Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

*(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)*

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 1. NAME

COMMON: Prickett Bay Boat Launching Site

AND/OR HISTORIC: Prickett's Fort

## 2. LOCATION

Located in Winfield District on right bank of Monongahela River at confluence with Prickett Creek, 5 miles east of Fairmont, West Virginia, via W. Va. Secondary Road 72 from W. Va. State Route 73.

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|
| West Virginia | 047 | Marion | 049 |

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ District ☐ Building<br>☒ Site ☐ Structure<br>☐ Object | ☐ Public<br>☐ Private<br>☐ Both<br>Federal Government | Public Acquisition:<br>☐ In Process<br>☐ Being Considered | ☐ Occupied<br>☐ Unoccupied<br>☐ Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br>☐ Restricted<br>☒ Unrestricted<br>☐ No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Agricultural | ☒ Government | ☒ Park | ☐ Transportation | ☐ Comments |
| ☐ Commercial | ☐ Industrial | ☐ Private Residence | ☒ Other (Specify) | |
| ☐ Educational | ☐ Military | ☐ Religious | Part of the area is presently being utilized as a public use boat launching facility. | |
| ☐ Entertainment | ☐ Museum | ☐ Scientific | | |

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Under jurisdiction of: U. S. Government - U. S. Army Engineer District, Pittsburgh, Corps of Engineers

STREET AND NUMBER: Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue

| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE |
|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh | Pennsylvania 15222 | 037 |

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Marion County Courthouse or above address (Block 4)

STREET AND NUMBER: Adams and Jefferson Streets

| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE | CODE |
|---|---|---|
| Fairmont | West Virginia 26554 | 047 |

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

No survey of this site has ever been made, according to information received from the West Virginia Antiquities Commission, Morgantown, West Virginia.

STATE: Pennsylvania
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7. DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | (Check One) Dismantled in 1799 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ☐ Excellent | ☐ Good | ☐ Fair | ☐ Deteriorated | ☐ Ruins | ☒ Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | (Check One) | | | |
| | ☐ Altered | ☐ Unaltered | ☐ Moved | ☐ Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A stone monument erected in 1926 identifies the site of Prickett's Fort. It reads as follows: "This monument is erected by the Society of the Sons of the Revolution of West Virginia to mark the site of Prickett's Fort built in 1774 on the land of Jacob Prickett." Near the monument is a brick house built about 108 years ago which was formerly the residence of the Prickett family descendants. It is now unoccupied. Adjoining the fort site is the old Prickett family cemetery established in 1772. The cemetery contains the grave of Captain Jacob Prickett, builder of the fort, along with those of his sons Jacob, Josiah, Isaiah and other members of the Prickett family. Also buried there is Colonel Zackquill Morgan, whose grave is marked by a massive granite monument. He was an early settler of Monongalia County and founder of Morgantown, West Virginia. The cemetery is the oldest in the area and is related almost entirely to the settlers who erected and ultimately occupied the fort.

c. 1866

The paragraphs following, which contain an account of Prickett's Fort, were developed from descriptive information furnished by Stephen Morgan, born October 14, 1761, to contemporary newspapers, which later were republished in the Morgantown and Clarksburg, West Virginia, and Uniontown, Pennsylvania, newspapers. Morgan had helped erect the fort starting in 1773 and also assisted in dismantling it in 1799. Facsimile sketches from the major bibliographical reference in Block 9, are attached for information purposes.

The fort was square in shape, each wall 150 yards long and contained sixteen cabins, four on each wall, with large storage bins between each cabin. The twelve foot high stockade walls were made from pickets (pointed slats used as fence uprights), seventeen feet long, with five feet buried in the ground. At each of the four outer walls, a bastion was provided. These defensive structures were larger than the cabins and projected two feet beyond the stockade walls. The overhanging sections contained slatted floors so that invaders of the fort could be fired upon directly downward by defenders in the bastions. The bastions, made of large hickory logs, were twelve feet square and rose eight feet higher than the outer walls. They contained ample gun-spaces for use by the defenders.

Within the stockade were two large buildings, each forty feet long by twenty feet wide and eight feet high, and were called the "shelter" and the "store". The "Shelter" was located nearest the main gate and was used for church, school and meetings of all kinds as well as emergency living quarters. The "store" contained goods and supplies of all kinds. The stables and stock-pens were located at the far southern end of the stockade.

There were two gates; the main gate in the center of the northern wall, facing the Monongahela River, and the stock gate located in the center of the west wall, near a small spring. Both gates were made of logs and thick slabs hinged in such a way that they opened inward.

Recent archeological probings in 1971 and 1972 by the Prickett's Fort Memorial Foundation, Inc., found no ruins or traces of the old fort.

A recreation area, consisting of a boat launching ramp and complementary facilities, has been constructed by the Corps of Engineers north of the existing monument and cemetery. The entire area is presently under lease to the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources who are operating it as a

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

State Park. The Corps has, in conjunction with the State, a comprehensive plan to further develop the entire area of Government-owned lands as a Historical Park, consisting of 216 acres. The State also proposes to acquire additional acreage west of the existing area to augment present proposed development.

The establishment of a State Historical Park, to include the site of the historic stockade, was authorized by an Act of the West Virginia Legislature in 1927, although it has never been implemented.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☒ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century |
| ☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☐ 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* Built in 1774

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other *(Specify)* |
| ☒ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☒ Military | ☐ Transportation | |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to a clipping from the "Scrapbooks of E. E. Meredith" written in the early 1930's, the fort was named for Jacob Prickett, believed to have been the first white settler in what is now known as Marion County. Prickett, who settled on Prickett's Creek in 1772, laid claim to about 400 acres of land along the mouth of the Creek. Because of a general uprising of the Indians along the frontier in 1773, south and west of Fort Dunmore (now Fort Pitt), the Governor was given instructions to erect several forts at various locations along the frontier. Construction of Prickett's Fort began in late 1773 and was completed in early 1774. One of the leaders in the raising of the fort was David Morgan, son of Colonel Morgan (first name) Morgan, the first white man to build a home in what is now known as West Virginia. In addition to the Morgan name, the names of Prickett and Haymond are prominent in the available history on the erection and maintenance of the fort. A Colonel William Haymond was once Commandant of the fort. Fort Prickett, as far as history shows, was never besieged; however, on numerous occasions, residents of the settlements along the Monongahela River gathered for protection when Indian attacks appeared imminent, sometimes spending weeks at a time in the stockade and the buildings it contained. There is positive evidence that at least 1,000 persons were living at Prickett's Settlement when the fort was built. Numerous dispositions, on record in Harrison County, West Virginia, and Augusta County, Virginia, provide evidence that Prickett's Settlement was the first pioneer community in the upper Monongahela Valley.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Marion County Yearbook, 1963

Description of Prickett's Fort - by Glenn D. Lough
Pages 39 thru 42

Prickett's Fort is County's Most Historic Spot - by C. Wade Swiger
Pages 42 and 43

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | | | | | | | OR | 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 | 39° | 31' | 09" | 80° | 06' | 09" | | | | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " |
| NE | 39° | 31' | 09" | 80° | 05' | 04" | | | | | | | | | |
| SE | 39° | 30' | 35" | 80° | 05' | 04" | | | | | | | | | |
| SW | 39° | 30' | 35" | 80° | 06' | 09" | | | | | | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 216 Acres

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: Colonel N. G. Delbridge, District Engineer

DATE: 27 October 1972

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Engineer District, Pittsburgh

STREET AND NUMBER: Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Ave.

PHONE: 412-644-6800

CITY OR TOWN: Pittsburgh

STATE: Pennsylvania 15222

CODE: 42

## 12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] None

Leonard M. Arms
*State Liaison Officer Signature*

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is [ ] National [x] State [ ] Local

*Federal Representative Signature* *Date*

*Title*

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

*Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date

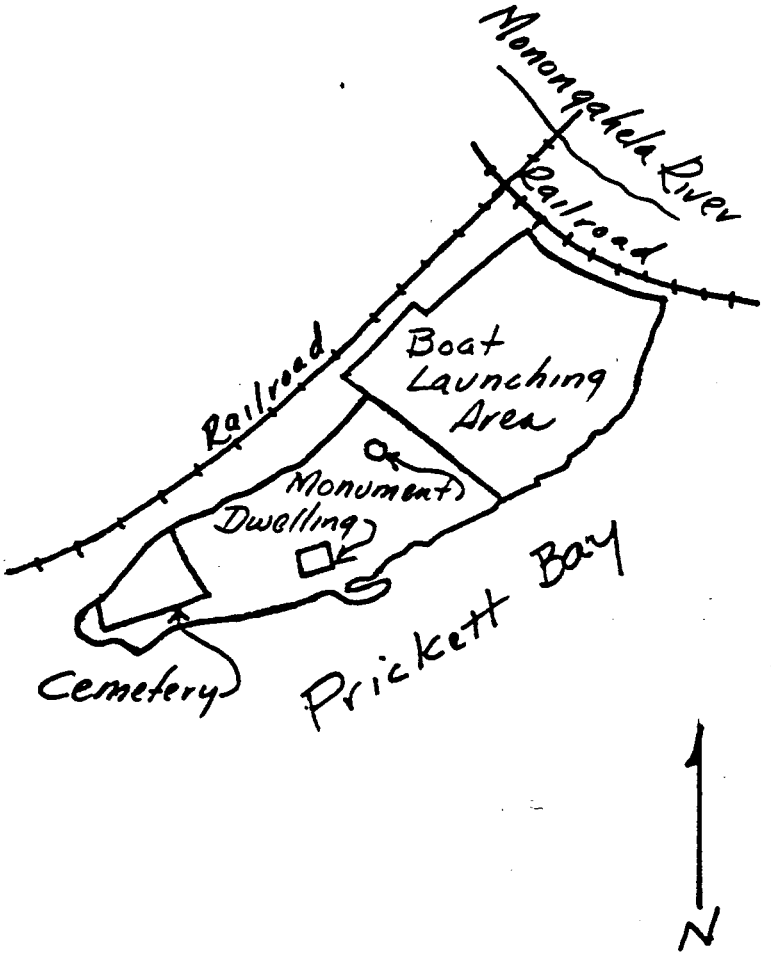
ATTEST:

*Keeper of The National Register*

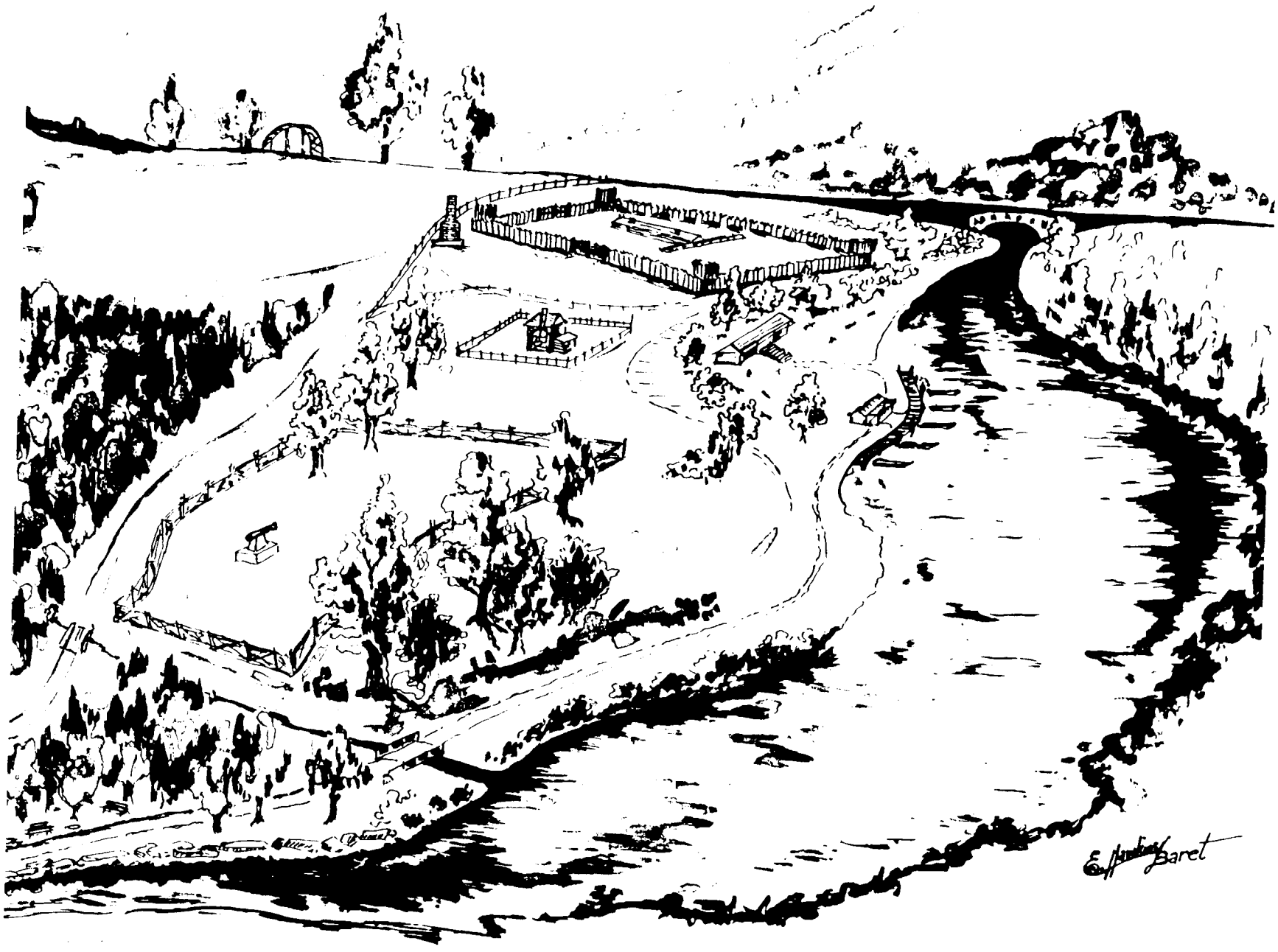
Date

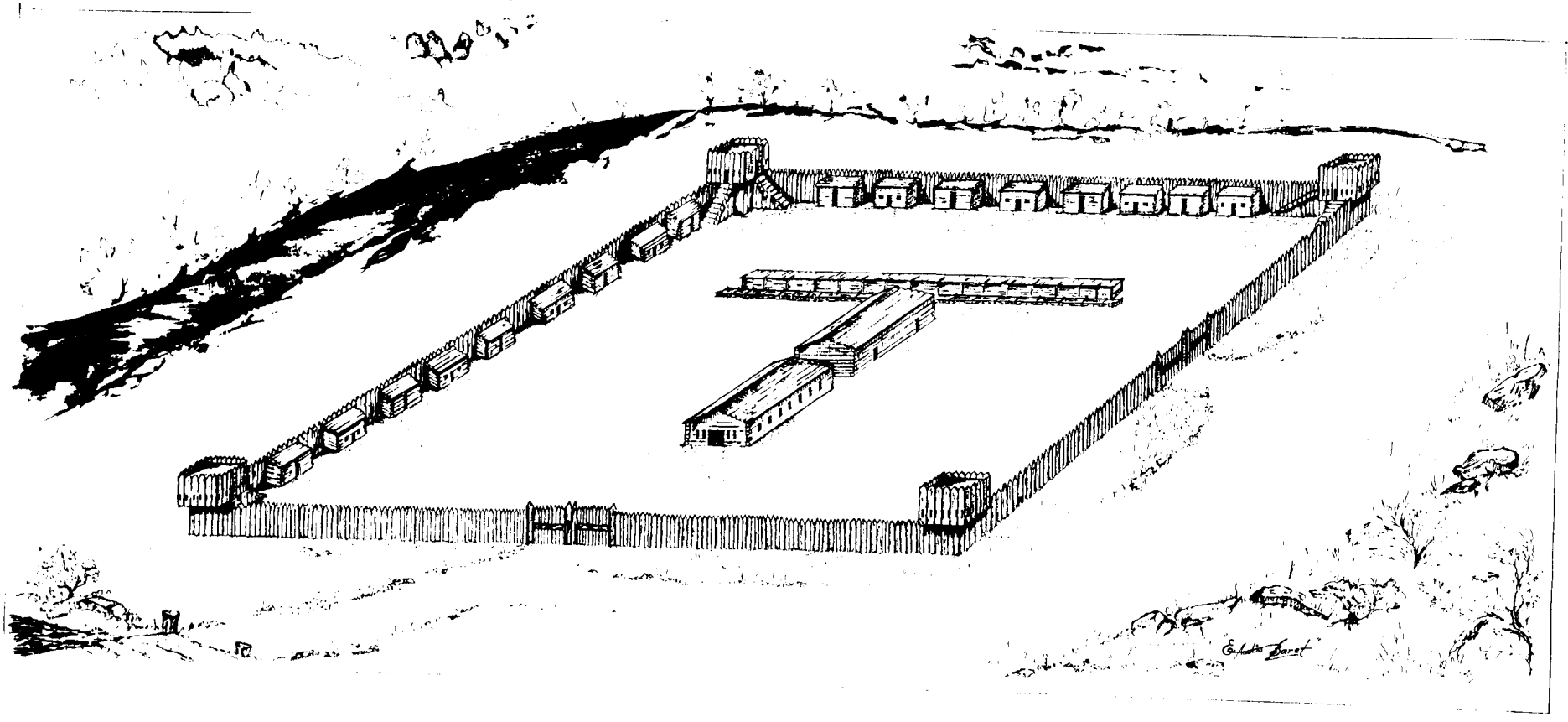
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

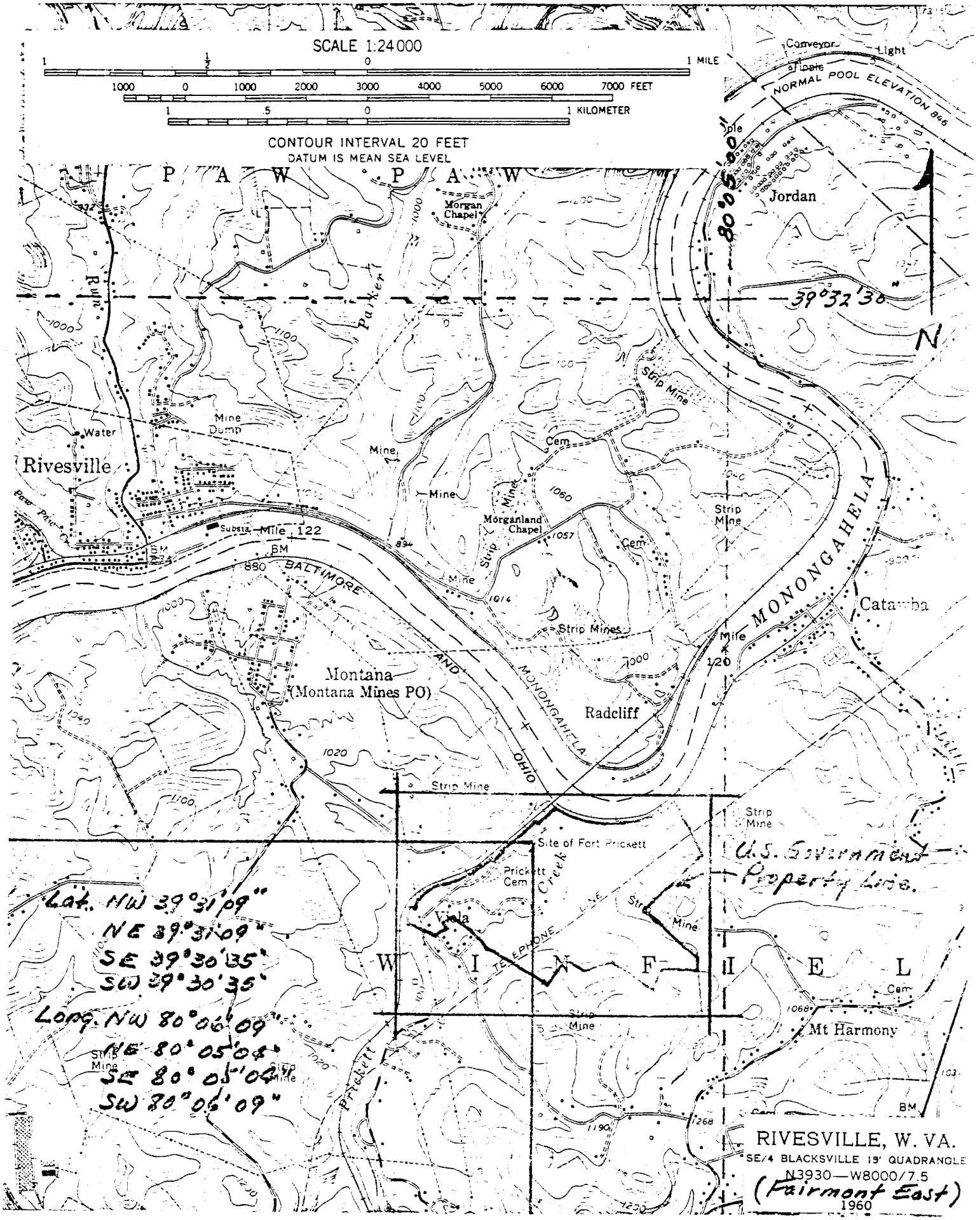
GPO 938-449




Location of Historical Monument in relationship to Cemetery and Boat Launching Area






SCALE 1:24000
1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
NORMAL POOL ELEVATION 865
Conveyor
Light
Pole
Jordan
80°05'00"
39°32'30"
N
P A W P A W
Morgan Chapel
Parker Run
Strip Mine
Water
Mine Dump
Rivesville
Mine
Cem
Morganland Chapel
Strip Mine
Strip Mines
Substa
Mile 122
BM
880
BALTIMORE AND OHIO
MONONGAHELA
Catawba
Mile 120
Montana
(Montana Mines PO)
Radcliff
Site of Fort Prickett
Prickett Cem
Prickett Creek
Viola
TELEPHONE LINE
W I N F I E L D
Cem
Mt Harmony
U.S. Government Property Line.
Lat. NW 39°31'09"
NE 39°31'09"
SE 39°30'35"
SW 39°30'35"
Long. NW 80°06'09"
NE 80°05'04"
SE 80°05'04"
SW 80°06'09"
RIVESVILLE, W. VA.
SE/4 BLACKSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3930—W8000/7.5
(Fairmont East)
1960