

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <u>West Virginia</u>
COUNTY: <u>Wood</u>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <u>JUL 24 1974</u>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Tomlinson Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
901 W. 3rd Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Williamstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

COUNTY:  
Wood

CODE:  
107

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Frederick C. and Patricia A. Love

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Star Route #14, 901 W. 3rd. Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Williamstown

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Wood County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Parkersburg

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  Local

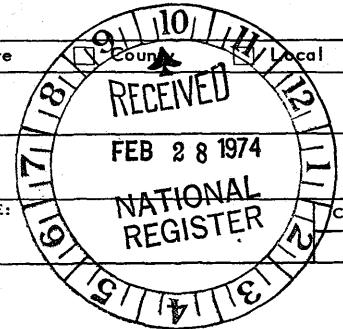
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY: <u>Wood</u>	FOR NPS USE ONLY	

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tomlinson Mansion is a two-story, common-bonded building with headers being exposed every fifth course. The house faces west and overlooks the Ohio River.

The slate-shingled, gabled roof almost appears to be lean-to as it descends the back porch.

The nine windows toward the west are symmetrically placed around the frontispiece; all are 3/3 double hung with stone lintels and stone sills (most panes are original).

The stone stoop is composed of large rectangular slabs and is on the same level as the concrete-stone foundation. The small, pediment-like roof above the front door is supported by four rectangular columns toward the front and one decorative column to each side of the sidelights. The latter, as well as the overlights, are composed of various-sized rectangular panes. The darker, angular area running from the northern corner to the stoop was slightly damaged by a heavy growth of ivy. (The ivy has since been removed.)

On the south side of the house is a window where once a door stood. Like those toward the front, this window and all others (with the exception of the 2/2 attic windows) are 3/3 double hung.

A wing lies to the southeast of the main section. A simple first and second story porch adorns the inside of the "L," running from the north end of the main unit one-half the depth of the wing. Also, a wooden alcove for storage has been added at the "toe" of the "L." (The date is unknown.)

Within the past few years, the brick, one-story summer kitchen, which was the same style as the rest of the home, was removed. It was located to the extreme southeast of the mansion and connected to it by a breezeway. In its place the owner has erected a two-story cinderblock garage, also connected by a breezeway.

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1839 (Built)**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tomlinson Mansion, the oldest home in Williamstown, is historically significant because it was the home of Joseph Tomlinson III, a descendant of the Tomlinsons of Moundsville and member of the General Assembly of Virginia. It has been visited by many important personalities, chief among whom was the world-renowned ornithologist, John James Audubon.

In 1770 Joseph Tomlinson I, and his son, Samuel, entered the Ohio Valley and secured "tomahawk" claims to lands at what was then Grave Creek (now Moundsville) and another 1,400 acres at the present site of Williamstown.

The two returned to their home at Little Meadows, Maryland, but a few years later Samuel and his brother, Joseph II, came once again to the Williamstown area. On this visit the latter built a log cabin which became the fore-runner of the Tomlinson Mansion.

Because of a danger of Indian raids along the Ohio, Joseph II and his wife, Elizabeth, prepared to retreat eastward. They soon fled to Wills Creek (now Cumberland), Maryland, where, in the spring of 1781, Elizabeth gave birth to a son. The child was named for his father and grandfather and grew to manhood in the Williamstown area.

In April 1808, Joseph III married Susannah McMahon, and they had one child, a daughter. As the area grew in population, Joseph gained the respect and admiration of his community. From 1836 until his death in 1864, he was a real power and source of strength to those around him, not only holding numerous local offices but also serving one term as their representative to the Virginia Assembly.

In 1839 he built his handsome brick home which still stands majestically overlooking the Ohio River. From the time of its construction until his wife's death in 1857, the Tomlinson Mansion was the social center of the Upper Ohio Valley.

Perhaps the most notable guest was John James Audubon, the famous American naturalist. It was here that the middle-aged Audubon came while on several trips through the area. His purpose was to collect material on the blue bird and other birds native to the area. The Tomlinson Mansion, then a lonely spot in the wilderness, provided Audubon with the perfect setting for his study of nature.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Writers' Program, Work Projects Administration. West Virginia: A Guide to the Mountain State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941. (p. 414)

"Tomlinson Mansion Restored." Parkersburg (W.Va.) News, June 1, 1958. (p. 14)

"Audubon Spent Time Painting Birds in this Area." Parkersburg (W.Va.) News, August 17, 1958. (p. 17)

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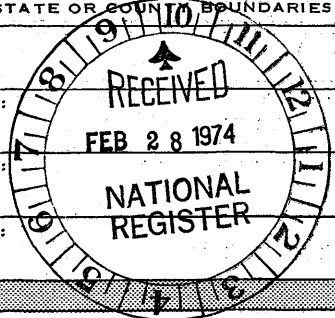
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 24 ' 2.1 "	81 ° 27 ' 49.8 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 Acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Ted McGee, Field Agent, W.Va. Antiquities Commission and Mrs. Ralph A. Schmitz, Member, Garden Club Council of Wood County, for the**

ORGANIZATION: **West Virginia Antiquities Commission** DATE: **October 25, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University**

CITY OR TOWN: **Morgantown** STATE: **West Virginia** CODE: **54**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Leonard M. Davis  
 Leonard M. Davis

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: February 22, 1974

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

A. R. Rortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/24/74

ATTEST:

Wm. H. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7/19-74