

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1051

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Spencer Cemetery

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 668 Burley Hill Road

not for publication

city or town Cameron

vicinity

state WV

code _____

county Marshall

code _____

zip code 26033

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Susan M. Pierce, DSHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

October 18, 2012
Date

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 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:)

for
Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

12.12.12

Spencer Cemetery
Name of Property

Marshall County, West Virginia
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

Number of Resources within Property

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

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	Total
1	0	

Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

FUNERARY: cemetery

Current Functions

FUNERARY: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

N/A

Materials

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other Limestone

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

LOCATION and SETTING

The Spencer Cemetery is located in the rolling hills of West Virginia's Northern Panhandle near the small village of Rock Lick and not far from the larger town of Cameron in Marshall County. It is situated atop a small, mowed hill off Burley Hill Road, a gravel roadway that winds south from State Route 891, and overlooks a valley. The cemetery includes just one grave monument and two related headstones. A wrought iron fence that once surrounded the gravestone has been removed.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Spencer Cemetery's grave marker was erected in 1914 at the death of John W. Spencer. The marker, carved in limestone, includes a single base etched to resemble stone block. The base measures approximately two feet high in the front and three in the rear where the ground slopes. The front of the base, approximately 4.5 feet wide, includes a flower pot with large leaves and a single calla lily. To the right of the flower pot the surname, Spencer, is spelled out in uppercase block letters.

Rising approximately 8 feet from the base are two sections, each carved to resemble a tree trunk with bark that has been sawed flat on top. Each trunk includes a smooth rectangular section in the middle of the front for the inscriptions. The trunk on the left is engraved, "JOHN W. / SPENCER / FEB. 27, 1842 / FEB. 5, 1914." That on the right reads, "EFFIE SPENCER / HIS WIFE / FEB. 1, 1866." A raised rectangular section remains below the second inscription for the date of death, which was never engraved. A short ivy vine wraps around the bottom on the trunk on the left while a longer vine wraps around that on the right.

From the inside of each trunk, towards the top, a sawed off branch extends approximately three feet across the front of the opposite trunk. A sawed off branch also extends from the trunk on the left. Carved above the inscription on this trunk is the badge of the Grand Army of the Republic including an eagle with cannons, a flag, and a five point star.

Situated at the base of the marker are two headstones shaped to resemble logs. One is engraved with the word "father" in uppercase block letters and the other with "mother."

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B. removed from its original location.
- C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance:

See Continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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 _____

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance

ART

Period of Significance

1914

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Record # _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

Spencer Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion C: Art* as a locally distinctive family cemetery gravesite monument. It is also eligible under *Criterion Consideration D: Cemeteries* as it derives its primary significance from distinctive design features. The period of significance is 1914, the year the marker was erected.

The Spencer grave marker is not part of an organized cemetery, but rather it is a small family cemetery plot once located on the family farm. Practicality dictated the formation of the earliest private family cemeteries. As families moved further away from cities and churches it was logical to bury on the family property. Though such burials took place out of necessity at first, it became more of a tradition throughout the later nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth century to bury family on the homestead rather than a churchyard or municipal cemetery.¹ In much of Appalachia, where family ties are strong, many family cemeteries include the plot of the family patriarch and matriarch with the graves of succeeding family situated around.² However, the sole grave marker at the Spencer Cemetery marks the gravesite of John W. "Jack" Spencer and his third wife, Effie (Winters) Spencer. His first two wives, Mary Ellen "Mollie" (Hess) Spencer and Rebecca (Keller) Spencer, and fourteen children are buried elsewhere. John and Effie had no children together.

The cemetery is situated at the peak of a small hill off Burley Hill Road. During the period in which the monument was erected, the hilltop was the preferred location for many cemeteries and grave sites. Though some argue that such practice simply represents tradition or that burial on elevated ground is to be closer to heaven, the most likely explanation is that it provided the best drainage and lessened the threat of flooding.³

Many grave markers serve as symbols, suggestive of the life of the person buried there. Not only can gravestones reveal a person's name and dates of birth and death, but they might also reveal other information on the individual such as their religion, ethnicity, social membership, or occupation. With regard to John Spencer, the engraved badge of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) reveals that he was a veteran of the Civil War serving the Union as membership to the GAR was limited to honorably discharged members of the Union.⁴ Further research indicates that Spencer served in the West Virginia Independent Exempts Infantry,

¹ Elisabeth Walton Potter and Beth M. Boland, *National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places* (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1992), 4.

² Gerald Milnes, "Cemeteries," in *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*, ed. Ken Sullivan (Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Humanities Council, 2006), 119.

³ Thomas J. Hannon, "Western Pennsylvania Cemeteries in Transition: A Model for Subregional Analysis," in *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture*, ed. Richard E. Meyers (Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press, 1989), 245.

⁴ Douglas Keister, *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography* (New York: MJF Books, 2004), 199.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Company B first ranked as a Private then promoted to Second Corporal. The men who were enlisted in this infantry were stationed in Wheeling as guards to protect the new capital.⁵

The orientation of the grave marker might be an indication of Spencer's religion. It faces east-northeast and thus the interred are oriented with their feet facing the same direction. Some believe this is a practice amongst the Christians who believe that, on the last day, Christ will rise in the east and the dead will rise to face Him. More likely, however, is that most grave markers face east to face less severe weathering.⁶

Perhaps the most visual symbol of the Spencer Cemetery grave marker is the marker itself, in the shape of two tree trunks with entwined branches. Treestones, as they are sometimes called, were the result of a movement during the Victorian period in the late nineteenth century that celebrated nature. Naturally, styles popular at the time were reflected in cemeteries as well. Grave monuments were carved, usually from limestone, to resemble tree stumps. Other gravestones reflect the rustic movement by having incorporated twigs and branches into the marker. In some cases, a treestone would serve as the family monument bearing the family name with individual interments marked with headstones shaped like logs. The Spencer marker is unique in that includes two large trunks, rather than one, each one for a separate individual. Rather than the individual's name and dates of birth/death, the limestone "logs" simply read "Father" and "Mother" at the foot of each stump. Treestones were made popular by both catalogs, such as Sears and Roebuck and Montgomery Wards, as well as the Woodman of the World (WOW) Life Assurance Society, a fraternal insurance organization who supported the concept that "no Woodmen shall rest in an unmarked grave."⁷ The Spencer grave monument does not bear the WOW symbol and thus the stump likely was chosen simply because it was in vogue at the time.

While a treestone itself symbolizes a life cut short (though Spencer was 72 when he died), the Spencer marker includes other symbols as well. At the base of the marker is a flower pot with large ferns symbolizing humility, frankness, and sincerity, as well as a single calla lily with large broad leaves symbolizing majestic beauty and marriage.⁸ Also representing marriage are the entwined branches of the two trunks. The ivy, wrapping around to the top of Effie's side of the marker and near the bottom of John's, may have several meanings. Because ivy is a species of evergreen, it represents immortality and fidelity. Further, as real ivy clings to a support, such as a wall or tree, ivy on a tombstone symbolizes attachment, devotion to family, and friendship. The three-pointed leaves of the ivy may symbolize the Trinity, perhaps also a reference to Spencer's faith.⁹

⁵ Virgil A. Lewis, *Third Biennial Report of the Department of Archives and History of the State of West Virginia*. (Charleston, W. Va.: The News-Mail Company, 1911), 205. And, *Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of West Virginia* (Wheeling, W. Va.: John F. M'Dermot, 1865), 468.

⁶ Hannon, 247.

⁷ Keister, 189.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 44 and 47.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 57.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Summary

Though treestones were not that rare in the early decades of the twentieth century, the Spencer monument is set apart from the others in its large size and its design, especially as a two-stump treestone monument. Other treestones in Marshall County include four in Moundsville's Greenlawn Cemetery. With exception of the engraved name and dates, each of these markers is the same; simple design, approximately four feet high, and bearing the Woodman of the World symbol. They were all placed in the 1920s or 1930s. Mt. Rose Cemetery, also in Moundsville, has one treestone. It also bears the Woodman of the World symbol, however, this one is taller, approximately six feet in height, and sets atop a base carved to look like logs. The Rock Lick Cemetery, located less than one-half mile from the Spencer monument, does not include any treestones though it dates to the late nineteenth century.

The Spencer Cemetery is significant for its locally distinctive design features in a family cemetery setting. Though the wrought iron fence that once surrounded the gravesite is now gone, the Spencer Cemetery retains excellent integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 5

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of West Virginia.* Wheeling, W.Va.: John F. M'Dermot, 1865.
- Federal Census Marshall County, West Virginia, 1910. Accessed 7 August 2012.
<http://usgwcensus.org/cenfiles/wv/marshall/1910/ed078p03.txt>
- Hannon, Thomas J., "Western Pennsylvania Cemeteries in Transition: A Model for Subregional Analysis." In *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture*, ed. Richard E. Meyers, 235-257. Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press, 1989.
- Keister, Douglas. *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography.* New York: MJF Books, 2004.
- Lewis, Virgil A. *Third Biennial Report of the Department of Archives and History of the State of West Virginia.* Charleston, W.Va.: The News-Mail Company, 1911.
- Milnes, Gerald. "Cemeteries." In *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*, ed. Ken Sullivan, 119-20. Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Humanities Council, 2006).
- Potter, Elisabeth Walton, and Beth M. Boland. *National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places.* U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1992.
- Vital Records, West Virginia Archives and History. Accessed 7 August, 2012.
<http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/>

Spencer Cemetery
Name of Property

Marshall County, West Virginia
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References: Cameron Quad

<u>17</u>	<u>539521</u>	<u>4412852</u>	_____	_____	_____
Zone	Easting	Northing	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title CATHY LUCEY, property owner, and Erin Riebe (WV SHPO)
organization _____ date APRIL 30,2012
street & number 668 BURLEY HILL ROAD telephone 304-686-2828
city or town _____ state WV zip code 26033
CAMERON

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 6

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The National Register boundaries for the Spencer Cemetery encompass an area 10'x10' within the southern section of Marshall County parcel 3-6-17. The grave marker is in the center of the boundary.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the Spencer Cemetery coincides with the historic footprint of the cemetery defined historically by a wrought iron fence which formed an approximate 10'x10'square around the Spencer Cemetery grave monument. The fence is no longer extant.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 7

Photographs

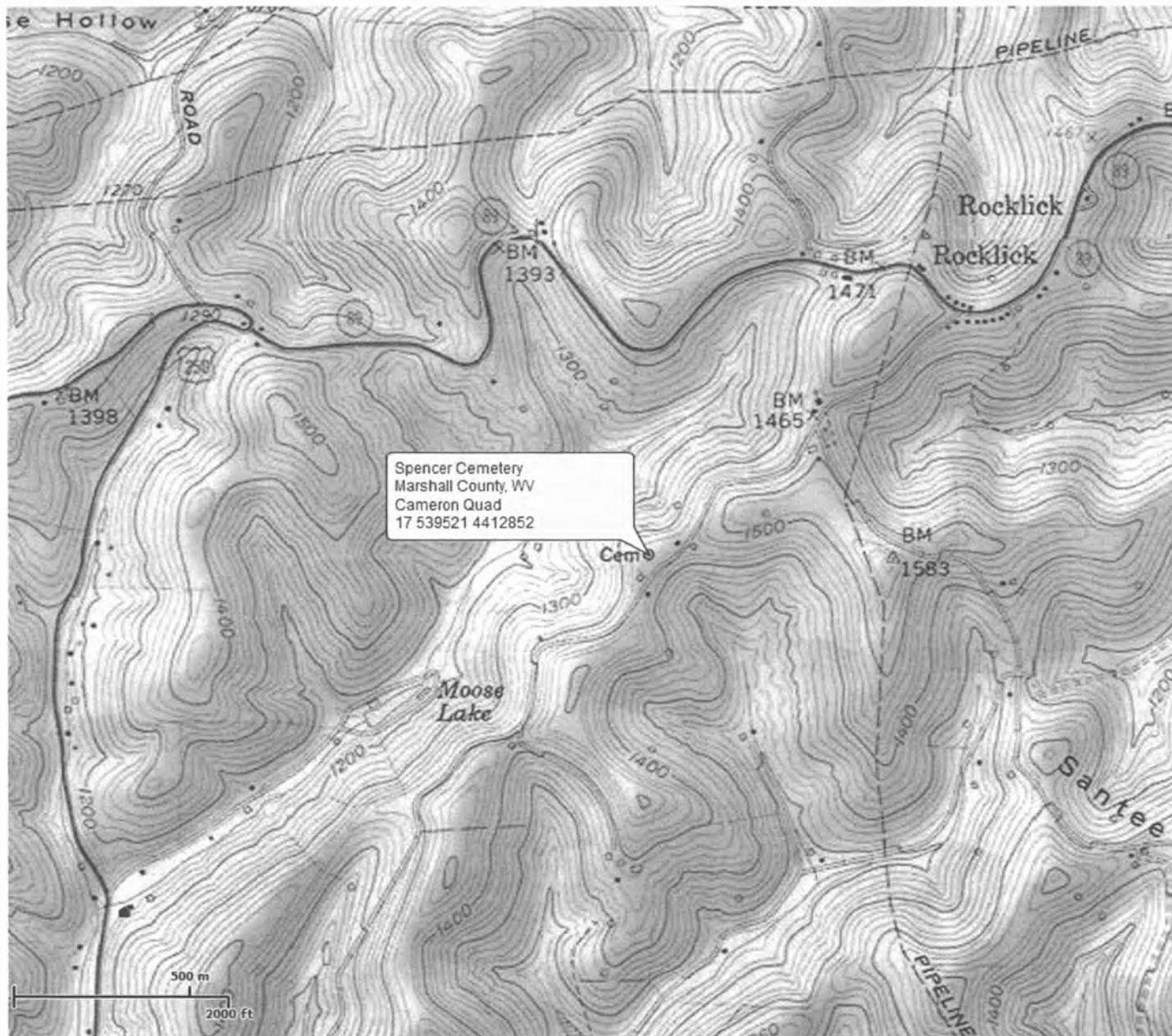
Photo 1 of 5 Spencer Cemetery grave monument, facing west

Photo 2 of 5 Spencer Cemetery, rear of grave monument, facing east-northeast

Photo 3 of 5 Spencer Cemetery detail of headstones, facing north-northwest

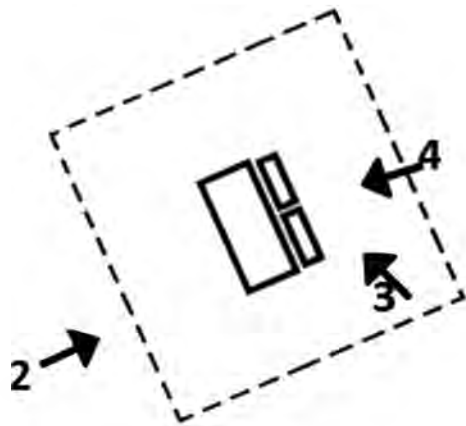
Photo 4 of 5 Spencer Cemetery detail facing west

Photo 5 of 5 Spencer Cemetery setting facing south-southwest



Spencer Cemetery
Marshall County, WV

Cameron Quad
17
539521
4412852



Burley Hill Road

**Spencer Cemetery
Marshall County, WV**

- National Register boundary
- ← Photo views

**Spencer Cemetery
Marshall County, WV**



Burley Hill Road

100 m

500 ft



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Spencer Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WEST VIRGINIA, Marshall

DATE RECEIVED: 10/26/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/27/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/12/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/12/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12001051

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12.12.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



JOHN W.
SPENDER
FEB. 10, 1860
FEB. 5, 1914

LETTIE SPENDER
MAY 10, 1865
FEB. 10, 1914

SPENDER

Spencer Cemetery

Marshall County, WV

1 of 5



Spencer Cemetery

Marshall Co., WV

2 of 5



Spencer Cemetery

Marshall County, WV

3 of 5

JOHN W.
SPENGER
FEB. 27, 1842
FEB. 5, 1914

EFFIE SPENGER
HIS WIFE
FEB. 1, 1881

Spencer Cemetery

Marshall County, WV

4 of 5



Spencer Cemetery

Marshall Co., WV

5 of 5



Spencer Cemetery
Marshall Co., WV
17 539521 412852

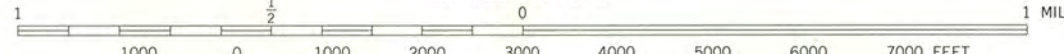
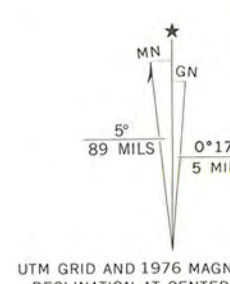
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1956. Field check 1960
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on West Virginia coordinate system,
north zone, and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Unlabeled wells are gas wells
Map photoinspected 1988
No major culture or drainage changes observed

The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North
American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5-minute intersections
is given in USGS Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by
dashed corner ticks



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
States of West Virginia and Pennsylvania agencies from aerial
photographs taken 1976. This information not field checked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

CAMERON, W. VA.—PA.
SE/4 CAMERON 15' QUADRANGLE
39080.G5-1F-024
PHOTOINSPECTED 1988
1960
PHOTOREVISED 1976
DMA 4863 1 SE—SERIES V854



The Culture Center
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner

Phone 304.558.0220 • www.wvculture.org

Fax 304.558.2779 • TDD 304.558.3562

EEO/AA Employer

October 18, 2012

Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (eye) Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

For your review, we are submitting the following National Register of Historic Places registration forms:

1. Edgefield, Greenbrier County
2. Capon Chapel, Hampshire County
3. Old Pine Church, Hampshire County
4. Valley View, Hampshire County
5. Spencer Cemetery, Marshall County
6. Pleasant Green Methodist Episcopal Church, Pocahontas County
7. Seebert Lane Colored School, Pocahontas County

The enclosed nominations have been approved by the West Virginia Archives and History Commission in accordance with 36 CFR, Part 60. Should you have any questions please contact National Register Coordinator, Erin Riebe, at 304.558.0240.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosures