

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
West Virginia

COUNTY:  
Kanawha

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

"Cedar Grove"

AND/OR HISTORIC:

"Cedar Grove"; Tompkins, William, House

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1/5 of a mile southeast of the intersection of the Kanawha  
and James River Turnpike and U.S. Route 60

CITY OR TOWN:

Cedar Grove

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Third

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY:

Kanawha

CODE

039

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

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

Mrs. Roger Tompkins, Sr. and Mr. Roger Tompkins, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Cedar Grove

STATE:

West Virginia

CODE

54

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Kanawha County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

416 Kanawha Boulevard, East

CITY OR TOWN:

Charleston

STATE:

West Virginia

CODE

54

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

STATE: West Virginia

COUNTY: Kanawha

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

## 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

Constructed in 1844 in an area which had experienced growth due to the prosperity of an extensive salt industry, "Cedar Grove" brought to this section of the interior a colonial style which had Georgian features blended with elements of more recent design adaptation. It is a "double-pile" house drawn out to a two-room-deep rectangle with central hall and five-window width.

"Cedar Grove" now contains sixteen rooms plus a full attic. Twin interior chimneys project through the gable roof at either end, providing fireplaces on each level. The brick structure (brick was burned on the premises) rests on a foundation of large, cut-stone blocks, and its facade is broken regularly by windows and doors on all sides. The front has a central entranceway with sidelights and overlight matched on the second floor by a doorway which leads onto the upper level of a porch. The two windows on each level on either side of the door (and all other windows in the main original section) are 6/6 double hung with stone lintels and louvered shutters. On the ends, windows (two on each floor and one in the attic) are placed between the chimneys with an additional window near the rear of the first floor of the east elevation. The roof is of moderate steepness and is set off by a heavily bracketed cornice.

Presently, "Cedar Grove" has a small entrance portico with a second-floor balcony. This 1950 alteration matches the outlines of the original double portico which was replaced by a first-floor porch (in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century) which ran the entire length of the front. The interior is little changed and shows fine carpentry work, especially in the stairwell where a graceful walnut handrail is supported on each step by two flat spindles.

When constructed, "Cedar Grove" had upper and lower verandas across the rear, but these were enclosed about 1892 to provide more interior rooms. As with most larger houses of its day, this had a separate kitchen building which has since (about 1900) been attached to the main building. The only other change in the size of the structure was made when the kitchen was joined, for a brick meat house was added as a projection to the right side.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian; ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1844 (constructed)

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/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | losophy                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        |  |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Cedar Grove" stands as a tribute to the growth of the Kanawha Valley in western Virginia prior to the Civil War. This growth was primarily due to the salt industry, and it was through ingenuity, invention, and hard work at the extraction of the mineral that William Tompkins was able to afford this large and stately house.

William Tompkins moved to the Kanawha Valley around 1818, evidently lured there by stories of the rapidly developing salt industry. He joined with his brother-in-law, Aaron Stockton, in a salt business and soon gained some advantage and prestige by developing several improvements in drilling techniques. About 1841 Tompkins piped natural gas to burn under his salt brine kettles, proving its commercial value in extracting salt from the brackish waters. Seeing his example, other manufacturers began using natural gas in place of coal or wood. Since brine and gas were often located closely to each other, one well could be used to get both products, the pressure of gas forcing the brine out of the well. This is believed by many to have been the first harnessing of natural gas for industrial use (Thoenen, History of the Oil and Gas Industry in West Virginia, pp. 94-97).

Soon after William received notice for his ingenuity, he began construction of his new home, "Cedar Grove." He had chosen Rachel Grant as his second wife in 1831; by the 1840s his growing family required a new residence. "Cedar Grove" was completed in 1844 on land earlier claimed by William Morris, one of the Valley's first settlers. The structure's somewhat heavy lines were mellowed by its symmetrical design, steep chimneys and two-story square portico while interior fineness was unusual so far into the interior at the time. Indeed, "Cedar Grove" stood as one of the great houses of the Kanawha Valley and demonstrated the increasing sophistication of the interior as transportation and industry provided wealth and speeded the flow toward more comfortable living.

Being along an important route during the Civil War, it is interesting that "Cedar Grove" withstood the pressures of passing Confederate and Union forces. Much of this is explained by the fact that Mrs. Tompkins was an aunt of Ulysses S. Grant and possessed a letter from him to display to questioning troops. Since her deceased husband had been a true Southerner (and some say she was a Southern sympathizer herself), she had little to fear from the Confederates.

"Cedar Grove" stands today much as it did when constructed in 1844. It is still a bit pretentious in comparison with most surrounding structures, but it is certainly not out of place. The ability to erect such a fine house was attributable to William Tompkins' inventiveness in the salt industry, the early reason for the growth of the Kanawha Valley.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dayton, Ruth Woods. Pioneers and Their Homes on Upper Kanawha. Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1947. (pp. 176-80)

Maginnis, William H. "Century Old Tompkins Family Home Linked with Colorful and Tragic History of Valley." Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette, July 22, 1951.

Mrs. Roger W. Tompkins to James E. Harding, December 3, 1974. West Virginia Antiquities Commission, Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Thoenen, Eugene D. History of the Oil and Gas Industry in West Virginia. Charleston, W.Va.: Education Foundation, Inc., 1964. (pp. 94-97)

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	• • •	• • •		38° 13' 16.8"	81° 25' 41.4"	
NE	• • •	• • •				
SE	• • •	• • •				
SW	• • •	• • •				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Ted McGee, Field Agent and James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

January 15, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:

Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN:

Morgantown

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

## STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Leonard M. Davis

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date January 27, 1975

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





