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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

DEC 22 1989

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Wylie, James, House
other names/site number The Shamrock; O'Connell House; Hanna House

2. Location

street & number 208 E. Main Street
city, town White Sulphur Springs
state West Virginia code WV county Greenbrier code 025 zip code 24986

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (2), Noncontributing (1), Total (3)

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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 (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: William C. Linn
Date: 12-15-89

In my opinion, the property meets (checked) 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 (checked)
determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other, (explain):

Patrick Andrews 2/5/90

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Restoration Work in Progress

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic: Georgian

Late Victorian: Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt Shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The James Wylie House is a two-and-one-half-story red brick structure which features two distinct architectural modes in its evolutionary development: a Georgian floor plan dating to the first years of the 19th-century; and an early, 20th-century Italianate remodeling that altered the house's roofline, window heads, and window sash. The freestanding house occupies an elevated town lot at the corner of East Main Street and Castle Drive with a late 18th-century log dependency and miniature stone castle - a garden folly.

Greenbrier County pioneer James Wylie designed and built the Flemish-bond red hand-fired brick house on an elevated piece of ground before 1825, having purchased the land from James and Sarah Erwin on October 26, 1819, according to Greenbrier County Court records. The house was once the center of some 107 acres of the Wylie estate; the remaining acreage today is occupied by the Federal Fish Hatchery and the town of White Sulphur Springs.

The original section of the house features a "four-over-four," center hall plan with eight fireplaces. The walls of the eight-room block are eighteen inches thick, and the original interior walls consist of plaster applied directly to the third layer of brick. The house also features two stairways, one located in the foyer or central entrance hall, and one to the back of the house. Most of the original wainscoting remains, showing single boards measuring as much as twenty inches in width. The floor boards measure from three to nine inches wide. The flooring in the three halls is oak; room flooring is either pine or poplar.

The original roof was modified about 1906 to permit construction of a steep cross gable at the front elevation. The front wall brickwork was extended upward with the addition of a Palladian window in the new gable. A large porch with gallery railing, extending the full width of the house, was also built at this time. During the 20th century the attic space has been occupied by two bedrooms and a bath.

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The windows during the O'Connell era (1906-1978) were also modified from the multi-paned style to late 19th-century double-hung sash. The windows irregularly measure some 41-55 inches wide to 76-91 inches in length, with the taller windows at ground level.

A two-story log structure, dating to the period of settlement, still stands behind the house. Its foundation is in remarkable shape. The cabin features one large keeping room with a brick and stone fireplace, a loft, and Victorian bath upstairs. Next to the log building is a noncontributing frame structure - a shed - which dates to recent times.

One unique landscaping device which has historical significance is the miniature stone replica of a castle located adjacent to the front walkway to the main house. This object is three feet high, twenty-four inches square at the base, and is directly responsible for naming the city street which runs adjacent to the property, Castle Drive.

Deterioration of the Wylie House, due to neglect and vandalism, has occurred through the years. Mr. D.H. Stalnaker purchased the Wylie House after Wylie's death in 1837; Daniel O'Connell acquired the land in 1906, subsequently selling much of the lowland to the government for the establishment of a Federal Fish Hatchery; and in 1978 Robert J. Hanna bought the property, but lost the property in 1987 in bankruptcy proceedings.

New property owners Joseph and Cheryl Griffith acquired the property, which consists of one-and-a-quarter-acres, in December, 1988 from the Small Business Administration and the Bank of White Sulphur Springs. The Griffiths are restoring the house to meet the needs of a bed and breakfast business. The log cabin structure to the rear of the main house will also be restored and used as part of the bed and breakfast venture.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Exploration/Settlement  
Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

c. 1794-1930  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c. 1906  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wylie, James - Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The James Wylie House, 208 E. Main Street, White Sulphur Springs, is significant under Criterion C because it is one of eastern Greenbrier County's oldest buildings exhibiting important local architectural developments characteristic of periods of the early 19th and early 20th century. The evolutionary quality of the red brick building, with its late Georgian and late Italianate identities, provides an excellent example, after passage of a century, of changing American tastes and fashions in a small town.

The Wylie House ancillary structures, a c. 1794 log building and a stone garden folly, also qualify for listing in the National Register under Criterion C because they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. Under Criterion A the Wylie properties are significant during the period of significance, c. 1794-1930, because they have played a continuous role of serving the public along one of West Virginia's most historic arteries, Route 60, also known as the Midland Trail.

The Wylie House was built before 1825, perhaps as early as 1819, on a 107-acre tract, well before the founding of White Sulphur Springs, which was incorporated in 1909. The expensive structural character of the house is identified in the Georgian plan of the main block with deep center hall, and four large rooms upstairs and down. Flemish-bond brickwork is used throughout the exterior elevations and as the bonding pattern on the handsome, paired exterior end wall chimneys. Other Georgian design elements surviving on the first floor are paneled wainscoting and mantels. The open-well, open-string stair at the rear of the entrance hall rises in two flights to the second floor. Its treads, risers, balusters, and rail are original, intact features.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Dayton, Ruth Woods. Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes. Education Foundation, Inc. Charleston, WV 1977.

\_\_\_\_\_. Personal Research Information and Notes, Greenbrier Historical Society, Lewisburg, WV.

Lewis, Autumn W., West Virginia Historic Properties Inventory form. Charleston, WV. State Historic Preservation Office, Dec. 14, 1987.

Shearer, Connie. "At Home in the James Wylie House." The Charleston Gazette. Aug. 30, 1989.

Stinson, Helen S. Greenbrier County, W.Va. Court Orders 1780-1850. 11521 Poppyglen Court, Moorpark, Ca., 1988.

See 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

**Specify repository:**

Greenbrier Co. Historical Society

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property One Acre, approximately

**UTM References**

A 

1	7
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5	6	1	8	3	0
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4	1	8	3	2	8	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated resources occupy the lot at the northwest corner of East Main Street and Castle Drive traditionally called the "O'Connell Home Reserve." Generally bounded to the south by E. Main Street, to the east by Castle Drive, to the north by the continuation of Castle Drive and to the west by the rear lot lines of commercial properties along (Trout Street) Mill Hill Drive.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries extend to the limits of what has traditionally been called the "O'Connell Home Reserve" during the 20th century.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Cheryl A. Griffith/Owner of The James Wylie House; Rodney Collins  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ date June 23, 1989  
 street & number 208 E. Main Street telephone 536-9444  
 city or town White Sulphur Springs state WV zip code 24986

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In 1906 the house was purchased by one Daniel O'Connell, who undertook renovations that introduced changes essentially Italianate in style. The principal alteration addressed the roof profile which was raised to accommodate a large, steeply pitched cross gable with a Palladian-style center window. Boxed gutters were also constructed. Other modifications introduced segmental arched window headers and richly appointed doors with heavy mouldings, applique, and colored glass surrounds in the Queen Anne style.

The sum of these alterations were skillfully blended with the earlier Georgian scheme to provide a substantial brick residence whose evolution ended about 1906. The character of each period, however, remains identifiable to the many visitors who frequent the James Wylie Bed and Breakfast Inn.

Ancillary structures on the house lot are the c.1794 log house and a stone miniature castle, a folly which was constructed in the early years of the 20th century. The log building may be the oldest structure in Greenbrier County; its massive log walls joined in half-dovetails, and stonebased chimney with brick chimney stack, housed a summer kitchen and servants or slave quarters. To the opposite side of the Wylie House stands a small cobblestone object designed in the style of a castle with tower and crenelated parapet. Adjacent Castle Drive was named after the garden ornament.

Pioneer James Wylie was an influential citizen of Greenbrier County. In September, 1836 he was commissioned to help survey the turnpike road from Howard's and Anthony's Creek.

Standing above East Main Street, the Wylie House has played a central role along the thoroughfare that is a link in the legendary Midland Trail, now U.S. Route 60, and called during much of the 19th century the James River and Kanawha Turnpike. Crossing the southern half of West Virginia, this route connects the hill country along the Virginia line with the fertile bottom lands along the Ohio River at the Kentucky boundary. At White Sulphur Springs it passes through one of North America's legendary watering places (famous in the 20th century as The Greenbrier Hotel complex). The Wylie House was one of the few early substantial brick houses along the famous route in the White Sulphur Springs area. The house not only served its owners, but

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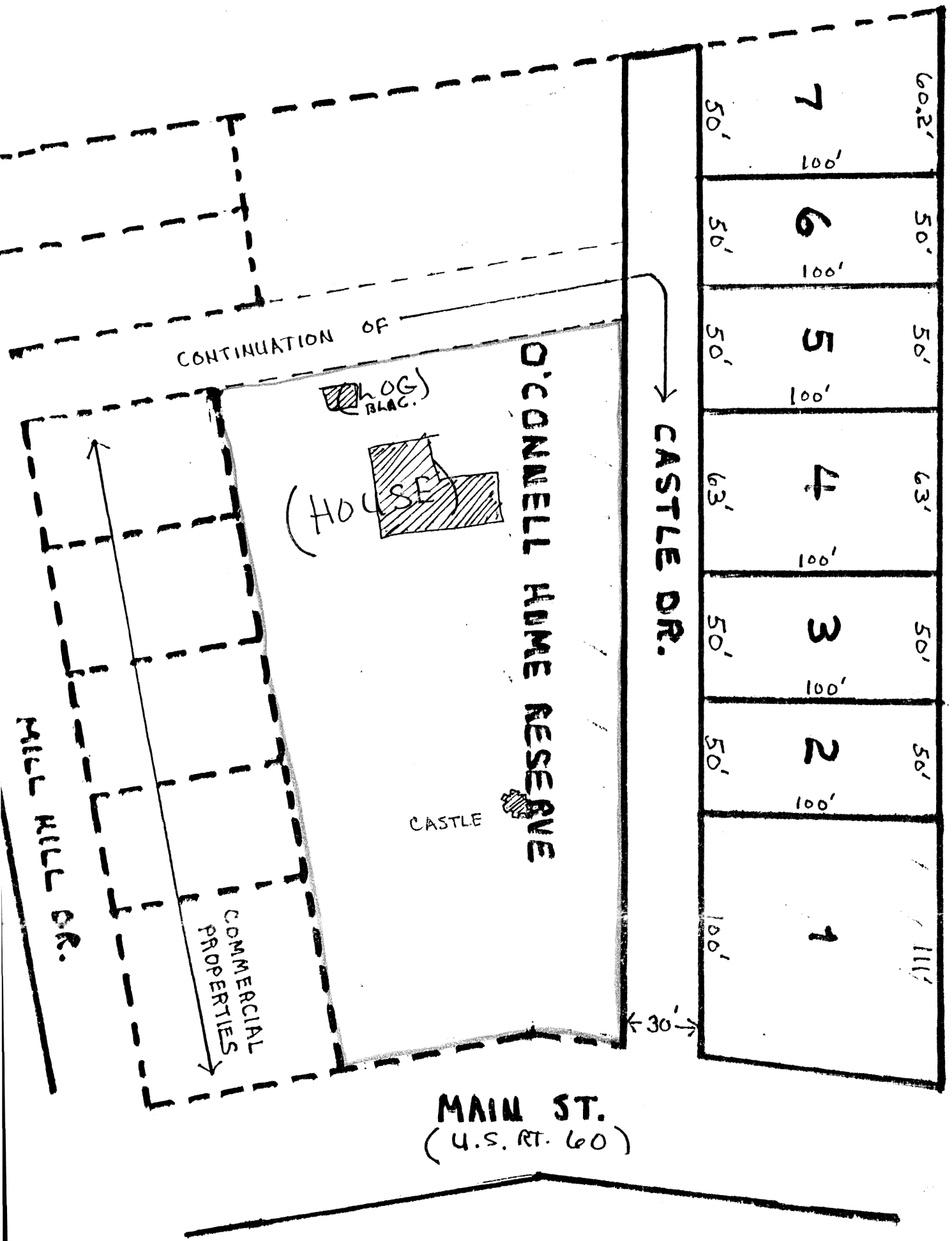
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provided accommodations for occasional travellers. Service as an ordinary, or inn, was not unusual for a large brick house along an important transmontane route. A continuation of this tradition followed during the period 1906-1930 when the Wylie House, then known as The Shamrock, was a social center or hub for White Sulphur Springs citizens. Many elder townspeople recall attending dances and parties there. Card games and yard parties were frequent activities. Most townspeople interviewed for this research data had been in the house at one time for a social function. The Wylie house therefore qualifies for listing in the National Register under a second Criterion, Criterion A.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE & HISTORY  
THE CULTURAL CENTER  
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305



1. Name(s) Historic/Common: James Wylie House/The Shamrock  
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS  
GREENBRIER CO., W.V.



APPROXIMATE:  
(NOT TO SCALE)