

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 9 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 13 1976

**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

HISTORIC Hunter, Frank and Anna, House

AND/OR COMMON Pocahontas County Museum (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER U.S. Route 219

CITY, TOWN Marlinton VICINITY OF _____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Second

STATE West Virginia CODE 54 COUNTY Pocahontas CODE 075

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Pocahontas County Historical Society, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER U.S. Route 219

CITY, TOWN Marlinton VICINITY OF _____ STATE West Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pocahontas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Marlinton STATE West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

With the boom in the lumber industry and the transfer of the county seat from Huntersville to Marlinton in 1900, many new, good quality houses were constructed in the Pocahontas County, West Virginia, area by those who directly or indirectly prospered. The situation was such that when Frank Hunter and Anna Virginia Price decided to marry, they began, in 1903, overseeing the building of their future home, and after it was completed, about a year later, they were wed there. They had chosen a site on a bluff above the Greenbrier River just below the Marlinton bridge.

The eight-room Hunter place is of frame construction, and is an almost square house of two stories, full attic and basement. The slope of the land gives the front an appearance of great height, while the metal-covered, hipped roof adds to this with its steepness. A single dormer is on the front and each side, and the roof is crowned with a captain's walk. Interestingly designed, what used to be the front of the structure now appears to be the rear, for it faces the river rather than the highway.

The east (front) elevation is delightfully touched with later Victorian-Gothic "icing" details such as in the ornamentation of the dormer, in the columned and turreted veranda and in the lattice frames between the porch's support pillars. Viewed from the old river road against the background of the forested mountain, the house has a simple stateliness. Features which transform it from a box-like appearance and which contribute to the attractiveness of the house are the bow-line windows on either side, two tall chimneys on the north, the verandas (front and rear), and the cropped rear corners.

All interior walls are of plaster over oak lath, and the two curved walls of the northwest and southwest rooms have wainscoting. In the living room, the two large openings which formerly led to the dining room and parlor have heavy, in-wall sliding doors. The pair of chimneys provide fireplaces in the two north-facing rooms on each level, while a third chimney, which pierces the west edge of the captain's walk, at one time served stoves in two of the south-facing rooms. Later, additional heat was supplied through two hot-air floor furnaces.

Heavy doors with five panels were used throughout the house. On the upper floor, the doorways have transoms to provide cross ventilation. Much of the great attic is floored for storage space. Choice woods were used in the interior. The clear red oak of the doors, window and door frames, stairs and baseboards has become a feature of luxury now that such lumber is so scarce and expensive.

The only change in the house necessitated by its present use as a museum is the move of the main entrance to the rear where a large stone patio and walk to the parking lot have been added.

Off to the right of this entrance at a distance of about forty feet, a nineteenth century log cabin has been placed. This structure was moved intact from the surrounding mountains where it had served as a residence. It is 20' x 30', and was constructed with 12 and 14 inch hewn poplar logs. A six-foot wide chimney was rebuilt after the move, and hand-riven oak shakes will soon replace the temporary roof. There are two small, 6/3 paned windows at the front and one at the rear, and a small door on both of these elevations of the cabin. The interior walls are sealed with good butternut (white walnut) boards, smooth and smoke blackened, put in place sometime before 1900. The fireplace is large and has a fire-scarred lintel which is still solid and strong. A full loft is over the low-ceilinged, single lower room, and it has a floor supported by through-the-wall beams which are artfully beaded.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pocahontas County Museum is architecturally significant not because it is an outstanding example of any particular style or the design and construction of an architect or builder of note, but rather because it is an exceptional example of a moderate house erected in an area which prospered with the wealth of timber. It displays an expression of the source and material of this wealth in the quality of woods used. By the standards of its day and place, the home of Frank and Anna Price Hunter was indeed moderate, but today's considerations would indicate that its construction details of finely finished woods borders on lavish. In addition, the structure holds for the people of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, an excellent assortment of articles representative of their history, including a nineteenth century log house which was used as a residence in the nearby mountains for about one hundred years. And, coincidentally, the property contains the graves of several Confederate soldiers who died in 1861, not of battle wounds but of measles.

In the house which Frank and Anna V. Price Hunter built as their home and in which they were married, the Pocahontas County Historical Society, with enthusiastic cooperation of most people in the county, has created a museum of unusual proportions and variety. A century and a half of the lives of their people are portrayed throughout the rooms and hallways of the house; their clothes, their household furnishings, their tools, their books, and even their letters are on display. Also, the people and their county are to be seen in an unexpectedly large collection of pictures and photographs.

The Hunter House itself is a display of great interest to both local people and the outside visitors who tour the museum. It was built by skilled local carpenters with lumber which was carefully selected from a bountiful supply in the nearby forests. White oak, white pine and poplar were used for the timbers. Plaster laths are oak and can be seen in the attic. For all the interior trim, such as baseboards, picture moldings on walls, staircase, and door and window casing, choice red oak was used. The four rooms on each floor are large and well lighted by many windows. Three chimneys provide heat to six rooms, two rooms with hot air floor furnaces and the four on the north side with fireplaces.

Wood is the outstanding and obvious construction material of the Hunter house as may be immediately realized from looking at its exterior. This is not an unusual sight, of course, but when one uses white oak, white pine and poplar for the basic structure, it is surely a fine building. The Pocahontas County Museum, however, is especially interesting on the interior, where even the laths are oak. Expensive and beautiful red oak was used extensively, and a view of the stairway in the old living room which runs between first and second floors speaks quality. The turned balusters are on a wide base and support a substantial handrail. The newel post is not only stout, but it has the added distinction of applied designs. A look at door and window frames confirms the impression of a well-built house.

The eight rooms and two halls are filled with the Society's collections. The

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edgar, Betsy Jordan. Our House. Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1965. (p. 23)
Historical Booklet, Greenbrier County, 160th Anniversary, 1778-1938. N.p., n.d.
 (Copy in West Virginia University Library, Morgantown, W.Va.). (p. 1)
 Interview, Jane Price Sharp with C.E. Turley, Research Assistant, West Virginia
 Antiquities Commission, May 18, June 12 and August 2, 1975. Information on
 file with the West Virginia Antiquities Commission, P.O. Box 630, Morgantown,
 W.Va.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	5 7 8 7 1 0 1 0	4 2 3 0 4 7 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

C.E. Turley, Research Assistant and James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

August 24, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 630

TELEPHONE

(304) 296-1791

CITY OR TOWN

Morgantown

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Leonard M. Lewis

TITLE

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

November 10, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8/3/96

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5.12.76

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

The grounds of the museum are spacious and well kept. Many kinds of trees, some great in height, add beauty to the setting which includes, incidentally, the original burial plot of several Confederate soldiers, members of General William W. Loring's command, who died of measles in the winter of 1861.

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

original parlor is now the Pearl S. Buck Library, a room which was dedicated and opened in 1963 in the presence of Miss Buck and many state and county officials.

Soon after the Historical Society bought the Hunter property in 1963, they moved a log cabin from nearby Beards Mountain and placed it near the museum. It is of one story construction with a loft. It has 12 and 14 inch hewn poplar logs in its sides and is 20 feet wide and 15 feet deep. The cabin was constructed about 1850 back in the mountains and was continuously owned and occupied in the builder's family until 1950. The original floor of wide, thick pine is still in place.

Close beside the cabin on the north are a number of old Civil War graves. Some are marked by river stones but some only by a slight depression among the pines and hemlocks which have grown over them. In this area which saw the passing of both Union and Confederate forces and which witnessed the battle of Droop Mountain not too far to the south, it is ironic that the few soldiers buried here died of measles. They were in the command of General William W. Loring.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Price, William T. Historical Sketches of Pocahontas County, West Virginia.
Price Brothers Publishers, 1901.