

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 26 1970	

1. NAME

COMMON: OLD SWEET SPRINGS

AND/OR HISTORIC: Andrew S. Rowan Memorial Home

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Route 3

CITY OR TOWN: Sweet Springs

STATE: West Virginia	CODE: 54	COUNTY: Monroe	CODE: 063
----------------------	----------	----------------	-----------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Home for the Aged</u>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>Owned by the state of W. Va.</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Office of Public Institutions

STREET AND NUMBER: State Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston

STATE: West Virginia	CODE: 54
----------------------	----------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Monroe	CODE:
---------------	-------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

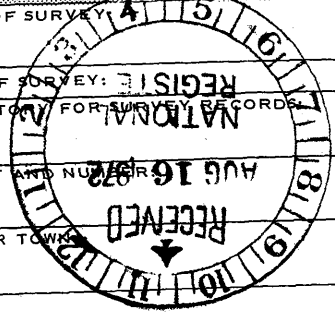
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE:
--------	-------

Federal
 State
 County
 Local

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Monroe
ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 26 1970
DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

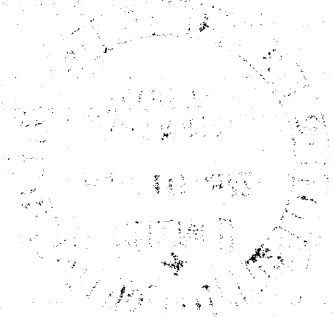
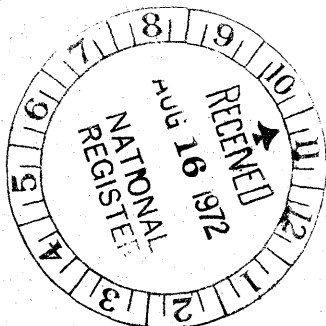
The deed of 1903 conveying property to the Old Sweet Springs Corporation involved 1788½ acres, but we are only concerned in preserving an area of approximately 8.5 acres. The history of Old Sweet Springs compiled by West Virginia State officials after the purchase of the property in 1941 places the building of most of the existing structures prior to the Civil War. This would include the Jefferson Building, four two-story guest homes, and the Ball Building. Even earlier is the Elbow Row cottage. The church-like bath house is a later replacement for an original wooden building.

It is doubtful if anything survives of the 18th Century wood structures.

When the State took over the property in the early 40's, extensive renovations were undertaken initially costing nearly \$150,000, added to the purchase price of \$150,000. Certainly more has been expended since, but the external appearance of the old buildings has been honored. The Jefferson Building has been altered considerably in the interior to accommodate office and medical needs and a wing was added at the rear. The buildings constructed of hand-made brick are still in good condition.

An artist's conception of the development plans for Old Sweet, drawn in 1857, demonstrate that about half of the original ambitious scheme became reality.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

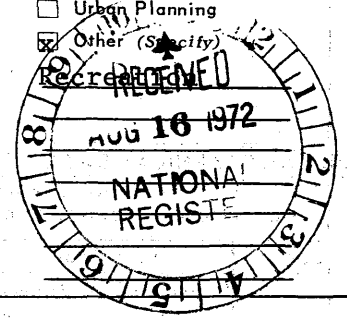
- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

c. 1840

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Sweet Springs, in Monroe County, West Virginia, is one of America's oldest mineral water resorts and, as it stands today, better than any other complex reflects the vacationing aspect of the country's fashionable society just as it functioned more than a century ago.

The extensive buildings, most of brick, some of wood, now serve as the State-owned Andrew S. Rowan Memorial Home for the aged. Rowan, a resident of a nearby village, was the much-publicized deliverer of the "message to Garcia" during the Spanish-American War.

Sweet Springs's history is intertwined with the fortunes of the descendants of John Lewis "the Emigrant," who was born in Donegal, Ireland, in 1678, but fled to this country in the late 1720's after he had killed an oppressive landlord who had murdered his invalid brother. Tradition has it that he and his sons William and Andrew, of Revolutionary War fame, explored the area in 1754.

By 1760 a James Moss is presumed to have built a cabin at Sweet Springs, but since he had no title he had to vacate in 1774 when King George III gave land patents to the Lewis family that same year. William Lewis built a two-story cabin more than a mile from the Springs, in present Virginia, but in 1783 moved west to the Springs, from where he continued to develop and promote the waters as a resort until 1802, when it passed out of his hands.

Several surviving accounts show Sweet Springs to have been functioning actively in the 1790's, accommodating an average of fifty patrons in "logge cabbins."

William Lewis planned a community of "Fortville," with all shops excluded from the residential area, but his dream failed to materialize as did his plans for an elaborate courthouse, although a circuit court serving a four-county area functioned there from 1795 to 1817, Lewis absorbing some criticism because he had used the courthouse and jail, when available, as guest accommodations.

A suit carried on in the court in 1802 is of considerable interest, involving as it did President Thomas Jefferson and Vice-President Aaron Burr, whom Jefferson accused of invading lands he had leased in Monroe County. The litigation was doubtless handled by representatives of the two men.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Logan, Frances. The Old Sweet: Biography of a Spring. Roanoke, Va. 1940.
 Welch, Lewis, articles in The Charleston Daily Mail, May 3 and 4, 1942.

HB
 17 / 366930
 4164690

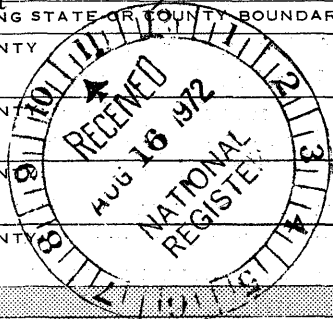
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	37°	37'	45"
NE	0	'	"	80°	14'	30"
SE	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8.5 (see #7)

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Clifford M. Lewis, S.J., for,

ORGANIZATION: **West Virginia Antiquities Commission** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN: **Morgantown** STATE: **West Virginia** CODE: **54**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Dr. Carolyn J. Zinn

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: August 4, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/27/72

ATTEST:

William J. Murtagh
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	West Virginia	
COUNTY	Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
JAN 26	1970	

(Number all entries)

8

neo-classical

The beautiful main building at Sweet Springs was constructed in the Jefferson tradition but since it was built after his death in 1826 it is hardly probable, despite many affirmations to the contrary, that he was the architect. Dr. Frederick Nichols, of the architectural department at the University of Virginia, observes that the building is in the Jefferson tradition and may have been built by someone in contact with Jefferson.

Of course persons prominent in the new federal society must have used the resort, but evidence of this is scanty. In later years, the names of Pierce and Fillmore appear on the register, and a letter written by Henry Clay was sent from there.

The tradition of a Jerome Bonaparte courtship and marriage there seems to have stemmed entirely from the filming of a movie version of "Glorious Betsy" at Sweet Springs. Nevertheless the film inspired a group of easterners to form a company and purchase the Old Sweet in 1929.

In 1852 three prominent persons - General John Echols, Senator Allen Taylor Caperton, and the wealthy Oliver Bierne, formed a corporation and projected an extensive building program on a semi-circular plan. About half of this plan was completed, giving us the existing quarter-circle of brick houses still standing.

The Springs went into receivership in 1930. The State purchase was made from R. N. Taylor, of Roanoke, in 1941.

Early writers on the Springs of Virginia, including Burke and Moorman, give prominence to the Old Sweet. It is not as old as Berkeley, nor has it survived as long as White Sulphur as a resort, but more than either, its buildings preserve a faithful reflection of resort life of the preceding century.

