US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Huntington District
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

for more information go to:
www.lrh.usace.army.mil/projects/current/jenkins_house
www.wvculture.org/museums/JenkinsMod.html
www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1005, 1318, and 2162
www.huntingtonparanormal.com/general_ jenkins_house.htm
www.archaeologychannel.org/content/video/greenbottom/300kW.html

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HISTORY

General Albert Gallatin Jenkins (1828-1864)

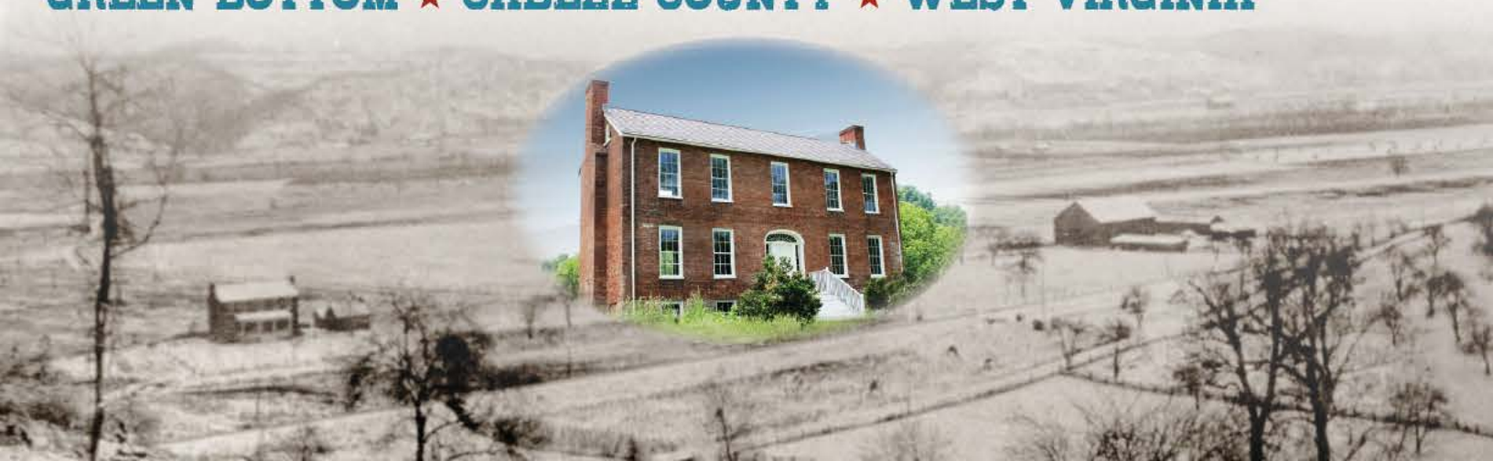
The Jenkins House was built in 1835 by Captain William Jenkins, a wealthy shipping merchant who migrated with his young wife and family to Cabell County from Rockbridge County, Virginia in 1825. Jenkins purchased 4,395 acres along the Ohio River and designed his new home in an elegant Tidewater Federal style, inspired by the plantation houses of his native Virginia. Upon his death in 1859 the youngest of his three sons, Albert Gallatin Jenkins, inherited the house and a third of the surrounding lands.

Albert Jenkins was educated at Marshall Academy, Jefferson College, and Harvard Law School. In 1857 he was elected to the U.S Congress from Cabell County and served two terms. When the Civil War broke out in 1861 he helped to establish a local Confederate militia, the Border Rangers, and was elected its captain. Later that year the militia was absorbed into the 8th Virginia Cavalry, and Jenkins was promoted to colonel and later general. During 1862, he served in the first Confederate Congress before returning to military service. He died in 1864, having been mortally wounded in the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain.

The Jenkins House and surrounding lands were eventually divided among Albert Jenkins' heirs. His daughter Margaret retained title to the house until 1931. In 1978 the property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, formally recognizing its significant associations with General Albert Gallatin Jenkins and its Tidewater Federal-style architecture.

The Army Corps of Engineers assumed management of the Jenkins House and 836 acres of land in 1988 as mitigation associated with the Robert C. Byrd Lock and Dam project on the Ohio River. In 1989, the land was leased to the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as the Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area. The Jenkins House was rehabilitated and used as the home of a caretaker until 1996, when it was subleased to the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (DCH) for use as a house museum and event venue.

PRESERVATION OF THE
GENERAL ALBERT GALLATIN JENKINS HOUSE
GREEN BOTTOM ★ CABELL COUNTY ★ WEST VIRGINIA



PRESERVATION

As a condition of managing the Jenkins House, the Corps agreed to preserve the building. Work was begun in 2007 with a public scoping meeting and extensive outreach to the public and stakeholders, including the DNR, the DCH, and the Greenbottom Society. As a result of various meetings, comments, and studies, the Corps developed an Environmental Assessment and preservation plan that charted a course for future actions. In 2008, the Corps initiated a series of projects that began the process of preserving the Jenkins House to reflect its period of significance (1835-1860). These projects complied fully with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. A major focus of the work was to reverse a number of changes that had been made to the house during the twentieth century. Other objectives were to upgrade utilities, stabilize the physical fabric, and eliminate moisture penetration and other ongoing maintenance problems. Major actions included:

Before

After

Five paint removal products were tested on the exterior before work proceeded.

- *Replacing the roof with composite shingles that resemble wood shakes*
- *Removing non-original dormers*
- *Reattaching the roof rafters and floor joists where they had sheared apart*
- *Removing the 1930s garage addition*
- *Removing paint from the stone and brick exterior of the house*
- *Repointing stone and brick mortar using custom-formulated lime mortar*
- *Reconstructing unstable chimneys from the shoulders up*
- *Replacing doors and windows*
- *Relocating utilities from the garage to the basement*
- *Upgrading the HVAC system*

Scaffolding was erected to facilitate paint removal and mortar repointing on the exterior.

Both chimneys were rebuilt from the shoulders up.

Windows were replaced.

ARCHEOLOGY

The Jenkins House was once surrounded by outbuildings, including a detached kitchen, smokehouse, servants' quarters, and privy. A small law office reportedly stood near the house as well. The house and outbuildings were constructed by enslaved African Americans, who also performed the chores of cooking, cleaning, farming the land, and maintaining the buildings. By 1913 all of the outbuildings had been destroyed. Archeological investigations conducted by the Corps since 1989 have helped to locate the sites of these buildings. Garden fencelines, brick walkways, and a root cellar have also been uncovered. Artifacts associated with these building sites tell us many things about daily life on the Jenkins plantation.

Archeological investigations have helped to locate the sites of outbuildings and landscape features.

The foundation of the detached brick kitchen was fully excavated, allowing researchers to learn its dimensions, including locations of doors, windows, and the hearth.