

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

Holley Hills Farm or "Estate to use its historic name, is located in a beautiful somewhat secluded valley, on the western bank of the Little Coal River near Alum Creek in Lincoln County, West Virginia.

The setting of this property is beautiful in the extreme, occupying the western side of a lovely rural valley hemmed in by forested hills on either side with the Little Coal River meandering slowly through its center toward its confluence with the Big Coal River less than a mile to the north. The nominated property is situated near the center of a 296 acre farm and includes the main house and six supporting structures.

The main house, or residence, is a two story ell structure. The dominant feature is the two story front porch of five bays, the upper tier of which is enclosed in a balustrade with turned wood spindles. The porch is supported by six circular wooden posts and looks out on a long, level, well-manicured lawn, flanked by shade trees on either side that extends all the way to the unimproved dirt road that fronts the property. Turn-of-the-century wood lattice encloses the crawl space under the front porch, which is reached by a decoratively designed stone stairway. The front door, or main entrance, is surmounted by a rectangular glass transom.

The basic structure of the house is an oak frame, covered with fine poplar lap siding. The poplar for the siding was harvested on the farm, shipped down the Coal River to be milled at the old Weimer Mill at St. Albans and then shipped back up river to the site. In addition to the fine wood siding, other interesting features include wooden window cornice heads, corner boards and partial returned cornices, which are Greek Revival in nature. The house has double hung windows with one pane per sash.

The house is covered by a hipped roof that originally was tin but which was replaced in 1969 by one of asphalt shingles.

The ell of the house contains the kitchen and an enclosed side porch which was an early twentieth century addition. One of the more dominant interior features is the massive masonry chimney which is rectangular and rises in the center of the kitchen and gives the illusionary effect of dividing two rooms where there is really but one.

The house has nine rooms. Interior features include a rather elegant returned main staircase; a more narrow and steeper enclosed "servants" stairway at the rear of the house leading into the kitchen; all the rooms contain original gas lighting fixtures. The interior of the house is richly endowed with fine grade Victorian machine produced wood work. Another interesting feature of this house is the iron grille work that encloses the vents or windows of the basement. This grille work is decorated with the egg and dart motif which, interestingly, is duplicated on the legs of several stone yard seats.

There are six supporting structures. The most interesting of these sits immediately to the north side of the house and serves as a tool shed. It is of wood construction but has been covered with pressed tin siding. The tool shed roof is surmounted by a belfry in which once hung a bell (now stored in the house) which was used primarily to call the field workers in for meals.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE

2

There is a stone, two room cellar-like structure to the rear of the house that is used for both storage and a potters shop. To the north of the house are the remaining supporting structures, all of them rather large buildings, typical of working farms, that are used for agricultural purposes, i. e. grain storage, barn for housing animals, etc.

The grandeur of the setting of the Holley Hills Farm is majestic and serene. No photograph can accurately reproduce this setting, unless it be an aerial one.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		Local History

Specific dates c. 1885 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Holley Hills "Estate", located in rural route 6 overlooking Little Coal River near Alum Creek in Lincoln County, West Virginia, is significant as a representative example of a dying way of life; the middle-income working family farm. ¹It is also significant for its close association with a family important not only in the formation period of Lincoln County but in the history of Kanawha County and West Virginia. ²

Explanatory Notes

¹The Holley Hills "Estate", constructed around 1885 by James Avis Holley II, is a good representative example of life that was once predominant in this region but is now fading away quickly: the middle income working family farm.

The farm, situated on a 296 acre tract (one of the largest sections of bottom land in Lincoln County) centers around the main house, a large two story farm house with Greek Revival elements (See Part 7. for Description), and six supporting structures, all of which serve some aspect of agriculture. All of the structures, and especially the residence, are well maintained and in good condition.

Since its construction nearly a century ago, the house and farm has always been a self-supporting, working farm, serving a succession of families.

The farm is situated in what was once an ideal location, overlooking the Little Coal River. The Coal River was a navigable waterway, made so by the completion in 1855 of the Coal River Lock and Dams system under the supervision of General William S. Rosecrans of later Civil War fame. Thus, farmers could quite easily get their products to markets* in Charleston and the Kanawha Valley via the river (and receive supplies by return trip) where otherwise they would have had to travel by land over tortuous roads that, until the mid-twentieth century, were poor at best.

This farm, which is without question one of the largest in area and most impressive architecturally in Lincoln County, has been home to a succession of farming families. It is believed that James A. Holley, II sold the farm to J. H. Galloway about 1900. It passed in turn to C. E. Burns (1902), Samuel Bowen (1921), B. J. Riley (1939), C. W. Ross (1953), to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. William Perrow, in 1968. A significant fact is that the acreage of the farm (296 acres) has been maintained intact since at least 1902. This is in marked contrast to most other large Lincoln County farms of this period, nearly all of which were sold in parcels, divided and re-divided through the years. Interestingly, James A. Holley did not sell the mineral rights to the farm until 1921, when he sold them to his friend and associate U. S. Senator William E. Chilton, who sold them a month later to the Union Trust Company, of which both Holley and Chilton were directors.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Charleston Gazette, Charelston, W.Va., April 30-May 3, 1924.
 Comstock, Jim, The West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia, Vol.11 Richwood, W.Va. 1976
 Conley, Phil, ed., The West Virginia Encyclopedia, W.Va. Publishing Co., Charleston, W.Va. 1929;

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 8

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Julian

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the intersection of Lincoln County Route 8 and an unimproved access road, proceeding northeast approximately 800 feet to a point on the northwest side of County Route 8 opposite the Sprout Tunnel, proceed in a straight line approximately 600 feet northwest to a gas well (northwest of a man-

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian
Historic Preservation Unit
 organization W.Va. Dept. of Culture & History date
Science & Culture 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Clarence Eldoran

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
John W. Ray date 12/1/80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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DATE ENTERED	DEC 1

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET Explanatory Notes ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Holley Hills Farm is still a working farm, one of relatively few of its size and type still in existence in this part of the state. It is highly representative of a way of life that is rapidly vanishing from the state.

²The Holley Family is one that was prominent in Lincoln County's early history and one of whose members rose to state-wide prominence.

James Avis Holley, Sr., was a prominent farmer and merchant in early Lincoln County, laying the foundation of the later family success. He served as Sheriff of Kanawha County (that part of Lincoln County in which he lived then being a part of Kanawha) from 1855 to 1860. He owned the land upon which the town of Hamlin, county seat of Lincoln County, was founded, and posted bond for several members of the first board of supervisors (county commission) when Lincoln County was formed in 1867; thus playing an instrumental role in the foundation of the new county. He also established a general merchandising business in the new town of Hamlin, one of the first business' to be established there.

Elisha Holley, son of James Holley Sr., was a prominent Lincoln County physician for many years.

It was James A. Holley II (1855-1924), however, who made the Holley name prominent beyond Lincoln County borders. He was born on his father's Lincoln County farm in 1855. James Holley II attended West Virginia University and graduated from Duff's Commercial College in Pittsburg in 1875. Upon his return to Lincoln County in that year he took up farming. During the latter 1870's he acquired the farm and sometime around 1885 built his home on the farm, giving it the somewhat pretentious name of "Holley Hills Estate". By this time his activities had grown beyond farming, however. In 1880 he had inherited his father's merchantile business in Hamlin and in 1884 was elected, as a Democrat, Circuit Clerk of Lincoln County. While still Circuit Clerk, Holley was in 1888 elected Chariman of the Lincoln County Democratic Executive Committee and was re-elected Circuit Clerk in 1890. Since his growing field of affairs required his frequent presence in Hamlin, he acquired a home there in the late 1880's and alternated between living in Hamlin and his farm, employing caretakers in his absence. Holley was active in the gubernatorial campaign of William A. MacCorkle in 1893 and upon the latters election received the appointment of Adjutant General of West Virginia, serving in that office from 1893 until 1897. Holley purchased a home in Charleston in 1893 and afterwards spent even less time at his Lincoln County farm.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	OCT 28 1980
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET Explanatory Notes ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

In 1898 James A. Holley became Clerk of the West Virginia Supreme Court, serving in that distinguished office until 1902. In 1900 he sold his Lincoln County farm to J. H. Calloway, who in turn sold it two years later to Carl Elihu Burns, a noted Lincoln County attorney. Holley, as mentioned previously, did retain the mineral rights to the property, or an interest therein, until his death.

James Holley now (1900) resided full-time in Charleston, where he became involved in real estate and other business affairs. He helped found the Union Trust Company and, with Samuel Stephenson and others, has a hand in the construction and subsequent ownership of what is now known as the Union Building. At the time of its construction (1905) the Union Building was the first "skyscraper" in Charleston and one of the tallest buildings in the state. In 1907 James A. Holley was elected Mayor of Charleston for a two year term and re-elected in 1909 to a four year term, serving as the capitol city's chief magistrate until 1913. There was a "Holley for Governor" movement in 1912, but this did not materialize. Holley continued active in civic and business affairs. The Holley Hotel, constructed in 1915 and then one of West Virginia's grandest hotels, was named in his honor. His death in Florida (where he had moved in 1923 for his health) on April 29, 1924 was front page news in Charleston and other state newspapers. His funeral at Charleston's First Presbyterian Church was attended by Governor Morgan, Mayor W. W. Wertz, ex-mayor Grant Hall, and a host of dignitaries. He is buried in Charleston's Springhill Cemetery.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

9.

Hardesty's West Virginia Counties, Richwood, W.Va., 1973;
Laidley, W. S., History of Charleston and Kanawha County, West Virginia
Richmond-Arnold Pub. Co., Chicago, 1911.

Lambert, F. B., "Sketches of Lincoln County History," The Llorrac,
Carrol High School, Hamlin, W.Va., 1925 Lincoln County Deed Book, Courthouse,
Hamlin, W.Va.

"Oral Interview with Mr. Kenner Hill," Alum Creek, W.Va., June 20, 1980

"Oral Interview with Mr. D. Ray Pauley, Sr.," South Charleston, W.Va., July 2, 1980.

"Oral Interview with Mr. William Perrow and Mrs. Louise Perrow,"
Alum Creek, W.Va., September 1979-June, 1980.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

9.

Historical Records Survey, "Inventory of the County Archives of W.Va. No.22
(Lincoln County)," Charleston, W.Va. 1938.

10. made pond), then southwestward along the second contour line to a point 200 feet southwest of the main residence, then from the second contour line approximately 400 feet southeast to County Route 8 at a point 200 feet southwest of the unimproved access road; encompassing an 8 acre area that includes the main residence and all the principal outbuildings.