NAME: Darkesville Historical District
Darkesville, Bucklestown, Strongtown-on-the-Pike

LOCATION: On U.S. Route 11 at Middle Creek

CITY, TOWN: Darkesville
STATE: West Virginia

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY: DISTRICT
OWNERSHIP: PUBLIC
STATUS: OCCUPIED
PRESENT USE: AGRICULTURE

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME: Multiple Ownership

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE: Berkeley County Courthouse

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE: Berkeley County Historical Landmarks Commission and Historical Society survey
DATE: 1973-1978
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Berkeley County Historical Landmarks Commission, Berkeley County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN: Martinsburg
STATE: West Virginia
DESCRIPTION

CONDITION
X GOOD
FAR

CHECK ONE
X UNALTERED
ALTERED

CHECK ONE
X ORIGINAL SITE
MOVED DATE

The Darkesville Historic District is composed of some 45 historical or architecturally
significant buildings or sites. Twenty-five of the buildings are the original log
buildings built 1790 to 1810; five stone buildings all built in the early years of the
village (pre 1830), a few frame constructed 1850 to 1900 and 3 early log building
sites. Log was the principal material used when the town was developed from 1791 to
1810. All log buildings are covered with some type of siding. Most have been covered
since their original construction. Darkesville is located on U.S. Route 11, the main
road from Martinsburg, W. Va. to Winchester, Va.—in early days known as "the great
road from Watkins Ferry on the Potomac River to Winchester." Spring Run is at the
northern edge of the town and Middle Creek passes through the town.

1. John Fryatt log cabin. The house was built at four different times. The
first structure was a log cabin 14' x 13' built ca. 1780 with a brick chimney in the
corner (Note: This was not a corner chimney). Ca. 1800 a three bay stone house, story
and a half, was built adjoining to the log cabin on the west side. In 1932 the house
was renovated and a second addition added.

2. Stewart house. All that remains of the three section, old house is a three
story gable roofed kitchen wing of stone construction, to which has been added
modern one story section. Included is a stone smokehouse with board and batten
over, half strap hinges, and a wooden lock measuring 8" x 5 1/2". The original main
house was a log house.

3. Miller house. A three bay, two story log house built ca. 1820. The house
excellent condition. Has a large unchanged stone chimney.

4. Toll house. A three bay log house, 2 stories high, built ca. 1820. House is
 excellent condition. Has a large unchanged stone chimney.

5. Clark house. A five story, one and a half story brick house built in Flemish
bond on a stone foundation. Considerable changes have been made to the interior.

The original house measures 25' x 20' and has two rooms on each floor.

7. Roberts house. This six bay, two story house appears to have been built as two
three bay frame houses.

8. Floating wall house ca. 1800. A three bay, two story log house with gable roof
as a central hall plan with one room each side. Has a floating wall located between the
living room and the central hall. The wall is constructed of 1" thick beaded boards up to
3" wide. These "floating" walls are not supporting walls and were used to partition off
the rooms required in early log buildings.
10. John Maddox house ca. 1830. A two story, six bay house with gable roof. The kitchen section is one story and most likely the original cabin dating back to the late 1700s.

11. The Darkesville United Methodist Church. The building is rectangular in layout, built of brick in 1869 in the early Gothic Revival style. The original double door entrance way is very fine example of historic architecture built by a small community. Unfortunately this entrance way is now concealed by a modern vestibule 1975.

12. Jacob Sencindiver house. The two story frame, three bay house has a side hall plan, three rooms deep. A recessed side porch is off the middle room and part of the back room, with four panel-doors and three-paned transoms. The three bay entrance porch has four panelled columns and two like pilasters. Basement has brick floor and fireplace which appears to be much older than the house. Also located on the lot is a brick out building which pre-dates present house (brick building inclosed). Demolished 1927.

13. Jonathan Seaman house ca. 1795. A three bay, two story log house has a gable roof and a one story kitchen all in the rear. The house was extended on the south gable to accommodate a two story, one room addition which made a four bay house.

14. "Salt Box" house 1790s. A small three bay log and stone house; one and a half stories, with steep gable roof. The front section is constructed of logs; the one room rear section of the house is constructed of stone and painted white. The main roof slopes downward over this section so that the house is a "salt box."

15. Darkesville Methodist Episcopal Church South. The church building is a classically proportioned rectangular building three bays wide and three bays deep. The building is difficult to classify as other than Greek Revival-Victorian because of its late construction date - 1885. The church is built on the old foundation of a previous building constructed in 1855.


17. General Darke's Headquarters (Reconstructed). This early Darkesville log building was originally an "I" shaped two story dwelling with chimneys in the front NW and SW corners. The large 8 room house originally faced west. It was dismantled and rebuilt on a new site as a one story rectangular shaped building of one large room with the logs exposed, inside and out. The logs of the 1st floor front were used in rebuilding the front of the "new" one story house. The logs of the second floor rear were used to rebuild the rear wall of the one story house. The stone SW corner fireplace was rebuilt according to pictures taken before dismantling, but the second floor firebox was not rebuilt. The stone NW corner chimney has been dismantled many years ago. Floor construction, sealed during the recent dismantling, indicated its existence. The rear wing of the house was not reconstructed at all, however, it had four rooms and as many fireplaces. The entrance to the three bay one story gable roofed building consists of a four paneled transom over a four panel entrance door held by large (10") HL hinges. The back door
is an old beaded board and batten door made with bent nails. It has a handmade hasp and Suffolk bean latch. The windows are six over six double sash windows and the trim is flat with a quarter-round edge bead. The other rebuilt fireplace (there are two) is entirely of brick. It has a plain mantel with a narrow mantel shelf with tapering bed moldings, ca. 1800. The floor boards are nine to eleven inches in width as are the logs. The exposed ceiling beams have a decorative bead on each edge like Boyd's store. An enclosed winder stairway, not the original, leads to the second level where the roof construction is log rafters with pegs. The panelling that was in the rear section of the old two story log house has been used to decorate the den of the owner's residence. This panelling is constructed in the 18th century manner of stiles and rails with flat two and three-board panels. Although plainly built, it is very attractive. This building is not a residence. It is used mainly for storage and also for entertaining.

18. Log house. A three bay, two story log house with gable roof. It has a three bay on stone wing on the south. The house was built ca. 1800 and has had almost no change, to the interior.

19. The "Barracks" ca. 1800. A four bay, two story house with gable roof and two entrance doors was built as a lodge hall and converted to a dwelling.

20. Frame house ca. 1860. A three bay, two story house with a gable roof. The windows on the ground floor are unusual as they are long windows nearly the same size overall as doors, with nine over nine double sashes. On the second floor they are six over six.

21. Jonathan Wickersham house. A two story stone house of three bays with a gable roof. There was a log section on the south gable of the stone house that has been replaced by a modern one story addition. The stone house is built of coursed rubble limestone with rough keystones over the windows and doors and a large inside end chimney.

22. Brick-Log house. This house began as a two story log dwelling nearly 20' square. It has been altered and added to several times in both frame and brick construction. The east gable end of the log house is now part of the front facade.

23. Colored School. The one story gable roofed frame building was built for a colored school in ca. 1870. It measured 20' x 24' with a 10' ceiling which has been dropped to 7'. It was constructed of three layers of wood with vertical sheathing boards and battens on the exterior and tongue and groove boards facing the interior. It was used as a school until ca. 1930 when the interior was divided into four rooms and used as a residence. In 1958 an addition was added.


25. Cobbler's Shop. This is a log building 16' x 21' on a stone foundation with a small chimney constructed of old brick on the north gable built 1791. The building fits the exact description given in the deeds by James Hackles. The building has had many uses and traditionally used as a cobbler's shop. Located about 15' is a log and frame house which is included.
26. Tanyard. This house was built in two sections. The south section is a two bay, two story log house built ca. 1790. The north section is a four bay, two story brick house with two large interior brick chimneys and was built around 1845.

27. Stone House, John Coon. This three bay, two story gable roofed house with a roof, one story kitchen wing is constructed of stone and covered with green siding. It was constructed ca. 1810.

28. "The Ben Boyd Store." A six bay log house built in sections. The section of the house was a one half story log cabin measuring 17' x 20'. The large stone chimney system is now centrally located in the existing house, was built exactly as it appears today for a few years only served the small log cabin. The chimney and fireplace were built to heat two rooms on opposite sides of the chimney. The original cabin was built in 1789. The three bay section followed in a few years around 1810. The ceiling was raised and second floor added. At this time the chimneys were heightened by adding brick.

29. The Graham house. This is a three bay house with gable roof constructed of log and a stone foundation. A center peaked dormer, a Victorian addition, breaks the roof line of the front. A small one story wing of frame was added at the rear of the house.

30. Barbershop. A small one room, two bay, one story gable roof building that is presently used for storage. It is of frame construction with novelty siding built in the early 1900s.

31. The Depot. A stick style building built ca. 1890 for the Cumberland Valley railroad as a depot. Part of the rear wall of the building has been extended using like construction under a shed roof. The building is now being used as a garage.

32. Moseby house. A three bay, two story frame house with gable roof and German siding with plain brackets at the eaves and cornice. The front section of the house was built ca. 1850. The back addition ca. 1890.

33. George Helsley house. A small one story log dwelling of three bays and covered with novelty siding on the exterior and modern paneling with new trim on the interior. It has a gable roof. The log walls on the wall 9" to 10" found in the Darkesville houses.

34.

35. William Mayhew house. A five bay brick stucco house built ca. 1820.
36. Original log house. A three-bay, two story log house constructed in the 1790s with a gable roof. The three bay, one story entrance porch has four square posts. The kitchen is a one and a half story rear section and has a small room under the eaves on the second floor which is now used for storage.

37, 38, 40, 41, 42 are all log houses constructed around 1800.

43. Log house site.

44. Spring Run. The stone house is three bay, two story and was built as a house of the Republic, built ca. 1814. The floor plan is a side entrance hall, one room, the large interior chimney is centered on the north gable wall and serves the fireplace. The middle section of the house is log and the north kitchen wing of brick. The main stone house and the one smokehouse with narrow spayed on slits, have a water table. A water table is a fairly large building.

45. Old Methodist Episcopal Church site and cemetery. Site of the early log Methodist church building.

46. Wickersham Fulling Mill and Saw Mill, a site. Included is the stone fence, stone flume and the service area here on Middle Creek.

49. Union Mill (Bryarly Mill) covered in the thematic George B. Mill's of Berkeley Co.

50. C. V. R.R. bridge, a two span stone bridge over Middle Creek, built ca. 1880.

44, contd.

rare construction feature in Berkeley County and indicates that the smokehouse and main house were constructed at the same time, and the middle section at a different time.
Significance

Period

Historic
- Archeology-prehistoric
- Archeology-historic
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-
- Community Planning
- Conservation
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering
- Exploration/Settlement
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Law
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Philosophy
- Politics/Government
- Religion
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

Specific Dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance

Darkesville is significant because of its number of remaining log houses though additions and various sidings have been added or refaced. The basic original structure still remains. The town was laid out by James Buckles in 1790 on a plantation he had acquired from his father, Robert Buckles, who was a Revolutionary War soldier. For some unknown reason James Buckles sold his 496 acre plantation minus the town lots in 1796 to Edward Beeson, a prominent Quaker and Trustee of K Martinsburg. David Ridgeway, a brother-in-law to Edward Beeson, then became part owner. A division of the 489 acre tract of land was made in 1803. By 1810 there was 30 dwelling houses, 4 taverns, 3 stores, 2 blacksmiths, 2 weavers, 1 tailor, 1 cabinet maker and 1 distillery. A Methodist Church and cemetery had been established by 1802; a grist mill in 1791 and fulling mill in 1805. When James Buckles started selling lots he named the town Jamestown, however, it was quite often referred to as Buckletown. When the General Assembly established the town by an Act December 7, 1791, it was named Darkesville in honor of General William Darke, a gallant Revolutionary War soldier. General Darke owned no land in Darkesville and resided in present Jefferson County. Traditionally, General Darke had a headquarters in Darkesville. This reconstructed building has been included because of its historical association with the town and its name. The development of the town was almost stagnated by the division of the Buckles farm. Original plans were to develop the side street, however, the mill was sold with one tract of land on the east side. This became its boundary line. On the west a sale of another tract which became part of another farm when Mr. Wickersham established his woolen mill on Middle Creek. A common name given to the town by area residents was "Stringtown-on-the- Pike." On the northeast corner of the town was James Buckles' log and stone plantation house which has been included along with the early stone smokehouse, stone spring house and the scenic area where spring run empties into Middle Creek. On the northwest Darkesville was bounded by Spring Run Farm. Richard Bryarly acquired the spring with 900 acres in 1802. He deeded off 300 acres to son Thomas Bryarly and 300 acres to son Robert. Deed records indicate that the stone house was built in 1819. Richard Bryarly paid $4.05 per acre in 1819 @ 300 acres - $1,215.00 value; in 1820 $8.63 per acre @ 300 acres - $2,589.00 value plus $1,000 for building. The stone smokehouse and spring house were constructed around the same time. Richard Bryarly was the ancestor of a well-known, prominent family of the Darkesville area. They owned in the ante-bellum days 1,510 acres. Two of the Bryarly mansions which joined the spring run farm have been destroyed in recent years for an industrial development area. The Richard Bryarly house was left to son Thomas who had no issue. The Spring Run Farm was sold out of the family in 1850. Included in the nomination are the stone fence and head water pond. A 1752 survey plat for 331 acres shows Spring Run with the main road running in back of the spring and present house. Remains of this road are evident today and are included along with the cabin site above the spring which may be the site of Samuel Patton's cabin which would date pre-1751. Adjoining to the John Fryatt house is the site of the early Methodist log church and cemetery established in 1802. This church served the community until 1854 when a church was erected in the town. Traditionally, the church was burned
During the Civil War, however, it would have been abandoned. Methodism has been the principal doctrine of the community since its very beginning until this year when the abandoned Methodist Episcopal Church South building was purchased by an independent denomination. The log cabin site on Moses Street, the section of the early wagon road, pring Run cabin site, woolen mill, site for Methodist Church are all being included as historic archeology sites for the possible artifacts they may contain to provide material or an in-depth study of the life of the early people of the Darkesville area. James Buckles gave a strawman deed to son John Buckles in 1790 ¼ acres; ½ acres. This land as then sold back to James Buckles, Edward Beeson and Benjamin Shipman and a partnership agreement was set up on 21 Aug. 1790 whereby a grist mill was to be erected by September 791. This mill is included under a thematic theme on mills.* The mill on the ¼ acres was to be completed within 2 years. After the division of the land this ½ acres was included in a sale to Jonathan Wickersham in 1805, who erected a fulling mill which was operated for many years and then changed to a grist mill. This clearly shows that James Buckles was in the process of setting up 2 businesses for his town. The town of Darkesville is almost surrounded with stone fences. These are all included. Darkesville has been associated with such notable persons as Belle Boyd with her father, Ben R. Boyd, opening a store in Darkesville when he first moved to Berkeley County from Baltimore, Md. It is the scene of much Civil War history being used several times as a camping ground from the beginning of the War in 1861. At times it had up to 10,000 camped around the town. For any years it served as a rural town for the surrounding neighborhood. With the coming of fast transportation it has now principally become a residential small town.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Berkeley County Courthouse records (survey file)
M. H. and A. H. Gardiner, Chronicles of Ole Berkeley, page 4, 156, 157
Vernon Aler, History of Berkeley County and Martinsburg, W. Va. p.68
Berkeley County Historical Society Journal, Special Issue
Willis Evans, History of Berkeley County, W. Va.

GEOPGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

QUADRANGLE NAME Inwood

UTM REFERENCES

QUADRANGLE SCALE

ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 17 7561800 4362960 B 17 756850 4362930
C 17 756980 4362380 D 17 756050 4362830
E 17 755620 4362040 F 17 755940 4362170
G 17 756260 4362540 H 17 755650 4362890

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

ginning at the N corner of the Carkeekville graveyard, thence along it SE 200 ft., SW 800 ft.
ence leaving it SE including the house and the spring house on Middle Creek to the hillside
0 ft S of the Creek, thence parallel to & up the CreekSW 4000 ft. crossing the eastern tier

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Don C. Wood, Genealogist, Historian, Historic Archeologist

ORGANIZATION President, Berkeley County Historical Society

Date

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box 79

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Martinsburg, WV 25401

STATE

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

GPO 921-803
of lots, thence S crossing the Sulphur Spring Road, along the rear of two lots, across an alley and another lot, 400 ft., thence W along a lot, crossing Winchester Pike, two more lots and continuing to a bend in Middle Creek 1600 ft. thence NE including the Creek and to the road 700 ft., thence along it E 400 ft. to the line of the lots, thence N 150 ft thence E by 2 lots 400 ft., thence N 1500 ft along lot lines, and NE 1000 ft, thence along the W side of a curving stone wall 550 ft, thence N 250 ft. to a lane, thence along it E 600 ft. to a point 50 ft. N of the SW corner of the graveyard, thence along it NE 700 ft. to the beginning.