

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Stewart, David, Farm; White, Mrs. Robert, House

AND/OR COMMON

Rock Valley Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Dallas Pike, County Route 43

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dallas

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Ohio

CODE

069

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
☐ DISTRICT	☐ PUBLIC	☒ OCCUPIED	☒ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ BUILDING(S)	☒ PRIVATE	☐ UNOCCUPIED	☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ STRUCTURE	☐ BOTH	☐ WORK IN PROGRESS	☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ OBJECT	☐ IN PROCESS	☒ YES: RESTRICTED	☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
	☐ BEING CONSIDERED	☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED	☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
		☐ NO	☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Childers

STREET & NUMBER

R.D. #1, Box 144

CITY, TOWN

Triadelphia

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 26059

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ohio County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

City-County Building, 1200 Chapline Street

CITY, TOWN

Wheeling

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT

XGOOD

___FAIR

___DETERIORATED

___RUINS

___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED

XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

___MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The name Rock Valley Farm is eminently suitable for this stout stone farmhouse that was constructed about 1812 on a knoll overlooking rises, falls and folds along the Appalachian Plateau near the border between West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Not only are large and small blocks of roughly coursed sandstone laid well to form the dwelling, but huge boulders and outcroppings nearby attest to strata underlying the soil.

Style was not an obvious consideration in the plan of Rock Valley Farm. While it contains elements common to the era, this rectangular, single-pile, center-hall structure of two stories plus basement with a one-story ell is somewhat bulky and rather severe in design. Windows on the second floor of the five-bay front are crowded against a frieze board and cornice and the gable ends are without openings. Yet the building is attractive in a solid way, with its large corner stones reminiscent of quoins and its keystone lintels on the first floor ruggedly decorative. Perhaps most significance should be attached to the method of construction, however, where an approximately four inch air pocket is located between separate and distinct inner and outer walls of about eight inch thickness that sit atop a solid foundation.

Both interior and exterior features are now representative of evolutionary style changes of late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Stone chimneys with drip courses retain original character and return cornices are still at the gables, but windows are now 2/2 double-hung sash (probably 6/6 initially) and doors include glass panels. In addition, there is a one-story porch, with turned posts and balusters and a lattice-work infill at basement level, across the front (south) and along most of the west side. It is this porch and the cornices that provide primary external relief features and combine with the stonework itself to form what decorative elements there are on the outside.

While the interior has changed in types and styles of wall coverings, ceiling materials and mantel designs to an extent, basic outlines of the original remain. Wide-board flooring is still evident throughout (except in the center hall); the pleasing character of an open-well, two-run stair with well-proportioned balusters and rail has been retained; and excellent (if simple) workmanship is noticeable in walnut doors of presses or closets.

Major alterations have come about in the form of modernizations and accretions of frame sections to the rear of the main stone house. During late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a second floor was added above the old one-story kitchen area, a winding stair was installed beside the large fireplace, and a double window was put into a side wall. Access to the upstairs of the frame part is also

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available through a doorway from the stair landing of the main section. Porches that had been built on the interior of the ell were enclosed at various times to form what are now a commodious dining room and kitchen on the first floor with bathroom facilities above. Such changes have allowed for provision of electricity, central heating and interior plumbing in this century, but by using additions and adapting construction features of the old stone house, fundamental integrity has been assured.

Because it has been an operating farm for over 150 years, need for numerous outbuildings and dependencies has been continuous. Although the variety required in the nineteenth century has diminished, Rock Valley Farm does retain a few early structures, including a springhouse with workshop above, corncrib, washhouse and old barn. The springhouse is built of sandstone and stands about 100 feet from the southwest corner of the dwelling. The frame workshop atop it has apparently been used for a long period for such things as repairing farm machinery. Besides these outbuildings, the complex includes a large modern barn and garage.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

— HISTORIC	— ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	— COMMUNITY PLANNING	— LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	— RELIGION
— 1400-1499	— ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	— CONSERVATION	— LAW	— SCIENCE
— 1500-1599	X AGRICULTURE	— ECONOMICS	— LITERATURE	— SCULPTURE
— 1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	— EDUCATION	— MILITARY	— SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
— 1700-1799	— ART	— ENGINEERING	— MUSIC	— THEATER
X 1800-1899	— COMMERCE	— EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	— PHILOSOPHY	— TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	— COMMUNICATIONS	— INDUSTRY	— POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY) Local history
		— INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1812

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James and David Stewart

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although not noted for any special importance beyond its local area, Rock Valley Farm, located in the hills of eastern Ohio County, West Virginia, is nonetheless significant because it remains as a good example of a substantial farmhouse erected by an early agriculturist family which sought to provide some measure of a livelihood based upon independence on the then sparsely populated Appalachian Plateau. Of equal, if not greater, importance is the construction technique used: an insulating air pocket between separate interior and exterior walls.

James Stewart, descendant of a Scotch-Irish line, had moved to western Pennsylvania during the latter part of the eighteenth century and in 1790 purchased 400 acres of land in Ohio County, (West) Virginia. It was this land that he and his family developed into a productive farm in ensuing years, and it was on this property that he and his son David built their fine stone dwelling around 1812. They chose a well-drained site on a knoll overlooking cleared hills and made use of nearby and readily available sandstone and timber. The house took on an L-shaped appearance, with a full, solid-wall basement beneath the two-story main section. Dual walls with an airspace between were erected atop the foundation, forming two approximately eight inch stone envelopes around a four inch thick gap that has since served as an excellent insulator. Just why this technique was employed is not readily apparent today; no structures of similar design have been identified in the vicinity (there are similarities here to methods used in later cobblestone houses along the shores of Lake Ontario in New York). Nevertheless, solidity of stonework, trueness of lines, practicality and continued usefulness attest to a soundness in the decision to build in this manner.

David Stewart was a farmer of means, and by his death in the 1850s he had left a mark on his community. Especially important was his role in establishing a church in nearby West Union (Dallas), for not only was he instrumental in obtaining land upon which the Presbyterian Church was built, but he served it as a trustee and elder for many years, was Sunday school superintendent and offered special bequests and loans to ministers as sustenance. David was also an investor in internal improvements; his will indicates he held stock in Hempfield Railroad Company, a corporation that contemplated construction of a line from the Baltimore and Ohio terminus at Wheeling to Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and by 1871 it was completed to Washington, Pennsylvania, and became the Hempfield Branch of the B&O.

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Shortly after the Civil War the farm passed from Stewart hands to families named Henderson and Moss, finally being purchased at a trustee's sale on the steps of Ohio County's courthouse in 1890 by William Buchanan, a man whose descendants retain ownership today. It was Buchanan who undertook major repairs and renovations to dwelling and outbuildings; he added a new slate roof, frame sections to the rear, and front and side porches. General farming occupied much of Mr. Buchanan's time, as well as that of Robert White, his son-in-law who lived here after 1907 and whose wife later was deeded the property. While concentrating on dairy farming for the local market, the family grew wheat, corn, hay, oats and also raised hogs. Both Buchanan and White were leaders in community work, the former having been a founder and director of what is now the First National Bank of Elm Grove and the latter having participated in such activities as playing cornet in the Dallas band and serving on election boards. Robert White was also a director and treasurer of a local cemetery, long-time president of the Ohio County Farm Bureau and soil conservation service, and a member, for fifty years, of sessions of the Dallas Presbyterian Church.

Rock Valley Farm has also been a social center of sorts, hosting numerous weddings and receptions from that of David Stewart's daughter in the early nineteenth century to that of a daughter of Robert and Clara White in the twentieth century. The house has been a focal point of "modernization" in this area, too, for the first iron cooking stove is said to have lured neighbors who were somewhat hesitant to go near it, and before "real" electricity was available in 1930, acetylene lights were used and later replaced by a Delco battery system. Even with the addition of such items that make living easier, the old dwelling retains basic character and integrity instilled about 1812, a character yet evident in wooden treenails of basement joists and the patina of plumb sandstone walls.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Milton, Charles J. Landmarks of Old Wheeling and Surrounding Country.
Wheeling, W.Va., 1943.
Molnar, Al. "If the Old Stone House Could Talk!" Wheeling (W.Va.)
News-Register, Feb. 10, 1963.
Newton, J.H., G.G. Nichols and A.G. Sprankle. History of the Pan-
Handle. Wheeling, W.Va.: J.A. Caldwell, 1879.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Valley Grove, W.Va.-Pa.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 539950 4430380

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area includes outbuildings and land surrounding the dwelling as well as the house itself. This stretches from a point about 20 feet south of the springhouse/workshop, in an eastward

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

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James E. Harding, Historian

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Unit

DATE

Dept. of Culture and History

January 2, 1979

STREET & NUMBER The Cultural Center

TELEPHONE

Capitol Complex

(304) 348-0244

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 X

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

Clarence Morrow

3/26/79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued):

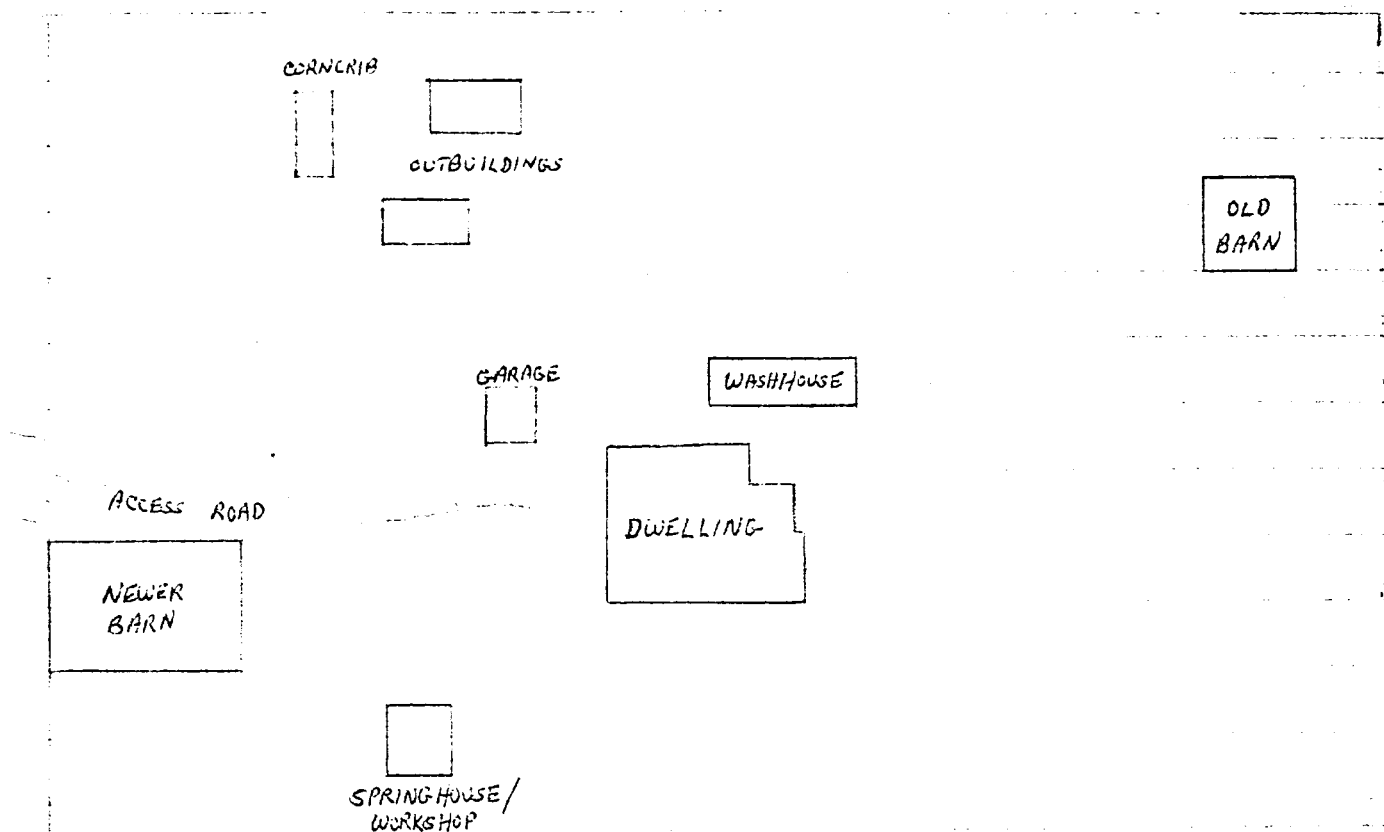
Wheeling (W.Va.) News-Register, April 8, 1976.

Wheeling, W.Va. Ohio County Courthouse. Deed Books 2, 15, 21, 50,
78 and 83. Deed of Trust Book 24. Will Book 3.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (continued):

direction to a fenceline approximately 150 feet east of the house, northward along that line about 100 feet to a point north of the old barn, then westward along the ridge line behind the corncrib to an area approximately 50 feet west of that structure, and then southward to a point about 20 feet west of the newer barn near the springhouse (see accompanying map). Also included is the access road that runs from the house about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the Dallas Pike (County Route 43).

ROCK VALLEY FARM
DALLAS VICINITY, OHIO COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA



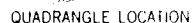
Approximate relationship of outbuildings to dwelling. Red line represents rough estimation of boundary of nominated area.

4430400



DMA 4864 II SE-SERIES V854

WIND RIDGE
4963 IV NW



Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981

ONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
S AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

