

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name James Nathaniel Burwell House

other names/site number "The Yellow House Farm"

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 11

not for publication

city, town Ridgeway

vicinity

state West Virginia

code 54

county Berkeley

code 003

zip code 25440

3. Classification

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>2</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official 

Date 3/11/91

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Residence / Agricultural

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Federal (vernacular)

Greek Revival elements

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls masonry

roof slate

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

James Nathaniel Burwell House

The James Nathaniel Burwell House, or "Yellow House Farm," is located just off U.S. Route 11, one-half mile south of the rural community of Ridgeway, West Virginia. It is situated near the center of an expanse of well kept lawn at the end of a private driveway.

The two story late Federal period residence, built in 1842, is "L" shaped with a gable roof of slate and is constructed of brick in Flemish bond and five row common bond on a stone foundation with inside end chimneys at both side elevations. The five bay front section measures forty-five feet by twenty feet and the three bay ell measures twenty five by fifteen feet. Across the front of the house is a brick dog-tooth cornice. The cornice's are partially returned at the side elevations. Windows are six over six double hung sash with flat brick arches. The one story, one bay entrance porch has a hipped roof supported by chamfered columns and like pilasters that are Greek Revival in flavor and are most probably original to the structure. The panelled entrance door is set within panelled reveals with a four-light transom. The ell has a three bay shed roof porch, mortise and tendon, also the original porch.

The floor plan is a central hall, with one room on each side, and the ell is two rooms deep. The main stair rises in four flights around an open-well to the third story with decorative simple brackets on the step-ends. There are two balusters per step and the handrail rises in graceful easements to meet each newel. The balustrade is a tall forty-three inches. Three of the four mantelpieces in the main section relate to each other. Two are nearly identical with a simple mantel shelf, plain frieze with flat end blocks with molded edges over flat pilasters. The parlor mantel is more decorative, with echinus bed moldings and a heavy torus molding for the frieze. The central tablet and end blocks are like the others but the pilasters are symmetrically molded. The fourth mantel is very plain with a simple mantel shelf and architrave trim accenting the firebox opening. In the dining room is a two-tiered, double panelled door cupboard and in the ell is a large fireplace.

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James Nathaniel Burwell House

Door and window trim is beaded architrave trim except for the parlor which is symmetrically molded with corner blocks. Doors are six-panel doors with the middle panels being the smaller panels. These doors have molded panels and most have the original butt hinges and Carpenters locks with knobs and escutcheons. In the ell, doors are narrow board, board-and-batten. Roof rafters are pegged and marked with Roman numerals. Alterations consist of the installation of a modern kitchen and modern bathroom in the ell.

A single story, gable roof frame outbuilding is located in the yard just off the rear of the house. Built of vertical siding with board-and-batten doors, it is contemporary with the residence. A swimming pool, modern in origin, is located in the rear yard.

5. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1842-1934

Significant Dates

1842

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Not Known

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 James Nathaniel Burwell House

The James Nathaniel Burwell House, located just off U.S. Route 11 near Ridgeway, Berkeley County, West Virginia, is significant as one of the few intact late Federal style residences in this part of northern Berkeley County. Due to this significance, the Burwell House meets Criterion C for National Register listing.

The Burwell family has been locally significant in the region, though little is known about James Nathaniel Burwell, who constructed the residence in question in 1842.

The first Burwell to be known in this region is Nathaniel Burwell, who obtained a 1060 acre tract in April of 1786 from Captain (later General) John Neville. Nathaniel Burwell, and his brother Bacon Burwell, were direct descendents of Major Lewis Burwell, an immigrant to Jamestown who died in 1658. Nathaniel Burwell left his property to his son James, who in turned left it to Bacon Burwell, the aforementioned brother of Nathaniel. Bacon Burwell married Priscilla Merchant in Berkeley County in 1813. He was postmaster of Millwood, Virginia. At Bacon's death in 1840, his farm passed to his son James Nathaniel Burwell, who built the imposing late Federal style house on the property in 1842. Upon the death of James Nathaniel Burwell, the property was sold to Oliver Bacon, an alderman in Winchester, Virginia. In 1934 the farm passed into the Whiteacre family, in whose hands it remains.

It is known that skirmishing took place on the property during the Civil War. While not presently documented, it is thought that the fighting may well have taken place during Confederate General Jubal Early's Shenandoah campaign of the Summer of 1864. A cannon ball and a number of bullets were dug out of the west wall of the house, a bayonet was found in the basement, and a Federal officer's belt buckle was found in the front yard. The artifacts are on display in the house.

The Burwell House, also known locally as "Yellow House Farm," is significant under Criterion C as an intact example of late Federal period vernacular architecture, a style that, with its Greek Revival elements, is rare to this part of northern Berkeley County and which is, in fact, perhaps best represented in the region by this house. A high degree of craftsmanship is evidenced in the marked roof rafters, Flemish bond brick, dog-tooth cornice, and bonded flat arches. Interior features worthy of note include original floors and wood trim, panelled doors with original hardware, sturdy period mantels, and an open-well stairway of fine design and execution.

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James Nathaniel Burwell House

The Greek Revival entrance porches are special features in that they are both original to the property. Many period houses in this county do not have these original appurtenances but have, rather, modern day interpretations of what was thought to have been there or something deemed appropriate to either the house or by the owner.

There are two other structures on the property. One, a wooden barn, is mid-19th century and is contributing, while there is also a contemporary swimming pool at the rear of the property. The nominated area, then, is composed of three structures, two contributing and one non-contributing.

The period of significance, 1842 to 1934, covers the time from the building of the residence by James Nathaniel Burwell through the entire period of Burwell family occupancy and the subsequent occupancy of the Brown family.

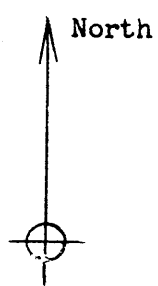
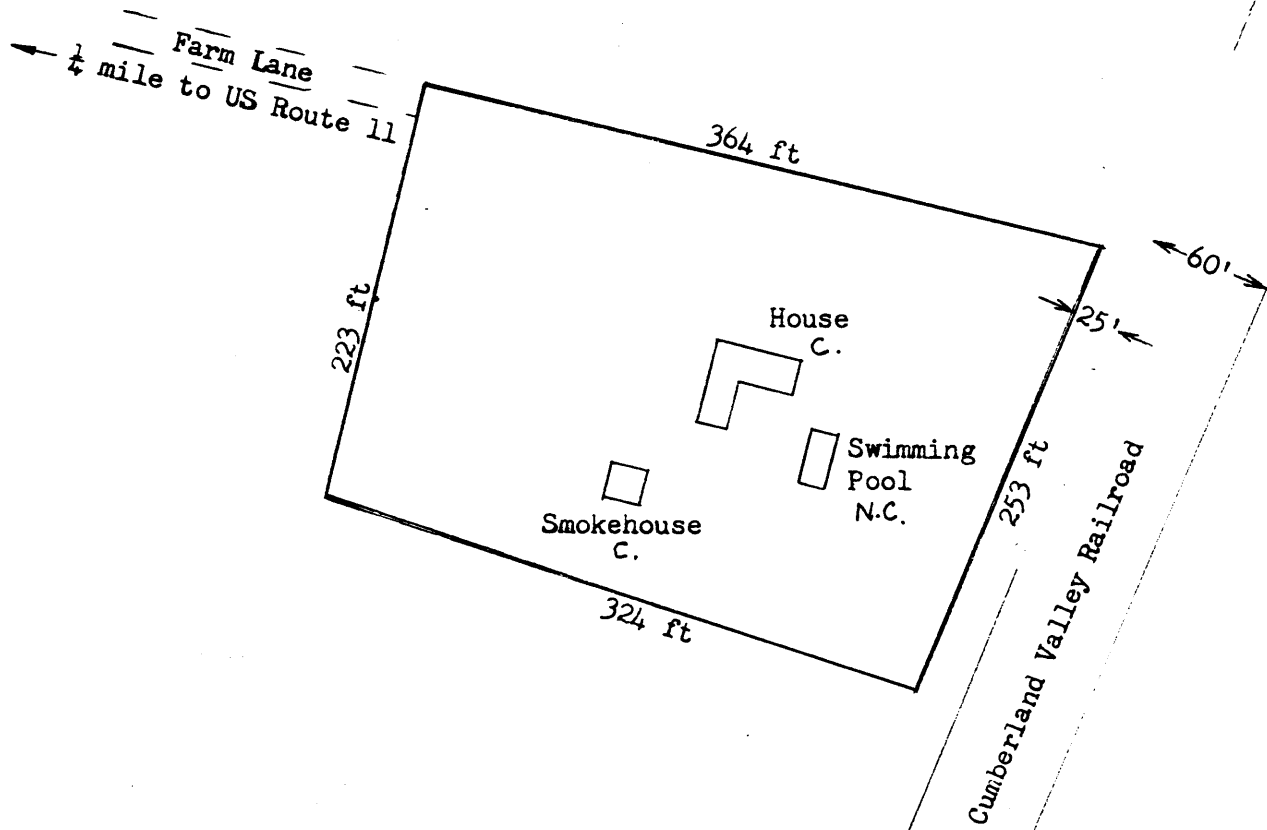
JAMES NATHANIAL BURWELL HOUSE

G-84

Inwood Quadrangle

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 2 acres



SCALE
1 inch = 100 feet
0 100

Drawn August 1985
by Galtjo L. Geertsema
(Ref: D.Bk. 335, p. 47)

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1842-1934

Significant Dates

1842

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Not Known

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Berkeley County Deed Books, Will Books, Census, and Land Records, Courthouse, Martinsburg, WV
Frederick County Deed Books, Will Books, Census, and Land Records, (copies), Courthouse, Martinsburg, WV
Norris, J.E. History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley. Virginia Book Company. Berryville, Va. 1890.

See continuation sheet

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 # N/A
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx. two (2) acres

UTM References

A 17 75 2 3 20 4 3 5 3 2 2 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at a point on the left (west) border of the right-of-way of the Cumberland Valley Railroad; thence in a line 253 feet south along said right-of-way; thence in a line 324 feet west; thence in a line 253 feet north to the north side of a farm lane; thence in a line 364 feet east to the point of beginning. (see Sketch Map).

See continuation sheet

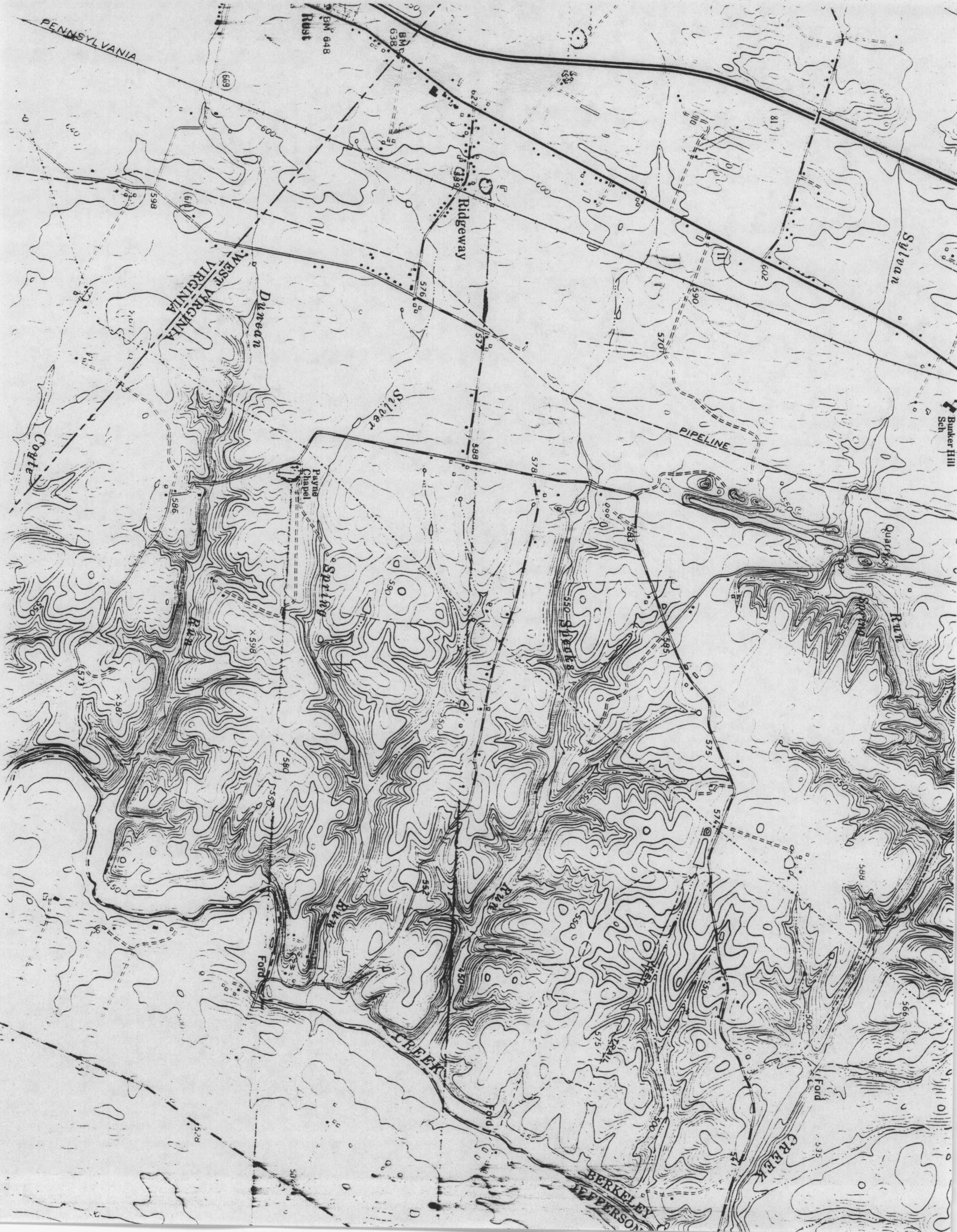
Boundary Justification

The nominated property consists of the entirety of the 1.89 acre lot owned by the present property owners, encompassing the original house, barn, and immediate grounds, as recorded in Berkeley County Deed Book 335, page 47.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frances D. Ruth, Admin., Berkeley HLC; and Michael J. Pauley, Historian
 organization Berkeley County Historic Landmark Comm. date January 22, 1991
 street & number County Courthouse telephone
 city or town Martinsburg state West Virginia zip code 25401



PENNSYLVANIA

WEST VIRGINIA

Sylvan

BM 648
Rust

Ridgeway

Bunker Hill
Sch

Corte

Dunedin

Silver

PIPELINE

Payne
Chapel

Spring

Quarry

Run

Run

BERKELEY

CRREEK

CRREEK

W. P. PERSON

