

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Wood	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Blennerhassett Island Historic Area

AND OR HISTORIC:
Blennerhassett Island Historic Area

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On the Ohio River, 1.7 miles south of

CITY OR TOWN:
Parkersburg

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54 COUNTY: Wood CODE: 107

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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) Idle - Wells for water supply by owner

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co., c/o J. W. Richards, Mgr., Washington Works

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Wood County Court House, Deed Book 514, Page 530

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Parkersburg STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Est. 1966 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
E. I. duPont

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

STATE: WEST VIRGINIA
COUNTY: WOOD
ENTRY NUMBER: 54
DATE: 10

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The island presents a quiet, rustic appearance due to the absence of man-made structures. The vegetation is presently made up of annual weeds, brush and hardwood trees. A tulip poplar tree exists, which is more than seven feet in diameter, probably one of the largest of its kind in the United States. Also present are other large hardwoods. There are three groves of trees planted by man. They are made up of walnut, poplar and a mixture of walnuts and tulip poplar. The ages of these stands are approximately 40 years of age.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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8. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input 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)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>Blennerhassett Island is a nationally known historic landmark. The Island is located in the Ohio River with its northern tip approximately 1.7 miles south of Parkersburg, Wood County, West Virginia. Originally a cluster of islands, this historic island is now a solid land mass exceeding three miles in length. It varies in width from some 1800 feet at its widest to some 700 feet at its "neck" or narrowest point, which is slightly north of center of the Island. Blennerhassett Island is situated some 800 feet from the West Virginia shore of the Ohio River. The broad flat bottomlands of the Island are in part covered with woodland. Two large weather-beaten, two-story frame farm houses are now standing, one on the northern and one on the southern section of the Island. On the western side of the Island near the south farm house stands a long, barrack type structure which the owner has used as a cattle shelter.</p> <p>George Washington visited present Blennerhassett Island in 1770, and there have been unsubstantiated reports that Washington laid claim to the Island. Opposite the southern section of the Island, however, Washington secured "Washington Bottom," over 2300 acres of land, his second largest tract of land in present West Virginia.</p> <p>Blennerhassett Island has been owned by several persons since it was first surveyed in 1784 under a patent issued by Governor Patrick Henry. The Island, however, figures prominently in American history as a result of its purchase by Harman Blennerhassett on January 28, 1799. Naming his purchase the "Isle of Beau," Blennerhassett completed his famous mansion on the northern section of the Island in 1800.</p> <p>To the layman the prominence of Blennerhassett Island in American history stems from its selection as the situs of the alleged crime of levying war against the United States on December 10, 1806, for which Aaron Burr and Blennerhassett were indicted. The choice of the Island as the situs of the alleged crime brought the trial into the circuit court in which presided John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. In 1806 and 1807 Burr was acquitted by three courts.</p> <p>There is also great potential for archaeological work on the Island, both historic and prehistoric; Indian artifacts from the Island representing every prehistoric period are located in the Stahl Collection at Parkersburg High School, Parkersburg, West Virginia.</p>			

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cook, R. B., Washington's Western Lands, Strasburg, Va., 1930.
 Callahan, J. M., Semi-Centennial History of W. Va, Charleston, W.Va., 1913.
 Wood County Deed Book No. 7
 Ambler, C. H., George Washington and the West, Chapel Hill, 1936
 Abernethy, T. P., The Burr Conspiracy, New York, 1954.
 Beveridge, A. J., The Life of John Marshall, New York, 1916.
 Gibbens, Alvaro F., Historic Blennerhassett, Charleston, 1906
 McCaleb, Walter F., Aaron Burr Conspiracy, New York, 1936.
 Stafford, William H., The Blennerhassett Papers, Cincinnati, 1864.
 Stafford, William H., The Life of Harman Blennerhassett, Chillicothe, 1850.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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	39° 16' 44"	81° 39' 42"	°	' "	° ' "
NE	39° 16' 23"	81° 35' 34"			
SE	39° 15' 55"	81° 35' 37"			
SW	39° 16' 16"	81° 39' 45"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 508.59

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Marlene Hershman, Executive Secretary

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission DATE: May 23, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown 26506 STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 80-665), 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 _____

Title _____

Date 5-24-1972

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

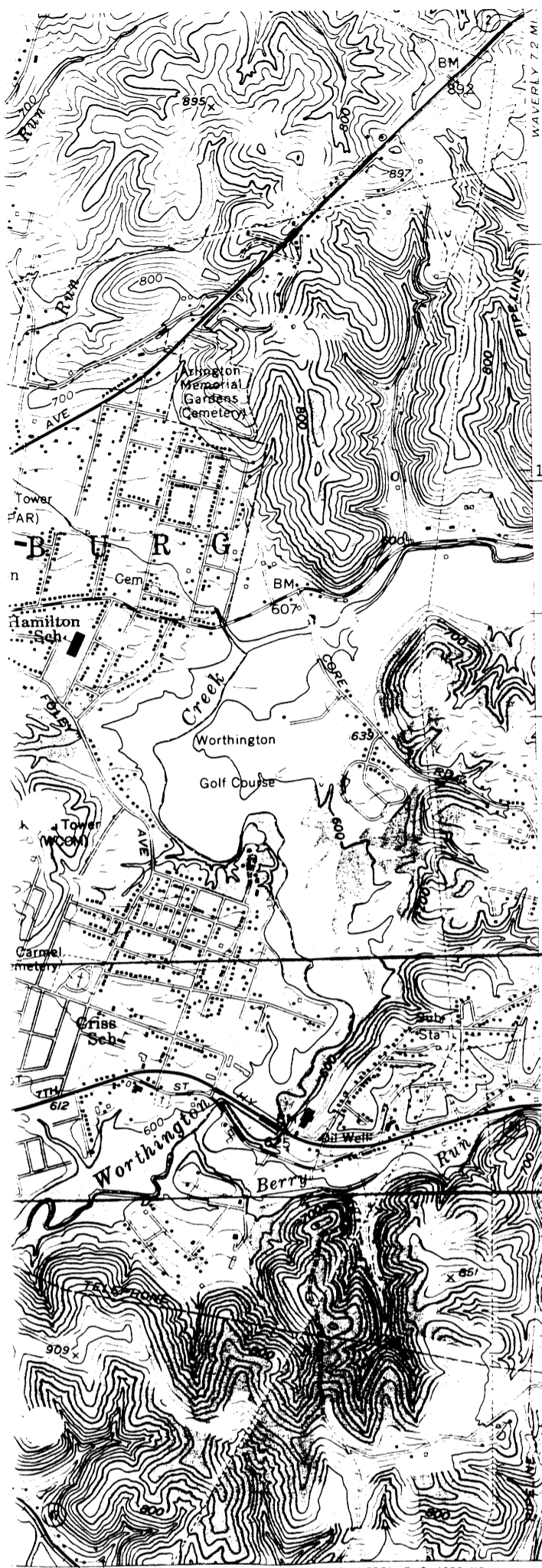
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



1/8 MI. TO ALT. U.S. 50

17°30"

BLENNERHASSETT
ISLAND HISTORICAL
DISTRICT
WOOD COUNTY
WEST VIRGINIA
UTM REFERENCE:

- A. 17/442 990/4347370
- B. 17/446 920/4347310
- C. 17/448 520/4346525
- D. 17/442 990/4346570

43 47000

43 46000

460 000 FEET
(OHIO)

4345000m.N.

39° 15'

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1958 - NS
2 280 000 FEET (OHIO) 456000m.E. M.R. 3098 81° 30'

