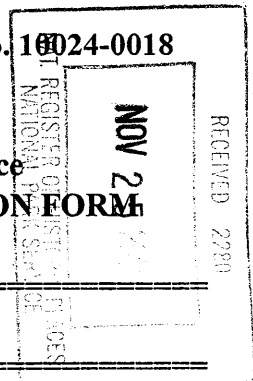


1/loss



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: INDIAN ROCKS DINING HALL  
other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: SR 7, 1 mile east of Reedsville not for publication: N/A  
city/town: Reedsville vicinity: x  
state: WV county: Preston code: 077 zip code: 26547

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide x locally. (     See continuation sheet.)

Susan M. Pierce 11/20/2002  
Signature of Certifying Official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau Date

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau Date

**Indian Rocks Dining Hall**  
Name of Property

**Preston Co., WV**  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the  
National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the  
National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

*Edward H. Ball* *01/08/03*

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	1	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	2	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Indian Rocks Dining Hall  
Name of Property

Preston Co., WV  
County and State

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions**

**Current Functions**

COMMERCE: Restaurant  
DOMESTIC: Motel cabins/Hotel

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification:**

**Materials**

OTHER: Adirondack Style

Foundation Sandstone  
Walls Fieldstone  
Roof Asphalt Shingles  
Other Insul-brick

**Narrative Description**

(See continuation on sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Indian Rocks Dining Hall**  
Name of Property

**Preston Co., WV**  
County and State

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

Commerce

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1928-1932

**Significant Dates**

1928

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Hunt, John H. Sr.

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(See continuation sheets.)

Indian Rocks Dining Hall  
Name of Property

Preston Co., WV  
County and State

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

\_\_\_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

\_\_\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark

\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_\_\_ Other State agency

\_\_\_\_\_ Federal agency

\_\_\_\_\_ Local government

\_\_\_\_\_ University

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name of Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreeage of Property:** 12.02 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Masontown Quad Map

17 606141 4373931  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(See continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(See continuation sheet.)

Indian Rocks Dining Hall  
Name of Property

Preston Co., WV  
County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Katherine Jourdan with Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clay, with assistance from Candice Clendenin, WVSHPO intern.

Organization: WV Division of Culture & History Date: October 31, 2001

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East Telephone: 304-558-0220

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 25305-0300

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clay

Street & Number: P.O. Box 243 Telephone: 304/864-6643

City or Town: Reedsville State: WV Zip: 26547

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Indian Rocks Dining Hall  
Name of Property

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**Summary Description:**

The building known as the Indian Rocks Dining Hall is located off SR 7, just east of Reedsville in Preston County. The dining hall sits on a flat parcel of land, that drops away into the woods in the rear. Large trees shade the front yard and large rocks are scattered on the property. The cabin is located to the east of the dining hall, and the ice house is to the south. A concrete-lined ice pond is present at the southern end of the lot, and a non-contributing, modern two story storage building is located at the far eastern edge of the property.

**Dining Hall**

**Date: 1928**

**Contributing Building**

The dining hall is one and a half stories, with a hip porch on three sides. The wooden porch has rough timber supports with a "Y" support at the top and a rough railing. The facade of the building is brown fieldstone set in a random pattern. A large fireplace with niche dominates the center front of the building with flanking metal casement and transom windows and French doors with covered transoms. Two hip dormers flank the fireplace with single 6/1 double-hung sashes and insul-brick on the sides. Both the east and west sides have hip dormers with paired windows.

The east side of the building has a set of French doors and 3 windows and a single door in rear beside a small window opening. The west side has a wooden section under the porch roof with side double-hung window sashes. A rear gable addition projects out with a wood exterior and deck. A glass door opens off the deck. The rear of the building had a shed roof, with a center stone chimney and four single double-hung windows. The second floor has a rear jerkin with three 9/1 double-hung sash openings. At the corner is a newer concrete block chimney flue. There is a rear shed addition for the lower level. Visible under the east side is a concrete block foundation with 9 light door to the basement. Part of the foundation of the building is supported by timbers connecting with bedrock.

**Tourist Cabin**

**Date: ca. 1928**

**Contributing Building**

A grassed drive leads to the front facade of the tourist cabin. The roof line is oddly shaped with a half gable to one side and a shed extension. This suggests that the main section may have been built first with a fieldstone exterior matching the dining hall, with a single door having a large glass light and lower panels. The side window has been boarded over and there is a rear stone chimney. The portion to the right on the front facade has board and batten siding, and a single door. This portion may have been added later and the roof was extended. Wide eaves shelter the doorways. The roof is asphalt roll-roofing and the foundation is stone.

**Tourist Cabin Foundation**

**Date: ca. 1928**

**Non-contributing Site**

A brick foundation adjacent to the standing cabin is all that remains of a second cabin on the property. Since the cabin was burned and has collapsed, it is considered a non-contributing site.

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Ice/Spring House

Date: 1928

Contributing Building

The ice house is built from terra-cotta blocks with a rough sandstone veneer, single window openings with horizontal metal bars, and a doorway. The current property owners replaced the roof and cleared away years of trees and debris from the interior in 2001. A concrete cornerstone is marked with the words "J.H. HUNT/1928/BY E.C.S" spelled out with small round pebbles. The ice house was part of an elaborate gravity powered water filtration system that fed into the concrete-lined ice pond.

Ice Pond

Date: ca. 1928

Contributing Structure

Roughly delta-shaped when viewed from above, the ice pond is essentially a concrete-lined reservoir designed to catch filtered spring water for the purpose of making clean, sanitary ice. The delta is approximately fifty feet long on each side, with a concrete dam on the southern end to retain the water. The dam is about four feet tall in the center, and gradually decreases in height as the sides of the pond slope upward. A shallow "notch" or spillway about five inches deep is present in the center of the dam, and an outlet box is visible in the bottom of the pond below the spillway. Positioned in a natural watercourse, water was channeled from the ice/spring house through a pipe and into a underground cistern, or holding tank. Integral to the holding tank was a sand bed to filter dirt and impurities. From the cistern/sand bed, the water continued through another pipe down to the ice pond, where the water was collected until it filled the pond.

Storage Building

Date: [1999]

Non-Contributing Building

A two story storage building was recently built on the eastern margin of the property, set apart from the original buildings. Covered with grooved, T-111 wooden siding, the building is obviously modern, yet it is not overly intrusive. Due to its recent construction, it is considered non-contributing.



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**Statement of Significance**

Indian Rocks Dining Hall and John Henry Hunt, Sr. were important to the advancement of African American entrepreneurship in West Virginia. The property is significant under Criterion B for the property's association with John Henry Hunt, Sr. and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance begins with the construction of the dining hall in 1928 until the original owner's death in 1932. Under Criterion B the property is significant for its association with John Henry Hunt, Sr, who was a pioneer in African American entrepreneurship and worked for the advancement of African Americans in West Virginia. Under Criterion C, the property is significant for its Adirondack style of architecture. The Indian Rocks Dining Hall is significant due to the important role in which the facility has played in the advancement of African American entrepreneurship in northern West Virginia.

**Criterion B**

The Indian Rocks Dining Hall is significant under Criterion B for John Henry Hunt, Sr. John Hunt was the son of a former slave that rose to become one of the most influential African Americans of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in West Virginia. Hunt was an entrepreneur as well as an active member of society. John Hunt was born in 1871 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania and died at Indian Rocks in 1932. He was married to Anna Davis in 1902 and together they had eight children, Hazel, Ethel, Effie, Anna, Sarah, Harriet, John Henry Jr., and William.<sup>1</sup>

John Hunt's career began when he moved to Morgantown at age 19 from Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Once in Morgantown, Hunt became a cook. After a few years tutoring in the business, he opened a restaurant of his own in the basement of the old Peabody hotel. He soon sold out of that location and opened another restaurant in the basement of the Farmers and Merchants Bank building. Eventually, Hunt would own an impressive chain of 23 businesses in the Morgantown area.<sup>2</sup>

Hunt is credited for starting the first ice cream manufacturing plant in Monongalia County. He sold products under the name of "Hokey Pokey" ice cream cones and brick ice cream. Since there was no ice plant in Morgantown at the time, the restaurateur cut ice from the Monongahela River during the winter months and stored it in his special ice houses until it was in urgent demand during the heat of

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<sup>1</sup>Rice, Connie Park. Our Monongalia: A History of African Americans in Monongalia County, WV. (Terra Alta, WV: Headline Books, Inc., 1999.), pg. 101.

<sup>2</sup>Samsell, John. "Son of a Slave Became a Millionaire in Monongalia County." The Dominion Post, 11 August 2001, 9-A .

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Indian Rocks Dining Hall  
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summer. He supplied the local residents with their first summer ice.<sup>3</sup>

During World War I, Hunt was commissioned to supervise food supplies for fifteen hundred soldiers stationed at Morgantown in the Student Army Training Camp (SATC). He served meals daily to the service men in the old reconditioned "Ark," a 80 foot square building used for varsity college basketball games. Also, during World War I, Hunt was appointed chairman of the State Council of Defense for the Negro Race by Governor Cornwell. The organization was national with each state having their own chapter. The purpose of the council was to reassure and teach African Americans about the war. The councils helped to fuel patriotism in the African American communities around the country.<sup>4</sup>

John Hunt was a philanthropist for the African American community in the Morgantown area. Hunt often employed members of the African American community in his restaurants, then helped them establish restaurants of their own. For instance, Hunt either transferred or shared his business license with cooks Eddie Dooms and B.W. Anderson, both went on to become prominent restaurant owners in Morgantown.<sup>5</sup> Hunt was very instrumental to the advancement of the African American community through his willingness to help his peers become established businessman in their own right.

During the Great Depression, John Hunt remained strong and adaptable to change. As many African Americans began to see their livelihood's vanish, Hunt found a way to maintain his businesses. When the Great Depression began in 1929, Hunt had just begun developing Indian Rocks the previous year. Hunt and his family made huge sacrifices to maintain Indian Rocks Dining Hall including the loss of their home to the Second National Bank. John Henry Hunt, Sr. died in 1932 at the age of 61 at Indian Rocks.<sup>6</sup>

### Criterion C

Indian Rocks Dining Hall is significant under Criterion C because it is one of the last remaining buildings associated with the life and achievement of John Henry Hunt, Sr. The building is also significant

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<sup>3</sup>Rice, Connie Park. Our Monongalia: A History of African Americans in Monongalia County, WV. (Terra Alta, WV: Headline Books, Inc., 1999.), pg. 101.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid, pg. 101.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid, pg. 107.

<sup>6</sup>Samsell, John. "Son of a Slave Became a Millionaire in Monongalia County." The Dominion Post, 11 August 2001, 9-A .

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due to the fact it was built in the Adirondack style of architecture, which is uncommon for the area. John Hunt purchased the Indian Rocks Dining Hall property in 1925 and began developing it into a resort by 1928. Indian Rocks Dining Hall is in Preston County, West Virginia and during its heyday it was a resort with a store, dining facility, cabins, rooms for rent, and an ice pond. A dining hall, one intact cabin, an ice house, and an ice pond dating to the 1928 to 1932 time period remain on the property.

The Adirondack style of architecture gained popularity in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century directly following the development of the National Park system. President Franklin Roosevelt was an admirer of the style and suggested that it be used in the National Park system. Therefore, many of the private camps and lodges built across the nation in the 1920's and 1930's were built in the Adirondack style, including Indian Rocks Dining Hall. The style was developed in upstate New York in the 1870's by William West Durant. The style is often called Great Camp for its association with the large rustic camps in the Adirondack Mountains. Materials used for the style are usually native materials such as log and stone. Roofs have broad overhangs that help to protect the walls of the house from the pressure of snow build-up. The foundation of the Adirondack design is usually rock to keep the wood used in construction off of the ground and thus, helping to prevent rot of the logs.<sup>7</sup> The foundation of Indian Rocks Dining Hall is stone.

Indian Rocks Dining Hall was mainly used for catering and parties. Hunt specialized in weddings, retreats, and official meetings. Weddings seemed to be Hunt's speciality. Evidently, oysters were a very desired choice of cuisine for the day. One article spoke of Hunt having been known to fry more than one hundred oysters for a single wedding. In addition to weddings, Hunt also catered special events such as official meetings for state and county officials.<sup>8</sup>

Indian Rocks Dining Hall began operating in 1928. The Hunt family would have to make great sacrifices to maintain the existence of the dining hall. The Hunt family would eventually lose their home in Morgantown as well as other businesses in order to maintain Indian Rocks, although the facility would never really reach its full potential as a resort.

### Conclusion

The role of John Henry Hunt as an African American entrepreneur was very influential in developing an environment for the advancement of African Americans in the pre-Civil Rights movement

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<sup>7</sup>Baker, Fred. "The Adirondack Architecture Style." Fred Baker, Architect.  
<<http://www.fredbaker.org/News%20Letter/Adirondack.htm>> (September 5, 2002).

<sup>8</sup>Samsell, John. "Son of a Slave Became a Millionaire in Monongalia County." The Dominion Post, 11 August 2001, 9-A.

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era of West Virginia history. Much of the development of African American commerce in the Morgantown area can be credited to John Hunt. Hunt helped fellow African Americans by supplying employment as well as helping them create their own businesses. Indian Rocks Dining Hall is significant because of its association with John Henry Hunt.

John Henry Hunt, Sr. was an integral part of the history and development of African American commerce in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Indian Rocks Dining Hall is significant under Criterion B and C. The dining hall is significant under Criterion B for its association with John Henry Hunt. The dining hall is also significant under Criterion C for its unique Adirondack architectural style. The period of significance begins with the construction of the dining hall in 1928 until the original owner's death in 1932. Indian Rocks Dining Hall never reached its full potential as resort. Amidst the onset of the Great Depression as well as the untimely death of John Henry Hunt, Sr., Indian Rocks Dining Hall's development and construction was left suspended in time.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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**Bibliography**

Baker, Fred. "The Adirondack Architecture Style." Fred Baker, Architect.  
<<http://www.fredbaker.org/News%20Letter/Adirondack.htm>>.

Rice, Connie Park. Our Monongalia: A History of African Americans in Monongalia County, WV.  
Terra Alta, WV: Headline Books, Inc., 1999.

Samsell, John. "Son of a Slave Became a Millionaire in Monongalia County." The Dominion  
Post, 11 August 2001, 9-A

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at a stake and a set fence post, a corner of John H. Hunt, (and the Grantors) and running with seven lines of the said Hunt N. 81 42' E. 728 ft. to the County road; thence with the road N. 20 40' W. 219.30 ft. N. 33 6' W. 109.50 ft. N. 53 13' W. 135.30 ft. N. 11 25' W. 219.30 ft. N. 224 12' W. 109.93., N. 35 6' W. 390.27 ft. to a point in the center line of County Road, and thence leaving the said road and running through the original lands of the Grantors, two lines 3.31 38 W. 585.57 ft. to a stone and three maple pointers; thence S. 10 27' E. 465.46 ft. to the place of the beginning, containing 9.829 acres, more or less, and being the same property which was conveyed to John H. Hunt.

**Boundary Justification**

This is the boundary historically associated with the Indian Rocks Dining Hall property.

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Name of Property: Indian Rocks Dining Hall

Address: SR 7

Town: Reedsville

County: Preston

Photographer: Owners

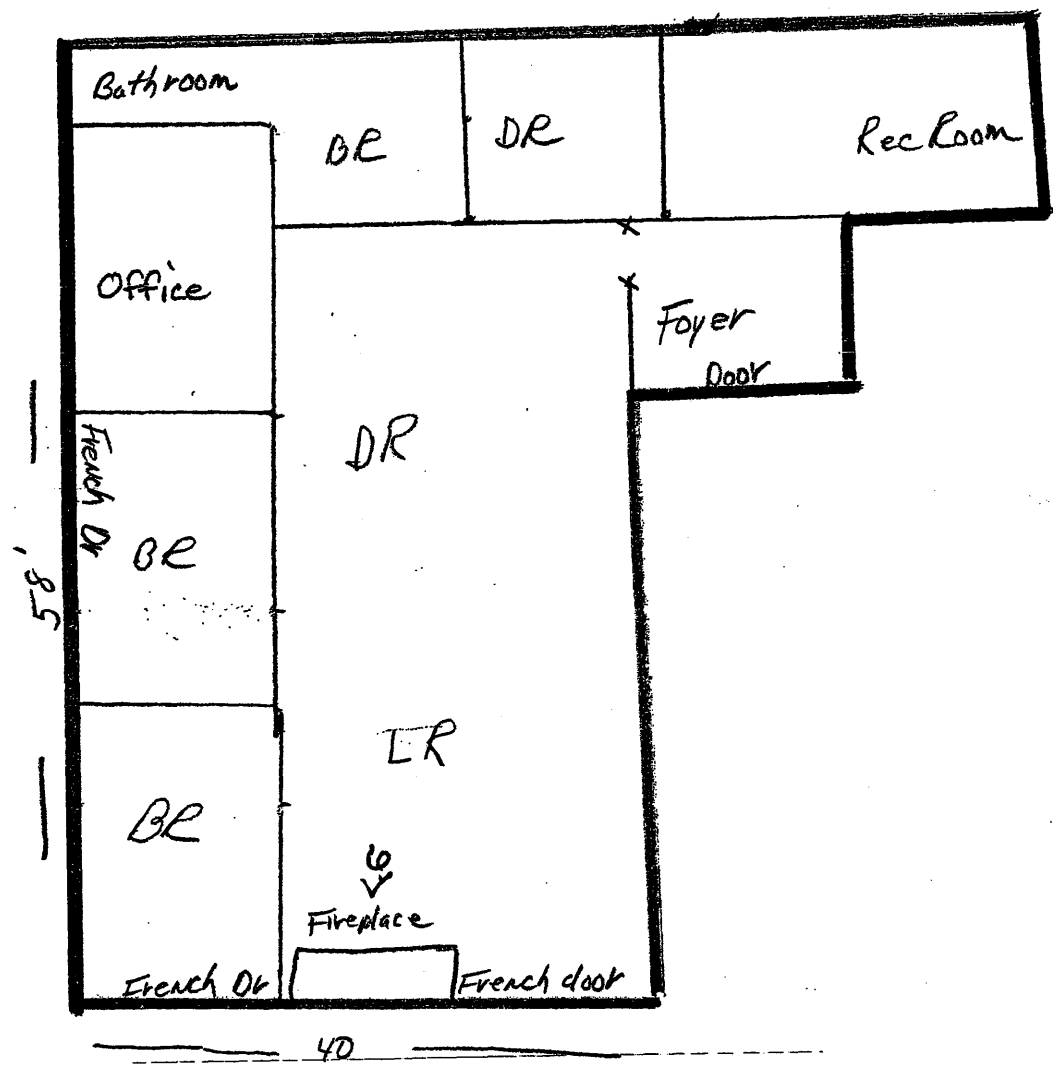
Date: various 1999-2001

Negatives: WV SHPO, Charleston, WV

Photo 1 of 10	North Facade, Camera looking South
Photo 2 of 10	South Facade, Camera looking North
Photo 3 of 11	North and East Facades, Camera looking Southwest
Photo 4 of 11	West Facade, Camera looking East
Photo 5 of 11	South and West Facade, Camera looking Northeast
Photo 6 of 11	Interior, Fireplace
Photo 7 of 11	Ice Pond, Camera facing South
Photo 8 of 11	Foundation of Tourist Cabin, Camera facing West
Photo 9 of 11	Tourist Cabin, Camera facing South
Photo 10 of 11	Tourist Cabin, Camera facing Southeast
Photo 11 of 11	Spring/Ice House, Camera facing North

Indian Rocks Dining  
Main Floor

Indian Rocks Dining Hall  
Reedsville, Preston County  
West Virginia  
Main Floor Plan  
Interior Photo Map



← Kingwood

Rt 7

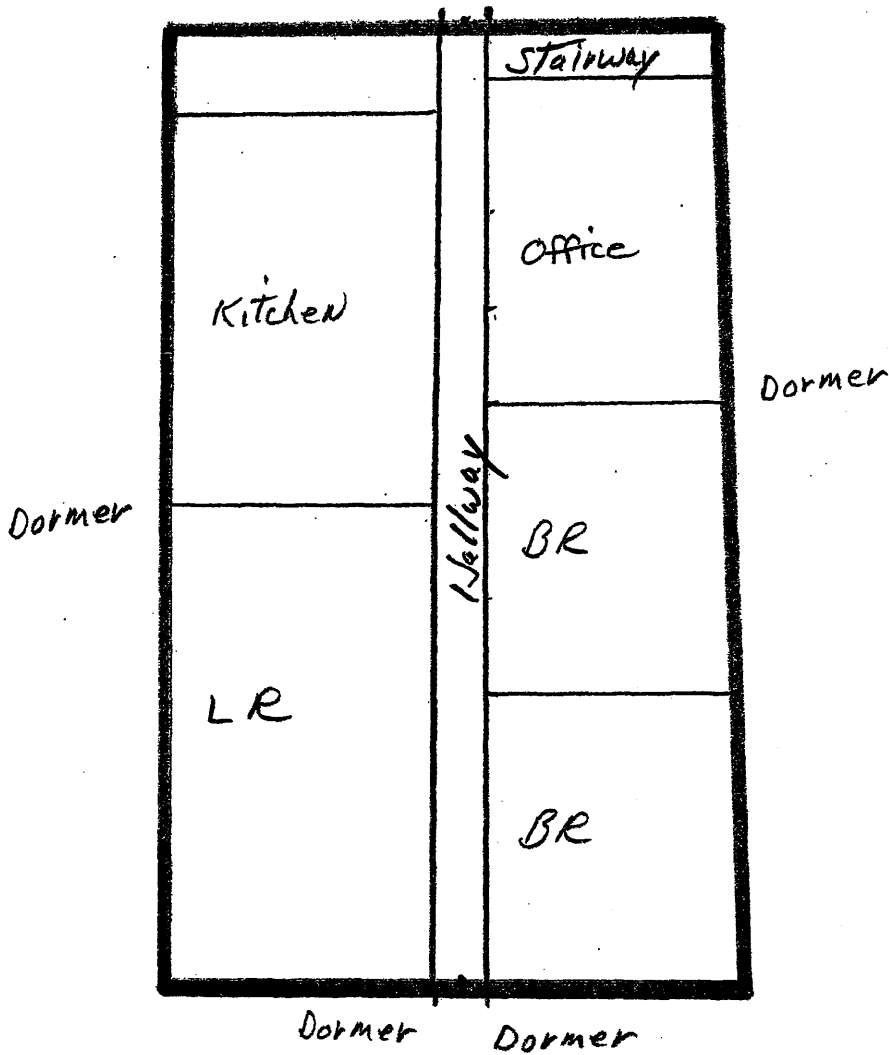
MasonTown

→



Indian Rock Dining  
2nd Floor

Indian Rocks Dining Hall  
Reedsville, Preston County  
West Virginia  
Second Story Floor Plan



FRONT

↑ N

TO Morgantown

St Rt 7

TO KINGWOOD →

Driveway

L3

Driveway Extension

Indian  
Rocks  
Dining

↓ 1

10 ↓

Cabin

↓ 9

Cabin  
Foundation

L8

↑ 2

New  
Building

Ice  
House

↑ 11

Indian Rocks Dining Hall  
Reedsville, Preston County  
West Virginia  
General Site Plan  
Photo Locations

↓ 7

Ice  
Rink