

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Pocahontas Times Print Shop

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

810 Second Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Marlinton

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

054

COUNTY

Pocahontas

CODE

075

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☒ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☒ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Jane Price Sharp

STREET &amp; NUMBER

810 Second Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Marlinton

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 24954

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pocahontas County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Marlinton

STATE

West Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Engineering Record

DATE

1973

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# **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 Pocahontas Times Print Shop is housed in a building constructed about 1900 for the express purpose of providing the newspaper, begun in 1882, with a home in the new county seat of Marlinton. The structure is simple in most every sense, yet it is a strongly-built unit with attractive lines. Long and low, the shop measures approximately 21' x 75' (this includes a 15' shed-roofed section at the rear) and is only one story high. Its layout is equally unpretentious; the interior is divided into small rooms at front and back and a large, open work area in the center.

Entrance is through a door flanked by 2/2 double-hung sash windows. This door has an overlight, and a small opening is symmetrically above it in the gable. The north side includes five windows and a door, the south side two windows, and the west (rear) elevation has a door and window. Of note are the horizontal weatherboarding, the deep but plain cornice, the pilaster effect of the vertical corner pieces on the front, and the decorative work in the east gable.

What is unique about the print shop is what is located on the interior. In the large center room is the heart of the publication: the type, type-setting desks, copy and lay-out areas, the new mechanical writer, receiving table, belt-driven paper folder, and, of course, the belt-driven flat-bed press (see diagram on continuation sheet). Much of the type and devices associated with it date from the early twentieth century, and both the paper folder and press were new installations around 1911.

The folder was manufactured by The Sidney Folder Company of Sidney, Ohio, under patent of May 16, 1893. It was called "The Perfect Junior" and was designed especially for use with a flat-bed, common cylinder press. Portability allows the folder to be moved close to the press for optimum operation and to be placed out of the way when not in use. The press is a hand-fed, flat-bed model manufactured by The Babcock Printing Press Manufacturing Company of New York under patents of September 26, 1882, and June 17, 1890. Its main printing cylinder is driven by gears which rotate under the pressure of endless belts. The press prints one side of cut newsprint in each cycle, so the printed pages must be turned and sent through again to receive type on the reverse side.

The building which houses the Pocahontas Times is little changed since construction, and most of its furnishings date from the first quarter of the twentieth century. What is more, the main elements of the process used in publishing the newspaper date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the machinery used is basically that which has printed the Times since about 1911.

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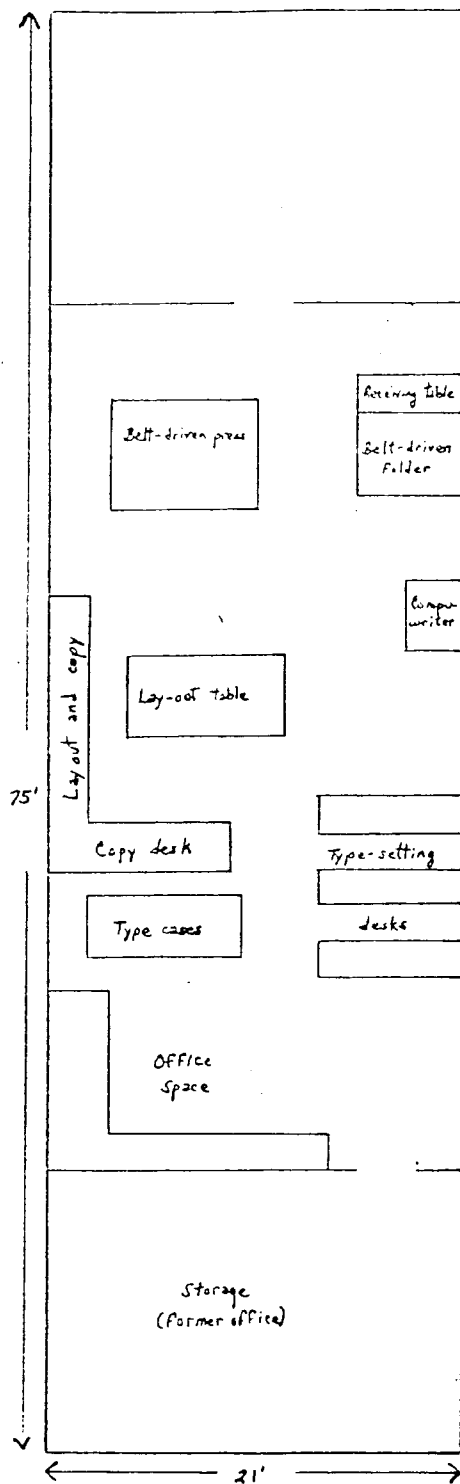
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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POCAHONTAS TIMES PRINT SHOP, MARLINTON, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE two



0 5 10  
Feet  
(approx.)

# **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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS-GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1900, c. 1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pocahontas Times has been an institution in southeastern West Virginia since its first publication in 1882. As a primary mass communications source in Pocahontas County, the Times has carried on a tradition in news dissemination that extends beyond what is published to include the method of publication. Produced, for the most part, by machinery dating from the early twentieth century, the newspaper has the added distinction of largely being set by hand.

The Pocahontas Times is the only newspaper to have been published in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, for any length of time. The first number dates from May 10, 1882, and was produced by James "Buck" Canfield and Hezekiah B. Marshall in an 8-page quarto, five-column format at Huntersville, then the county seat. The first press used is said to have come from Wood County (where it published the Volcano Liberator) via Randolph County (where it produced the Randolph Enterprise).

In 1892 the Price family, under the guidance of patriarch Reverend William T. Price, bought the newspaper and continued at Huntersville until 1900, when the operation was moved to the new town of Marlinton, which had been named county seat. With the completion of a railroad line north from Ronceverte and south from Durbin in 1901, the lumber industry of the area opened up, and the Times enjoyed a prosperous half century. The Prices have published the paper since, and each in turn has been provided the opportunity for advanced education through means obtained from the family operation.

Most prominent of the publishers was probably Calvin, "the grand old man of weekly newspapers," who brought wide popularity to the paper during the more than fifty years he kept his subscribers informed. Since 1957, Mrs. Jane Price Sharp, Calvin's daughter, has been editor-publisher, and she continues the Times in its traditional manner.

Flat-bed presses, hand-set type, cut newsprint and belt-driven paper folders are reminiscent of an era in publishing long since gone from most of the United States. In Marlinton, West Virginia, however, not only do the press and paper folder date from the pre-World War I era, even a number of the type cases, much of the type and several work stools and desks hark back to the timber boom, railroad heyday and log drives on the Greenbrier River which brought the Pocahontas County seat here from Huntersville. The following commentary provides a detailed explanation of the process used in publication of the Pocahontas Times, especially emphasizing the flat-bed press and paper folder:

The compositors (type-setters) sit on high stools and work at tall desks (the desks date from about 1901). Each desk is topped with a wooden tray (called a case) that contains 50 to 150 compartments for the various sizes and kinds of type and spacers.

Articles to be set to type are given to the type-setter, and at her (the entire operation is carried out, for the most part, by women) desk

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE two

she begins the composition. Each letter and spacer is selected from the case and placed in a palm-sized, hand-held metal tray called a stick. When the stick has been filled, it is placed in a larger metal tray called a galley.

As the columns are completed or the galleys filled, they may be tested for errors by a trial print on paper in the galley proof press. This is a small, roller-and-tray press in which the type is inked by a hand brush and the paper is pressed upon the galley by the weight of a rolling-pin shaped press.

These proven galleys then go to the lay-out tables where they are assembled in large blocks of type to print whole pages. Each page of type is then locked tight into a rectangular metal frame called a chase. Two chases are wedged very tightly on the flat bed of the press (in use since 1911). From this position they print two pages on one side of a sheet of paper. A newspaper is thus said to have been "put to bed" and "the press is ready to roll." At this point in the process, proof may again be made by rolling the press once through its cycle by use of the hand wheel.

After the two chases have been wedged upon the bed, the press is started. Originally, power was provided by a steam engine located nearby, but now the press is driven by a small electric motor. Force is delivered by a set of three endless belts and six wheels so graduated as to control speed.

As the cylinder revolves, the sheet of paper (cut paper rather than newsprint rolls) is fed into a row of clips on its surface that holds the paper in place through the printing arc. As the cylinder moves the paper toward the bottom of the cycle, the flat bed with the chases of print is moved by gears toward the ink rollers. These rollers are located just in front of the junction of the bed and the cylinder. As the chase comes from under the ink rollers, the type and the paper on the cylinder come together under carefully chosen pressure, and the image of the letters is impressed on the newsprint. The continued revolution of the cylinder carries the printed sheet to the guide wheels which are located across the width of the press.

The "to-and-fro" bed moves "to" and under the cylinder to print one side of the paper. Then, as the cylinder continues through its cycle, the bed makes its "fro" move back under the ink rollers and to its original position at the front of the press. The cycle is repeated about 5200 times each week (approximately five hours of operation) to produce the front pages needed for the subscription list.

When the printed sheet reaches the guide wheels it is released by the cylinder and guided onto the flapper. The flapper, similar to the cradle or frame of a scythe, pivots the flapper bar and places the sheet of

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE three

paper, printed side up (it is printed only on one side at a time), on a table.

If the other side of these pages is to be printed by this press, the stacked sheets are turned over and placed on the feeding shelf above the cylinder, and the printing process is repeated. If the pages in this cycle are to be folded, the flapper is removed from its bar, and the paper folder (purchased about 1910) is moved to its place at the back of the press and fastened near the flapper bar.

Working in synchronization, the receiving arms of the folder reach to the guide wheels to accept the printed sheets as they come off the cylinder. At the folder, the printed pages are drawn sideways across a top layer of rollers to receive a middle fold. A blade, with an arm at each end, descends across the middle of the width of the sheet and starts it down between two rollers that make the first fold. The second folding is in the manner of the first, and the twice-folded sheet drops into a basket from which it is taken ready for distribution.

This basic operation has been practiced at the Times since its inception in 1882. Improvements have been made, of course, but the process is little changed since the printing press and paper folder were purchased around 1910. Problems do exist, however, and because of a difficulty in obtaining a steady supply of cut (rather than roll) newsprint and the need and demand for diversity in advertising, only two pages (and at times only one) of each edition are printed on the old press. Editor-publisher Mrs. Sharp promises, though, that at least the front page will always be produced in the custom of the weekly hand-set Pocahontas Times.

# 11 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews, Mrs. Jane Price Sharp with C.E. Turley, Research Assistant, West Virginia Antiquities Commission. Information on file with the West Virginia Antiquities Commission, P.O. Box 630, Morgantown, W.Va.  
Petterson, Roger. "Obsolete: Old-Fashioned Pocahontas Times Relic of Long-Gone Newspaper Era," Sunday Gazette-Mail (Charleston, W.Va.), September 23, 1973.  
Price, William T. Historical Sketches of Pocahontas County, West Virginia. Marlinton, W.Va.: Price Brothers, Publishers, 1901. (Reprinted 1973 at Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Company.)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 579240 4230760  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C         

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 C.E. Turley, Research Assistant and James E. Harding, Historian

ORGANIZATION West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE September 22, 1976

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 630

TELEPHONE (304) 296-1791

CITY OR TOWN Morgantown

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Leonard M. Davis*

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 7, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

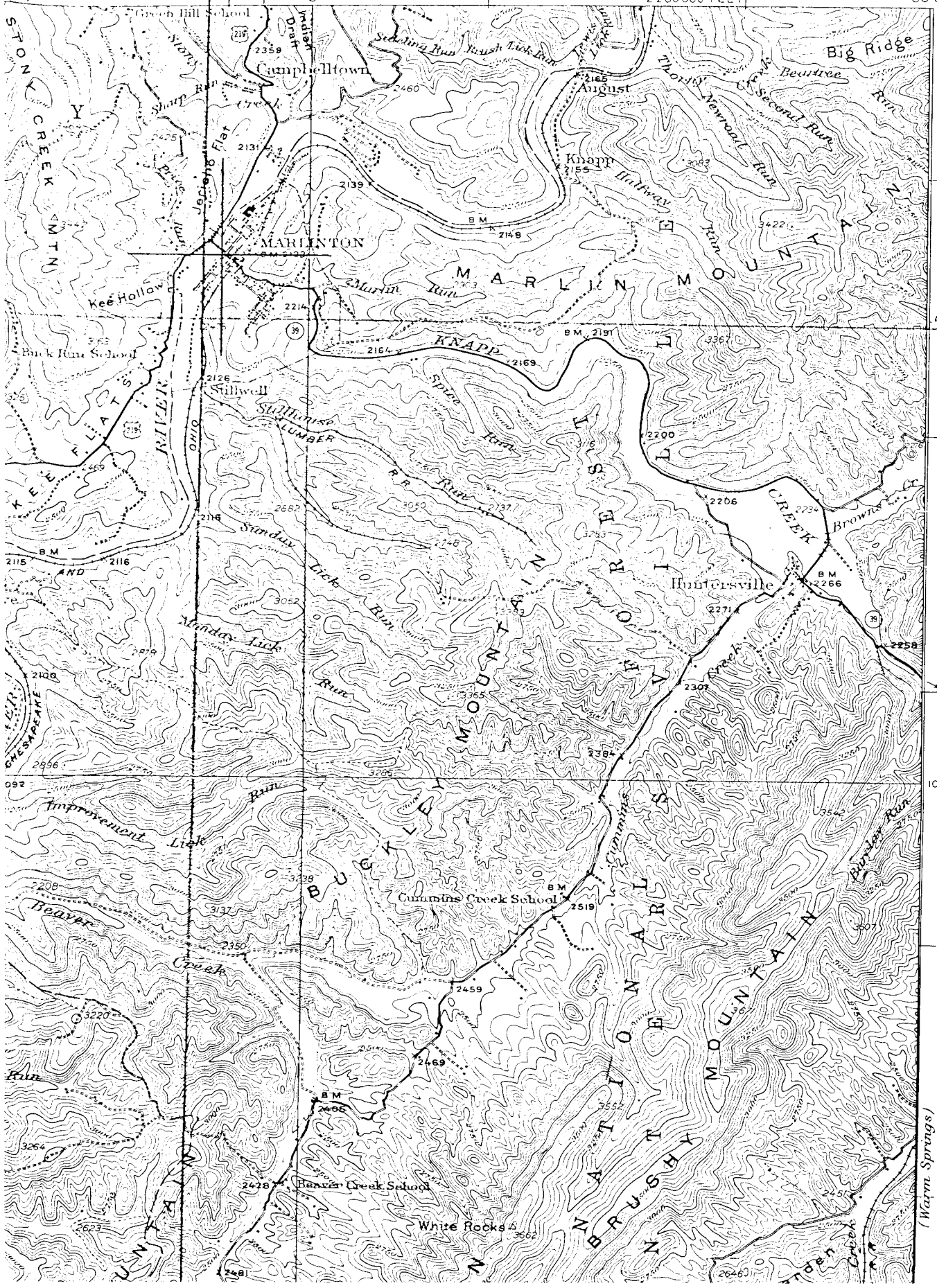
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

EST VIRGINIA  
ED BY THE  
ECONOMIC SURVEY  
1901

WEST VIRGINIA  
MARLINTON QUADRANGLE  
2 280 000 FEET  
80° 00' (Cass)  
38° 15'



POCAHONTAS COUNTY  
FRONT STREET  
POCAHONTAS COUNTY  
MARLINTON  
JIM RIVER  
17/577240/423-760

MINNEHAHA SPRINGS J. MI.  
WARM SPRINGS JUNC. U.S. 2201 23 MI.

(Warm Springs)





THE POCAHONTAS TIMES  
NEWSPAPER  
JOB PRINTING