

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 28 1979  
DATE ENTERED AUG 29 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

*White House Farm*

HISTORIC

White House Tavern; McCormick, Dr. John, House

AND/OR COMMON

White House Farm (preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

*E of Summit Point on SR 13*

STREET & NUMBER

County Route 13

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Summit Point

VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

West Virginia

54

Jefferson

037

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. John Van Tol

STREET & NUMBER

Box 120

CITY, TOWN

Summit Point

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 25446

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

N. George & E. Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN

Charles Town

STATE

West Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1937, W. V. 12

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

CITY, TOWN

Washington,

STATE

D. C.

# 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The stone house of White House Farm, also called White House Tavern, is located one-half mile west of Summit Point, on County Route 13, in Jefferson County, West Virginia. The story-and-a-half, coursed rubble building was built in 1742 and enlarged at or near the turn of the nineteenth century. It is today (1979) the principal building surviving from a small farm complex of dependencies and outbuildings including a spring house, stone barn, pump house, and smoke house. Of these, the stone barn, with its rubble stone walls and gambrel roof, is the oldest. The house and its dependencies stand in the midst of a five-acre lawn north of Route 13. The spring house is seen directly across the road at the head of Bullsken Run.

The stone house of White House Farm is a low, story-and-a-half, gable roofed rectangle of limestone rubble facing Route 13 to the south. The residence displays several structural changes that occurred during its first century of existence, chief among these: A seam at the front center elevation indicating the construction of the house in two parts.

The older section of the house appears to be the eastern half by reason of its small window openings and stone chimney. The western section, though of great age, features much larger window openings with different sash, a frame gable, and a brick interior end chimney. The smooth stone wall surface at the center front elevation suggests an early alteration, the purpose of which may well have been to fill an open space or "Dog Trot" between the two sections of the house during the period following its use as a tavern. This would explain the westerly direction of the opening of the massive center interior chimney whose construction may have preceded these final alterations.

Front elevation gable dormers were added to the house shortly after 1901. Late nineteenth century alterations include the wooden trim of the front porch, (the porch may itself be an addition) and the standing steam tin roof. The rear dormers were constructed in the 1930s.

Following the purchase of the house in 1950 by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Blake, a kitchen, two baths, modern heating, and plumbing were added. Remodeling was otherwise limited to interior and exterior painting and restoration of old floors. The primitive woodwork has survived despite various coats of paint. The present owners (Mr. and Mrs. James Van Tol) have undertaken remodeling of the kitchen and bathrooms, but have been scrupulous in preserving the original state of the house so that it retains the atmosphere of a simple country home.

Archeological research potential at the White House Farm is very good. The old McCormick graveyard, said to be the oldest in the county, is located in the vicinity of the barn, though the graves are unmarked. The history of the stone barn itself, enriched with the varied uses of a century, may yield archeological data regarding the transportation history of the nineteenth century. The site of an ordinary may also provide potential archeological information.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 28 1979
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WHITE HOUSE FARM, SUMMIT POINT VICINITY, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

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Outbuildings forming the small complex of White House Farm include a smoke house and pump house of late frame and block construction, and a gambrel roofed rubble limestone barn with a later period silo. Across the road at the head of Bullskin Run a gable roofed rubble limestone spring house of some considerable antiquity stands adjacent to a shallow spring-fed pool. The tree-shaded lawn of the stone house and its dependencies is fronted by a three-foot high rubblework wall meandering roughly parallel to County Route 13. The five-acre lawn surrounding the house and buildings is part of a 62-1/2 acre tract.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1742

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The stone house of White House Farm, formerly called the White House Tavern, is one of the oldest houses of eastern West Virginia. Its structural history is noteworthy because it displays evolutionary changes that correspond to the growth of a family and to the expansion of commerce and traffic on the receding frontier of transmontane Virginia in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century.

Original acreage comprising what was to become White House Farm was granted by King George II to Joist Hite on October 3, 1734. The property was deeded to Dr. John McCormick of "Orange County" on March 21, 1740. The stone house built for Dr. McCormick in 1742 was enlarged in succeeding years to accommodate the large, growing family of the physician. (McCormick had eight children). During the last quarter of the eighteenth century a man named Whitehouse converted the building into a tavern necessitating possible alterations or expansion of the structure at the time.

Dr. John McCormick came to the United States from Ireland where he graduated in medicine from the University of Dublin. McCormick brought with him a valuable medical library that was sold upon his death to Dr. Cramer of Charles Town. A 157 acre portion of the McCormick holdings, now called Mt. Ellen, is thought to have been surveyed by George Washington. The survey was finished on March 13, 1752, and the deed, in George Washington's hand, is in the Williamsburg, Virginia, Library. The property of Dr. McCormick was flanked by land belonging to both George Washington and his brothers, Lawrence and Augustine.

The tavern that operated from this house in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century was located on a headspring of the south fork of Bullskin Run. The nearby trail from Frederick to Winchester made by Braddock's army in 1755 made it a popular stopover and watering place for horses and livestock. Drovers slept and ate in the property's ordinary (no longer standing) while gentlemen were housed in the finer quarters of the stone house.

A visible seam at the front elevation roughly dividing the house in half reveals significant structural alterations. The eastern section with its small window openings may be the older or original (1742) part of the house. The larger window openings of the western half and the brick chimney indicate the possibility of early nineteenth century construction. The center front elevation wall with its smooth textured surface may have been constructed at a later date to close an open space or "Dog Trot" that may once have existed to separate the innkeeper's family from the tenants.

The stone house of White House Farm, a landmark designated by the Jefferson

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

West Virginia: A Guide to the Mountain State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941, p. 310.

"White House Farm." Journal of the Jefferson County Historical Society, 1975, pp. 49-51.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5

QUADRANGLE NAME Middleway, West Virginia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 245800 4348560

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area includes the stone house and its outbuildings. Beginning at a point approximately 30 ft. to the south and east of the southeast corner

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Unit

DATE

West Virginia Department of Culture & History

April 17, 1979

STREET & NUMBER The Cultural Center

TELEPHONE

Capitol Complex

304 348-0244

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Charleston

West Virginia 25305

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL x

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Clarence Moran*

6-21-79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*John C. Calhoun*

DATE

8-29-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Christ A. Burke*

DATE

8/15/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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County Historical Landmarks Commission, is a significant example of settlement period architecture of eastern West Virginia exhibiting use of stone from locally plentiful limestone outcroppings. The building also establishes important links with the eighteenth and early nineteenth century movements of people passing from the settled regions of the East into the frontier of the Allegheny Plateau and the Ohio Valley. The dependencies and outbuildings of the stone house at White House Farm also form a small complex typical of those in this section of the nineteenth century.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

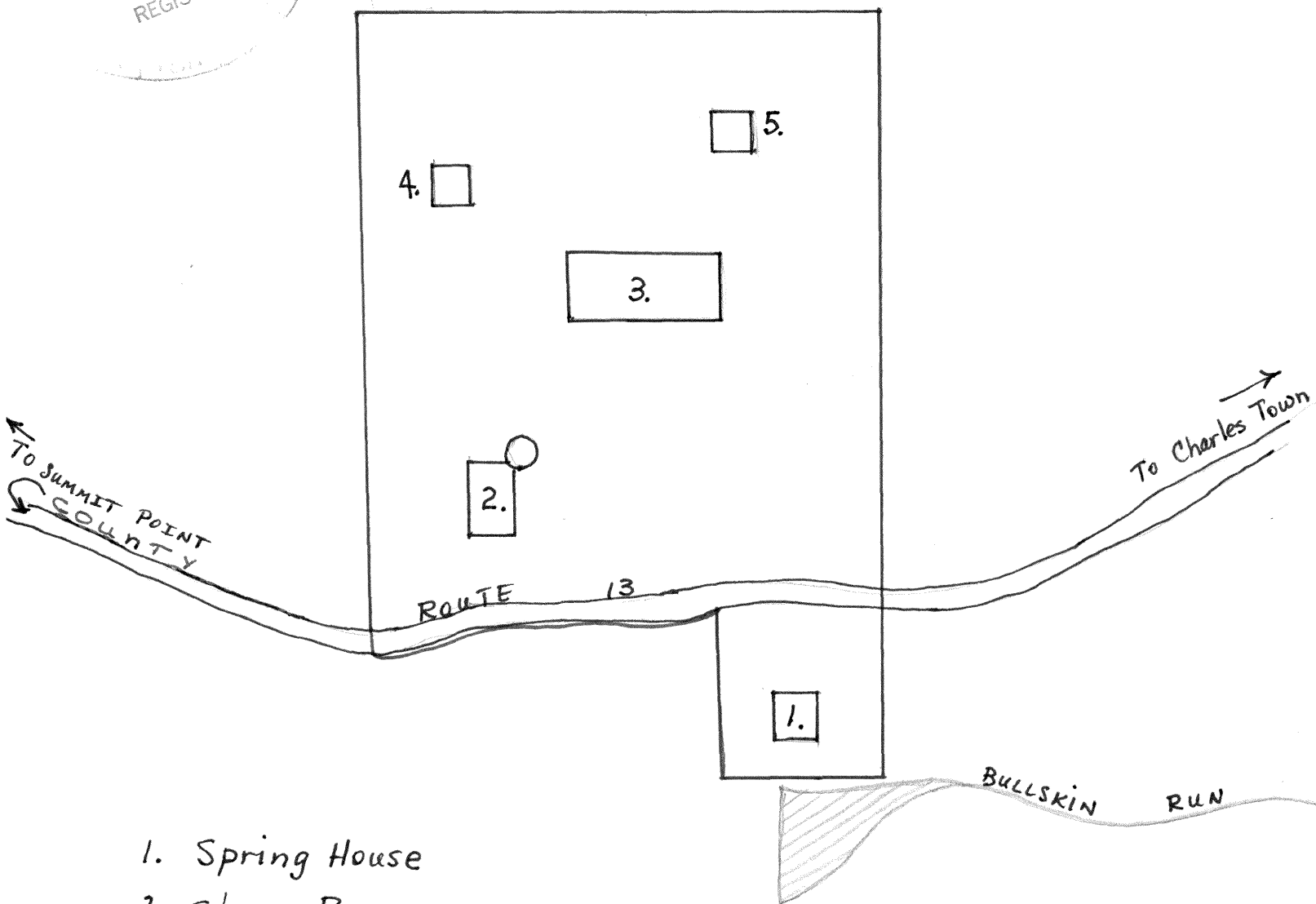
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of the spring house, the boundary runs northward approximately 300 ft. to a point approximately 50 ft. to the north and east of the smoke house, and thence westward approximately 200 ft. in a straight line, and thence southward in a straight line approximately 275 ft. to a point on the south side of County Rt. 13 about 75 ft. from the southwest corner of the stone barn, and thence along Rt. 13 to a point about 50 ft. west of the spring house, at which point it proceeds southward at a radial distance of approximately 30 ft. from the west and south elevation of the spring house.

# White House Farm, Summit Point Vicinity, Jefferson County, West Virginia

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REGISTER



- 1. Spring House
- 2. stone Barn
- 3. stone House
- 4. Pump House
- 5. Smoke House

— Boundary of Nominated Property



