

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property HALSTEAD. CAPT. JOHN. FARM

historic name: Halstead, Capt. John, Farm
other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: Whitewater Road, County Route 9 not for publication: N/A
city/town: Kessler's Cross Lanes vicinity: X
state: WV county: Nicholas code: 067 zip code: 26675

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet.)

Susan M. Perce
Signature of Certifying Official

10/26/98
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

Capt. John Halstead Farm
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4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):		

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
Agricultural Outbuildings

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
Agricultural Outbuildings

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN: Folk Victorian

Materials

Foundation: Sandstone
Walls: Clapboard
Roof: Metal
Other: Tongue & Groove
Horizontal Board Siding

Narrative Description

(See continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

 X **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

 B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

 X **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

 D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

_____ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

_____ **B** removed from its original location.

_____ **C** a birthplace or grave.

_____ **D** a cemetery.

_____ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

_____ **F** a commemorative property.

_____ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

1876-1931

Significant Dates

1876

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of Repository: Nicholas County HLC, 616 Church Street, Summersville, WV 26651

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 3.6 acres

UTM References

Summersville Dam Quad Map

17 505320 4242740
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant
Wilma Richardson, Nicholas County HLC

Date: April 1, 1998

Address: 612 Main Street Telephone: 304/ 765-5716

City: Sutton State: WV Zip: 26601

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Bill and Jewell Johnson

Street & Number: Route 2, Box 345 Telephone: 304/872-4597

City or Town: Summersville State: WV Zip: 26651

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The Halstead Farm is located in the west central portion of Nicholas County on the Whitewater Road/County Route 9, approximately one mile north of the intersection of State Route 129, at Kesslers Cross Lanes. The home is located on the west side of the road at a slight rise. Opposite the house, across the road, is a large cultivated field. On the other three sides, woods are close to the edges of the maintained yard, helping to delineate the boundaries of the property.

On the grounds of the house are: gable roofed tool shed behind the house; a small barn to the south of the house; a long narrow chicken coop to the southwest of the house; an outhouse adjacent to the chicken coop; and a large barn on the southeast corner of the nominated property. All buildings are considered contributing.

Main House:

The house sits on a north-south axis as well as the barn. There is a fieldstone walk from the road to the front entrance of the house. There are two concrete posts from a previous gate in the northeast corner of the lot. This led to a driveway that ran along the north side of the house. The driveway is no longer extant.

The c. 1876 house, is two-story side gable with a rear gable two-story wing. There is a full length, two-story porch on the front of the house and one on the side of the wing in the rear. The side porch on the wing is now enclosed. There are two large external engaged chimneys on the ends of the house which are painted ashlar sandstone blocks. The roof of the front porch is an extension of the main house roof from the center ridge. Originally the house roof had a steeper pitch in the front and the porch roof was separate. The current arrangement of v-seam metal was added c. 1976 as a remedy to roof failures at the meeting point of the porch roof and the main roof. The foundation is ashlar stone blocks which are painted white.

The porch has four large square posts on the first floor which are not original. On the second floor the arrangement is original. There are six turned decorative posts that divide the facade into five bays. Between the posts is a balustrade with decorative scroll jig saw work for balusters. The porch floor is tongue and groove boards on the first floor and linoleum over a flat seam metal roof on the second floor.

The rear/side porch on the south side of the house has been enclosed with German or drop siding and nine pane wood sash windows. Originally there was an enclosed room on the end of the porch on both stories, with an open area between this room and the main house. In c. 1935 the open space was enclosed to provide an interior hall and interior access to the rear second floor rooms. The rear elevation has an added small shed roof enclosure of the basement access.

The house facade is wood clapboard siding on all but the front elevation. There are narrow corner boards. On the front elevation, the siding is a horizontal tongue and groove board with a bead on the bottom edge of each board. This design element of clapboard siding on secondary facades, and smooth or other tongue and groove board siding on the primary facade, has been observed in many of the residences in Nicholas County from this time period. There has also been some indication of this treatment in other adjacent counties in the state.

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The windows of the house are 2/2 wood sash in the front of the second floor. On the first floor of the front elevation, the original windows were replaced with picture windows in 1976. The windows on the side elevation are six over six wood sash and are single-hung. These appear to be the original windows. On the south elevation of the rear wing, the windows in the original rooms are also six over six. Exterior trim is very simple and consists of a flat band surround for all fenestration.

On the interior the first floor has a central entrance stair hall with flanking rooms. The front bay is a typical I-house configuration. The wall between the north room and the hall was removed c. 1976. There is a door in the rear of the stair hall opposite the entrance door. This originally led to the open rear porch. It is not currently in use.

The rear wing includes two rooms, a dining room and kitchen. To the south of these rooms runs the enclosed porch, which is now a storage room and access to the basement. The original enclosed porch room is a pantry.

On the second floor the configuration is the same with no alterations from the original plan except for the enclosed porch portion. The upstairs rooms are bedrooms.

All rooms on the first floor have fireplaces. All except the south library room in the front have original hand carved wood mantels. These are different but have large shelves that are supported by variations of fluted pilasters. They all have plinth blocks for the plasters and wide friezes. The one in the living room has an arched frieze with a shield in the arch. In the kitchen there are three blocks similar to the triglyphs in the frieze area. The dining room mantel is a plain design. All mantels were originally painted, but now only the kitchen mantel is painted.

On the second floor there are also fireplaces in all of the rooms. These are smaller than those on the first floor but just as ornate and are hand carved. The mantels in the front bedrooms are plain. In the rear bedrooms, one mantel is very Adamesque with a fluted pilaster and a paneled frieze area with a center cartouche. The other mantel is more primitive with battered pilasters resembling an Egyptian Revival style.

Interior finishes on the first floor are painted or have wallpapered walls, except for knotty pine paneling in the front library room. The ceilings are painted original tongue and groove boards. On the second floor the finishes are painted wood tongue and groove board walls and ceilings. The boards have a small bead at the edge. The floors are wood and all finishes are original. Trim on the doors and windows is simple, with butt joints. Doors are four panel, which are recessed with mortise and tenon joints. They have cast iron decorative Victorian style hinges and simple box locks. The second floor door to the upper porch has two upper panes of glass that are arched.

Tool / Storage Shed

date: c. 1890

End gable building with side shed wings. The roof is metal and the siding is board and batten.
Contributing building

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Small Barn

date: c. 1890

Board and Batten with an original standing seam metal roof. One bay wide, no windows.
Contributing

Chicken Coop

c. 1890

Long gable roof building. One bay wide with long narrow horizontal windows on the side. Roll roofing and board and batten siding.
Contributing

Large Barn

c. 1890

End gable barn with a large forebay overhanging that comprises the entire second floor. The siding is painted board and batten and the roof is roll roofing material. There are two doors on the first floor beneath the overhang and one center hayloft door in the second floor.
Contributing

Outhouse

c. 1890

End gable, frame building.
Contributing

The house and outbuildings are significant for their association with rural architectural traditions of Nicholas County and central West Virginia. The home is a good example of local interpretation of Folk Victorian architecture.

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The Halstead Farm is significant under Criterion A for Agriculture, and Criterion C for Architecture, as an example of the local type of residence and subsistence farm that many residents of this rural county lived on in the late 19th and early 20th century.

John J. Halstead was born in 1837 and was raised at Ramsey in Fayette County, close to nearby Carnifex Ferry in Nicholas County. His parents were Mordecai E. and Margaret McClung Halstead. He was born in the home of his maternal grandparents, James McClung and Mary Alderson McClung in Greenbrier County.

Shortly after the Civil War began he enlisted and became a Commissioned Officer with the 22nd Virginia Regiment. There is some discrepancy as to his enlistment date; one source indicates he enlisted on May 1, 1862, but there are indications that he fought at the Carnifex Ferry battle in September of 1861. Other sources indicate that he enlisted on May 10, 1861. This is probably more accurate, owing to his involvement at Carnifex Ferry. As a fresh soldier he was a private with Company C and B. He was wounded in action at Meadow Bluff, WV, in 1861. Halstead soon became a captain in the calvary and participated in the Battle of Carnifex Ferry on September 10, 1861. This battle was located near Kesslers Cross Lanes, which would later be the site of his future farm.

The Halstead Farm is an example of local rural subsistence farms in Nicholas County in the 19th and 20th centuries. After the Civil War Halstead returned to Nicholas County and married Virginia Dotson. They purchased land in 1876, and there built a two-story farmhouse. Halstead served two terms as sheriff of Nicholas County from 1873 to 1877. He was also a prominent local merchant and real estate dealer. The farm at this time consisted of several hundred acres. John and Virginia raised a family of seven children on the farm, with three girls and four boys.

Despite changes to the front windows, the home exhibits local interpretation of Folk Victorian architectural designs. Some of the more representative aspects of this style include the overall L-shaped plan and massing of the house. This shape is typical of the type of agrarian architecture with a second floor and enclosed first floor porch on the rear within the intersection of the L. This plan arrangement is common in farmhouses in the region.

Exterior features include the formal entrance on the front elevation. The decorative two-story porch stretches across the width of the house with a shed roof. The porch has decorative second floor posts with chamfered edges. There is also a decorative scroll cut balustrade. This is typical of farmhouses in the county from this period as well. There is a siding change on the front elevation, to differentiate the more formal entrance from the remainder of the house. On the front, the siding is tongue and groove boards, creating a smoother finished appearance. On the remainder of the house the siding is clapboard. During a 1985 historic resource survey of Nicholas County, approximately five farmhouses were identified with this arrangement.

In the interior, the house retains many of its architectural elements. These again are typical of this type of house in the county and contribute to the significance of this residence as a house

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type in Nicholas County. The second floor is the most intact with original board walls and ceilings, a typical feature of the period. Each room of the home has a distinctive fireplace mantel which is hand carved.

John Halstead is remembered by a local resident for his frequent visits to their farmhouse riding a bay horse accompanied by his three collie dogs in single file. He was always referred to as "Captain" and was noted as the oldest living Confederate veteran in the county when he was eighty-nine years old. John lived out his life on the farm and died on April 12, 1931. He is buried in the Zoar Baptist Cemetery at Kesslers Cross Lanes.

Summary:

The outbuildings and fields surrounding the house represent the farm owned and worked by Capt. John Halstead and his family from 1876-1931. The architecture of the Halstead house is remarkably extant and is an excellent example of the type of decorated rural farmhouse significant in Nicholas County during the later 19th century.

- Brown, W.G., HISTORY OF NICHOLAS COUNTY, 1951. Reprinted 1981, THE NEWS LEADER, Richwood, WV.
- Cohen, Stan B. A PICTORIAL GUIDE TO WEST VIRGINIA'S CIVIL WAR SITES AND RELATED INFORMATION, Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., Charleston, WV 1990.
- Cohen, Stan B. THE CIVIL WAR IN WEST VIRGINIA A PICTORIAL HISTORY, Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, Charleston, WV 1976.
- Lowry, Terry. SEPTEMBER BLOOD, THE BATTLE OF CARNIFEX FERRY. Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, Charleston, WV 1985.
- Lowry, Terry. 22nd VIRGINIA INFANTRY. H.E. Howard Inc., Lynchburg, VA, 1985.
- NICHOLAS COUNTY WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY 1985. Shirley Grose and Associates, Summersville, WV 1985.
- Ramsey, Clark. RAMSEY FAMILY HISTORY, unpublished.
- Interview/oral histories: Jewell and Bill Johnson, June 1991.
John Halstead, June 1991 (descendant)
Robert Richardson, June 1991

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point on the west side of Whitewater Road/ County Route 9 at the intersection with the extension of a line from the rear, south, face of the barn and parallel to this face; thence north along the road for five hundred feet; thence west along the cleared field to the woods behind the tool shed approximately three hundred feet; thence south along the edge of the woods to a point in line with the rear face of the barn approximately five hundred feet; thence east, parallel with the rear face of the barn to the intersection with the west side of Whitewater Road/ CR 9 and the point of origin.

Boundary Justification:

This is the area that encompasses the house and all secondary buildings associated with the farmstead and the nominated property.

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Name of Property Capt. John J. Halstead Farm
Address CR 9
Town Kesslers Cross Lanes
County Nicholas County

Photographer: Mike Gioulis

Date: Fall 1991/Fall 1997*
 *Photographs were taken and submitted in 1991 with the grant.
 A site visit on March 18, 1998, verified the condition and materials of
 the buildings. No changes were noted.

Negatives: Mike Gioulis, Sutton, WV

Photo 1 Front (East) and South Elevation
 Camera facing NW

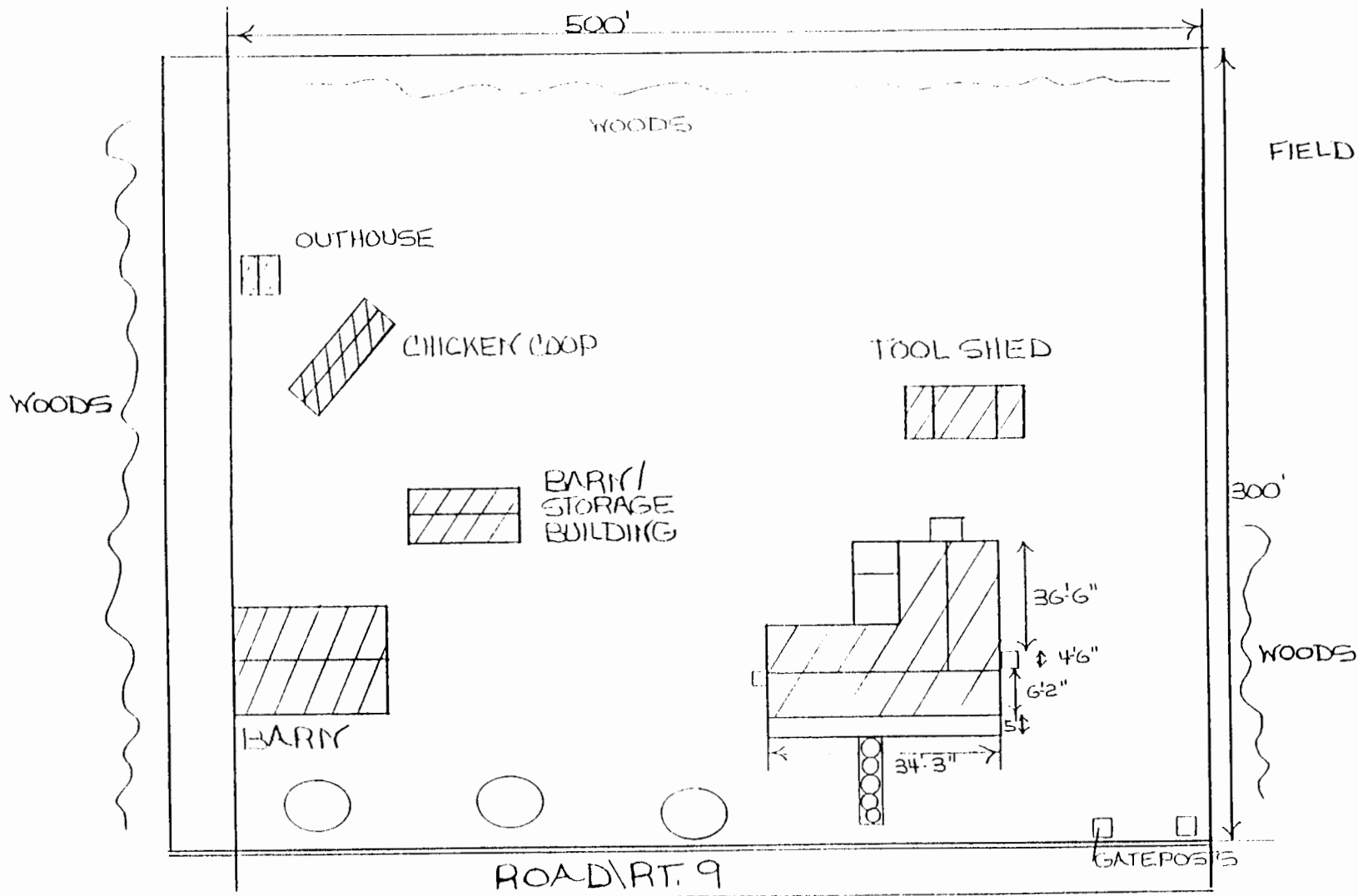
Photo 2 Front or East Elevation
 Camera facing W

Photo 3 Front and North Elevations
 Camera facing SW

Photo 4 Rear or West Elevation
 Camera facing E

Photo 5 Barn, or North Elevation
 Camera facing S

Photo 6 Overview of farmstead and main buildings
 Camera facing NW



KEY:

- CONTRIBUTING

- NOT

DATE
7-31-91

MICHAEL GIOULIS
SUTTON, NYA

HALSTEAD FARM

DWG.

STATES
THE INTERIOR
SURVEY

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
REPRESENTED BY THE
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES



