

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | JAN 11 1977 |
| DATE ENTERED | AUG 22 1977 |

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Wodrow, Andrew, House; Mytinger Family House

AND/OR COMMON *use this* Wilson-Wodrow-Mytinger House (preferred); Mytinger House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 51 West Gravel Lane NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Romney CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE West Virginia VICINITY OF Second
CODE 54 COUNTY Hampshire CODE 027

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. Herbert P. Stelling
STREET & NUMBER Box 507
CITY, TOWN Barre VICINITY OF STATE Massachusetts 01005

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hampshire County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER Main and High Streets
CITY, TOWN Romney STATE West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Volume II, Historic Preservation Plan, State of West Virginia
DATE 1973 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS West Virginia Antiquities Commission
CITY, TOWN Morgantown STATE West Virginia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Designated as 51 West Gravel Lane, the Wilson-Wodrow-Mytinger House is situated on the eastern boundary of Lot 48 near the center of Romney, Hampshire County. It is composed of three independent structures varying in size, construction, orientation and purpose.

What is assumed to be the oldest building (c. 1750) is a 1 1/2-story, log structure (14' x 16') located at the back of the property. A large stone fireplace dominates the north end, opposite the entrance. The hand-hewn logs have been covered on the exterior with beaded weatherboards, and the gable roof has been sheathed with red cedar shingles. Single, 6/3-light sash windows are located in the center of each of the long sides while two 4-light sash windows in the gable opposite the fireplace illuminate the second level. Interior wall surfaces are painted white; an enclosed stairway opposite the fireplace end provides access to the second floor. The building is assumed to have been used as a kitchen during most of its existence.

Immediately in front of the above unit is a larger (24' x 20'), 1 1/2-story building with gable roof. It is of frame construction with brick nogging and covered with weatherboards. A pair of brick chimneys, positioned on the west end and having a connecting pent on the first floor, is the most prominent feature of the building. Except for the location of the chimneys at one end, the exterior is symmetrically arranged. A center door, flanked with 6/6-light sash windows, is positioned on both the front and rear facades. The second level is illuminated by sash windows located in the gable ends; those on the west or chimney end are smaller (4-light) than the 6/6 lights used on the east end. The chimneys provide fireplaces in each of the four rooms found in "the dwelling" and, along with the raised-panel fireplace walls, give the building a far more residential quality than the log structure behind it. Each floor is comprised of two rooms that traverse the building lengthwise. On both floors the room across the front is long and narrow with the fireplace at the west end. Access to the second level is provided by an enclosed stairway along the east wall of the larger room. The raised paneling of the fireplace wall, opposite the stairway, is relatively simple and includes a pent closet to the left of the segmental-arched fireplace opening. A bolection molding frames the opening, but there is no mantel shelf. A simple cornice with a cavetto molding runs the length of the paneling. Except for the fireplace area, the interior has painted plaster wall surfaces on the first floor and painted flush boards on the second.

The third building in the complex is known as the "clerk's office." It is a 2 1/2-story, frame structure (14' x 26') with its gable toward the street and entrance on the west (front) elevation. Both the front and rear facades are divided into three bays with 9/9-light sash windows on the first floor and 6/6-light sash windows on the second. The apparent symmetry is subtly violated by locating the entrance in the extreme right bay as well as by varying the spacing between the entrance bay and the other two. It is a rather sophisticated indication of the interior room arrangement. Each floor is divided into a narrow stairhall with an open dog-leg stairway and a large room with paneled fireplace end wall. The paneling on the first floor is exceptional with the segmental-arched fireplace opening framed by a single crossette architrave. The mantel shelf support has the same moldings as the cornice, including a wall-of-Troy motif. Fluted pilasters on raised pedestals separate the wall into three sections: the fireplace with over-mantel and the raised-panel end sections. The paneling on the second level is far simpler, being

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divided into three sections with raised panels. A mantel shelf with wall-of-Troy motif and a cornice with dentils are the only details. The remaining interior walls are painted plaster.

The three buildings are very close to each other and have been connected by one-story porches through much of their existence. This has facilitated their use as a unit.

Until 1962, when restoration work was begun, much of the original fabric remained, though in a state of disrepair. No conveniences such as electricity, water and central heat had ever been added.

Restoration work in the "clerk's office" was started in June 1962. Doors, woodwork, stairs, floors and most of the plaster were retained. Upper windows were copied and old glass from the area was collected for use in the sashes. Some of the weatherboards were replaced and the exterior was painted white. New ceilings with radiant electric heating were installed, and insulation was blown between the walls. Woodwork and walls were painted with great effort made to duplicate the original or early paint colors.

"The dwelling" required more extensive repairs. Floor beams had to be rebuilt, rafters replaced and a new roof of red cedar shingles put on. Much of the brickwork of the chimneys had to be repaired. A section of the interior east wall of the large first floor room was removed to expose the half-timber construction, and another section was opened to show the hand-riven lath. The north (front) elevation retained some of its original siding, thanks to the protection of the porch, so it was duplicated on the rest of the exterior and painted white.

The log building was cleaned, repaired, covered with new weatherboards, painted white inside and out and reroofed with cedar shakes.

All porches were rebuilt and roofed with cedar shingles, a brick walk was placed along the west (front) side of the clerk's office and around the dwelling to the rear of the property, and a white picket fence built around the lot.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wilson-Wodrow-Mytinger House in Romney, Hampshire County, West Virginia, represents a sophistication in building style and design that was unusual, if not unique, in the frontier environment of the area during the second half of the eighteenth century. The complex of three units incorporates construction in log and frame, and includes the use of half-timbered walls with brick nogging in one building. Although the Mytinger family retained the house among its members for the longest period, it was really Andrew Wodrow who completed the grouping of the three sections and provided an association worthy of recounting. He came to Hampshire County during the latter stages of the Revolutionary War or shortly after its close to serve the community as its first resident county clerk. As a key official, Wodrow played an important role in the conveying and settling of lands and apparently was himself a prosperous landholder.

The architecture of the three buildings is representative of a time period spanning much of the early history and development of Romney and what is now eastern West Virginia. During most of the eighteenth century the area was sparsely settled, but with the easing of Indian hostilities and Lord Fairfax' desire to have his Northern Neck lands used, more and more people were enticed to locate here. This soon led to centers of population (such as Romney) being established. After Hampshire County was formed in 1754, Romney became the governmental seat, and Andrew Wodrow took up duties as the first clerk of court to reside in the county. It was Wodrow who built the frame unit (the last of the three) on the property for use as an office, and being located on what was then the main street of town, its function as well as its beauty marked it as a center of activity.

To the people of Hampshire this governmental office might have served as a sign that their community was developing in a manner indicative of the end of a frontier existence and the start of an established position. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, Romney and Hampshire County had become a settled area with an agriculturally based economy that maintained a fairly constant growth.

After Lord Fairfax had settled near Winchester, Virginia, he oversaw the selling and settling of his land, and George Washington, one of his surveyors, noted in 1748 that a number of people were living in the vicinity of what is now Romney. According to county records, the first of Fairfax' land was officially sold in what became Hampshire in 1749, but the name of the first person to own or build on the lot on which the Wilson-Wodrow-Mytinger House stands has been lost. Reference to the property can be traced to Fairfax' patent to George Wilson in 1763, yet Wilson was not the first owner, for he mentions in his will of 1776 that his lot and house in Romney had been purchased from one Hugh Murphy.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration. Historic Romney, 1762-1937.
 N.P.: The Town Council of Romney, 1937. (pp. 14-15, 58-59).
 Morgantown, W.Va. West Virginia Collection, West Virginia University Library.
 Hampshire County Court Records (Env. 32 and 54), Virginia Records (A & M 1240),
 Historic Records Survey (Box 35).
 "Mytinger House, Oldest in Town, Relic of Past Era," Hampshire Review (Romney, W.Va.),
 June 2, 1954; "Oldest House now Open to Visitors," Hampshire Review, August 8,

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------------------|---------------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1, 7 | 6, 9, 3, 2, 5, 5 | 4, 3, 5, 6, 8, 4, 0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Phillip R. Pitts, Research Assistant and James E. Harding, Historian

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

October 27, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 630

TELEPHONE

(304) 296-1791

CITY OR TOWN

Morgantown

STATE

West Virginia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Donard M. Lewis

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 7, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST *[Signature]*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8/22/77
 MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 8-18-77

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There is some evidence that the dwelling was constructed for Lord Fairfax or his agent, but whether the log building was a preexisting pioneer home or a contemporary kitchen is unknown. The architectural style and construction pattern of the dwelling is very much like examples found in the sections of tidewater Maryland that date from the period before about 1730. Whatever its origins, the building would have been an expensive and pretentious structure for the area and time. The half-timber construction with brick nogging, the double brick chimneys with connecting pent and the medieval floor plan are features generally not associated with what is now West Virginia. Perhaps Lord Fairfax had it constructed to encourage development of the area by emphasizing that the Indian menace had abated and the location was suitable to a settled and prosperous existence.

The first owner of the property about whom much is known is George Wilson. He came to Romney sometime between 1761 and 1763, and a report by George Washington to the Virginia House of Burgesses in November 1764, said Wilson had obtained a commission as major of the Hampshire County militia. His stay in Romney was short, however, and sometime between 1764 and 1768 he moved to Pennsylvania, where later he was appointed a justice for Bedford County when it was formed in 1771 and was involved in the Pennsylvania-Virginia boundary dispute at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

After Wilson's death during service in 1777, the property passed to his son-in-law, Andrew Wodrow. According to one source, Wodrow was born in Scotland in 1752, the son of Robert Wodrow, historian of the Church of Scotland. Another source says that he was a prosperous merchant in Fredericksburg, Virginia, but at the beginning of the Revolution he gave up his business rather than handle English goods. About this time he became clerk of the Revolutionary committee in King George County. In 1782 he was named clerk of Hampshire County, and although the third person to hold this office, he was the first to reside in the county.

The frame building at the front of the lot was constructed in the 1780s by Wodrow as his office, and the structure is considered to be one of the oldest extant buildings in the state used as a public office. It is outstanding today for its paneled walls and woodwork that are reminiscent of a style prevalent in Fredericksburg and Williamsburg. To the people of Hampshire County in the 1780s, the building certainly appeared most impressive. By 1790 the three units probably assumed an arrangement quite similar to the present.

For the next 170 years the property was owned by such people as John McDowell, Wodrow's son-in-law, Dr. McClinoch, one of Romney's first physicians, and the Mytinger family, in whose hands the property remained for about 100 years. Today the complex is used as an operating craftshop.

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1962; "Mytinger House to be Used as Museum during West Virginia Centennial,"
Hampshire Review, March 13, 1963.

Wilson, Charles M. "Lt. Col. George Wilson (1729-1777)." Mimeographed. Houston,
Texas, n.d. Copy on file with the West Virginia Antiquities Commission.