

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: McCausland, Gen. John, Farm Boundary Increase
other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: US 35 North not for publication: N/A
city/town: Pliny vicinity: N/A
state: WV county: Mason code: 053 zip code: 25082

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally x statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet.)

Susan M. Percie 7/14/2000
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Edson H. Beall 7-5-00
Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>24</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>4</u>		structures
		objects
<u>28</u>	<u>3</u>	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE:

 Agricultural Outbuildings

 Agricultural Fields

TRANSPORTATION:

 Highway Bridge

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: Vacant

AGRICULTURE:

 Agricultural Outbuildings

 Agricultural Fields

TRANSPORTATION: Highway bridge

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

VERNACULAR

Primarily Farm Outbuildings

Materials

Foundation: Stone

Walls: Wood, stone, log

Roof: Metal

Other: _____

Narrative Description

(See continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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 a birthplace or grave.

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.

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Areas of Significance

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

1834-1950

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

McCausland, John
Hannah, Samuel

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

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Architectural Description:

The setting of the farm is the Kanawha River Valley in the vicinity of Pliny, upstream from Pt. Pleasant and the Ohio River. The long lot extends from the Kanawha River, on the east, in a westerly direction and includes in order of occurrence: the river frontage, a flat flood plain used for crop land, US 35, the house and immediate outbuildings, pasture land with scattered tenant houses, and then the woodland section used as a wood lot.

A survey of the property in the fall of 1999 identified 22 outbuildings, well, old SR 17/US 35 bridge, a disturbed Indian mound, and the earlier c. 1834 log home used by the family. A detailed description of the house and the outbuildings follows. The number is keyed to the attached sketch map.

1. Main House 1885 NR LISTED

The home, known as Grape Hill, is a 2 story, 3 bay sandstone house, with a full porch supported by fluted Doric columns. The porch floor is wood and is supported by sandstone piers. The center entrance has double doors with a large glass pane over panels, and has a transom. Windows on the home are early 20th century 1/1 double-hung sash openings with shutters. The home has an octagonal cupola constructed with wood and having window openings, found at the peak of a low hip roof.

2. Chicken House c. 1910 Contributing Building

1 story, drop siding with 6 light windows, corrugated shed metal roof.

3. Storage Shed c. 1900 Contributing Building

1 story, board and batten siding, gable metal roof.

4. Garage c. 1910 Contributing Building

1 story, vertical board, gable metal roof.

5. Stable c. 1885 Contributing Building

Stones left over from construction of the sandstone house were used to divide the stalls. Cedar posts that include the root balls were used for beams in this pole barn styled construction. (The root ball on the bottom of the post prevented the wicking of water). Hand hewn beams were also used. The stable is 2 stories, with vertical boards. The interior has 9 stalls, tack room and feed room.

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6. Granary c. 1885 Contributing Building
 1 story, vertical boards, stone piers for foundation, corrugated gable metal roof.
7. Buggy Barn c. 1885 Contributing Building
 1 story, horizontal wood siding, cribs to each side with open center bay. Gable metal roof.
8. Coal House c. 1900 Contributing Building
 1 story, vertical board, corrugated gable metal roof.
9. Spring house c. 1910 Contributing Building
 1 story, concrete block, vertical plank door, steep gable metal roof. Interior has U-shaped stone trough.
10. Ice House c. 1885 Contributing Building
 1 story, stone building, square in plan, with gable metal roof.
11. Smokehouse c. 1885 Contributing Building
 2 story, wood siding, gable metal roof, 6/6 double-hung sash windows, stone pier foundation. One side has been covered with corrugated metal to protect siding. Roof overhangs are minimal.
12. Laundry/Chicken House c. 1890 Contributing Building
 1 story, wood siding, corrugated gable metal roof.
13. Mule house c. 1890 Contributing Building
 1 ½ stories, vertical board, gable metal roof, shed wings.
14. Blacksmith c. 1890 Contributing Building
 1 story, vertical board, corrugated gable metal roof.
15. Feed c. 1890 Contributing Building
 1 story, wood siding, gable metal roof.

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16. Turkey Building c. 1910 Contributing Building
1 story, wood siding, gable metal roof with porch, 2/2 double-hung sash windows.
Building was a small brooder shed, with porch for acclimation of the chicks.
17. Tenant House c. 1910 Contributing Building
1 story, vertical board, stone piers, corrugated gable metal roof.
18. Bridge c. 1915/1935 Contributing Structure
Single span concrete bridge, approximately 50 feet in length and 15 feet wide. Vertical panels incised in the railing with concrete approach. Highway route changed in the 1930s and bridge was abandoned by the state. The family adapted the bridge for a sheep dip, with concrete pool in one corner. The bridge now relates to agriculture traditions and the history of the farm.
19. Large Barn c. 1864/1890 Contributing Building
Three portal barn with wings, post and beam construction pegged with mortise and tenoned joints. Some concrete has been added below the wooden posts for support, replacing deteriorated wood. The c. 1864 frame barn had a low gable roof. The barn roof was raised c. 1890 to accommodate more hay. Three tract-ways to load hay. Diamond shaped metal hinges are original on doors. A concrete pad was laid next to building for feeding yard c. 1998-1999.
- 19A. Silo c. 1930 Contributing Structure
Large concrete block or stave silo.
20. Well pump house c. 1930 Contributing Building
1 story, wood shed, vertical board, gable metal roof. Sears & Roebuck powered gas engine is still mounted in the interior. The engine was converted to an electric motor.
21. Machine Shed c. 1930 Contributing Building
1 story, vertical board, gable metal roof, six open bays.
22. Scale Shed c. 1930 Contributing Building
1 ½ story, vertical board, gable metal roof.

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23. Small Barn c. 1930 Contributing Building
1 ½ story, center opening with hayloft door, vertical board, gable metal roof. A logo of Mail Pouch Tobacco is painted on two sides.
24. Log Barn c. 1860 Contributing Building
1 ½ story, vertical board on the riverside, with shed extension and supports to each side. South extension has enclosed section on the upper level. The barn has two log pens in dogtrot plan, stone piers, oak and pine logs, half dovetail notching, brick chimney to one side. Shed extension on the west side protects logs.
25. Roadway Old Route 17 1929 Contributing Structure
A section of the old road predating US 35 is on the farm. The road enters the property on the south boundary and crosses the concrete bridge over McCausland Creek. The road quickly turns east and crosses present day US 35 at a perpendicular angle. The section of the road is now used as the farm lane and passes the large barn, turns near the scale shed and proceeds north until it leaves the property. This section of road is approximately one and a half miles in length.
26. Well c. 1895 Contributing Structure
The farm fields were tiled by Gen. John McCausland and the drainage leads to a stone lined well that received the water from the tiled acreage. The well is on the edge of the farm field and has a wooden grate as a covering.
27. Log House c. 1834/1930 Contributing Building
1 story, wood siding covers single log pen; brick chimney on this section. The house was extended in the 1930s, with a porch extending across the addition. A rear kitchen wing was also added as a rear ell to extension. The original windows are either multi-light or 1/1 double-hung sash. Gable metal roof with shed extension across porch.
28. Wheat grinder shed c. 1910 Contributing Building
1 story, wood frame, metal gable roof.
29. Trailer c. 1970 Noncontributing Building
modern metal trailer

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30. Indian Mound

Noncontributing Site

Near the old log house is a low Indian mound which was excavated in the 1930s. Due to low integrity, the mound is currently considered noncontributing.

31. Family House c. 1955

Noncontributing Building

One story, mid-size brick Ranch house, hip asphalt roof, concrete block foundation. Home of Smith McCausland.

Summary:

The farm buildings support the agricultural context for the McCausland farm. Dating from the 19th to 20th century, they are examples of agricultural outbuildings constructed for multi-use purposes. From the name and use of each building, and the juxtaposition on the landscape, one can see that this was a self-supporting farm. The blacksmith shop, the feed and wheat grinding building, ice house, etc. - all the buildings were useful in supporting the family or to keep the farm running.

Of the many buildings on the farm, several are good architectural examples. The double pen log barn is well constructed. The dog trot plan allows for multiple farm use, with the pens originally designed for open hay storage. The large barn is a good example of a three portal barn in the state. The wide design with lifted roof seems to be typical of the barns favored on the three McCausland farms in the Kanawha Valley. Regarding the stable, the use of the entire tree and ball root, for the purpose of preventing water penetration into the post(s), is unusual. More investigation may reveal either a farm publication source for this type of design, or that it was a common practice for this part of the state.

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Statement of Significance:

The General John McCausland nomination of 1980 predated the official use of criteria. The areas of significance that were used included: Agriculture, Architecture and Military. For this boundary extension, the applicable criteria is Criterion A for Agriculture, and Criterion C for Architecture. The early nomination primarily focused on the main house and the military career of General McCausland with the specific date of 1885, and a check mark by the 19th century. This supplementary listing widens the scope of agriculture to include a longer time period of c. 1834 to 1950. This reflects the early family connection to the property, through the Hannah family, and the McCausland descendants who have continued the farming activities.

Family History

The family connection begins with Samuel Hannah who purchased the property in 1834. This tract of land was part of the original 10,000 acres that was first deeded to George Washington for his efforts in the French and Indian War. Samuel Hannah was a prominent citizen of Charleston, (West) Virginia where he was the Head Cashier of the Kanawha Valley Bank, a position that would be equivalent today to a bank president.

According to the family, Grape Hill Farm was named for the abundance of wild grapes and grape vines on the hills of the farm. Samuel Hannah used this farm as his summer vacation farm/home. He also owned another plantation in Charlotte County, Virginia called "Cliffside."

Grape Hill was originally intended for George, Samuel Hannah's son, but in the 1880s George traded his half interest in the property with his sister, Charlotte, who was married to General John McCausland. Charlotte, in turn, traded her interest in Cliffside. George Hannah remained in Virginia at Cliffside, and Charlotte and her husband remained in Mason County, West Virginia, where they were living at the time.

Constructed on the bank of the Kanawha River, the McCausland's log house was originally Samuel Hannah's summer home. It was composed of two old slave cabins placed together and connected by a dog trot. The log house sits on a terrace near the Kanawha River. Although the McCauslands never owned slaves, there were several old slave cabins from a previous owner that also sat along this terrace. They fell into disrepair and eventually were removed. No foundations of these cabins remain today.

General McCausland and his wife, lived in the old log house for two years while the main stone house was being built. Their daughter, also called Charlotte, was born in the cabin in 1884. The stone house was completed in 1885. The sandstone was cut from the hills of the

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property and raised by oxen to be set in place. The plan of the house was designed by McCausland, and the home was built by family and local labor. The stone steps to the house were carved by an Italian stonemason who happened to be traveling through the area looking for work. The wood in the house is black cherry from Greenbrier County, and the staircase is made of black walnut.

Additional children were born to General McCausland and his wife, including Alexander, Samuel and John. Each child inherited a farm in Mason County along the river. Grape Hill passed to son Alexander. Charlotte was given the Eastham farm in Mason County, but she continued to live on the Grape Hill farm for the remainder of her life. The farm has continued to pass to family members and is currently in the hands of Alexander's children, Harriet and Smith.

The river was the main mode of transportation along this stretch of the Kanawha River well into the 1900s. Flat boats often docked at the river near the log home. Farm goods including farm produce, livestock, hogs, etc were shipped on the river vs. overland travel. When General McCausland died in 1927 "the flood waters were up on the river," according to family members. His body/casket was loaded on a boat and transported to Henderson, WV (near Point Pleasant) for burial at the family cemetery.

Agriculture

The farmland along the river, which is approximately 300 acres, was originally wet and swampy. To improve the land, General McCausland used his engineering skills in the early 1890s to drain the fields using clay tile made in Henderson. The ceramic tile was ordered and delivered by packet boat at the farm. Still stacked near the log house are examples of the tile sections, measuring roughly 18 inches long and 6 inches in width. Using mules, the land was broken and intersecting tiles ranging in width from 2 inches to 24 inches were laid across the fields to drain the wet soil. Some of the fields drain to the south toward McCausland Creek, while other sections empty into a low spot which has a stone lined well for holding the water. This well is still extant and is covered by a wooden grate near the log barn. The land in this river bottom has been used since that time to raise crops such as corn, hay, wheat, oats, barley, and more recently, soybeans and tobacco. According to family members, this may be the first farm in West Virginia to tile its fields. This agricultural practice became more common at the turn of the 20th century.

Grape Hill has always had beef cattle since General McCausland owned the property after 1885. Alexander McCausland owned and managed the farm beginning in 1920, until his death in 1965. During that period he raised Hereford beef cattle, sheep and swine. He also had a

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“penchant” for raising a few race horses. The Hereford cattle were the main breed until the 1970s at which time Smith McCausland introduced Angus, Simenatal, and Charolais cattle into the herd. Sheep were raised extensively until about the 1980s. Swine were raised extensively by Alexander and Smith McCausland from the 1920s until the 1990s. The general’s daughter, Charlotte, was also involved with the farm’s agricultural production. She raised chickens and turkeys during the early half of the 20th century. Eggs were sold weekly and turkeys were sold at Thanksgiving time. Mules were bred and raised by the family to be used as teams for the farm labor of plowing fields, harvesting, and other farm tasks. Modern conversion to tractors happened after World War II.

The “hill land” on the western portion of the property has always been an integral part of the farm and its operation. The land used for pasture is along the ridge and hillsides, and in the lower creek valley. During periods of high water along the river, the hillsides gave the livestock a safe place to be held. The forested areas were used to provide timber for construction of the barns and outbuildings on the farm as well as wood used by the household. The woods also provided the hunting ground for deer, wild turkey, and squirrels used to sustain the family. Some orchard stock was located in the hollows of the farm, protected by the hillsides. Fresh water springs provided sources of water for the family and the livestock. In the winter ice was cut from the creeks in the hollows and stored in the main ice house for later use.

Crossing the property is a mile and a half section of the old State Road 17 constructed in 1929. The lane turns off from present US 35 to the south of the main house and crosses McCausland Creek with a concrete bridge. The road then turns before the main house and crosses US 35 toward the river, before turning north and running past the log barn. The bridge was abandoned in the 1930s and altered for agriculture use. A low concrete lip forms a pool used for a sheep dip, with wooden chutes once being used to divert the stock.

Outbuildings

The original nomination focused on the main stone house, which is on the west side of US 35. The attached site plan of the property gives an indication of the large number of outbuildings that are associated with the agricultural production, and the earlier Hannah log house. The only noncontributing buildings on the property are an old trailer that housed farm help and offered security near the main house, and a c. 1950 ranch home used by the family. This supplementary document identifies twenty-four contributing buildings and four structures.

As the farm developed, outbuildings were constructed for a variety of purposes reflecting the necessary activities of farm life. Left over stone from the 1885 house was used to build the

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ice house, and the stable foundation and interior stalls. Also on the farm from Gen. John McCausland's period was the buggy shed, smokehouse, mule house, blacksmith shed, and the large barn. The large barn is a splendid example of a three portal barn that has side extensions. The roof was raised by Gen. McCausland when it was realized that the low pitch of the early wide gable roofed barn was too low to easily stow hay. The roof was raised in sections and additional supports and siding installed.

The older c. 1860 log barn sits off of the farm lane and is within an easy walk from the log house. Constructed during the Hannah's ownership, the barn is in the plan of a dogtrot with two log pens. The barn has been well preserved. The logs have been protected from weathering by the use of a side shed roof, and wood siding. The intended use of the barn was to house and store loose hay. It is still used for agricultural purposes.

Several buildings are associated with the early 20th century and were constructed by Charlotte McCausland for poultry production. A former laundry or wash house immediately behind the main house was converted into a chicken house. A second chicken shed was built near the stable. A turkey house is in the rear field. A powered brooder to hatch the pullets was used. The chicks were moved onto the shed porch as they grew larger, until they were finally ready to be released in the field.

Other outbuildings on the farm include a c. 1910 wheat grinder shed near the landing by the old log house. On the western edge of the property is a small house used by tenant farm help. A similar building was in a rear hollow but this has been razed. Other farm buildings which have also been removed include: barn that housed milk cows, log pen barn for storage, post and beam barn for crop harvest/storage, old corn crib, and several chicken houses.

Summary:

The boundary extension for Grape Hill adds to the family history of the property, especially in regards to agricultural history. The farm has been owned by the same family since 1834. The agricultural integrity of the property is still intact, with the farm fields, pastures and outbuildings still in use for farm methods, or as storage for the agricultural operations.

This farm entered family hands through Samuel Hannah and passed to his daughter, Charlotte, wife of John McCausland. The farm is one of four farms owned by McCausland in the late 19th century, but it is the farm most closely associated with General McCausland. The other farms were given to his children, and this farm eventually passed to his son, Alexander. It is a good example of a Kanawha River Valley/Mason County farm.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of Repository: _____

Bibliography

Interviews regarding the farm buildings and their use, and family history, were with Smith and Kyle McCausland, by Katherine Jourdan, Pliny, WV, October 13, 1999.

Interviews regarding the tiling of the farm were with George McCausland, by Katherine Jourdan, Pliny, WV, December 1999.

Tax Maps, Mason County Courthouse, Pt. Pleasant, WV.

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: Roughly 1000 acres

UTM References

Quad Map Name: Robertsburg Quad

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	416870	4279580	H	17	414320	4278540
B	17	415980	4277780	I	17	414180	4278490
C	17	415220	4277820	J	17	413690	4278820
D	17	415000	4277255	K	17	414080	4279545
E	17	414780	4277850	L	17	414595	4280150
F	17	414310	4278100	M	17	415510	4279480
G	17	414520	4278415	N	17	415525	4279660

Verbal Boundary Description

The accompanying tax map is used as the verbal boundary description. The property line follows the Kanawha River as the eastern border, the south property line, the west property line is the power lines, and the northern property line is the northern boundary line which reaches to the river and the point of beginning.

Boundary Description

The boundaries reflect the property historically associated with the Gen. John McCausland property, and include the frontage along the Kanawha River. The flood plain was used as crop land and the western portion of the farm was for timber and pastures. Although a small portion of the farm is in Putnam County, Mason County is the county where the farm is registered for tax purposes.

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PROPERTY OWNERS:

Smith McCausland
1801 US 35 North
Pliny, WV 25082

Harriet Brown
621 Gordon Drive
Charleston, WV 25314

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Mason County, WV
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Name: Gen. John McCausland Farm

Address: US 35 North
Pliny Vicinity
Mason County, WV

Date of Photos October 13, 1999

Photographer: Katherine Jourdan

Location of Negatives: WV SHPO, Charleston, WV

Photo 1 Main house: Front or East facade
Camera facing NW

Photo 2 Close up of front door and porch
Camera facing W

Photo 3 Rear or west facade
Camera facing E

Photo 4 Chicken House (R), Garage (M), and Granary(L)
Camera facing NW

Photo 5 Ice House (L) and Granary (M) and Garage (R)
Camera facing N

Photo 6 Ice House
Camera facing NW

Photo 7 Mule House (L) and Ice House (R)
Camera facing W

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Photo 8	Smokehouse Camera facing S
Photo 9	Laundry/Chicken Camera facing NE
Photo 10	Mule House Camera facing W
Photo 11	Turkey Building Camera facing NW
Photo 12	SR 17 Bridge Camera facing E
Photo 13	Large Barn and Silo, West facade Camera facing E
Photo 14	Large Barn, East facade Camera facing W
Photo 15	Small Barn, East facade Camera facing SW
Photo 16	Log Barn, East facade Camera facing W
Photo 17	Partial interior of dogtrot of log barn Camera facing SW
Photo 18	Log House, West facade Camera facing E

GEN. JOHN
MCCAUSLAND
FARM
BOUNDARY INCREASE

SITE MAP
NOT TO SCALE

