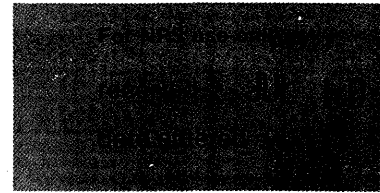


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



1984
1984

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

1. Name

historic Couch-Artrip House

and/or common "Longmeadow": "The Holmwood"

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 35 not for publication

city, town Southside vic, vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state West Virginia code 54 county Mason code 053

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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. William J. Artrip

street & number Box 6

city, town Southside vicinity of state West Virginia 25187

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mason County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Point Pleasant state West Virginia 25550

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Couch-Artrip House, also called "The Holmwood", and, at an earlier date, "Longmeadow", is a 2-story Greek Revival-style house that stands at the rear of an expansive lawn on the west side of U.S. Route 35, approximately one mile south of Southside, Mason County, West Virginia. The house faces east onto a very broad flood plain or "bottom-land" of the lower Great Kanawha River Valley that forms one of West Virginia's richest agricultural areas. This verdant acreage, commonly referred to as the "flats" by generations of inhabitants of the Point Pleasant and lower Kanawha Valley sections, provided the builder and later occupants of the Couch-Artrip House with the resources necessary to a prosperous farming operation. The main house is, therefore, a substantial early farmhouse of the valley that survives essentially intact, with two very well preserved ancillary structures. These buildings each possess distinctive architectural character and form the core of a complex that was built and fully utilized years before the advent of the Civil War.

The Couch-Artrip House is an excellent example of vernacular Greek Revival architecture - one of the few remaining buildings of its type remaining in the lower Great Kanawha Valley. The house has received several additions through the years that enrich, rather than mask, the essential classical and symmetrical character of the building. This process is evident in the Italianate front porch, added c.1875, and 1-story addition at the north end of house, which date from the same period. The mid-19th century Victorian fireplaces with round openings and cast iron surrounds and mantel shelves also reflect the fashion of those later 19th century remodelings.

Built of brick with a Flemish Bond front elevation, the house is of single-pile plan with a central hall and central open stairwell. The doorway, centered in the 5-bay facade, is a broad opening with a rectangular transom and three-quarter-length sidelights. The Greek Revival style is further evidenced by the structure's corbeled cornice composed of four brick courses. Flush gable ends and half-interior end chimneys are additional characteristic features of the period (mid-1830's, 1840's).

Of particular note, regarding interior features, is the Greek Revival woodwork. Typically broad and plain, the white-painted trim is crowned with shoulders or "ears", an especially evocative element of domestic classical treatments, and in this region is a well preserved and rare example of period finish. Other measures of formality are paneled aprons beneath east-facing windows in the lower rooms.

Alterations to the original house plan include a c.1875, 1-story front porch with chamfered and bracketed square columns of the Italianate style, and two 1-story additions. The northern brick addition was constructed about 1875 and generally matches the workmanship of the parent block. A rear 1-story addition also of the 1875 period, provided first floor utility space. The south 1-story addition was built in 1977 by the Artrips as a family living room. The house assumes, as the result of this architectural evolution, a plan of bilateral symmetry.

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A subsidiary building to the northeast of the house is a two-room, 1-story Greek Revival office - school room. Built at about the same time as the house (The buildings are nearly identical in style and workmanship.), the office building is embellished with a 2-course corbeled brick cornice. Another significant feature is the treatment of gables and chimneys that are flush and unified with the end-walls. Two transomed doorways, evenly spaced in the facade, provide access to the two rooms. This building, designed to provide the original property owner with a space for educational and professional requirements on a largely self-contained farm, is a rare example of its type surviving in south-western West Virginia.

Within fifty feet of the main house's rear door is a significant log building of sizeable dimension and handsome proportion. Historically antedating the house, the structure was possibly built as a temporary settlement dwelling for the first property owners. It could have been used as a summer kitchen. The building nevertheless has always been called a "slave quarters"; it may well have been used exclusively for that purpose. The one-story rectangular pen is composed of hugh square logs notched at the corners in a half-dovetailed pattern. The large single crib is divided by an enormous stone central chimney which rises above a massive stone and brick base with fireplace openings on both sides (thus forming two rooms). The loft of the log structure is reached via an open ladder/stair, sheltered beneath a deep roof overhang, at the rear elevation.

Together, the house, office-school room and log structure form a significant central complex of an early 19th-century farm. Their preservation is the result of efforts of the present owners, Dr. and Mrs. William J. Artrip, who purchased the property in 1960.

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 checked="" 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 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 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 c. 1830 **Builder/Architect** Samuel Couch, builder

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Couch-Artrip House is significant because it is a well preserved example of pre-Civil War Greek Revival architecture in the lower Great Kanawha Valley, a region with a rich agricultural history. The importance of the house as seat to a large farm or plantation is evidenced by two surviving dependencies, a brick office-school room and a log structure of considerable dimension that served as a summer kitchen or slave quarters. The house was built, and owned for much of the 19th century, by the Couch family that gained prominence in the region. The Couch family is remembered in local annals for their contributions to settlement of the region, and for their interest in local business and political affairs.

While the Couch-Artrip House is not a high-style example of Greek Revival architecture, it is certainly substantial as measured by standards of the time and locale. Even a single-pile brick house with four major rooms (center hall plan with two rooms per floor) was considered sumptuous in the valley of the pre-Civil War period. Care was taken by the builder or carpenter to embellish the dwelling with fashionable woodwork that would lend each room an air of formality and restrained dignity. Paneled aprons of the first floor windows are especially impressive, in this regard. While the date for their installation at the time of the dwelling's construction seems probable, other features are of High Victorian period, indicating the changing tastes of the owner who wished to bring his home up to the latest standards of fashion and comfort. Cast metal (iron) mantelpieces with arched mid-19th-century openings and Rococo-style cartouches reflect the Victorian predilection for things curvilinear and oval. The entrance hall, however, retains its essential Greek Revival theme with broad, plain trim crowned with shoulders. The stair, rising in several flights to the second floor, retains its original simple design with slender tapering balusters and a bracketed stringer.

Bearing nearly identical exterior design features with the house is the office-school room, also featuring a cornice of corbeled brick courses. This building is well preserved; it was built to complement the residence, at a distance. Its siting in relation to the house, is especially impressive. Dependencies of this character and state of preservation are rare in the Kanawha Valley.

The log structure at the rear of the house has changed but little. If, as believed, the building predates the house, it survives as one of the best preserved log buildings of the early 19th century in West Virginia. Arrangement of the fireplaces in this structure on opposite faces of the chimney is also worthy of note. The remaining space between the massive chimney base and log walls was filled with a crude partition to create two rooms within the single log pen.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Belanger, Bill. "Showplace of Mason County", Huntington Herald - Advertiser,
(Sunday Magazine) Dec. 10, 1967, p. 2.
Deed Books of Mason County, Book E, p. 175; Deed Book D, p. 246.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 6 acres

Quadrangle name Robertsburg, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7	4	15	8	4	0	42	8	4	0	6	0	
Zone		Easting			Northing								

B

Zone		Easting			Northing								

C

Zone		Easting			Northing								

D

Zone		Easting			Northing								

E

Zone		Easting			Northing								

F

Zone		Easting			Northing								

G

Zone		Easting			Northing								

H

Zone		Easting			Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point on the west side of U.S. Rt. 35 and a gravel driveway (the driveway forms the north boundary of the nominated site),

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

Historic Preservation Unit

organization Department of Culture and History date March 30, 1984

street & number The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex telephone 304/348-0240

city or town Charleston state West Virginia 25305

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.

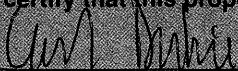
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 29, 1984

For NPS use only

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



date 8/23/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The Couch-Artrip House was built c. 1830 by Samuel Couch, eldest son of Daniel Couch, with Sarah Richardson Couch (d. 1852), Samuel's mother. The home was substantial for its place and time and conforms with the Greek Revival architectural style popular in most areas of the United States in the decades of the 1830's and 40's.

First of the Kanawha Valley Couches was Daniel (1782-1824), who arrived in the lower valley from Hanover County, Virginia, c. 1821, where he settled on a portion of the land formerly granted to George Washington. The tract was located along broad "bottomlands" (an ancient flood plain) of the Kanawha River. Title to this land is recorded in Mason County Deed Book E page 175, and was recorded in 1819. The transaction states that there was conveyed to Daniel and Sarah (Richardson) Couch, owners of a cotton factory in Richmond, land on the Kanawha River from James and Flora Harris, also of Richmond, for 16 slaves from the Richmond Cotton Factory. Daniel Couch, according to Laidley, "spent the rest of his life engaged in tilling this soil. He was successful in his avocation and became well known along the Kanawha Valley. He died on his plantation December 5, 1824". (Laidley, History of Kanawha County, p. 512)

James Henry Couch (1821-1899), son of Daniel, and younger brother of Samuel, was born in Hanover County, Virginia (Hanover County is located in the Richmond vicinity), on the family homestead called "French Hay". In the words of Laidley,

"After coming to the Kanawha Valley with his father he resided on the family farm or plantation in Mason County, becoming a lawyer and a man of great influence in that section. He was a delegate to the secession convention at Richmond in 1861, held to determine the question as to whether or not Virginia should go out of the Union. He was opposed to secession, but seeing the tide settling strongly in that direction, he withdrew before the vote. He died on his estate, 'Longmeadow', where he had spent the last thirty or forty years of his life, November 24, 1899. Few citizens of Kanawha County were better known, none more highly esteemed."

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A son, James H. Couch, Jr., (1847-1905) also an attorney, practiced law in Point Pleasant and served for three terms as mayor of that city.

Among other owners of the house near Southside is the current occupant, Dr. William J. Artrip, a prominent dentist, who bought the property in 1960. Dr. Artrip served in the West Virginia House of Delegates, 1975-76, and was elected to another term in 1983-84.

The Couch-Artrip House, long associated with people who have played leading roles in the community, survives as a significant local landmark embodying design elements significant to their time and place.

#9 Major Bibliographical References

Hardesty's West Virginia Counties, vol. 5, Richwood, WV: Jim Comstock, (1882) 1973, pp. 100, 140.

Laidley, W.S. History of Charleston and Kanawha County, West Virginia. Chicago, Ill.: Richmond Arnold Publishing Co., 1911, pp. 511-513.

Interview. Rodney Collins and Bertram C. Payne (Couch Family History) March 4, 1984.

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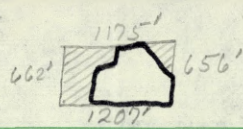
10

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the boundary runs west along the south edge of the driveway to cross a creek and intersect with line N2⁰ 44'W and proceeds south 200' in a straight line, thence 250' east in a straight line, thence 100' south in a straight line, thence 400' east in a straight line, thence 400' east in a straight line (along a tree line) to a point converging with the west edge of U.S. Rt. 35; thence along U.S. Rt. 35 600' to the point of origin (see sketch map).

Deed Book 179 Page 114
Parcel #2



Total 17.77 acres
Proposed area \approx 6 acres

SKETCH MAP
COUCH-ARTRIP HOUSE
SOUTHSIDE VIC.
MASON CO., W.VA.

