

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000382

Date Listed: 5/20/93

**Sites Homestead
Property Name**

**Pendleton
County**

**WV
State**

**N/A
Multiple Name**

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

5/27/93
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

Criteria C and D should be checked off on the form to reflect the property's significance in the areas of architecture and historic archeology.

The property's significance lies in the ability of elements of the site to provide information concerning the historic construction forms and lifeways of rural West Virginia/Appalachian settlement during the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Significant Dates of 1839 and c.1870 should be listed to reflect the construction dates of the original log structure and the later wood-frame building.

The information was confirmed with Forest Service Archeologist, Ruth Brinker.

DISTRIBUTION:

**National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

RECEIVED

APR 5 1993

10/1/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sites Homestead

other names/site number Wayside Inn, Sites Inn

2. Location

street & number Seneca Rocks Visitor Center not for publication

city or town Seneca Rocks vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Pendleton code 071 zip code 26884

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Edward M. Morris Historic Preservation Officer 10/1/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

US Forest Service
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

William G. Laman 10/20/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patricia Anderson

5/20/93

Sites Homestead
Name of Property

Pendleton, WV
County and State

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	
1		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single
Domestic/inn
Agriculture/outbuildings/fields
Landscape/natural feature

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/office
Recreation/museum
Landscape/natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

other/log cabin
other/I house

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone
walls wood bevel siding w/quirk bead
roof wood shingles
other chimneys sandstone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Sites Homestead, Pendleton, WV

The original single pen log structure was probably built in 1839 (Howe and Kemp 1983) when Jacob Sites acquired the land beneath the imposing Seneca Rocks. The cabin was made of hewn logs with dovetail corners and was 1 1/2 stories. It has a sandstone chimney centered on the west gable end.

The house was expanded in the mid-1870s (Ibid.) to a 2 1/2 story frame structure surrounding and incorporating the original log cabin. On the first floor are the log room, a hall with a stairway, a parlor with a stone fireplace, and a narrow room north of the log room which tradition indicates was sometimes a porch and other times enclosed as a room. The second floor was one large room until another alteration added partitions.

Over the years the homestead was passed on to Sites heirs, and the original acreage was divided repeatedly. By 1952 only 6.8 acres remained with the house. As living patterns changed the farm patterns changed and outbuildings, gardens, and fences fell into disuse or were removed. Road locations changed and effected other site features. Through it all, one overpowering feature remained, the Seneca Rocks.

The homestead remained in the Sites family until purchased by the Forest Service in 1968. For many years prior to the purchase, the house had been used for storage of hay and farm machinery. The house was in poor condition from disuse, misuse and a flood (Hastie 1979). The house remained as purchased for several years.

As part of a Memorandum of Agreement, the house and the family history were documented (Howe and Kemp 1983), and archaeological excavations were conducted (Brashler 1983).

The Forest Service restored the building in the next few years at a cost of \$180,000. Elements replaced include the exterior siding, some of the rafters, some of the roof sheeting, the roof covering, most of the framing on the north side, window trim, windows, door trim, doors, portions of the interior paneling, one sill log, and several floor joist logs. A nearby cabin was used to recycle the logs and windows needed in the restoration. Elements of the original house which were retained include the two chimneys, some of the 1st flooring, all of the second floor flooring, foundation stones, almost all of the log room, the majority of interior paneling, the stairs, interior divider walls, and some of the interior moldings and trims. Careful documentation was done prior to restoration, raw materials were matched and skilled craftsmen were employed. The structure retains some integrity.

The building was viewed from the outside by many of our visitors to Seneca Rocks, and on occasion, Sites family descendants provided a living history and interpretation of the homestead. In June 1992 the Seneca Rocks Visitor's Center burned down and the Sites Homestead was the temporary visitor's information center.

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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Archeology-Historic Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

1839 - 1939

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Appalachian

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
[X] 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
[X] Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Monongahela N.F., Elkins, WV

Sites Homestead
Name of Property

Pendleton, West Virginia
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	6 4 1 1 3 0	4 2 9 9 6 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth A. Brinker, Forest Archaeologist

organization USDA, FS, Monongahela N.F. date 8-31-92

street & number 200 Sycamore St. telephone (304) 636-1800

city or town Elkins state WV zip code 26241

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Sites Homestead, Pendleton, WV

The Sites Homestead is a typical Appalachian home. The style started as a German Blockbau log house with hewn logs and V notched corner joints, spaced apart with stone and clay chink and small casement windows. The frame and stick built additions represent technological advances as the area became developed. The hall and parlor floor plan and Tudor stone fireplaces are typically English. The fireplace locations indicate a southern style home. The former front and back porches and summer kitchen are also typical of the southern style and show French influences. The house represents a melting pot of style and tradition.

This is vernacular architecture typical of the Appalachian culture during the 19th and 20th centuries. According to Miller (1973) the "finished carpentry details in the hall, living room, and stairs were examples of excellent craftsmanship." In their determination of eligibility, the Keeper of the National Register states that, "The building appears to have local historical significance,.... The site also has historic archaeological potential to yield information important to the study of regional and ethnic similarities and differences," and that, "such sites are particularly valuable in establishing regional chronologies." Local oral tradition is that the structure served as an inn.

Archaeological excavations at the site (Brashler 1983) revealed subsurface features and substantiates Criterion D. Limited excavations were carried out to determine if other elements of the site remained. Excavations conducted by Brashler (Ibid.) located post molds, a chimney fall, and a subsurface feature probably representing an outbuilding. This activity provided valuable information about the house. Old photos and sketch maps drawn from the memories of those who lived there suggest the locations of additional structures. There still remain opportunities to gain archaeological data from this site.

Evidence from the excavations, tax records, census, and wills (Howe and Kemp 1988) suggest that the Sites were farmers, not innkeepers. However, Geier (1981) searched county records and found that Williams Sites residing at the homestead, then still a one room log cabin, purchased licenses to "keep an ordinary" in 1859, 1860, and 1861. William enlisted in 1862 and died in 1863. If the place was an inn, it was for a short time, and provided limited space. Nevertheless, it still retains its traditional name, the Wayside Inn.

The Natural setting of the house is quite striking. Early traveler accounts mention the rocks and a number of old photos of the rocks have the house in the foreground for scale. The Forest Service chose this place for their visitor's center because of the view, the setting, and its proximity to the rocks. Thousands of tourists visit each year to view, learn, and some to climb. The Sites Homestead is highly visible and provides an excellent interpretive and educational opportunity for our many visitors.

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Sites Homestead, Pendleton, WV

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

1982 Memorandum of Agreement. On file, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, WV.

Brashler, Janet G.

1983 Archaeology and History at the Sites Homestead: A Nineteenth Century Farmstead in West Virginia. On file, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, WV.

Brashler, Janet G.

1988 Managing the Past in a Natural Resources Management Agency. In Public History: An Introduction. Barbara J. Howe and Emory L. Kemp Eds. West Virginia University. R.E. Krieger Publishing Co., Malabar, FL.

Geier, Clarence

1981 Cultural Resource Assessment of Seneca Rocks. James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Hastie, Colin C.

1979 National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form for Site's Inn. On file, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, WV.

Howe, Barbara J. and Emory L. Kemp

1983 The Sites Homestead: Architectural and Historic Recording Project of an Historic Structure located at the Seneca Rocks Complex, Monongahela National Forest. On file, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, WV.

Lloyd, Grenville B.

1973 Architectural preservation and restoration potential of the Wayside Inn, Mouth of Seneca, W.Va. Monongahela N.F. (Report of Hugh Miller National Park Service Restoration Architect recommendations regarding the structure.) On file, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, WV.

Marshall, Paul D. & Assoc.

1989 Sites Homestead Restoration, Seneca Rocks, West Virginia. On file, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, WV.

National Park Service

1971 Determination of Eligibility Notification National Register of Historic Places Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation. On file, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, WV.

Radeke, Robert E.

1981 Preliminary Case Report on the Wayside Inn, Pendleton County, West Virginia. On file, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, WV.

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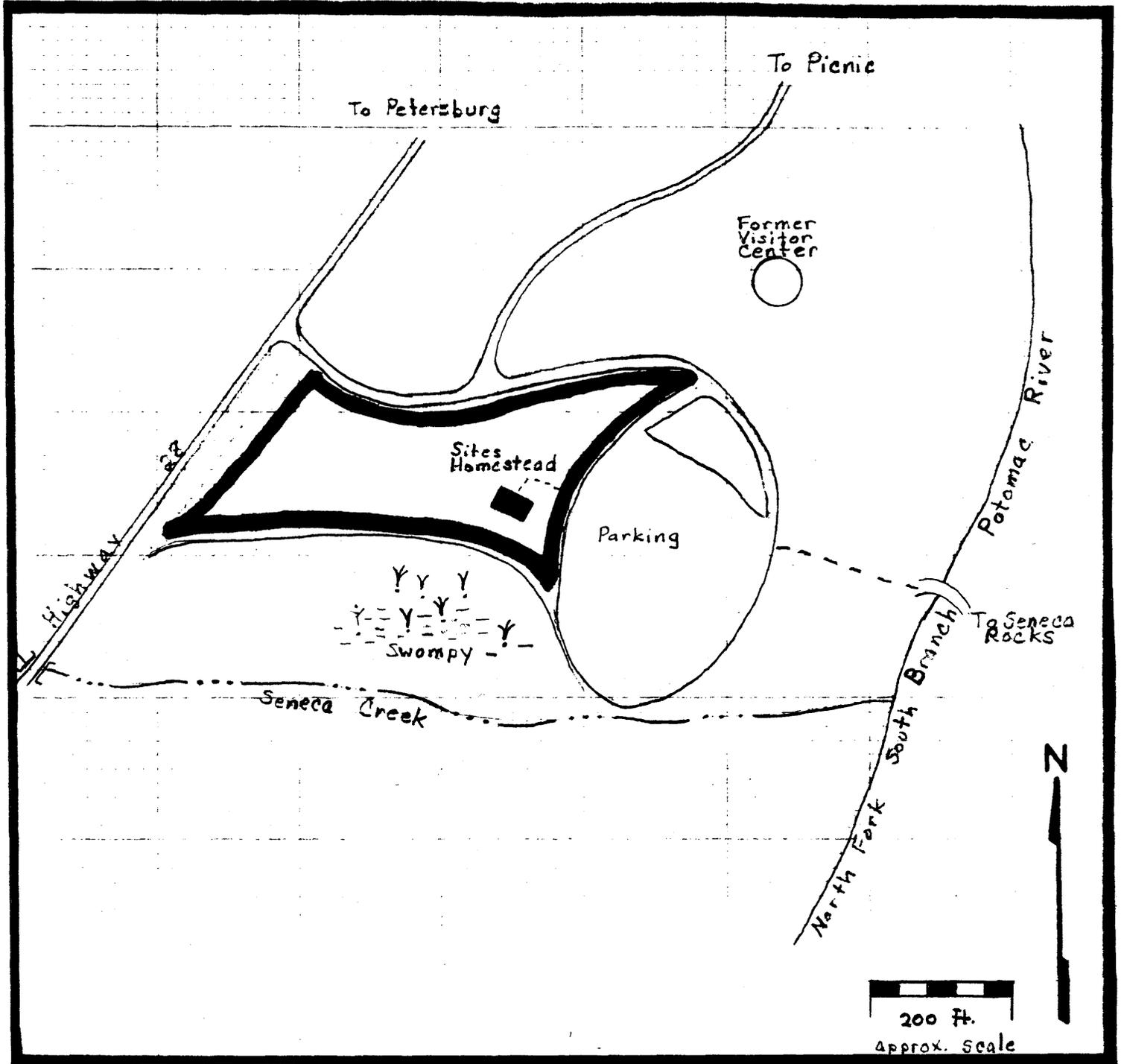
Sites Homestead, Pendleton, WV

Verbal Boundary Description

The site is located north of the confluence of Seneca Creek and the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River, west of Seneca Rocks, and east of State Road 28. The site is on Monongahela National Forest land adjacent to the parking lot which served the nearby Seneca Rocks Visitor's Center. It comprises about one acre.

Boundary Justification

Most site boundaries are modern constructions; the paved parking lot about 50 ft. to the east, the paved visitor's center access road to the north, and the cut and fill road right of way for SR28 on the west. The low ground south of the house was scoured by the 1985 flood and was subsequently filled to channelize Seneca Creek. Thus, the southern boundary is the crest of the slope a few feet south of the house. The area circumscribed contains the house, the former well site, former fence rows, and all remaining potentially intact subsurface deposits.



Sketch Plan Sites Homestead