

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Samuel Gwinn Plantation
other names/site number Old Brick Farm

2. Location

street & number County Route 15 not for publication N/A
city, town Lowell vicinity
state West Virginia code 54 county Summers code 089 zip code 24962

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>8</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 11/10/88

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrus 3/8/89
 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:) _____

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling
Agriculture
 Agriculture: Agriculture field

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling
 Agriculture: Agricultural outbuildings
Agriculture Field

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid 19th Century:
Greek Revival with Italianate
Influence

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Rock-faced hard limestone
 walls solid brick - interior & exterior
 roof asphalt/fiber glass shingles
 other wood side and front piazza

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Domestic/single dwelling: (Manor House) Key #1 (circa 1868) C

secondary structures: Meat curing house Key #6 (circa 1770) C

Necessary house Key #2 (circa 1925) NC

Carriage House Key #5 (circa 1868) C

Delco House Key #3 (circa 1910) C

Ice House Key #4 (circa 1868) C

Agricultural

Storage

Granary Key #7 (circa 1910) NC

Storage

Granary foundation Key #11 (circa 1910) NC

Agricultural field

Pasture Key #8 (circa 1800 to present) C

Agricultural Building

Machinery Barn Key #9 (circa 1900) C

Forge Key #10 (circa 1868) C

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

(A) Summary

The property is comprised of a large brick Manor House with eleven rooms and three porches constructed circa 1868; and in addition, eight outbuildings circa 1770-1910. It encompasses approximately four acres on a promontory overlooking the Greenbrier River, 75 feet below. A local landmark, it is set in a scenic rural location amidst a general and cattle agricultural area. The property is at the western terminus of the Piedmont country before the ascendancy of the more mountainous plateau of Central Southern West Virginia.

The original land grant of this property was to Samuel Gwinn Sr., who along with James Graham (who settled just across the river) were the first permanent settlers of Summers County in 1770. Samuel constructed a large 20 x 25 two story log house which was located 300 yards south of the subject Manor House. The existing Manor House was build by his Grandson, "Long Andy" Gwinn, the county's wealthiest man. The log house was dismantled in the 1960's by the Gwinns and utilized in the construction of the Savannah Inn at Lewisburg. The site is still visible but it is not included in this property nomination. Due to successful tobacco, and later cattle farming, the Gwinn holdings were expanded in the 18th and early 19th centuries to include a 2000 acre plantation. This acreage is contiguous and currently surrounds the property. In the 20th century the family divided their land holdings into two large farms which they currently operate, and the subject property was sold outside the family for the first time in over 200 years.

The term "Manor House" is used for two reasons. (1) It was the residence of the owner of the largest cash crop plantation (tobacco) and the richest man in the county and (2) its substantial appearance, size, and prominent location led the local population to refer to it as a "mansion" or "Manor House".

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- (B) Present Description: Manor House (Sketch-Sheet Key #1; dimensions: 40' x 50')

The Manor House is a large (11 room), two story brick Greek Revival with Italianate influence dwelling and is a fine example of the transition between the styles. It is a five-bay, two story structure with unusual Jerkin head or clipped-gable roof, (believed to be original). Each level has an identical four-room central hall floor plan. The overall layout is "L" shaped with a one story kitchen/great room at the rear.

The construction date is circa 1868. The structure is of solid brick, common bond with every 6th course a straight header. All exterior and interior walls are brick loadbearing. The bricks were fired on the property from clay removed from the cellar. The foundation is rock-faced hard limestone. It was commissioned by "Long Andy" Gwinn and was constructed by Silas F. Taylor, designer and brick mason.

Victorian porches (piazza) run the full length of the front of the house at both the first and second stories. There are six rectangular columns embellished with pierced brackets. The five bays include a single "Greek Revival" entrance with transom, side, and corner lights. The same design is repeated on the second story but to a slightly smaller scale. The 21 windows, each with a segmented arch, include the original shutter hardware. The present owner has secured period shutters which have not as yet been hung (paneled 1st level; adjustable louvered 2nd).

There is a one story open side porch on the West, or river side of the home. The manor house faces north with beautiful views of the Greenbrier River to the West and North.

The central halls include a straight staircase rising to the upper level along the west inner wall. The open-string staircase has turned balusters and a handsome walnut handrail. The interior woodwork is generally plain with architrave door trim and four paneled doors. The lower hall includes closed pediments over each doorway and large crown molding in the hallways and several rooms. All doors have iron box locks, but one door has an elaborate carved relief brass boxlock. Several of the interior doors retain their

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original hand-painted grain finish in excellent condition.

(C) Historic Description - Manor House (Contributing)

The house still appears much as it did when constructed circa 1868. A change was made in the Manor House's frontal appearance about 1895. Originally the front porch was a single-bay, one story structure with a deck and railing above, somewhat Federal in style. The existing double front porches across the entire front are a relatively common vernacular adaptation. An interesting feature still exists under these porches. At the time the porches were added the entire structure's brick-work was painted red. To cause the mortar joints to stand out visually, they were hand-painted with straight white lines. Because of the protection from weathering afforded by the porches, these paint lines are still well preserved today.

When the house was converted to central heat, about 1930, several changes were made, one of which affects the external appearance also. Two inside-end chimneys (each with four flues) were removed at a level just below the attic floor. In the two parlors, on the first floor and in two bedrooms on the second, the fireplaces were covered with plaster. The fireplaces in the other rooms and their original mantels remain, although they are no longer functional. At about this same time, the original metal roof was converted to asphalt shingles.

Originally the house included five bedrooms, four on the upper floor and one for "Long Andy" on the lower. The lower bedroom has become a library and its two original "clothes presses" at each side of the chimney breast were converted to bookcases and enclosed cabinets. One of the upper bedrooms was converted to a bathroom in 1930.

(D) Outbuildings: Historic and Present Usage (see Sketch Map)

(Key #2) Necessary House (Non-contributing) Dimensions
4' x 4'

This is of wood frame construction, plain board and batten sheathing; and is a "one seater" with unusual side vents. It was constructed circa 1925. In 1930 indoor plumbing

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was installed in the house and it is assumed from its location it was used for the "hands" use. Currently it is in occasional use. It has a shed style roof with asphalt shingles. Falls outside the period of significance.

(Key #3) "Delco House" - Contributing 12'.2" x 10'.4"

A private electric generating capability was added to the property circa 1910. The machinery included a motor, generator and batteries. The engine pads are still in existence. It has horizontal weatherboard sheathing with a tin raised-seam roof. It currently serves as a storage for garden tools and supplies.

(Key #4) Ice House - Contributing 14'.8" x 14'.2"

Construction circa 1900 utilizing round head nails. Has tin raised seam roof and horizontal weatherboard sheathing. The Gwinn's deepened the channel in the Greenbrier River directly below with dynamite to slow its flow and facilitate freezing (also served as their "swimming hole" in summer). May be one of few remaining ice houses in area. Currently used to store lumber.

(Key #5) Carriage House - Contributing 17' x 26'

Frame construction with cut nails circa 1860's. Sheathed in plain boards and batten sides with a tin raised seam roof. Has wooden floor and remnants of harness, side saddle, etc. Currently used as a garage.

(Key #6) Meat House - Contributing 14' x 14'

Constructed of squared logs with "full saddle notches". Use of hand forged nails (clinched on the door) lead to the conclusion that this building was part of the original Samuel Gwinn Sr. homestead of 1770 - 1839. Door also has cast iron butt hinges and a Norfolk lock (1800-1830). Has tin raised seam roof. Currently used for storage.

(Key #7) Granary - con-contributing 10'.5" diameter

This building is all metal with poured concrete floor in very good condition. Ruins of a second one of identical size are located close to the machinery barn. Construction

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estimated to be circa 1920's. Currently used for storage of period shutters to be installed on Manor House at a future date.

(Key #8) Agricultural fields. - Contributing 3 acres

The Manor House is surrounded by a plank fence which itself is surrounded by approximately 3 acres of pasture. Current use is pasture for several horses.

(Key #9) Machinery Barn - Contributing 26' x 17'

Circa 1900 this building with pole construction, plain board and batten siding and tin raised seam roof was added. It is currently used for its original function.

(Key #10) Forge - Contributing 18'.5" x 16'.5"

Frame constructed circa 1860's with cut nails. Original heavy workbenches and supplies remain. Has raised-seam tin roof and is sheathed in plain board and batten siding.

(Key #11) Granary Foundation - non contributing

At least two granary's were constructed. In the 1960's, possibly when the Gwinn's sold Sam Sr's log house, the metal structure was removed and sold.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEET

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 Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Summers County Library, Hinton, WV
National Archives, Washington, DC

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 3.75 acres

UTM References

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4	1	6	6	6	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The property's approximately 3.75 acres includes a complex of surviving plantation buildings and Manor House surrounded by pasture. The boundaries include a concentration of structures in a setting which conveys a strong sense of historical relationship as to location, setting and design.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Schmauss, David C. - owner
organization NA date July 28, 1988
street & number Box 165A Route 3 telephone 466-4421
city or town Pence Springs, West Virginia state WV zip code 24962

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(A) Summary Paragraphs

Historical Events:

This property was settled circa 1770 by Samuel Gwinn Sr. who along with James Graham established the first permanent settlement in the Summers County area. This immediate vicinity was the focus of numerous and significant Indian attacks during the period 1763-1780.

Individuals:

Samuel Gwinn Sr., during the period 1771-1776, was a scout and spy on the frontier in the Indian wars and fought in the Battle of Point Pleasant. Beyond his original holdings, over the years he obtained and cleared additional tracts of land and established the beginnings of a successful frontier plantation. His will included nine slaves.

Samuel Gwinn Jr. continued the agricultural development and expansion of the acreage. He lived in his father's original log house initially accepting from his father a gift of half of a 300 acre parcel. Several years later, he purchased the remainder from a brother. More acreage was subsequently added. Tobacco was the cash crop.

Andrew Gwinn ("Long Andy"), Samuel Jr's son carried on the traditions adding contiguous lands to a total of 2000 acres. He became the "wealthiest farmer" in Summers County and its first Sheriff.

Silas F. Taylor was a notable regional designer/builder of fine brick homes and buildings. "Long Andy" retained him to build the Manor House.

Architecture:

The property's existent "Manor House" built by "Long Andy" in 1868, was the largest and most elegant in the area. It was constructed by the area's "Master Builder" Silas Taylor who utilized bricks made from clay removed from the cellar excavation and baked on the premises. The architecture was originally Greek Revival with Federal influences. Circa 1895, Italianate piazza were added across the front, at the first and second levels. The home is one of the more unique

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types in the county. It is the largest, and the only one of brick construction with the vernacular wood piazza.

Broader Patterns of History/Culture

One of the significant aspects of this property is the contribution it makes to the broader patterns of history and culture. The James Graham House (NRHP) just across the river represents the earliest pioneer homestead (1770) of the frontier settlement period of the second half of the 18th Century. On the other hand, the Gwinn Plantation represents other, and perhaps ultimate phases in the development of rural life in the period. The two properties are very closely linked historically, culturally, and socially. The Gwinn property represents the phase that evolved from (1) limited to expanded land holdings, (2) subsistence to commercial agriculture, and (3) pioneer to more sophisticated dwelling places. Viewed from the perspective of their common heritage and close familial and geographic associations, the two properties contribute much to our knowledge and understanding of the first 150 years of rural history in this region.

Archeology:

Prehistoric, Historic-Aboriginal, and Historic-Non-Aboriginal artifacts have been discovered on this property. The site, located on a promontory above the river, is surrounded by gently sloping lands in all directions, yet is only 150 yards from the Greenbrier River. It would seem to be a convenient and defensible location for a Native American campsite. Tradition holds that in fact it served that function. Numerous stone artifacts have been found. An amateur archeologist did some very limited diggings about 15 years ago and found a death mask.

From a historic standpoint, the property has been an agriculture site for approximately 218 years. The two Samuel Gwinns farmed there and "Long Andy" located the plantation buildings there when he built the Manor House in 1868.

Both prehistoric and historic archeology potential on the nominated property appears outstanding.

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(A) Historical Events:

Along with James Graham, Samuel Gwinn Sr. was the first permanent settler in the area (Lowell/Pence Springs today). "It was generally believed that this settlement, when made by Col. Graham was one of the first made in this immediate region, if not the very first." (Miller p. 49). "About the year 1770 or possibly a little later, James Graham with his family moved to the Greenbrier River and settled in what is now Summers County" (Graham p. 41). "About the same time that Graham settled near Lowell, Samuel and James Gwinn, two brothers settled in the same section. The Grahams and Gwinns were neighbors on the Calf Pasture River in Virginia before they emigrated, and both had sailed from Ireland together." (Miller p. 50).

In his book, David Graham states that his ancestors came from noble stock and that seems somewhat evident from his genealogy research and descriptions in his early chapters. (Graham p. 10). But at least in this country, it would seem more probable that they and the Gwinns, in their successful pursuit of land, followed a more typical pattern. "Thus from early times there existed in Virginia, side by side with the planter class, and sharply distinct from it, a servile laboring class which forms a large part of the total population. Many of these in time, acquired capital, bought land, and joined the planter class. Others, following their terms of indenture, moved to the frontier." (Ambler p. 63). "Robert Gwinn Sr., Samuel Sr.'s father, owned land adjoining the land of John Graham on the Calf Pasture, bought on July 17, 1745." (Long, Nov 15, 1979). When they moved to the frontier, James Graham settled on the "North" side of the Greenbrier River and his friend Samuel Gwinn Sr. settled just across from him. Each side of the Greenbrier at these points were blessed with bottom lands, fertile flood plains, and rolling meadows, very suitable for eventual clearing and planting.

This immediate vicinity, due to the increasing

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"concentration" of settlers was the focus of Indian attacks during the period 1763 - 1780:

"There was a first farm" (James Hill Farm) down river from Alderson (toward Lowell) on the Greenbrier which was attacked by Indians circa 1763 - all lives were lost save one very small girl." (Miller p 41). "In the 1770's Jarretts Fort was constructed in Summers County on the Greenbrier at Newman's Ferry near what is now Alderson." (Miller p 41).

"There was a fort erected on the opposite side of the river from the Graham House (or on the Gwinn side) where Spotts Hotel now stands (raised in 1985), known as Graham's Fort." (Graham p 49). This was built between 1770 and 1777 since it figured in the latter dated attack by Indians.

The Graham homestead was attacked by Indians in the Spring of 1777. A man from the Fort, Mr. McDonald or Caldwell, a negro servant named Sharp, and 10 year old John Graham were killed. Seven year old Elizabeth Graham was captured. (Graham p 89). She was a hostage for 8 years and ransomed for the equivalent of \$300 in silver.

Indians killed a Ms. Butler or Massey in 1778 or 1779, across the Greenbrier from Talcott. (Formerly Rollynsburg Ferry Miller p 736). This is less than a mile from the Samuel Gwinn Plantation.

The history of Patents or Grants and sale and exchange of eventual Gwinn Plantation land is also of significance:

"The land titles of the whole of the county were derived from the Commonwealth by these grants, commonly known as "patents", issued by the governor. Prior to the date of the Revolutionary War the titles were derived from the Crown of England by grants from the king, but there are no Crown grants in Summers County, unless the 100,000 acres granted to the Greenbrier Company lies in this county. This grant was prior to 1776. (Miller p 252).

"The earliest land grant of which we have knowledge

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is for a tract of land on the mountain between the mouth of Greenbrier River and Wolf Creek. It was issued by Thomas Jefferson in 1779. The claim for the land was laid in 1772, four years before the Declaration of Independence." (Miller p. 252). Underlining supplied.

"The first grant of land to Samuel Gwinn was by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, in the year 1796, and was for a tract of land on Greenbrier River, on which Andrew Gwinn, with his son James, now resides. I have examined a number of patents for lands in that neighborhood to Samuel Gwinn and others, which are all ancient documents, written in elegant handwriting on the dressed skin of some animal, and are in a perfect state of preservation. Mr. Andrew Gwinn has some eight or ten of these old documents, which he prizes very highly." (Miller p. 657).

An earlier patent was issued by Edmund Randolph, dated 10th day of December, 1787:

"Edmund Randolph, Esq., Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. To all whom these presents shall come (the 's' being in the shape of an 'f') greeting: Know ye, that by virtue of a certificate in _____, of settlement given by the commissioners for adjusting the titles to unpatented lands, in the District of Augusta, Botetourt and Greenbrier, and by consideration of the ancient composition of 2 Pounds sterling, paid by Samuel Gwinn, into the treasury of the Commonwealth, there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto the said Samuel Gwinn, assignee of James Henderson, a certain tract or parcel of land containing 400 acres by survey, bearing the date the first day of June 1784, lying and being in the

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county of Greenbrier, beginning,
etc."(Miller p 661).

"Another of these patents is to James Gwinn, and is issued by Edmund Randolph, on the 8th day of November 1787, and of the Commonwealth the twelfth, which is consideration of the ancient composition of 2 pounds sterling, paid by James Gwinn into the treasury. He was granted 400 acres by survey, living in the county of Greenbrier, on Little Wolf Creek, adjoining the lands of John Dickinson." (Miller p 661).

"Thomas N. Randolph, Governor of Virginia, granted to Samuel Gwinn November 1, 1821, thirty-one acres. James Monroe, Governor of Virginia, and afterwards President of the United States, granted to Samuel Gwinn, December 2, 1800 five acres. John M. Gregory Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, granted to Ephraim J. Gwinn, August 30, 1842, twenty-one acres. On July 31, 1779, John Osborne conveyed to Samuel Gwinn, for five shillings, 245 acres." (Miller p 658).

"Edmond Randolph, Governor of said State, on the 10th of December 1787, issued his patent unto Samuel Gwinn for 400 acres by virtue of survey made on the 1st of June, 1784, on the south side of Greenbrier River adjoining Henry Jones and John Van Bibber". (Miller p 256).

"Another tract of 95 acres was patented to Samuel Gwinn by Governor James Pleasant, on the 2d day of April, 1824. Governor Edmond Randolph issued his patent to Samuel Gwinn for one of the tracts near Lowell, on the 18th day of March 1789." (Miller p 658).

"Claypool seems to have been an original patentee, John Osborne and others conveying the property to said Samuel Gwinn of Monroe County, and the price paid was five shillings. The Claypool patent was dated in 1793, for 250 acres." (Miller p 657).

"James Wood, Governor of said Commonwealth, on the 20th day of January, 1798, issued his grant unto Samuel Gwinn for 220 acres adjoining William Graham." (Miller p 256).

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There are also records of land exchanges involving the Gwinn Plantation through sale or exchange:

"Deed between Samuel Gwinn, Sr., and Samuel Gwinn, Jr., dated on the 26th day of October, 1807, by which is conveyed three different tracts of land on Greenbrier River near Lowell. The signature of Samuel Gwinn is witnessed by O. Tolles, Joseph Alderson, John Gwinn and George Alderson; was admitted to record at the December court of Monroe County, 1807; attested by Isaac Hutchinson, C.T." (Miller p 661).

"I have another deed which is signed by Samuel Gwinn, the father of Andrew Gwinn, when he was eighty-four years old, and it is well-written. It is witnessed by Joseph Alderson, George Alderson, John Gwinn, and O. Towles, and bears date the 26th day of October 1811, and is a conveyance from Samuel Gwinn, Sr., to his son, Samuel Gwinn, Jr., who was a brother of Andrew Gwinn, Jr., and died only a short time ago." (Miller p 663).

"On the 31st day of July, 1779, John Osborne sold to Samuel Gwinn for five shillings, 245 acres at Green Sulphur. Samuel Gwinn conveyed these lands to his son, E. J. Gwinn, as a gift on the 20th of October 1829." (Miller p 253).

"All of these are title papers and are as in good state of preservation as when issued; are written on parchment, some kind of skin; the writing is excellent, plain and legible. One of the patents especially, I notice, came from an animal, and the holes made by taking out the legs still remain on the margin, and another hole in it made by taking the hide off the animal. It is unevenly trimmed, but all of them are finely dressed. We seldom see in these days and times better handwriting than that exhibited on these wonderful old documents." (Miller p 662).

"These lands are now principally, if not altogether, owned by Andrew Gwinn (Builder of the 1868 Manor House) of Lowell." (Miller p 256).

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All these lands and others accumulated by the Gwinn's are comprised of 2000 acres surrounding the nominated property and are currently farmed by direct Gwinn heirs.

TOBACCO PLANTATION

It is clear from the foregoing the Gwinn's, Samuel Sr. through the lifetime of Andrew, more than any other family in the region, prospered in the acquisition of lands and the development of agriculture. Records indicate Samuel Sr., acquired some 1000 acres and these were subsequently extended by Samuel Jr., and Andrew during their lifetimes.

Mary Gwinn Nelson was born on the plantation in the Manor House and lived on it her entire 94 years. She told the author that her father "Long Andy" had often and at length described the early plantation days, and the size of the operation. "It was not unusual," he had said, "that 40 hands would be engaged in their agricultural and related operations." The Gwinn's pulled far ahead of their friends and neighbors, the Grahams in prosperity. Col. James Graham's will of 1812 lists only one slave. We know from Samuel Sr.'s will that he owned 9 slaves at his death. The Gwinn's acquired large land holdings. Mary indicated that "the Gwinn's brought in the first horse drawn machinery." Over the years and up until this day they have been innovators in agricultural technology. In Col. Graham's will, he makes several references to his "plantation". (Miller p 789). Finally, Miller, in describing the origin of the name of the mountain behind the property states, "... Gwinns Mountain behind the property, after Andrew Gwinn who owned a magnificent plantation at its base." (Miller p 352).

The documentation on tobacco culture in the immediate area is significant. "There was in the early days quite a profitable industry from which farmers and merchants derived quite a considerable income - that of raising and transporting tobacco, which was cultivated quite extensively and successfully in Forest Hill and Pipestem and a part of Talcott (includes Lowell)." (Miller, p 58).

Ambler, in his 1933 History of West Virginia devotes a section to tobacco-culture (p 61-64.) "But of greater importance than any of these elements was the discovery

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of a crop that could be depended upon as a source of assured income. This was tobacco. Henceforth, for a century and a half, tobacco was the determining factor in the economic, social and political life of the colony. With lands practically free but uncleared, and with the demand for Virginia tobacco increasing annually, the greatest concern of the Virginia landowner was labor." He continues indicating the solution to obtaining this labor (ie clearing land and tobacco culture) was to engage indentured servants and subsequently slaves. "By 1730, the total Negro population had increased to more than thirty thousand, and Negro slavery had become an essential of the plantation system". (Ambler p 64). "Because of the westward extension of tobacco culture and consequent increase of the slave population all parts of this area had tended toward economic unity." (Ambler p 212).

That "unity" continued up until and through the Civil War with this section of Virginia/West Virginia maintaining strong Confederate sympathies. No less than four Gwinn's: Harrison, Augustus, Marion, and Samuel (the former with Edgars Battalion and the other three with Thurmond's Rangers) fighting for the Confederacy (Miller p 215). (One of their confederate muskets is in the possession of the author, the current owner of Samuel Gwinn Plantation.) Long refers to "Long Andy's " confederate sympathies: "During the Civil War, he (Long Andy) had accumulated several thousand dollars of confederate money, rolls and rolls of fifty and hundred dollar bills." Long goes on to explain "that thereafter, Long Andy would deal only in gold and silver coin!" (Long, April 30, 1980).

In an interview of the Honorable C. A. (Bud) Dunn, Lester Lively writes in the Hinton News about the Red Sulphur Turnpike which ran from that area, down Gwinn Mountain (now called Wind Creek) to Lowell. "In addition it was the avenue by which timber products and the products of a rich agricultural region were brought to the shipping point at Lowell. Tobacco was raised extensively in the area in years past which was packed in hogsheads and transported to the C&O for shipment to the markets." (Lively)

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"Times change and the value of tobacco declined in the mid 19th Century." (Amber p 213). The Gwinns gradually shifted their agricultural production to general dairy and cattle farming, especially as the C&O Railroad was extended to Lowell and beyond in the later part of the century. A picture of an old log tobacco barn in Miller's Book is the only known remanent of that era. This is from the Talcott/Lowell district. (Miller p 9.).

HISTORICAL INDIVIDUALS

Samuel Gwinn, Sr. - First settler (with James Graham).

He was born in either 1745 or 1751, the former consistent with his headstone, the latter with his affidavit for a military pension. His father Robert Gwinn (or Gwynn) emigrated prior to 1742 from Ireland becoming a landowner and raising six sons. (Long, April 10, 1980). "Robert Gwinn owned land adjoining the land of John Graham on the Calf Pasture, bought on July 17, 1745. (Long, November 14, 1979). Samuel Gwinn, Sr. married Robert Graham's widow Elizabeth Lockridge Graham Gwinn (died 1794 and brother to Col. James) Before moving his wife to the frontier (she already had three children before R. Graham's death), Mr. Gwinn took two slaves to the new property, cleared land and built a cabin (300 yards to the south of the 1868 Manor House.) (Long, November 15, 1979). They eventually had 9 children who lived to marry, in addition to two surviving who remained in the custody of Andrew Lockridge, her father. Samuel Sr's land acquisition and farming accomplishments were documented above.

In addition, as might be expected, Samuel Sr. was heavily involved in the Indian Wars prior to and during the Revolution. His military record is documented in the National Archives. "Service: served as a guard on the frontiers against the Indian, at various times prior to the Revolutionary War from 1771 to 1774... was in the Battle of Point Pleasant under General Andrew Lewis and from 1776 served different times as scout and spy on the frontier." (Long, April 10, 1980). In his

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own words he continues, "I was born in Augusta County, Virginia, I am in my 83rd year; was in the War of 1774; enlisted under Captain Gwinn and went to Point Pleasant where we had a severe battle with the Indians in 1776. I moved to Monroe County (Virginia, now Summers County, West Virginia) with my wife and children for a year or two and then moved to a block house because of the Indians. I returned to my cabin and to my hunting, although people of the settlement took their families to the fort in the summer months." (Long, April 10, 1980). He received a military pension on March 22, 1834, but a year later it was revoked on the basis that he did not serve in "an embodied military corps." (U.S. Archives March 9, 1835). Samuel Gwinn, Sr. died on March 25, 1839 at age 94. His will, dated June 4, 1832, is on record at the Greenbrier County Courthouse, West Virginia and lists in addition to other possessions, nine slaves: Tecumsey, Hiram, Jingo, David, Liews, Lisa Ann, Norris, Grisby and Lewis." (Long, November 22, 1979). Elizabeth, his wife had preceded him in death on January 25, 1832.

Samuel Gwinn, Jr. - Prosperous and Innovative
Plantation Owner.

Samuel Jr. was born to Samuel Sr. and Elizabeth on October 22, 1777. He married Elizabeth Taylor on June 20, 1803. They had thirteen children. Samuel Jr. was born in the original log cabin (as was his son, "Long Andy"). Samuel Jr. was also a prosperous farmer receiving 150 acres from his father and later buying out at least one of his brothers and subsequently "moved into the large home his brother Andrew had built just after his service in the war of 1812". (Long March 22, 1980).

The fields were needing enhancement when Samuel Jr. had two large lime kilns build on the property about 200 yards to the west of the original log house. Limestone was blasted out of Wind Creek (below the log house site - several remaining drilled explosive holes may still be seen in the creek bed). The rocks were hauled to the kilns, about fifteen feet high and 5 feet across, and cooked to a powder consistency whereupon

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it was applied to the fields as fertilizer. The kilns still exist today about 300 yards south and 200 yards west of the Manor House.

Sometime during this period the Red Sulphur Spring to Lowell road was built across Gwinn Mountain (now Wind Creek Mountain) to carry produce and the Stage Line. The Stage Line was utilized to bring wealthy families to the mountainous (cooling altitude before the days of air conditioning) areas where their social and health needs could be met at the various spas in the area (ie White, Green, Red, Blue Sulphur Springs, etc.). Roads were built and maintained by people in the vicinity. At one early time "hands in the neighborhood were compelled, between the ages of twenty one and forty five years, to work such numbers of days as appointed ... not exceeding six." (Miller p 344). This road was hewn in the rock on Gwinn Mountain and can be clearly seen in fall and winter from the Manor House. It is no longer used but can be easily traversed. "The Stage was true to its type one sees in the movies today, plush seats and ornate doors, the driver cracking the whip over four horses from a high seat on the top front; baggage piled on a rack behind him. The drivers were "Shug Spangler, the Dunns, Eb Dillon ... "Shug" seemed to be the most colorful of the drivers, his "Whoopee" when he topped Gwinn mountain could be heard in Lowell. Shug was drown in Greenbrier River near Lowell after a long and exciting career." (Faulkner from K. J. "Kent Kessler).

Samuel Jr. died September 8, 1863 and his wife on February 20, 1872.

Andrew Gwinn (Long Andy)

Because of his great height, the oldest son of Samuel Jr. was nicknamed "Long Andy". He was born in the log house his Grandfather had built and in which his father was born, on December 3, 1821. He married Elizabeth Keller on October 18, 1857. They had only one child, James.

In the 1840's several families then living in the area moved west. Taking advantage of the opportunities,

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Long Andy purchased about 1000 more acres adjoining his property. After the construction of the C&O Railroad in the 1870's, a stock yard was built at Pence Springs. "It became the big shipping point for beef cattle that were brought in huge cattle drives by the thousand, even as far away as Giles County, Virginia; and there was "Long Andy" with around 2000 acres in one body. It wasn't long before he was dealing mostly in beef cattle." (Long, April 3, 1980).

In 1868 he built the Manor House. "No one knows how many times he looked down the hill where the cabin stood, a constant memory of his humble beginnings; but there stood the big house, its wall twelve inches thick." (Long, April 3, 1980). James H. Miller in his "History of Summers County" says that at the time he was the "wealthiest farmer in the county."

Silas F. Taylor - Designer/Builder

Silas F. Taylor designed and built the Manor House. He was born in Bedford County, Virginia in 1820. He emigrated to Monroe County (now Summers and Monroe) with his father when he was 16. He married Sobina Nutter in 1842 and settled on Lick Creek in 1855. "Silas F. Taylor, the ancestor, was a brick mason by trade, and had a reputation throughout all this section of the county for his honest work and ability in his occupation. He built the brick house of Captain A. A. Miller on Lick Creek, also one for Augustus Gwinn near Alderson (still extant), one for Andrew Gwinn at Lowell, (nomination property) and also the Ephraim J. Gwinn brick house at Green Sulphur Springs ... and other old, substantial brick buildings of the county. At the outbreak of the War (Civil) he was captain of

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the militia, and became a soldier of the Confederacy, being captured in 1862, confined in Johnson's Island prison, and after his discharge entered the service under Captain Philip Thurmond, and was again captured and confined in the same prison..." (Miller p. 420-21). Interestingly enough, his son William J. Taylor was also a Confederate, was captured, and was confined in Camp Chase, Ohio, Prison No. 1, Mess 5. In his voluminous book, Miller includes a copy of a letter from son to father dated August 1, 1862, from prisoner to prisoner! (Miller p. 421). Each of Taylor's homes and buildings are architecturally quite distinctive in their own right.

ARCHITECTURE-BUILDINGS

The property's architectural significance has been detailed in item 7. The Manor House and contributing outbuildings are important examples of their unique functions and period and their association with the important events and persons in the history of the frontier and its early settlement and development. It should be noted that only the log meat house remains from the original 1770 "settlement" period.

The Manor House from its exterior views appears much as it did when constructed in 1868. With the later addition of the front piazza, it is of particular "vernacular" interest. A number of homes in this region possess them. The outbuildings were placed and utilized by Long Andy for his agricultural and domestic needs. They represent generic agricultural functions from the period 1770 up until his death in 1913. The overall view depicts what an affluent family's home looked like in the mid 19th Century. With few exceptions, the Manor House is "period"; admittedly it is less elegant and of smaller scale than the typical "Southern" plantation house. Samuel Sr. and Samuel Jr. cleared, lived on, and cultivated this property from the 1770's. The meat house was Samuel Sr's. Samuel Jr. lived in his father's log house and expanded the land holdings and agricultural operation. Long Andy built the Manor House, lived in it his entire life and died there. It represents the "best" of its period in this region. The Manor House is in an excellent state of repair.

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HISTORIC SETTING

The site is as beautiful and functional as the day Samuel Sr. purchased it and began the pursuit of his dreams. It appears today much as it would have in the early period; rolling agricultural fields and pasture along the side of and overlooking the Greenbrier River Valley. The events and the people and the functions associated with this property are most certainly significant in the patterns of American History.

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Verbal Boundary Description

BEGINNING at a metal fence post on the southerly right of way line of W. Va. Secondary Route 15 near C&P Telephone Company pole No. 182.1, being a corner to Mrs. M. E. Nelson and proceeding thence leaving said right of way and with said Nelson line S. 17 degrees 11' 15" W. 278.20 feet with the fence to the northeast corner of an old wooden shed; thence with the easterly side of said shed and continuing past said shed S. 14 degrees 24' W. 37.03 feet to a metal fence post set by J. E. Gwinn; thence N. 76 degrees 13' 17" W. 179.92 feet with a fence to a metal fence post corner; thence N. 15 degrees 16' 17" E. 392.55 feet with a fence to a fence post near a gate on the southerly right of way line of W. Va. secondary route 15; thence with said right of way S. 72 degrees 53' E. 471.02 feet to the point of Beginning, containing 3.758 acres, more or less.

(Recorded in the Office of the County Clerk of Summers County, West Virginia, Deed Book Number 115 page 211.)

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