

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | MAY 15 1975 |
| DATE ENTERED     | JUN 10 1975 |

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

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC ~~The Snyder House; Snyder, Noah, Farm~~

AND/OR COMMON

The Snyder House

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER ~~County Route 5,~~ about 1½ miles south of Lahmansville

CITY, TOWN

Lahmansville

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Grant

CODE

023

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

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Robert M. Snyder

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lahmansville

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Grant County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Virginia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Petersburg

STATE

West Virginia

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Snyder House near Lahmansville, Grant County, West Virginia, is really three distinct log units tied together under a weatherboarded exterior and metal roof. Only one section was erected on the property, the others having been transported from nearby locations. Along with several old outbuildings, they form the nucleus of what has been the Snyder farm for more than one hundred years.

The house originally on the site was a four-room log structure built by one Lemuel Vance about 1853. Noah Snyder, the present owner's grandfather, purchased the property in 1856 and soon began to assemble and build the additions and dependencies needed to house a growing family and serve a broadening farming operation. The original structure had two rooms on each floor with a stick and clay chimney which housed fireplaces on both levels on the south elevation. Doors and windows were probably placed similarly to those on today's unit which has a central door with one window to each side on the west and a central door and one window to the south side of the east elevation. Window placement is repeated on the second floor.

A two-room log house known as the Cooplinger section probably was moved to the property and added to the original unit after the Civil War. Since it was a dwelling before being placed on the Snyder plot, it is believed that it may have been erected prior to 1860. This structure is slightly lower than the main house as is evidenced by the step down on the interior between the second floors of the two units. There is a brick chimney on the north side of this house, and it has fireplaces on each level. Both floors have one window on the east side, and there is one window on the first floor of the north elevation.

The third section is a one-story-plus-loft log kitchen now attached as an ell. It was probably built between 1800 and 1815, as the deed for the property it stood on is dated 1799 and a substantial increase in taxes during the period indicated a great growth in value. There is a brick chimney on the west gable with a large fireplace used for cooking.

Sometime around 1870 the three separate units were joined together to form a single, "I"-shaped house, all weatherboarded and under a metal roof. Since that day, only minor changes have been made in the structure. By the time of this joining, the original unit had a stone chimney on its south gable and the second-story fireplace had been plugged. A small transitional section was placed between the portion built on the site and the Cooplinger house and between the latter and the kitchen. Windows were added to these transitional parts, and doors were placed between units. The kitchen remained separate in the sense that one had to enter it from the outside.

For convenience, electrical and plumbing features have been added and an enclosure placed on the porch so as to completely tie the kitchen with the other units, allowing entrance and exit without having to go outside. The porch in the interior of the ell and the brick chimneys on the north and west gables were rebuilt within the past two years, and the upper portion of the stone chimney on the south has been repaired with brick. Several windows have been changed slightly in size or raised in height over the years, but the general fabric of the house remains intact. Some of the clapboards on the exterior have been removed to expose the whitewashed pine logs, and it is planned to expose more in the future to allow for repair of the chinking and to enhance the appearance of the exterior.

An old log milkhouse once stood to the northwest of the kitchen section, but it was replaced in the 1920s by an attached frame shed in the same location. A small cinder block furnace house has been placed on the north side of the Cooplinger section in recent years. Other than these minor alterations to size and condition, only movement of

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE     | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input 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 c. 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Snyder House as viewed today is an example of how a small log home used as the first dwelling of a farmer in a newly developing area evolved into a fairly large house as the family grew and prospered in its operations. Made up of three individual units, the structure is unique in its use of previously inhabited log houses as additions to the log section actually erected on the site. The Snyder family was one of Union sympathy in an area of Southern attachment during the Civil War, and this caused hardship as livestock and supplies were stolen and Noah, the patriarch, taken to prison at Winchester, Virginia. It was after these episodes that he joined the three houses together as one along the old road which led from Petersburg to the railhead at Keyser. Being the most direct route, traffic was always fairly heavy, and the Snyder farm became a stopping place for overnight stay or a meal. From shortly after the Civil War until about 1910 when the railroad reached Petersburg, the family even operated a tollgate on the road in order to collect funds for maintenance.

A four-room log house was built on the property about 1853 by Lemuel Vance, but the Snyder association commenced in 1856 when Noah purchased the land and started his farming operation. Before he could fairly begin, however, the Civil War broke out, and the family felt the burden of Northern backing in an area of Southern bent. As remembered by the Snyders, it was about 1862 when Confederate soldiers or sympathizers took all of the livestock and available food and removed Noah from a sick bed for transportation to a prison at Winchester, Virginia. His wife, Susan, later rode seventy miles to see her husband, take him food and attempt to retrieve their oxen. She apparently obtained papers entitling her to the animals if she could identify them, and the story is that she approached some cattle near Winchester and called "come Buck, come Berry," and the oxen came to her.

Noah was released, and after the war he began adding to the four-room house. In the late 1860s he had two other log dwellings transported from nearby locations and then joined the three to form an "L"-shaped house with six rooms plus kitchen and its associated loft. All units were constructed of sturdy pine, but their exterior was covered with weatherboarding placed to give the appearance of one large structure. The individual units were typical of log houses of their day, each having its stout exterior chimney with fireplaces and small-paned windows. Together with the several log out-buildings, the "new" house made the Snyder farm a substantial operation, and at one time there were over 1000 acres of land in their hands.

Movement of goods and people increased as the once sparsely populated section began providing more trade items and livestock. The road system improved too, and a railhead on the Potomac River at Keyser some forty miles north produced an incentive to use the road from Petersburg which passed in front of the Snyder home. Those who made the journey would often stop here and have a meal, water their stock at the fine spring or spread out on the rolling hills and pass a night. The need for maintenance of the much-

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview, Robert M. Snyder with James E. Harding, Research Analyst, West Virginia Antiquities Commission, April 4, 1975. Information on file with the West Virginia Antiquities Commission, Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Judy, E.L. History of Grant and Hardy Counties, West Virginia. Charleston, W.Va.: Charleston Printing Co., 1951. (p. 10)

Snyder, Robert M. to Maurice Brooks, May 19, 1973. Information on file with the

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

UTM OK  
TL

|   |      |         |          |   |      |         |          |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 17   | 664370  | 4330480  | 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 |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

April 17, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

TELEPHONE

(304) 292-1527

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Edward M. Davis*

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 12, 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 6/10/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE JUN 9 1975

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE one

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

partitions and slight changes in the stairs on the interior have been made. The original log section now has only one room on the first floor, but it is divided into several areas and can easily be partitioned again as needed. Included among old out-buildings still on the property are a wagon shed, storage cellar with granary above, log stable and smokehouse.

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

traveled road even led to the placing of a tollgate nearby which the Snyders operated until about 1910 when a new rail line to Petersburg was opened.

Noah's son, Noah Webster (father of the present owner), also served the community for a number of years after 1900 as notary public and justice of the peace. Regardless of these additional activities, though, farming has always been the primary function of the Snyder place, and the family still owns many adjoining acres in this area.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

West Virginia Antiquities Commission, Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.