

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and/or common South Branch Valley Multiple Resource Area (based on a partial survey)

2. Location

street & number Area drained by the South Branch of the Potomac River not for publication

city, town vicinity of

state West Virginia code county All of Pendleton and parts of Grant, Hardy and Hampshire Counties code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MRA	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners (see individual survey forms)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. See individual survey forms

street & number

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Region VIII Planning and Development
title Council Historic Preservation Project has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981-1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records West Virginia Dept. of Culture and History

city, town Charleston state West Virginia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Summary Description

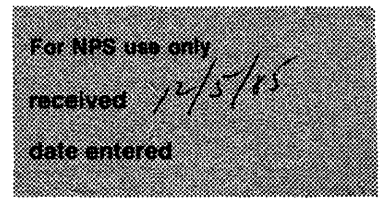
This Multiple Resource Area nomination is based on a partial survey of the South Branch Valley of the Potomac River in West Virginia. The Valley extends in a southwesterly direction from the point where the south and north branches of the Potomac River join, approximately 15 miles east of Cumberland, Maryland. The area is large, consisting of a long, narrow valley defined by dividing ridges of the Allegheny Mountains on the west and the Shenandoah Mountains on the east. The area drained by the South Branch includes all of Pendleton County and parts of Grant, Hardy and Hampshire Counties. The Valley itself is not easily identified because it is subdivided by multiple ridges which parallel the river and its major tributaries. Prominent towns in the Valley are Franklin, Petersburg, Moorefield and Romney, seats respectively of the above named counties. The Valley is predominately agricultural, notable for its prosperous farms. Other important industries are lumber and recreation for the superb hunting and fishing as well as skiing and the scenic qualities of the area. Pendleton County, the southernmost and highest part of the area drained by the South Branch is mostly forested and contains two large national recreation areas as well as Spruce Knob which is the highest point in West Virginia. The Valley was initially settled during the mid 18th century with interruption caused by hostilities during the French and Indian war. Major settlement and development occurred during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. There was also a substantial economic boom in the mid 19th century and again in the 1890-1910 period as evidenced by the extensive architectural legacy from those times.

Additional Information

Survey Methods: This Multiple Resource Area nomination is based on a partial inventory of the South Branch Valley conducted by Nan Stevens, Planner, with West Virginia's Region VIII Planning and Development Council, for the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. The survey which was conducted between 1981 and 1983 yielded approximately 75 sites most of which were concentrated in the towns of Franklin and Moorefield. The survey was related to major transportation corridors, principally US Route 220, the main north-south highway through the Valley, which approximately parallels the River. The West Virginia Department of Culture and History, through the Region VIII Planning and Development Council began in the late summer of 1984 a survey of Romney and are planning to conduct additional survey work as staff time and budget considerations allow. In preparing this Multiple Resource Area nomination, the consultant, Preservation Associates, Inc. has consolidated the existing survey information and expanded upon the survey work done in Franklin and Moorefield to create the proposed National Register Historic Districts in those towns. Since this nomination is based on a partial survey, it is anticipated that additional resources will be submitted

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

as the survey becomes complete. A Multiple Resource Area nomination based on a partial survey is being submitted now because the survey of the South Branch Valley is necessarily a long-term project and the high quality of the historic/architectural resources makes it imperative that they receive the protection and recognition of National Register listing as soon as possible.

Index of Sites: The following sites are included in the current submission for the South Branch Valley Multiple Resource Area nomination:

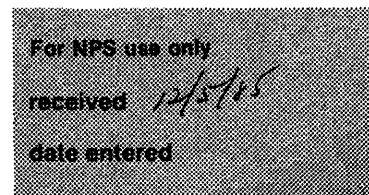
- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Franklin Historic District | Pendleton County |
| 2. Moorefield Historic District | Hardy County |
| 3. Old Propst Church | Pendleton County |
| 4. Hevener House | Pendleton County |
| 5. Bowers House | Pendleton County |
| 6. Harper Store | Pendleton County |
| 7. McCoy House | Pendleton County |
| 8. Hevener House | Pendleton County |
| 9. Pendleton Co. Poor Farm | Pendleton County |
| 10. Buena Vista Farm | Hardy County |
| 11. Hermitage Inn | Grant County |
| 12. P.W. Inskeep House | Hardy County |
| 13. Hickory Hill | Hardy County |
| 14. Westfall Farmstead | Hardy County |
| 15. Wilson-Kuykendall Farmstead | Hardy County |
| 16. The Meadows | Hardy County |
| 17. Oakland Hall | Hardy County |

The following resources located within the boundaries of the South Branch Valley Multiple Resource Area have already been listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places. This list does not include individual National Register sites within the Franklin or Moorefield Historic Districts, as those sites are identified in the historic district nominations for those towns.

1. Ingleside - Hardy County
2. Noah Snyder Farm - Grant County
3. Old Grant County Courthouse - Grant County
4. The Willows - Hardy County
5. Mill Island - Hardy County
6. Willow Wall - Hardy County
7. Ft. Pleasant - Hardy County
8. Judge Allen House - Hardy County
9. Old Judy Church - Pendleton County

NB. #s 1 & 2 above are the same property - Ingleside is a secondary name.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

The following sites within the South Branch Valley Multiple Resource Area have been determined eligible for the National Register by the National Park Service according to E.O. 11593. The request for the DOE was submitted by the Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration in 1983. They are included in this nomination.

1. Onego Historic District - Pendleton County
2. Dolly House - Pendleton County
3. Sites Homestead - Pendleton County
4. William Boggs House - Pendleton County
5. William Hevener House - Pendleton County
6. Grant County Poor House - Grant County
7. Welton Farm - Grant County
8. Will Fisher Farm - Hardy County
9. John Inskeep House - Hardy County
10. Abraham Inskeep House - Hardy County

General Description of Resources: The South Branch Valley was initially settled during the mid 18th century. John Van Meter a trader from New York is believed to have been the first white settler in the Valley establishing a claim near Old Fields in 1736 or 37. The name Old Fields was given to the cleared area described as Indians' old fields. The settlers who were the first in the Valley were an ethnic mix of Germans from Pennsylvania, Scotch-Irish, also from Pennsylvania and English from tidewater, Virginia. During the French and Indian War, the area was open to attack by the Indians who largely destroyed the fledgling settlements. In the 1750's a number of small private stockade forts were established in the Valley, to which the settlers went for protection in the event of attack. Forts were located at Old Fields (Ft. Pleasant) and the present site of Moorefield. Others were Fort Bingaman and Fort Seybert. None of these remains today, although the exact locations of some of these forts are known.

The housing of this early settlement period was essentially "temporary" in nature. Small wooden buildings, generally of log construction were built with the intention of subsequent replacement with larger more substantial buildings when time and resources allowed. Few, if any of these settlement period buildings remain, although some may be concealed within larger, newer structures.

Generally, the remaining earliest buildings in the South Branch Valley date from the third quarter of the 18th century. Most of these buildings are vernacular, traditional structures, built of logs and covered with siding. Several examples show influence of Germanic building traditions. Some of the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 12/15/85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 4

more elaborate buildings are large brick structures exhibiting influence of the Georgian and Federal Styles. These buildings while a significant group are the least typical within the Valley, because fewer of these buildings have survived and because the population in the 18th century was small.

During the mid 19th century, the 1840s through the 1860s, the Valley experienced a period of extensive construction and prosperity. The prosperity is associated with the general economic conditions of the 1840s and 50s in the United States and with the agricultural wealth of the South Branch Valley which has always been its main economic foundation. Numerous rural and town buildings remain in the Valley from this period. Most show evidence of the Greek Revival Style in their door and window trim and interior details. The temple form generally associated with Greek Revival architecture was not extensively used in the Valley except for a very few churches. More typical of the South Branch Valley were brick houses with symmetrical facades, hipped or gabled roofs and with trabeated entrances. Porches are flat roofed and supported with Greek-inspired columns.

Another major period of construction occurred during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These buildings are concentrated mostly in towns and are of brick or balloon frame construction. The Queen Anne was the preferred building style of this period and typical features of the style were used, including round or polygonal towers, decorative shingles and textured brick work. Also found but not as frequently as the Queen Anne style, is the Italianate style used primarily in commercial buildings and a few heavily bracketed houses. There is also exhibited a turn of the century period commercial vernacular type found in the towns which includes typical late 19th century motifs such as brackets, corniced storefronts and parapeted roof lines. Other features of the period in larger commercial buildings are Renaissance Revival characteristics such as multiple round arched windows and neoclassical decoration.

The period of architectural significance of the South Branch Valley ends about 1920, there being few exemplary buildings after that date.

Building uses: The South Branch Valley is primarily an agricultural area. Therefore, agricultural uses predominate among the buildings found in the Valley. Most of the structures located outside of the towns are farmsteads that include a house and typical domestic out buildings such as smoke houses and out kitchens, and large bank barns, generally of frame construction. Some of the older barns are built of log. The prosperous farms are located on the valley floor near the river where the soil is rich. Smaller subsistence farms are located among the ridges and feature modest log or frame houses and small out buildings.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 12/1/85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5

In the towns, buildings are generally residential. The towns have commercial centers which have been linked historically with community business. The older commercial buildings are banks, hotels and small shops. Civic buildings are concentrated in the county seats of Franklin, Petersburg, Moorefield and Romney. Courthouses are set off in a block and are removed from the commercial center of these towns. Small crossroads communities are scattered through the area as well. Generally they contain a few vernacular houses, a small general store, a church and perhaps a mill.

Historic industrial buildings are for the most part grist mills which were established in the 18th and 19th centuries to process grain produced by the Valley's many farms. The mills used water power from the fast moving streams in the Valley.

The South Branch Valley did not have railroad service until after 1909 when the Hampshire Southern Railroad began construction of a line from the B & O at Romney to Petersburg.

8. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		
Specific dates	c. 1775-1920	Builder/Architect	N/A	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Meets Criteria A, B, C

Summary Statement of Significance

The South Branch Valley is significant under Criteria A for its historical association with the settlement of the frontier area of Virginia and as an important agricultural area caught between North and South in the Civil War. Under criteria B, it is important for its association with several people important in regional or national history; and under Criteria C as the best collection of mid 19th century architecture in West Virginia.

General Statement of Significance

Historically, the South Branch Valley has been known and revered for its rich agricultural potential. It lured settlers in the 18th century and continued to be an attractive agricultural area through the 19th century. It remains an important agricultural area today. With the establishment of early permanent settlements, the Valley became a defensive outpost during the French and Indian War and is significant historically for its role as a buffer between the French controlled lands to the west and the British held territory to the east. As a result, the settlers were heavily victimized by the Indians in the 1750's and 60's. When the area regained its population and grew to become a prosperous farming center in the mid 19th century, it was again a buffer between Confederate and Union forces in the Civil War. In 1862 when West Virginia divided from Virginia to become a Union state, the South Branch Valley became part of the new state. The allegiance of the South Branch Valley to West Virginia was artificial since a majority of the residents were actually Confederate sympathizers. The presence of the Union Army in the eastern portions of what is now West Virginia resulted in that portion of the state breaking off from Virginia. The strong Confederate sympathy in the South Branch Valley is illustrated by the McNeill family who resided at Willow Wall (individually listed in the National Register) south of Old Fields. Early in the war, Capt. John Hanson McNeill organized "McNeill's Rangers," a group which harrassed Federal Troops in western Virginia and West Virginia.

The South Branch Valley of West Virginia is a geographical entity that has long been considered as such by its residents and other observers alike. Located near the eastern edge of West Virginia, it is notable for its

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 12/15/85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

outstanding concentration of regional forms of architecture representing several styles of the late 18th and 19th centuries. The large number of mid 19th century buildings in the Valley, both farm and town structures, sets the South Branch Valley apart architecturally from the rest of West Virginia. The South Branch Valley contains the best concentrated collection of mid 19th century Greek Revival construction in the state. Architecturally, West Virginia generally contains concentrations of late 19th century frame and brick architecture with the Queen Anne Style being considered typical, statewide. The oldest architecture in the state is found in the eastern sections. The collection of Greek Revival, mid 19th century architecture found in the South Branch Valley is the largest concentration of such buildings in the state. Further to the east in Berkeley and Jefferson counties the general architectural make-up is older, representing the late 18th and early 19th centuries. While the South Branch Valley has important buildings from this early period, its greatest architectural expression is its Greek Revival style construction.

Within the entity of the South Branch Valley, three periods of significance are identified and are represented in the Valley's architecture. While on the statewide level, the mid 19th century architecture is most significant, within the Valley itself, the three periods are significant. Eighteenth and early 19th century construction is important by virtue of the fact that it is the oldest remaining representation of the Valley's built environment. The large numbers of Queen Anne style and other expressions of the late 19th and early 20th centuries while not unusual statewide, represent an important time of prosperity and construction within the Valley.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Pre-Contact Period

The first inhabitants of the South Branch Valley were, of course, native Americans. The most substantial presence was that of the Shawnees who did some planting in the natural clearings in the bottom lands along the river. A relatively large settlement existed a few miles north of the present site of Moorefield. This settlement area is know as Old Fields. While the Shawnees appear to have actually lived in the South Branch Valley, other groups used the Valley as a trade route, hunting ground and battleground. The area was claimed by the Iroquois or Six Nations, of whom the Shawnees were a part and by their enemies the Catawbas. At the site of Moorefield was the intersection of two Indian trails. One, known as The Shawnee Trail, paralleled the South Branch and is approximated today by US Route 220. While the impact of the Native Americans on the South Branch Valley was significant, it should be noted that the Indian population of the Six Nations never exceeded 25,000 and the Catawbas 8,000.¹ However, Samuel Kercheval, who wrote A History of the Valley of Virginia (1833, 1902) in the 19th century said that more Indian relics were found along the South Branch and

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 12/15/85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

Shenandoah Rivers than anywhere else in that general area.² Although there have been reports of numerous archeological finds in the South Branch Valley, there has been no comprehensive or scholarly survey.

Contact Period

Although while trappers and traders may have passed through the South Branch Valley before 1735, the first person of European background to have impact on the Valley is generally believed to be Isaac Van Meter. He was of Dutch ancestry from New York and was introduced to the South Branch Valley while accompanying Shawnees on a hunting trip. Shortly afterward, he and his son John settled in the South Branch Valley. About the same time several other families settled there. With surnames of Coburn, Howard, Walker and Rutledge, they were Scots-Irish who migrated to the Valley from Pennsylvania.

Initially, the relation between the native population and the newcomers was friendly, if not cordial. The experience of both the Shawnees and the Scots-Irish with the Quaker government in Pennsylvania had paved the way for good relations by requiring that the Indians receive fair compensation for their land. Additionally, the early contact between the whites and Indians was symbiotic, based on hunting and trading.

As settlement progressed, relations of the Anglo-Europeans and the native Americans deteriorated due to failure of settlers to pay for their land. Vagueness as to who owned the land was a factor in the breakdown of the transaction process organized by William Penn as the same territory was claimed by several tribes as well as several British and French colonies. The Scots-Irish, known for their independence, were not inclined to pay for unoccupied land anyway. As more families established permanent farms in the Indians' hunting territory in the South Branch Valley, friction increased.

Settlement Period

As with much of the settlement in central and western Maryland, northern and western Virginia and eastern West Virginia, the great majority of settlers came from Pennsylvania and were of Scots-Irish or German descent. The origins of the early residents of the South Branch Valley are clearly documented in land records, church records and local traditions. Settlement occurred through migration along the valleys which run in a northeast-southwest direction. Settlement followed the valleys where land for farming and townsites and roads was preferable.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 12/15/01
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 4

Much of the South Branch Valley at the time of its initial settlement was claimed by Thomas Lord Fairfax of Virginia. He eventually became the sole proprietor of a large area of land bounded by the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers granted to him and others by King Charles. In order to secure the title to his lands, Fairfax initiated a survey, known as the Fairfax Survey which was begun in 1746. Among the party of surveyors working on the Fairfax land was George Washington, then 16 years old. His diary records some of his impressions of the South Branch Valley and its people.

A particular part of the Fairfax land was called South Branch Manor which contained about 55,000 acres. According to George Washington's diary, there were many pioneers already living on the land at the time of the survey. They had no legal claim to the land. According to Washington, part of the surveyors' job was to lay off lots for tenants on the manor, most of whom were Scots-Irish. Washington also described in rather desparaging terms of the Germans who lived nearby. Notably absent in his description were the Anglican English who were not significantly represented among the early settlers. The settlement pattern resulted largely from the topography of the area which encouraged migration from southern and central Pennsylvania were Scots-Irish and Germans who came there as a result of Penn's aggressive promotion of his colony in Europe and northern Ireland. The Anglican English who made up the majority of the population in Tidewater Virginia and Maryland were separated from the South Branch Valley (as well as other areas of Western Maryland and Virginia) by multiple parallel mountain ridges. While there were roads leading across the mountains, the mountain barrier discouraged substantial migration from Tidewater areas. Tidewater influence tended to be in the form of absentee ownership of land which was subdivided into farms and sold to Germans and Scots-Irish, as was done by Lord Fairfax.

Initial settlement in the South Branch Valley occurred about the same time as the eastern Panhandle of West Virginia (Berkely, Jefferson and Morgan Counties). Romney, in the South Branch Valley and Shepherdstown, in Jefferson County were incorporated on the same day, December 23, 1762. Both at that time were already established settlements.

The oldest incorporated town in the South Branch Valley is Romney followed by Moorefield, Petersburg and Franklin. Except for Franklin, they were settled in the middle third of the 18th century. Franklin is unusual in the South Branch Valley because it was laid out in orderly fashion when Pendleton County was established with the purpose of being the County Seat. The others were established and then incorporated and made into County Seats after they were viable, thriving towns.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 12/5/85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 5

These larger towns were created because their locations were conducive to settlement. Moorefield was located at a crossroads and there was a colonial fort nearby. When Moorefield was established in 1777, it was a condition of the sale of lots that purchasers must build a dwelling at least 18 feet square with brick or stone chimneys within two years.³ Petersburg was located near the site of James Coburn's Mill around which there was a settlement in the 1740's. Thomas Lewis, one of the surveyors working with the Fairfax land in 1746 referenced in his journal that their surveying party was near Coburn's house and that he was entertained there, mentioning Coburn's wife, the Miller and "a jolly servant girl."⁴ In the 19th century, Petersburg had harnessmakers, tanners, shoemakers, wagon makers, a teacher, a physician, a tailor, a carpenter, a cabinet maker, a blacksmith, a merchant, a hotel, a surveyor, a miller, a hatter, and a woolen mill.⁵ These occupations were typical of the Valley and similar groupings would have been found in the other larger towns. For example, in Franklin in 1834 there were two stores, two tanyards, three saddlers, two carpenters, two shoemakers, two blacksmiths, one gunsmith, one tailor, one hatmaker, and one cabinetmaker who also made chairs.⁶

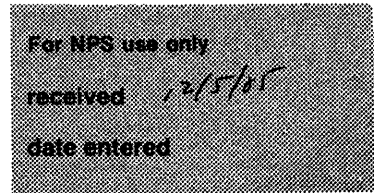
Other villages in the South Branch Valley have never become larger than localized settlements. The oldest in the Valley is Old Fields which was settled in the 1730's. It was an established clearing, having been a camp site for Shawnees. During the French and Indian War a colonial fort, Ft. Pleasant was constructed at Old Fields.

Most necessities of the residents of the South Branch Valley were available locally although processing of raw materials had to be done. Towns grew around processing establishments such as grist mills, tanneries and iron furnaces, which themselves were located where good roads were accessible and water power was available.

Politics

West Virginia became a state in 1863 dividing itself from Virginia which had joined the Confederacy. The population of the South Branch Valley like other areas of the eastern part of the new state was divided on many issues resulting in the conflict between North and South in the 1860's. The first half of the 19th century was a time of political turmoil in the South Branch Valley. Western Virginia as a whole felt under represented in the State Capitol in Richmond, and that the rugged mountainous parts of the State were not having their needs met by the eastern, planter-dominated State Government. However, feelings toward Richmond's policies were ambivalent in the South Branch Valley which contained prime agricultural land. Other areas

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 6

of conflict were in attitudes fostered by the religious backgrounds of the people who lived in the South Branch Valley. The majority of original settlers were Scots-Irish Calvinists whose philosophy of salvation by faith alone (as opposed to the philosophy of salvation by faith and good works) encouraged independence and lack of tolerance for government and authority. During colonial times, there were conflicting claims to South Branch Valley and other frontier areas and colonists simply did not know which colony's jurisdiction they were in. Consequently it was easy to ignore all colonial governments. The other major population group, The Pennsylvania Germans tended to remain loyal to their own small microcosmic groups. The Virginia planter culture from the Tidewater areas had little impact on the South Branch Valley until well into the 19th century.

The evolution of counties in the South Branch Valley followed a typical pattern of breaking off one from another as population grew. In 1735, when the first settlers were arriving in the Valley, the area was considered as part of Orange County which had been created that year from Spotsylvania County. In 1738, Frederick and Augusta Counties were formed from the western portion of Orange County. In 1753 Hampshire County was formed. Hardy County was formed from part of Hampshire in 1786, and Grant County from Hardy in 1866. Pendleton County was established in 1788.

Agriculture/Economy

Since the Shawnees cleared fields along the South Branch for occasional crops, presumably of corn and tobacco, the Valley has been an agricultural area. The settlers who began to arrive in the 1730's soon discovered the productivity of the rich bottom land along the river. General farming became a principal industry in the South Branch Valley with grain crops and meat animals predominatng. Farms were relatively small, with land records documenting that most contained fewer than 500 acres. Only a few land owners had larger tracts.

In th 18th and early 19th centuries most necessities were produced locally although there was export of agricultural products. Among these exported items were deer skins, maple sugar, whiskey, ginsing and cured meat.⁷ Most goods were exported down the South Branch and on down the Potomac by flat boats. In 1827 a turnpike was authorized from Winchester to Romney and Moorefield. Throughout the 19th century, roads improved allowing for overland transportation of goods. Freight wagons however, never matched the speed by which the flat boats could travel on the river when conditions were right.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

12/5/85

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 7

Other exported goods included iron and tanned hides. Logging and lumbering was another important industry. Dairying while prominent, was localized until refrigerated transportation became available. In 1928, however, a rail car of milk was transported to Philadelphia daily.⁸

Although most necessary goods could be produced locally, luxury items were transported in. Such imports would have included glassware, china, silver, fabrics, wallpapers and clocks.

Slavery never dominated the economy of the South Branch Valley, but it did have an impact. In the 1790 census for Hardy County, the population included 3,364 whites and 369 slaves or slightly more than 10%. There were also 411 free non-whites (a category not limited to blacks and probably also included some Indians who had taken up permanent residence). By 1861, Hardy County had the sixth largest number of slaves among West Virginia counties, or 1,073.⁹ The substantial number of slaves contributed to conflict in the Valley in the mid 19th century, since West Virginia was created as a Union State.

Population Immigration

The composition of the population in the South Branch Valley has remained stable. Many names found in 18th century records remain typical in the Valley today. Essentially, the population today is made up of descendants of the early settlers, in particular the Pennsylvania Germans who tended to settle in an area and remain there.

Education

One of the first public schools was that at Old Fields, established in 1869. Prior to that time, schools in the Valley were private, taught by educated gentlemen, many of whom were ministers. In 1776, a Dr. William Geinitz, a landowner who had studied at Oxford taught near Petersburg. Dr. Moses Hoge, a Presbyterian minister taught school in Moorefield between 1782 and 1787. Moorefield had several other schools, including Seymour Academy established in 1832, Hardy County High School, begun the same year by H.L. Hoover, Potomac Seminary, 1846; South Branch Acedemical Institute, 1851; and Moorefield female Seminary begun in the 1870's.¹⁰

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

12/5/85

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 8

Footnotes

¹ Commander Alvin Edward Moore. History of Hardy County of the Border Land. Parsons WV: McClain Printing Co. (1963) p.6

² Ibid

³ Ibid. p.9.

⁴ Elsie Byrd Boggs. A History of Franklin. McClure Printing Co. Staunton, Va. 1960, p.11.

⁵ E.L. Judy, History of Grant and Hardy Counties, WV., Petersburg, W.V.: E.L. Judy, 1951, p.4.

⁶ Elsie Byrd Boggs. A History of Franklin. Staunton, Va; McClure Printing Co., 1960. p.27.

⁷ Oren F. Morton, op sit p.31.

⁸ Commander Alvin Edward Moore, op sit. p. 159.

⁹ Ibid. p. 79

¹⁰ E.L. Judy, op sit. p.23.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 12/5/85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

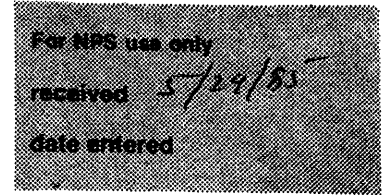
Moore, Commander Alvin Edward. History of Hardy County of the
Border Land. Parsons WV: McClain Printing Co., 1963

Morrison, Charles, Wappatomaka, Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co. 1971.

Washington, George. Diary

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Item number Page 1 of 2

15-13-2
15-13-2
7
15-13-2
7

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name South Branch Valley Multiple Resource Area
State Grant County, WEST VIRGINIA

Cover form accept cover Patrick Andrus
1/14/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Franklin Historic District | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrus</u> 1/15/86 |
| | Attest | |
| 2. Moorefield Historic District | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrus</u> 1/15/86 |
| | Attest | |
| 3. Bowers House | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrus</u> 7/10/85 |
| | Attest | |
| 4. Buena Vista Farms | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrus</u> 7/10/85 |
| | Attest | |
| 5. Cunningham-Hevener House | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrus</u> 7/10/85 |
| | Attest | |
| 6. Hermitage Motor Inn | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrus</u> 1/14/86 |
| | Attest | |
| 7. Hickory Hill | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrus</u> 7/10/85 |
| | Attest | |
| 8. Inskeep, P.W., House | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrus</u> 7/10/85 |
| | Attest | |
| 9. McCoy Mill | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrus</u> 1/14/86 |
| | Attest | |
| 10. Meadows, The | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrus</u> 1/14/86 |
| | Attest | |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name South Branch Valley Multiple Resource Area
State Grant County, WEST VIRGINIA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Oakland Hall

Substantive Review Keeper

Patrick Andrews 7/10/85

Attest

12. Old Propst Church

Substantive Review Keeper

Patrick Andrews 1/14/86

Attest

13. Pendleton County Poor
Farm

Substantive Review Keeper

Patrick Andrews 1/14/86

Attest

14. Westfall Place

Substantive Review Keeper

Patrick Andrews 7/10/85

Attest

15. Wilson-Kuykendall Farm

Substantive Review Keeper

Patrick Andrews 7/10/85

Attest

16.

Keeper

Attest

17.

Keeper

Attest

18.

Keeper

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest