United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name  “Elmwood-on-the-Opequon”

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number  3898 Sulphur Springs Road  not for publication  N/A

city or town  Kearneysville

county code  WV  code 037  zip code 25430

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title  Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official/Title  Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register
determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register

other (explain): ____________________

Signature of the Keeper  Date of Action
5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X private</td>
<td>X building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing 8 Noncontributing 1 buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ public-local</td>
<td>___ district</td>
<td>site sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ public-State</td>
<td>___ structure</td>
<td>structure structures</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ public-Federal</td>
<td>___ object</td>
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<td>Total 8 1</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Name of related multiple property listing (enter “N/A” if property is not part of a multiple property listing)  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  
one

6. Function or Use

<table>
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<td>DOMESTIC/secondary structure</td>
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7. Description

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<tr>
<td>OTHER/side-passage</td>
<td>foundation STONE/limestone walls WOOD/log; STUCCO; SYNTHETICS/vinyl roof METAL other WOOD</td>
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Narrative Description  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Refer to 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)

- ✔ 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.
- ✔ 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.

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 a 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

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 70 acres

U. S. G. S. Quad map: Middleway, West Virginia

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description
(See Continuation Sheet)

Boundary Justification
(See Continuation Sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Taylor, Principal
organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. date September, 2005
street & number 9 Walnut Street telephone 814-849-4900
city or town Brookville state PA zip code 15825

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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

name Sarah Hamilton Leathers
street & number 3898 Sulphur Springs Road telephone

city or town Kearneysville state WV zip code 25430
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

“Elmwood-on-the-Opequon”
Jefferson County, WV

Section Number 7    Page 1

7. Description

“Elmwood-on-the-Opequon” (Photos 1-21)¹ consists of a c. 1830 stuccoed log building with several additions, along with associated agricultural and domestic dependencies, all situated on a rural 70-acre tract at the western edge of Jefferson County, in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, approximately six miles northwest of the county seat of Charles Town. Opequon Creek, the dividing line between Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, forms the western boundary of the nominated tract which consists of nine resources (see attached sketch map), all but one of which—a 1997 house—contribute to the character of the nominated area. The property as a whole retains integrity.

Anchoring the property is a c. 1830 log house (Photos 1, 2, 3, 5) which appears to have begun as a single-story or 1½-story single-pen gable-roofed house with the entrance on the north gable end. At an indeterminate time, the roof was raised to create a full two-story house and a 2-story timber-frame wood addition was constructed against the south gable end of the original log house, creating a rectangular house c. 50’ × c. 30’. It was likely at this time that the exterior surfaces of the house were stuccoed, creating a uniform exterior finish. The earlier log section had an exterior gable-end chimney on the south gable end; with the construction of the early addition, this chimney became an interior feature which penetrates the roofline (Photo 2). The main entrance to the house is offset on the north side of the facade, employing a single wood door. Fenestration on the building is flat-topped with historic two-over-two wood sash intact, some with operable exterior wood shutters. The earlier sections of the house have a laterally-oriented gable roof system which was originally finished in wood shingles; the present standing-seam metal roof was installed in 2003 and replicates a roof finish found throughout the Eastern Panhandle; it replaced an earlier roof of the same materials. When the metal roof was removed, the date 1903 was found on one of the panels. Extending along the facade and wrapping around the north elevation and a portion of the east elevation is a broad hipped-roofed veranda, floored with treated wood and supported by Tuscan columns.

In 1906, a two-story, four-bay rectangular addition, c. 36’ × 21’ was built at right angles to the earlier house (Photos 3, 4, 5) enveloping an earlier free-standing log kitchen which stood southeast of the earlier building. The addition was built to provide an inside kitchen and additional bedrooms for the Bowers family, who had a son and daughter. A husband and wife occupied one of the upstairs bedrooms,

¹ Not to be confused with the brick house of the same name (NR 1973) built in 1797 by Edward Lucas in the Shepherdstown vicinity of Jefferson County and another National Register-listed “Elmwood” in Monroe County.
the wife serving as the owner’s maid and the family cook and the husband as a butler and chauffeur.² The 1906 addition was finished in German siding and capped with a laterally-oriented gable roof; it was clad in vinyl siding in the 1990s (Photo 4). The vinyl resembles the original German siding which remains beneath the non-historic finishes. The addition is five bays in width on the first story and four bays on the second and is penetrated by flat-topped two-over-two windows with exterior operable wood shutters. The construction of the 1906 addition created an L-shaped form to the finished house; a shed-roofed back porch associated with the original house was partially enclosed with a single-story wood addition in the inside angle of the ell (Photo 5). This addition connects the 1906 addition with the earlier house and both properties functioned as a single unit for decades thereafter. Presently much of the 1906 addition is occupied by a tenant although no structural changes were made in separating the two uses.

The interior of the earlier house features a side-passage plan with a double-run wood stair ornamented with attenuated wood balusters and a delicate handrail (Photos 15, 18). Two other rooms are on the first story. One served as the livingroom (Photo 16) while the other was the diningroom. Two bedrooms and a bathroom are on the second story. The bathroom was originally a small room at the head of the upstairs hall; it eventually served as a nursery. Historic wood floors remain in most areas and trim is modestly detailed with simple surrounds and bull’s-eye corner blocks. Several historic six-panel wood doors have been retained along with their associated hardware (Photos 15, 16, 17). Early Classical Revival-style wood mantles (Photos 16, 17, 19) remain as well.

The 1906 addition (Photo 21) includes a livingroom, kitchen, and bathroom on the first story and two bedrooms above. As noted above, one of the bedrooms originally was used by servants; it was accessed both by the interior stair and by a door opening to an exterior stair on the south gable end. The door remains but the outside stair has been removed. The most distinctive feature of the 1906 addition is the double-run interior stair which accesses the second story, with a portion of the second-story floor cantilevered into the stairwell.

The cultural landscape of the nominated tract includes several domestic and agricultural dependencies of varying scale and construction (Photos 8-14). All of the dependencies date to the period of significance and contribute to the character of the entire property. Adjacent to the house is a c. 1830 stucco-over-log smokehouse (Photo 9) with a pyramidal standing-seam metal roof. Southeast of the

²Family information provided by James Leathers, husband of the present owner, in a September 1, 2005 communication to the preparer of the nomination.
house stand a c. 1830 stone spring house and an early twentieth-century ice house of rock-faced concrete block construction (Photo 11); the ice house has been converted to a garage. A gazebo-like open-sided well house with a pyramidal roof of standing-seam metal (Photo 11) is also located southeast of the house; enclosed within the lattice knee walls of this structure remains a historic hand pump serving the well. The two largest dependencies on the property are a two-story gable-roofed wood corn crib (Photo 13) and a wood barn (Photo 14), both of which date to 1906. The barn is clearly the most distinctive of the dependencies, in that it has a poured concrete foundation and its interior surfaces are completely finished in beaded wood similar to the finish often applied to porch ceilings. Originally, horses were kept on the first story and hay was stored above; when the farm was converted to dairying in the 1950s cattle were kept in the barn. Several other nondescript wooden sheds and a wooden privy, all in deteriorated condition, are near the house; because of their scale and condition, they are treated as uncounted landscape features within the context of the nomination.

As noted above, the property occupies a rural setting in western Jefferson County. It lies on rolling terrain south of Sulphur Springs Road and immediately east of Opequon Creek. The property is accessed by a private lane leading southward from Sulphur Springs Road. “Elmwood III,” the 1997 non-contributing house (Photo 6, 7), and some of the domestic dependencies are located east of the lane, the spring house, well enclosure, and ice house are at the end of the lane, and the two barns lie west of the lane. In close proximity to the house are several substantial oak trees. Some of the agricultural fields remain in production while other sections lie fallow and are overgrown with “volunteer” vegetation.

The following properties are associated with “Elmwood-on-the-Opequon,” with numbers corresponding to the site plan submitted with the nomination:

1. **Farmhouse** c. 1830 and after 1 contributing building
   This is a two-story L-shaped residence which began as a log house and was enlarged several times throughout the period of significance. The earliest section of the house is finished in stucco and is oriented on a north-south axis, with a veranda extending across the facade and north elevation. A 1906 addition of wood was built at right angles to the older house. The addition was finished in German siding, presently clad in vinyl siding, whose profile resembles that of the German siding.

2. **Shed** c. 1900 1 contributing building
   This is a nondescript wooden shed of one story in height, with a gable roof
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  

“Elmwood-on-the-Opequon”  
Jefferson County, WV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section Number</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>3. Smokehouse</th>
<th>c. 1830</th>
<th>1 contributing building</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stucco-over-log smokehouse with a pyramidal standing-seam metal roof</td>
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<thead>
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<th>4. Cistern</th>
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<td>Wood cistern lacking notable architectural detail</td>
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<th>5. New house</th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>1 non-contributing building</th>
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<td>Wood house of two stories, compatible in its design to the original house, built outside the period of significance</td>
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<table>
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<th>6. Well</th>
<th>c. 1830 and after</th>
<th>1 contributing building</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A dug well with early twentieth-century hand pump, enclosed in a gazebo-like enclosure with a pyramidal roof of standing-seam metal; the pump is enclosed within the lattice knee walls</td>
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<table>
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<th>7. Spring house</th>
<th>c. 1830</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small spring house of stone construction, lacking notable architectural ornament</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>8. Corn crib</th>
<th>1906</th>
<th>1 contributing building</th>
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<td>Large wood frame corn crib, rectangular in form, with a gable roof</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>9. Barn</th>
<th>1906</th>
<th>1 contributing building</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wood frame barn, the most distinctive of the property’s dependencies, with a poured concrete foundation and interior surfaces finished in beaded wood</td>
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8. Significance

“Elmwood-on-the-Opequon” meets National Register Criteria A in the area of agriculture/subsistence as an early nineteenth-century Jefferson County farm incorporating a farm house, dependencies, and adjacent agricultural fields. The property also meets Criterion C for architecture, for its position as an early-nineteenth-century log farm house with nineteenth- and early twentieth-century additions. Associated with the house is a series of dependencies which served both the domestic and agricultural needs of the various owners over a span of nearly a century. The period of significance begins c. 1830, marking the approximate date of construction of the original log house, and extends to 1956. The latter date corresponds both to the National Register 50-year guideline and to the fact that the property remained in active agricultural use at that time. “Elmwood” retains integrity; the most significant change to the property was the application of vinyl siding to the 1906 addition; the earlier sections of the house retain their historic stucco finish. The addition is set back from the plane of the main house and is oriented on a 90-degree axis from the main house (Photo 3). The non-historic siding is close in appearance to the original German siding which remains beneath. Further, the installation of the siding did not impact upon the overall rhythm and fenestration of the property and did not have a deleterious effect on the otherwise high degree of integrity of the complex as a whole.

This property was originally part of the extensive land holdings of Thomas, Lord Fairfax, the Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia wherein the land lay. Jefferson County was originally encompassed within Frederick County, Virginia and became part of Berkeley County when that political subdivision was created in 1772. It remained part of Berkeley County until the new county, named for the third President of the United States, was erected in 1801.

In 1754 Lord Fairfax sold the tract now containing “Elmwood” to Col. Benjamin Grayson; within months Grayson sold the land to Edward Conner who in 1762 sold the property to Gen. Adam Stephen. General Stephen (1730-1791) was a Revolutionary War hero and the founder of Martinsburg, the county seat of Berkeley County, which he named in honor of Colonel Thomas Bryan Martin, a nephew of Lord Fairfax.

Adam Stephen’s plantation was anchored by “The Bower” (NR 1982), which is located not far from the subject property nearer to the village of Leetown. In his will, dated June 5, 1791 and probated on September 6, 1791, Adam Stephen left the subject property to his grandson, Adam Stephen Dandridge.
(1782-1821). The elder Dandridge apparently transferred the property to his own son and namesake Adam S. Dandridge, Jr. (1814-1894), who retained ownership until 1833, when he sold the property to Sarah S. Kennedy.\(^3\) The property remained in the hands of Adam Stephen’s descendants until 1905, when a 318-acre tract, including “Elmwood” was acquired by George H. Bowers (1872-1914).\(^4\) In 1912 Robert Everhart acquired 153 acres of the Bowers tract, leaving 165 acres associated with “Elmwood.” When George Bowers died at the age of 42, he left the property to his son George H. Bowers, Jr. (1902-1988) and his daughter, Sarah Leone Bowers, who acquired her brother’s interest in the property in 1955.\(^5\) Since 1981 the property has been owned by George Bowers’ grand-daughter; a tract north of Sulphur Springs Road was sold in 2005, leaving the nominated acreage at 70 acres.

It is not known whether the original log house dates to the Adam Stephen era of ownership. It seems certain, however, that the house was standing by 1830, by which time it was in the ownership of Stephen’s descendants. George Bowers completed the most sweeping changes to the property after his 1905 acquisition, building the addition and the two substantial dependencies in 1906. The Bowers family gave the property the name by which it is still known. “Elmwood-on-the-Opequon” anchored a stock farm which was converted to dairying in the 1950s; at the time of preparation of the nomination documents, some of the agricultural fields were fallow and overgrown but other portions were still leased for active farm production.

With respect to Criterion A, “Elmwood-on-the-Opequon” is significant on a local level as a nineteenth-century farmstead including a farmhouse, intact historic agricultural dependencies, and fields, some of which remain in active cultivation. Historically, the fields surrounding the house were used for livestock grazing and fodder production as well as for the production of food for the various families which occupied the house. While this property did nor anchor massive holdings such as others in Jefferson County (including those of the Washington family and others), it nonetheless represents moderately-scaled agricultural operations over a period of more than one hundred twenty years. The Criterion C significance of “Elmwood-on the-Opequon” is vested in its position as an early-nineteenth-century log house which grew is size in proportion to the fortunes and family size of its owners. Jefferson

\(^3\)Deed Book 20, Page 605-505.

\(^4\)Jefferson County Deed Book 96, Page 233.

\(^5\)Jefferson County Deed Book 207, Page 229.
County’s earliest domestic architecture is often executed in log or in native limestone, both of which were plentiful across the local landscape as Lord Fairfax’s holdings were being sold off in the middle eighteenth century. As families grew and as farmers prospered, larger homes were needed and in “Elmwood-on-the-Opequon” is seen this pattern reflective of the growth and development of rural Jefferson County. A similar and comparable growth pattern appears seen in the Strode-Mason house in neighboring Berkeley County, which began c. 1740 as little more than a single-story eighteenth-century rubble limestone hut to which was added a second story of brick followed by a substantially larger limestone addition followed eventually by a 2-story wood addition with a double gallery porch. “Elmwood-on-the-Opequon” reflects this same pattern of settlement and subsequent growth. The Criterion C significance of the property is strengthened by the presence of its agricultural dependencies, particularly the distinctive 1906 barn. Built under the ownership of George Bowers, the barn rests on a poured concrete foundation rather than on a limestone foundation which is characteristic of nearly all Jefferson County barns. At the time George Bowers, Sr. was building his barn, a new steel bridge was being built across the Opequon Creek adjacent to his property. The bridge abutments were of concrete and Bowers borrowed the idea for the foundation of his barn. The interior finishes of the barn are distinctive as well. Most Eastern Panhandle barns are sparsely finished if they are finished at all beyond basic horizontal wood siding. George Bowers’ barn, on the other hand, is finished on the exterior in German siding and on the interior in beaded board. This latter material was nearly universally used for porch ceilings and for wainscoting and represents a remarkable treatment for such a modest agricultural dependency.

Summarizing, “Elmwood-on-the-Opequon” retains integrity and is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the patterns of agriculture in Jefferson County and under Criterion C for architecture, as a well-preserved example of both domestic and agricultural design in West Virginia’s Eastern Panhandle, spanning the period between the early decades of the nineteenth century and the turn of the twentieth.
9. Major Bibliographical References

**Published Works**


**Maps**


**Public Documents**

Jefferson County Land Records, Jefferson County Court House, Charles Town, West Virginia.
Unpublished Sources

Oral history interview and correspondence to the preparer from James Leathers, the substance of which is incorporated into the text of the nomination; 2005.
10. Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That 70-acre tract described in Jefferson County Will Book S, Page 239, describing the property south of Sulphur Springs Road which was bequeathed to Sarah Crewe Hamilton Leathers by her mother, Sarah Leone Bowers Hamilton.

JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of this nomination consist of “Elmwood,” its associated domestic and agricultural dependencies, and that acreage presently and historically associated with the property.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

“Elmwood-on-the-Opequon”
Jefferson County, WV

Section Number  Photo Log  Page  11

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

All Photographs:
“Elmwood-on-the-Opequon”
Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, West Virginia
Photographer: David L. Taylor
Date: 2005
Negatives filed at: West Virginia SHPO
Charleston, West Virginia

1. NW perspective of main house (Resource No. 1), looking SE, showing its overall character and the
now-central chimney separating the original log section and the later timber frame addition; also
showing fenestration and wrap-around veranda

2. Facade of main house (Resource No. 1), looking E, with 1906 addition set back from the main
house on the right

3. Main house and 1906 addition (Resource No. 1), NE perspective looking SW showing massing of
addition and its siting, well behind the plane of the main house

4. 1906 addition (Resource No. 1), SE perspective, looking NW and showing its form, massing, fenes-
tration, and finishes along with its veranda and one of the small domestic dependencies associated
with the property

5. NE perspective of house (Resource No. 1), showing earlier sections at right and 1906 addition at
left; also showing cistern behind house and veranda along rear

6. 1997 non-contributing house (Resource No. 5), looking NE with the corner of the veranda of the
earlier house at the right

7. 1997 house (Resource No. 5) on left and earlier house (Resource No. 1) at right, showing their
relative siting and their relationship to each other
8. Dependencies (Resource No. 2) associated with the property, these adjacent to the 1906 addition, looking north

9. Stucco-over-log smokehouse (Resource No. 3)

10. Nondescript uncounted dependencies E of house, looking E

11. Well (Resource No. 6) and spring house (Resource No. 7), looking S

12. Spring house (Resource No. 7) with well (Resource No. 8) behind, looking E

13. Corn crib (Resource No. 8), looking W

14. Barn (Resource No. 9), looking W

15. Interior of house, stair hall, showing early balustrade and newel and 6-panel door at the E end of the hall with its historic hardware intact

16. Livingroom of house, looking S and showing typical volume, trim, door and Classical Revival-style wood mantle

17. Parlor, looking S showing door to basement and mantle

18. Balustrade and landing, looking from second story into stairwell, looking W

19. Main bedroom in house, second story, showing door, trim, and mantle, looking S

20. Larger bedroom in house, looking S

21. Livingroom in 1906 addition, showing typical character and door (closed) accessing earlier sections of house, with bathroom in background
Photo Number and Camera Orientation

Legend:

Boundary of nominated area: 

Key: Contributing Resources [ ]

Noncontributing Resource. [ ]

Properties:
1. main house
2. shed
3. smokehouse
4. cistern
5. 1937 house
6. well
7. spring house
8. corn crib
9. barn
"ELMWOOD" s/a/s
ELMWOOD-ON-THE-OPEQUON
Jefferson County, West Virginia

TAYLOR & TAYLOR ASSOCIATES, INC.
Historic Preservation & Community Development
Specialists
8 Walnut Street
Brookville, PA 15825
814-649-6400
October, 2006
Survey by Peter H. Larewicz, Summit Point, WV

Legend:
Boundary of nominated area: ————

Key:
Contributing Resources □
Noncontributing Resource. ○

Properties:
1 main house
2 shed
3 smokehouse
4 cistern
5 1997 house
6 well
7 spring house
8 corn crib
9 barn
PHOTOGRAPH MAP

Photo Number and Camera Orientation

Legend:
Boundary of nominated area: ———

Key:
Contributing Resources □
Noncontributing Resource. ○

Properties:
1 main house
2 shed
3 smokehouse
4 cistern
5 1937 house
6 well
7 spring house
8 corn crib
9 barn
"ELMWOOD" a/k/a
Elmwood-on-the-Opequon
Jefferson County, West Virginia

Floor Plan, First Story