

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DEC 10 1980

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

White Bush

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Archibald Shearer House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

At the end of Route 11/3. Turn off US 11 onto 11/3. Go to end.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Falling Waters

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

West Virginia

VICINITY OF

CODE

54

COUNTY

Berkeley

CODE

003

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. &amp; Mrs. John Ziegler

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Falling Waters, WV 25419

STATE

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Berkeley County

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg, WV 25401

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE W-3, Berkeley County Historical Society & Berkeley County Historical Landmarks  
Commission Survey

DATE

1973-78

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Berkeley County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg, WV 25401

STATE

# 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

A four bay, 2 story house with pedimented dormer windows in the gable roof and inside end chimneys, White Bush was built ca. 1790, the Federal period, but some Georgian influence, particularly inside, is apparent. Windows are 9/6 double sash with paneled shutters on the ground floor and 6/6 with louvred shutters on the second. This is the old established shutter distribution for early houses. Brick flat arches are over the windows. The house is built in 5 row common bond on a stone foundation. A one story Victorian entrance porch, now removed, extended across the front. It consisted of chamfered posts on paneled bases with small brackets. The transomed entrance door is of this period, 4 panel with the top 2 panels arched. The original porch either had a deck or was two tiered as a door is in this bay on the second floor. The floor plan is central hall, two rooms on one side and one large room on the other. The large room has a heavy cornice with pierced fretband and the projecting chimney breast is paneled. The mantel has a paneled frieze of flutings and the pilasters are fluted. Window reveals are paneled and the trim is shouldered (or has ears). A chair rail extends around the room. The old kitchen is on the west side of the house. A passageway was between the kitchen and the main house which was open on the south side and closed on the north. Originally one story, the kitchen wing was rebuilt ca. 1900 as a full two stories with bay windows flanking a recessed two-tiered porch.

A smokehouse with a hip roof once stood in the corner of the yard.

The front facade of the 4 bay, 2 story central block portion of the house is constructed of Flemish bond and the sides, rear, and kitchen of 5 row common bond.

The 2 story kitchen has a gable roof that ends in a hip on the west end. The end bays of the front facade has 2 bay windows, one round or bowed with a decoratively corniced flat roof and the other the more usual 3 sided bay with a triangular pediment. In the recess of the bay windows is a 2 tiered porch with balustrade. Originally of 1 story, the kitchen wing was rebuilt to this appearance ca. 1900.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

White Bush is significant because it is one of Berkeley County's oldest brick mansions built 1785-90. The Shearer family was known for their excellent carpentry work. An 1815 desk made by John Shearer, son of Archibald, sold for \$40,000 in 1978.

A smokehouse stood in the corner of the yard and is included as an historic archeology site. This area is well-known for the many Indian artifacts that have been found, and in the yard of White Bush.

The Shearers came into Berkeley County by 1750s. They acquired the whole bend in the river at Falling Waters-around 1,200 acres. Archibald Shearer, Sr. died in 1800. A grist and saw mill had been established ca. 1785. The interior wood work is some of the finest Federal style in the State. Unfortunately, it has only been in the last few years that the craftsmanship of the Shearers has come to light and information is limited.

The architectural significance of the property is enhanced by it being a combination period building. The Federal architecture of the central block is a simple statement of classic design and the wing is a more exciting statement of the later, curvilinear designs of the Victorian period. This is the county's only representative of the combination of these 2 separate styles, very well executed, in one building.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Berkeley Journal, published by The Berkeley County Historical Society  
1976, pages 29-41

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Williamsport

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 253280 4383650

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

100 ft. on each side of the house and 200 ft. down to the lane at the foot of the hill.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Don C. Wood, Genealogist, Historian, Historic Archeologist

ORGANIZATION President, Berkeley County Historical Society  
Chairman, Berkeley County Historical Landmarks Commission

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box 79

TELEPHONE

267-7187

CITY OR TOWN

Martinsburg, WV 25401

STATE

## 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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION