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

1. **NAME**
   - Council: Blennerhassett Island Historic Area
   - And or Historic: Blennerhassett Island Historic Area

2. **LOCATION**
   - Street and Number:
   - City or Town: On the Ohio River, 1.7 miles south of Parkersburg
   - State: West Virginia
   - Code: 54
   - County: Wood
   - Code: 107

3. **CLASSIFICATION**
   - **CATEGORY** (Check One)
     - District
     - Site
     - Structure
     - Object
   - **OWNERSHIP** (Check One)
     - Public
     - Private
     - Both
   - **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** (Check One)
     - In Process
     - Being Considered
   - **STATUS** (Check One)
     - Occupied
     - Unoccupied
     - Preservation work in progress
     - Yes
     - Restricted
     - Unrestricted
     - No
   - **ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**
     - Yes
   - **PRESENT USE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)
     - Agricultural
     - Government
     - Industrial
     - Park
     - Private Residence
     - Religious
     - Transportation
     - Military
     - Other (specify)
     - Other
     - Scientific
     - Supply by owner

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY**
   - 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: Wood County Court House, Deed Book 514, Page 530

6. **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
   - Title: E. I. duPont
   - Date of Survey: 1966
   - Federal
   - State
   - County
   - Local
   - Survey Records: E. I. duPont
   - Street and Number:
   - City or Town: Wilmington
   - State: Delaware
   - Code: 10
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.
Blennerhasset 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. Blennerhasset 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.

George Washington visited present Blennerhasset 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.

Blennerhasset 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 Blennerhasset on January 28, 1799. Naming his purchase the "Isle of Beau," Blennerhasset completed his famous mansion on the northern section of the Island in 1800.

To the layman the prominence of Blennerhasset 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 Blennerhasset 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.

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.
Callahan, J. H., Semi-Centennial History of W. Va., Charleston, W. Va., 1913.
Wood Countyhood Book No. 7
Ambler, C. H., George Washington and the West, Chapel Hill, 1936
Gibbens, Alvaro F., Historic Blennerhassett, Charleston, 1906
Stafford, William H., The Blennerhassett Papers, Cincinnati, 1864.
Stafford, William H., The Life of Aaron Burr, Blennerhassett, Chillicothe, 1850.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<th>LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES</th>
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APPROXIMATE AVERAGE 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 Hersman, Executive Secretary
ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Mountainair, West Virginia University
CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown 26506
STATE: West Virginia
CODE: 56

12. STATE LIABILITY 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 X State Local Local

Name
Title
Date 5-24-1972

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

Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Date

ATTENT:

Keeper of The National Register
Date

OP 011.047