

4-3-74

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Greenbrier
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 27 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Stuart Manor

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Route #2 SW of Lewisburg off U.S. 219

CITY OR TOWN: Lewisburg W. Va. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54 COUNTY: Greenbrier CODE: 025

**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"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Miss Mary Price

STREET AND NUMBER: Route #2

CITY OR TOWN: Lewisburg STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk's Office of Greenbrier County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lewisburg STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

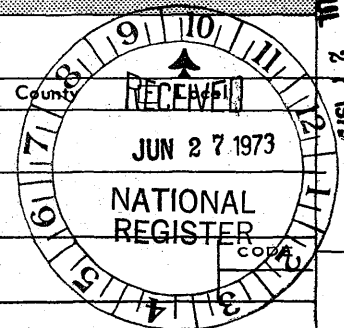
STATE: West Virginia

COUNTY: Greenbrier

ENTRY NUMBER: 1000

DATE: JUN 27 1973

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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 first permanent structure on the premises of Colonel John Stuart was a small one-room stone building built in 1778. This little building of native limestone, with fireplace and chimney, cherry mantel, and cherry cupboards, housed the earliest court records and served as the clerk's office for many years. John Stuart was appointed the clerk of the Greenbrier County Court in 1778. It still stands, with proud miniature dignity, to mark the beginning of Greenbrier County.

In 1789, Colonel Stuart erected his third and final home near the little stone clerk's office. This oldest and most historic Greenbrier County house is of native limestone, long and low, but of two stories. Its thick, grey walls give it a fort-like appearance for which it was so used when Indian attacks were suspected.

At a somewhat later date, John Stuart added a two-story wing to the northwest corner of the original house. This new structure is more imposing and of finer workmanship in stonemasonry than the older structure.

Throughout succeeding years, wooden additions were made in the southeast facing angle of the two stone wings. All this adding-on has given the house an unusual feature; it has fourteen outside doors. The four great chimneys give a dignified, almost haughty, presence to this grand collection of structures; although the veranda, which extends along two sides of the older wing, gives to the Manor a country, comfortable look.

The two double doored front entrance ways lead into halls and rooms with fireplaces and hand carved mantels, paneling and staircases, built-in cupboards and dentil molding, and much cherry wood, rich and dark with age.

The house has wide floor boards, "battened" doors with handiwork H-hinges and a twenty-three by twenty-six foot dining room.

The stones of the walls of the Manor were used as plaques for the names and initials of family and friends scraped and chiselled with much labor and some skill in the hard limestone.

Stuart Manor has been continuously occupied by descendants of John Stuart to this day.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Colonel John Stuart, who is called the "Founder and Father of Greenbrier County," first came to this region from his home in Augusta County in 1767. When he returned to his home, he acquired a tract of land in the Frankford Valley from an original patentee. Early in the year 1769, Stuart returned to Greenbrier and built a log cabin on his land. Soon thereafter, he set up a grist mill in a cave-mouth near his cabin. After a few months in this location, Stuart moved down the Valley to a site south of Lewisburg's present location. However, when the Colonel returned from office and activities with which he had concerned himself for so long a time, he returned to this first home site for the duration of his life. He died there in August 1823.

Near what is now Fort Spring, he erected a stockaded fort in 1771. As he had previously done, he soon built a grist mill nearby at the mouth of Milligan Creek. The year 1774 was the beginning of a long period of services which Stuart gave to his community in defense of homes and the whole frontier; first as a Captain under General Andrew Lewis, and later leading the defense of settlement forts against the Indian attacks.

John Stuart was appointed clerk of the newly formed Greenbrier County and the first meeting of the court was held in his home in May 1778.

Eleven years later (1789) Stuart constructed his permanent home across the road from the fort and close by the little clerk's office. It was a thick-walled, two-storied limestone house in a setting with such inspiring views as the distant mountains that an early French visitor gave the name "Beau Desert," meaning "glorious wilderness." A few years later a two-story addition was made to the original house at its northwest corner. Because of increasing needs through the years, several wooden structures have been added in the angle of the two stone wings.

This oldest and most historic of the Greenbrier homes has been continuously occupied by the descendants of John Stuart to this day. Family tradition has it that the initials "G W," "J A," and "T J" cut into the stones of the house walls indicate visits to the Manor by those "First Citizens" of the Republic, George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson.

Captain Stuart's appointment to Colonel in the 79th Regiment of the Virginia Militia is dated 1793 and his commission was signed by Henry Lee.

Stuart Manor has a well deserved place in the history of the early settlements west of the mountains for many reasons; the most important being the part it played as the background for the stage on which Colonel John Stuart was a portrayer of the life of a frontier patriot.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes, Ruth Woods Dayton, West Virginia Publishing Co., Charleston, W.Va., 1942

History of Greenbrier County, J.R. Cole, Published by J.R. Cole

The Zimmerman Papers, Marcellias Zimmerman, (Unpublished)

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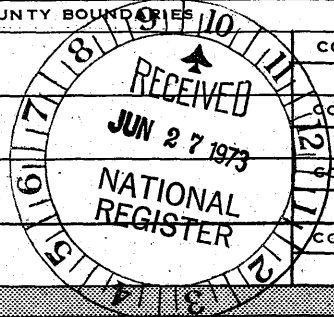
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	0 ' "	0 ' "		37° 45' 58"	80° 29' 58"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 Acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: C.E. Turley (Greenbrier County Historical Society) For the

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission DATE: November 28, 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: Maurice G. Brooks  
Maurice G. Brooks

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: June 14, 1973

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

Robert H. Utley  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/27/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7/28/73