

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name "Overlook"

other names/site number H-198; Harlan, William Douglass, House

2. Location

street & number 2910 Harlan Spring Road not for publication N/A

city or town Martinsburg vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Berkeley code 003 zip code 25401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Susan M. Pierce 2/26/04
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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

"Overlook"
Name of Property

Berkeley County, WV
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously-listed resources in the count)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>5</u>		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)
N/A

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH C. REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/limestone

walls STUCCO; WOOD

roof ASPHALT; STONE/slate

other BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Refer to Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1917

Significant Dates

1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Criteria Considerations

Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kent, C.E., architect

Small, A.R., builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission

"Overlook"
Name of Property

Berkeley County, WV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 245 acres

U. S. G. S. Quad map: Hedgesville, West Virginia

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>245640</u>	<u>4381940</u>	3	<u>18</u>	<u>245900</u>	<u>4380880</u>
2	<u>18</u>	<u>246280</u>	<u>4381640</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>245620</u>	<u>4380980</u>
				5	<u>18</u>	<u>245540</u>	<u>4381440</u>

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(See Continuation Sheet)

Boundary Justification

(See Continuation Sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Taylor, Principal

organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. date February, 2003

street & number 9 Walnut Street telephone 814-849-4900

city or town Brookville state PA zip code 15825

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Nancy A. McMurray, J. Harlan McMurray, and John K. McMurray

street & number Harlan Farm, P. O. Box 2447 telephone 304-754-3434

city or town Martinsburg state WV zip code 25402

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**"Overlook"
Berkeley County, WV**

Section Number 7 Page 1

7. Description

"Overlook," the William Douglass Harlan House (Resource No. 1; Berkeley County Survey Site No. H- 198; Photos 1-10), is a 1917 2-story stucco-finished (described locally as "pebble-dash" rather than stucco) Colonial Revival-style house located on the east side of Harlan Spring Road (County Road 1), approximately five miles northwest of Martinsburg, West Virginia. The nominated property anchors a 245-acre farm and lies in both the Falling Waters and the Hedgesville Districts of Berkeley County, in West Virginia's eastern panhandle. "Overlook" includes five contributing resources: the Harlan house itself, a c. 1920 wood frame garage immediately south of the house (Resource No. 2; Photo 11), a c. 1920 gable-roofed wood frame barn and a corn crib (Resource Nos. 3 and 4; Photo 12), and a water pump (Resource No. 5) servicing a cistern directly east of the house. The barn and crib are east of the house on a hillside which slopes steeply away from the house. "Overlook" is altered little from the original and retains unimpaired integrity in all of its qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

"Overlook" is of wood construction, with all of the exterior wall surfaces finished in original stucco. The house is built on a foundation of native Berkeley County limestone and has a laterally-oriented gable roof of slate with original "snow birds" and full returns on the cornice on the gable ends. The facade (Photo 1, 2) is oriented to the west and is three bays wide, with a centered entrance. A single-story open hipped-roofed porch extends across the facade, supported by four Tuscan columns and corresponding pilasters of wood. The rear (east) elevation is of four bays, and is distinguished by a double-gallery porch, with turned posts and a simple open wood balustrade. A small pantry occupies the north side of the first story of the back porch, above which is a closet serving a second-story bedroom. The remainder of the porch is open on the first story while a screened sleeping porch with weatherboard cladding is on the second story. The south elevation (Photo 5) is of four bays, and includes a side entrance shielded by a curvilinear hood. The north elevation is of four bays, and includes a hipped-roofed screened-in porch at the northeast corner (Photo 3). All fenestration is flat-topped, one-over-one lights, with original wood sash, storm windows, and little notable ornament. In the pediments of both the north and south gable ends are paired windows. Brick chimneys with modest corbeling penetrate the roofline at several points; the chimney on the south elevation serves a fireplace, while the others likely originally served a furnace and/or gas-fired space heaters typical of the period when the house was built.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**“Overlook”
Berkeley County, WV**

Section Number 7 Page 2

“Overlook” incorporates a central-passage, double-pile interior plan (Fig. 1). The main entrance door on the facade opens into a hall which leads eastward to a point near the center of the house where a single-run open stair leads to the second floor at right angles from the hall. The stair is ornamented with a simple wood newel, a balustrade with modest square wood balusters, and a molded wood handrail. Beneath the stair is a half-bath. The livingroom is located at the southwest corner of the first story and a room which was likely a parlor--presently used as a den--is at the northwest corner. The diningroom is at the southeast corner and the kitchen is at the northeast corner. The second story contains four bedrooms with closets of varying sizes and two bathrooms, all organized around the hall located near the center of the house. Woodwork (Photos 6-10; Fig 2) is modest in its detailing; except for the newel and handrail and on some doors (Photos 6, 9) the woodwork is painted. Baseboard heating units are attached to woodwork in some rooms, but without negative impact to historic fabric. A red brick fireplace with a mantle (Photo 7) is in the livingroom. All wall surfaces are plastered and original volumes have been maintained throughout. The floors are overlaid with wall-to-wall carpeting and vinyl in the kitchen and bathrooms; original flooring remains intact beneath.

“Overlook” occupies a 245-acre tract in rural Berkeley County and sits on a slight rise on the east side of Harlan Springs Road. The topography slopes steeply downward immediately east of the house--hence its name. The house is set back from the road and is surrounded by a well-tended yard and a variety of mature shade trees. Some evergreen shrubbery serves as foundation planting. Southeast of the house is a detached garage of wood construction (Photo 11), gable-roofed, with a shed-roofed section on the south side. The principal elevation of the garage is oriented to the west and is penetrated by a single door and two garage doors with modern overhead doors. Approximately sixty feet east of the house and downhill from the house is a two-story wood barn with a slate-clad gabled roof with “snow birds” (Photo 12). Immediately east of the barn is a circular corn crib with a multi-paneled conical roof of standing-seam metal.

The following resources are included within the nominated area:

1. “Overlook,” residential

Description: 2-story Colonial Revival vernacular residence with stuccoed exterior finish, open porch on facade and laterally-oriented gable roof of slate

Date: 1917

1 contributing building

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**“Overlook”
Berkeley County, WV**

Section Number 7 Page 3

2. Garage, residential dependency

Description: gable-roofed wood garage with a shed-roofed section on the south side and two garage openings with overhead doors

Date: c. 1920

1 contributing building

3. Barn, agricultural dependency

Description: two-story timber frame barn with a gabled roof of slate and vertical board siding.

Date: c. 1920

1 contributing building

4. Corn crib, agricultural dependency

Description: wood and metal corn crib

Date: c. 1920

1 contributing building

5. Pump, object

Description: hand pump of forged steel or cast iron servicing a cistern

Date: c. 1917

1 contributing object

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**"Overlook"
Berkeley County, WV**

Section Number 8 Page 4

8. Significance

The 1917 house erected for William Douglass Harlan and named "Overlook" (H-198) meets National Register Criterion C and is significant for *architecture*, as a locally-distinctive example of the Colonial Revival style of design. More specifically, "Overlook" is significant as an example of the Colonial Revival style as it was applied to modestly-scaled middle-class homes marketed to the middle class during the first four decades of the twentieth century. The period of significance is 1917, the date of construction of the house. As noted in Section 7, the property is little altered from the original and retains integrity.

"Overlook" was built by builder A.R. Small builder for William Douglass Harlan (1868-1953) and his wife Lillie Kennedy Harlan (1871-1940). Harlan was a member of a pioneer Quaker family which settled this area of Berkeley County, then in Virginia, in the middle decades of the eighteenth century. A long-prominent farming family, the nearby Harlan Springs area and the Harlan Spring Historic District (NR 12/10/80) is named for the Harlan family.¹ The son of George Boyd Harlan (1822-1889), William Douglass Harlan farmed the family's Berkeley County holdings and did not wed until thirty-four years of age, late for a man during the first decade of the twentieth century. Family history maintains that after his father's death in 1889, the twenty-one year-old William became head of the family and was also responsible for his sisters' education.² In 1905, when he was thirty-seven and she thirty-four, William Harlan and Lillie Kennedy were married. The newlyweds lived at "Spring Hill," the Harlan family's ancestral seat, until William Harlan developed deafness in his late forties.³ In 1916, beset with both deafness and heart disease, he gave up active farming, disposed of his livestock, and retired. He built "Overlook" as a retirement home and remained here for the rest of his eighty-five-year life. Following his death, the home passed to his daughter, Margaretta Douglass Harlan (1911-2001) who grew up in the house and made her home here. She was a renowned local educator, having received a baccalaureate degree from Shepherd College and taught in the Berkeley County public schools from 1931 until 1971. She also served as a curriculum consultant for the textbook publisher Scott, Foresman, & Co. At

¹James Harlan (1692-c. 1762) and his son, George, began the construction of the house known as Spring Hill about 1744; it is one of the four properties contained in the Harlan Spring Historic District.

²Harlan, M[argaretta] Douglass, *The Harlans of Spring Hill* (Martinsburg: Author, 1987).

³Interview with Nancy A. McMurray, grand-daughter of William D. Harlan, 2002.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**"Overlook"
Berkeley County, WV**

Section Number 8 Page 5

the time of preparation of the nomination, the property is jointly owned by William D. Harlan's granddaughter and two grandsons.

The Criterion C significance for "Overlook" is sustained by its position as a locally-significant example of a rural Colonial Revival-style residence. The Colonial Revival style was born of the American Centennial of 1876, which kindled fervent patriotism and an interest in the architecture of the pre-Revolutionary decades. This style employed both the form and detail of late eighteenth-century American design and was employed for imposing estate homes and institutional and commercial buildings as well as for simply-scaled and modestly-detailed domestic architecture such as "Overlook." The design of some Colonial Revival-style buildings faithfully replicated their antecedents. Others, including "Overlook," drew upon vernacular⁴ motifs, including the rectangular box-like form with a laterally-oriented gable roof with a full return on the cornice. Additionally, some buildings executed in this style embraced the overall massing of the four-over-four central-passage plan often employed in Georgian architecture. The use of classically-derived porch posts and pilasters on the front porch of "Overlook" hints at the Colonial era, although such embellishment would be equally compatible--and often appeared--on American Foursquares.

The undated plans for the house, which are included with the nomination, indicate that W.D. Harlan chose Martinsburg architect C.E. Kent to design his retirement home. Chapman Eli Kent was a Martinsburg, West Virginia builder and architect whose active years spanned much of the first half of the twentieth century. Other works identified with Kent include the National Register-listed Apollo Theater in Martinsburg, which Kent built from designs by Reginald Geare. He remained in practice in the early 1940s evidenced by his listing in the 1940-41 *Semi-Annual Report of the West Virginia State Board of Architects*. The plans also note that "Overlook's" builder was A.R. Small. Local history research indicates only that Alexander Robinson Small (1887-1958) was a second-generation builder in Martinsburg.

Summarizing, "Overlook" is a 1917 house which was which was erected as a retirement home by a member of a pioneer Berkeley County family and is significant as a locally-distinctive,

⁴The term "vernacular" as it is applied here refers to "a building built without being designed by an architect or someone with similar formal training," the definition found in Ward Bucher's **Dictionary of Building Preservation** (New York: John Wiley, 1996), p 512.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**“Overlook”
Berkeley County, WV**

Section Number 8 Page 6

although modest, example of Colonial Revival-style design which represents the work of a locally-prominent architect and a long-time local builder.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**"Overlook"
Berkeley County, WV**

Section Number 9 Page 7

9. Major Bibliographical References

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Harlan, M[argaretta] Douglass. *The Harlans of Spring Hill*. Martinsburg: Author, 1987.

Martinsburg *Journal News*, March 30, 2001. [M. Douglass Harlan obituary]

_____. March 30, 2001. [M. Douglass Harlan obituary]

McMurray, Nancy A. Interview, 2002. The substance of which is incorporated into the narrative of the nomination.

"Semi-Annual Report of the West Virginia State Board of Architects." Charleston, W.Va, 1940.

West Virginia Historic Property Inventory Form for "Overlook," in the collection of the Berkeley County Historical Society, Martinsburg, West Virginia, 2000.

Wood, Don C. "Harlan Springs Historical District." National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1980.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**"Overlook"
Berkeley County, WV**

Section Number 10 Page 8

10. Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Containing that parcel described in Berkeley County Deed Book No. 388, Pages 299-300.

JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of this nomination consists only of that acreage historically associated with "Overlook" since the time of its construction. including its garage, barn, and corn crib east of the house and the agricultural fields east and west of the house.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**"Overlook"
Berkeley County, WV**

Section Number Photo Log Page 9

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

All Photographs:

"Overlook"

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Photographer: David L. Taylor

Date: 2002

Negatives filed at: West Virginia SHPO
Charleston, West Virginia

1. "Overlook," southwest perspective, looking northeast, showing the setback of the house from Harlan Spring Road and the overall form, massing, finishes, and fenestration of the property.
2. South-west perspective, detail, showing the front porch with its Tuscan columns, facade, fenestration, and finishes
3. North elevation, looking south, showing the north gable end and the screened-in hipped-roof side porch which is accessed from the kitchen
4. Southeast perspective, looking northwest, showing the double-gallery porch on the east elevation, the interior and exterior chimneys, overall finishes, etc.
5. South elevation, looking north, showing the exterior brick chimney which serves the fireplace in the livingroom, the side door with the curvilinear hood which opens into the diningroom, roof form, etc.
6. Interior, detail, showing the newel and balustrade of the stair which rises from the side of the entrance hall near the center of the property.
7. Interior, detail, showing brick fireplace and mantle located in the livingroom, baseboard, and window trim
8. Interior, livingroom looking north toward stair hall, showing overall volume, trim, wall-to-wall carpeting, etc.
9. Interior second story bedroom, showing overall character, unpainted doors, trim, etc.
10. Interior, second story, view from bedroom on south west corner through bedroom on south-east corner, toward door opening onto the sleeping porch on the east elevation.
11. Garage, looking southeast

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**"Overlook"
Berkeley County, WV**

Section Number Photo Log Page 10

12. Barn with corn crib behind, looking northeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

"Overlook"
Berkeley County, WV

Section Number Page 11

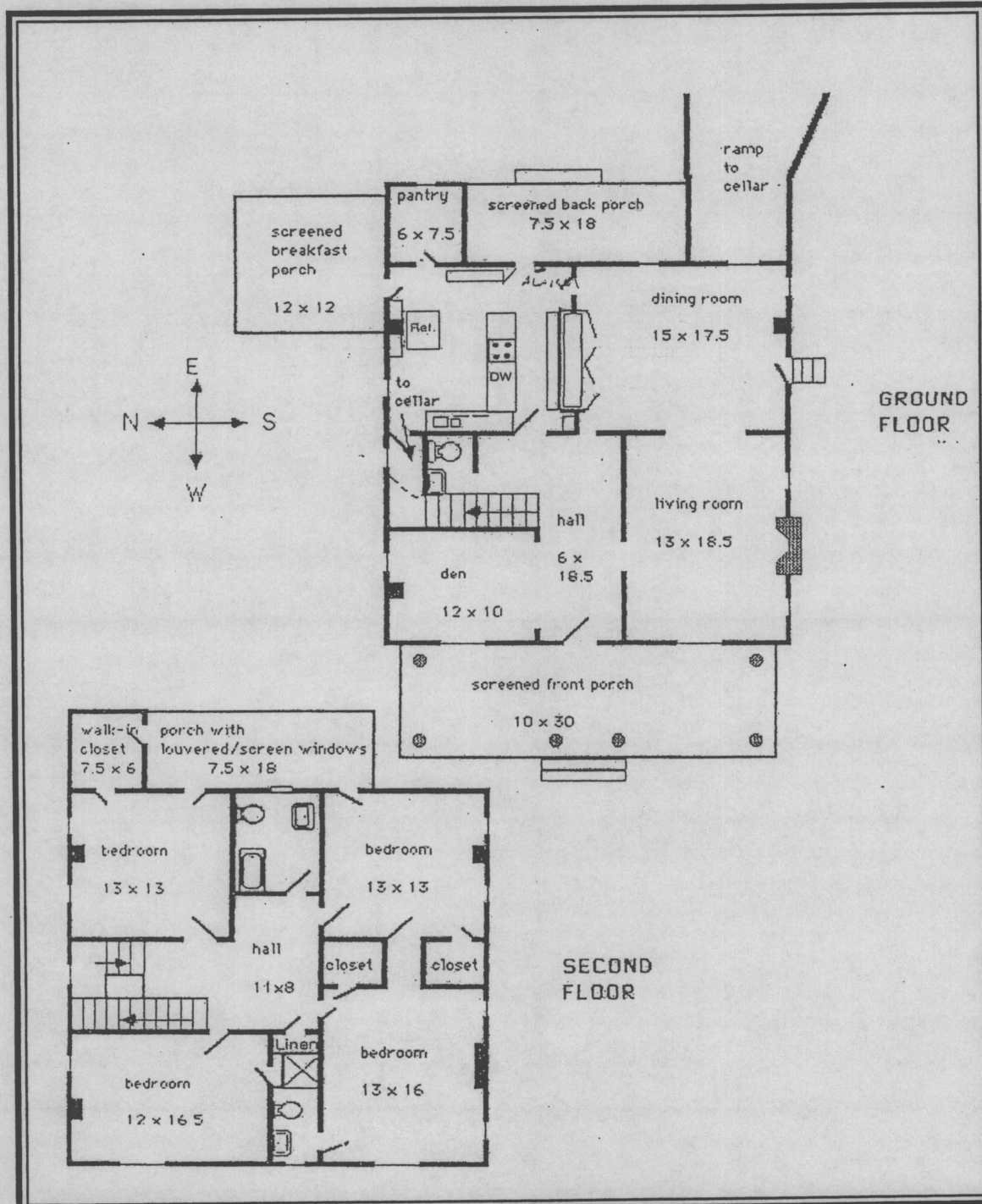


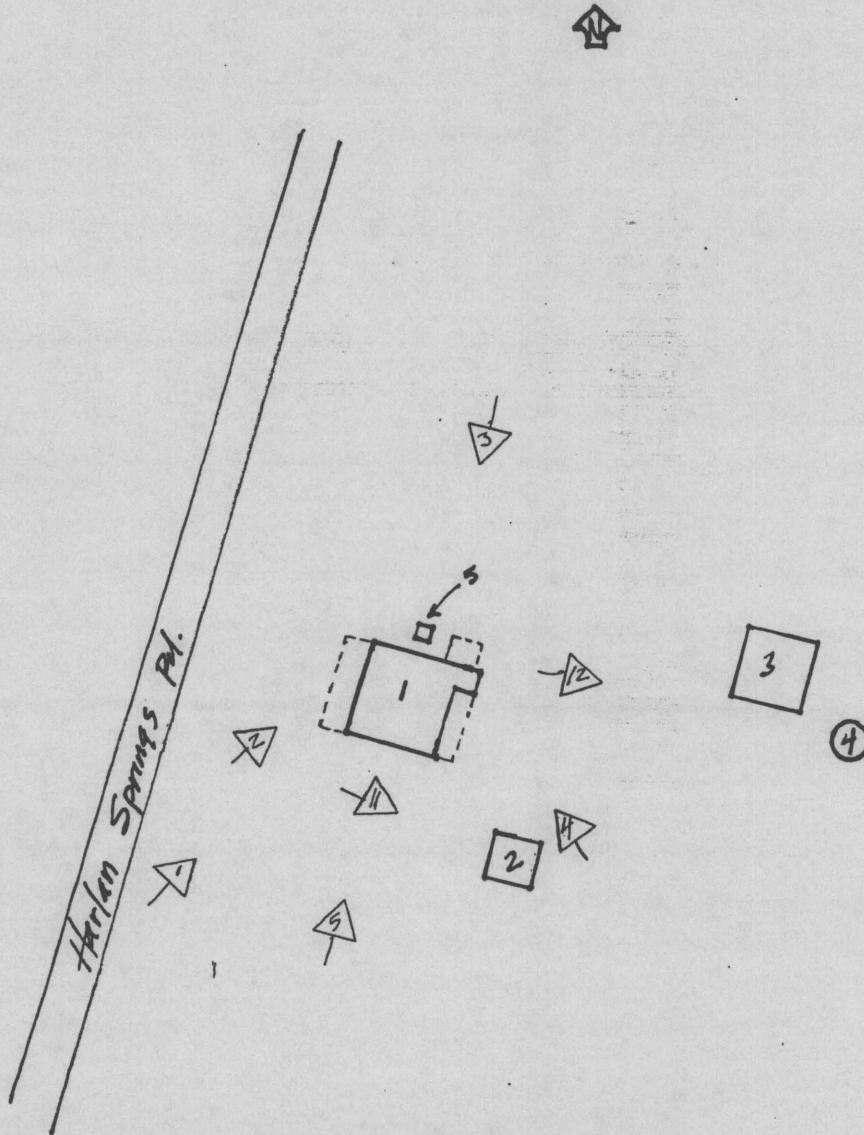
Fig. 1 Shown above is the floor plan for the first and second story of "Overlook," depicting the room arrangement and scale of the principal spaces. (Courtesy Nancy A. McMurray)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

"Overlook"
Berkeley County, WV

Section Number Page 13



Sketch map
△ photo orientation 1/2 number.

Not to scale

"Overlook"
 Parkersburg, WV
 UTM Reference:
 1: 18/245640/4381640
 2: 18/245900/4380880
 3: 18/245620/4380980
 4: 18/245640/4381440
 5: 18/245540/4381440
 32.30"



