

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received SEP 20 1985
date entered 10-31-85

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

1. Name

historic Salt Sulphur Springs Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 219 _____ not for publication

city, town Union vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Monroe code 063

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Ward Wylie, Betty J. Farmer and Robert Wylie

street & number Route 1, Box 37

city, town Union _____ vicinity of state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monroe County Court House

street & number

city, town Union _____ state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title West Virginia Antiquities Commission has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date August 1974; W.V. SHPO, June 1985 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Unit, Dept. of Culture & History

city, town Charleston _____ state West Virginia

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	date <u> </u> N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Salt Sulphur Springs Historic District is located on U.S. Route 219 two miles southwest of Union, West Virginia, the county seat of Monroe County.

The complex of buildings and spring sites which is commonly called the Old Salt Sulphur Springs Resort, or "Old Salt", survives as one of the largest native stone pre-Civil War groupings in West Virginia. Five of the seven buildings are of rubble limestone construction. By reason of the resort's great popularity during the decades before the Civil War, several ancillary structures, cabins, and park/lawn buildings, such as springhouse pavilions (open-air, columned structures), once stood on the grounds. The fragile nature of these buildings led to their deterioration and loss when the resort declined in popularity after the Civil War. The 19th-century clientele who enjoyed the facilities, however, came to take the "cure", as the spring waters were commonly believed to possess considerable medicinal benefits. Many guests occupied their leisure time on the grounds by playing lawn tennis, croquet, or riding horses. By the 1830's the resort was equipped to handle, and frequently served, upwards of a thousand or more guests (1439 in 1838). Despite business setbacks caused by the Civil War, Salt Sulphur regained some of its former popularity after 1882. The book on West Virginia published by the West Virginia Commission of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904, gives the following account of Salt Sulphur:

The Salt Sulphur Springs on Indian creek, near the town of Union in Monroe County, have been for many years a favorite resort. They are surrounded by beautiful mountain scenery and are reached by driving over a splendid road fourteen miles from Fort Spring Station on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. In addition to the Salt Sulphur Springs, there is an Iodine Spring, a Sweet Sulphur Spring, and a Chalybeate Spring; thus affording an opportunity for a variety of treatment, but it is not so much a resort for invalids as for those who desire rest and recreation.

The "Old Salt" is like a hospitable manor of the old regime; with its beautiful park through which, under magnificent forest trees, a clear stream flows. On the wide porches of its spacious, comfortable, and substantial buildings, the days are always cool.

The hotel and cottages are built of stone, and contain roomy and comfortable apartments, nicely furnished and easy of access. The wide and lofty ball room, with its splendid floor, is a superb place for dancing. A neat little stage, with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
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date entered

Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 7 Page 2

several sets of scenery and a large assortment of costumes, is always ready for amateur theatricals... Adjoining it, are eleven acres of most beautiful lawn. The elevation is two thousand feet above sea level.

All buildings contribute to the significance of the historic district. Because of design similarities and a common period of construction, all of the buildings at Salt Sulphur relate to each other. The following resources are part of the historic district:

1. Old Stone Hotel - c. 1816-20. Built by John Fullen, Sr., of Lexington, Virginia, the native limestone rubble 2-story edifice measures 80 ft. long and 35 ft. deep. The principal chamber is the ballroom which measures 43 ft. long, 31 ft. deep and 15 ft. high. On the east end is a musicians' balcony 15 ft. long and 5 ft. wide. On the east side of the main building is a wing which may predate the main unit.

A front elevation two-story portico with seven Roman Doric columns may have been built during the late 19th or early 20th-century.
2. Brick Cottages - The two-story brick cottages (2 survive of the original 5), each measuring 33 by 38 feet, stand on a hillside north and east of the main stone hotel. The cottages are of the Greek Revival style and date to the 19th-century (probable mid-century construction). Each floor contains four commodious rooms. The single-bay, 2-story galleries at the front elevations are of the 20th-century; they replaced one-story full front verandas.
3. Stone Church - c. 1836. The stone church, on the west side of Route 219, is a one-room, gable-roofed structure with a wooden belfry crowned with a steep pyramidal spire. The stone church is 30 feet by 40 feet. It was deeded to the Episcopal Church by the Salt Sulphur Springs Company and signed by John W.M. Appleton which was dated April 23, 1907. At the present time services are held in the church monthly. Local tradition has it that the church was built from contributions of South Carolinians. South Carolinians or not, cannot be ascertained, but it was built with funds contributed by guests at the Springs who saw a need for worship. Episcopal services were held generally on Sunday mornings, and Presbyterian services

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 7 Page 3

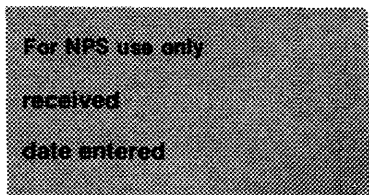
were held in the afternoon. The church seems to have been used by all denominations from the beginning.

4. Stone Store Building - 1820. One of the oldest buildings still standing is the store building which was used as a general store in conjunction with the post office which was commissioned in 1827. This building is 45 feet by 30 feet with a 2-tier porch running the full length of the building.
5. Stone Bath House - Of stone limestone rubble (all stone used at Salt Sulphur was locally quarried), the bath house was built about 1820.
6. Stone Spring House - C. 1820. Located near the main entrance to Salt Sulphur, and adjacent to the bath house, is the stone spring house. From the diary of Edward Hill, who visited the springs in 1846, we find this description of the Spring House; "I visited the bath houses which are neatly fitted up was in a one-story building. In the same vicinity is a large stone dairy, into which my curiosity led me. The floor is covered with stone over which very cold water passes from a spring close by. I saw fine butter sitting about in the water. The milk pans were neatly kept and turned upside down on a long shelf. I saw the milk maids, four of them in number, milking the fine cows."
7. Sweet Sulphur Springs Site - Not currently marked by a pavilion, this spring was discovered in 1802 by Alexander Hutchinson. The spring is several hundred yards north of the old resort's other two springs. The first dwellings (log cabins) built at Salt Sulphur were built at this site.
8. Salt Sulphur Spring - Discovered in 1805 by Ervin Benson, this spring was the most famous, and most visited, of the three springs. It is located southeast of the old stone hotel and is marked with a simple wood columned pavilion.

3-15-87

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 7 Page 4

- 9. Iodine Spring - This spring, marked by a simple wooden canopy, was in full use (with the other two) by 1838. The iodine waters were considered a rarity in this section of (West) Virginia in pre-statehood years. The iodine spring is located a short distance southeast of the Salt Sulphur Spring.

Changes occurring at Salt Sulphur Springs during the century of time marking the Spring's heyday have not seriously impaired the site's historical integrity. Despite the loss of the Erskine House, a formidable stone resort building constructed in 1836 (it stood on the hillside north of the Old Stone Hotel), and the disappearance of three of the five brick cottages, the present complex preserves enough of its former plan and principal buildings to impart a strong sense of place and time when Salt Sulphur ranked as a leading resort in the "Upper South."

Contributing/Non-contributing Resources

Contributing buildings	7
Contributing sites	3
Non-contributing resources	0

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1820-1861; **Builder/Architect** John Fullen, Sr.,; John Fullen, Jr.
c. 1882-1913 **Builders**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Salt Sulphur Springs is the site of southeastern West Virginia's most significant collection of native limestone buildings of the pre-Civil War era. The historic district conveys a strong sense of "a place in time" when hundreds of genteel visitors arrived from distant states to relax on spacious grounds amid rural conveniences that included a choice of sweet, chalybeate (salt and iron waters) or iodine waters that were believed to impart medicinal benefits to those who consumed or bathed in them. Because the springs were popular with Southern visitors, famous names of the "Old South" were recorded on the hotel's register. One of these early registers is preserved in West Virginia University's West Virginia and Regional History Collection. Among the visitors were: the R. B. Taney's of Baltimore; Presidents Madison, Monroe and VanBuren; John C. Calhoun; Jerome N. Bonaparte; Henry Clay; the Pinckneys and Wade Hamptons; Commodore and Mrs. George P. Upshur; Alexander H. Stephens; Gov. H. Johnson of Louisiana; Gov. J.B. Floyd of Virginia; actors Edwin and Robert Booth; Bishop Thomas P. Atkinson; Gov. Roop of Delaware; Col. and Mrs. Gqdsden of South Carolina; Major and Mrs. McClelland, etc.

The springs' facilities were of strategic interest to Confederate General Albert Jenkins who used the buildings and neighboring fields for his Eighth Virginia Calvary headquarters in 1862 before he made famous raids against Buchannon and Ripley (West) Virginia.

The buildings at Salt Sulphur are grouped on the levels of a spacious bend of Indian Creek; others stand upon a spacious hillside overlooking the old stone hotel. The primary building material is stone which was locally quarried and fashioned into fine masonry work by Lexington, Virginia, builder John Fullen, Sr., who worked at the site in the c. 1816-25 period. His son, John Fullen, was hired in 1882 to do additional stonework at Salt Sulphur. The buildings are generally in good condition and stand as the region's finest surviving collection of large stone structures.

The following excerpts were taken from The History of Salt Sulphur Springs by James Reginald Kidd - "Its Operation, Buildings and Owners to the Time of the Civil War" as published in the West Virginia History, A Quarterly Magazine - Volume XV, April, 1954, Number 3, published by the State Department of Archives and History, Charleston, West Virginia.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Kidd, James Reginald, The History of Salt Sulphur Springs West Virginia History Magazine, Vol. 15, No. 3, April, 1954
State Department of Archives and History. Charleston

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 34 acres approx.

Quadrangle name Union, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	5	3	8	0	6	0	4	1	5	7	6	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	7	5	3	8	2	4	0	4	1	5	7	9	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	7	5	3	8	0	2	0	4	1	5	8	0	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	7	5	3	8	2	0	0	4	1	5	8	2	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	7	5	3	8	0	8	0	4	1	5	8	3	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

1	7	5	3	7	8	5	0	4	1	5	8	0	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

1	7	5	3	7	8	2	0	4	1	5	8	1	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

1	7	5	3	7	7	1	0	4	1	5	8	0	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attachment

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Monroe County Historical Society

organization

date June 15, 1985

street & number

telephone 304-348-0240

city or town Union

state West Virginia 24983

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 September 10, 1985

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

Patrick W. Andrews

date 10/31/85

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 8 Page 2

William Shanks received 595 acres of land on Indian Creek in Monroe County by a grant in 1787. Shanks kept this land a few years, and on September 1, 1797, he and his wife, Sarah, sold 500 acres of it to Ervin Benson. Benson paid Shanks 200 pounds for 100 acres, of which he received by "pattan" August 31, 1795. It was located on the north side of Indian Creek. This appears to be the land on which the resort later was built. The other 400 acres also cost 200 pounds, and the deed listed the patent date as 1784.

The first indication that water of special note was available on this land was in 1802, when Alexander Hutchinson found what became known as the Sweet Sulphur Spring while boring for salt along Indian Creek. A second spring, Salt Sulphur, proper, was discovered in 1805 by Benson. He was seeking sulphur or salt water. The spot, several hundred yards down stream from the Sweet Sulphur Spring, had been known in earlier times as a "lick" for buffalo and deer.

It is not known the nature of hotel facilities at the Springs prior to 1820. The first building was at the site of the Sweet Sulphur Spring, and it was quite likely, at first, a dwelling house. The date of its erection is not known. It was a large frame house and was used as a hotel in the early days, as were several cabins. It was still standing and in use in 1840. John Fullen, Sr., was brought from Lexington in 1816 to construct a stone hotel building. The Benson family lived in a two-story log cabin on top of a sharp knoll, a few yards from the present church at Salt Sulphur Springs. The cabin was constructed by Benson in 1787. The stone bathhouse located at the edge of Indian Creek at the entrance to the grounds was built about 1820. In it were three bathrooms. Water from the creek was heated in boilers fired by slaves. Later Erskine and Caruthers made improvements and piped in the water from Sweet Sulphur Spring.

William Erskine, a member of a family prominent in the Monroe and Greenbrier region, married Peggy, daughter of Ervin Benson, on May 10, 1810. William Erskine was the son of Michael Erskine and Margaret Handley Pauley Erskine. Margaret Handley married Capt. John Pauley and they were in a party that left Handley's Fort at Union in 1778. On the way to settle in Kentucky they were ambushed by the Indians just east of Bluefield. All were killed except Margaret who was taken prisoner and held captive for three years before being ransomed. Later she returned to Union and married Michael Erskine.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 8 Page 3

Isaac Caruthers came from Lexington, Virginia, and married Jane Benson on December 26, 1816. He began the operation of a general store at Salt Sulphur Springs at the time of his marriage or soon thereafter. According to the National Archives, Washington, D.C., the U.S. Post Office was commissioned in 1827 at Salt Sulphur Springs. As it was the custom at that time to operate the general store and the post office together, I would assume that Isaac Caruthers was the postmaster.

The partnership between the brothers-in-law, Erskine and Caruthers, began October 13, 1821.

It may be well to note how the Salt Sulphur Springs property came into the hands of Erskine and Caruthers. In 1818, Ervin Benson's will was probated. It provided that the Salt Sulphur Springs property should be sold within a period of two to three years after his death and the proceeds to be divided among his children, so that two of his daughters were to receive one thousand dollars each, and the other daughters were to receive one dollar each. Erskine and Caruthers managed to acquire the Salt Sulphur Springs property from the other heirs. Salt Sulphur Springs definitely operated as a resort hotel in 1821. Erskine and Caruthers announced their plans for operating a summer resort in 1823 with an announcement in a Richmond newspaper. "...Thanking them for their already liberal patronage, they are happy to inform them that they have erected twenty-four new cabins, large and commodious together with a special dining and ball room, which will add greatly to the comfort and convenience of their company. Their stables are also large and convenient..."

An excerpt from a Massachusetts woman's letter to her brother in 1833, described her stay at Salt Sulphur: "The house is admirably kept here and the food is plentiful fare and the quiet and comfort are a striking contrast to the White Sulphur".

The increased tide of visitors to the Salt in the early 1830's gave the owners new confidence for the future of the Springs. As a result they set about to improve the facilities and make them larger. The stone hotel building near the banks of Indian Creek and the cabins were proving inadequate for the numbers of guests who came during the summers. A new hotel building was planned. It was to be on a much grander scale than anything at Salt Sulphur Springs, and its location was to overlook all other parts of the resort community. The site was on the ridge just north of the Salt Sulphur and Iodine Springs, and it was to be called the Erskine House in honor of William Erskine.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 8

Page 4

Construction of the Erskine House was begun in 1836. John Fullen, Sr., Thomas Black, and James McClure did the stonework for walls, chimneys, foundations, and steps. The Erskine House is 206 feet long by 45 feet wide. It contains 72 rooms for guests. The building stood three-stories high with outside galleries of wood framework running the full length of the building on each level. Beneath the building and under the bottom gallery were rooms where slaves, who came to the springs with their masters, were housed. There were seven large stone chimneys which afforded a fireplace in each room. There were a number of brick cottages constructed at the east end of the Erskine House. It is not definitely known how many there were but two are standing today. The date of their construction is now known.

"...A little beyond, just past the cherry red cottages on the stonewalled terrace above the read, once stood the famous ante-bellum "House of the Tiger," wherein was played an historic game of old sledge, or poker, for the stakes of \$10,000, for Southern blood was hot in those old gambling days."

The writer described the doors of Salt Sulphur buildings with "double barrelled, ponderous, old-fashioned English locks, with keys twice turning in the wards to do their work."

The little church at Salt Sulphur Springs, located adjacent to the store, was built, probably in the late 1830's or early 1840's (as local tradition has it) ; by contributions of South Carolinians. Whether only by South Carolinians or not, cannot be ascertained, but it was built with funds contributed by guests at the Springs who saw a need for worship. Episcopal services were held generally on Sunday mornings, and Presbyterian services were held in the afternoon. The church seems to have been used by all denominations from the beginning.

The Salt Sulphur Springs management was able to provide inexpensive meals to visitors during the summer months chiefly because much of the materials were produced on the farms owned by Erskine and Caruthers. Caruthers purchased a farm near Barger Springs on the Greenbrier River eighteen miles from Salt Sulphur Springs and due to the climate there, vegetables could be harvested about two to three weeks earlier. This was quite an advantage to the Hotel.

The partners operated their own water mill where flour, feed, and meal were ground for use at the hotel and for sale at their store.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 8 Page 5

On the lower end of the hotel lawn, only a short distance from the Iodine Spring, was the bowling alley. It probably was built in the later 1820's and continued in use up to the Civil War. Erskine and Caruthers operated a race track on their farm at a distance of a mile or more down Indian Creek from the hotel. A blacksmith was operated on the hotel grounds for the convenience of the guests and doing all the work necessary for the hotel and farm. Most of the early guests arrived by stagecoaches, horseback, surries and buggies.

Isaac Caruthers died in 1853 and his partner William Erskine continued to operate Salt Sulphur Springs through its most successful years. Then the fatal blow to the Springs was struck in the form of war. Erskine died in September, 1863. From that time to the end of the war, little is recorded as to what happened at the Springs. Army units came and went; officers stayed days or weeks, but there was no steady income to keep the buildings and grounds in condition for the reception of guests when the conflict ended. From the meager records, it seems that Erskine's wife, Margaret Erskine, ran the place, perhaps with the help of her son-in-law, Nathaniel Harrison. On October 14, 1864, Mary M. Harrison (daughter of William Erskine) purchased the property. The purchase price was \$40,000 to be paid in Confederate currency but the war soon ended and it was never paid.

After the Civil War in 1867 there was an attempt to revive the operation of the Springs to full operation. The first Salt Sulphur Springs Company was formed with Adam E. King of Washington, D.C. as president. A lease for ten years was made at \$5,000 per year, but this company failed to make the Springs pay and it was soon returned to the Harrisons. The resort did not operate in any form as a resort for the next ten years.

Due to unpaid debts, the United States District Court of West Virginia ordered the property to be sold and the sale was held in April, 1878, and resulted in a high bid of \$7,060. The court refused to sanction the sale and it was resold August 6, 1878, and was purchased by John Connell of Richmond for \$8,610.

During the ownership of John Connell in 1880 much repair work was done. The following summer space for 300 guests was reported available.

A corporation was formed in December, 1881, and Connell deeded his entire property at Salt Sulphur Springs to the new firm, the Salt Sulphur Springs Company. During the summer of 1882, a great amount of

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 8 Page 6

plastering and stone work was done on the Caruthers House, the Erskine House and other buildings. It is interesting to note that again a member of the Fullen family was called upon to do the work. This time it was John Fullen, the son of the J.J. Fullen, Sr., who had constructed the buildings more than fifty years before.

Col. J.W.M. Appleton made his appearance at the Springs in May, 1882, and was from that time active manager of the resort. Appleton was born in Boston. He was commissioned early in 1863, and was commissioned a major at that date. He was promoted to brigadier general in the West Virginia state militia, and he was adjutant general of the state from 1897 to 1901.

Appleton's career as manager of the Springs brought a spirit of what may be termed "Yankee initiative". In communications with other communities he solved the problem by setting up a telegraph line from Salt Sulphur to Union; from there connection might be made to Fort Spring and to any part of the country. A stage line was also organized to run between the Springs and the railway station on the C&O Railroad at Fort Spring. A bar was opened in the summer of 1882 under the management of E.T. Connell.

Appleton was adept at many things, photography included. The Journal in 1882, shows he purchased various quantities of photographic supplies. He encouraged the guests to use the camera.

Apparently from the records a considerable number of guests came to the Salt Sulphur Springs during the period of the 1880's and 1890's and after 1900. Appleton advertised it as the "Home-like Resort". The daily rate was listed as \$2.25 per day; the weekly rate \$12; and the monthly rate \$30 to \$40. Children under ten years were rated at half cost. The regular season began on June 15.

Appleton's death came in 1913 when he was gored by a Jersey bull as he was letting the animal through a gate near the Salt Sulphur Springs store. The Springs were not opened for the following year, nor for several years until a new management took over. Probably the best remembered events that took place at the Salt Sulphur Springs after the death of Appleton, were the Four-H camps. The first camp was held at the resort in 1916; it was the second such camp held in the state. This and other camps in succeeding years were not termed Four-H camps but county farm boys institutes. Girls as well as boys attended. They became Four-H camps about 1920.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 8

Page 7

Four-H camps were held annually at Salt Sulphur Springs up through 1924, when it was deemed advisable to hold them elsewhere because the buildings were unsafe.

The Springs were closed after 1914 and owners sought to find a buyer. Their efforts went unrewarded, and in 1918, it was decided to sell the property at public auction. The land was divided into plots. A crowd of 500 attended the sale which was held April 18, 1918. The area on which the springs and hotel buildings were located was designated as Lot Number Nine and consisted of 38 acres. It was sold to E. Don Ballard for \$7,220. During the period immediately following the sale, little was done to return the property to the use of a resort hotel. Ballard operated the store as his chief business. On February 3, 1921, he sold the property to F. Lory and Sons (a Charleston corporation). Shortly thereafter F. Lory and Sons sold the entire property to P.E. Holz, a Charleston meat packer and wholesale grocer. The purchase price was \$20,000. In 1930, Holz added 16 acres which were originally Salt Sulphur Springs property.

Again, a company was formed to operate the Springs as a resort. It was named the Salt Sulphur and Iodine Springs Company. It was estimated that Holz spent more than \$50,000 repairing and renovating the property. Sufficient guests did not come to make a profitable business. The Salt Sulphur and Iodine Springs Company was dissolved in 1933. The last season the Salt Sulphur Springs operated as a resort was in 1936.

Yes, they came before the Civil War. Families from the plantations, families from Richmond, Charleston, Mobile, Montgomery, New Orleans, Savannah, families of the military and naval men - they all came. The Social Set of the South of that day came to the springs of the Virginia mountains - and especially did the South Carolinians come to Salt Sulphur Springs. "Nullification Row", a group of cottages at the Old Salt, had been named in their honor.

General Albert Jenkins used the buildings and neighboring fields for his Eighth Virginia Cavalry's headquarters in 1862 before he made his raid against Buckhannon and Ripley. He also winterquartered here during the war. Armies of both the Confederate and Federals were here at various times during the Civil War.

Among the notable persons who visited the Salt Sulphur Springs were: Henry Clay; Governor John Floyd of Virginia; John C. Calhoun of South Carolina; President Van Buren; Jerome N. Bonaparte, nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte; Governors of many states and many more.

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Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 8

Page 8

After P.E. Holz' death, The National Bank of Commerce, Charleston, West Virginia, was made Trustee of the estate and by deed dated July 1, 1963, the property was sold to Marion Shiflet and James Bailey, which included the 38 acres known as the Salt Sulphur Springs property, also known as lot Number Nine, and 16 acres known as lot Number Eight.

Marion Shiflet and James Bailey in turn sold the property to Dr. Ward Wylie by deed dated October 16, 1983 (Deed Book 105, Page 127). Dr. Ward Wylie served one term in the West Virginia Legislature from Wyoming County and three terms in the West Virginia Senate from the ninth district. While in Wyoming County, Dr. Wylie operated the Wyoming General Hospital at Mullens. After Dr. Wylie purchased the Salt Sulphur Springs property he retired and moved to Salt Sulphur Springs making it his retirement home. He died on February 16, 1970 and in his will (Will Book 19, Page 34) he left the Salt Sulphur Springs property to his wife Anilee, his son Robert and his daughter Betty J. Farmer. Anilee and Betty now live on the property where they make their home.

Dr. Ward Wylie was a native of Monroe County and was born at Gap Mills, March 30, 1900.

The potential for the carrying out of historic archaeology studies at Salt Sulphur Springs seems especially promising. Because a number of early buildings in the complex have disappeared during the nearly two centuries of the district's existence, it is believed that excavations at the site of the Erskine House, several brick cottages, and the so-called Caruthers House could yield information valuable in American history.

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Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 9 Page 2

2. Moorman, J.J., M.D., The Virginia Springs, 1847.
3. Price, Paul E., and et al, West Virginia Geological Survey, 1936
page 10-11 plates XXIV and XXV, photos.
4. Reniers, Perceval, The Springs of Virginia, 1941.
University of North Carolina Press pp. 101, 102, 127,
144-149.
5. Edward Beyer, Albums of Virginia, Portfolio of Prints in
1858 (framed) Greenbrier County Library and Museum,
Lewisburg.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

Northwest of U.S. Route 219:

Beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of County Route 10/5 with U.S. Route 219, the boundary forms a 200 ft. square to include the stone church and stone store [200 ft. along the northwest edge of Route 219, 200 ft. along the southwest edge of County Route 10/5 connecting with U.S. Route 219]; and

Southeast of U.S. Route 219:

Beginning at the point immediately southeast of the intersection of County Route 10/5 with U.S. Route 219 on the southeast edge of Route 219, proceed 450 ft. southwest to the point of the bend in the highway; proceeding then 1200 ft. southeast along the northeast edge of U.S. Route 219 to a point approximately 200 ft. from the intersection of Route 219 with County Route 219/7; proceed 1000 ft. in a straight line northeast to the point of intersection with the 1900-ft. contour line (U.S.G.S. Quad.); thence approximately 1000 ft. in a straight line northwest to the point of intersection with U.S. Route 219; thence 260 ft. southward along the southeast edge of Route 219, to the point opposite County Route 10/5, to form a rectangle.

Also inclusive of a rectangle beginning at a point 260 ft. north of the point opposite of County Route 10/5 on the southeast edge of Route 219 to form a rectangle 400 ft. long on the north and south sides and 800 ft. long on the east and west sides. The west and north sides of this rectangle are formed by the south and east edge of U.S. Route 219.

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Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs HD

Item number 4

Page 2

Mrs. Shirley Mossor
Box 201
Union, WV 24983

Mrs. Ezzie McCoy
c/o Episcopal Church
Union, WV 24983

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Continuation sheet Salt Sulphur Springs Item number 6 Page 2

Historic American Buildings Survey, photographic recording by
Richard Cheek, October 22, 1974