

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Hardy
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 30 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON: "Lighthouse Harry" Lee Cabin

AND/OR HISTORIC: Lee Cabin

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~Lost River State Park~~ (2 1/2 miles west of Mathias, on County Route #12)

CITY OR TOWN: Mathias vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

STATE: West Virginia

CODE: 54

COUNTY: Hardy

CODE: 031

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<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, Department of Natural Resources

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.: Hardy County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Moorefield

STATE: West Virginia

CODE: 54

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

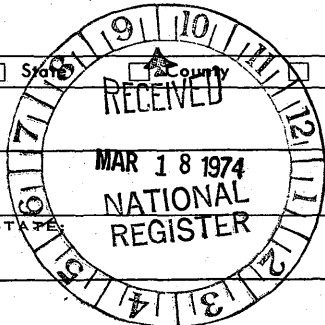
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:



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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		

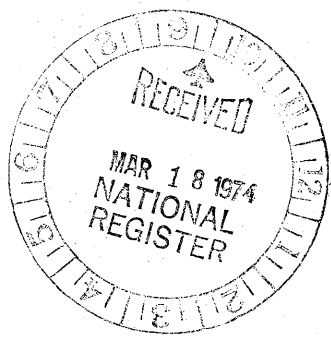
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lee Cabin is a frame and hewn-log structure which is in essentially the same condition as when it was occupied as a summer home by the "Light-horse Harry" Lee family more than 150 years ago. The building is two stories high and has four rooms, two upstairs and two downstairs. The exterior is dominated by a cut-stone chimney which serves the structure with cooking and heating facilities.

The cabin is well lighted through the abundance of windows--twelve pane, double-hung--symmetrically placed. There is one to the front of each room, but the back is built into the side of a knoll and only has windows in the upstairs rooms. Following the contour of the ground, the foundation rises several feet toward the front, and a wide porch supported by log stilts is on that side. The structure is situated on a hillside to take advantage of a natural spring which opens under the house.

The interior walls, now painted white, are the smoothed and fitted sides of the building logs which also form the exterior. The upstairs bedrooms are exposed above the slanting roofline, and the rough timber rafters and plank roof boards form the ceiling.

Now owned by the State of West Virginia, the Lee Cabin has been preserved with minor restoration. It is presently used as a museum and contains furniture and other objects related to the period of its private use by the Lees.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1800 (Constructed)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Lighthouse Harry" Lee Cabin is significant because it was owned and built by Henry Lee, commonly referred to as "Lighthouse Harry" for his cavalry days of the American Revolution. Lee was also a politician who served in bodies which helped set the foundation for the new American nation. His cabin is somewhat typical of many early log structures--more sophisticated than frontier log houses--constructed as seasonal homes around the health springs of Virginia's back country. Almost incidentally, Henry was also the father of Robert E. Lee, who owned the property, along with three brothers, from the early nineteenth century until 1832.

This brilliant Revolutionary War cavalry commander is especially known for his operations against Paulus Hook and in covering the retreat of General Nathanael Greene across North Carolina to Virginia in 1781. He was also a member of the Articles of Confederation Congress from 1785 to 1788, Governor of Virginia, 1792-1795, commander of the troops which suppressed the famed Whisky Rebellion of 1794, Congressman from 1799 to 1801, and author of the well-known eulogy of Washington which praised our first president as "first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In 1796, Lee received title to more than 60,000 acres of land in the old Northern Neck of Virginia, including that on which he built his cabin.

In 1800 Lee completed his frame and log cabin near a salt spring in the area called Howards Lick. Possibly with a view toward commercial development of his property, he "improved" the spring by lining it with marble slabs. For some years the Lee family continued to use the cabin as a summer retreat and hunting lodge, especially seeking the healing qualities of the spring when Henry's second wife, Anne Hill Carter, sought rest and renewal.

Henry Lee's propensity for bad business operations led to estrangement from other branches of his family. This may have caused him to seek refuge from his creditors by retreating to an isolated portion of Virginia. He had dealings with such well-known figures as Robert Morris of Philadelphia, General Benjamin Lincoln, and, at one time, had borrowed \$27,000 in short-term notes from George Washington.

Unable to satisfy all creditors, "Lighthouse Harry" voluntarily surrendered to the sheriff of Westmoreland County, Virginia, in 1809, and was committed to debtor's prison for about two years. The Lost River property on which the Lee Cabin was built was saved by the Lee family in their bankruptcy proceedings, for it had been transferred in joint ownership to four sons, including Robert E. Lee.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Johnson, Robert Ray, II. "Lost River State Park." Wonderful West Virginia, XXXV (Nov. 1971), 11-14.

Lee, Cazenove Gardner, Jr. Lee Chronicle: Studies of the Early Generations of the Lees of Virginia. Comp. & ed. by Dorothy Mills Parker. New York: New York University Press, 1957 (pp. 86-90).

"Lee, Henry." Dictionary of American Biography, VI, 107-08.

"Lost River State Park Once Holding of Lee and Sulphur Springs, Is Show Place" Charleston (West Virginia) Daily Mail, Aug. 9, 1936.

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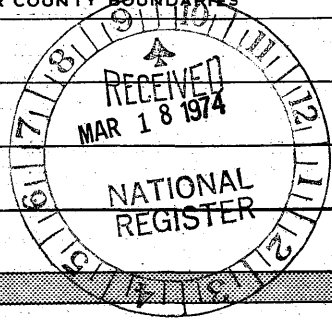
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	0 . "	0 . "		38° 53' 41.3"	78° 55' 24.5"	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 Acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mrs. Nancy Snider, Field Agent & James E. Harding, Research Analyst**

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission      DATE: February 21, 1974

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. R. Wooten  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/30/74

ATTEST:

Charles A. Henry  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 7-24-74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE West Virginia	
COUNTY Hardy	
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(Number all entries) 8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The cabin remained in Lee hands until 1879. The State of West Virginia acquired it in the 1930's as a portion of Lost River State Park and has helped in maintaining the old building since then.

