

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Harrison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Levi Shinn House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Clarksburg Road (U.S. Route 19, South)

CITY OR TOWN:
Shinnston (1st. Congressional District)

STATE:
West Virginia

CODE: 54

COUNTY:
Harrison

CODE: 033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Shinnston Historical Association, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
124 Pike Street (or Route 1)

CITY OR TOWN:
Shinnston

STATE:
West Virginia

CODE: 54

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
County Clerk's Office, Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Clarksburg

STATE:
West Virginia

CODE: 54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

STATE: West Virginia

COUNTY: Harrison

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☐ Good☒ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Levi Shinn House, near Shinnston, Harrison County, West Virginia, was built by its owner in 1778. Its structure was typical of log buildings of the place and period in some respects, atypical in others. It was constructed of native hardwood logs, these squared by hand tools, notched at the corners, and erected in tiers. It was of two stories in height, with the gabled roof providing a storage attic. Logs were chinked with clay. Since the main body of the house is preserved in its original condition, the tool marks on the logs may still be seen.

One feature of the house which was not typical of the frontier in the 18th century was the large interior chimney, providing fireplaces for several of the cabin's rooms. Fireplaces are still much as they were.

So far as can be determined, the original roofing material was clapboard "shakes," rived out of blocks of white oak. The original roof has long been replaced by more modern materials.

Later owners of the property added a small front porch to the house, placed siding boards on the gable ends, and added a kitchen at the rear. In the main structure, however, many of the original rafters, beams, and other materials are in place. The structure preserves much of the exterior and interior integrity of a typical 18th century settler's cabin.

The original log house had a length of 37 feet, and a width of 20 feet, 8 inches. It contained four rooms, with a four-foot hallway, and a staircase at the north end leading to the second floor. There was also a rudely constructed cellar, reached by an interior stairway.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1778

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>Oldest house</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>now standing</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>in northcentral</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | <u>West Virginia</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Levi Shinn was the founder and first settler of the community of Shinnston, in what is now northern Harrison County, West Virginia. He was born in 1748, near Burlington, New Jersey, and in 1772 he and a younger brother moved to the valley of the West Fork of Monongahela River, in the colony of Virginia. Here he and his brother acquired lands, but they returned to New Jersey until 1778, when Levi came once again to the Shinnston area, and there built the log house which stands today.

Shinn was of the Quaker faith, and he used his influence to encourage local settlers to remain on their lands and tend their crops even during the troubled times of Indian wars and the Revolution. His religion prevented his bearing arms during the Revolutionary War, but he was a supporter of the new nation in the years of its formation.

He became an extensive property owner in Harrison County, and near his home he established what may have been the first grist mill in the county. This structure, along with settlers' cabins that grew up around it, became the nucleus for the present village of Shinnston.

Levi Shinn led the quiet life of a pioneer; he did not seek public office, nor did he covet honors and fame. His major interests were in the development and preservation of his properties, which he passed on to his children. The present log structure remained in family hands for several generations. It is believed by local historians to be the oldest standing home in the county.

In 1972 the active Shinnston Historical Association acquired the Levi Shinn House for the purposes of preserving it as an historical landmark, and of using it as headquarters for their activities.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

West Virginia History: A Quarterly Magazine, Vol. XXIX, No. II
(Jan., 1968), "The Levi Shinn House," by Jack Sandy Anderson, pp. 138-140

History of Harrison County (W.Va.), by Dorothy Davis, p. 8

Now and Long Ago, by Glenn D. Lough, p. 253

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		39 0	23	00
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		80 0	18	23
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.2 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jack Sandy Anderson, President Shinnston Historical Association, Inc. For the	
ORGANIZATION West Virginia Antiquities Commission	DATE March 30, 1973
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Mountainlair--West Virginia University	
CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown	STATE West Virginia
	CODE 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name Maurice G. Brooks
Maurice G. Brooks

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date May 30, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

