

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 01 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

Faraway Farm

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Daniel Ropp House "The Lower Place"

**2** LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

~~BERKELEY~~ Martinsburg

VICINITY OF Harlan Spring

STATE

CODE  
54

COUNTY

Berkeley

CODE  
003

West Virginia

**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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Mr. & Mrs. Frank L. Downey, Jr. (Mary C. Ropp Downey)

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg, WV 25401

STATE

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Berkeley County  
COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg, WV 25401

STATE

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE H-33, Berkeley County Historical Society & Berkeley County Historical  
Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1973-78

FEDERAL STATE  COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Berkeley County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg, WV 25401

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The "Lower Place" house is a large, two story, L shaped brick house built in seven row common bond on a stone foundation. The house is five bays wide: the ell is four bays long with a two story recessed porch. All chimneys are inside end chimneys with corbelled caps that break the roof at the gable ridge. Gables are decorated with beaded bargeboards. Brick flat arches highlight the fenestration; windows are 4/4 double sash. Single pane rectangular transoms are over most of the exterior doors. A brick dentil cornice extends across the front and a dog-tooth brick cornice extends down the ell. The entrance porch is a one bay, one story pedimented portico with plain balusters, rectangular in section. The column shafts have chamfered edges. Scrolled brackets may have been added later for a more Victorian effect. This is a beautiful example of the "West Virginia Porch" type of building constructed ca. 1865. The front section has a central hall plan, one room each side. The ell is two rooms deep with an enclosed single flight stair in the kitchen which leads to a hall and three rooms on the second floor. All four rooms in the front section have mantels, but there is only one fireplace on the second floor. All the mantels in the house are different. They all relate to each other through certain design elements, particularly tapering and/or chamfered pilasters, decoratively shaped corners on the mantel shelf, chamfered edges on the frieze, and small pilaster bases with moldings. These, and other features found individually on the mantels, create beautiful effects that result in their being one of the special features of this fine house. Only one of the six mantels has a ogee arched frieze and it is on the single second floor firebox in the NW bedroom. The other mantel across the hall in the SW bedroom has a Tudor arched frieze as does the mantel in the living room which also has a cartouche with pierced design. The Romanesque mantel in the parlor is the only one that is round arched and has spandrels and a cartouche. The dining room mantel in the ell has a chamfered frieze board and pilasters with pronounced ornamental chamfer stops, as do most of the other mantels, but this mantel is otherwise plain and the effect is charming. The mantel on the large fireplace in the kitchen is plain but the shelf has clipped corners. The open string main stairway curves beautifully to the third floor from a single starting newel in four flights with three landings, the last one being in effect a small balcony. Two turned balusters are on each step to support the shaped handrail that mitres at the base into the circular newel cap on the tapered octagon shaped starting newel. The string course has a beaded edge and small cavetto moldings outline the tread and riser on the step ends. This stairway is beautiful. The dining room has an original two tiered built-in cupboard to one side of the fireplace. The doors have raised panels that fit into chamfered stiles and rails. The kitchen has a like arrangement. Original built-in closets are located in the living room on the ground floor and in three of the five bedrooms on the second. Clothes rails with pegs are on the walls of the two tiny bedrooms (one is now a bath) over the kitchen. They are approached by a single flight enclosed stair which has a small balustrade on the second floor having rectangular spokes and newel with a hipped cap and handrail. The trim in this section of the house is much plainer being only a shaped surface of two planes, the inner one is a bevel. All other trim is asymmetrically molded of layered facings and a nice backband. The baseboard, although of the same design throughout, is taller in the front of the house. Doors are four panel with their original hardware. Interior box locks are 3 1/4" x 4" with white or tortoiseshell porcelain knobs. The front entrance door lock is 4" x 6". All windows on the first floor have splayed reveals but they are straight on the second floor. Floors are tongue and groove pine of 6" boards. There are several classical elements of design incorporated in this house, particularly with regard to the exterior. The front fenestration with wide and flaring, bonded brick flat arches, the brick dentil cornice, full triangular pediment on the one bay entrance porch and the corbelled rectangular chimneys are all reminders of the straight line classicism of Greek Revival. The dogtooth cornice of the ell, the chamfered porch posts, occasional heavy scrolled bracket, and 4/4 window sash are features more associated with the curvilinear Victorian age. The interior of the house reveals the same combination of the periods. The magnificent curved stairway and the ogee, Tudor, and Romanesque arched mantels certainly indicate that the builder had been influenced by the curvilinear themes of the Romanesque and Gothic periods. There is even a hint at Egyptian in the tapered, chamfered pilasters of the mantels. Stylistically, this house fits well into a period of 1855-75.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Daniel Ropp House is significant for its type of unaltered architecture. The Ropp House is a beautiful pre-Civil War, West Virginia Porch type of building constructed ca. 1860. This is a type and style of architecture which can be found throughout Berkeley County from the 1850 to 1880 period.

"West Virginia Porch" style is a vernacular term for our State. Although found in other states, the frequency of this porch style in our area has resulted in the development and adaptation of this term. The term is used to denote a 2-tiered porch (usually recessed) in the ell of a 2 story "L" shaped house. Always constructed in the same manner, the balustrades and posts vary in style and design according to the period and style of the house when constructed. The main stylistic feature of this house is the chamfering with decorative chamfer stops that is found predominately in the mantels throughout. That this chamfering is also found on the exterior porches, both the 2 tiered porch of the ell and the front portico, illustrates the fine continuity of design found throughout this building. This continuity makes this building an outstanding example of early Victorian architecture.



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H-33 Faraway Farm

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2 PAGE 2

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2. About 1/2 mile from Spring Mills on Route 8 over 1. Take Route 1 at Spring Mill Presbyterian Church south to Route 8 over 1. Take north private road at first fork.

There has been no change to building since 1978. Recent photo attached.