

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Mason, James, House and Farm

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

### 2. Location

street & number 856 Little Georgetown Road not for publication

city or town Hedgesville vicinity N/A

state West Virginia code WV county Berkeley code 003 zip code 25427

### 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/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Mason, James, House and Farm

Name of Property

Berkeley County, WV

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

X  private  
     public-local  
     public-State  
     public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

X  building(s)  
     district  
     site  
     structure  
     object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously-listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 4 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u> 5 </u>		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

none

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

hall-and-parlor

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation  STONE/limestone

walls  STONE/limestone; CONCRETE/concrete block

roof  METAL

other  WOOD; STONE/limestone; CONCRETE/concrete block

**Narrative Description**

Refer to Continuation Sheets

**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. **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.**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
AGRICULTURE**Period of Significance**c. 1809-1956**Significant Dates**c. 1809; 1900**Significant Person**N/A**Criteria Considerations**

Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

 **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**Cultural Affiliation**N/A**Architect/Builder**Unknown**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(See continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography****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:

Berkeley County Historic Landmarks CommissionMason, James, House and Farm

Name of Property

Berkeley County, WV

County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 170 acres

**U. S. G. S. Quad map:** Hedgesville, West Virginia

**UTM References**

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	18	245900	4385140	3	18	246420	4384900
2	18	246780	43846402	4	18	246040	4384100
				5	18	245600	4384680

N/A See continuation sheet.

**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 David L. Taylor, Principal

organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc.

date July, 2006

street & number 9 Walnut Street

telephone 814-849-4900

city or town Brookville

state PA

zip code 15825

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**Property Owner**

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name David E. Mallott

street & number 856 Little Georgetown Road

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Hedgesville

state WV

zip code 25427

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**7. Description**

The c. 1809/1900 James Mason House and Farm (Photos 1-14) consists of a modestly-detailed contributing c. 1809 stone house with a c. 1900 concrete block residential addition, three nineteenth-century wood dependencies and the 170-acre tract historically associated with the property. The buildings are all contributing elements within the context of the nomination and the agricultural fields are treated as a contributing site. The Mason House historically anchored a farm of c. 360 acres; various partitions over the years have resulted in the existing 170-acre nominated tract. The property lies in the Hedgesville District of rural Berkeley County, in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, north-east of the county seat of Martinsburg and less than one mile south of the Potomac River. The property retains integrity and reflects the overall appearance which it possessed at the end of the period of significance.

James Mason House, residential

Date: c. 1809; 1900

1 contributing building

The original James Mason House was a log building (not extant) to which was appended the existing 4-bay c. 1809 limestone addition, c. 24' × 22' in dimension (Photos 2, 3). It rests on a limestone foundation and is capped with a laterally-oriented gable roof penetrated by an interior gable-end chimney on the south gable end. The stone is laid in a coursed rubble pattern, with oversized rock-faced-finished stones at the corners, creating the appearance of quoins. The stone section features an asymmetrically-massed 4-bay facade with the main entrance off set on the north side. Fenestration is flat-topped throughout, with wood sills and jack arch lintels of stone; some original eight-over-eight sash remains well as one-over-one sash units installed within the period of significance (Photos 1-4). The original entrance includes the original wood door with a transom sash above (Photo 3). The roof is of standing-seam metal and in the pediment of each gable are paired fixed-sash four-light windows at attic level. The rear of the stone section contains three windows on each floor; one of the first-story windows appears to have been converted from a door. The cornice is of molded wood, lacking returns (Photo 3).

In 1900 a 2-story addition of rock-faced concrete block was built on the north gable end of the stone house (Photos 1-3). The addition measures c. 20' × 16' and is three bays in width, with a laterally-oriented gable roof exhibiting partial returns of the cornice on the exposed gable end (Photo 1). The concrete blocks for the addition were produced on-site using a fabricating device purchased

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from Sears-Roebuck.<sup>1</sup> The facade of the addition is arranged symmetrically, including a centered door on the first story, flanked by flat-topped, two-over-two sash; the second story of the addition is two bays in width. The windows on the addition rest on concrete sills and are capped with smooth-dressed concrete lintels. A centered window penetrates each story of the exposed gable end and a single centered window penetrates the pediment (Photo 1). The addition is built in line with the facade of the stone section but is set back c. 6' from the plane of the rear elevation of the stone section. A concrete stoop extends outward c. 10' from the house and along the entire facade.

The original c. 1809 stone house is arranged in a hall-and-parlor plan, which is a traditional house plan found throughout the Middle Atlantic states and the Upland South. The hall-and-parlor plan often appeared in early log architecture, although its use is not confined to buildings of log. This distinctive plan involves the placement of a wall bisecting the house from front to back, creating two rooms of unequal size. The original portion of the Mason House clearly fits this description.

Like the exterior, the interior of the Mason House is sparsely ornamented (Photos 5-11). Woodwork is modestly-detailed and doors are of wood, typically of a six-panel form (Photos 8, 10). Floors are of wood. The window reveals of the stone section are c. 1' 8" in depth and are finished in paneled wood (Photo 7). Walls and ceilings are finished in plaster; some walls are painted and others wallpapered. The original stone section contains a livingroom which originally extended the entire depth of the house; a bathroom has been partitioned from the rear portion of the livingroom. A fireplace with wood mantle is at the south end of the livingroom, and an enclosed double-run stair accessed by a doorway and with narrow winders, leads to the second story (Photo 5). The addition contains a kitchen on the first story and a second enclosed double-run stair (Photo 9), accessing the second story, which contains bedrooms (Photo 11) and an enclosed stair leading to the attic.

Associated with the property are three historic dependencies, all in fair condition and retaining integrity and all appearing to date from the second half of the nineteenth century.

Smokehouse, residential dependency

Date: c. 1870

1 contributing building

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<sup>1</sup>Interview with owner, 2005

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The smallest of the dependencies associated with the property, this is a gable-roofed wood frame smokehouse, c. 6' × 10' (Photo 12), which stands c. 15' behind and northwest of the main house.

Crib, agricultural dependency

Date: c. 1890

1 contributing building

This is a central-aisle crib of wood construction with a gable roof and gable-end orientation; it stands c. 30' north of the main house.

Bank barn, agricultural dependency

Date: c. 1890

1 contributing building

The largest of the dependencies is a timber frame bank barn, set on a foundation of limestone and measuring c. 70' × 50' (Photo 14). The barn stands c. 150' northeast of the house.

Agricultural fields, agriculture

Date: c. 1809 and after

1 contributing site

The remaining agricultural fields historically associated with James Mason's farming operation. Some of the fields are overgrown and some remain under cultivation.

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**8. Significance**

The James Mason House and Farm is significant under National Register Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the property's significance in the area of *exploration and settlement* is vested in its position as a c. 1809 stone dwelling, one of the earlier homes erected in the area during the first decade of the nineteenth century. Additional Criterion A significance for *agriculture/subsistence* is derived from the nominated property's role as an early nineteenth century farm complex, complete with farmhouse, smokehouse, two agricultural dependencies and the producing fields associated with the property. With respect to Criterion C, the property is significant for *architecture*, as a well-preserved c. 1809 limestone hall-and-parlor house which also reflects the advancement of building technology as seen in its 1900 concrete block addition. The period of significance for the Mason House and Farm begins c. 1809, the date of construction of the original stone house. The farm remained in active cultivation for the next one hundred fifty years; portions of the nominated tract are still farmed. Based upon this, the period of significance ends in 1956, corresponding to the National Register fifty-year rule. The buildings associated with the property are in fair condition but clearly retain integrity.

In 1730, the Governing Council of the Virginia colony issued a directive that this section of the colony, then part of Spotsylvania County, be settled. As settlers came west, a new county, Orange, was erected in 1734, followed four years later by Frederick County. In 1772, Berkeley County was erected from a portion of Frederick County. The second oldest county in West Virginia, the new county was named for Norbourne Berkeley, Baron Boutetort, who was the Colonial Governor of Virginia from 1768 to 1770. Martinsburg, the county seat, was established in 1778 by General Adam Stephen who named it in honor of Colonel Thomas Bryan Martin, a nephew of Lord Fairfax. Martinsburg remained an unincorporated settlement until 1868. Throughout its first century and one-half, Martinsburg was surrounded by a largely agrarian landscape dotted by farms, large and small, which were anchored primarily by modest farmhouses of log, wood frame, brick, and stone construction. The Mason House dates from the first decade of the nineteenth century and was erected at a time when much of Berkeley County remained a wilderness.

In 1734, James Davis acquired the site of the Mason Farm as part of a 1,175-acre acquisition through a King's Patent issued by Lt. Gov. William Gooch (1681-1751). Ten years later, James Davis sold a 400-acre parcel from property to Robert Davis, who, in turn sold the same tract to George Miles in 1762. Although one deed book from this era has been lost, it is known that the Miles tract was partitioned and that c. 1809 James Mason acquired the property and likely erected the stone addition



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to an earlier log house at about that time. The log section is not extant. Mason died c. 1814 and his widow, Rachel, shortly thereafter; her Will, probated on May 9, 1814,<sup>2</sup> left her estate to her children, William, Elizabeth, Martha, and Mary. A court case ensued and the property, passed to Joseph Bear in 1828; Bear held the land only until 1832, when he sold it to Josiah Flagg, who retained ownership until his death c. 1850. At that time the farm was sold to John Ellis for \$4,000,<sup>3</sup> and it remained in his hands for the rest of the nineteenth century, the house anchoring a farm of 407 acres. It is likely that John Ellis built the outbuildings presently associated with the nominated property. John Ellis died early in the twentieth century and his heirs sold the farm at public auction in 1906 to Lewis Feuilleteau Wilson for \$8,137.50. The farm remained in the Wilson family throughout the balance of the period of significance; Lewis Wilson died c. 1951 and his widow, Sarah J. Wilson in 1959. Her estate sold the farm to Clifton Howard Malatt, in whose family the property remained at the time of the preparation of this nomination.

The James Mason House and Farm clearly reflects the pattern of exploration and settlement in Berkeley County during the early decades of the nineteenth century. Architecturally, the property ably represents vernacular building traditions in Berkeley County during this same period, in this case executed in stone. The Berkeley County landscape is dotted by significant deposits of limestone, and, like many of his contemporaries, James Mason chose this readily available, inexpensive building material for his home. As noted above, stylistically, the stone section is a hall-and-parlor house, described in William J. Macintire's **The Pioneer Log House in Kentucky**. Macintire notes, "a larger rectangular pen could be divided by a log or board wall into two unequal sized rooms, to make what is known as a hall-and-parlor house."<sup>4</sup> The stone section of the Mason house irrefutably meets this descriptive criterion.

The James Mason House, its dependencies, and the associated agricultural fields are tangible reminders of the era when Berkeley County was only sparsely settled and the c. 1900 enlargement of the house represents the advancement of building technology, typified by the purchase of a concrete block fabricating machine from the Sears-Roebuck mail order catalog and the manufacture of concrete blocks *in situ* for the construction of the addition.

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<sup>2</sup>Berkeley County Will Book No. 5, Page 104.

<sup>3</sup>Berkeley County Deed Book 53, Page 71.

<sup>4</sup>William J. Macintire, **The Pioneer Log House in Kentucky**, Frankfort: Kentucky heritage Council, 1998, p. 8.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Berkeley County Land Records, Berkeley County Court House, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Kearfott, J. Baker. "Berkeley County, West Virginia." [map] Martinsburg, 1894.

Kearfott, Jonathan P. "Map of Berkeley County, Virginia." [Martinsburg], 1847.

Macintire, William J. **The Pioneer Log House in Kentucky**. Frankfort: Kentucky Heritage Council, 1998.

Varle, Charles. "Map of Frederick, Berkeley, & Jefferson Counties Situated in the State of Virginia." Philadelphia: Benjamin Jones, 1809.

Wood, Don. C. "James Mason House." Unpublished Public Document Research Manuscript, Berkeley County Historical Society, Martinsburg, West Virginia, 1990.

West Virginia Historic Property Inventory Forms, 1973-2001. Collection of the Berkeley County Historical Society, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

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**Mason, James, House  
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**10. Geographical Data**

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Being that parcel depicted as Parcel 21 on the Hedgesville District Map of Berkeley County, West Virginia.

**JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries of this nomination consist of the James Mason House (both the stone and concrete block sections, and the adjacent dependencies (a smokehouse, a central-aisle crib, a bank barn, and the 170-acre agricultural fields historically associated with the property.

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**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

All Photographs:

**Mason, James, House**

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Photographer: David L. Taylor

Date: 2005

Negatives filed at: West Virginia SHPO  
Charleston, West Virginia

1. NE perspective, looking SW and illustrating the c. 1900 concrete block addition in the foreground and the c. 1809 limestone house in the background; also evident are the patterns of fenestration, the exposed north gable end, and the concrete stoop extending across the front of the building
2. NE perspective, detail, looking SW, showing the c. 1809 portion of the property
3. SE perspective, looking NW, showing the c. 1809 section, the large quoin-like corner detailing, fenestration, etc.
4. NW perspective, looking NE and showing rear of the c. 1809 section, including first-story window on left which appears to have originally been a door.
5. Interior, stone section, looking W and showing typical volume, finishes, and enclosed stair accessing the second story
6. Interior, stone section, looking S and showing fireplace
7. Interior, stone section, detail, looking SE in livingroom and showing window, reveal, and trim
8. Interior, stone section, livingroom, detail, looking W and showing 6-panel door to enclosed stair
9. Interior, c. 1900 addition, showing typical volume, finishes, etc., as well as back door and stair accessing the second story

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Berkeley County, WV**

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10. Interior, c. 1809 section, showing typical door, trim, etc.
11. Interior, c. 1809 section, second story bedroom, showing fireplace, mantle and chimney cup-board
12. Smokehouse (Resource No. 2), looking N and showing form, finish, roof, etc.
13. Central-aisle crib (Resource No. 3), looking N
14. Bank barn (Resource No. 4), looking NE

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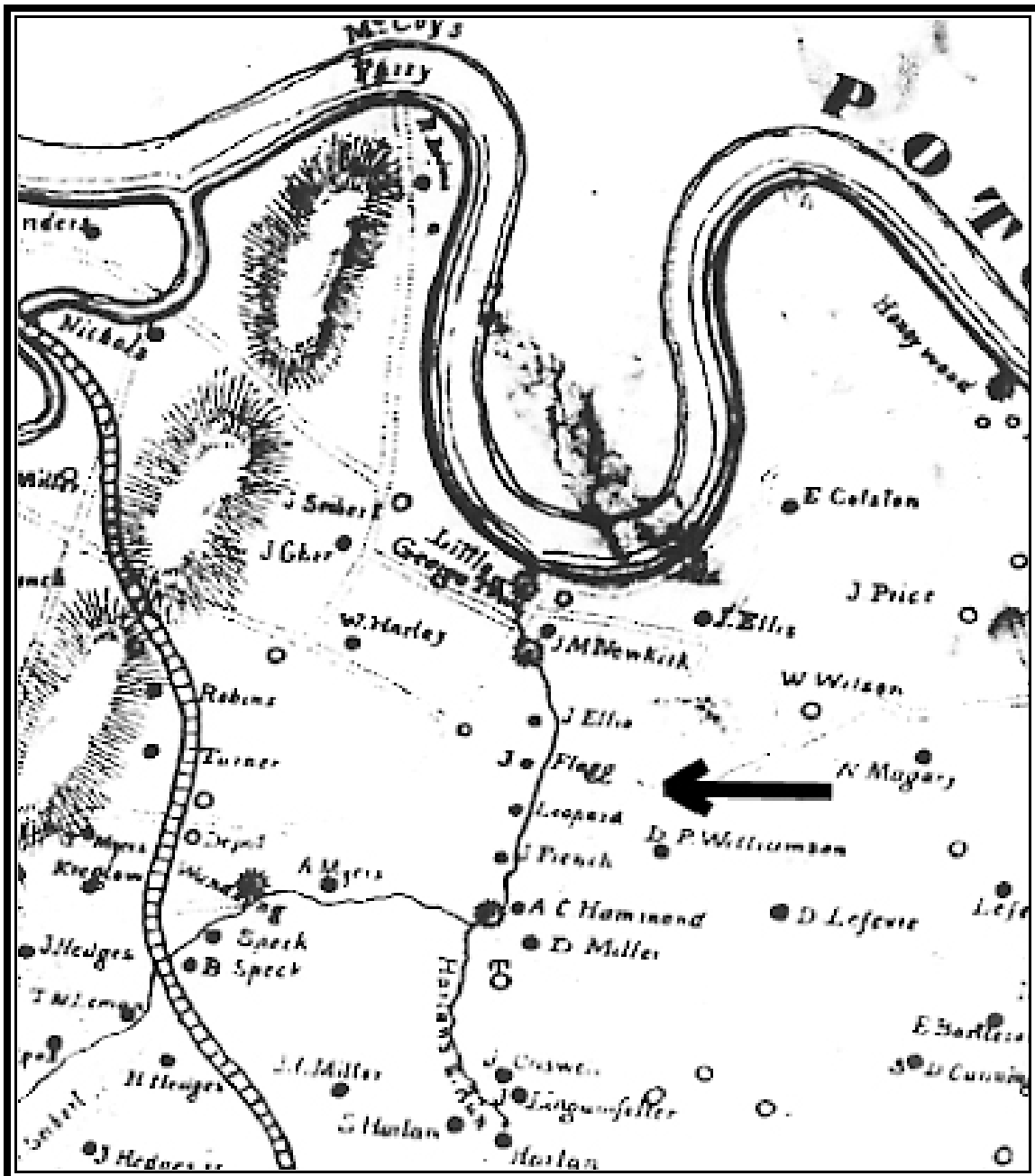


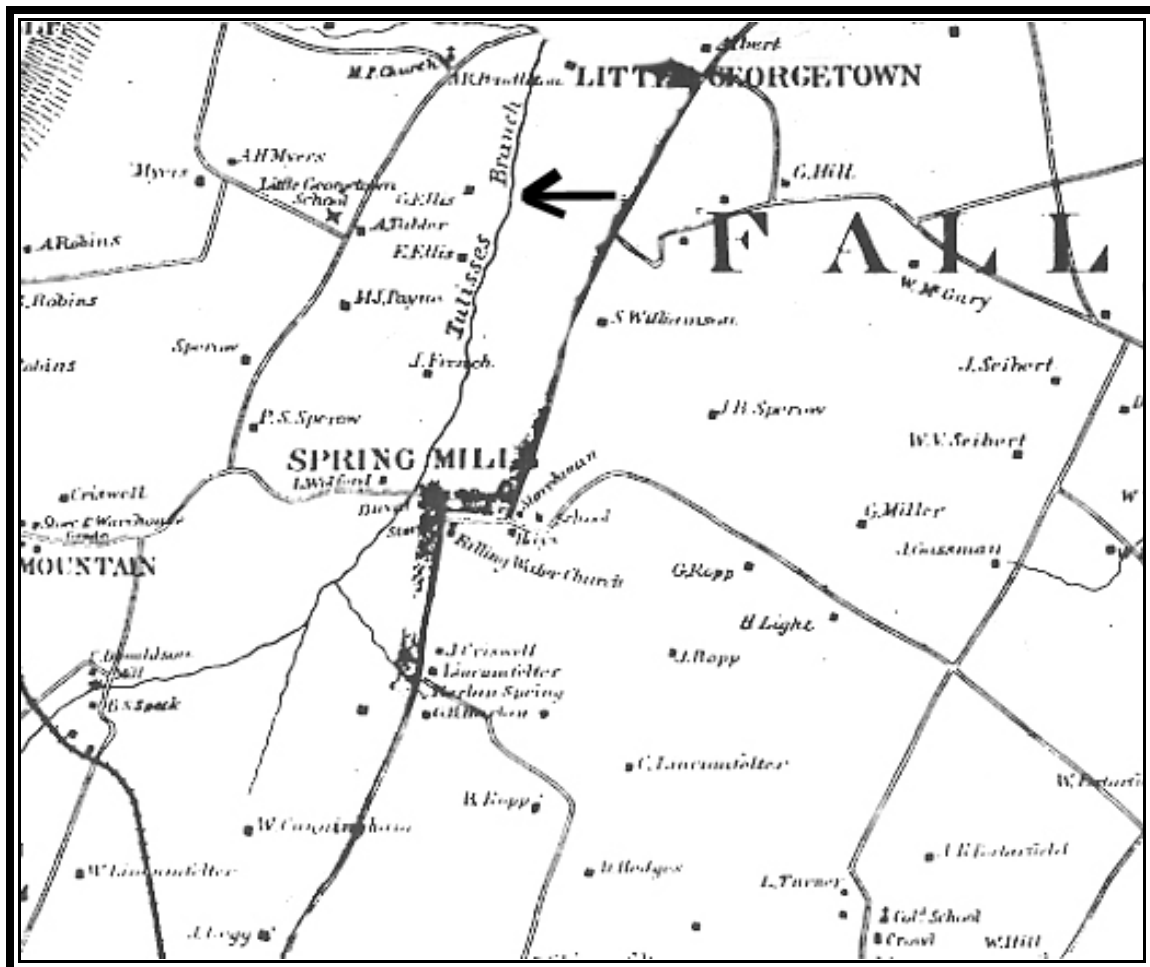
Fig. 1 This segment excerpted from J. P. Kearfott's 1847 county map shows the Mason House to be in the ownership of Josiah Flagg. The subject property is indicated by the superimposed arrow.

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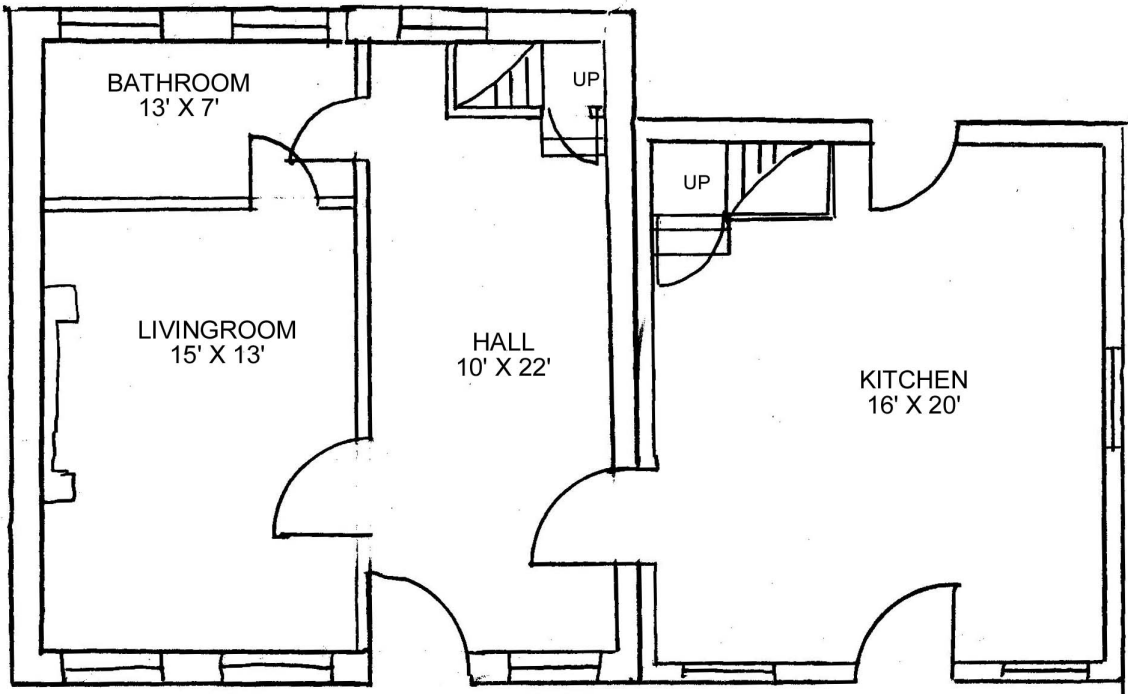
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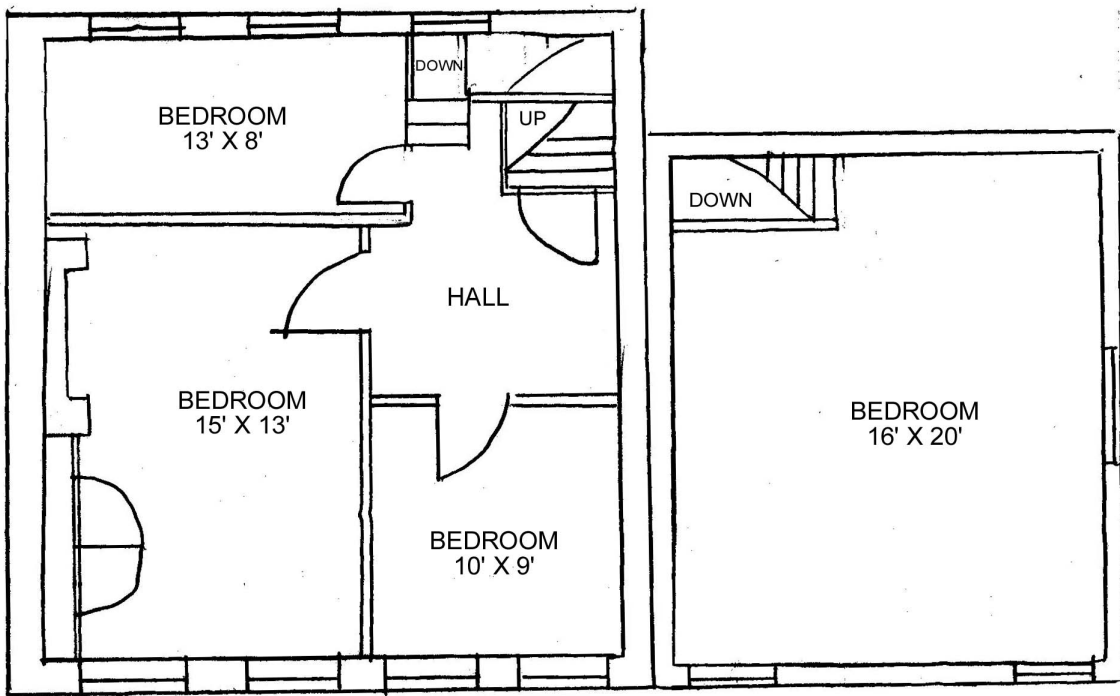


**Fig. 2** The 1894 map of Berkeley County indicates the house to be owned by the Ellis family; John Ellis had acquired the farm after the 1850 death of Josiah Flagg. The subject property is indicated by the superimposed arrow.





FIRST FLOOR



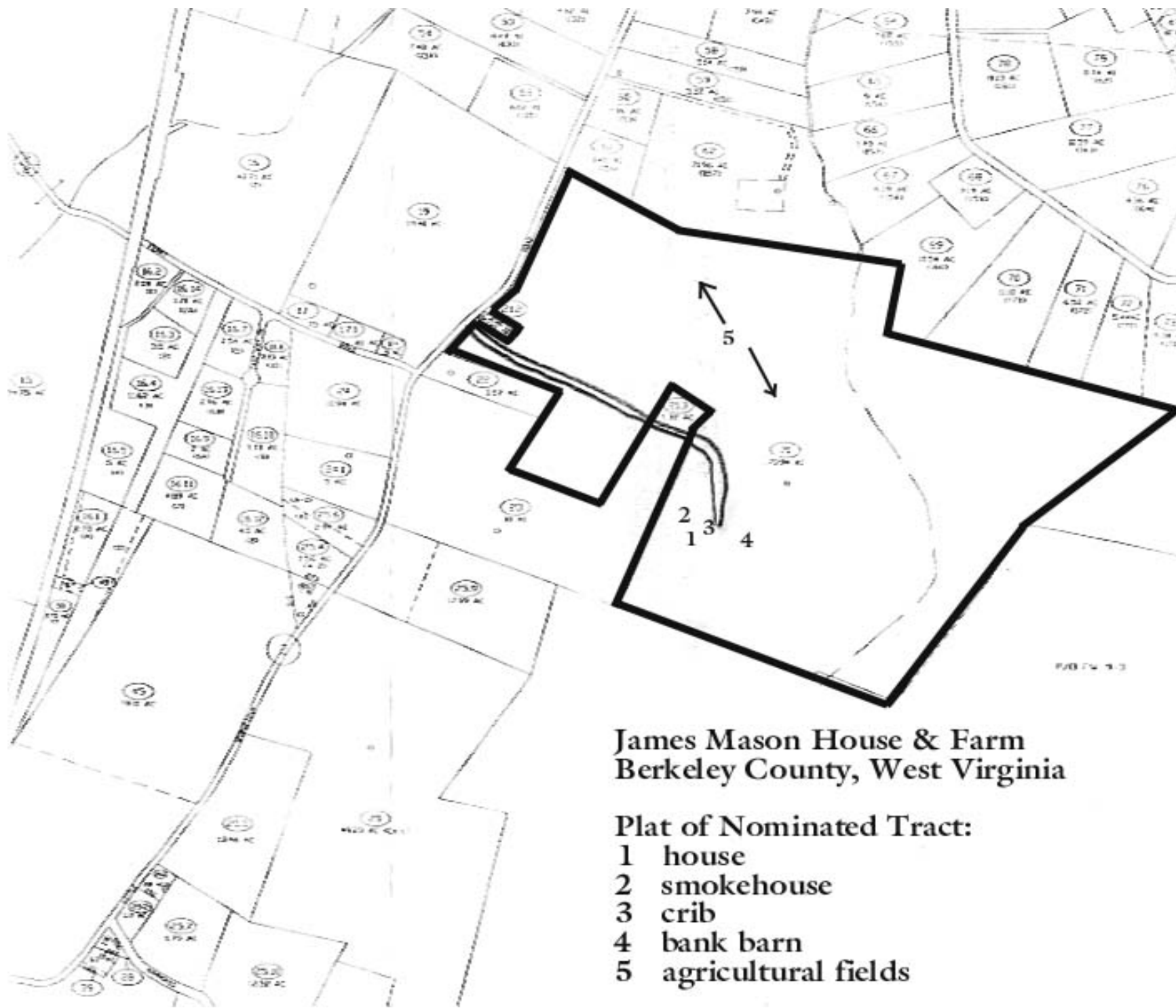
SECOND FLOOR



J  
mes Mason House and Farm

a

Berkeley County, West Virginia  
Floor Plan of House



**James Mason House & Farm  
Berkeley County, West Virginia**

**Plat of Nominated Tract:**

- 1 house
- 2 smokehouse
- 3 crib
- 4 bank barn
- 5 agricultural fields



MASON, JAMES HSE., Berkeley Co., WV (1)



MASON, JAMES HSE., Berkeley Co., WV (2)



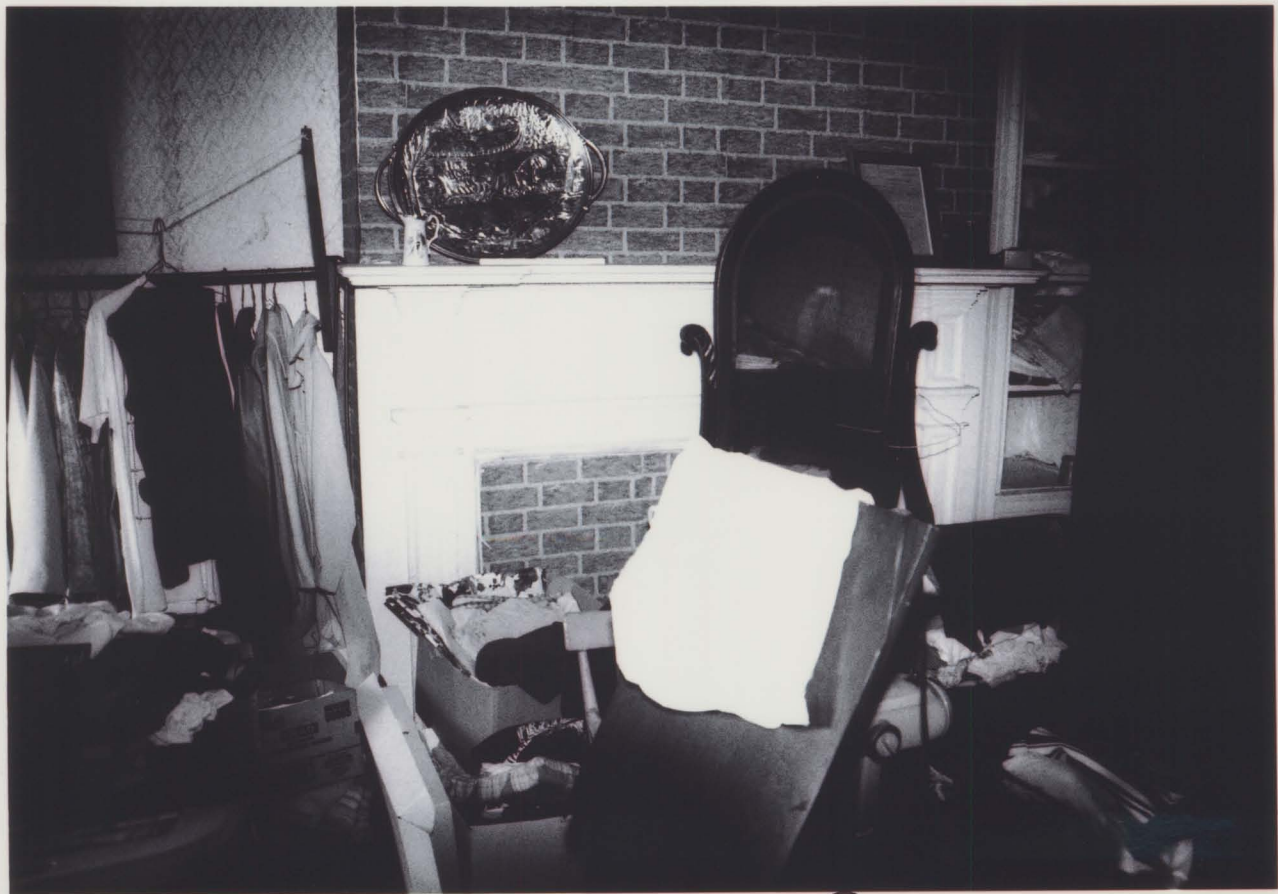
MASON, JAMES HSE., Berkeley Co., WV (3)



MASON, JAMES HSE., Berkeley Co., WV (4)



MASON, JAMES #SE., Berkeley Co., WV (5)



MASON, JAMES HSE., Berkeley Co., WY (6)





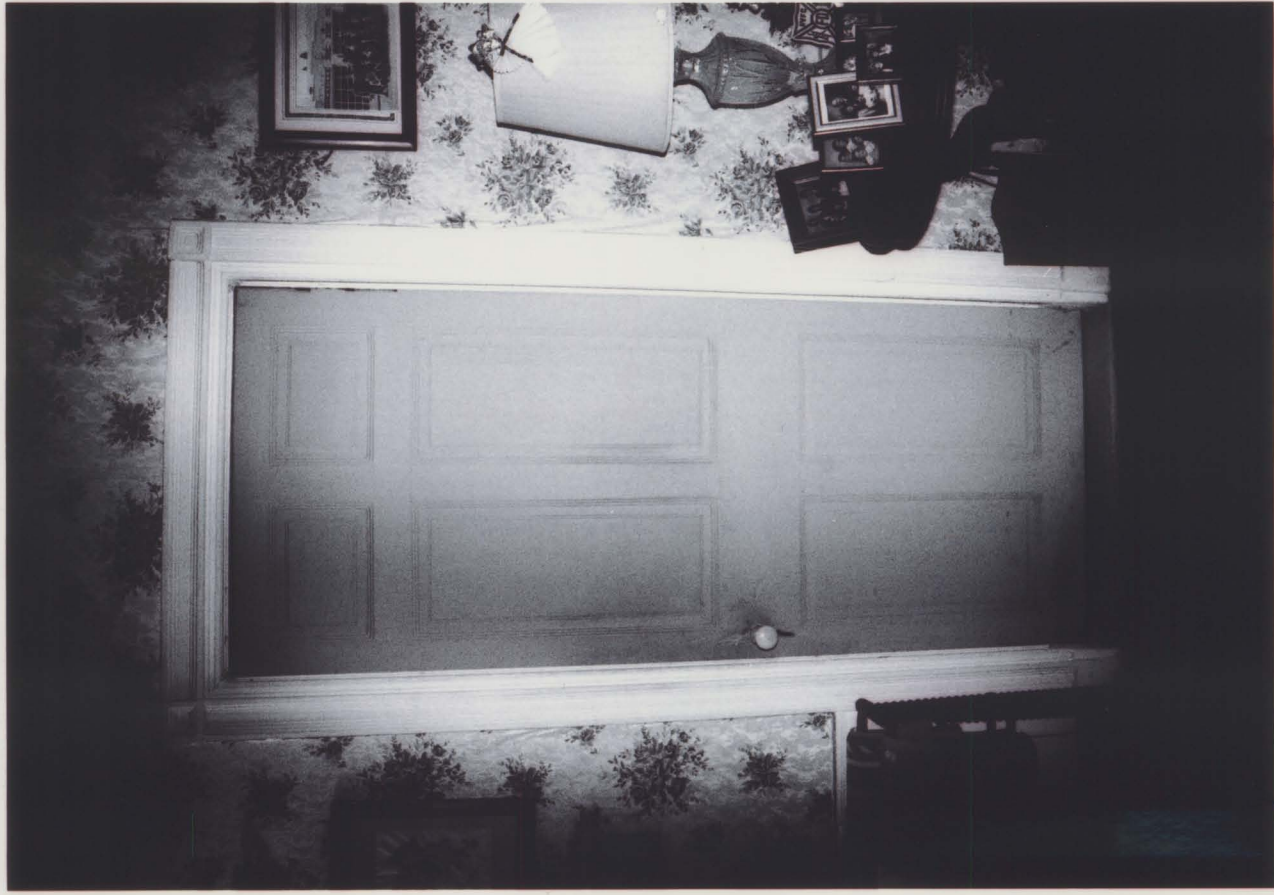
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MASON, JAMES HSE., Berkeley Co., WY 8



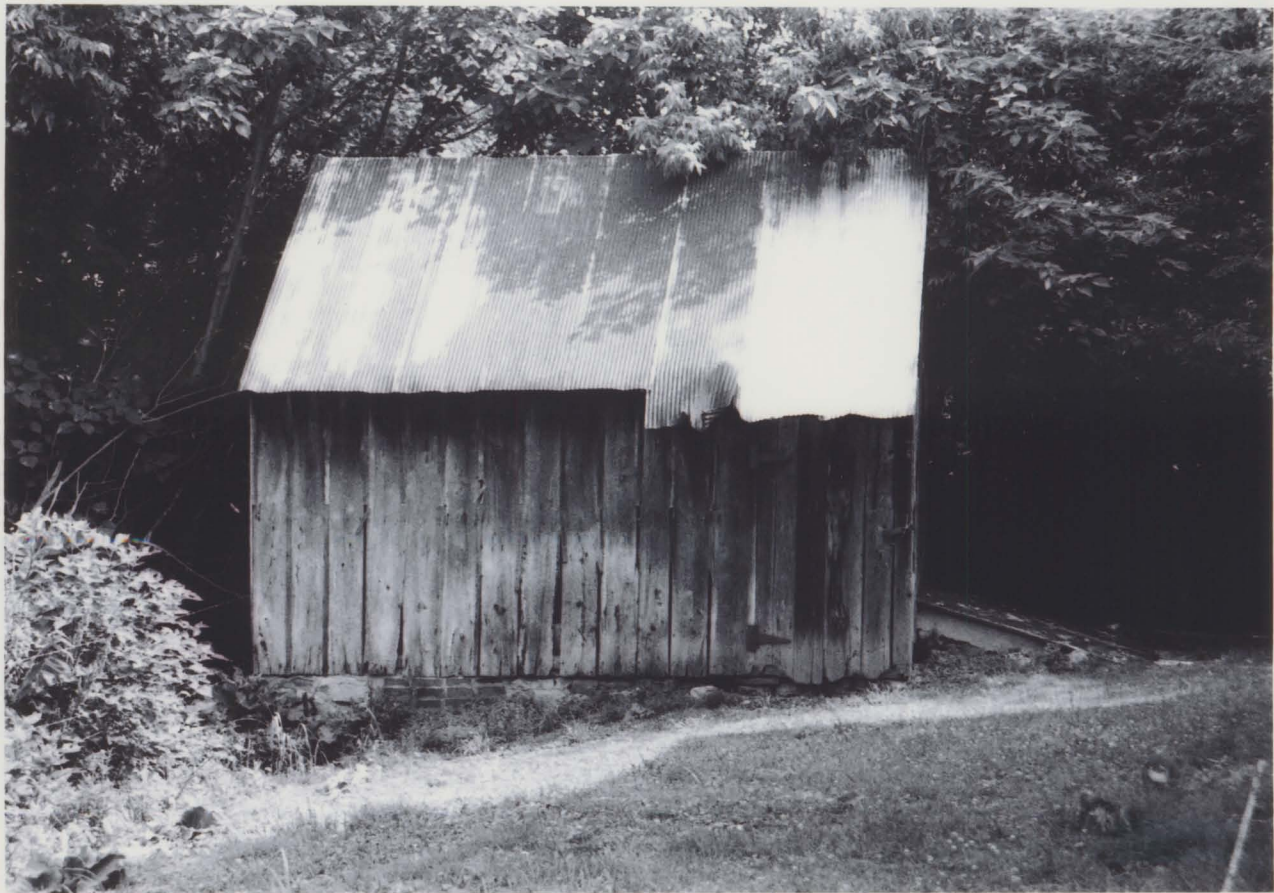
MASON, JAMES HSE., Berkeley Co., WV (9)



MASON, JAMES HISE. , Berkeley Co., WV (19)



MASON, JAMES HSE., Berkeley Co., WY (11)



MASON, JAMES HSE., Berkeley Co., WV (12)



MASON, JAMES HSE., Berkeley Co., WV (13)



MASON, JAMES HSE., Berkeley Co., WV (4)



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**National Park Service**  
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number** 06001044

**Date Listed** 11/15/2006

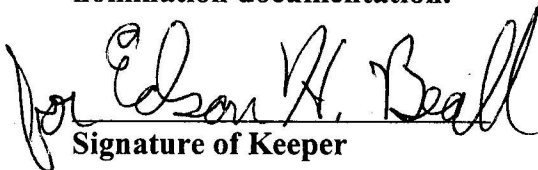
Mason, James, House and Farm  
**Property Name**

Berkley  
**County**

West Virginia  
**State**

N/A  
**Multiple Name**

**This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.**

  
**Signature of Keeper**

11.15.06  
**Date of Action**

**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Section 2. Location**

“Not for Publication” was checked in error and is hereby removed. The property is not address restricted

This information was confirmed by WV SHPO staff by telephone.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National register property file**  
**Nominating Authority (without attachment)**