

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: OLD SWEET SPRINGS	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Andrew S. Rowan Memorial Home	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 3			
CITY OR TOWN: Sweet Springs			
STATE West Virginia	CODE 54	COUNTY: Monroe	CODE 063

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Home for the Aged
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments Owned by the state of W. Va.			

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: Office of Public Institutions			
STREET AND NUMBER: State Capitol			
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: West Virginia	CODE 54	

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

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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 deed of 1903 conveying property to the Old Sweet Springs Corporation involved 1788½ acres, but we are only concerned in preserving an area of approximately 8.5 acres. The history of Old Sweet Springs compiled by West Virginia State officials after the purchase of the property in 1941 places the building of most of the existing structures prior to the Civil War. "This would include the Jefferson Building, four two-story guest homes, and the Ball Building. Even earlier is the Elbow Row cottage." The church-like bath house is a later replacement for an original wooden building.

It is doubtful if anything survives of the 18th Century wood structures.

When the State took over the property in the early 40's, extensive renovations were undertaken initially costing nearly \$150,000, added to the purchase price of \$150,000. Certainly more has been expended since, but the external appearance of the old buildings has been honored. The Jefferson Building has been altered considerably in the interior to accommodate office and medical needs and a wing was added at the rear. The buildings constructed of hand-made brick are still in good condition.

An artist's conception of the development plans for Old Sweet, drawn in 1857, demonstrate that about half of the original ambitious scheme became reality.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

### PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian           | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

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

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             |   | <u>Recreation</u>                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                |   |   |

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Sweet Springs, in Monroe County, West Virginia, is one of America's oldest mineral water resorts and, as it stands today, better than any other complex reflects the vacationing aspect of the country's fashionable society just as it functioned more than a century ago.

The extensive buildings, most of brick, some of wood, now serve as the State-owned Andrew S. Rowan Memorial Home for the aged. Rowan, a resident of a nearby village, was the much-publicized deliverer of the "message to Garcia" during the Spanish-American War.

Sweet Springs's history is intertwined with the fortunes of the descendants of John Lewis "the Emigrant," who was born in Donegal, Ireland, in 1678, but fled to this country in the late 1720's after he had killed an oppressive landlord who had murdered his invalid brother. Tradition has it that he and his sons William and Andrew, of Revolutionary War fame, explored the area in 1754.

By 1760 a James Moss is presumed to have built a cabin at Sweet Springs, but since he had no title he had to vacate in 1774 when King George III gave land patents to the Lewis family that same year. William Lewis built a two-story cabin more than a mile from the Springs, in present Virginia, but in 1783 moved west to the Springs, from where he continued to develop and promote the waters as a resort until 1802, when it passed out of his hands.

Several surviving accounts show Sweet Springs to have been functioning actively in the 1790's, accommodating an average of fifty patrons in "logge cabbins."

William Lewis planned a community of "Fortville," with all shops excluded from the residential area, but his dream failed to materialize as did his plans for an elaborate courthouse, although a circuit court serving a four-county area functioned there from 1795 to 1817, Lewis absorbing some criticism because he had used the courthouse and jail, when available, as guest accommodations.

A suit carried on in the court in 1802 is of considerable interest, involving as it did President Thomas Jefferson and Vice-President Aaron Burr, whom Jefferson accused of invading lands he had leased in Monroe County. The litigation was doubtless handled by representatives of the two men.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE West Virginia	
COUNTY Monroe	
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(Number all entries)

8

The beautiful main building at Sweet Springs was constructed in the Jefferson tradition, but since it was built after his death in 1826 it is hardly probable, despite many affirmations to the contrary, that he was the architect. Dr. Frederick Nichols, of the architectural department at the University of Virginia, observes that the building is in the Jefferson tradition and may have been built by someone in contact with Jefferson.

Of course persons prominent in the new federal society must have used the resort, but evidence of this is scanty. In later years, the names of Pierce and Fillmore appear on the register, and a letter written by Henry Clay was sent from there.

The tradition of a Jerome Bonaparte courtship and marriage there seems to have stemmed entirely from the filming of a movie version of "Glorious Betsy" at Sweet Springs. Nevertheless the film inspired a group of easterners to form a company and purchase the Old Sweet in 1929.

In 1852 three prominent persons - General John Echols, Senator Allen Taylor Caperton, and the wealthy Oliver Bierne, formed a corporation and projected an extensive building program on a semi-circular plan. About half of this plan was completed, giving us the existing quarter-circle of brick houses still standing.

The Springs went into receivership in 1930. The State purchase was made from R. N. Taylor, of Roanoke, in 1941.

Early writers on the Springs of Virginia, including Burke and Moorman, give prominence to the Old Sweet. It is not as old as Berkeley, nor has it survived as long as White Sulphur as a resort, but more than either, its buildings preserve a faithful reflection of resort life of the preceding century.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Logan, Frances. The Old Sweet: Biography of a Spring. Roanoke, Va. 1940.  
Welch, Lewis, articles in The Charleston Daily Mail, May 3 and 4, 1942.

# 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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 37' 45"	80° 14' 30"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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: Clifford M. Lewis, S.J., for,		
ORGANIZATION West Virginia Antiquities Commission	DATE	
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 \_\_\_\_\_

Title State Liaison Officer

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

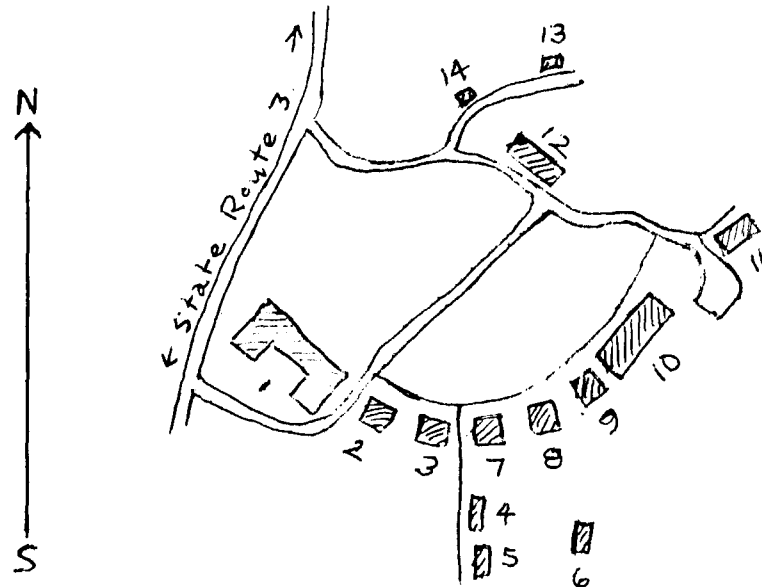
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

OLD SWEET SPRINGS, MONROE COUNTY, W. VA.

Map Locating Photographs

(Not to scale)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. "Jefferson" Building                    | 10. Central Building of brick   |
| 2. Ball (ballroom) Building                | 11. Elbow Row cottage of logs and board siding  |
| 3, 7, 8, 9. Two story brick guest cottages | 12. Bath House  |
| 4, 5. Early frame structures.              | 13. Brick dwelling.   |
| 6. Stone utility building.                 | 14. Tentatively identified as the<br>Lewis cottage, which would be the<br>oldest building in the complex. |



— Walk  
== Road

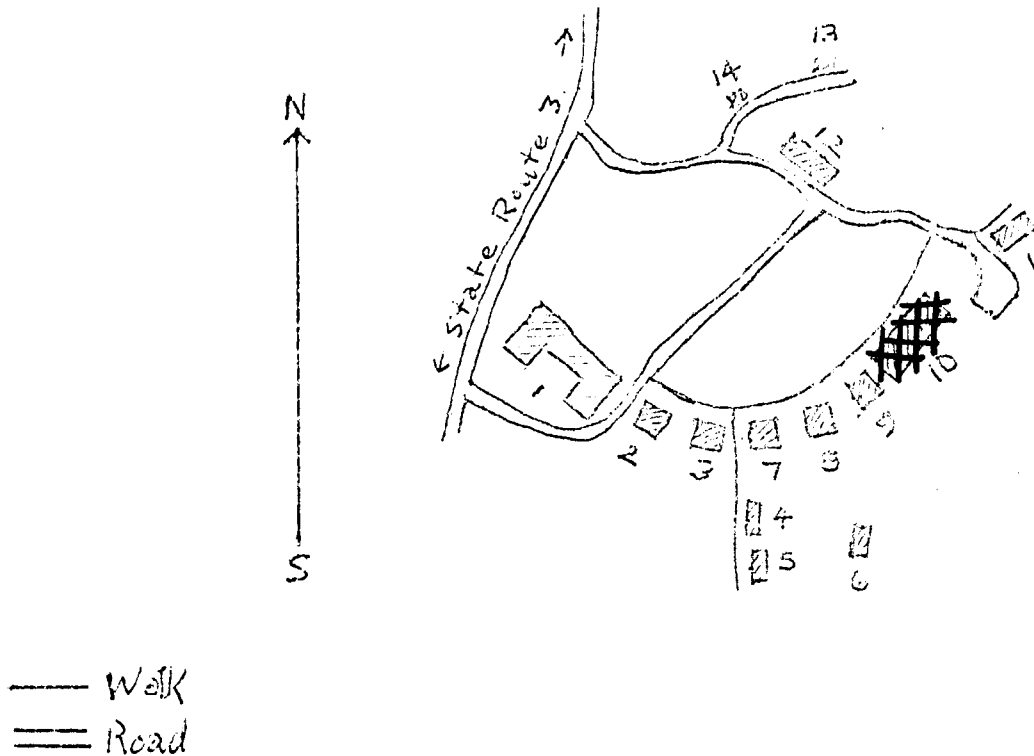
OLD SWEET SPRINGS, MONROE COUNTY, W. VA.

Map Locating Photographs

(Not to scale)

1. "Jefferson" Building
2. Ball (ballroom) Building
- 3, 7, 8, 9. Two story brick guest cottages
- 4, 5. Early frame structures.
6. Stone utility building.

10. Central Building of brick **DEMOLISHED 6-1982**
11. Elbow Row cottage of logs and board siding
12. Bath House
13. Brick dwelling.
14. Tentatively identified as the Lewis cottage, which would be the oldest building in the complex.



NOTE: REVISIONS TO  
MAP DUE TO DEMOLITION  
OF "CENTRAL BUILDING"  
REPORTED TO MIKE GIOUHS  
6-30-82 BY HASSELL SHUMATE.











