

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

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received

date entered

1. Name

historic Peter Burr House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Warm Springs Road not for publication

city, town Shenandoah Junction X vicinity of congressional district Second

state West Virginia code 54 county Jefferson code 037

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Burr-McGarry Farms

street & number Route #1, Box 144

city, town Shenandoah Junction vicinity of state 25442

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number Washington & George Streets

city, town Charles Town state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Peter Burr House, located on a flat section of land near the small village of Shenandoah Junction in Jefferson County, West Virginia, is an eight room, two story log, beam, and board building.

The style of the Peter Burr House, especially the four room section constructed in c.1751 owes something to the so-called New England Colonial Style of the 1600-1700 period, which in turn has its roots in Elizabethian and early Stuart period architecture of the rather plain houses of the English yeoman. Peter Burr was a native of New England and his use of this style and its related construction methods was a natural result of this. The house cannot be said to be a pure example of the New England colonial style, but does use several prominent features of that style, particularly the steeply pitched roof (a medieval form), a tall, massive chimney and small windows.

The exterior of the Peter Burr House is of hand riven clapboard. It uses heavy log uprights and beams, and the exposed parts are neatly finished. The outside walls were lined, between the log beams, with brick and mortar and then plastered. The chairboard has a hand-trimmed beading around the edge, which was put together with wooden pins. The flooring consists of smooth, wide boards, and these were nailed with wrought iron nails, as are the clapboard weatherboards.

The Burr house, which faces south and has two porches (both on the north and south sides), has a long sloping, steeply pitched roof which extends out over the porches, giving the east end a wide inverted V shape appearance. The eastern, section of the roof is wood shingles and is in need of repair, while the western section of the roof is tin.

The original doors are made of wide boards with long wrought iron hinges. The doors originally fastened with a wooden bar. One door has an opening above the bar showing where the latch string hung. The windows are narrow, with small panes. The center chimney is approximately five by ten feet at the base. The chimney forms mantels or shelves in two rooms. The top of the center chimney that extends above the house is not usually large compared with its base.

Burr later added two rooms to the original four and then, in 1804 two more were added by David Moore, who also added the large end chimney. Three of the four first floor rooms open into the south porch. There is a long narrow enclosed stairway that connects the first and second stories.

There is a two story stone springhouse to the immediate west of the house. The second story of the springhouse, which was used as a servants quarters, contains a large chimney that begins on that floor.

The Peter Burr house has suffered from vandalism and neglect and is in need of substantial repairs. However, it is structurally sound and its historic integrity is intact. Since 1804, there have been very few alterations made, and these of a minor nature.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates c.1751, 1804

Builder/Architect Peter Burr

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Peter Burr House, located off W.Va. State Route #9 near Shenandoah Junction in Jefferson County, West Virginia, is significant as one of the oldest extant structures in the state of West Virginia. ¹The house is also significant as the home of a prominent early settler in this region. ²as a rare surviving example of an early settlement period family homestead.

Explanatory Notes

1. The Peter Burr House was constructed by Peter Burr in what was then Frederick County, Virginia between 1751 and 1755, though the earlier date is the most probable. This is only twenty years after the first white settler in what is now West Virginia, Morgan Morgan, arrived (1731) and built the state's first house, now a reconstruction, in what is now Berkeley County, West Virginia. The Peter Burr House is one of a small number of structures, fewer than a dozen in fact, that survive from the pre-1760 settlement period. In Jefferson County, West Virginia there are only five structures extant that pre-date the Peter Burr House, and one of these does so by only a year, and nearly all five are stone structures rather than wood. In recognition of the structure's age, as well as its historic nature and other qualities, the Peter Burr House was declared a Jefferson County Historic Landmark by the Jefferson County Landmark Commission in June of 1976.

2. The older section of the Peter Burr House was constructed by Peter Burr II (1727-1793), one of the early settlers in what is now West Virginia. Born in Connecticut in 1727, Peter Burr was a member of the very prominent Burr family. His father, also named Peter, was the only brother of Aaron Burr, Sr., who was the first president of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) and father of Aaron Burr, Jr., U.S. Senator and 3rd Vice President of the United States (1801-1805). Peter Burr II was, then, a first cousin of Vice President Aaron Burr.

Peter Burr came to Virginia in 1747 or 1748 and in the latter year received an "indenture" of 400 acres. In 1751 he received two grants from Lord Fairfax, within a week of each other, one for 480 acres and the other for 406 acres. This second grant, dated July 3, 1751, is the tract upon which the Peter Burr House was built, at the end of old Warm Springs Road. Peter married twice and fathered a total of twelve children. His descendants, many of whom still live in the region, have consistently played prominent roles in Jefferson County political, economic, and social life.

3. The Peter Burr House is an extremely rare example of a very early settlement period family homestead. Although there are five structures in Jefferson County (and two in Berkeley County) that pre-date the Burr House, all are either stone or partially stone buildings and generally are more representative of the manor house or large estate

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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oriented building as opposed to a family homestead. The methods used in the construction of the house are typical methods used in small family homes of this period, particularly in New England where Burr originated. These methods have their origins in English yeoman home construction of the Elizabethian period. (For a more detailed description, see Section 7).

After Peter Burr's death in 1793 the house was inherited by his son Peter Burr III, who emigrated to Ohio in 1798. He sold the house to William Lyne, Jr. Lyne (who was the maternal grandfather of U.S. Congressman and Postmaster General William Lyne Wilson) sold the property in 1804 to David Moore, who built the second section of the house that year. The house passed back into Burr family hands in 1878 with its purchase by John & Emma McGarry, both of whom were descendents of Peter Burr, and has remained in the family since that time.

The Peter Burr House is, therefore, highly significant as one of West Virginia's oldest extant structures and as a very early representative example of the family homestead in mid-18th century Virginia.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ambler, Charles H. and Summers, Festus P., West Virginia, the Mountain State, 2nd edition
Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1958, c.1940.
Bushhong, Millard K., Historic Jefferson County, Carr Publishing Co., Boyce, Va., 1972

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property One (1) acre

Quadrangle name Charles Town, WVa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 17 253 840 4360 360
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Peter Burr House property is within a one and a half acre rectangle. The boundary begins at the northwest corner of said rectangle where a fence line meets the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line, thence 200 feet due east along the B & O Railroad line, thence

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian

Historic Preservation Unit

organization W.Va. Dept. of Culture and History

date January 10, 1981

Science & Cultural Center

street & number Capitol Complex

telephone 304/ 348-0244

city or town Charleston

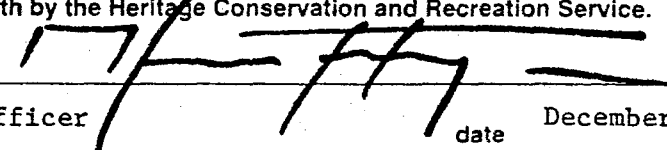
state West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X 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 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date December 7, 1981

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Holden, Nancy McGarry, "Peter Burr House and History", unpublished paper, 1980.

"Oral Interview with Mrs. Nancy McGarry Holden", Shenandoah Junction, W.Va.,
November 25, 1980.

"Peter Burr and His House", Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society,
Vol. X, December, 1944.

"The Peter Burr House", Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society,
Bi-Centennial Issue, Part I, 1976.

The Spirit of Jefferson Advocate, June 10, 1976.

Item 10, Verbal boundary description and justification....continuation

300 feet due south to a large drainage ditch, thence 200 feet due west along said drainage ditch to the beginning of a fence line, thence 300 feet due north along said fence line to the point of origin at the B & O Railroad line; enclosing one and a half acres that contain the Peter Burr House, the springhouse, and the historic setting.



