

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic

and/or common Old Stone Tavern

**2. Location**

street & number 117 Main Street

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Moorefield

\_\_\_ vicinity of

congressional district Second

state West Virginia

code 54

county Hardy

code 031

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
		___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bane

street & number 339 S. Main Street

city, town Moorefield

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state West Virginia 26836

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hardy County Courthouse

street & number Washington and Elm Streets

city, town Moorefield

state West Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Stone Tavern in Moorefield is a detached dwelling of both stone and frame sections that has evolved with the community. While it is ell-shaped overall, it fundamentally consists of four rather distinct rectangular units (plus a modern cinder-block addition), each two stories tall with gable roof. The original, uncoursed fieldstone section dates from about 1788; frame units were attached around 1840, 1860 and 1900, with a separate cinder-block apartment placed at the rear in more recent years.

Window placement throughout is fairly symmetrical though somewhat varied in type and size of sash. Almost all are double-hung, but whereas the c.1900 unit's are 1/1 or single pane with stained-glass transom, those in the nineteenth century parts are now 2/2 or 6/6, while 6/6 and 1/1 are in the stone section (an older appearing 12/8 sash is located at the attic stairway here). Door arrangement is rather regular, too, with a front entrance in the stone portion and four doors onto the porch in the ell (two from the stone part and one in each of the nineteenth century units). Besides that in the ell, there is a long and narrow porch on the front, a most interesting appendage with curved roofline, lattice-work and bracketing in the cornice, simple cut-out balusters and a skirt with two rows of holes. There are interior chimneys at each end of the stone portion (that on the south has had its cap removed), between the earlier frame units and on the south end of the c.1900 addition (with a brick facing on the exterior wall).

Decoration is as provincial and evolutionary as overall design itself. The front porch is an outstanding feature, and it is complemented on this elevation by a bracketed cornice in the stone element and a three-sided bay on the c.1900 unit. A unique detail, whether planned or not, is the noticeable concavity of the north stone wall; it curves slightly inward toward the centered chimney (many stone houses bow outward on the chimney wall).

The interior is as varied as the exterior. An unusual floorplan is developed in the stone section, where an old kitchen is located in the basement, a single large room and stair hall on the first floor and two large rooms on the second floor (that on the south is constructed over the stair hall). Each of the nineteenth century units has a single room per floor (baths have been added at both levels in this century), as does the c.1900 addition. Fireplaces on both floors and in the basement (a finely arched stone opening is intact) are served by the north wall chimney of the stone portion, while its southern chimney carries a single flue for the second floor. Additionally, a fireplace is on each floor of the c.1840 and c.1900 units.

Flooring is original for the most part, and an open-well, two-flight stair is in the stone section (auxiliary stairs are in each of the nineteenth century parts). Much interior woodwork appears to date from late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries, including several seven-panel and four-panel doors with paneled jambs and paneled mantels in c.1788 and c.1900 units. The stone section also has splayed window reveals in the

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first-floor room (that at the rear is paneled). The most elaborate interior work is in the c.1900 unit, however, where darkly stained, louvered shutters surround a three-window bay featuring central stained-glass transoms. Another detail of design should be noted: the south-chimney basement footing of the stone section is in the form of a massive "V" shape, attesting to the stoutness of this portion that has solid walls about twenty-four inches thick at first-floor level.

Alterations have evolved as has the house. With each addition, it seems, several interior and exterior changes were made, most notably in woodwork detail about 1900.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) community development
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1788

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Stone Tavern at Moorefield, Hardy County, West Virginia, is one of the earliest buildings still standing in this community that was incorporated in 1777.<sup>1</sup> Distinction attaching from age is expanded upon by construction in stone, for it is the only structure of this material in what is among the oldest of West(ern) Virginia towns.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, the pattern of enlargement by increments over a rather extended period of time is significant for two reasons: it reflects a common practice in the building history of the United States,<sup>3</sup> and it mirrors the evolution of this particular community from shortly after incorporation through the turn of the present century and even to this day.<sup>4</sup>

### Explanatory Notes

1. Conrad Moore applied for and received permission to lay out a town near the South Branch of the Potomac River in then Hampshire County, Virginia, in 1777. Lots were placed for sale and provision made requiring a permanent building be erected on each parcel within two years of purchase. It was more than a decade before many lots were sold, however, and the purchase of lot number 19 by Thomas Parsons (a man who became well-to-do through land dealings and other business activities) in 1786 was among the earliest. He must have set about construction of the stone section of the present building shortly thereafter, for he met the two year deadline and retained rights to the lot.

2. The South Branch Valley is noted for its fine brick plantation and town houses; stone was used only in foundations and a few exterior chimneys for the most part. Despite availability of local brick clays and existence of a brickyard in Moorefield by the 1790s, Parsons decided upon use of stone from footing to gables and chimney caps. What he constructed had to have been one of the finest buildings in town until well after 1800. It approached attractive ruggedness with large rooms, a wide stairhall, symmetrical fenestration, and well-designed basement fireplace.

3. Growth of family size and wealth, sale to a person who desires more spacious accommodations, use for rental lodging, and changes in taste are all among reasons for alteration and extension of existing buildings. It has been common practice to add rooms, connect outbuildings and use basement and attic space to provide for housing needs. The Old Stone Tavern typifies this practice, with frame sections having been attached around 1840, 1860 and 1900. While the stone portion dominated through the nineteenth century, the c.1900 section evidenced a new importance of style even in the removed town of Moorefield, for it challenged the oldest part by sharing a front at street line, incorporating decorative features such as a bay and stained-glass transoms, and bringing turn-of-the-century

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alterations to doors, windows and porches of the stone section.

4. Thomas Parsons held an extensive amount of land at the time of his death in 1804 (he distributed no less than five "plantations" and an additional 1116 acres besides his town property). As builder of the Old Stone Tavern, he epitomized a change from a rural farm economy to growing importance of town life on the interior during and shortly after the Revolutionary War. As others in his family before him had pioneered in exploration and settlement of open land, he helped establish a true town where buildings and services concentrated. Deed to the property passed to Valentine Simmons in 1812 and George Harness III in 1818; both Simmons and Harness families, especially the latter, played important roles in developing the area around Moorefield. George Harness entered at least two deeds of trust on this land--one in 1831 with William Seymour and Samuel H. Alexander, and one in 1840 with James W.F. Allen--all of whom were important area businessmen and leaders. Title passed to the Gilkeson family in 1850 and a nearby store was being kept by them into the twentieth century when they sold the house (and store) to Clyde Friddle and wife, and this family retained the property until 1977. Listing of these various owners is done in order to demonstrate a continuity of the business community in Moorefield and its association with this house. As the town grew in stature and a commercial core developed, it spread along Main Street to incorporate the Old Stone Tavern. This structure grew, in turn, to accommodate the families who owned it and provide space needed for their various activities. As today's business core in Moorefield shifts to strip developments both north and south of town, this stone and frame house is once again being pressed to reflect the evolution in town character, a task at which it has been successful through nearly two centuries.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Historic Building Being Removed to Make Room for Parking Lot," Moorefield Examiner, Feb. 25, 1979.  
 Moore, Alvin Edward. History of Hardy County of the Borderland. Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1963.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name Moorefield, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	7
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6	7	5	6	7	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The building is situated on a town lot with a frontage of 63 feet along Main Street. The rectangular parcel is 175 feet deep.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Harding, Historian  
Historic Preservation Unit  
 organization Dept. of Culture and History date July 23, 1979  
The Culture Center  
 street & number Capitol Complex telephone (304) 348-0240  
 city or town Charleston state West Virginia

## 12. 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Clarence Morrow  
 title Director, Historic Pres. Unit, WV Dept. of Culture and History date September 27, 1979

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 date  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: date  
 Chief of Registration

OLD STONE TAVERN,  
MORRISTOWN, HANCOCK  
COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
UTM REFERENCE:  
17/67.678/4255300



