United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1. Name of Property
   historic name: Carden James B. House
   other names/site number: N/A

2. Location
   street & number: 1082 Country Road
   city or town: Summersville
   state: West Virginia code: WV
   county: Nicholas code: 067
   zip code: 26651

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

State or Federal agency and bureau

   Date

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

   Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency and bureau

   Date
USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Carden, James B., House
Nicholas County, West Virginia

4. **National Park Service Certification**
I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:) 

______________________________  _________________________
Signature of Keeper Date of Action
USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Carden, James B., House
Nicholas County, West Virginia

5. Classification
Ownership of Property | Category of Property | No. of Resources within Property
--- | --- | ---
X  private | X building(s) | contributing
_ public-local | _ district | 3
_ public-State | _ site | 2 buildings
_ public-Federal | _ structure | sites
 | _ object | structures
 | | objects
 | | Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Functions or Use
Historic Functions: DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions: COMMERCE: Trade/Restaurant; DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description
Architectural Classification: LATE VICTORIAN: Folk Victorian

Materials:

Foundation: Stone
Walls: Wood/Clapboard
Roof: Asphalt Shingle
Other: N/A
USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Carden, James B., House
Nicholas County, West Virginia

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.

X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X 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.)

N/A A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

N/A B removed from its original location.

N/A C a birthplace or a grave.

N/A D a cemetery.

N/A E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

N/A F a commemorative property.

N/A G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance:
Architecture
Commerce/Trade

Period of Significance: ca. 1885 - 1928

Significant Dates: 1885; 1928

Cultural Affiliation: N/A
USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

James B. Carden House
Nicholas County, West Virginia

Significant Persons: Carden, James Burress
Architect/Builder: Keenen, Alan Leivasy

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 # __________  Specify repository: Nicholas County HLC 
_ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # 616 Church Street 
Summersville, WV 26651

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: Approximately 7.2 acres

UTM References:  
   Quadrangle: Gilboa, West Virginia

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

17 504270 4237392

_ See continuation sheet
USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Carden, James B., House
Nicholas County, West Virginia

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization: Same as above date: January 8, 2001
street & number: 612 Main Street telephone: (304) 765-5716
city or town: Sutton state: WV zip code: 26601

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

name: George A. Jarroll
street & number: 1075 Country Road telephone: (304) 872-5876
city or town: Summersville state: WV zip code: 26651
The James B. Carden House is located in Zela, a small community southwest of Summersville, Nicholas County, the county seat. It is located on Secondary Road 19/28, or Country Road, off of State Route 39 which runs parallel to Peters Creek. The house is located on 7.2 acres adjacent to the historic Weston to Gauley Bridge Turnpike. The acreage is rolling with the house sitting atop a hill in the center of a well-mowed lawn, large perimeter trees and several outbuildings. James and his wife Margaret lived in this house and raised their four children while James ran the Zela store and became the first Zela postmaster in the adjoining post office. The store and the post office were located at the foot of the hill, close to the historic Weston to Gauley Bridge Turnpike. The store and post office are no longer extant.

The buildings on this site include: the Carden House (contributing), an end gable barn located behind the house (contributing), a small workshop also located behind the house (contributing), a garage adjacent to the house (non-contributing), a small cellar (non-contributing). In total, there are three contributing buildings located on this site and two non-contributing buildings.

The Carden House is a two-story, frame, Folk Victorian Style house with a front facing T plan and a two-story front porch running the full width of the house. Above the second story front porch is a central, gabled pediment with decorative vergeboard detailing. The roof is finished with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls have clapboard siding with cornerboards and tongue and groove beaded board in the first and second floor porch areas. There is one central, interior, brick chimney in the rear section of the "T". There is an exposed, cut stone chimney on the rear elevation of the front section of the "T" and another exposed, cut stone chimney on the opposite side elevation. There is a two-story, projecting, three-sided bay on the west elevation with an interesting dentiled cornice. This cornice has alternating length dentils resembling a stepped or Greek Key dentil mold. The two-story, front porch has original chamfered posts with very elaborate, scrolled brackets and scrollwork balustrade on both floors. There is a two-story porch on the east elevation also, located in the crook of the "T". In the gable ends flanking the chimney are round-headed louver windows in the attic. Windows in the house are original, vertical 2/2, double hung sash, with simple surrounds, flat band trim, and original, Victorian window latches. Attached to the house on the west elevation is a long, one-story, side gable addition built in 1988 to furnish additional seating for the existing restaurant. The addition has an asphalt shingle roof, vinyl siding and five sets of sliding glass doors and one French door. The addition also has a porch to match the main house. The foundation of the house is ashlar cut stone and the foundation of the addition is concrete block pier. Counting the 1988 addition, there are 9 bays on the front elevation of the house and 3 bays on the side. The property is in excellent condition and other than the large addition, the house has had few exterior alterations since its construction.

This large, compound plan, front facing T is approximately 78 feet wide and 46 feet long, consisting of nine bays on the front elevation and three bays on the side elevation. A compound plan house combines the squares and rectangles of simple plans into the most common shapes of the letters L, T, or U. Clapboard siding covers the house on three elevations with tongue and groove beaded board siding on front of first and second floors. This exterior wall treatment within the porch area has been documented in other houses of this time period in Nicholas County.
The central entrance door on the first floor has a simple surround with raised detailing trim within the surround and bullseye blocks in the upper corners. This detailing is very Italianate and is similar to detailing that was found in other locations around the state in the 1880's. The central door onto the second floor porch has the same decorative detailing surrounding the door as exists on the first floor. This door appears to be original and has divided, arched lights on the top half of the door and panels below.

The front façade of the house itself is divided into five bays. The plan consists of a central, stair/hall entrance flanked by a large room on each side with two front, 2/2 windows in each room. This plan is copied on the second floor as well. The central hallway leads to the rear of the house into what was the original kitchen. There is an open porch off of this room on the east elevation in the crook of the T.

Originally, there was also a separate building that served as a summer kitchen. That building is no longer extant and the chimney stones have been reused as the entrance steps in the front. There is an original fireplace opening in the front room (west), with a non-original mantel dating from the 1950's. In the rear extension of the T on the interior back wall of the house there is an original fireplace hearth, for the old kitchen, under the existing flooring. The fireplace itself is within the wall, now covered with drywall, as is the fireplace in the front room, east elevation.

The finishes in the two front rooms of the house are similar. The ceilings in both rooms are painted plaster as are the walls. There are non-original chair rails with wallpaper dadoes and carpeted floors. The windows in both rooms are original with original Victorian sash locks, and the muntins are thick, representative of the 1880 time period.

The hallway from the entrance to the rear section of the "T" has ceramic tile floor, wallpaper on the walls and pressed board tile ceilings. The ceilings are painted drywall and the walls are painted plaster. There is a simple wood band trim around the doors, ca. 1940 or 1950. There is a small baseboard dating from the 1940's or 1950's.

When the current owner's father bought this property in 1953, he added the existing kitchen and dishwashing room to the rear section of the T. The kitchen has vinyl sheet flooring in good condition and a painted drywall ceiling. There is wallpaper on one wall and paint and marlite on the walls behind the stoves and appliances. The dishwashing room, a concrete block addition, has painted walls with a wallpaper border and a painted ceiling.

**Barn** c. 1885  
The contributing, one-story, end gable barn, ca. 1885, dates to the time period of the house. It has a V seam metal roof, vertical board siding, and stacked stone pier foundation. On the west elevation, there are two vertical board entrance doors. On the same elevation, above the doors, there is an upper level window into the loft. The east elevation has a vertical board entrance door and a secondary, small door.

**Storage Shed** c. 1910  
Directly behind the house is the very small contributing storage shed being used as a workshop, ca. 1910. It has vertical board siding with a horizontal, split log façade made to look like a log structure. The building has an asphalt shingle roof. The end gable side has the entrance door and a three-light window. The west elevation has a six-light window, probably relocated from another building.
Garage 1953 Noncontributing Building
The non-contributing, concrete block garage, adjacent to the house, was built in 1953. The garage is a side gable, two-bay building with asphalt shingle roof. There is a wood shed addition on the east elevation and a concrete block addition on west elevation. These are used as storage facilities for the restaurant. The additions have roll roofing.

Cellar 1953 Noncontributing Building
The non-contributing, small cellar is located behind the 1988 addition to the house. It has asphalt shingle roof, prime siding and a concrete block foundation. This building also dates to 1953.

Summary:
The contributing buildings, the Carden house, barns and storage shed, all date to the time period of the life span of James Carden. The house still has the original materials and expresses the local Folk Victorian style of design.
The James B. Carden House is significant under Criterion B and Commerce for its association with James B. Carden, an early settler, prominent businessman, and the first postmaster in Zela. The Carden House is also significant under Criterion C, Architecture, for its late nineteenth century, Folk Victorian style of architecture, a typical example of the style in the area and the county. The period of significance, 1885 to 1928 refers to the building of the house and its occupation by the Carden family until the death of James B. Carden.

The parents of James B. Carden, David and Martha Ayers Carden, lived in Buckingham County, Virginia before the Civil War. Their first child Mary Ella was born there in 1853. During the Civil War they moved to Clay County, West Virginia, near the town of Lizemore. On April 30, 1862, their second child, James Burruss Carden was born. While living in Clay County, the Carden's had two more children, Oliver H. and David Rippitoe.

In the late 1860's, David Carden moved his family from Clay County to Enon, West Virginia, a growing farm community comprised of rolling hills. The Cardens made their home at the head of Carden's Branch, a short distance directly behind where the Enon Post Office and store were located. David Carden and his brother William D. owned adjoining farms in Enon and it was here that they raised their children, both families becoming active in the Enon Baptist Church.

In 1872, David Carden died suddenly and life changed for the Carden family. James, being the oldest boy, began to work after school for George Henry Alderson, the owner of the Enon store. James was attending what they called "free school" at this time and worked in the store whenever he was not in school.

When Mr. Alderson sold the Enon store to Joe Seybert, James and his brother Oliver rented the store from Mr. Seybert and ran it themselves. In 1883, James moved to old "Winston" on the Gauley Bridge and Weston Turnpike to become the junior partner with George Henry Alderson in a new store business called the J. B. Carden and Company Store, leaving Oliver to run the Enon store.

In April of 1885, James B. Carden married Margaret Felicity VanBibber. James relocated the J.B. Carden and Company Store to Zela, a neighboring community. A post office was established at this store in the same year and James became the first postmaster during Grover Cleveland's administration. In the same year, James and his new wife bought the hillside behind the store and post office and built a house. Alan Leivasv "Uncle Pete" Keenan, a local carpenter, helped with the decorative, scrollwork finish. He was the son of Andrew Keenen, who was from what is now known as Keenan Branch, and was known locally as a fine carpenter and a song leader in his community.

Within three years, James purchased his partner's, George H. Alderson, interest in the store and named it the J. B. Carden Company Mercantile. The post office was named the Zela Post Office in honor of the young daughter of Mr. Alderson, Zela Alderson. James served as postmaster in this location for over forty-two years, being one of the three oldest postmasters in West Virginia at the time of his death and Zela's only postmaster until his death in 1928.
The J. B. Carden Company Mercantile and the Zela Post Office were located adjacent to the Weston to Gauley Bridge Turnpike, an important link to the southern part of the state as well as to the northern counties of Braxton and Lewis. The Weston to Gauley Bridge Turnpike was authorized as a State Road in 1848. The road ran through Nicholas County and followed the alignment of the old bridle path between Gauley Bridge and Summersville, basically the same route as present-day State Route 39 and U.S. Route 19. The road, which is still visible, ran directly in front of the store and post office and was a well traveled link to the southern and northern parts of the state. The Civil War interrupted the improvement and maintenance of the road and it fell into disrepair during and immediately following the war. By 1880, the road had again become an important link and there was daily service to Gauley Bridge. By 1885, when James Carden opened the store and became the Zela postmaster, the turnpike was well traveled and contributed to the success of his business.

James B. Carden was a very active Baptist, becoming a member of Enon Baptist Church at the age of 10. When he moved to Zela, he transferred his membership to Salem Baptist Church in 1888 and was chosen a deacon very soon after that. This was his position in the church for the rest of his life. He was a Sunday School Superintendent at Salem in 1887, and he served in this capacity for approximately 35 years. At different intervals, he served as president of the Hopewell Baptist Association Convention for a total period of 13 years. James was a member of the Masonic Lodge No. 76 at Summersville, and achieved the degree of Master Mason in 1897. James and Margaret Carden had six children in the house. Alva Olin died as an infant and Olive Broaduss died in early adulthood. The four surviving children were: Nena Ezelle, David Lamont, Byrna Hautense, and Andrew Burress. Nena Ezelle became deaf from an illness at the age of 3 and was sent to the school for the deaf at Romney, West Virginia. She became a bookkeeper for the State of West Virginia at the capitol building in Charleston and held this position until her death.

Byrna Carden attended Duke University and was graduated from Morris Harvey College. She earned a Master's Degree from Columbia University. Byrna became a schoolteacher, first at the Nicholas County High School, then going to Lincoln Junior High School in Charleston, where she was the music teacher for 33 years. She was one of the first women band directors in the county. She also headed the vocal music department at the school and taught regular music classes. Miss Carden was one of the founders of instrumental music in the Kanawha County public schools, and she established an orchestra at LJHS that performed annually under her direction. It continues today using her guidelines. After retirement in 1955, Byrna continued to give private music lessons at a South Charleston music store.

Andrew Burress became a schoolteacher for a short while and married Mary McClung. Later he became a business manager for the Standard Oil Company in Charleston and then relocated to Richmond, Virginia. They had one child, Elaine.

David Lamont Carden went to West Virginia University and played football for the college. He spent a short time in New York City aspiring to be a singer, but returned to the Zela homeplace and relocated the
post office and store from its original location on the hill to "down on the road" referring to State Route 39, ca. 1930. When the Old Weston to Gauley Bridge Turnpike road was relocated and paved as State Route 39 in its current alignment, the old store and post office were no longer on the main thoroughfare, thus the reason for the relocation. The stone and concrete gas-pump shelter and the foundation of the store can still be seen today on State Route 39. Lamont married late in life to Fonda Garey-Garber and they had two children, David Todd and James Reinald.

Also related to the family of James B. Carden was the famous writer, Eudora Welty. In her autobiography, One Writer's Beginnings, Ms. Welty tells of her father, originally from Ohio, meeting her mother in West Virginia: "...He fell in love with my mother, and she with him, in West Virginia when she was a teacher in the mountain schools near her home and he was a young man from Ohio who'd gone over to West Virginia to work in the office of a lumber construction company." She goes on to explain that after they married, they moved to Jackson, Mississippi and that is where they settled and raised their children. Welty grew up in Jackson, but almost every summer the family would board the train and visit the relatives in West Virginia and Ohio. In one section of the book Ms. Welty refers to: "...the trunk that used to go on the train with us to West Virginia and Ohio on summer trips." Describing her mother's grandparents, Ms. Welty says: "Their son, Mother's Grandpa Carden, was a Baptist preacher. Enon-near-Gilboa was the name of his church...." This "Grandpa Carden" was William Carden, the brother of James B. Carden's father, David, who lived on the adjoining farm. Enon and Gilboa are neighboring towns to Zela. It is, therefore, assumed that Eudora Welty spent time in the home of James B. Carden visiting her cousins on the family's summer visits to West Virginia.

Summarizing her feelings of those trips to West Virginia, Ms. Welty states: "It seems likely to me now that the very element in my character that took possession of me there on top of the mountain, the fierce independence that was suddenly mine, to remain inside me no matter how it scared me when I tumbled, was an inheritance." Referring to this inheritance, she says: "...To grow up is to fight for it, to grow old is to lose it after having possessed it. For her, too, (referring to her mother) it was most deeply connected to the mountains."

The Carden house stayed in the family until 1953 when it was sold to the present owners, the E.L. Jarrolls. In 1971, Mrs. Jarroll opened the Country Road Inn, an Italian restaurant, in the house. This business became one of the leading gourmet Italian restaurants in West Virginia and is still a well known restaurant today.

Architecture:
The Carden house possesses distinctive characteristics of houses built during this time period in Nicholas County and other parts of West Virginia. In 1985 - 1986, an overall county survey found that this compound plan configuration with the tongue and groove siding in the porch areas was characteristic of several houses in Nicholas County built during the late nineteenth century.
The two-story porches with decorative scroll jig saw work in the balustrades were also common during this period, as were the exterior stone chimneys. The wooden 2/2 double-hung wood windows with wide muntins and sash hardware found in the Carden House were also characteristic of houses built during the late nineteenth century in Nicholas County. The exterior façade on the front elevation, within the porch areas, is horizontal tongue and groove board with a bead on the bottom edge of each board. This design element of clapboard siding on secondary facades and smooth or other tongue and groove board siding on the primary façade has been observed in many of the residences in Nicholas County from this time period.

The rear two-story porch in the crook of the "T," present in the Carden House, is also characteristic of other houses of this period in Nicholas County. Usually, the end bay of the porch is enclosed, similar to the rear porch in the Carden House, giving the distinct appearance of a recessed porch. The Captain Halstead Farm located in Nicholas County and nominated to the National Register in December of 1998 is an example of a similar plan and exterior treatment. This two-story, front facing "L" illustrates the compound plan. The exterior clapboard siding with the horizontal tongue and groove board with a bead at the bottom covers the primary facade within the full length first and second story porches. Unlike the Carden House, however, the original window openings on the first floor front elevation of the Halstead house have been modified and large picture windows installed. The decorative scrollwork within the balustrade remains extant on the second story full length porch but has been removed from the first floor porch balustrade. The Halstead house has the distinctive stone chimneys of the houses of this time period, but they have been painted white to match the house. The exterior stone chimneys on the Carden House remain the original natural stone. The Nicholas County Mason-Drennen house, nominated to the National Register in 1998, is another example of this locally popular compound plan in the form of a rear facing "L". This house has clapboard siding and decorative scrollwork within the balustrade on the full length, second-story front porch. Originally, this scrollwork decorated the first-floor balustrade, but it has been removed. In a historic photograph scrolled porch post brackets are also evident, but they are no longer extant. The exterior stone chimneys have also been removed and replaced with modern brick chimneys. In a 1999 Historic Resource Survey of Grant County several houses with the compound plan and same exterior treatment of the Carden House were identified. The Paley Campbell House in Kesslers Cross Lanes, built ca. 1883, has the full length first and second story porches with the decorative scrollwork in the balustrade on the second story, but the first floor balustrade is no longer extant. The exterior chimneys have been removed and replaced with modern interior chimneys. The James B. Carden house appears to have the most historically intact exterior of any of these examples found in Nicholas County.

Summary:
The Carden House, and its owner James B. Carden, were an integral part of the development of the community of Zela and the surrounding areas. Because of the house's close proximity to the river and the railroad, people brought their livestock to the farm to wait for the cattle drive to take them to board the train or boat to go to market. The one room schoolhouse was also located on Carden property. The house, the store, the post office and the school all served the community during the formation of this area of Nicholas County and formed a nucleus for the neighboring farm families. The Carden house is the only remaining building of all the above mentioned structures that served the community of Zela and the surrounding area.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, J. E., Pastor, J. B. Carden. The Nicholas Chronicle, Summersville, WV


Interview with Pete Keenan's grandchild by Irene Dotson.

Telephone Interview of John Shelton, Delegate to West Virginia State Legislature by Wilma Richardson, 12/25/00.

Oral Interview with Todd Carden, Charleston, West Virginia. 1/19/01.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries of the 16.38 acre portion of the James B. Carden property are shown on the accompanying portion of the plat map found in the Nicholas County Courthouse. The enclosed computer generated site plan illustrates the boundaries and the location of each building as well as the boundaries of the 7.2 acre portion associated with this nomination used as the verbal boundary description.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary corresponds to a 1939 survey that divided the original acreage into three separate parcels. The nomination encompasses the 7.2 acre portion of the 16.38 parcel that contains the house and its immediate outbuildings.
Name: James B. Carden House
Address: 1082 Country Road
City: Summersville
County: Nicholas

Photographer: Barbara Brimer
Date: Winter 2001

Negatives: WVSHPO, Charleston, WV

Photo 1 of 9
Front elevation
Camera looking northwest

Photo 2 of 9
Front elevation
Camera looking northeast

Photo 3 of 9
First floor front porch
Camera looking west

Photo 4 of 9
Rear elevation
Camera looking south

Photo 5 of 9
Room 100, interior
Camera looking northwest

Photo 6 of 9
Room 102, interior
Camera looking northeast

Photo 7 of 9
Room 103, interior
Camera looking southeast

Photo 8 of 9
Room 100, interior
Camera looking south

Photo 9 of 9
Building number 2
Camera looking northeast
SITE PLAN

9.1 acres

7.2 acres

Scale

0 100' 200' 300'

= CONTRIBUTING

= NON-CONTRIBUTING

Boundary for National Register Nomination

Country Road
WW County Rt. 19/29
EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN
NO SCALE
EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN
NO SCALE
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

In the Superior Court Clerk's Office.

This map was this day presented to said Court and upon receipt, the same is admitted to record.

F. B. Raden, Clerk.
EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN
NO SCALE
EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN

NO SCALE