Form:10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIPTION		:		1 1				
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	🔀 Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Det	eriorated	Ruins	Unexposed	
CONDITION		(Check Or	10)			(Che	ck One)	
	☐ Alter	ed	🔣 Unaltered	•		Moved	🔀 Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (II known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Piedmont, considered one of the finest early homes in Jefferson County, is a two story brick structure with attic and basement. It faces south and was constructed after 1784 as an addition connected to the west end of an earlier one story with attic stone house constructed c. 1730.

The early 17' 6" x 33' 2" portion is built of native stone that has been whitewashed many times. Its doors are of board and batten construction set in heavy solid frames. Original windows have six over six double-hung sash. A small central brick chimney protrudes from the roof at the ridge line. The present roof covering is a standing seam tin roof that undoubtedly replaced or covered an originally wood shingled roof. A porch on the south provided access to the later brick building to the west.

The late 18th Century 38' x 54' brick structure of Georgian style is brick laid on all sides in Flemish bond. The foundation walls are of native stone. A shaped brick water table occurs a foot above the first floor line around the house and the front facade has a brick belt course a foot above the second floor line. A classic wood cornice with scrolled modillions is employed at the eaves lines of the front and rear elevations.

Corresponding to the central interior hall the front facade breaks out to feature the entrance door and a one story porch. The break front is pedimented above the main eaves line with an ornamental oval window in the gable. The main entrance door of eight raised panels is surmounted by a fan light and framed with a carved architrave. To each side of the entrance a narrow window occurs comprised of six over six double-hung sash two lights wide. These are matched at the second floor level. A nine over nine double-hung window is centered over the entrance door. Four round wood columns support the classic porch cornice and its relatively flat roof.

Four low, glazed windows are found in the stone foundation wall of the basement on the front elevation. They have rubbed flat arched brick lintels laid soldier fashion, a stretcher and header high. Eight windows of nine over nine double-hung sash, four on each floor spaced symmetrically about the entrance, complete the fenestration of the front elevation. These windows have heavy solid molded frames with brick lintels similar to the basement windows described.

A gabled roof with the ridge line running east and west surmounts the house. It is presently covered with a standing seam tin roof. Brick chimneys pierce the roof at the gable ends.

On the west elevation there are four windows, two at the first floor and two at the second floor, of nine over nine double-hung sash. They are located close to the building corners and are comparable to the windows described on the front of the house. Two small attic windows are found in the gable. The roof rake has a wood cornice similar to the eaves cornices minus the modillions.

The rear elevation has a central door opening into the central hall of six raised panels with a solid wood molded frame and a flat arched rubbed brick

foffa 10-300¢ (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
West Virginia	1
COUNTY	
Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
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(Number all entries)	ſΝt	mber	all	entries)
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7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

lintel. Above it a window of nine over nine lights occurs and a smaller window of six lights is located above just under the eaves cornice. Eight windows, four at both the first and second floor levels are symmetrically placed about the center of the rear. These have nine over nine double-hung sash. A roofed over cellarway is located at the northeast corner of the building.

Two small attic windows are located in the east elevation. The gable rakes are treated similarly to those of the west elevation.

SIGNIFICANCE				
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)			
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century		20th Century	
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century		
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) 1735 (e	earliest part built)	1806 (French paper ad	ded
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Approp	riate)		
Abor iginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning	
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)	
[Historie	☐ Industry	losophy		
Agriculture	Invention	Science		
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture		
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-		
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Communications	Military	☐ Theater		
Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation		•
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE				-

Piedmont is architecturally significant because it is one of the noblest specimens of Georgian design found in West Virginia. It is worthy of historic mention for several reasons. It's most ancient portion was built in 1735 by Robert Worthington. His son, Robert Worthington, Jr., was instrumental in erecting the nearby church known both as Norborne Parish and St. George's Chapel. In 1786 Dr. John Briscoe formally bought Piedmont but had lived there for some time. The present structure was built around 1780. In 1806 Dr. Briscoe's heirs added the scenic French wall-paper we see today.

The location which Robert Worthington chose is certainly an ideal setting for Piedmont. It lies on a tree-shaded knoll by the banks of a crystal clear stream and, as in the 18th Century, is a pleasant sight for all visitors. Worthington named the home "Quarry Banks-New Style" after his home "Quarry Banks" in England. He was a devout Quaker, but his son Robert Worthington, Jr., was just as devout an Episcopalian and was responsible for the construction of the Norborne Parish. In 1760, Robert Worthington, Jr., married Margaret Edwards and the two lived at Piedmont until 1770. After their deaths, their son Thomas chose the Revolutionary soldier and Indian fighter, William Darke, as his guardian. Several years later Thomas worked for Ohio statehood and became her sixth governor.

When Robert and Margaret left "Quarry Banks," they sold the property to James Nourse. In 1780, the Nourse family turned Piedmont over to Dr. John Briscoe and he immediately built the house now under discussion. A few years later, French wallpaper was brought from Paris which depicted scenes from the Travels of Telemachus. It is a block type wallpaper composed of over 500 different blocks. This beautifully preserved paper can still be seen today.

The Briscoe family has kept Piedmont in its possession; not only has it retained this glorious old mansion but also the grandure, dignity, and hospitality that accompanied it back in the 1800's.

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	As the designated State Liaison 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								I hereby National	-	•	roperty is	included	in the
	forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National State Local Date									servation				
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Date

May 30, 1973

Keeper of The National Register



