

6-20-73

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Jefferson
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE APR 11 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: **"Prato Rio"**

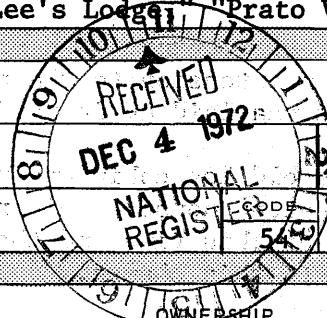
AND/OR HISTORIC: **"Hopewell," "General Lee's Lodge," "Prato Verde," and "The Hut"**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **State Road #48**

CITY OR TOWN: **Leetown** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **2nd Congressional District**

STATE: **West Virginia** COUNTY: **Jefferson** CODE: **037**



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Ily Bratina**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Leetown, Route #1, Box 28**

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: **Martinsburg (1771-1800)**
Charles Town (1801-present)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Martinsburg and Charles Town** STATE: **West Virginia** CODE: **54**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Historic American Building Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1936** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Division of Prints and Photographs - Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D. C.** CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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

"Prato Rio", as seen today was constructed in several stages. The stone portion, lived in by General Lee, was built in the mid-eighteenth century. It is a one story structure with an attic and basement. It faces southeast and its stonework is ashlar. An earlier log house had been constructed to the northwest prior to the stone structure.

In the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the original stone structure was virtually doubled in size by an extension to the northeast. This extension was also of stone but it was laid in random ashlar.

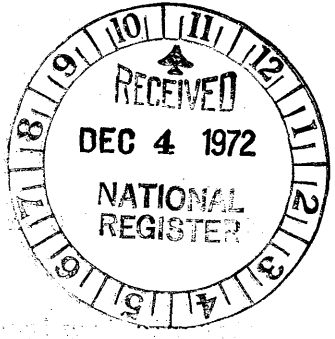
By the late nineteenth century, the old log cabin was raised a story in height and joined to the original stone house. This rear appendage was covered with Victorian clapboards at this time and the earlier windows were replaced with windows dating to this change.

A composition shingle roof now covers the structure. The present owner has found oak shingles in the attic that are feathered in their short dimension, this indicating that they were laid to side lap as well as lapping in the conventional manner.

The window and door frames, as well as the doors and windows of the stone portion of the house, are of more recent derivation and the door and window sills are now concrete.

The existing built up box cornice is a recent feature. There undoubtedly was a porch on the front of the house but it no longer exists.

The original stone portion of the house was served by a corner fireplace and its chimney above the roof is stone and has a simple stone projecting cap. Another stone chimney at the southeast end appears to have been added, probably at the time the extension to the northeast was made. The stone chimney serving the early log structure was heightened when the second floor was constructed.



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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Nov. 1775 (bought by Lee)**

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input 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			



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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Other than the fact that "Hopewell" was one of the oldest homes in the area, it holds historical significance because it became the home of General Charles Lee, second in command in the Continental Army to only George Washington. In 1775, Lee renounced his half pay in the British Army in order to accept the position as Major General. Lee was already negotiating for the purchase of "Hopewell," partly to identify himself economically with the Americans and perhaps to further his military ambitions. His appointment was contingent upon Congress awarding him \$30,000 so that he might own property locally in compensation for the confiscation of his British property.

When Lee became the owner of "Hopewell," he called it "Prato Verde" and later "Prato Rio," Spanish meaning "a stream through the meadow." While the eccentric Lee lived at "Prato Rio," he did without partitions in the house; instead, he used chalk lines to designate the various rooms. On December 12, 1776, Lee was captured by the British. When released, he returned temporarily to "Prato Rio," but soon rejoined Washington.

After Lee's court martial, he once again returned to "Prato Rio," this time to use his home as a base from which to send scolding replies to his charges. Finally, after his temper had partially cooled, he began to make plans for forming a military-agrarian community of his own.

It is said that Washington hoped to make an effort at reconciliation with Lee and asked to dine with him at "Prato Rio." When Washington arrived, he found "Lee's Lodge" closed with a note on the door saying, "No bread or bacon cooked today."

Having tentatively agreed to sell John Vaughn "Prato Rio" for 6,000 pounds, Lee set out for Philadelphia in September 1782, to complete the transaction, but died on October 2 before things could be settled.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alden, J. Richard, General Charles Lee, Traitor or Patriot. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1951.
 Bushong, Millard K., Historic Jefferson County, Boyce: Carr Publishing Company, 1972.
 Doherty, William T. Berkeley County, U.S.A., Parsons: McClain Printing Company, 1972.
 "General Charles Lee House," Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society, December 1964, p. 39.
 Patterson, Samuel W., Knight Errant of Liberty: the Triumph and Tragedy of General Charles Lee, New York: Lantern Press, 1958.

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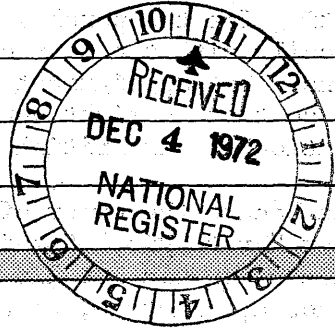
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		39° 20' 49"	77° 56' 12"	
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 10 a.

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: Ted McGee, Field Research Agent for

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission DATE: October 6, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: Old Mountainlair, WVU

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown STATE: West Virginia CODE: 26505 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Dr. Carolyn J. Zann</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>November 28, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert W. Utley</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>4/11/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>4.3.73</u></p>
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