

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Halfway House/Tyree Tavern

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Old U. S. Route 60

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ansted

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia

CODE
54

COUNTY
Fayette

CODE
019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Lacy R. Kessler

STREET & NUMBER

24 Estill Drive

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 25314

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

PER
 —PREH
 —1400
 —1500
 —1600
 —1700
 1800
 —1900
 —
 SPEC
 STAT

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Halfway House is a two-story gable roofed building of log and frame construction facing the Old James River and Kanawha Turnpike (Midland Trail), now U. S. Route 60, at Ansted, West Virginia. The original log portion of the house was built prior to 1810, and underwent several changes thereafter that enlarged the structure to accommodate travellers who used the premises as an inn after the mid-1820s. A documented date of construction does not exist though the builder of the house, Joseph Skaggs, purchased in 1792 the property upon which the house stands. In the period 1810-12, yellow poplar siding was placed over the log walls indicating the increasingly settled condition of the homestead and of the Ansted area in the early 19th century. Probable expansion of the house at this time, or perhaps during the occupancy of George Hunter in 1827, established the basic floor plan of the building that was known in the Civil War period and has survived to the present time.

The main block of the Halfway House is a long rectangle (50' front, 20' side) running roughly east to west. Its log constructed walls are covered with clapboard and underpinned with a coursed rubble foundation. Frame constructed wings at the northeast corner of the house, of slightly later construction, feature a peg jointed beam truss system. The original shake covered roofs are presently sheathed in standing seam tin strips.

One-story shed porches with standing seam tin roofs provide verandas at both the front and rear elevations. The front porch calls attention to the unusual length of the main building resulting from a possible early 19th century addition that extended the structure in an easterly direction from the original log segment (cabin). This addition seems apparent from the location of a large stone chimney (once an end chimney) bisecting the building and matching in style and material the great chimney at the west end of the house. There is no matching stone chimney at the east end of the building. Further, the fascia (hewn beam) running the entire length of the building shows a seam at mid-point. Perhaps the most telling evidence of early 19th century change in the structure is the uneven fenestration of the front elevation.

An unusual feature of the Halfway House/Tyree Tavern is the second floor entrance reached by an exterior double approach stairway. The main entrance opens into a large parlor or living room to the left of which are found two bedrooms. The kitchen is located in the rear wing ell. In addition to the five lower rooms, six bedrooms are arranged on the upper floor.

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A special problem is created by the large chimney dividing the house. Its double openings (one facing east, one facing west) would suggest the possibility that the entire main building was built at the same time. An end chimney would hardly have been built with an opening on its exterior. Moreover, the entire main building is constructed of logs. Whether the main unit of the Halfway House is a log house with a log addition, or simply an original single log unit, is a less important matter than the form it assumed in the late 1820s when it was an active hostelry accommodating the needs of pioneer travellers.

Interior finish for the most part consists of vertical board wainscot with chair rail. Walls above the wainscot are covered with horizontal boards laid flush. It might be mentioned here, too, that flush boarding forms the exterior wall surface beneath the front porch as well as in the porch ceiling. Doors throughout the first floor of the house are six panel types. The doorway in the second bedroom is framed in a fluted casing, a motif echoed in the mantel of the parlor with its fluted pilasters, architrave trim, and pulvinated frieze. This refined wooden trim, including the mantelpieces in the two first floor bedrooms, is obviously of later addition, dating logically from the late 1820s when alterations were undertaken by George Hunter. Finish on the second floor, comprising mantels, door casings and doors, is without any decorative element.

Several minor alterations of the building were undertaken in the late 19th century. A Victorian oriel in the east wall of the parlor was constructed c. 1888 by William F. Dickinson. The parlor press to the right of the fireplace encloses a space originally occupied by a small stairway leading to the second floor.

Access to the second floor is provided by a winding stair at the northeast corner of the parlor. The second floor may also be reached by the famous exterior, double-approach stair with winders at the top of the flight.

Early 19th century English brass locks secure the front door and door leading to the dining room. Large brass keys are still

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used to turn the locking mechanisms. Nineteenth century metal latches are found elsewhere in the house. The Halfway House is a veritable treasure trove of antiques, metal ware, stone and glassware, portraits, daguerreotypes, furniture, and utensils from all periods of the 19th century. These items were owned by the Tyree, Imboden, and Dickinson families who were intermarried and among the most prominent names of this region of West Virginia.

Outbuildings and dependencies have disappeared from the grounds of the Halfway House. Two log buildings at the rear of the tavern, one a weaving shed, and the other a log barn, were demolished and their timbers carried off for firewood. Stables and other structures associated with the livery aspects of the inn were formerly located directly across the road from the Halfway House, a spot now occupied by several houses in the community of Ansted. A grove of giant Walnut trees at the rear of the house was cut in recent years for lumber. A well house survives on a slight rise at the rear of the house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES C. 1810

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joseph Skaggs

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Halfway House", also widely known as the Tyree Tavern, is an early 19th century timber vernacular residential building located at Ansted, Fayette County, West Virginia. It stands on the path of an early travel route to the West, and it became a stage coach stop (stand) when in 1827 a toll road, the James River and Kanawha Turnpike, offered its first weekly stage line service between Lewisburg and Charleston at a fare of \$7.00. As a tavern and hostelry the Halfway House witnessed the comings and goings of many of the West's greatest politicians, travelers, and adventurers who sought the shortest East-West route across the great barrier formed by the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains. Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, and John Breckenridge were known to have registered at the Halfway House.

The original portion of the Halfway House was built prior to 1810 by Joseph Skaggs, the son of Charles Skaggs, one of the first settlers of Ansted, and the recipient in 1792 of a patent for a 400 acre tract upon which the house was eventually built. The next owner, a New England emigrant named George Hunter, occupied the house in the years 1827-1834. Hunter was the first postmaster in the Ansted area, and the Halfway House thus became the earliest known post office in Fayette County. The name "Mountain Cove", given to the post office by Hunter, was retained for a number of years thereafter.

Colonel William Tyree, sheriff of Fayette County from 1877 to 1881, secured the Halfway House in 1834 necessitating the removal of the post office to the store of one Clement Vaughan, and then to the store of Captain Hopping. The Mountain Cove post office remained in Captain Hopping's store until his death in 1859, after which it was moved back to the Tyree Tavern, the common name of the house during the occupancy of William Tyree. Colonel Tyree operated the tavern and stage stand until the year of his death in 1883. Fayette historians J. T. Peters and H. B. Carden in their History of Fayette County, p. 483, state that Tyree "conveyed" or donated the seven acre tract that is the Westlake Cemetery of Ansted wherein, Julia Beckwith Neal-Jackson-Woodson, the mother of General "Stonewall" Jackson, was buried in 1831. During the Civil War, according to Peters and Carden, "armies of both the North and South camped in the vicinity of Ansted. General

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Rosecrans and General Wise, at different times had headquarters in Colonel William Tyree's residence which was one of the old famous taverns of the stage coach days. General Wise was here at the time of the fight at Carnafix [sic] Ferry, between Generals Floyd and Rosecrans". Following the retreat of Confederate Brigadier General Henry A. Wise from the Kanawha Valley in late July, 1861, the Ansted area (Dogwood Gap) became the site of skirmishes between the regrouping Confederates and the advancing Federals. The Halfway House of Colonel Tyree attests to these frantic movements with the evidences of carved names and graffiti, and sword hacks on the mantel, door facings, and wooden walls. Carved in bold letters over the front door are the words:

1862
Headquarters of the
Chicago Gray Dragoons

The Halfway House has changed little since the days Leonard Turner and "Jehu JO" Perkins, crack stagecoach drivers of the James River and Kanawha Turnpike, roared past with their teams of four and six on the way to Charleston, Lewisburg, and points further east and west. The house remains to this day in the hands of descendants of Colonel Tyree.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carpenter, Charles. "Old Taverns of West Virginia". West Virginia Review, Oct. 1932, vol. 10, pp. 21-22.

Donnelly, Shirley. "Early Settlers and Settlements in Fayette County". West Virginia History, vol. 10, Jan., 1949, p. 134

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 8/10

QUADRANGLE NAME Ansted

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 491660 4220540

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bound by old U. S. Route 60 on the south, is crossed by a small unnamed creek on the east, is surrounded on the north and west by open fields, and stands approximately halfway between the old and

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
new Ansted elementary schools.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rodney S. Collins, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Department of Culture and History

DATE

July 17, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex

TELEPHONE

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 X

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

September 6, 1978

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Martindale, John Alexander, del. Measured drawings of the Halfway House-Tyree Tavern, 10 sheets. Senior project, School of Design, North Carolina State College, owned by Mrs. L. R. Kessler, Charleston, W.V., n.d.

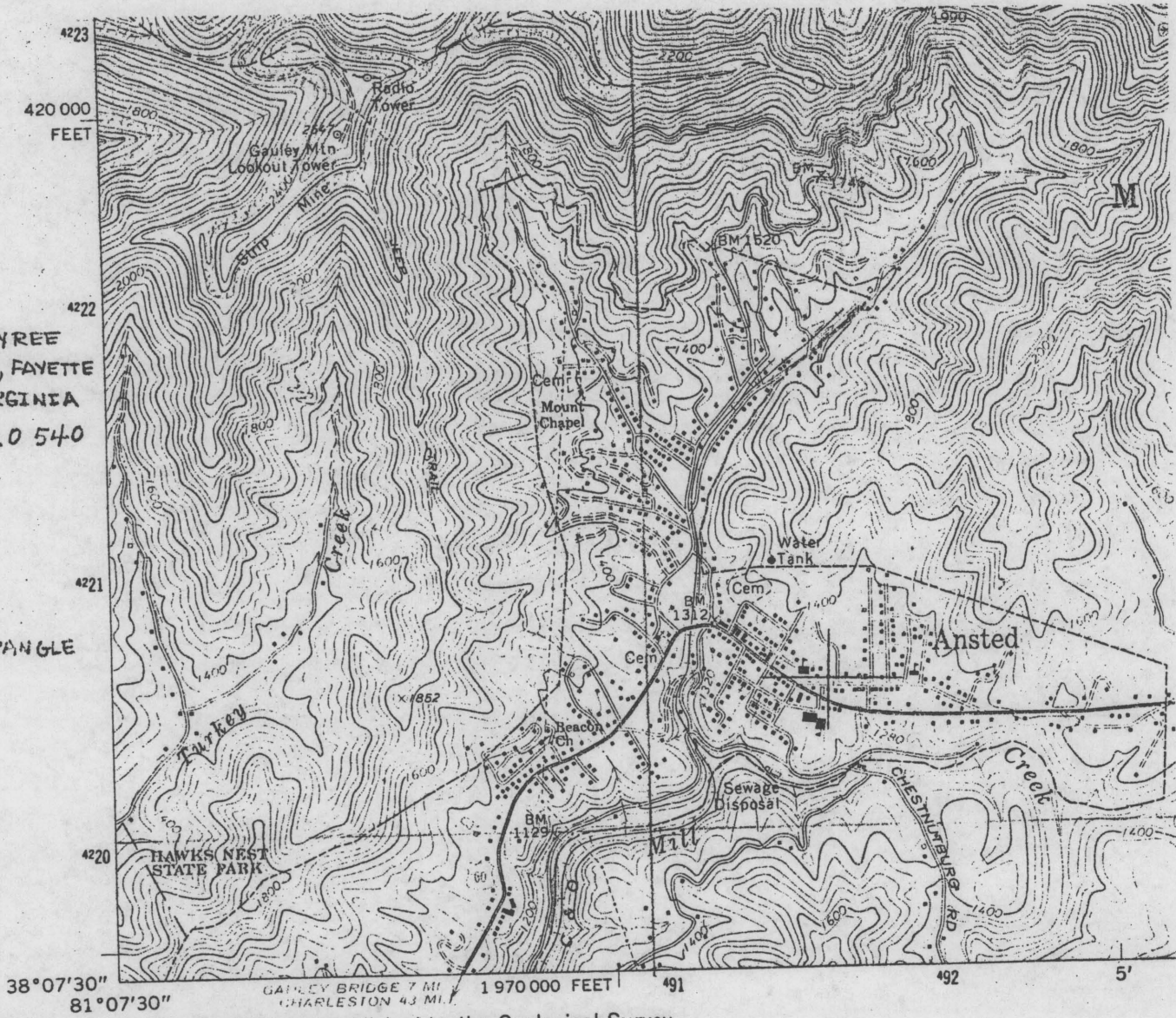
Peters, J. T. and H. B. Carden. History of Fayette County, West Virginia. Charleston, W. Va.: Jarrett Printing Co., 1926, pp. 483-87, p. 497.

Stutler, Boyd B. West Virginia in the Civil War. Charleston, W. Va.: Education Foundation, Inc. 1966, pp. 76-78.



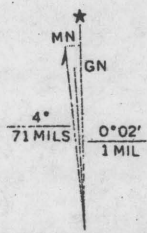
ALFWAY HOUSE/TREE
 AVERN, ANSTED, FAYETTE
 COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
 7/491660/4220540

ANSTED QUADRANGLE



(BECKWITH)
 4760 11 SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1969. Field checked 1969
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on West Virginia coordinate system,
 south zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, shown in blue



UTM GRID AND 1969 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET