

PHO 677 116

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MAR 28 1979
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MAY 29 1979
DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Job's Temple

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W of Glenville on WV 5

Route 5

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Near Glenville *vic* VICINITY OF

First 3rd

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

West Virginia

54

Gilmer

021

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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

Job's Temple Association ✓

STREET & NUMBER

General Delivery

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Glenville

VICINITY OF

West Virginia

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Gilmer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Howard Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Glenville

West Virginia

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED                      DATE

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Job's Temple, one of the oldest log churches in West Virginia, is situated on West Virginia Route 5 in Gilmer County, West Virginia. It is a log structure, rather small, rectangular in shape, and similar to many log structures that served settlers as places of worship in the Appalachian Mountains through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Temple, constructed by local labor between the years 1860 and 1866, is 18 x 24 feet in dimension, and constructed of 22" to 24" poplar logs that were locally cut. The poplar logs are laid in the familiar X squared & notched design which gives the Temple it's rectangular appearance. The roof was originally of hand-hewn clapboard (hewn with a broad axe), but due to natural deterioration, this roof was replaced by a tin roof in 1936. The original mortar was a clay mix, also done locally. Re-daubing was done in the early 1930's, using the same type of local clay mix mortar as the original, and done in the original manner by a grandson of one of the first settlers in the area and supposedly one of the last individuals with knowledge of this old method.

The single entrance to Job's Temple faces east and consists of a large heavy wood door. There are four windows, two on the north and two on the south walls of the building.

The interior of the building is in the same simplistic design as the exterior. Excepting a large section of the ceiling which is 1950 celetex, the interior is of wood and mostly original. The original sections of the ceiling are of poplar boards that are whipsawed and hand dressed. The walls (constructed of broad-boards), the floor, the wooden pulpit-lectern, and the wooden lamp stands are all original. The original benches were made from split-logs with wooden legs driven in at either end. Only a few of these original benches remain, however. Most of the benches now in the Temple are backless, hand-made wooden benches constructed around 1934.

The property on which the Temple sits is approximately three acres and is mostly hilly and wooded. The 122 grave Job's Temple Cemetery is directly adjacent to the Temple, and dates from four years after the Temple itself was constructed. There is also a stone open-air lectern a few yards east of this church from which the various ceremonies and festivities connected with Job's Temple are conducted.

Plans are in the offing to restore the original clapboard roof and the appropriate sections of the interior ceiling. Such a completed restoration would serve to enhance the beauty of this structure, which is already one of the areas most prominent and well-known landmarks.

# 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1860-1866.

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Situated on a knoll overlooking Route 5 some nine miles from the Gilmer County seat of Glenville, Job's Temple stands as one of the only remaining log churches still in use in the state of West Virginia.

One of the oldest places of worship in central West Virginia, Job's Temple began as a result of the split in the Pisgah Methodist Church occasioned by the slavery issue in the 1850's. The pro-southern faction, or Methodist Episcopal Church (Southern), split from the main body of the Methodists and founded their own church near the site of the original Gilmer County courthouse (now disappeared) of De Kalb. Construction of the log structure was begun in 1860, but the coming of the Civil War, during which most of Gilmer County's able-bodied men went off to fight, interrupted the building of the church. After the end of the Civil War the structure was completed in 1866, with the Rev. Pickens as its first pastor.

Throughout the remainder of the 19th century, this log church, named Job's Temple after a local church member Job Westfall (not the Biblical Job) served as the primary place of worship and community center for the area. The church frequently served not only as a place of worship and focal point of weddings and funerals, but as a place of refuge during the frequent flooding that did and still does take place in this part of Gilmer County. In keeping with the spirit of a community center, the Temple was also used as the place of worship for the Baptist church during the year 1897-98.

Sunday School continued to be held in Job's Temple until 1912, after which time the building was more or less abandoned except for occasional funerals and weddings and gradually fell into disrepair. Major renovations were begun in 1928 and continued throughout the early 1930's until the building was considered to be rehabilitated in 1936. At this time, the annual Job's Temple Homecomings began, which with ever-increasing attendance have continued down to the present time. The Homecoming is generally the concluding day's event of the annual West Virginia State Folk Festival, which ends with Sunday services, a Sing, and a speech by some prominent West Virginian at the Temple.

Job's Temple was also the home of a prominent West Virginia "Singing School" during the period 1870-1890, which was attended by individuals from all over central West Virginia.

The Job's Temple Cemetery, which is directly adjacent to the Temple, is one of the oldest in Gilmer County, and the names on the grave markers represent some of the oldest and most prominent members of the Gilmer County community. The Cemetery is

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

West Virginia Centennial Churches; Job's Temple, West Virginia Collection, West Virginia University Library, 1963.

Talk; Job's Temple History, by Dr. James Woofter.

"Old Log Temple Saved", Parkersburg, W. Va. News, August 4, 1974.

"The Little Brown Church in the Wildwood" by Dr. Byron J. Turner, Charleston Gazette-Mail, June 18, 1961.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre, 9 poles

QUADRANGLE NAME Tanner, W. Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 5032140 43091040

B         

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Job's Temple property is located on West Virginia Route 5, 9 miles west of Glenville, Gilmer County. The property is bounded as follows: Beginning at Route 5 and running northwest 13 poles, thence southeast 13 poles, thence southwest 13 poles to Route 5.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael J. Pauley, Historian

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Unit

DATE

W. Va. Science & Cultural Center

January 12, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Capitol Complex

348-0240

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Charleston

West Virginia

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*Clarence Moran*

3/26/79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*William Bobich*

DATE May 29, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Anna Jane Saxe*

DATE 5-29-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

*Regional Review Coordinator*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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JOB'S TEMPLE, GLENNVILLE, GILMER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

is well-kept, and continues to be used. The last burial took place as recently as 1977.

The object of great pride and veneration for the community, it is still the scene of weddings and funerals for members of the community.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 2

- 9) Class Book for Job's Temple Class, Glenville Court House, 1893.  
Hardesty's West Virginia Counties, Volume 7, Richwood, W. Va., 1973.
  
- 10) thence with Route 5 to the beginning, (described in Gilmer County Deed Book 7, page 20).