

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

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

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Clelland House; Houghton House

and/or common Clelland-Houghton-Wallace Log House

2. Location

street & number Off County Route 250/4 _____ not for publication

city, town Whitehall (Marion Co.) vicinity of congressional district Second

state West Virginia code 54 county Taylor code 091

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name S. Paul and Marie Hall Wallace

street & number Route 7, Box 347

city, town Fairmont vicinity of state West Virginia 26554

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Taylor County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Grafton state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Clelland-Houghton-Wallace Log House is a detached former farmhouse situated on a hillside overlooking an expanse of open land along a small run near the Taylor-Marion county line. Its main section, constructed of "V"-notched logs, has two stories and partial basement, while the attached frame kitchen unit has one story above its rubble-stone foundation.

This gable-roofed structure is rectangular in plan with porches at front and rear. Each porch apparently dates from a much later period than the time of first construction, but the hillside slope is such that a porch almost certainly always would have been on the southwest (front) elevation. These appendages are as uncomplicated as the dwelling itself, consisting of squared posts supporting low-pitched roofs on line between floors and across the entire length of the log unit (that at the rear also extends along the kitchen addition).

As with many small farmhouses in this area, window and door openings have been altered frequently over its long history. Although placement is about as originally planned (there is no evidence of unusual or changed cuts in log walls), type and style of sash undoubtedly have been updated several times. Now there are single pane, 1/1 and multiple pane arrangements, some of which do not open. Doors are centered on front and rear of the log part (following a so-called Scotch-Irish floorplan) and at the rear of the kitchen.

The only chimney is on the southeast side, and it is this element that is of special interest. Unlike construction techniques typically used in log houses of early to mid nineteenth century in West(ern) Virginia, the Clelland-Houghton-Wallace Log House does not have an exterior stone or brick chimney. Nor is it entirely on the inside of the wall. Instead, the field stone base atop the foundation forms part of the southeast wall, located in the center third and replacing the mid-section of the first three logs. Beyond that point the chimney curves inside the wall and extends straight upward through the ridgeline of the roof. This technique is seen elsewhere in the vicinity in at least one building (the McWhorter Log House at Jackson's Mill, Lewis County), but its use was apparently confined to a much greater extent than exterior placement.

As with most small log houses, this was designed with one large room on each floor. Partitions could be erected as required; the owner simply attached vertical planks at floor level and to the beaded open ceiling beams of the first floor. Only the lower story has a fireplace, and to its side is a characteristic winding stair leading to low rooms above. Originally, there was no opening in the northwest wall to the frame kitchen; until this century one had to go outside to pass between sections. Because this dwelling was lived in constantly for more than 100 years, the interior remained functional and evolved to reflect family tastes. It is probable that the log walls always have been covered in some manner, either with whitewash, plaster or wood paneling. Today there are various applications, but wood has replaced a drywall arrangement as the main interior covering.

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It may be said that this former farmhouse is functional and plain, yet as center of a working complex it must have appeared impressive with its full array of outbuildings: barn, corncrib, cellar house, blacksmith shop and pens. Most originals are no longer standing, but newer (though less used) structures have taken their places, including a workshop, open storage building and a "barn" that incorporates much stone and wood of previous outbuildings. Although these are all part of more recent decades of this century, the complex, approached along a winding dirt drive that leaves a hilly county road before crossing River Run's south fork, still appears well fitted into a hillside, thus presenting a picturesque landscape of woods, fields and an old log house to passersby.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | | | |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Clelland-Houghton-Wallace Log House is representative of early farm dwellings in its section of present West Virginia. While construction of logs is not unusual, chimney placement within the wall and extending into the house's interior adds to its significance. Today this building is among Taylor County's oldest extant structures, apparently predating county formation (1844) by several decades.

Explanation of Significance Statement

At the time of Taylor County's formation in 1844, the Clelland family had been well established in what became Booth's Creek District. The log farmhouse and outbuildings of "Reverend" James Clelland, located on River Run, were valued at \$100 (and taxed for \$.49) as early as 1845, an assessment level indicating a middle position among county buildings, most of which carried valuations of \$50 to \$200. It is not certain that Clelland constructed his log house or exactly when it was built, but local information estimating erection as early as the 1790 to 1810 period might be correct. The building's existence in 1846 has been orally documented by a man (Carroll Clelland) whose grandfather (George F. Clelland) was born there in that year.

Clelland's continued to own and farm this property, probably in a subsistence manner, well into the twentieth century, supplementing their livelihood by cutting timber and doing other assorted jobs. According to Taylor County records, James Clelland was also involved in construction work on the Northwestern Virginia Railroad (later part of the Baltimore and Ohio line) between nearby Grafton and Parkersburg in 1868, for in that year he and a partner signed a deed of trust on a \$950 debt, using horses, wagons, blacksmith tools, cooking stoves, hogs and household goods as collateral.

The Houghton family did some farming of the land during their tenure here through the middle of this century, finally selling the building in 1970 to its present owners who undertook a project of repair and maintenance (strengthening of the foundation, replacement of several deteriorating logs, general cleaning, etc.) to assure continued use of this local landmark.

Assuming that the main log section was constructed early in the nineteenth century, Mr. Carroll Clelland has contended that the frame kitchen unit (now approximately 1/2 to 2/3 its original length) was added quite early, too, for it was supposedly there when his grandfather was born. The entire building, including this kitchen section, is atop a rubble-stone foundation, and a basement extends into the hillside to about half its depth. Here log joists are generally half-round puncheons.

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Simple "V" notching of logs and rectangular floorplan with opposing front and rear doors are similar to many log houses of the 1790-1850 period in this part of West Virginia. A distinguishing feature of the Clelland-Houghton-Wallace Log House, however, is chimney placement within and inside the southeast wall rather than within and on the outside as generally was done. A foundation for this element is within the basement wall, from which it rises to expose a stone exterior three logs high, reaching to about the height of the stone lintel (there is no mantelpiece) of its only fireplace opening before curving inward and coursing through second floor and ridge line at roof level. Why such a construction technique was used is not precisely known, but it may have provided better heat distribution (although it could increase fire danger) or served as a more integral structural support. Whatever the reason, it combines with use of logs and age of the farmhouse to offer a glimpse of area building history and lifestyle throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries.

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9. Major Bibliographical References (continued):

Grafton, W.Va. Taylor County Courthouse. Deed, land and will books.

Jones, Greg. "The Restored Antique," West Virginia Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, IV, No. 13 (April 26, 1978).

10. Geographical Data/Verbal Boundary Description and Justification
(continued):

straight line above the "barn" to meet a dirt road and treeline that forms the northwest boundary. This includes land surrounding the house and outbuildings and forms a natural setting within the side of the hill on which it is situated and the bowl of land over which it looks.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fairmont, W.Va. Mr. S. Paul Wallace. Notes on an interview with Mr. Carroll Clelland and materials prepared for a talk to the Marion County Historical Society, June 2, 1979.

Fairmont, W.Va. Marion County Courthouse. Deed books.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres (approximately)

Quadrangle name Fairmont West, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification The property is bounded on the southeast by a fenceline approximately 100 feet east of the house, on the southwest by the dirt drive from County Route 250/4 and the South Fork of River Run, on the northwest by the dirt drive from County Route 250/4 and extended in a

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Harding, Historian

organization Historic Preservation Unit

organization Dept. of Culture and History date March 8, 1980

street & number The Cultural Center telephone (304) 348-0240

street & number Capitol Complex telephone (304) 348-0240

city or town Charleston state West Virginia

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Clarence Morrow

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 2, 1980

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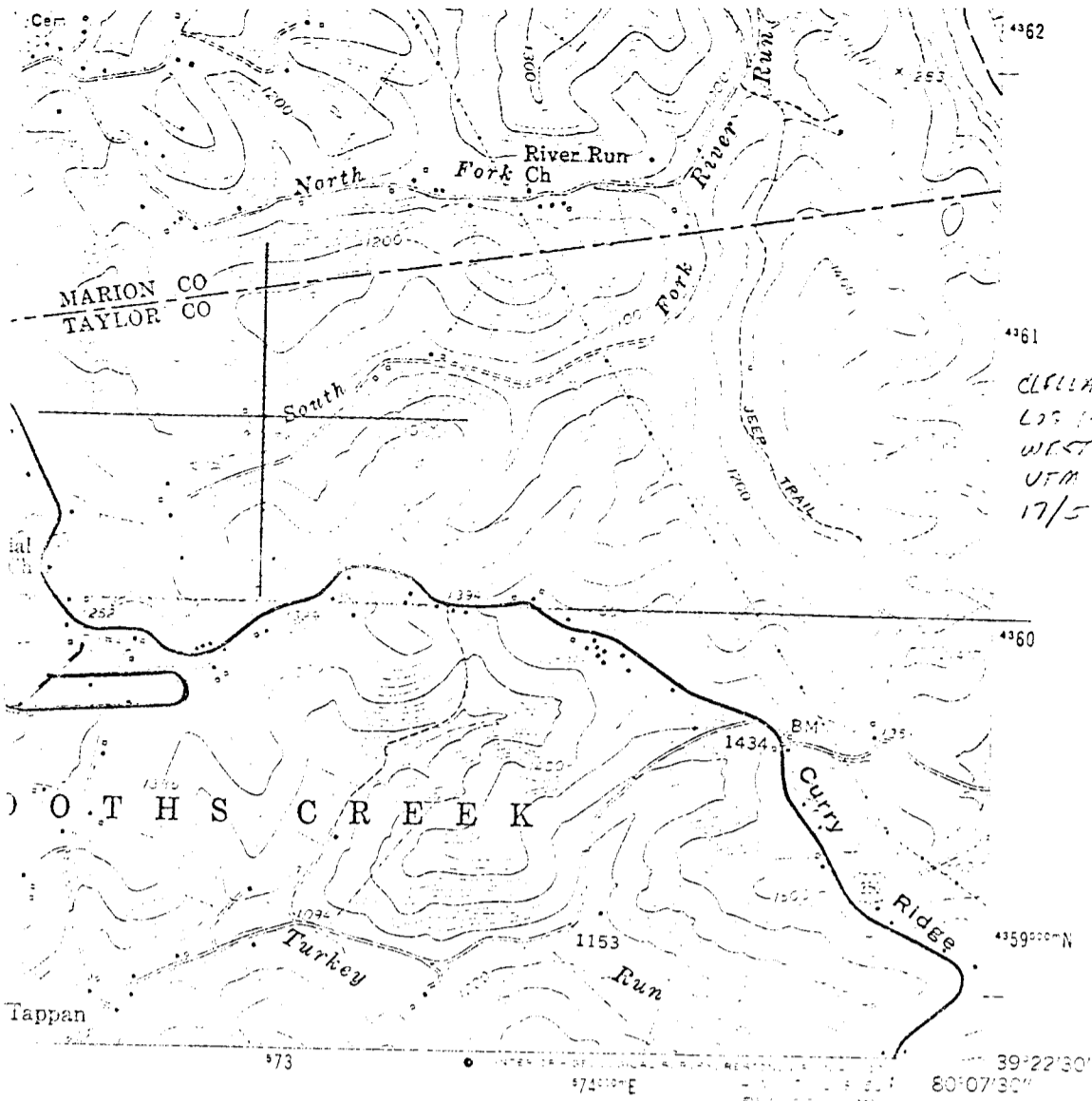
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration



CLELAND-HOUGHTON-WALLACE
 LOS 13151 TAYLOR COUNTY,
 WEST VIRGINIA
 UTM REFERENCES:
 17/572750/4350610

ROAD CLASSIFICATION:
 Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
 Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
 U.S. Route State Route



STATE LOCATION

Map compiled from aerial photographs
 Information not field checked

FAIRMONT WEST, W. VA.
 NW/4 FAIRMONT 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3922.5--W8007.5/7.5
 1958
 PHOTOREVISED 1976
 AMS 4962 I NW--SERIES V554



