

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Brookside Inn
AND/OR HISTORIC:	The Red Horse Tavern, The Old Stone House

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: U.S. Route 50, 1 mile east of Aurora, Preston County, West Virginia			
CITY OR TOWN: Brookside Community; Aurora Post Office (2nd. Congressional District)			
STATE West Virginia	CODE 54	COUNTY: Preston	CODE 077

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Lewis E. Stemple			
STREET AND NUMBER: 			
CITY OR TOWN: Aurora	STATE: West Virginia	CODE 54	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Kingwood, Preston County			
STREET AND NUMBER: 			
CITY OR TOWN: Kingwood	STATE: West Virginia	CODE 54	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
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 	

STATE: West Virginia	COUNTY: Preston	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Between 1825 and 1827 a stone house was constructed near the settlement then known as German Settlement, now known as Aurora in Preston County, Virginia, now West Virginia. It was built by Henry Grimes as a dwelling, in 1841 when the Northwestern Turnpike reached the community it was opened as a public inn to serve travelers along the turnpike. It was known as the Old Stone Inn, or the Red Horse Tavern; later it became known as Brookside for the community in which it is located.

The building is of typical Pennsylvania German construction and consists of a main part containing one large downstairs room and three upstairs rooms with an attic above them. There are two circular staircases in this part. In a smaller one-room portion of the house there is a built-in bar, with a large fireplace and cupboards on either side of the fireplace. The main room also has a large fireplace, and there is one on the second floor, all three served by a common chimney with separate flues.

Walls were constructed of rubble stone and are two feet in thickness on the lower story and one foot, six inches thick on the upper story. Save for necessary minor mending, these walls are intact at present. The two parts of the house have trapdoors which lead to a full basement.

The use of wood is consistent and of suitable selection throughout the entire house. Most of the original timbers remain in place. First floor beams and flooring are of oak; second floor and attic beams are of hemlock and the flooring of pine. The roof, rafters, beams and roof strips are all of oak. Shingles were probably originally white oak "shakes"; now the roofing is hand riven cedar.

The window frames, sash, trim, doors, door frames, stairs and the three fireplace mantels are of yellow poplar. All of the wood portions of the house seem to be original except for a few repairs and the cedar shingles on the roof.

The entire interior of the house has been repair-plastered and white-washed. A notable furniture addition is a built-in four-door, eight-drawer cherry cupboard in the largest upstairs room.

Efforts have been made to keep the entire property intact, using as much of the original furniture as has been possible and replacing it when necessary with pieces suitable to the period and construction. The present owner's artistic bent is attested by a fine collection of American paintings now housed in the building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1827 the Virginia General Assembly passed an act incorporating the Northwestern Turnpike to run from Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley to Parkersburg on the Ohio River. This was to be Virginia's answer to the National Road a short distance northward in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

When the new turnpike, after some necessary adjustments in route, reached the area in which Henry Grimes had constructed his stone house, the building was opened as an inn to accommodate the traveling public. Since a built-in bar was already in place, and since there was a large common room in the main portion of the house, the building was well suited to such a need.

To construct and oversee the engineering problems of this new highway, Virginia retained the services of Colonel Claudius Crozet, a Frenchman who had served with distinction as an artillery officer in Napoleon's Grand Army. After Napoleon's exile, Crozet, with other French officers, emigrated to America, and Crozet served as an instructor at the West Point Military Academy.

Crozet had the task of building a highway which traversed all of the Allegheny ridges between the Shenandoah and the Ohio River. In his necessary travels there is evidence that he stopped at the Grimes home which, in 1841, had been adapted to tavern use.

During the years before the Civil War, travel was very heavy on the Northwestern Turnpike since it traversed the mountain ridges on easier grades than did the National Road. The Red Horse Tavern was one of the most heavily used on the entire turnpike, and many notable persons stopped there in passage between the Middle West and the East.

When the Civil War years came the Northwestern Turnpike was useful for the movement of troops. Most of the local residents were of Union sympathies, and during periods of Confederate raids or heavy bushwhacker activity the heavily wooded premises of the Red Horse Tavern were used by local people as a place of concealment for their horses and other livestock.

The Red Horse Tavern, also known as the Old Stone House, served as post office for the community. Early federal post office records show that in one year William H. Grimes received \$65.50 as compensation for his services as postmaster at German Settlement, Preston County, Virginia.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE West Virginia	
COUNTY Preston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Architectural features of the Red Horse Tavern have been appreciated by many who have visited it. The nice joinery, the plan and proportions, the simplicity and style, and the fact that it has escaped improvement butchery make it outstanding among the few early taverns along the Northwestern Turnpike.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wiley, S. T. History of Preston County (West Virginia).
The Journal Printing House, Kingwood, West Virginia, 1882.

Historic American Highways. Published by American Association of State
Highway Officials, 917 National Press Building, Washington, D. C.

Callahan, James Morton, under the editorial supervision of Bernard L.
Butcher. Genealogical and Personal History of the Upper Monongahela
Valley, West Virginia. Vol. 1, Lewis Historical Pub. Co. New York, 1912.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 19' 34"	79° 31' 54"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Lot 100' x 100'

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: Lewis E. Stemple, (Property Owner) for the		
ORGANIZATION West Virginia Antiquities Commission		DATE March 7, 1973
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 Na-
tional 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 Maurice G. Brooks

Title State Historic Preservation
Officer

Date May 30, 1973

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

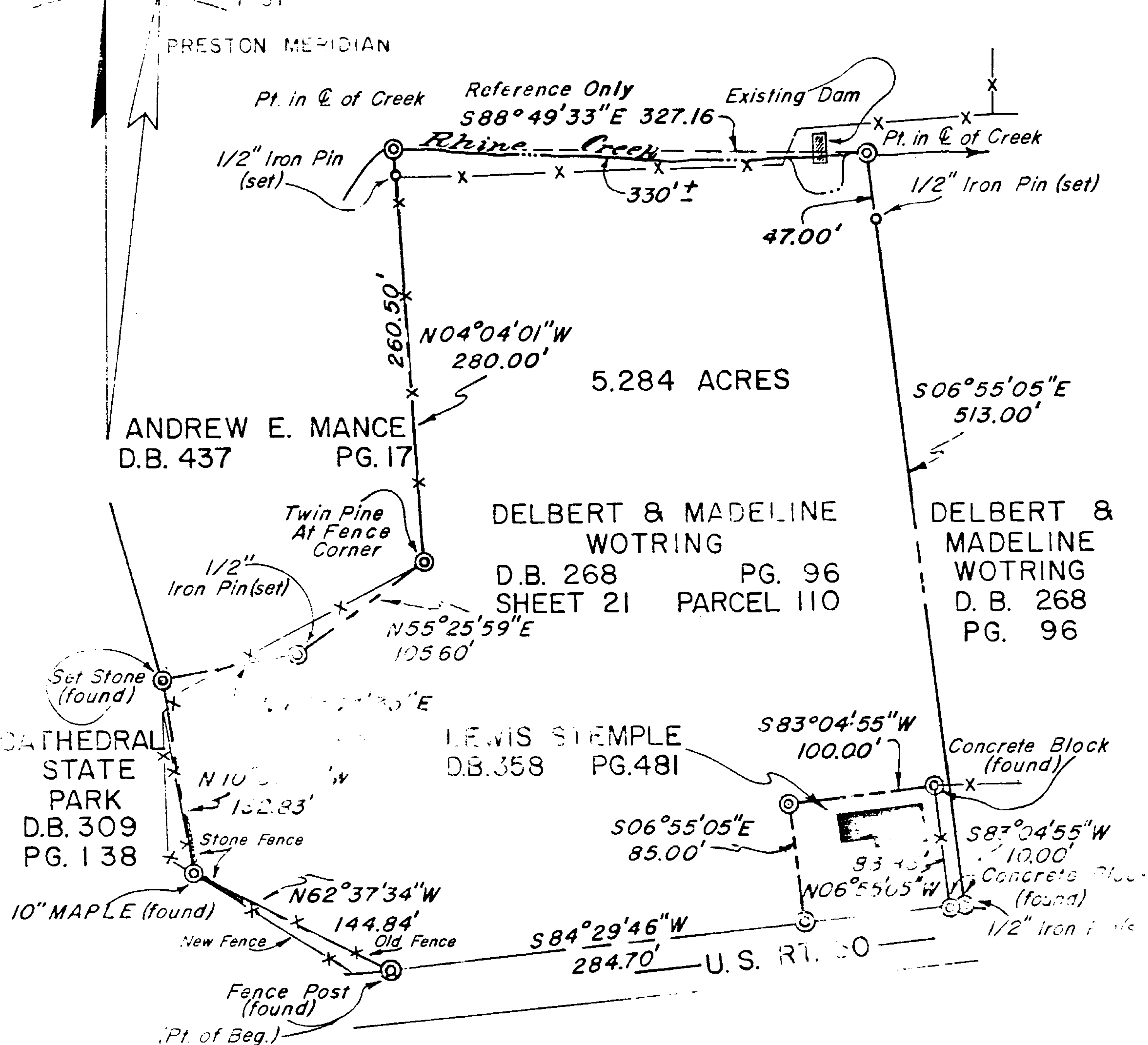
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



PROPERTY SURVEYED
FOR
LEWIS STEMPLE
IN

UNION DISTRICT PRESTON COUNTY
WEST VIRGINIA

SCALE: 1"=100'

JUNE 1977

MOUNTAIN STATE SURVEYING COMPANY
KINGWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA

Garry L. Shores
GARRY L. SHORES, L.L.S., No. 583
KINGWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA

MAP
COORDINATES
LOT, N 39°19'34"
E 79°31'54"

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

RED HORSE TAVERN, BROOKSIDE (AURORA VICINITY), PRESTON COUNTY, WV.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 2

7. The subject property is a 5.284 acre tract adjacent to the Red Horse Tavern, a building listed in the National Register of Historic Places (July 2, 1973), and located approximately one mile east of Aurora at Brookside on the north side of U.S. Route 50 in Preston County, West Virginia. The acreage, abutting the Red Horse Tavern on its northwest elevation, is a generally level parcel of open meadow and pasture land that forms a scenic vista between Route 50 and Rhine Creek on a north-south axis, and between the Red Horse Tavern and Cathedral State Park on an east-west axis.
8. The five-acre tract providing a backdrop for the Red Horse Tavern on its north and west elevations is significant as a natural and scenic area with strong historical ties and references to the old stone tavern. The property has a documented direct association with the tavern that extends well over a century into the past. William H. Grimes, a mid-nineteenth century proprietor of the tavern, and a relative of the tavern's builder, Henry Grimes, was owner of 1000 acres of land upon which the stone tavern was the principal building.

The Red Horse Tavern, a gable-roofed, two-story structure of rubble stone construction, was erected in 1825-27 (A stone bearing the initials GHG and the date 1827 appears in the gable at the east end of the building.), by Henry Grimes as a dwelling near the tiny village known in that day as German Settlement, and now called Aurora in Preston County, (West) Virginia. In 1841, the residence was opened as a tavern that served travelers along the busy Northwestern Turnpike. In the words of Ambler and Summers in West Virginia, The Mountain State:

The chief engineer of the Northwestern Turnpike was Charles B. Shaw, who was directed by Colonel Claudius Crozet, a French artillery officer who had served with Napoleon and was then the chief engineer of Virginia. It was due largely to their skill and engineering ability that this highway was completed when it was, and that it became a popular thoroughfare. Ignoring those sectional differences which cursed West Virginia from her earliest history, they chose a route passing by Romney, Burlington, Aurora, Fellowsville, Grafton, Clarksburg, West Union, and Pennsboro, over the best grades possible. From the Virginia line to Parkersburg, all of the route, except eight and one-half miles in Maryland, was in Virginia. At a total cost of \$400,000, it was completed in 1838, and at once took rank among the main-traveled routes between the East and the West.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



RED HORSE TAVERN, BROOKSIDE (AURORA VICINITY), PRESTON COUNTY, WV.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The property adjacent to and north of the old stone tavern comprising the 5.284 acres that is proposed as an added (amended) area to the Red Horse Tavern National Register site, was used in part as a grazing and pasturage grounds for herdsman and drovers who regularly used the Northwestern Turnpike in the nineteenth century. The nearby parcel also provided space for kitchen vegetable gardens; and for the areas closer to the house, sites for minor buildings and dependencies.

The most important feature of the Red Horse Tavern grounds today (1979) relates to its scenic qualities that form a significant setting between the tavern and Cathedral State Park. To the ^{west} east of the tavern and its meadow lands is the 126-acre Cathedral State Park, a sprawling grove of hemlock trees that comprise West Virginia only remaining sizable stand of virgin timber. The park assumes its name from the majestic, centuries-old trees that suggest in their cool, dark midst a cathedral-like reverence. Among the prizes of this forest are a hemlock with a circumference of 21 feet, a black cherry 13 feet around, and a red oak with a 9-foot circumference. The creation of Cathedral State Park was possible through the life-long efforts of a mountaineer, one Branson Haas (1875-1955), whose purchase of the property in 1922 and later sale to the state assured the preservation of the ancient groves.

At an elevation of 2500 feet above sea level, the Red Horse Tavern grounds and adjacent tracts are home to varieties of ferns, violets, Dutchman's Pipe, trillium, ground pine, trailing arbutus, bluets, lady's slipper, dogwood, and rhododendron. Rhine Creek, that forms the northern boundary of the meadows, is the headwater source of the Youghiogheny River.

The inclusion of the Red Horse Tavern grounds in the National Register will provide additional protection for the existing National Register property, and will assure that proper planning procedures are observed in the conservation of the unique historical and natural qualities of the immediate area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



RED HORSE TAVERN, BROOKSIDE (AURORA VICINITY), PRESTON COUNTY, WV

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 2

9. Ambler, Charles H., and Festus P. Summers. West Virginia: The Mountain State. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1958, pp. 152-53.

Deeds of the Preston County Court, Kingwood, W.Va., Vol. 26 (1868-69), p. 28; Vol. 28 (1869-71), p. 319; Vol. 33 (1871-71), p. 252-54; Vol. 36 (1872-73), pp. 277-80.

Colander, Valerie N., "Old Stone Tavern Challenges Preston," Sunday-Dominion Past Panorama, Morgantown, WV, Oct. 20, 1978, pp. 8-9.

Hill, Frank. "Appalachian Treasure." Cathedral State Park brochure, W.Va. Dept. of Natural Resources, n.d., n.p.

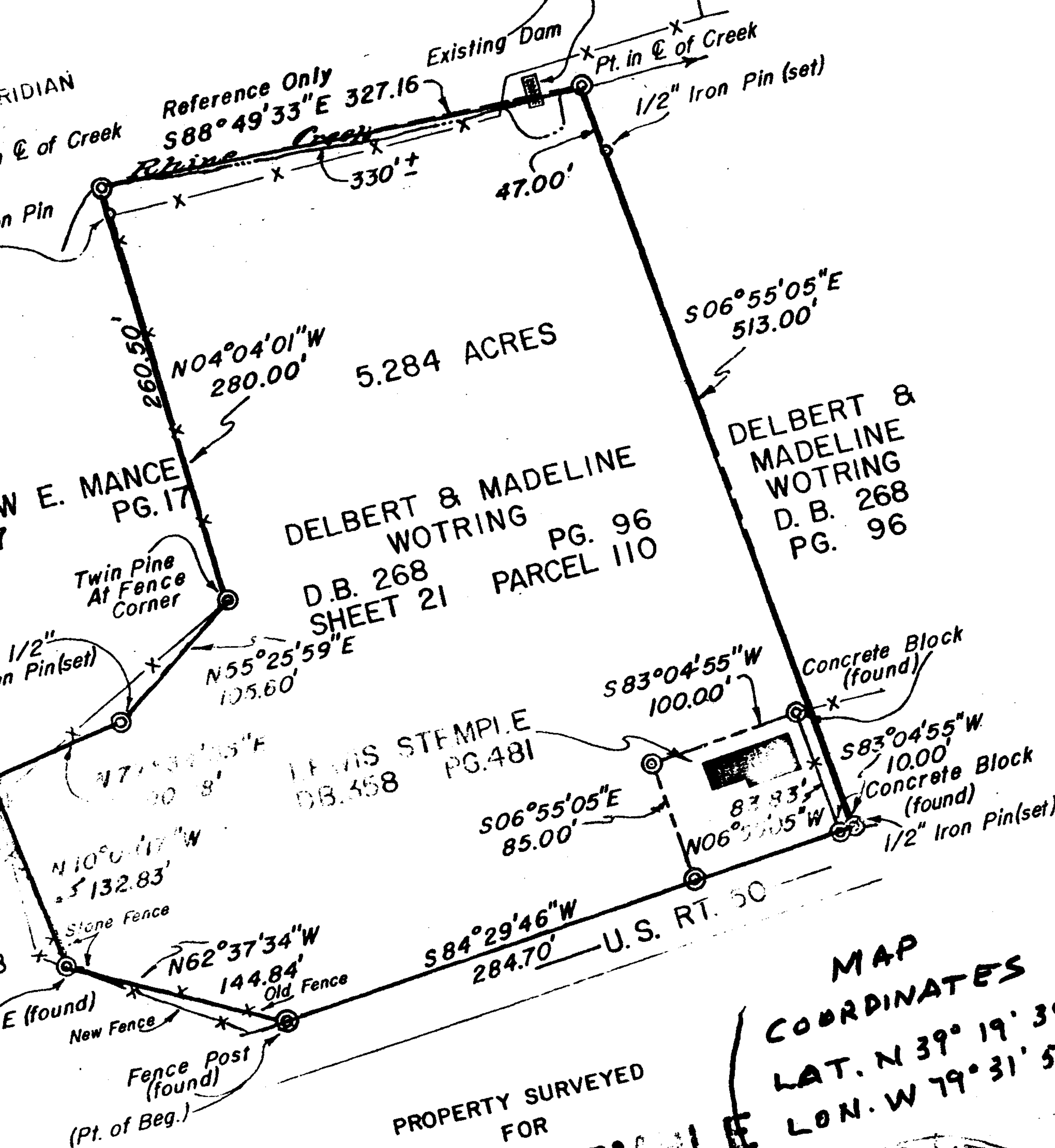
Surveyor's Records of Preston County. Kingwood, W.Va., vol. 2 (1810-1970), p. 128.

10. Acreage of property: 5.284
Quadrangle: Aurora, W.Va.
Scale: 1:24,000

UTM: 17/626 520/4353 860

Verbal Boundary Description

The 5.284 acre tract at the Red Horse Tavern is bound on the south by U.S. Route 50, approximately one mile east of Aurora at Brookside, Preston County, W.Va. Beginning at a point slightly west of the stone building on Route 50, the boundary runs northward to Rhine Creek, westward along and including Rhine Creek, and southward along the boundary with Andrew Mance, thence southwestward to the boundary of Cathedral State Park, and thence southeastward to U.S. Route 50 (see legal survey of subject property with red line).



PROPERTY SURVEYED FOR
LEWIS STEMPLE

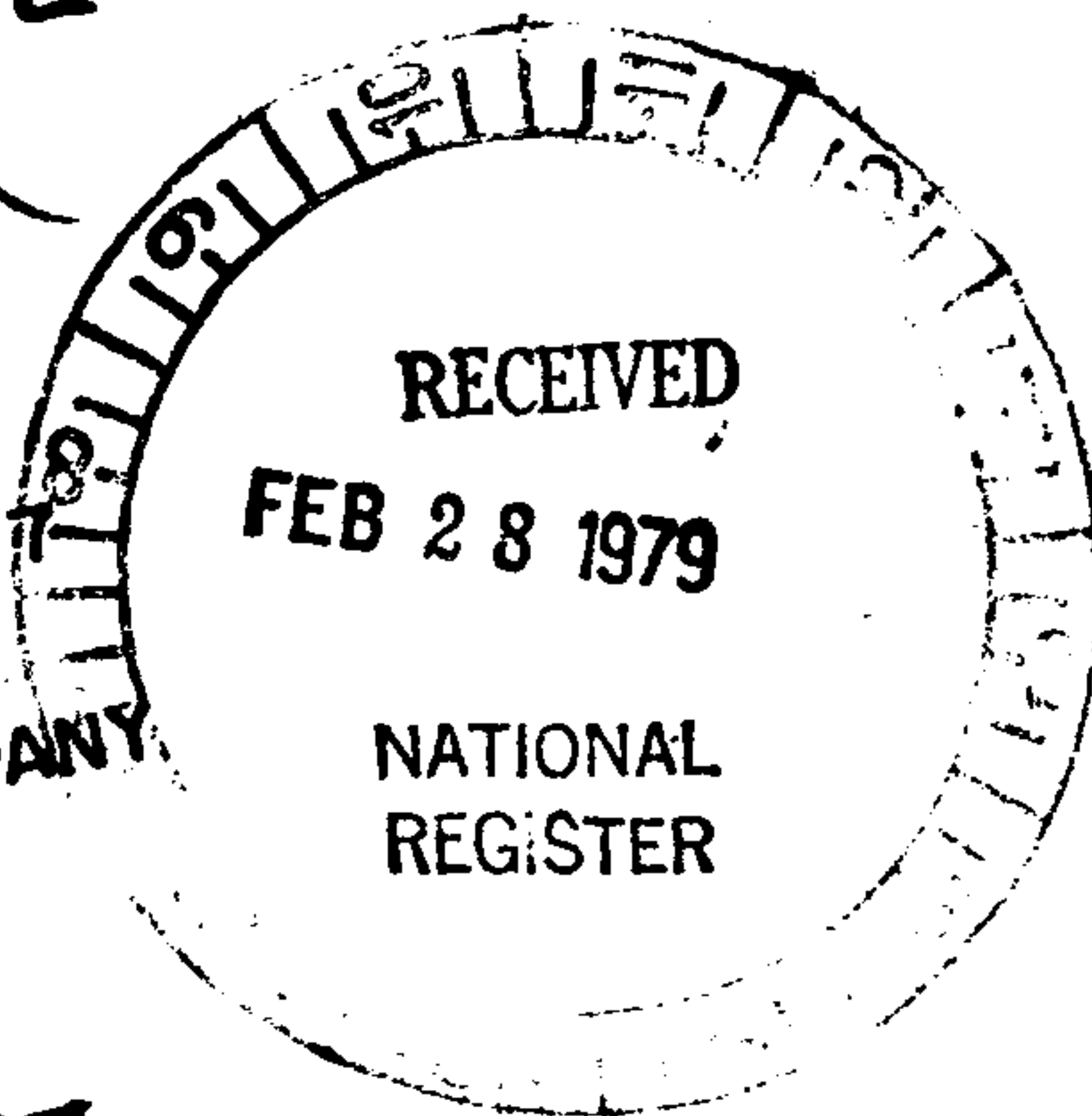
IN PRESENCE OF
 UNION DISTRICT
 WEST VIRGINIA
 JUNE 1977

SCALE: 1"=100'

MOUNTAIN STATE SURVEYING COMPANY
 KINGWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA

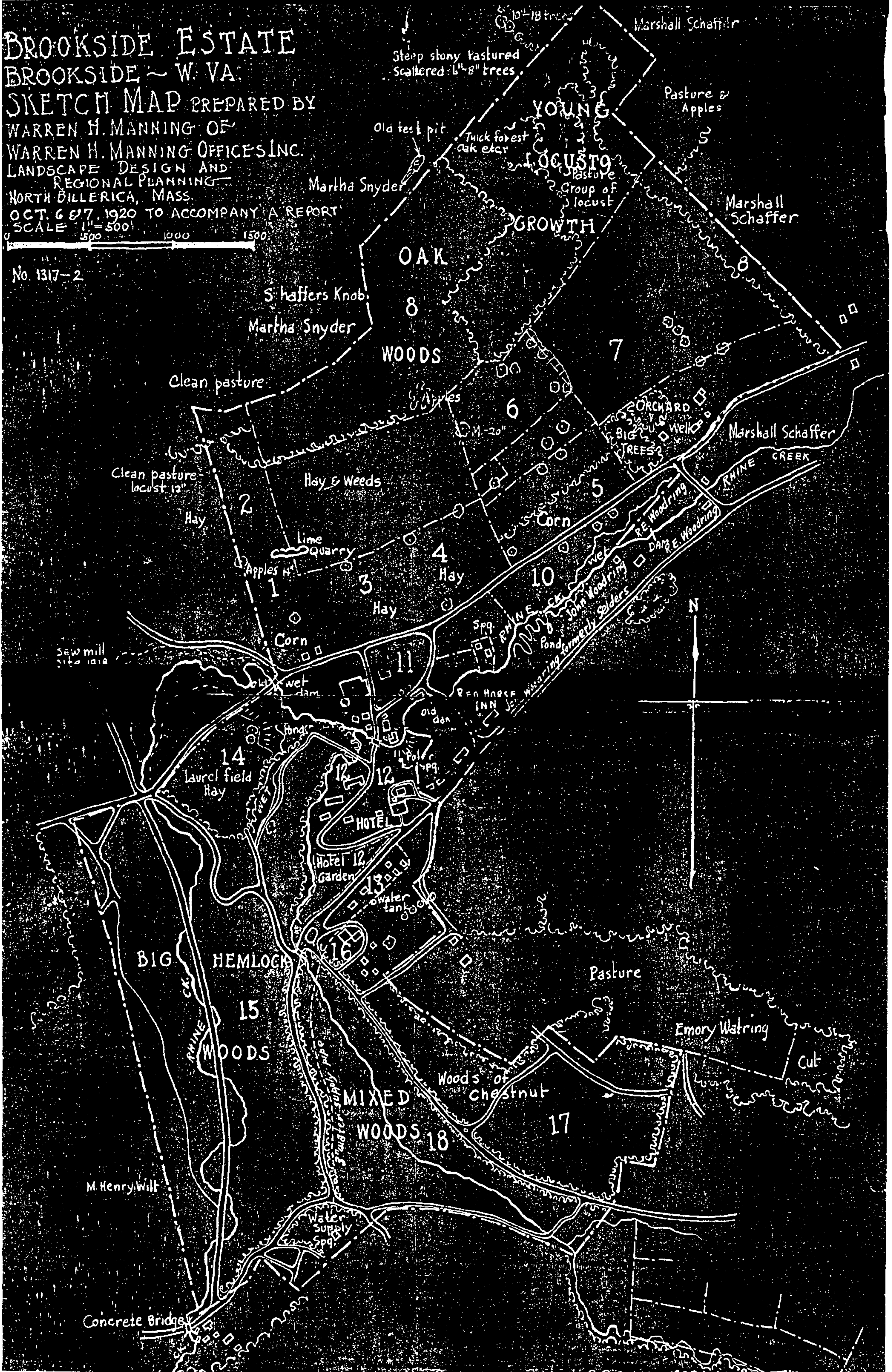
Garry L. Shores
 GARRY L. SHORES, L.L.S., No. 583
 FLORA ALTA, WEST VIRGINIA

MAP COORDINATES
 LAT. N $39^{\circ}19'34''$
 LON. W $79^{\circ}31'54''$



BROOKSIDE ESTATE
BROOKSIDE ~ W. VA.
SKETCH MAP PREPARED BY
WARREN H. MANNING OF
WARREN H. MANNING OFFICES INC.
LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND
REGIONAL PLANNING
NORTH BILLERICA, MASS.
OCT. 6 & 7, 1920 TO ACCOMPANY A REPORT
SCALE 1"=500'

No. 1317-2



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Red Horse Tavern (additional documentation)
Name of Property

Preston County, West Virginia
County and State

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Explanation of amendment:

Red Horse Tavern (Brookside Inn) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 for its local architectural significance as well as its local importance as a tavern along the Northwestern Turnpike. The nomination listed the period of significance simply as "19th century." This amendment seeks to adjust the period of significance to 1827 and 1841 to 1882.

See the attached continuation sheet for justification.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Red Horse Tavern (additional documentation)

Preston County, West Virginia

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

The 1973 nomination for Red Horse Tavern (Brookside Inn) lists the period of significance generally as “19th century.” Under Criterion C: Architecture, the period of significance should be the date of construction, 1827. For its significance as a tavern along the Northwestern Turnpike, the period of significance should reflect only the years it served in that capacity. The tavern operated as a significant local establishment from 1841 to 1882 when it was sold to Christian Selders. Thus, the period of significance for the Brookside Inn should be 1827 and 1841 to 1882.



















