

HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE & HISTORY  
THE CULTURAL CENTER  
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

(Staff Use Only)

File No:  
Theme(s):  
Neg Not(s):  
USGS Quad:  
UTM Ref:  
See Item #6

DISTRICT: SITE: BUILDING: STRUCTURE: OBJECT:

1. NAME(S) historic/common: Hermitage Motor Inn  
2. LOCATION street/road: Virginia Ave (US Route 220)  
city/town: Petersburg, WV 26847  
(incorporated/unincorporated)

3. USE/FUNCTION present: Hotel  
original: Residence

(public/private, restricted)

4. OWNER/ADDRESS present: Jim & Diane Roby  
P.O. Box 1177  
Petersburg, WV 26847  
original: Mr. Jacob Kenny Chambers

(public/private)

(phone no.)

5. PHOTO/SKETCH OF: Petersburg, WV 26847

7. PLAN (include approx. dimensions):

See Attached

6. LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT (map)



8. (A.) ACREAGE (approx):

1 Acre

(B.) VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The Hermitage is located within a rectangle formed by Virginia Ave. on the north; a driveway on the east; the north edge of a parking lot on the south; and the east edge of a driveway on the west.

Survey Region: \_\_\_\_\_  
Planning District: N/A

COUNTY: Grant

PROPERTY NAME: Hermitage Motor Inn

9 DESCRIPTION (clarify as appropriate):

<p>a. <u>Exterior Fabric</u></p> <p>stone _____</p> <p>brick <u>Red, flemish bond facade</u></p> <p>concrete _____</p> <p>stucco _____</p> <p>weatherboard _____</p> <p>clapboard _____</p> <p>board &amp; batten _____</p> <p>shingle _____</p> <p>other _____</p>	<p>b. <u>Structural System</u></p> <p>masonry <u>X</u></p> <p>frame _____</p> <p>log _____</p> <p>metal _____</p> <p>other _____</p> <p>foundation <u>stone</u></p>	<p>c. <u>Roofing Material</u></p> <p>wood _____</p> <p>metal _____</p> <p>slate _____</p> <p>tile _____</p> <p>asphalt _____</p> <p>composition <u>X</u></p> <p>other _____</p>
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<p>d. <u>Associated Structures (use/type):</u></p> <p>outbuildings <u>Small cottage to west; modern brick motor Inn behind original structure, excluded from nominated area.</u></p> <p>dependencies <u>none</u></p> <p>other _____</p>	<p>e. <u>Integrity (include dates):</u></p> <p>original site/relocated <u>original</u></p> <p>alterations <u>enclosed two story porch along east side, modernized interior.</u></p> <p>additions <u>Third story added early 20th century; modern block addition at rear.</u></p>
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<p>f. <u>Condition</u></p> <p>excellent _____</p> <p>good <u>X</u></p> <p>fair _____</p> <p>deteriorated _____</p> <p>abandoned _____</p>	<p>g. <u>Threats:</u></p> <p>Integrity threatened by numerous additions.</p>
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10 SIGNIFICANCE (use attachment sheet if necessary): The Hermitage is significant for its history as a hotel which has been in continuous operation since 1881. Located adjacent to the old Grant County Court House and on the main highway through the South Branch Valley it was prominently located to serve travelers. Originally a two story structure, the house is a good example of the mid 19th century vernacular architecture of the South Branch Valley, showing influence of the Greek Revival Style.

<p>a. <u>Architect/Builder/Engineer:</u></p> <p>_____</p>	<p>b. <u>Style/Period: Vernacular with Greek Revival influence</u></p>	<p>c. <u>Date(s) ca. 1840</u></p>
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11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adapted from survey documentation prepared by Nan Stevens, Region 8 Planning and Development Council, P.O. Box 887, Petersburg, WV 26847, for the West Virginia Department of Culture and History.

Wonderful West Virginia. Charleston, West Virginia: Department of Natural Resources. February 1980, vol. 43, no. 12, pp. 2-6.

12. FORM PREPARED BY Paula S. Reed DATE 8/09/84

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Organization Preservation Associates, Inc.

Phone (301) 791-7880

ATTACHMENT TO HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE & HISTORY  
THE CULTURAL CENTER  
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NAME: Historic/Common: Hermitage Motor Inn

4. Jim and Diane Roby  
P. O. Box 1177  
Petersburg, WV 26847

(#10. Significance, continued)

During the early 20th century, a third story, also of brick construction was added, changing the proportion of the building. A turn-of-the-century period two story porch with turned posts and balusters is also part of the updating received by the inn at that time.

The significance of the Hermitage derives from its continuous operation as an inn since 1881. Over a century of operation as a hostelry illustrates the importance of the commercial associations of the property to Petersburg and the South Branch Valley.

The social significance of the Hermitage (before 1904 called the Taylor Hotel) relates to the large numbers of guests, such as statesmen, judges and lawyers who regularly stayed at the hostelry while in Petersburg for court business at the neighboring courthouse. Tourists, hunters and fishermen were also attracted to the hotel because of the spectacular recreational and scenic qualities of the South Branch Valley.

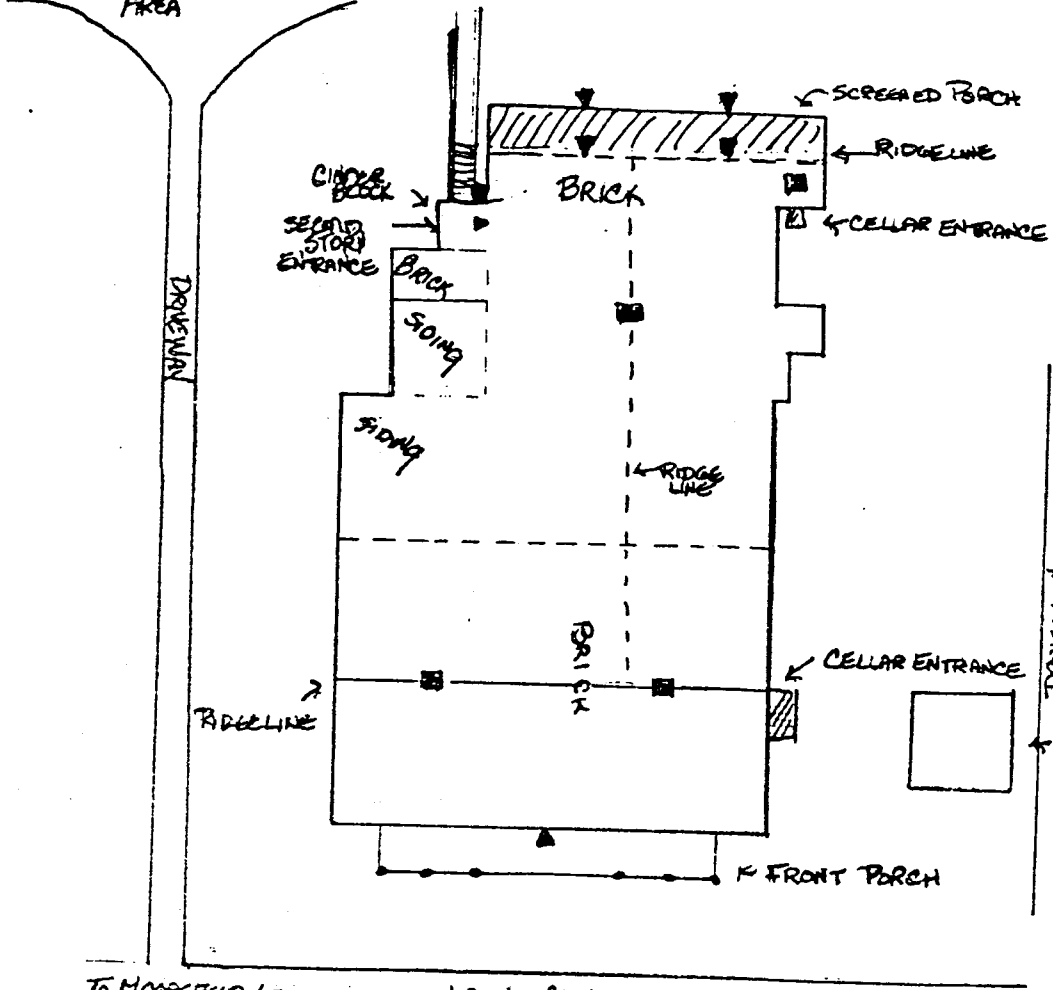
The Hermitage is also important for its longevity as a hotel business in the region. No other hotels in the immediate vicinity have existed continuously for over a century. The Hotel was called the "Cunningham" and later in the 19th century, the Taylor Hotel.

Historically, the building was constructed in the ca. 1840-41 period by local slaves who used bricks fired on the site. Jacob Kenny Chambers was the original owner. During the Civil War the building housed federal troops engaged in valley-wide campaigns. Mountain climbers stayed at the facility while training at nearby Seneca Rocks during World War II.

The original block of the building continues to convey its strong architectural flavor as an inn. The 2-tier porch, with turn-of-the-century sawn trim, is evocative of Victoria-era rural architecture.

NEW MOTOR IN

PARKING AREA



OLD GRANT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

TO MOOREFIELD ←

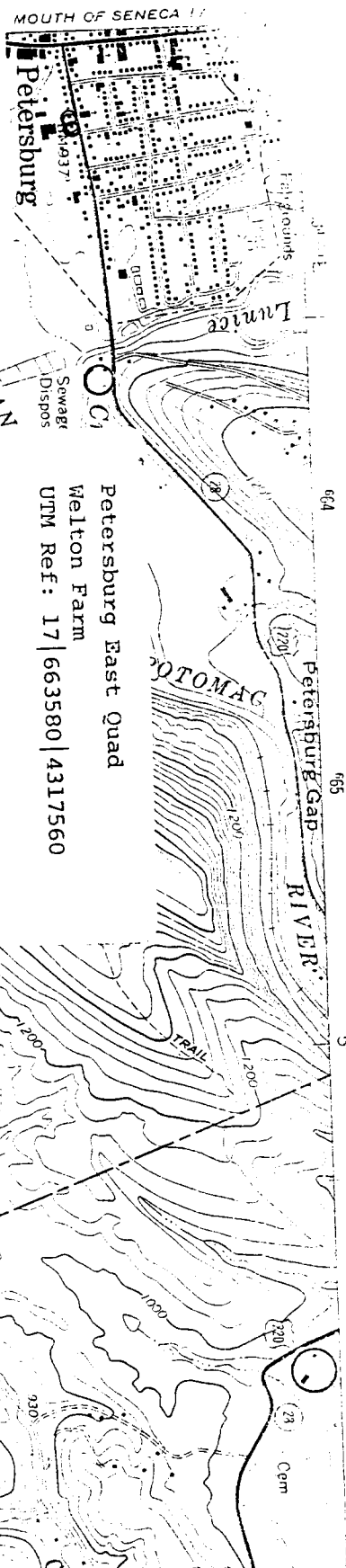
VIRGINIA AVENUE

PINE STREET

NORTH ↓

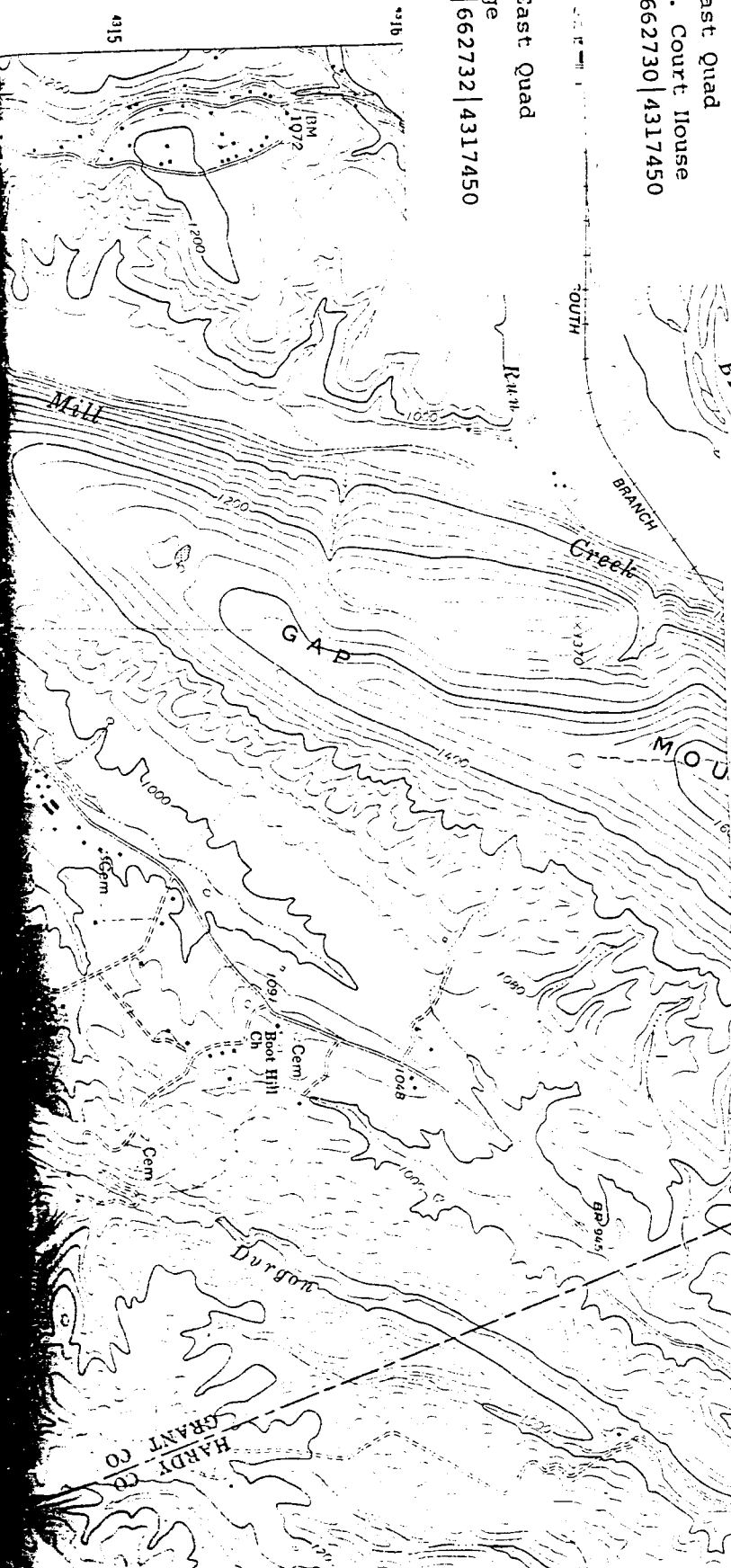
DATES  
THE INTERIOR  
SURVEY

Petersburg East Quad  
Hickory Hill  
UTM Ref: 17|667080|4318260



Petersburg East Quad  
Old Grant Co. Court House  
UTM Ref: 17|662730|4317450

Petersburg East Quad  
The Hermitage  
UTM Ref: 17|662732|4317450

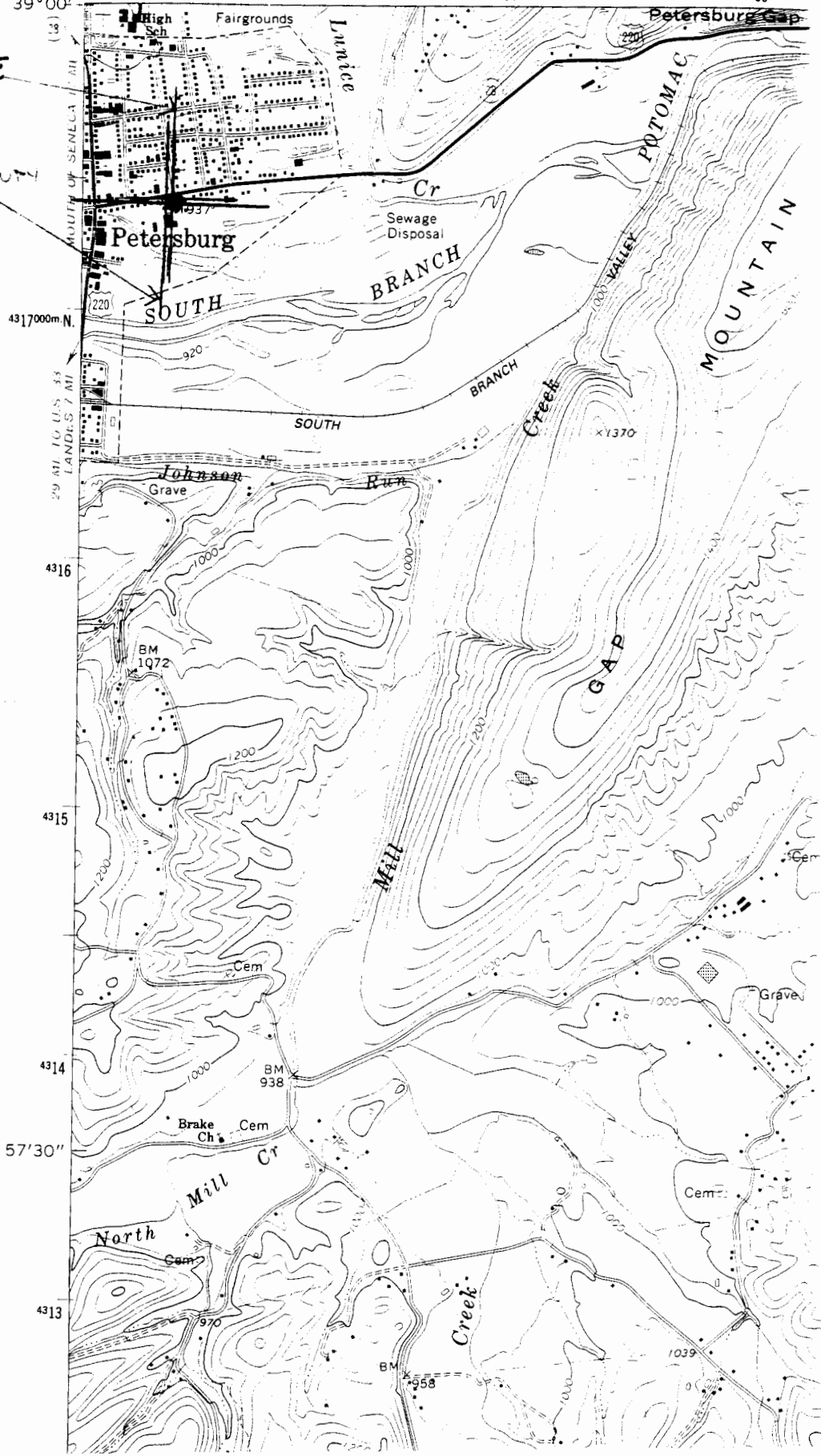


UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5162 U.S.W.  
(MAYSVILLE)

79°07'30" 663000m E. 664 665  
39°00'

NK 392  
**HERMITAGE  
INK**  
N2 78  
OLD GOVT COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE



**PETERSBURG,  
QUAD**