

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received DEC 16 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic William Wilson House
and/or common "Prospect Hill"

2. Location

street & number WV 51
On the south side of West Virginia State Route #51, west of
Gerrardstown; at the foot of North Mountain not for publication
city, town Gerrardstown vicinity of _____ congressional district
state West Virginia code 54 county Berkeley code 003

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input 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 Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Hudock
street & number Post Office Box #135, Route #1
city, town Gerrardstown vicinity of _____ state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berkeley County Courthouse
street & number 100 West King Street
city, town Martinsburg state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title T-3 Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1973 - 1983 federal state county local
depository for survey records Berkeley County Courthouse
city, town Martinsburg state West Virginia

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

"Prospect Hill" is located one (1) mile west of Gerrardstown on West Virginia State Route #51. It is situated on a hill, in an expansive yard with several period dependencies.

A large two story house, it measures thirty six and one-half ($36\frac{1}{2}$) feet deep and seventy (70) feet wide, consisting of a three bay central block with four bay side wing. It was constructed in 1792 - 1802 of brick in Flemish bond and three row common bond with random glazing on a stone foundation. The house relates better to the late 1700's than to the early 1800's. The one story, one bay entrance portico is not the original but is appropriate in size and style. It was built in the 1930's by Mr. Lester Busey of Gerrardstown. Windows are 6/6 double sash. A flush beaded barge board decorates the gables and a box cornice extends across the front and rear façades. The steeply pitched roof is of patterned slate.

The layout of the main section is side hall, two rooms deep. The entrance hall has a very handsome four flight open-well stair to the balcony landing on the third floor. The step-ends are decorated with pierced scrolls and a chair-rail on newel-like pilasters extends up the stair wall.

The scenic mural in the hall is an outstanding feature of the house. It was painted in 1936 by a Baltimore artist, Olive Verna Rogers. As a pattern, she used a DuFore wallpaper, a French firm in business from 1780 - 1820. The mural reflects commercial and domestic life of the early republic. Included are scenes of ring jousting, lawn games, harbor scenes with British and American ships, covered wagons coming through a mountain gap, and on the first stair landing is "Prospect Hill". The mural is in excellent condition, quite beautiful, and unique to the area.

The dominant feature in most of the rooms is the fireplace. All of the mantels throughout are nearly identical. The most sophisticated is of course in the main parlor, which has a corniced over-mantel with a picture area. The frieze has a plain central tablet and end tablets with mantel shelf projections. A "picture frame" surround highlights the firebox. The other mantels have a plain frieze and no shelf projections, and most have a two-tiered, panelled-door, recessed cupboard to one side. These mantels are of a simple Georgian design and are quite nice. Both fireplaces in the main ground floor rooms have early decorative iron Franklin fireboxes permanently installed.

Attic rooms are partitioned with beaded board walls; likewise, the second floor rooms of the wing.

Window and door trim is plain with a beaded facing and architrave back-banding. Random width original floors are throughout.

07-12-84 4018
EXP. 12/31/84

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet William Wilson House Item number 7 Page 2

There are four outbuildings, three of which are contemporary with the dwelling house and are also built of brick in Flemish and three row common bond. Two of these are two story, two bay, gable roofed buildings with exterior stairs and were a kitchen and a springhouse. The third is a three bay, six convenience privy built in Flemish bond. All are in good condition. The fourth outbuilding is the very early, possibly c.1750, original stone dwelling house. The exterior is relatively intact.

All of these are located just on the other side of the circular drive and are clearly seen from the house. Access was important since they served important functions.

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 checked="" 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	1792 - 1802	Builder/Architect	William Wilson
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Prospect Hill" is significant for its architecture, being a very fine example of late Georgian design. This is evidenced by the squat proportions, steep gable roofs, and interior mantels and trim. Other examples of this in Berkeley County are not easy to find, as Federal and later architecture is more prevalent. The Hughes-Cunningham house, a log house constructed in 1771, has a near identical mantel in the second story, the variation being in the type of molding used.

Adding particularly to the architectural significance are the three contemporary outbuildings in placement and design. Daily routines are more easily interpreted using the relationships these buildings have with the main dwelling house.

The workmanship, including brick work and execution of interior trim, is excellent in all the buildings. The scenic mural, although later, is significant as a panorama of historical American life, and for its visual impact.

William Wilson constructed the brick buildings of "Prospect Hill". He acquired several tracts of land in the Gerrardstown area. He was a money lender and a merchant, selling supplies to settlers going west. The house is located on West Virginia State Route #51, an early road to the West.

Wilson made significant contributions to the economic and architectural development of the area by his business enterprises and by his construction of the "Prospect Hill" estate.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Martinsburg Gazette, on microfilm at Berkeley County Library, 1810 thru 1831
Mutual Assurance Society Records, Virginia Antiquities Commission, Richmond, Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name Tablers Station, WV

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24,000

UMT References

A

1	7	7	4	9	3	4	0	4	3	6	2	2	7	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 50' east of the driveway; thence south 470', thence west 420', thence north along the garden fence 520', thence east along West Virginia State Route #51 (south side) to the beginning, (see map).

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 Frances D. Ruth - Chairperson

organization Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission date November 15, 1983

street & number Route #2, Box 320 telephone (304) 754 - 7097

city or town Martinsburg 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Commissioner, WV Department of Culture and History date November 18, 1983

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 1/12/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

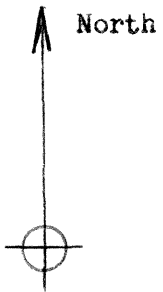
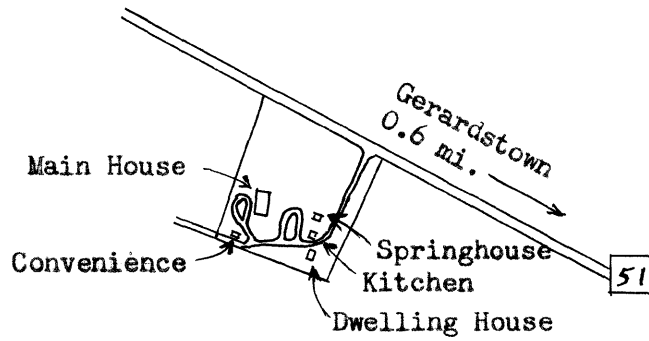
WILLIAM WILSON HOUSE

T-3

Tablers Station Quadrangle

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 5 acres



SCALE 1 : 7,920

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photo AGS-66-66
by Galtjo L. Geertsema