

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 23 1987
date entered FEB -1 1988

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

1. Name

historic Strider Farm

and or common

2. Location

street & number W.Va. Route 27 not for publication

city, town Harpers Ferry X vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Jefferson code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Seldon Todd

street & number Box 691

city, town Harpers Ferry N/A vicinity of state West Virginia 25425

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number Washington and George Streets

city, town Charles Town state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes X 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 Strider Farm is located on a small knoll that overlooks, to the north, the small stream of Elks Run and the main line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, just west of the corporate boundary of Harpers Ferry, in Jefferson County, West Virginia.

There are three structures on the property within the boundaries of the nominated area, all of which contribute to its significance. The principal structure is the two and a half story stone residence that has been the seat of the farm since the construction of its main unit c.1790. The main unit of the residence is of stone construction on a rubble stone foundation, showing a definite Pennsylvanian influence, as do many residences of this area that date to this period. The residence is a good rural example of a simplified Adam, or Federal, style farmhouse. The main unit of the residence is three bays across, and is built in such a manner that it extends somewhat into the hillside on which it is built; so that it gives the appearance of a two and half story structure at the front elevation and a one and a half story structure at the rear elevation. The house is side gabled, with a steeply pitched roof of wooden shingles. Two massive interior end chimneys flank the main unit on either side elevation. The windows are six over six paned and there is a four paned rectangular overlight over the entrance door at the rear elevation. There are second story windows on both the side elevations that flank the chimneys. There is a c.1880 two story addition on the north side of the main residence. This addition is also of stone construction and is architecturally compatible with the main residence unit. The addition is only one room deep at both levels, and has a two story wooden porch at its east, or front, elevation.

Originally, the first floor of the main unit was one open room with whitewashed stone interior walls and a dirt floor. The dirt floor has been covered with a wooden one. The exposed hewed log joists are also whitewashed. At the north side elevation of this room is a large, open hearth or fireplace that was originally used for both cooking and heating purposes. Originally, the northwest corner of this room contained a winding staircase that went to the second floor. A doorway into the 19th century addition now occupies the original location of the stairs. The second floor of the main unit contains two rooms, the larger of which is two bays wide. The wall dividing these two rooms is (painted) plaster with a chair rail and base board. The ceiling of the larger second floor room contains a fine large circular rosette. Both second floor rooms have fireplaces. Both of the two rooms contain built-in cupboards. The attic of the main unit is completely finished, containing a chair rail and other finely crafted woodwork.

As previously stated, the c.1880 addition is but one room deep on both levels. There is a single window on each outside wall, the door and window

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in the east wall of the first floor leads to the porch. An enclosed stairway on the south wall of the addition connects the two levels of both the addition and the main unit. The residence as a whole is currently undergoing extensive and thorough restoration work.

The two other structures on the Strider Farm are the barn and the ruins of a celler house, or root celler. The barn is a timber structure, of board and batten construction, with a gable roof. This structure dates to c.1880, the approximate period of the construction of the addition to the residence. It is a contributing structure. The celler house was originally two stories, the first story being of rubble stone construction and built partially into the hillside. The upper story was of masonry construction, the whole being surmounted by a wooden gable roof. The celler house dates to c.1790. The roof has long-since collapsed, and only the walls remain to the structure, but despite its state of ruination it is held to contribute to the significance of the property due to its age (nearly two centuries) and its architectural compatibility with the original main unit of the residence.

The Strider Farm looks onto the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, while retaining the same rural ambiance that has characterized its existence since it was settled nearly two hundred years ago on an eminence overlooking the rolling Potomac River.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Local History

Specific dates c.1790; c.1880 Builder/Architect Not Known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Meets Criteria A B C

The Strider Farm, located on Elks Run in a rural area just west of historic Harpers Ferry, in Jefferson County, West Virginia, is significant as a good intact example of Federal period stone residential architecture in a rural setting,¹ for being home to a locally prominent Jefferson County family, one of whose members played a significant role in the religious life of the state,² and as having played a role in significant military activities in the area during the American Civil War.³

Explanatory Notes

1. Constructed c.1790, when nearby Harpers Ferry was still a tiny village known as "Shenandoah Falls, at Mr. Harper's Ferry" and not yet made important by the construction of the Federal Armory, the main unit of the Strider House is a two and a half story stone residence with a side gabled roof that is steeply pitched. It is three bays across, the front entrance way constituting the principal feature of the middle bay. A rectangular overlight that surmounts the rear doorway is typical of the period and style. Two massive end interior chimneys flank the main unit of the residence, aiding in giving it the symmetrical appearance that is typical of the Federal style. The house is representative of the late-Post Settlement period of the county, when what is now Jefferson County was still a part of Berkeley County, Virginia and when family farms of substance and stability were rapidly coming to replace earlier log and wood buildings, the influence of the Pennsylvanian immigration into the area was being felt, and the region was on the verge of coming into its "golden age" of antebellum prosperity.

The c.1880 addition is representative of the initial phase of post-Civil War prosperity in Jefferson County when, after the devastation of the war and the resultant two decades of economic depression, the area began to regain, to a lesser extent, its former prosperity and area farmers could once again build and expand. (For a more detailed discussion of the architectural details of the property, see Part 7).

2. The Strider family, with whom this property as been primarily associated, is one that has played a solid and significant role in regional annals. The original settlers on this land were Philip Strider, an independent yeoman farmer who came to what is now Jefferson County and constructed the original main unit about 1790, and his kinsman Samuel Strider. The Strider

9. Major Bibliographical References

Barry, Joseph, The Strange Story of Harpers Ferry, With Legends of the Surrounding Country, Harpers Ferry, W.Va., 1903
Bushong, Millard K., A History of Jefferson County, West Virginia, Charles Town, W.Va., Jefferson Publishing Co., 1941

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property app. five acres

Quadrangle name Charles Town, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1";24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	2	6	1	6	6	0	4	3	5	7	3	0	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 400 foot Contour line 300 feet due east of the intersection of the main unimproved entrance road to the Strider Farm with an unimproved dirt road (that runs due west); thence along the 400

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 Michael J. Pauley, Historian

organization Gioulis and Pauley

date May 1, 1987

street & number 4651 Victoria Road

telephone (304) 744-9342

city or town Charleston

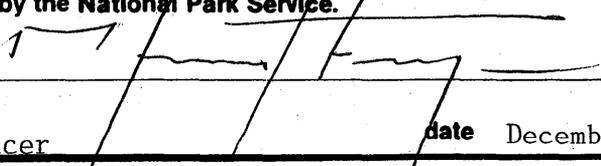
state West Virginia

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 December 11, 1987

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

Patricia Andrus

date 2/1/88

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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family owned the property throughout the 19th century, and contributed significantly to the life of Jefferson County. The value of their property was enhanced by the main line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad running directly adjacent to it in the 1840's. Members of the Strider family of Harpers Ferry who achieved local and regional prominence have included: Samuel Strider, who served in Capt. G.W. Humphrey's company in the War of 1812; John H. Strider, son of Philip, served as a clerk in the sixth auditor's office of the U.S. Treasury Department in Washington, D.C., 1853-1861, during the administrations of President's Pierce and Buchanan. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the Confederate service and served as post commissary in the Army of Northern Virginia for the duration of the conflict. His son John P. Strider also served in the Confederate army, was wounded and taken prisoner at the Battle of Charles Town, near his home, and his cousin, John S. Strider, was a member of the vaunted "Stonewall Brigade" (2nd Virginia Infantry, Army of N.Va.). Issac H. Strider served in the 12th Virginia Cavalry of the same army and, after the war, became one of the county's most prominent farmers. He was one of the principal organizers of The Grange in Jefferson County, and he served as a Jefferson County Commissioner, 1881-85. Although their actions at the time could be described as merely "doing one's job", two of the Strider's achieved historical note when I. Keyes Strider and Melvin T. Strider became two of the five postal carriers who participated in the first Rural Free Delivery experiment in Charles Town on October 1, 1896.

Robert E. Lee Strider, son of Issac H. Strider, was, without question, the most noted member of the family in modern times. Born on the family farm in 1887, he attended the University of Virginia and Union Theological Seminary of Alexandria, Virginia before being ordained in the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1911. Strider served as rector of St. Matthew's Church in Wheeling from 1915 until 1923 when he became Bishop Co-Adjustor of the Protestant Episcopal Church of West Virginia. In 1939 he became full Bishop of West Virginia, serving until his retirement in 1955. Bishop Strider was the author of The Life and Work of George William Peterkin (1929) the definitive biography of West Virginia's first Episcopal Bishop. Bishop Strider died in 1969.

3. Located just a few hundred yards south of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Line (which Lincoln considered the most vital strategic route to the war effort) and just to the west of the junction of the Charles Town-Hall Town Pike and Harpers Ferry-Sheperdstown Road, and just to the west of Bolivar Heights, the Strider House, with its solid stone construction, could not escape being intimately involved in several of the Civil War's most important military engagements.

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During the crucial Antietam campaign of September 13-17, 1862, the Federal skirmish line opposing the Confederate force of Lt. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson ran directly across the Halltown Road from the Strider Farm, while the Confederate artillery battery of Capt. William T. Poague was positioned near the front lawn of the Strider House, preliminary to the bombardment of the Federal force in Harpers Ferry. The brigade of C.W. Field, under the command of Col. J.M. Brockenbrough, was to the immediate west of the property, from whence they poured a heavy fire into the Federal line on Bolivar Heights that, in no small way, contributed to the surrender of the entire Federal command of over 11,000 at Harpers Ferry; the largest mass surrender of United States troops in history.

Again, in 1864, the Strider House and Farm were intimately linked with an important Civil War campaign. In August of that year, at the opening of General Philip Sheridan's Shenandoah Campaign, the "Position of the Army of the Shenandoah", as marked on official maps of the campaign, is shown stretching immediately to the west of the farm, while Federal Maj. General Horatio G. Wright had his temporary headquarters at the Strider House. The Strider House is also shown on official maps of the July 4, 1864 Harpers Ferry engagement. It is assumed that, due to this intensive military activity, there would be a high potential for successful historic archeological investigation at the property, though none has yet taken place.

The Strider Farm is, therefore, significant as an early architectural landmark of the region, as well as for its long association with persons and events important to the history of Jefferson County and West Virginia.

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Item 9. Major Bibliographical References...Continued

Hamilton, Eleanor Meyer, The Flair and the Flame: The Story of the Episcopal Church in West Virginia, 1877-1977, Charleston, W.Va., Diocese of West Virginia, Protestant Episcopal Church, 1977

Hardesty, H.H., History of Jefferson County, West Virginia, Chicago, H.H. Hardesty, 1883

Official Records of the War of the Rebellion of the Union and Confederate Armies, Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1887, Series I, Vols.I, IX, XIX, XXXVII

Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1895

"Oral Interview with Mary E. Fish, secretary to the Episcopal Diocese," Charleston, W.Va., April, 1987

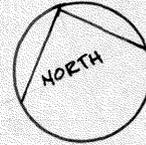
Thompson, Michael D., Calendar and Index to Recorded Survey Plats in Jefferson County, West Virginia Courthouse, 1801-1901, Charles Town, W.Va., Jefferson County Historical Society, 1984

West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia, Richwood, W.Va., Comstock Pub., 1973

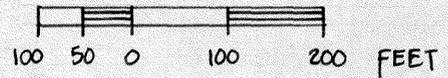
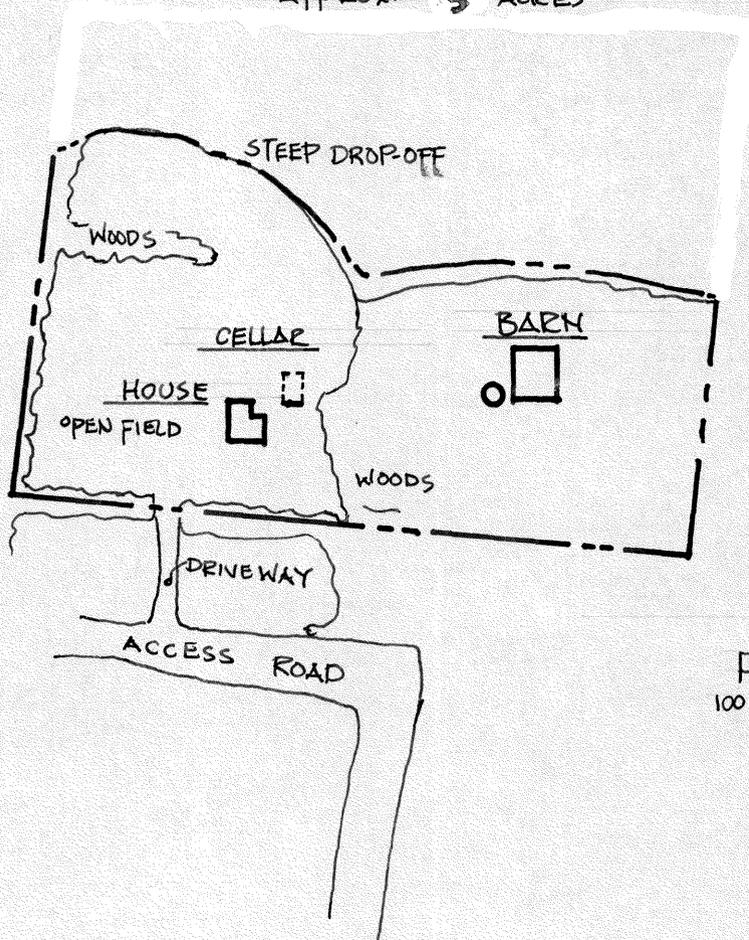
Item 10, Verbal Boundary Description...Continued

foot Contour line north 600 feet; thence with the 400 foot Contour Line as it runs in a western direction 1100 feet; thence with the 400 foot Contour line as it runs in a line south 600 feet to its intersection with the north side of an unimproved access road; thence in a line due east along the north side of said road and beyond for 1000 feet to the point of beginning, encompassing the principal (residence) building, other contributing buildings, and the immediate grounds.

B&O RE R/W



EXTENT OF NOMINATION
APPROX. 5 ACRES



SKETCH MAP - STRIDER FARM
HARPERS FERRY, WEST VIRGINIA

MICHAEL GIOLIS

SEPT. 1987

SOURCE: PLAT OF PROSPECT HILL, 1975; FIELD NOTES

ETE. 27