

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Harrison
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 16 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Smith, Watters, Memorial State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Watters Smith Farm on Duck Creek *use this*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~Harrison County Secondary Routes 6 and 25, RFD 1, Grant~~
W of Duck Creek
~~District, South of Clarksburg, West Virginia.~~
9 in Watters

CITY OR TOWN: ~~Clarksburg~~
Lost Creek *vic.*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: West Virginia

CODE: 54

COUNTY: Harrison

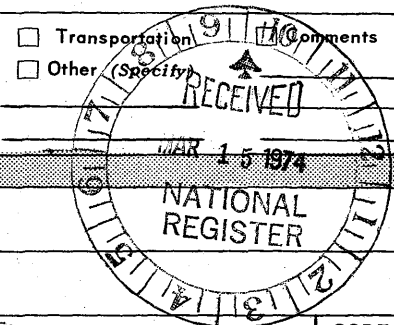
CODE: 033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of West Virginia

STREET AND NUMBER:
1800 Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston

STATE: West Virginia

CODE: 54

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Harrison County Courthouse, Office of County Clerk, Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
301 West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Clarksburg

STATE: West Virginia

CODE: 54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: West Virginia

COUNTY: Harrison

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 236 acres of the Watters Smith farm lie on either side of the old West Milford-New Salem Turnpike, now Harrison County Secondary Routes 6 and 25 along the waters of Duck Creek in Grant District, Harrison County, West Virginia. This is an area of rolling hills, many of which are tree-covered. The area is noted for its good pastureland for livestock grazing. The historic area includes the site of the first log cabin home of Watters Smith built by 1796, the house built in 1876, and the surrounding outbuildings. The house has 7 rooms and is the residence for the park's superintendent and his family. To conform with W.Va. Department of Natural Resources policy, the house is painted gray to indicate an historic area. The house will be restored to its 19th Century condition and will be used for housing a museum. Changes made to accommodate the present residents have been made without altering the original structure. The upstairs bedrooms are unchanged and feature exposed horizontal finishing strips. Many pieces of the original furniture remain in the house. The house is open for tours on a limited basis until restoration is completed and the park personnel can be provided with another dwelling.

The outbuildings were made of hand hewn logs. The logs are pinned with wooden pegs made by the Smith family. Boards are fastened with nails made in the family's blacksmith shop. Outbuildings have white oak shingled roofs. One exception is the newer farm barn. Additional shingles have been hand-cut on the shaving horse on display in the park museum. These shingles will be used to replace the barn roof and for replacement shingles on other buildings as needed. The exterior and roofs of all farm buildings are regularly treated with wood preservative and retain their natural weathered appearance. The stilted corncrib is built of small, notched logs. The smokehouse has its original shingles and was used for salt and smoke curing the family's meat. A good root cellar lies under the woodworking shop. Adjoining the woodworking shop is the blacksmith shop. Tools used in these buildings have been moved to the museum. A hand-dug well has been restored near the site of the original cabin. The cabin site is enclosed by a picket fence, and a commemorative tablet marks the cabin's location. Efforts to find and move a suitable log cabin to the site are being made. A mill room for storing ground feed and flour lies near the horse and cattle barn. The barn houses larger pieces of farm equipment, buggies, and plows. At some distance is a farm barn with a hay mow. Fenced lots surround the barns. Many fences are rail and "worm" rail design.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Watters Smith Memorial State Park occupies land once owned by Watters Smith, the first settler on Duck Creek in present Grant District, Harrison County, West Virginia. Smith was born in 1767 in New Jersey and later moved to Pennsylvania. Harrison County records show that in 1792 Smith purchased 200 acres of land on Duck Creek from John Prunty. Smith arrived here in 1794. Records do not indicate the exact date of settlement, but by 1796 Smith and his family were settled in their cabin home. Smith had begun or had completed construction of his home at some time between the 1792 land purchase and the arrival of his wife and children in 1796. At first Watters and Elizabeth Smith and their eight children eked out a meager living on their hilly acres. As the family's farming operation prospered from raising cattle, sheep and hogs, a number of outbuildings were erected.

Watters Smith and his sons shouldered community responsibility. They participated in founding the Good Hope Church in 1804, now the Broad Run Baptist Church west of Jane Lew. The Smiths encouraged plans for constructing a road through the rural area, and when the West Milford and New Salem Turnpike Company was formed, Smith purchased a share of the company's stock.

Through inheritance Watters Smith's descendants continued to own and farm the land. Acreage was acquired and parcels of land were sold from time to time, but the original land purchase remained in the family. Watters Smith's great grandson, Burr Smith continued the farming tradition. He inherited the farm when his five brothers received their portions of their father's estate in money and other aid prior to their father's death. Burr Smith never married.

One phase of park development has been the historical significance of the Smith family and farm as a part of the agrarian culture of this region of Virginia and of West Virginia when the western section of Virginia was admitted as a separate state in 1863. This historic area of the park includes the site of the original log cabin now marked by a stone and memorial tablet. Nearby is the substantial family farmhouse built in 1876. The house is typical of rural farm homes in this diversified farming region. Near the house are a number of outbuildings that housed farm industries and preserved food for the farm's human and animal inhabitants. These buildings were constructed over a period of time and include a food storage cellar, a hog pen built in 1840, a mill room, a smokehouse, a corncrib, a horse and cattle barn built in 1835, a woodworking shop and adjoining blacksmith shop, and another barn for storing the winter's hay supply.

The emphasis of development of the Watters Smith Memorial State Park has been one of historical significance. The historic area of the park attempts to preserve for posterity 175 years of Western Virginia culture

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Dorothy. History of Harrison County, West Virginia. Ed. by Elizabeth Sloan, Clarksburg, W.Va.: American Association of University Women, 1970 (pp. 66-67)

Hill, Frank. "A Clock Stopped for Posterity." West Virginia Conservation, XXVIII (Aug. 1964), 13-21.

Lane, Warden W. "Watters Smith," West Virginia Conservation, XXVIII (Aug. 1964), 1.

Smith Family Papers. Collected and displayed at the Watters Smith Memorial State Park Museum.

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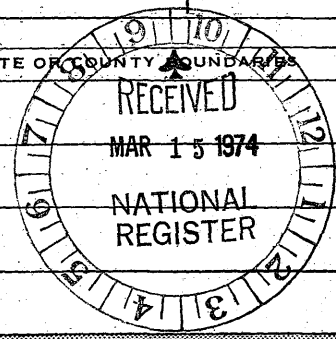
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 10' 12"	80° 24' 38"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4.5 Acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ann Post, Field Agent

ORGANIZATION: **West Virginia Antiquities Commission** DATE: **9/11/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN: **Morgantown** STATE: **West Virginia** CODE: **54**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: Leonard M. Davis
Leonard M. Davis

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: March 12, 1974

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

A. P. Winters
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/16/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. King
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5-15-74

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

typical of the community which the pioneer Watters Smith founded.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

" 'Uncle Ed' and 'Aunt Bird' Smith, Born and Reared Near Lost Creek, Recall Days When State Was Formed." Sunday Exponent-Telegram (Clarksburg, W.Va.) May 12, 1935, p. 26.

