

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Snodgrass Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC: Halfway House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: \* Route 3, West Virginia, Route 9

CITY OR TOWN: Hedgesville vicinity, 2nd Congressional District

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54 COUNTY: Berkeley CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

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"/> Comments
<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: \* Neva Fuss and Mary Fuss Gonano

STREET AND NUMBER: 121 W. Martin St., Martinsburg, W. Va.

CITY OR TOWN: Hedgesville

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Berkeley County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER: Public Square

CITY OR TOWN: Martinsburg

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Hedges, Hezekiah, Heirs Division (Rescaled)

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Berkeley County Court D. B. 136 and Page No. 78

STREET AND NUMBER: Public Square

CITY OR TOWN: Martinsburg

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

\* See letter dated June 30, 1977, from Dr. Leonard Davis to Dr. William Murtagh.

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

		(Check One)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

William Snodgrass received a Fairfax land grant of 1,000 acres in 1732, but it was not until 1740-1742 that he built the first part of the house, known for many years as Snodgrass Tavern. The front part of the house is built of log, covered with weatherboarding, the back is of sandstone; there are large twin chimneys at both ends of the house and a porch running the full length of the front. The house now contains ten rooms.

The southeast corner was built first. It was a fifteen-foot square structure, one and one half stories in height and was built of rounded oak logs.

The second part, of rounded pine logs, was built ten feet to the west, two stories high, with finished roof and gables, as a separate building. This was built possibly fifteen or more years later than the first part, as can be seen by the weather beaten plate that was not covered by the roof. The space between the two buildings was an open courtway with a roofed well. Some time later the southeast corner was raised to two stories, the courtway finished and covered. This was probably the time when the double porch with small rooms above and below were added.

The first floor west end, which is 18 x 24 feet, was used as the public room of the tavern. The second floor, containing two bedrooms, was reached by stairs leading up from the east end of this room. The large front door of the public room was a cross paneled door, strengthened by diagonal boards nailed with hand wrought nails. The iron hinges run across the entire width of the door and are riveted with hand wrought rivets. There were square port holes on either side of the door.

The last addition to the house was built of sandstone and runs the entire length of the north side of the house. This part dates to 1813. When it was added, the kitchen was moved from the southeast corner of the house to the northeast corner. This room is also fifteen-foot square, has a very large fireplace (5 feet 7 inches long by 4 feet 7 inches high, and 2 feet 3 inches deep) with a five-foot crane. The room has a flagstone floor, now covered with a board floor.

At this time the roof was changed and an attic added to cover the entire structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Sealed) National Archives Division

U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian  
 15th Century  
 16th Century  
 17th Century  
 18th Century  
 19th Century  
 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant due to these facts: the first part was built between 1740-1742, the original structure is in excellent condition; it is of architectural interest because it has twin chimneys at both ends, an unusually high attic, and a very large public room. It was frequented by figures of historical importance.

Since no definite date as to the opening of Snodgrass Tavern as a tavern is available, it is assumed that it came into being gradually. It is located on the Warm Springs road about half way between Martinsburg and Bath (now Berkeley Springs) and was also known as Halfway House. Records do not show any other stopping place between the two towns, so travelers between the two towns, no doubt, began spending the night there at a very early date.

The house is just east of Back Creek and although there was a ferry boat in use, the stream was frequently too swift for it to cross.

The tavern's most famous guest was George Washington. His first visit was made on his way west when surveying for Lord Fairfax before 1750. A later visit is recorded in his diary, as on September 5, 1784, "dispatched my wagon (with the baggage) at daylight and at 7 o'clock followed it - bated at one Snodgrasses on Back Creek and dined there." He also stopped there on later trips to Bath.

Another prominent American who visited the tavern was Henry Clay. He was, at the time, Secretary of State, and often visited friends in Berkeley County. In July of 1827, after spending a few days in Martinsburg, he spend the afternoon and night at the tavern.

Snodgrass Tavern remained in existence as a tavern until 1847. Joseph Snodgrass, the last of the Snodgrasses to own the tavern, would not allow liquor to be sold, business became lax, gatherings became small and far apart and buildings fell into decay. The tavern was first rented, then sold and has been in use as a private dwelling ever since.

There are several features of architectural interest found in the house.

Public rooms in taverns were usually small rooms, but the one here was quite large, being 18 x 24 feet.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE West Virginia	
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Twin chimneys are to be found at both ends of the house, which is unusual for this area. These are large, 32 feet tall, beautifully built chimneys, three are of sandstone and one of slate rock. The southwest one has two flues.

Another unusual feature is the very high (fifteen feet ten inches) attic where the hand hewn beams and rafters are still intact. The height of the house from ground to comb of roof is over thirty feet. When recent renovation was done, the rounded logs were also found to be in excellent condition.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Gardiner, Mabel H. and Ann. Chronicles of Old Berkeley. The Seeman Press, Durham, North Carolina. 1938.
- Fitzpatrick, John C. The Diaries of George Washington. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass. 1748-1799.
- Aler, Vernon E. Alers History of Martinsburg and Berkeley County, West Virginia, Hagerstown, Md., Mail Publishing Co., 1888.
- Evans, Willis F. History of Berkeley County, West Virginia. 1928.
- Letters of George W. Fuss to Mabel H. Gardiner, February 23, 1927 and April 20, 1927.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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°	33' 25"	78° 0' 59"
NE					
SE					
SW					
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 270			UTM # 4382640		
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: **Neva Fuss for**

ORGANIZATION: **West Virginia Antiquities Commission** DATE: **9/8/72**

STREET AND NUMBER: **WVU - Old Mountainlair**

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 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:  National,  State,  Local.

Name: **Dr. Carolyn J. Zinn**

Title: **State Liaison Officer**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

ATTEST:

**Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**Keeper of The National Register**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

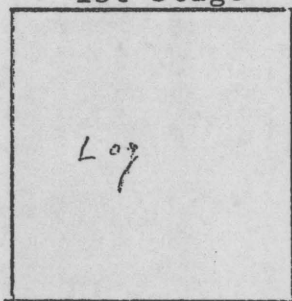
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SCALE 1" = 10'

STAGES OF TAVERN'S CONSTRUCTION  
DIAGRAMS SHOW FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION

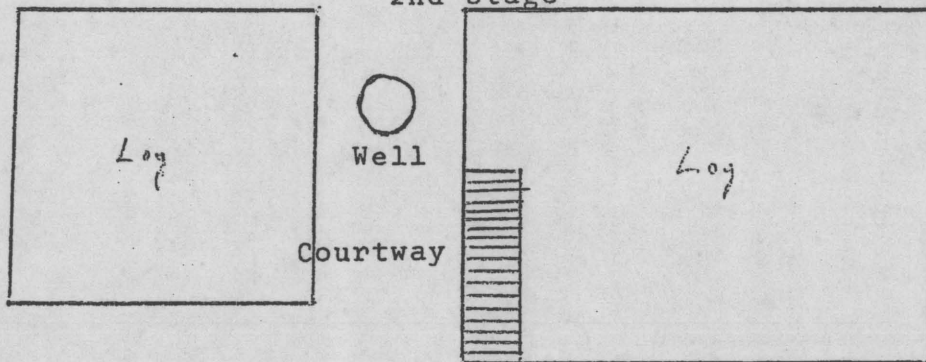
FRONT

1st Stage



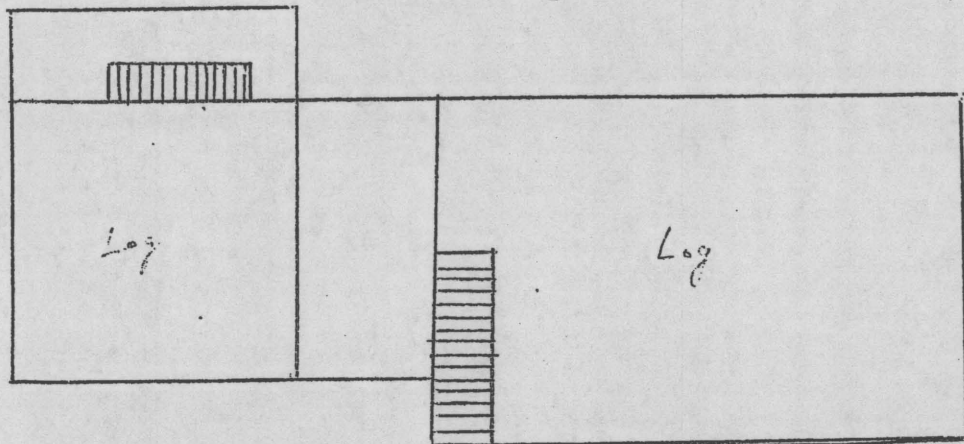
FRONT

2nd Stage



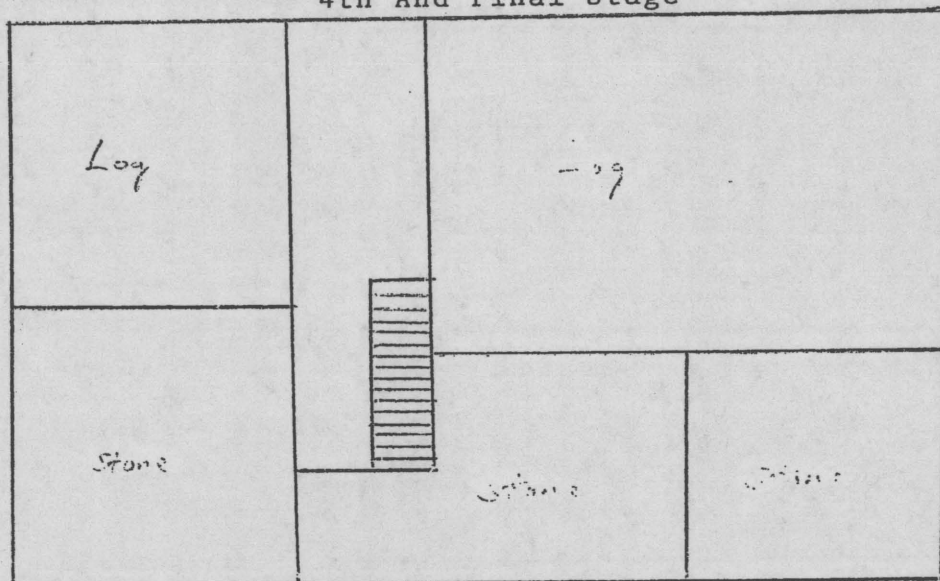
FRONT

3rd Stage



FRONT

4th And Final Stage





30  
4385  
4384  
4383  
4382  
7 MI.

SNODGRAS TAVERN

HEDGESVILLE 0.4 MI. (HEDGESVILLE)  
MARTINSBURG 7.9 MI. 5463 III SW

17 756320 4382640

BIG POOL,  
W.VA. - MD  
7.5' QUAD  
1958

32'30"

