

74002017

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	West Virginia
COUNTY:	Monroe
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

DEC 30 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Spring Valley Farm

AND/OR HISTORIC: Dickson, Richard, Farm

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *NE of Union on*
~~Along U.S. Route 219, about one mile north of Second Creek~~

CITY OR TOWN: ~~Second Creek~~ *Union, W. Va.* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54 COUNTY: Monroe CODE: 063

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" 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: Mrs. Edgar (Charlotte Mason) Dickson and William Dickson

STREET AND NUMBER: Spring Valley Farm, Second Creek, U.S. 219 South

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Monroe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

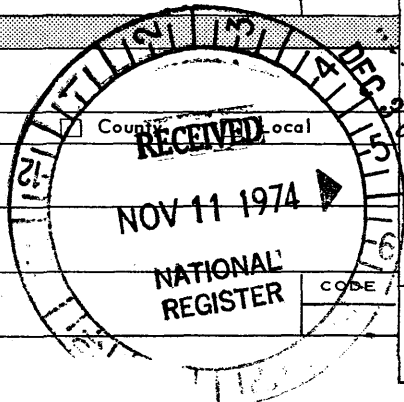
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: West Virginia

COUNTY: Monroe

ENTRY NUMBER: 0174

DATE: DEC 30 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 Dickson home on Second Creek in Monroe County, West Virginia, began as a two-story log cabin built by John Knox in the late 1700s. In 1834 the property was purchased by Richard Dickson, Knox' brother-in-law, who extensively enlarged the structure between 1837 and 1841 with the addition of the main, or big, house to the original log unit.

The cabin became the dining room of the new house, and a kitchen, with a large stone fireplace, was attached to the right of the dining room, creating a structure of three distinct parts. The kitchen has exposed overhead beams and paneled walls; the dining room is also paneled. Both these sections have small second-floor rooms, and each of the four rooms is heated by a fireplace. Until 1870 there was no door between the dining room and the main house.

With large brick chimneys on either end of its gently sloping, metal covered, gable roof, the main unit is two stories with five breaks in the front elevation of each floor. The first has three doors--one in the center and one at each end--with windows between, while the second has a door with two windows on each side. The central door of both floors has an overlight and sidelights. All windows are 12/9 double hung with corner block and plinth molding.

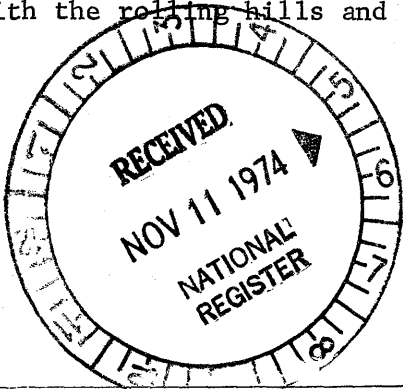
A two-story porch graces the entire length of the main unit and extends across the first floor of the dining room. Supported by plain white columns made of wood, the second-floor railing is Chinese Chippendale while that on the first is vertical.

Originally, there were two large rooms plus an entrance hall downstairs in the main house with six bedrooms and a hall upstairs, the rear having a small portico on the first level. In 1890, however, the portico was removed and an addition made providing large bedrooms upstairs and down. The first-floor bedroom has a small porch running along its west side, and the columns of the original portico support its roof.

The house now has a total of fourteen rooms, two large halls, two baths and a full attic in the main section. Both large downstairs rooms and the entrance hall in the main unit are wainscoted. Mantels throughout the house are of Federal design. Original rooms and upstairs hall have a colonial chair rail and baseboard. Both interior and exterior doors are six-panel, late colonial types with original carpenter's locks and small brass knobs. The large brick chimneys provide fireplaces for the downstairs rooms and the two end rooms of the second floor.

Several accessory buildings surround the house, and a small log structure serves the Dicksons as a storage area for the farm's tool collection. Meticulously kept, the property is placed comfortably along Second Creek and offers a distinct blending with the rolling hills and farmland of southeastern West Virginia.

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) c. 1793, c. 1837-1841

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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Spring Valley Farm is a notable example of a long-lived agricultural tradition in southeastern West Virginia. It is as much a farming operation today as it was in 1793 when its lands were being cleared to provide crops and pasture for the livelihood of the settlers. From a modest log cabin beginning has grown a large and imposing farmhouse of simple lines mellowed by the rustication of eastern styles. Like so many fine homes of the area, it served as a guest house and stage stop in the early development of transportation in this land of fashionable resorts and "healing" waters.

Soon after the Revolutionary War, settlement of Virginia's vast and mountainous west proceeded at an accelerated pace. Some prime farmland was carved out of an area in present southeastern West Virginia where gently rolling terrain surrounded by mountains and heavily grown with trees was claimed and occupied. In April 1791, Robert Curry of Augusta County was granted a patent on extensive acreage on the waters of Second Creek in then Greenbrier County, Virginia. Two years later he sold 280 acres to one John Knox for £200, and the development of Spring Valley Farm began. Like so many settlers on the frontier, Knox cleared land and constructed a rough, but comfortable, two-story log cabin.

Prosperity of sorts allowed Knox to expand his land holdings, and in 1835 he sold his property, including his log house, to Richard Dickson, a brother-in-law. Dickson apparently had a larger family, grander ideas and the capital to greatly increase the size of the farmhouse, and about 1837 he began a five year building program which resulted in the construction of the present main section of the Dickson house. At a documented cost of \$1,967 for materials and \$879.13 for labor, a good example of rough, transmontane Federal architecture was raised next to and adjoining the unpretentious log cabin which was converted to a dining room.

A man named Sanford Ethell, a carpenter of apparent skill, executed some fine and notable interior woodwork, including the well-preserved wall paneling and Federal-style mantels. Furniture was made to order by Thomas Henning, a Lewisburg cabinet maker known for his ability in producing stylish and functional pieces. In fact, a number of his items are still in use at the home.

Around the house is the usual cluster of dependencies: barns, cribs, storage sheds and a small log toolhouse. The latter, located just behind the kitchen wing of the living quarters, now boasts a collection of antique and obsolete carpentry and farm tools which either were used at times on the farm or are representative of items generally needed in area operations.

Now fronting in a direction opposite the path of nearby U.S. Route 219, the Dickson Farm was originally on the direct line of a turnpike which connected the Greenbrier and New River valleys. Over this route stages

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Spring Valley Farm, Ronceverte, West Virginia. Richard Dickson's Account Book, 1823 to 1865. In the possession of Mrs. Edgar Dickson.
 Gwin, Adrian. "Old Dinner Pot Memento of Averil's Raiders Incident," Charleston (W.Va) Daily Mail, April 1, 1974.
 Morton, Oren F. A History of Monroe County, West Virginia. Staunton, Va.: The McClure Co., 1916. (pp. 334-35)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

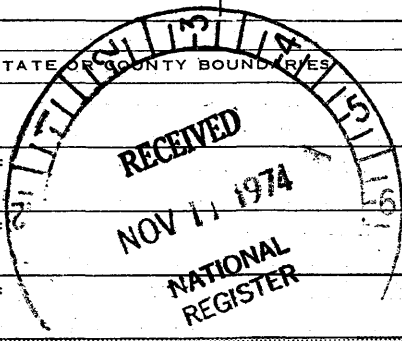
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		37 ° 41 ' 01 "	80 ° 27 ' 30 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

UTM
 17/547760
 4170640
 CD
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
C.E. Turley, Field Agent and James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION: **West Virginia Antiquities Commission** DATE: **September 18, 1974**

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 Leonard M. Davis
Leonard M. Davis

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date November 4, 1974

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

Alf Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/30/74

ATTEST:

W. M. ...
 Keeper of The National Register
DEC 27 1974

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE West Virginia	
COUNTY Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER DEC 30 1974	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

carried guests between the fashionable spas located at White Sulphur Springs and Salt Sulphur Springs until the Civil War interrupted the Southern connection which made the area famous.

For a long while the place served as a stop on this much-traveled turnpike. Food and lodging was available to passengers, and arrangements were made for a change of horses to be kept for the stage. Many of the prominent Americans and Europeans who vacationed at the springs were guests of the Spring Valley Farm. One of these, Henry Clay, found a special degree of hospitality and admiration in the home of Richard Dickson, a committed member of the Whig party.

Above all, though, this has always been a working farm. A variety of animals were raised and grazed over its pastures, and the crops provided its household and many visitors with fine meals. What is of as much significance, perhaps, is that the farm is still operated by descendants of the pioneer settler John Knox and the enterprising Richard Dickson.



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Spring Valley Farm Monroe County, West Virginia

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL - 74002017
(see Boundary Increase nomination)

Alton Byer
7/16/92