

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Prickett, Jacob, Jr., Log House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Off County Route 72

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fairmont (Montana vicinity)☒ VICINITY OFFirst

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

West Virginia54Marion049**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
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ OTHER: Vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Pricketts Fort Memorial Foundation, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fairmont

VICINITY OF

West Virginia 26554**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Adams Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

FairmontWest Virginia**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jacob Prickett, Jr., Log House sits vacant now, located in an open field just west of the site of the rather large 1770's fortification known as Pricketts Fort (presently listed on the National Register of Historic Places). It is a small, rectangular building similar to so many log structures that served settlers in the Appalachian Mountains and on its western plateau through the latter part of the eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth centuries.

A large stone chimney on the southwest side is the dominant exterior feature, but it is simplicity of lines and evident crude character that emphasize its frontier origins. The two-story, hewn-log building has a gable roof that is covered with shakes (these replaced a composition shingle roof in 1976). As with many log structures dating from the eighteenth century, there are few openings. A door is at the west corner of the sandstone-walled cellar (a notable feature in itself), and there are doors at the front and rear of the first floor. Only two windows, both on the main level, have been cut into the log walls, but there are two openings in each gable end (only one, near the chimney, is original, with others having been added sometime between 1914 and 1940) and two vents in the stone walls of the cellar.

Interior layout and design is as plain and simple as the exterior; it consists of a single large room (approximately 15' x 20') on each floor. Cellar walls display sizable rough-cut stones that came from a nearby quarry, the first floor includes the sole fireplace, and winding stairs located to the side of the fireplace lead to the loft.

The house remains little altered since construction. Its rear elevation apparently had a "stone room" extension at the cellar level at one time. Open porches have been removed because of their deteriorated state. Miss Irene Prickett, a descendant of the builder who remembers the building as early as about 1915, said "major renovations" were undertaken in the 1938-40 period when daubing was redone, a composition shingle roof put on, the stone chimney repointed in sections and a cement floor laid in the cellar. Electricity was brought in for a while, but it has been disconnected; there is no plumbing in the house.

Neither outbuildings nor dependencies remain on the grounds, but there was a springhouse and/or milkhouse to the rear at one time. In addition, the land around the structure had always included flowering plants, fruit trees and vegetables for the enjoyment and benefit of its inhabitants, with grape vines, pear trees, cherry trees and apple trees in abundance. Without cultivation, however, most of these have either died off or deteriorated.

Pricketts Fort Memorial Foundation, present owner of the property, is considering methods of incorporating the Jacob Prickett, Jr., Log House into the interpretive and living history programs presently operated at Pricketts Fort State Park.

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The nominated property includes all of the approximately 9.5 acres owned by the Pricketts Fort Memorial Foundation. While the house and its immediate surroundings comprise only about 1/2 acre, the area included extends to a series of railroad tracks near the site of Pricketts Fort (see accompanying map). This entire section was part of the original Prickett settlement and provides a connection between the fort and the log house. In addition, both prehistoric and historic archeological potential must be considered rather good, for the Monongalia River at the mouth of nearby Pricketts Creek was frequented by Indians long before white settlement, and activity related to the fort and later settlement dispersed over much of the land.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1499-1500	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 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	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
c. 1781	Jacob Prickett, Jr.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	

A short distance northeast of present-day Fairmont, seat of Marion County, West Virginia, a stream called Pricketts Creek empties into the Monongahela River to head north to Pittsburgh and the Ohio. Just a little more than two centuries ago a small settlement and fort dominated the hill overlooking the confluence and the land in the surrounding area. The Jacob Prickett, Jr., Log House was a product of the forces at work at that time and place, and it remains today as an example of a sturdy farmhouse representative of the architecture of this period of exploration and settlement.

The Prickett family had slowly emigrated westward from the middle Atlantic section. By the 1740's or 1750's Jacob Prickett, Sr., had located in the Great Valley of Virginia, and from Winchester he engaged in trading and exploring forays into the interior. At one time Prickett apparently did some reconnaissance work for the Ohio Company, an organization that had plans for exploitation and development of the Appalachians and west. Jacob, Jr. was born in 1758, a short time before the explorer is believed to have begun operating a trading post on the banks of the Monongahela near Pricketts Creek. It was a time of turmoil and upheaval on the frontier; the French and Indian War had a direct affect on the Appalachian Plateau, and Pontiac's Rebellion helped to close the west at the Proclamation Line.

About 1772 Jacob Prickett, Sr., started what would become a permanent settlement on the site of his former trading post, and his fourteen year old son was destined to play a part in area development until his death in 1826. The frontier was still turbulent into the 1770's. Such occurrences as the murder of the family of the Mingo Indian called Logan and the retaliation it naturally produced soon spawned necessary action on the part of Virginia's government, or at least gave Lord Dunmore, the governor, an excuse to act against the natives. Establishment of a line of defenses was undertaken, and Jacob Prickett, Sr., oversaw the construction of a comparatively large palisaded log fortification that would serve as a refuge for his section.

Jacob, Jr., was only sixteen when Dunmore's War commenced, but as an able-bodied person he had a role in helping build the fort and defend the settlers, some eighty families of whom were said to have gathered behind the walls at times. During ensuing troubles Jacob, Jr., apparently continued in the rank of private of Monongalia County (the area was part of that county at the time) militia.

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Immediate danger must have ended by the late 1770's for the young Prickett married in 1779, and in 1781 he and his wife moved into their new log house to settle into a life of farming. His family had been prominent in pioneering efforts here; it was only fitting that he and his brothers and sisters should reap benefits of a more stable time which they helped to secure.

The house that Jacob, Jr., built was almost certainly similar to many others that nearby settlers constructed. Although small by today's standards (and surely cramped when his twelve children shared it), it was solid and substantial as a home for a young family only one step removed from the opening of permanent settlement in the area.

Stone for the foundation and chimney were obtained at a quarry located several hundred yards from the building site. A full cellar was included, marking an important departure from those log houses with sills placed on a low foundation. The approximately 15' x 20' rectangular structure had two stories with a large fireplace in the room on the first floor. Logs about 12" in diameter were cut from trees on the property, hewn on the sides, and laid with a simple V-notch pattern. It was to be a practical dwelling.

The building served as a residence for various Prickett families until about 1875, but it passed to other hands, eventually to be used mostly for storage after about 1900. A Prickett descendant bought the property back in 1914, using it as a short-term residence as well as for special family events and storage. In 1975 the Jacob Prickett, Jr. Log House was donated to the Pricketts Fort Memorial Foundation. It is fitting that this representative building of the area's early settlement period is now slated for continued preservation and reuse.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Haymond, Henry. Historical Reference to Pricketts' Fort and its Defenders with Incidents of Border Warfare in the Monongahela Valley and Ceremonies at Unveiling of Monument Marking Site of Prickett's Fort, Erected in 1774. N.p., n.d.

(continued on separate sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Rivesville, W. Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,7 5,7,7 2,3,5 4,3,7,4 5,6,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Jacob Prickett, Jr., Log House is shown as a red line on the accompanying map entitled "Property Conveyed to Pricketts Fort Foundation" dated September 1975.

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

ORGANIZATION James E. Harding, Historian

DATE

STREET & NUMBER Historic Preservation Unit, Department of Culture & History October 27, 1978

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex

(304) 348-0244

STATE

Charleston

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 M. Moran

1-16-79

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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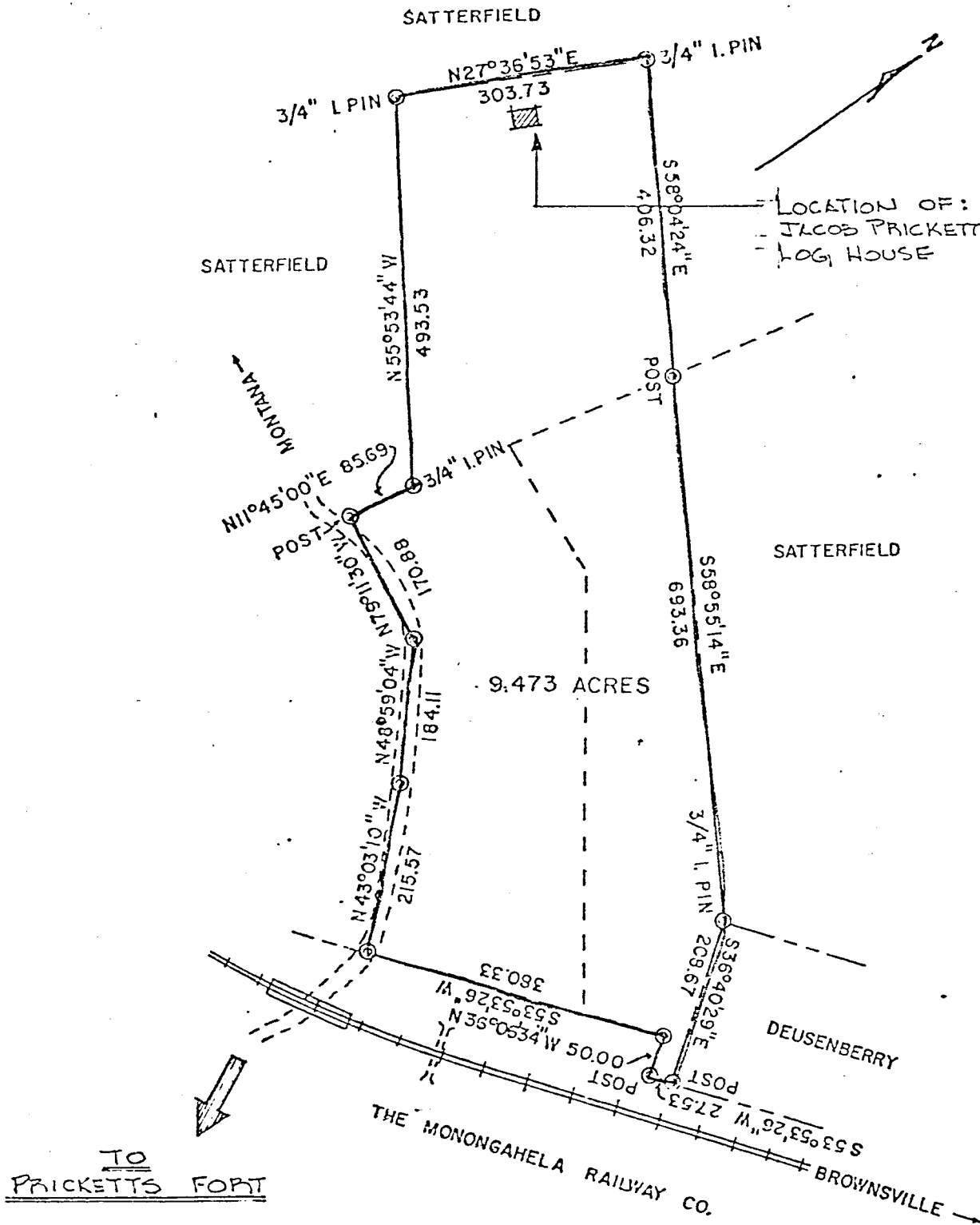
2

Interview of Miss Irene Prickett by James E. Harding, October 4, 1978, at the Jacob Prickett, Jr., Log House. On file with the Historic Preservation Unit, Department of Culture and History, Charleston, W. Va.

Tough, Glenn D. Now and Long Ago: A History of the Marion County Area N.p., 1969.

Smyth, George A., AIA. "A Study for the Restoration of the Jacob Prickett, Jr. House, Pricketts Fort, Fairmont, West Virginia" Report prepared at Morgantown, W. Va., July, 1978.

Spevock, Frank. A Local History. Montana Mines, W. Va. (?) : by the author (?), 1961.



----- SATTERFIELD INTERIOR
PARCEL LINES

Property Conveyed
to
PRICKETTS FORT FOUNDATION
from

Elizabeth Satterfield, Et. Al.
Winfield District Marion County, West Virginia

Scale: 1"=200'

September 1975

Bernard G. Sampson Company, Inc.

