UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME
Maidstone Manor Farm
HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON
William R. Leigh House

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE
West Virginia

CODE
54

COUNTY
Berkeley

CODE
003

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

X DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

STRUCTURE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

X

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

OBJE

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Folk

STREET & NUMBER
Maidstone Farm

CITY, TOWN
Falling Waters

STATE
West Virginia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Berkeley County
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Martinsburg, W. Va.

STATE
25401

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
H-12, Berkeley County Historical Society & Berkeley County Historical Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE
1973-78

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Berkeley County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Martinsburg, WV

STATE
25401
DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

XEXCELLENT  ___DETERIORATED
___GOOD     __RUINS
___FAIR     ___UNEPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  XALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  ___MOVED  DATE______

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Maidstone Manor house is a square brick house, mechanical bond to front 1/5 sides and rear
Pyramidal roof slate covered, chimneys interior on sides, midway between beak and eave
parallel to front of house, one each side, brick. Three bays wide, two keep 6/6 sash front
and sides, 9/6 or 6/9 in rear where windows are full length ceiling to floor at both levels.
Three bay entrance portico, with paired Doric columns at side open pediment. Door double,
lock with 4 panels, sidelights transom and paneled reveals. Brick stepped cornice of three
rows of brick. One brick outbuilding, one side now being rebuilt, diamond vent open brick
pattern in each gable end. Chimney

Barn of indeterminate age.

Smokehouse brick

Site of slave cabin

The land is being used for raising beef cattle.
Located on Route 1/4 between the intersection of Route 1 and Route 1/4, and the intersection of Route 1/5 and Route 1/4.
William Robinson Leigh was born September 23, 1866, at Maidstone Manor being allowed to roam the farmland at will, he was able to observe the animals, trees, sunsets, storms and all phases of nature that would make him aware of detail that was needed later in life to make his paintings very skillful. He quite often was found drawing pictures on doors and buildings on the farm. At the age of 14 he entered Maryland Institute. When 17 he went to the Royal Academy in Munich, Germany. He spent 4 years in Bavaria and then came back home to Berkeley County. Several people in Berkeley County today own paintings done by Leigh. Maidstone Manor was sold in 1884 when Leigh was 18. His father had suffered much loss during the Civil War and died while Maidstone was in the process of being sold by the Court to pay his creditors. Leigh returned to Berkeley County many times throughout his life and always visited Maidstone.

After Leigh's schooling abroad and a visit to Berkeley County he went to Baltimore for a year and earned enough money to return to Munich. His earlier trip had been financed by an uncle. He worked with Philip Fleish painting cycloramas. Some sold for $1,000.00. He was now winning all kinds of awards. Leigh remained abroad for 5 years before returning to New York where he married. In 1906 Leigh finally went to the west but maintained a studio in New York City. He went on many trips to Africa and on big game hunts in the U.S. He also turned to writing his book, Frontiers of Enchantment which was published in 1938-"an artist's adventure in Africa." Of his many writings "The Western Pony" with paintings, published in 1933, is considered the best. Leigh wrote and was featured in many magazines: Life, May 24, 1937, The American Museum of Natural History in Nov. and Dec. issues were devoted to the African Expedition, Colliers Nov. 1950, True Sept. 1951, Saturday Evening Post April 1951 are but a few.

Leigh died in 1955. His studio at 200 West 57th St., New York, was given by Mrs. Leigh to Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where it is open to the public.
SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

HISTORIC

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC
AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
ART
COMMERCIAL
COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNITY PLANNING
CONSERVATION
ECONOMICS
EDUCATION
ENGINEERING
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
INDUSTRY
INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LAW
LITERATURE
MILITARY
MUSIC
PHILOSOPHY
POLICS/GOVERNMENT
OTHER (SPECIFY)

SCIENCE
SCULPTURE
SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
THEATER
TRANSPORTATION

CIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

FEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Maidstone Manor Farm is very significant because it was the early home and farm land of William Robinson Leigh, a famous Western scenic artist. The house has a further significance for its outstanding architectural type, built in 1848 by William Leigh. William Robinson Leigh was born here at the Maidstone Farm Sept. 23, 1866. He was a double grandson of Rawleigh Colston and Elizabeth Marshall Colston. It was here on the Maidstone Farm land that William roamed in childhood. He was able to observe the animals, trees, sunsets, storms and all phases of nature that made him aware of details he later needed in painting his Western scenes. It was here that he started to paint, some times on the barn and out buildings. The farm land was inherited by William Leigh and his sister, Mary Susan Selden Leigh. A division of this land was made in 1849. William Leigh, Jr. received 265 1/2 acres where he has lately built. " William Leigh sold off small tracts leaving 250 3/4 acres in the farm which still remains today.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 256 A.

QUADRANGLE NAME Hedgesville QUADRANGLE SCALE

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTING ZONE EASTING NORTING

A 2151200 431851850 B 2150550 43185110

C 2149590 43185160 D 2149050 43186420

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the fork in the road, thence SW 3200 ft. thence NW 2500 ft., NE 300 ft., NW 1300 ft., NE 8900 ft., thence along the road SE 4200 ft. to the beginning.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Don C. Wood, Genealogist, Historian, Historic Archeologist

ORGANIZATION President, Berkeley County Historical Society Chairman, Berkeley County Historical Landmarks Commission

STREET & NUMBER Route 3, Box 79

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Martinsburg, WV 25401

STATE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
H-12 Maidstone Manor Farm

Montana, the Magazine of Western History, July 1967, page 43
West Virginia Hillbilly, June 30, 1973 from Charleston Gazette Nov. 14, 1921
Point C was left off map; this map is taken from the last survey of the farm which shows 267 acres. The earlier deeds had called it 250 acres.