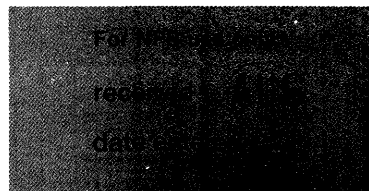


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Tavenner House

and/or common Tavenner House

2. Location

street & number 2401 Camden Avenue not for publication

city, town Parkersburg NA vicinity of ~~Congressional Center~~

state WV code 54 county Wood code 107

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name L. R. and Bonnie Lou Life

street & number 2401 Camden Avenue

city, town Parkersburg vicinity of NA state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wood County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Parkersburg state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Corridor D Draft EIS has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records West Virginia Department of Highway/WV Science & Culture Center

city, town Charleston 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

The Tavenner House consists of a two-story original building, built circa 1812, and a one- and-a-half-story dependency, built during the Civil War. The dwelling is of Federal style in good condition.

The original, rectangular dwelling with a gable roof is a brick construction, three layers thick, covered with a stucco finish on a foundation of cut stone slabs. Deterioration of the exterior brick initiated the stucco finish. This two-story structure, a three bay construction, is identical in fenestration and portal arrangement on both the north and south facades. The windows are a sash-type with six-over-six lights and are located three in the upper story and two, one on each side of the doors, on the first floor. Both the entrance and rear portals have had concrete stoops and an aluminum awnings added. This section of the home also has two interior chimneys located in the center of each wall on the east and west facades. One window is located on the east facade close to the roof line.

The interior of the main building has been drastically altered since 1942 (last year of ownership by the Tavenner family). Originally, there were two bedrooms upstairs and a livingroom and parlor downstairs. The two original bedrooms have been divided into four rooms, three bedrooms and a bath. A staircase in the center of the house was added after 1942 and two small staircases, one in the livingroom and in the parlor, were taken out. The old stairwell in the parlor is now a half bath. A doorway to the 1860's dependency is in the parlor, which is also the site of one of the first light fixtures put into the home. All interior walls, ceilings and floors of the structure of the dwelling have been altered from its originality by the addition of paneling, ceiling tiles and floor coverings. There are fireplaces with interior chimneys in the parlor, livingroom, kitchen, diningroom (in the dependency) and an upstairs bedroom. The parlor, diningroom and upstairs bedroom fireplaces use the same interior chimney on the west side of the building. All the fireplaces, however, have been sealed due to a draft created when opened. The original wood casing still surrounds the fireplace in the livingroom.

The one- and-a-half-story rectangular dependency with a gable roof is a frame construction covered by novelty siding over a small cut stone basement. This addition was reportedly built during the Civil War after a section of the home burned. It is a two bay construction with irregularly spaced windows and the north and south portals in identical locations. The north facade has two small, one-over-one light, windows close together and another larger window to their side. This facade also has the exterior entrance to the basement which is believed to be the original door. One large picture window and two six-over-six sash-type windows are on the south facade. The west facade has two windows, a sash-type six-over-six light on the main floor and a sash-type one-over-one light on the half floor. The stone basement and foundation are also seen clearly on this facade. The dependency is attached to the original building on the east with an entrance from the kitchen-diningroom to the parlor. Both exterior portals to the main floor have concrete stoops and metal awnings.

The interior of the dependency has also been changed since 1942 by the use of paneling, ceiling tiles and floor coverings. There is one bedroom, a sun porch and a kitchen-diningroom on the main floor and an attic on the upper half floor. The kitchen-diningroom has been altered by the addition of modern facilities such as sinks and cabinets. Two staircases are in this section with one going down to the basement and the other going to the attic.

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 1

There were two original-detached outbuildings which have been demolished. The most recent was the old kitchen demolished by an order of the city of Parkersburg in 1979. The well for the property has been filled in and the original steps for the dwelling have been replaced but the stone used for the steps is still located on the property. No outbuildings are now associated with the home.

When the home was built, the house was situated on approximately 148 acres of uninhabited land with very little development near this tract. Since that time, various parcels were bought and sold by the Tavenner family in this area until 1942, at which time the last Tavenner to own the home sold it. The present setting contrasts greatly with its original setting. The home faces the river to which the land in this area is still vacant, except for seasonal baseball use; however, to the south, east and west, commercial development and a four-lane roadway have changed the original setting. Currently, the house is sited on approximately .75 acre. An abandon city street is being used as a portion of the owners drive.

The Tavenner House is located in a section of Parkersburg known as Tavennerville. Its name seems to have originated from various members of the Tavenner family having owned a large portion of the land in this area. There are no known Tavenner descendants still remaining in this area.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<u>Local History</u>

Specific dates c.1800-c.1812 **Builder/Architect** Not Known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Tavenner House, built during the early 1800's is the oldest remaining building in the Parkersburg, Wood County, West Virginia area. It is significant because of its association with the local history of the Parkersburg area and in particular Thomas Tavenner from the period of 1820-1857.

Explanation of Significance Statement

An actual date of construction for the house has not been determined but is assumed to be between 1800 and 1812. The earliest mention of the house is in a deed book recording the property being transferred to John Phelps and his wife from Hugh Phelps, John's father, on September 7, 1812. There are no recorded extant buildings in the area older than the Tavenner house.

The house is associated with Colonel Thomas Tavenner, a prominent early settler of this area. Tavenner, who was born in 1776 and died in 1857, settled at Neal's Fort (which is currently Parkersburg) in 1798 at the age of twenty-two. A member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1806 to 1838, Tavenner was a justice of the peace in Wood County in 1807 and 1839. He was president of the Wood County court from 1819 to 1821 and from 1840 to 1844, deputy sheriff and deputy marshall from 1816 to 1823 and he was a colonel in the 113th Regiment of Virginia Militia from 1812 to 1823.

Thomas Tavenner was not only one of the earliest settlers and prominent politicians, but also instrumental in the formation of Wirt County, the establishment of the first bank in Wood County and the building of the Northwestern Turnpike and the Parkersburg Branch of the B & O Railroad.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet number 2, item number 9, page 1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.75

Quadrangle name Parkersburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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4	3	4	5	0	5	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification The property is bounded on the north by an abandon street and vacant land, on the east by a fence line and a portion of a building, on the south by a parking lot and a portion of a building and on the west by a vacant lot. The property is relatively level with a slight slope along the northern boundary.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Farrington, Environmental Analyst II, Historical Technician

organization West Virginia Department of Highway date June 1, 1982

street & number 1900 Washington St., East telephone 1-304-348-3236

city or town Charleston 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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 16, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Rona Lee Boyd

date 11/10/82

Keeper of the National Register

Patrick Andrews

date 11/9/82

Attest: Patrick Andrews
Chief of Registration

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date entered _____

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

Page 1

Wood County Deed Books, Wood County Courthouse,
Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Wood County Will Books, Wood County Courthouse,
Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Mrs. Bonnie Lou Life, present owner, interview by Bruce
Farrington on July 9, 1980.

Archives, Science and Cultural Center, Charleston,
West Virginia.

Parkersburg News (article on Thomas Tavenner), March 24, 1957,
Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Gibbens, Alvero F., Wood County Formation, A Century of Progress,
Acme Press, 1899, Morgantown, West Virginia.



SITE MAP (to scale) of
TAVENNER HOUSE
 2401 CAMDEN AVENUE,
 PARKERSBURG, WOOD COUNTY,
 WEST VIRGINIA

--- HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY

MAP BY

M. D. BAILEY & M. D. STUBBS