally corresponding to the separate parlors, open onto the Colonial Revival porch.

The dining room to the west of the living room has a ceiling with sloping sides and a flat center section. The wainscoting on the dining room walls features rectangular recessed panels and is topped by a quirked molding. A Victorian mantel on the western wall, installed during the 1880s remodeling, is highlighted by paired console brackets atop paneled flat pilasters at its corners. A series of display shelves are recessed into an arched opening to the north of the mantel, while a similarly arched doorway leads to the kitchen/family room area to the south. This area, completely remodeled in 1959, has a cypress beamed ceiling and contains a brick wall at its western end housing a large fireplace.

The three bedrooms and center hall on the second floor follow the original modified Quaker plan, although the partition wall separating the southern bedrooms is not original. The same splayed windows and door moldings used in the master bedroom and living room are employed on the second floor. The original Federal doors on all the upstairs bedrooms have six flush panels each and resemble those at Cedar Grove and Bellevue. A bathroom, added by the present owners in 1959, is located on this floor to the northern side of the stair landing in the space formerly occupied by an attic stairway.
Mountain View was originally the home of Samuel Greenlee, a son of one of the earliest settlers in the present Burke County. The Federal style house, which has later Gothic Revival, Victorian-era and Colonial Revival alterations, is the second oldest extant structure in Burke County, and is part of a notable group of Catawba Valley plantation homes which are related by their design and materials. Mountain View was modeled on a modified Quaker plan and constructed with brick manufactured on the site. Several locally prominent individuals have resided in the house over the years, contributing to its important historical associations and enriching its architectural fabric with the changes they have made to the structure.

**CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:**

B. Associated with the Greenlees who first settled in what is now Burke County around 1777, Mountain View is one of five surviving Federal-era homes built by the plantation class in the area. Several subsequent owners have also been significant figures in local history.

C. With its modified Quaker plan and ell, Mountain View typifies Federal-era plantation architecture in Burke County, while its single-entrance center hall and miscellaneous Gothic Revival, Victorian, and Colonial Revival alterations distinguish it from the other surviving local examples of the period.
Mountain View, considered to be the second oldest extant structure in Burke County, was built by Samuel Greenlee in 1815, and is situated along the northern side of the main east-west street in Morganton. The elevated site, from whence the home derives its historic name, comprised part of an 800-acre tract on the southern side of the Catawba River originally acquired by Samuel's father, James Greenlee, in a 1782 land grant. With its five-bay facade, modified three-room Quaker plan and ell, and Federal detailing, Mountain View typifies plantation homes erected in Burke County during the early 1800s. The house most closely resembles Cedar Grove (1825), which like Mountain View has a central hall plan. Numerous other uses of this plan exist throughout North Carolina.

The early history connected with Mountain View embodies the development of plantation society in antebellum Burke County. The home, which gradually evolved from a rural plantation to an in-town residence, has many significant historical associations and a distinctive architectural character which establish it as a notable local landmark.

Samuel Greenlee and his father James descended from James Greenlee, Sr. (1707-1757) who came to Delaware from Northern Ireland in 1727 and settled in Rockbridge County, Virginia, ten years later. A son, James, was born to James Greenlee, Sr. and his wife, Mary Elizabeth McDowell, in 1740. James Greenlee (1740-1813) first moved from Virginia to Surry County, North Carolina, around 1777 and settled near what is now Morganton where he lived on a plantation at the mouth of Silver Creek. This home was near Quaker Meadows, where members of the McDowell family related to Greenlee on his mother's side had already settled. A cattle raiser, farmer, large slaveholder and land speculator, Greenlee owned some of the most fertile tracts around Morganton as well as two farms in Turkey Cove, property on the Catawba River four miles east of Old Fort, and lands in Rutherford and the present Yancey and Mitchell counties. Greenlee also possessed property near Memphis, Tennessee. He married Mary Elizabeth Mitchell of Charleston, South Carolina, in 1770, and had eight children. Samuel, his sixth child, was born on January 25, 1784.

Samuel Greenlee, who inherited the land for Mountain View from his father, is said to have used slave labor both to make the bricks and erect his home. Like his father, Samuel was one of the largest slaveholders in Burke County, owning forty-five slaves in 1820. Although not much is known about Samuel Greenlee, the following recollection recorded by Silas McDowell, a resident of Morganton from 1816 to 1826, provides a noteworthy glimpse of plantation life. McDowell states that

"Sam keeps a black woman for (a) wife, and that woman is the greatest curiosity I ever beheld. She is coal black; but has form and features that would be a good model for a statuary chiseling out a Hermes."

After Samuel married Minerva Keziah Sackett on June 4, 1822, McDowell commented that Greenlee had "put away his black wife . . . and started a decent family." Minerva Sackett, the daughter of Judge Augustus Sackett and Minerva Camp of Sacketts Harbor, New York, was born in 1804. Her father, who founded the settlement of Sacketts Harbor in 1801, was the first judge of Jefferson County, New York. Sackett acquired a large
tract of land in Rutherford County, North Carolina, in 1820 and resided there for several years. At the time Minerva Sackett married Samuel Greenlee, she was eighteen and he was thirty-eight. Nine children were born to the Greenlees at Mountain View. At the time of his death on May 5, 1848, Samuel "was reputed to be the wealthiest man in (Burke County), possessing an extensive landed estate and many slaves." The slaves were assigned to his five minor children and hired by people in Morganton. The money earned by the slaves was then put aside for the Greenlee offspring. Minerva Sackett Greenlee died in 1851 and is buried along with her husband at the First Presbyterian Church in Morganton.

Following her mother's death, Elizabeth Sackett Greenlee (1832-1900) lived at Mountain View with her husband John Augustus Dickson (1828-1861), a lawyer and physician in Morganton. They had four children who were born in the house after the couple were married around 1850. The Dicksons apparently resided at Mountain View until Elizabeth's sister Emily Amelia Greenlee (1829-1883) moved into the house with her husband, Dr. Christopher Happoldt (1823-1878), whom she married on October 28, 1856. Two years after his marriage, Happoldt, a promising young physician in Charleston, South Carolina, moved to Morganton, where his wife's family "owned a handsome home," apparently acquiescing to his wife's dissatisfaction with Charleston. Dr. Happoldt continued his medical practice in Morganton until he was called back to Charleston to serve in the South Carolina Infantry in 1861. Upon returning to Morganton in 1865, Happoldt found a way of life that had been permanently altered by the Civil War.

Emily Greenlee Happoldt sold Mountain View to Colonel Thomas George Walton, a prominent Morganton citizen and owner of Creekside, another plantation house, in 1872. At the time of the sale, the home occupied 432 acres and continued to operate as a farm. Colonel Walton's son Edward Stanley, who was married to Kate Blackwell, occupied Mountain View during the 1870s. It was during this time that the house received a Gothic Revival remodeling, which included the addition of a two-story gabled porch on the facade and the installation of decorative bargeboards along the gabled ends of the northern, southern and western sides of the home. The brick was most likely stuccoed over and marked to look like stone during this remodeling as well.

In 1879, Edward Walton's only child, Lillian, married Frederick H. Burr and resided at Mountain View with her new husband. The structure underwent a Victorian remodeling during the 1880s. At this time, a tripartite window with Queen Anne sash replaced two narrow windows on the first floor to the south of the main entrance. On the interior, a dramatic effect was created in the central hall with the installation of a grand staircase featuring alternating panels of walnut and chestnut with cutout designs and a large newel post with fan carving. A mantel on the western wall of the present dining room reflects the Victorian alterations as well.

Following the death of Frederick Burr, Lillian married Isaac Thomas Avery, Jr., a descendant of Waightstill Avery, North Carolina's first Attorney General, on June 17, 1891. Isaac Avery, a lawyer who practiced with the firm Avery and Erwin and represented Burke County in the State Legislature, lived at Mountain View for forty-five years.
After his first wife passed away in 1905, Avery married Margaret DuBose. Margaret DuBose Avery subsequently died in 1919 and Avery married Dorothy Marian Hills. During the early 1920s, Avery built the Colonial Revival porch which still stands on the southern side of the main block of the house and added a small kitchen wing on the northern side of the structure. Avery sold Mountain View to Harry Lee Wilson, an executive with Lazarus Brothers Department Store, in 1936. By this time, the residential character of West Union Street was firmly established and much of the property formerly comprising the Mountain View estate had been subdivided. The house, which had formerly been on the outskirts of town, was now incorporated into the surrounding preeminent residential neighborhood.

When the Wilsons purchased Mountain View, they undertook a remodeling which included removing the Gothic Revival porch from the front of the house, enclosing an open porch on the western side of the structure to create a bath and closet for the master bedroom, adding two small bedrooms and a bath in the former kitchen wing, restoring the woodwork in the stairhall, and installing the first heating system.

Dr. and Mrs. Beverly Hairfield, the present owners of Mountain View, purchased the home in 1959. The Hairfields did extensive renovation work in the house that year. On the first floor, the original joists, sills and flooring were replaced and partitions were removed in the kitchen area at the end of the ell to make an open family room/kitchen area. The fireplace on the western family room wall, most likely used as the hearth in an earlier kitchen located at this end of the house, was rebuilt. A dining alcove was built on the southern wall of the family room and part of the open porch on this same wall was enclosed for a laundry room. An arch separating the two original rooms on the southern side of the main block of the house was removed to create one large living room, and the mantels corresponding to each of the original rooms were removed. One large fireplace was created for the living room, making use of the original chimneys. In addition to these changes, the Hairfields created a bathroom on the northern side of the stair landing and installed a Colonial Revival motif around the main doorway.

Although Mountain View has undergone many changes over the years, it remains one of the most significant landmarks from the antebellum period in Burke County. Its historical association with one of the earliest families to settle in the county, along with its Federal architecture and connection to plantation life establish Mountain View's local importance. Its architectural accretion and interior modifications attest to the changing tastes and needs of its owners and further contribute to the home's distinctive character.
Footnotes

1. Evidence supporting this traditional date of construction is supplied by the discovery of a brick with the year 1815 on it by the present owners during a 1959 renovation.

2. Land Grant #396, entry #395, issued October 28, 1782. (Land Grant Records, North Carolina Room, Burke County Public Library.)

3. Other homes with Quaker plans in Burke County include Quaker Meadows (1812), Bellevue (1823-1826), Pleasant Valley (1818), which burned in the late 1970s, and Magnolia (1829), which has had major Greek Revival alterations. The Cupola House in Edenton, Chowan County (c. 1715) is one of the earliest known examples of the particular central hall, single front entrance interpretation of the Quaker plan seen at Mountain View. (See Frances B. Johnston and Thomas T. Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina [Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1941], pp. 28-29.

4. Ralph S. and Robert L. Greenlee, Genealogy of the Greenlee Families in America, Scotland, England and Ireland (Chicago: Privately Printed, 1908), n.p. Information from this genealogy, a copy of which could not be located, was supplied by the present owners of the house in the form of notes taken on the document by a now-deceased descendant of the Greenlees. James Greenlee's settlement date in Burke County is substantiated by Dr. Edward Phifer's reference to him as the first County Coroner, beginning in 1777. (Dr. Edward Phifer, Jr., Burke: The History of a North Carolina County, rev. ed. [Morganton, N.C.: Privately Printed, 1982], p. 424.) See also the biographical sketches of James and Samuel Greenlee in Burke County Historical Society, The Heritage of Burke County: 1981 (Morganton, N.C.: Burke County Historical Society, 1981), pp. 204-205.


6. "Morganton and its Surroundings Sixty Years Ago," transcript of Silas McDowell Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, #1554, Folder #9, p. 6. This relationship between Greenlee and the black woman was part of the complex social behavior often exhibited by the slaveholding class. Edward Phifer addresses this conduct in his article, "Slavery in Microcosm: Burke County, North Carolina," pp. 148-149. John E. Fleming discusses Greenlee's relationship with the black woman as well in "Out of Bondage: The Adjustment of Burke County Negroes After the Civil War," Diss. Howard University, 1974, p. 81.


9 *Sacketts of America*, pp. 177-178.

10 "Slavery in Microcosm," p. 158.

11 Samuel and Minerva K. Greenlee are listed as members of the Presbyterian Church in A. C. Avery, *History of the Presbyterian Churches at Quaker Meadows and Morganton From the Year 1710 to 1913* (Raleigh, N.C.: Edwards and Broughton Printing Co., 1913), p. 98.

12 *Greenlee Genealogy*, n.p. Information about Dr. Dickson, which appears in Edward W. Phifer, "Certain Aspects of Medical Practice in Antebellum Burke County," *North Carolina Historical Review*, vol. 36, no. 1 (January 1959), p. 34, states that he began his medical practice in Morganton in 1850.


14 Burke County Register of Deeds, Book E, pp. 34-36.

15 Betty G. Hairfield, "Mountain View: A Condensed History and a Few Facts of Interest About the Home," p. 3. This paper, prepared by the present owner of the house, contains some information obtained through interviews with descendants of former occupants of Mountain View.

16 An historic photograph, which the present owners of the house say was taken about 1885, supplies the basis for this discussion. A reproduction of the photograph appears in *The Heritage of Burke County*, p. 12. Another structure executed with Gothic Revival detailing in Morganton around this time is the Tate Cottage at 106 King Street (c. 1870).

17 "Mountain View: A Condensed History and a Few Facts of Interest About the Home," p. 3.

18 See biography of Isaac Thomas Avery, Jr., in *The Heritage of Burke County*, p. 82.

19 Burke County Register of Deeds, Book V-5, p. 472.

20 Information supplied by the present owners.

21 Burke County Register of Deeds, Book 194, p. 505.

22 Information obtained from "Mountain View: A Condensed History and a Few Facts of Interest About the Home," pp. 3-4, and through interviews with the owners.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 1.55
Quadrange name: Morganton South

UTM References:

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Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification:
The nominated property includes the lot defined as Lot #3, Block 4, Map 48-28 in the Burke County Tax Supervisor's Office, approximately 310' x 215'. See attached tax map, nominated property outlined in red.

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

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Dana E. Mintzer, Preservation Consultant
Organization: North Carolina Division of Archives and History
Date: July 12, 1984
Street & Number: 13 Veterans Drive
Telephone: 704/298-5024
City or Town: Asheville
State: North Carolina
Postal Code: 28805

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: [Signature]

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

Burke County Deed Records.


Burke County Land Grant Records.


