

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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**1. Name of Property**

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historic name James W. Hoge House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

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**2. Location**

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street & number Hoge Lane not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Winfield vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state West Virginia code VA county Putnam code 079 Zip 25213

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**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan M. Pierce, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
West Virginia Division of Culture and History  
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 or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

James W. Hoge House  
**Name of Property**

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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| I, hereby certify that this property is:   | Signature of Keeper | Date of Action |
|--|---------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register<br><input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet               | _____               | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register<br><input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. | _____               | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register   | _____               | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register  | _____               | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):  | _____               | _____          |
| _____  | _____               | _____          |
| _____  | _____               | _____          |

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property**

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>1</u>     | _____           | buildings  |
| <u>1</u>     | _____           | sites      |
| _____        | _____           | structures |
| _____        | _____           | objects    |
| <u>2</u>     | _____           | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

**Current Functions**

Domestic/single dwelling  
Funerary/cemetery

Vacant/work in progress  
Funerary/cemetery

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

**Materials**

Federal

foundation    stone  
roof            wood  
walls           brick  
other           wood

**Narrative Description**

See continuation sheets

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- 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.

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**Criteria Considerations**

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.

**Areas of Significance**

Law

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1838, 1857-1882

**Significant Dates**

1838; 1857

**Significant Person**

Hoge, James William

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

See Continuation Sheets

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

See 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** approx. 4.5 acres

**UTM References**

Zone    Easting            Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

See continuation sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Michael J. Pulice, historic preservation consultant

Organization:

Date: December, 2006

street & number: 391 Old Hollow Rd.

telephone: 540-857-7586

city or town: Hardy state: VA

zip code: 24101

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**Property Owner**

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Putnam County Commission  
PO Box 149  
Winfield, WV 25213

Town of Winfield  
PO Box 596  
Winfield, WV 25213

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**Description**

The James Hoge House is located in Putnam County, West Virginia, off of U.S. Highway 35, in the Town of Winfield. The house lot is reached by traveling about one-quarter mile southeast from the highway, at the terminus of the entrance drive used to access the Putnam County Courthouse and Judicial Building. Although the house was relocated in 2004, its orientation remains parallel to U.S. Highway 35, facing north and slightly to the west. The house had been set back just 150-200 feet from the highway. It is a one-story, side-gable brick structure with a linear footprint measuring 18 feet by 47 feet. It has stepped parapets at the gable ends and decorative brick cornice, erected c. 1838. The house is constructed of hand-molded, clamp-fired red bricks laid up in Flemish bond on the principal façade and American bond with Flemish variant (one Flemish course of alternating stretchers and headers to every 6-7 courses of stretchers) on the other three elevations. Within each parapet is a chimney occupying the centermost and highest portion of the parapet. The parapets and chimneys have a single corbelled brick course just below the top brick course. The foundation consists of massive blocks of ashlar-cut sandstone laid in courses, now underpinned with concrete block. The roof is covered with new wood shakes, like it was originally. A one-story, frame, rear ell, added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, was in very poor condition when the brick portion was moved in 2004, and could not be saved. A new one of the same dimensions, form, and materials is to be built in its place.

The brick cornice on the front and rear elevations consists of 4 corbelled brick courses laid with the ends of the bricks facing outward (called *headers*). The bottom two courses each project outward ½-brick beyond the brick course below it. The top two courses together project ½-brick further than the course below, but are flush with each other at the outward edge, the lower of the top two courses having bricks only at intervals, thus forming a dentil cornice. Such cornices are not only decorative, but help protect the walls below from rain by providing a series of drip edges. Although brick buildings were expensive to construct, bringing prestige to the owners, and the Hoge House possesses very high quality masonry, the house is quite modest in scale and at only one-story in height, is unusual among brick houses of the period.

Like the cornice, the jack arches are both decorative and functional. They are formed of *gauged* bricks, meaning that they are of various wedge shapes designed to form a very strong structural arch

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that can effectively carry the heavy load of the wall above the window and door openings. In this case the gauged bricks also received a purely decorative treatment—their outer surfaces were gently rubbed with another soft brick to make them stand out among the other bricks in the wall. Rubbed bricks were a high-style treatment in arches and around wall openings, common in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Jack arches remained fashionable on Federal-style brick houses, but by 1838 when the house was constructed, such arches (and cornices) were on the way out of fashion, largely because the skill needed to execute them made them expensive, and because they did not conform to the next architectural trend that was sweeping the nation, the Greek Revival style.

The original door, door surround, porch and the windows were lost during the latter half of the twentieth century. The original door surround was a heavy wooden Greek Revival-style design with sidelights and flat transom light. The larger opening around the original door is now in-filled with wood siding. Surmounting the entire door opening is a coursed jack arch. The window openings have been widened a little to each side, indicated by the discontinuity of brick masonry around them and the more narrow jack arches above them. The five-bay entrance façade has a central front entry with two windows to each side. The wooden window surrounds are also missing, as are the sash, replaced by fixed steel sash. The porch is now gone but its outline can still be seen as paint ghosts. It appears to have been less than full-length but extended over the bays immediately on each side of the entrance. Ghosts of four pilasters or half-columns are also visible between the window and door bays, but not at either end of the front elevation. A pedimented, single-bay portico with round, perhaps Tuscan columns, is seen in a mid-twentieth-century (undated) photograph of the house. The front door consisted of a single leaf as it is now, but with transom light and sidelights. The front windows were nine-over-six double-hung sash. The rear ell had a shed-roofed porch off of its left (east) side. When the front windows were replaced with steel sash, two small, two-pane, steel windows were added to the west end of the building. There does not appear to have been window or door openings in either end of the house, originally. The east end of the house still has none. The rear (south) elevation of the house has a door, centered at the back of the central hall, and originally probably had one window lighting each room, but now has a steel window lighting the west room and a rather shoddy door replacing the east room window. The window opening, of course, has been modified to accommodate the door. House restoration plans for the future include replacement of the windows and doors with new ones of the original form. The brick masonry of the gable parapets was repointed in recent years, but did not need to be reconstructed.

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The interior of the house, consisting of two large rooms separated by a nine-foot-wide central passage, was rather dramatically altered circa 1930-50, although the original one-inch thick, five-to-six-inch-wide flooring remains under a layer of ca. 1930 two-inch-wide floorboards, and some of the original wall plaster remains intact. The fireplaces and mantels are ca. 1930-50 vintage, as is the decorative trim around the windows and doors. The floor joists, however, are the original hewn logs.

The Hoge Cemetery

The small, unenclosed cemetery is located in the wooded parcel a few hundred feet behind (to the east) the house's new location. Among the approximately two-dozen graves are those of James W. Hoge his wife, Sarah, and nine of their eleven children, including Charlie Hoge, their infant son, who died in 1863. Charlie's gravestone and many others are of finely carved marble, exhibiting high artistic values. The earliest grave is that of Hart Hills Forbs, who was buried on April 26, 1856. Nearby is Julia W. Forbs, as well as John L. Wright (1803-1866), Ida Hoge Moore (1889-1900), Isaac W. Saunders (d. 1882). Other Hoges interred include John G. Hoge (1794-1864) and his wife, Catherine P. (1803-1863). At the south end of the cemetery are thought to be slave burials, indicated by neatly aligned depressions and uncut fieldstones. The cemetery is considered to be a *contributing site* for the purposes of this nomination.

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**Statement of Significance**

**Summary and Justification of Criteria**

Putnam County, west of Charleston in central West Virginia, is home to the James W. Hoge House, a highly significant architectural landmark in the region. A one-story brick house designed in the Federal style, it is unique among survivals in the region from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, with a foundation of huge sandstone ashlar blocks, walls of high quality hand-made bricks laid in Flemish bond with fine jointing, decorative brick cornices, stepped gable parapets, and gauged-brick jack arches, the quality of the masonry work is outstanding for its time and place. As such, the Hoge House is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, at the regional level. The period of significance for the property under this Criterion is 1838, the date of construction. The Hoge property is also eligible at the regional level under Criterion B in the area of Law, for James Hoge's well-established importance as a barrister and circuit court judge. Hoge resided in the house from 1857 until his death in 1882, and it is the only known surviving house with which he can be associated. Although the house was moved a short distance from its original location in order to save it from demolition, it remains on James Hoge's former property. It is oriented in the same direction, and occupies a setting very similar to its original location. Criterion Consideration B therefore applies, for buildings removed from their original locations. The unimposing Hoge Cemetery, now located directly behind the house, is for the purposes of this nomination considered to be a contributing site, for which Criterion Consideration D applies.

**Integrity Statement**

Although the historic integrity of the Hoge House has been impacted by alterations that occurred during the ca. 1930-50 period and by its recent relocation, these changes have not severely affected the resource's ability to convey the significance of its design and construction, or the house's significance as the primary dwelling most closely associated with James W. Hoge, an important local historical person. This is due largely to the fact that the structural parts of the house and its elegant brickwork remain intact, and because the house was carefully moved only a short distance, remaining on property formerly part of James Hoge's acreage.

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**Acknowledgements**

Nicki Barnette, Putnam County planner, and Lee Casto, President of the Putnam County Historic Landmark Commission, both provided information and assistance towards preparing this nomination, and have worked hard to help preserve the Hoge House.

**Historical Background**

Although best known as the former home of prominent 19<sup>th</sup>-century barrister James W. Hoge, the house documented herein appears to have been in existence some twenty years before Hoge took ownership. According to one study, the house was constructed in 1838 for Charles Brown, a businessman and slave holder who operated a ferry across the Kanawha River after purchasing 400 acres across the river from Red House Shoals in 1818.<sup>1</sup> The house was occupied soon after construction by Charles Brown's son, Tallyrand, who operated the ferry for his father. Tallyrand was one of the founders of the town of Winfield in 1848, and Charles Brown's will, dated 1849, indicates that Tallyrand remains in the house, on Lot #8, through that year. The following year he moved to a new residence and began renting the old house for \$25 per year. In 1852, Capt. John Bowyer (1794-1878) purchased the house. Bowyer was a veteran of the War of 1812, Justice of the Peace of Putnam County in 1848, and a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates. Boyer owned other property locally, and appears to have bought the house not for his own use, but for rental income. James W. Hoge was already living in it as a tenant when he purchased the house from Bowyer in 1857.<sup>2</sup>

James William Hoge was the first of thirteen children born to Peter Charles Hoge (1809-1876) and Sallie Ann Kerr Hoge in the Augusta County, Virginia, town of Staunton on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1830, and died in Putnam County, West Virginia on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1882. The Hoges were descendants of Peter Hogg (1703-1782), who emigrated from Edinburgh, Scotland, early in life, became one of the early pioneers of the Shenandoah Valley, and earned thousands of acres in present-day West Virginia after serving under General Washington during the French and Indian War.<sup>3</sup> Young James William Hoge spent time in Albemarle County before being accepted to the Shenandoah Academy where is said to have excelled in Latin, which was certainly of great benefit during his post graduate law studies under three different judges, and his future career as

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a lawyer and judge. He began his practice at Howardsville, near Charlottesville in Albemarle County. At a court held in Albemarle County in February of 1850, the clerk noted that James W. Hoge “wishes to obtain a license to practice law in the courts of this Commonwealth, is a man of honesty, probity and good demeanor, that he is a man of twenty one years and upwards, and has resided in the county for the last twelve months.”<sup>4</sup> Just two years later, at the age of 31, he moved to the Lower Kanawha Valley, now in West Virginia, and resumed his practice there. Hoge met an elderly barrister named Andrew Parks, in Charleston, who was near retirement and seeking a younger partner to share his practice serving clients in the counties of Kanawha, Mason and Putnam. Hoge was to set up an office at Winfield, the Putnam County seat. He did so by purchasing a tavern on Front Street and adapting it to serve as both his office and residence. Their business card read,

“To the Public, Andrew Parks of Kanawha County, and Jas. W. Hoge, of Putnam County, having entered into partnership as Attorneys and Counsellors at Law, under the style of PARKS & HOGE, for the counties of Mason and Putnam, Will attend all the County, Quarterly and Circuit Courts in those counties, and will attend promptly to all business which may be entrusted to them, appertaining to their profession. PARKS & HOGE.”<sup>5</sup>

The partnership would last until Park’s death in 1863.

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1857, James W. Hoge married Sarah Cordelia Wright (1837- ) of Charleston, West Virginia. Wright was the sister-in-law of Hart Hills Forbs, Putnam County’s first clerk of court. The newlywed couple returned to Winfield in need of a new home. On November 27, 1857, the deed of sale was recorded for the house that is the subject of this nomination, now known as the Hoge House. Hoge had already been elected to the office of prosecuting attorney for Putnam County in May, 1856, and was reelected for the following term in 1860. In 1859, however, Hoge had been commissioned a colonel in the Virginia Militia, and in 1861, he was the sole representative of the county as a delegate to the Virginia State Convention in Richmond charged with deciding whether or not Virginia would secede from the Union.<sup>6</sup> While Hoge and most other delegates from his region voted not to secede, the convention’s ultimate decision to secede culminated in the Civil War and the formation of the new state of West Virginia. As the

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owner of six slaves, Hoge was sympathetic to the southern cause, but he decided not to join the conflict, staying at home in Putnam County to tend to legal affairs. He maintained his small workforce of slaves on his 88-acre farm, however, and buried Confederate officer Captain Philip Thurmond's body on his estate, after his death during a skirmish with Federal troops entrenched around the courthouse in 1864.<sup>7</sup> During the war years and thereafter, Hoge's practice became highly successful and court records suggest he stayed extremely busy. He is said to have been involved in nearly every court case on the docket during that period.<sup>8</sup>

After the war, Hoge retained his position as prosecuting attorney until February, 1867, when he was appointed to fill a vacancy as the Kanawha Valley 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court Judge. In 1868 he was elected to another six-year term, which began January 1, 1869. After his final term as circuit court judge, he continued to practice law from his office on Court St. in Winfield. For several years, his practice extended across a wide region that included the counties of Cabell, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, Mason and Putnam. Hoge's biography in the 1883 edition of Hardesty's Encyclopedia makes clear that he was no average lawyer, stating, "he had few equals and no superiors within the State. His memory was remarkably retentive, and this, with one of the best law libraries in the State in his possession, enabled him to not only prepare his cases readily, but also to discharge the duties of judge of the circuit court for eight years in such a manner as to entirely disarm criticism, and secure himself the friendship of all classes—professional and otherwise—throughout the district." Significantly, Hoge also served Putnam County for several consecutive terms in the capacity of Superintendent of Schools through the 1870s.<sup>9</sup>

James and Sarah Hoge gave birth to eleven children, eight of whom survived to adulthood. The 1870 census recorded the names of ten individuals living in the household (which may have included secondary dwellings), including a 14-year-old white female servant, and two black male farm laborers.<sup>10</sup> In the summer of 1882, however, James Hoge was diagnosed with a liver ailment, and was confined to bed until he expired on August 12<sup>th</sup>. He is buried in the cemetery on the hill behind the house where it now stands.<sup>11</sup>

The Hoge House was left vacant in the closing years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and fell into poor condition. In the summer of 2001, local preservationists and Putnam County officials who

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recognized the historical significance of James W. Hoge and the Hoge family to the area, as well

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as the architectural uniqueness of the structure, held discussions of preserving it and using it for a museum. From these discussions, the idea of nominating the Hoge House to the National Register of Historic Places emerged. Some members of the Hoge family, who maintained ownership of the house at that time, supported the idea, but it was unfortunately sold to a businessman, Mr. Arthur, who then offered the house to the county on the condition that they move it from the premises, and gave them a six-week deadline before he would begin demolition. In late 2003 and early 2004, the house was raised from its foundation, placed upon a flatbed trailer, and moved approximately 1000 feet to its new location, just southeast of the Putnam County Judicial Building. The house remains on land that was part of James Hoge's property, and the house is oriented on the same axis, facing north-northwest towards U.S. Highway 35, as it was in its original location.

Endnotes

1. Karen N. Cartright Nance, 3-6. Nance cites local land tax records as well as William Wintz, ed., *The History of Putnam County, West Virginia*, Vol. II:58.
2. Nance, 9.
3. Genealogy from Hoge family Bible, transcribed in December, 1936.
4. Court order book for Albemarle County, VA, for 1850, photocopy.
5. James C. Hoge, "Who he was: James W. Hoge, Putnam Judge."
6. Certificate of James W. Hoge's commission as a colonel, signed by the governor of Virginia, Henry A. Wise.
7. Thurmond's remains were apparently never retrieved by his family.
8. "Hon. James W. Hoge," *Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia*, 1883.
9. "Hon. James W. Hoge."
10. Nance, 9.
11. "Hon. James W. Hoge."

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**Bibliographical References**

Hoge, James C., "Who he was: James W. Hoge, Putnam Judge." Unpublished paper, date unknown.

Nance, Karen N. Cartwright, "Historic Hoge House Restoration Plan," December, 2003.

"Hon. James W. Hoge," reprinted from the 1883 Edition of *Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia*.

Certificate of James W. Hoge's election to the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court (photocopy), dated Oct. 22, 1868, signed by Gov. Arthur I. Boreman and West Virginia's secretary of state.

Certificate of James W. Hoge's commission as a colonel of the 181<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 5<sup>th</sup> Division of the Virginia Militia (photocopy), signed by the governor of Virginia, Henry A. Wise on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1859.

Court order book for Albemarle County, VA, for 1850, photocopy.

Genealogy from Hoge family Bible, transcribed in December, 1936.

Local newspaper articles from 2002-2004, no citations recorded.

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**Geographical Data**

UTM coordinates for original (pre-2004) location of Hoge House: 17 422325E 4265230N  
Hoge Cemetery: 17 422391E 4265123N

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated parcel includes the Hoge House on parcel 12, the cemetery— parcel 121, and the immediate grounds around them. The boundary forms a rectangular area of approximately 4 acres around the house and cemetery, as drawn on the accompanying annotated Town of Winfield Tax Map 6. This boundary allows a buffer in excess of twenty feet around each the house and cemetery, and includes all of the land between the two resources.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated parcel boundary, as drawn on accompanying annotated Town of Winfield tax map, delineates a small portion of James W. Hoge's original land tract. The boundary is arbitrarily drawn to include an appropriate buffer around the resources and all of the land between the house and cemetery. The remainder of the property outside of the boundary is owned by the local government may be needed for new facilities by its owner in the distant future, but any development will not excessively encroach on the historic site. Alternatively, additional acreage of James Hoge's original tract might be appended to the nominated parcel in the future.

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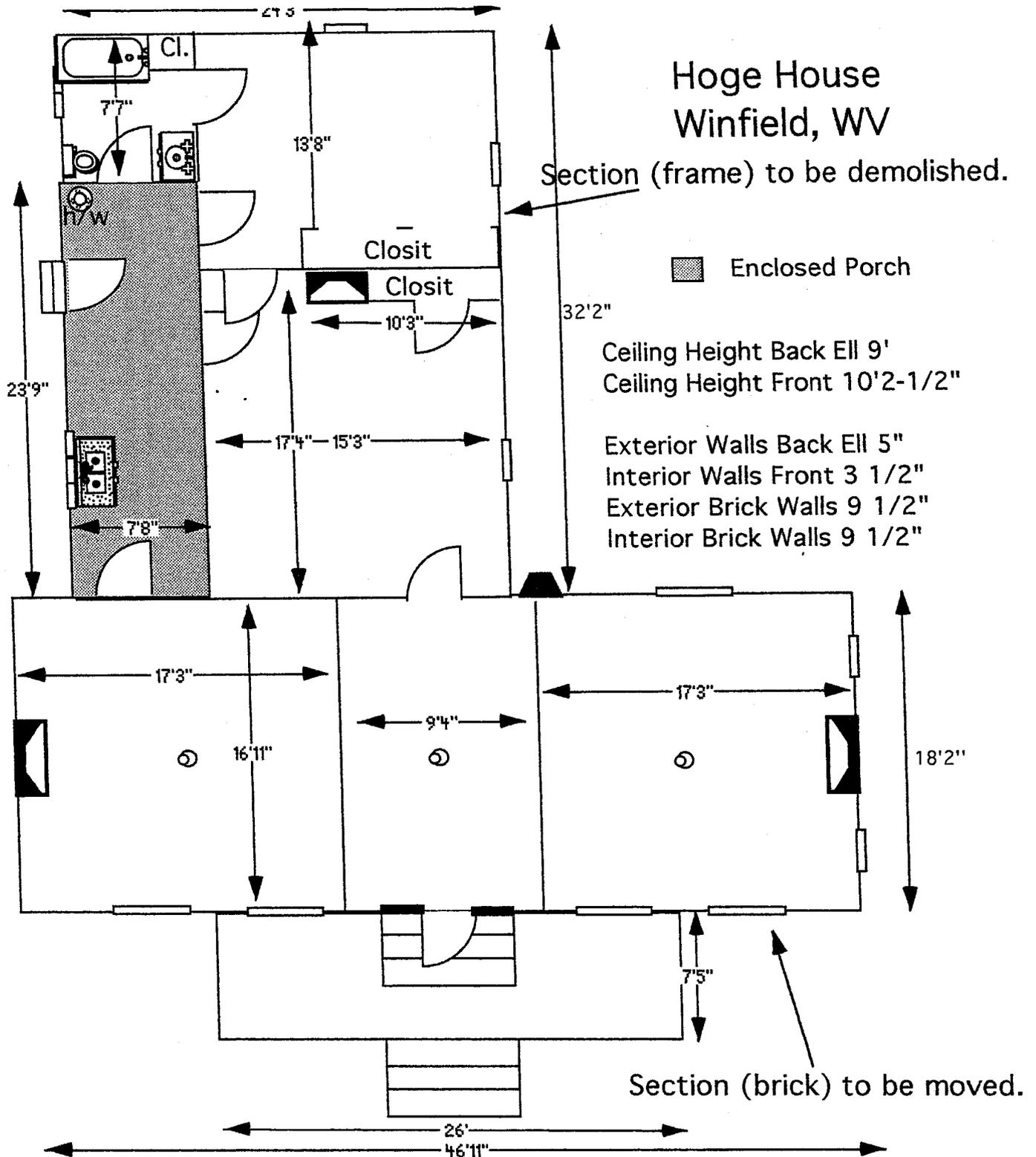
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**Photographs**

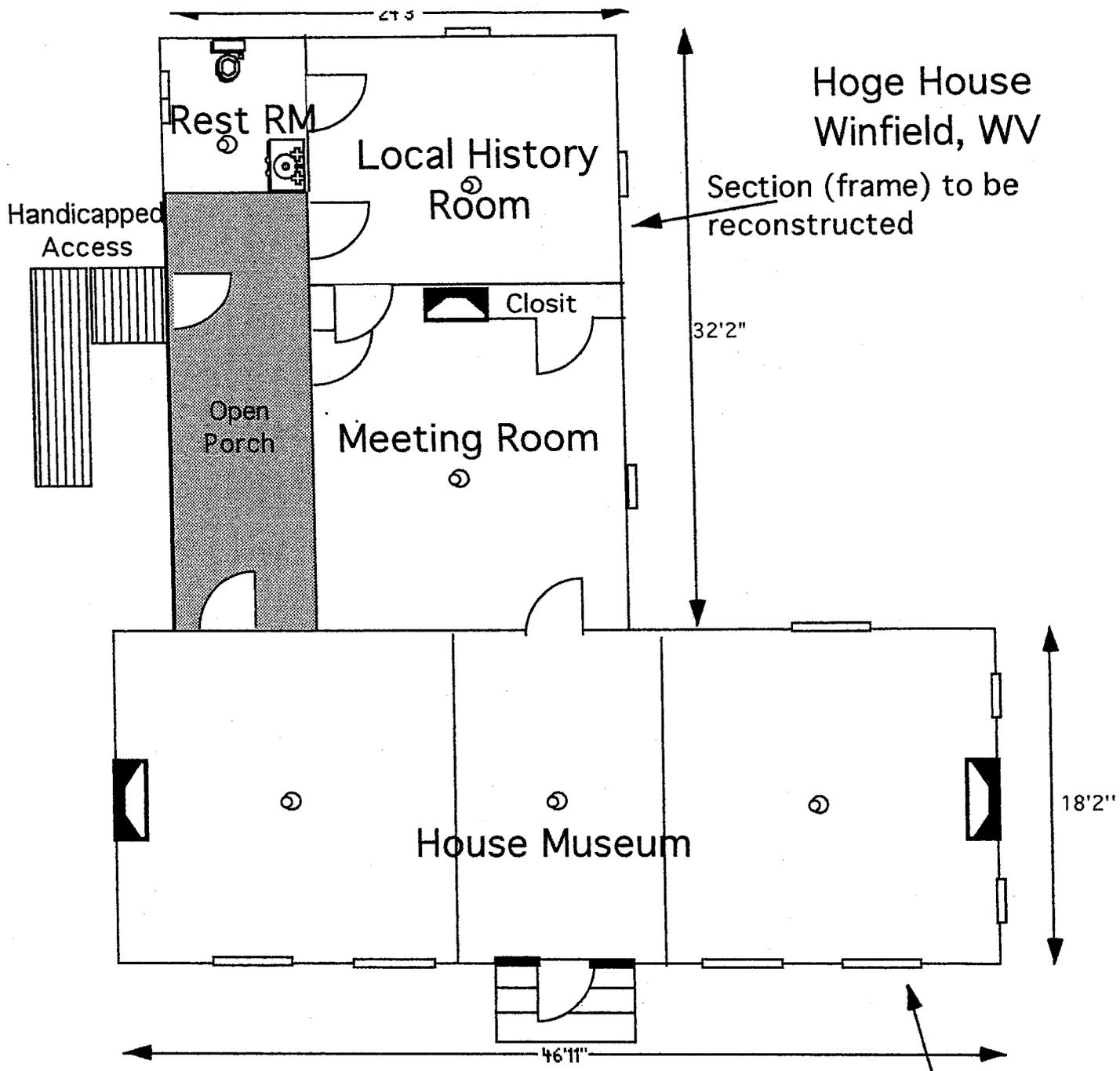
James W. Hoge House  
Putnam County, West Virginia  
Date: August, 2006  
Photographers: Nicki Barnette, Michael Pulice

1. House, facing northeast.
2. House, principal façade.
3. House, east elevation.
4. House, rear (south) elevation.
5. Hoge Cemetery, facing south.

# Hoge House Winfield, WV



The Old House Doctor  
January 31, 2003



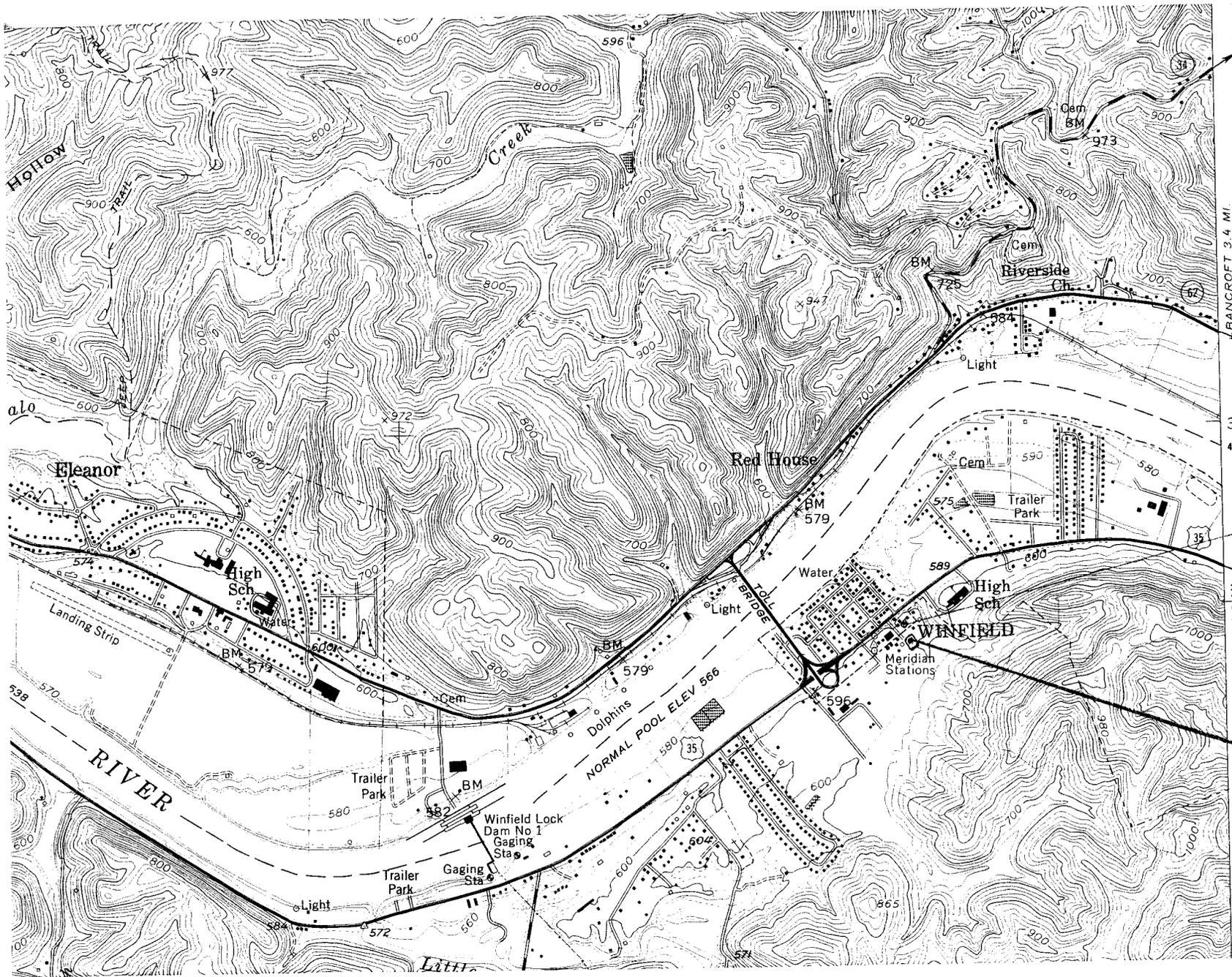
Hoge House  
Winfield, WV

Section (frame) to be  
reconstructed

Section (brick) to be  
restored.

The Old House Doctor  
January 31, 2003





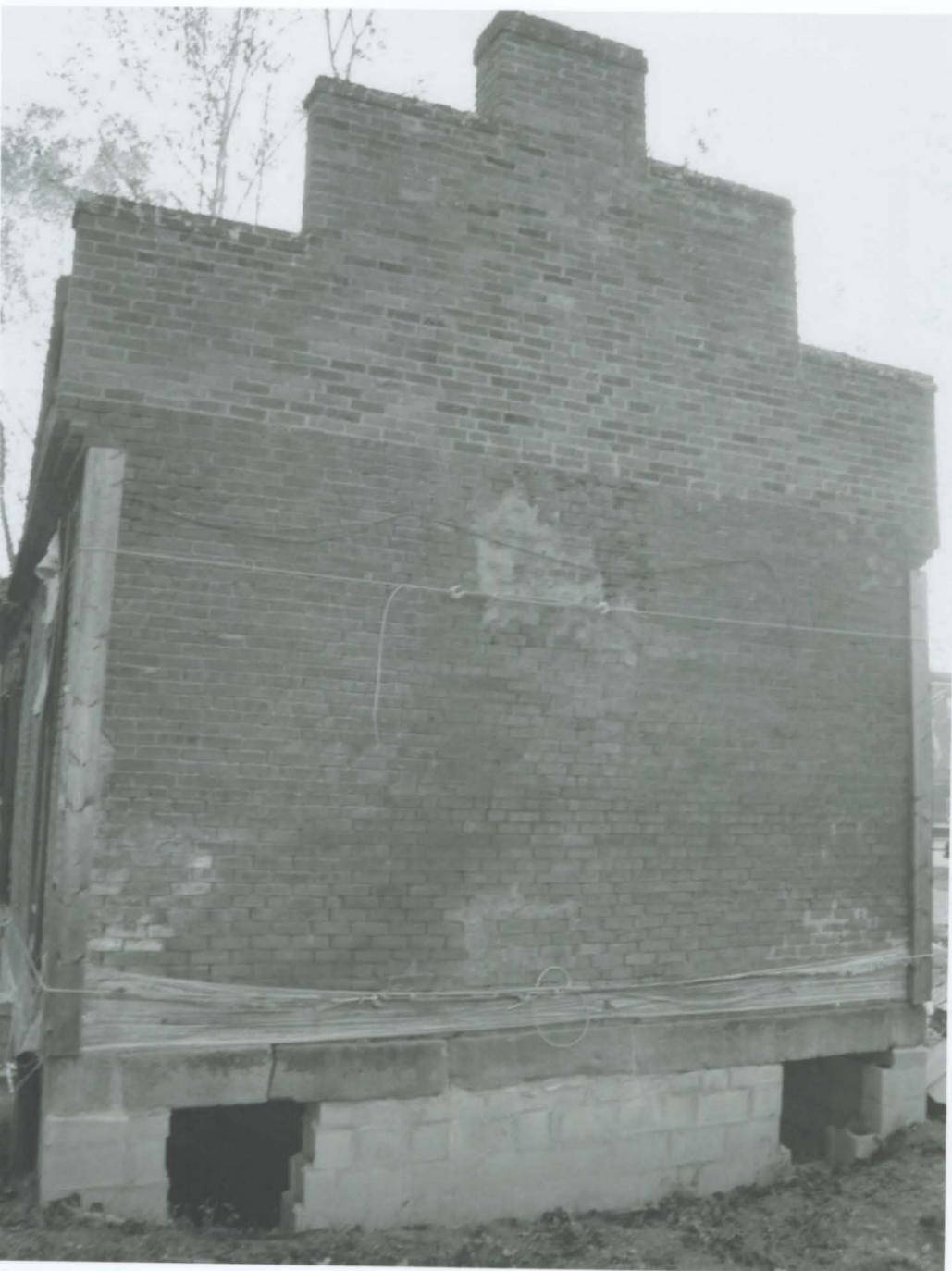
PARAL  
 BANCROFT 3.4 MI.  
 CHARLESTON 22 MI.  
 32°30'  
 42.66  
 ORIGINAL (1942-44)  
 LOCATION OF HOGE  
 HOUSE  
 SCARY 19 MI.  
 CHARLESTON 19 MI.  
 42.64

JAMES W. HOGE HOUSE  
 17/422351/4265138  
 PUTNAM CO. WV





HISTORIC  
Hoge House  
Preservation Project  
Winfield, WV  
Circa 1838







GRAVE OF  
J.C. WRIGHT  
BORN 1840  
DIED 1900

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