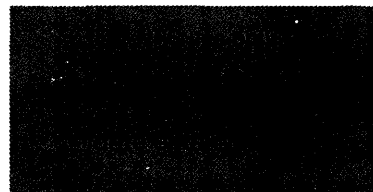


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



1983

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

1. Name

historic Estill, Wallace Sr., House

and/or common Old Stone House

2. Location

street & number WV Route 122 not for publication

city, town Union vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state West Virginia code 54 county Monroe code 063

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 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 type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Arnold L. and Adonna L. Dowdy

street & number Route 1, Box 85

city, town Union vicinity of state West Virginia 24983

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monroe County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Union state West Virginia 24983

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**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date H/A

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Wallace Estill house, built in 1773, is of stone and frame construction. It is located on a knoll 9 miles south of Union on Route 219 and 1 mile west on Route 122 in Monroe County, West Virginia.

The stone part of the house referred to as the "Block House" in Monroe County History is 20' 6" x 25' 6" which gives the appearance of a square block. With the frame addition, the house measures 20' 6" x 48' across the front.

There is a cellar, 4 rooms and an attic in the stone part of the house and the walls are about 18" thick. The inside walls were plastered by William T. Dunn on the 29th day of May 1820, according to information and date on the wall.

There are two stone chimneys from which three fireplaces and two flues for woodstoves are provided. The door frames in the stone part of the house are of wood and put together with wooden pegs; the window frames, where the originals still exist, are fastened with wooden pegs. The inside walls of the frame part of the house are covered with tongue-groove poplar boards throughout.

Mortised and tinoned timbers and cross beams secured with wooden pegs form the truss system of the roof, which is a medium pitched gable roof.

The kitchen and dining area added to the rear of the southeast end of the house form an ell and measures 16' x 24'. There are also three porches, one across the front of the house, one on the east side, and one on the south side of the house.

The Estill House is a marriage of two units. The earlier section, of rubble stone construction, features a three-bay front with double-hung windows and 6/6-light sashes. A substantial exterior and chimney dominates the end wall. The gable, bisected by the chimney, is pierced by two small square attic windows. The two-bay clapboarded portion of the house, with its own exterior end chimney of stone, gives the main block of the edifice a full and traditional five-bay front. Roofing on both the one-story ell and main block is of the raised seam metal variety.

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The Estill House, like most early American frontier farmhouses, evolved through succeeding generations to accommodate the rising fortune of the owner and burgeoning family needs. This is evidenced by the large frame addition dating from the 19th century that gave the house, with its original stone section, a full 5-bay front. A 1-story rear ell was also built at this time to house the expanding kitchen area. No date has been documented to establish the date of this frame section; although it appears to possess a balloon framing system that would place its date of construction sometime after 1850, and very probably after the Civil War. The front porch is of early 20th century origin, with hollow, milled classical columns dating from c. 1915. An early 20th century photo of the house in Morton's History of Monroe County West Virginia, p. 120, shows a simple shed-roofed porch across at least part of the front elevation.

Integrity of the house has not been seriously compromised because both the frame and stone sections, dating from their 19th century union, bear close design relationship. The builder was careful to match roof eave line and cornice boards, and an interesting placement of partial return cornices, flush with the wall surface of the frame unit's end gable, was admirably achieved. The double-hung windows of both sections of the house are multi-paned, although a subtle difference is discernable. The double-hung windows of the stone unit contain 4 over 9 lights per sash, while those of the later frame section feature 4 over 4 arrangements. The window design of the original section of the house is typical of that seen in late 18th and early 19th century American architecture.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the historic site was chosen to enclose those historic resources (the Estill House) which clearly relates to the areas of the nominated property's significance. The site is level and is surrounded by open farmland and pasture, sandwiched between Indian Creek and the geodetic contour line that rises 1700 feet to the southwest of the Estill House.

## 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 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/
<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 checked="" 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** 1773 **Builder/Architect** Wallace Estill, Sr., builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Wallace Estill was a man of local standing and considerable means. He was also High Sheriff of Augusta County, Virginia and lived in Bullpasture Valley at Fort George from 1745 until the time of his migration to Indian Creek in 1773. His second wife died in 1746 and left him a widower with six children. In 1748 he married his third wife Mary Ann Campbell; they had nine children, the youngest one being five years old when they came to Indian Creek in 1773 and built the old Stone House.

The Stone House that he built was willed to his youngest son Isaac and his mother Mary Ann Estill. Isaac married Elizabeth Strother Frogg, daughter of Captain John Frogg, who was killed at Point Pleasant on October 10, 1774 in the battle between the Virginia forces commanded by Gen. Andrew Lewis and the Indians commanded by Chief Cornstalk.

Isaac was raised in the stone house from age 7, was married and raised his family of 12 children here also. He was a man of prominence and served twice as Sheriff of Monroe County, first in 1799 after the formation of the county and again in 1813. He served two terms as Delegate to the Virginia Assembly, the first term from 1806 to 1809, and the second term from 1817 to 1818.

According to the census of 1810 Isaac Estill was one of the largest slave holders within the county, with a total of 18 slaves.

The best known of Wallace's sons was James Estill for whom Estill County, Kentucky was named. He was killed at Estills Defeat on March 22, 1782, in a battle with a party of Wyandotte Indians at Little Mountain, Kentucky.

The old stone house is a good example of pioneer architecture, is 210 years old this year and stands as a permanent monument to its builder Wallace Estill. The house is also the ancestral home of the Governor of Virginia Charles Robb. His Grandmother, Susan Gay Estill, was the Great Grand-daughter of Isaac Estill.

### Summary

As a settlement-period example of stone house construction in the Allegheny Mountains of West Virginia, and as the home to a family that played important local roles in the development of the region, the Estill House has achieved significance that is remembered by numerous descendents of the family who regularly visit their ancestral site from all parts of the United States.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

A History of Monroe, County West Virginia by Oren F. Morton, B. Lit., 1916.  
Estill Family History, by Alma Lackey Wilson, 1944.  
A Family History, by John Holbrook Estill, 1903.  
Wallace Estill Will dated December 3, 1789, Recorded in Greenbrier County Courthouse.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre  
Quadrangle name Greenville, West Virginia Quadrangle scale 1:24,000  
UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Sited on a 1-acre parcel bounded to the N.E. by an unimproved dirt road, to the N.W. by a gravel driveway, to the S.E. by a dirt driveway and to the S.W. by a line approximately 200' connecting the two driveways. The whole forms a square approximately 200 feet on each side.

**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	Adonna Dowdy	date	October 20, 1983
organization	N/A	telephone	304/348-0240
street & number	Route 1, Box 85	city or town	Union
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 Commissioner, Department of Culture and History

date December 7, 1983

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

date

4/9/1984

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The Estill House has achieved significance as the result of its place in local history; as a settlement period architectural landmark in Monroe County, West Virginia; and as a significant physical link with the Estill family who were among the first settlers of European origin to make a permanent home in what is today southeastern West Virginia, then Augusta County, Virginia.

Stone houses dating from the 18th and early 19th century are less common in Monroe County than in neighboring Greenbrier County or in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle where outcroppings of stone, or field stone, are more commonly found. While the Estill house is modest in size, it was considered substantial for its place and time and remains one of the oldest houses in the region. The stone rubble walls are sturdy and plumb but otherwise quite plain with the exception of the window heads which are flat arches of stone segments. The windows add another refined statement with their taller, lower sashes. Chimney stacks also rise well above the roof ridge in a manner that is decorative or design oriented. It is apparent from an early photo that the older section once had a shingle roof while the later section was covered with standing-seam sheet metal.

The Estill name, particularly as it relates to exploration and settlement of southeastern West Virginia, is worthy of note. Wallace Estill is listed in the roster of the John Henderson Company of pioneer settlers of 1782 in Monroe County, which comprised one of seven militia districts. He owned two slaves, 9 houses, 11 cattle and paid \$13.46 in tax—indicating a man of means, as measured by standards of that day. His son Issac is listed as owning 4 slaves in 1799. Issac is also listed as a voter in 1800, one of only 197 in the county. To quote Morton's History of Monroe County; "... the suffrage at that time was very much restricted. The voter was a person of some property and consequence". Issac Estill (b. 1766) was the 6th child of Wallaces's 2nd wife. Issac Estill was the first sheriff of Monroe County, serving 1799-1801, and again from 1813 to 1815. He was the 3rd county justice of Greenbrier County (jurisdiction over what is now Monroe County), 1790-1799. He also represented Monroe County in the Virginia Assembly, 1806-1809. Samuel Estill is listed as a sargant in the company of Capt. John Lewis in Lord Dunmore's War. He was the 3rd child of Wallace by his 2nd wife, Wallace Estill (1698 or 1702-1792) was born in New Jersey - his great uncle was the 1st white child born in New Jersey. In 1745 he and his wife Marcia and 5 children came to Bullpasture Valley near Fort George where he lived until 1773. "He was of fine intelligence and considerable means", and served as High Sheriff of Augusta County. Estill moved to Indian Creek in 1773. Estillville, Virginia is named for Wallace's grandson and Estill County, Kentucky, for a son.