**Location:**

- **Street and Number:** 746 Myrtle Road
- **City or Town:** Charleston
- **State:** West Virginia
- **Code:** 54
- **County:** Kanawha
- **Code:** 039

**Classification:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Accessible to the Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Owner of Property:**

- **Owner's Name:** Sunrise Foundation, Inc.
- **Street and Number:** 746 Myrtle Road
- **City or Town:** Charleston
- **State:** West Virginia
- **Code:** 54

**Location of Legal Description:**

- **Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.:** Kanawha County Courthouse
- **Street and Number:** 400 Virginia Street
- **City or Town:** Charleston
- **State:** West Virginia
- **Code:** 54

**Representation in Existing Surveys:**

- **Title of Survey:**
- **Date of Survey:**
- **Depository for Survey Records:**
- **Street and Number:**
- **City or Town:**
- **State:**
- **Code:**

---

**Notes:**

- **Owner's Name:** Sunrise Foundation, Inc.
- **Street and Number:** 746 Myrtle Road
- **City or Town:** Charleston
- **State:** West Virginia
- **Code:** 54
- **County:** Kanawha
- **Code:** 039
Sunrise is a long, three-story stone mansion. Its gabled roof is dotted with dormers and chimneys and surmounts an intricate, but wide, cornice which gives the illusion that the house is smaller than it actually is. The Georgian structure rests on a bluff overlooking the Kanawha River, and from the northern portico one can see nearly the entire city of Charleston. On this northern side are four magnificent Doric, or neo-classic, columns which support the cornice and ashlar-finished pediment. In the center of the pediment is a six-sectioned lunette; a small second story wrought iron balcony is on each side of the frontispiece.

At first glance, the southern exposure appears similar to the northern one, but there are several important differences. The windows toward the north are symmetrically placed around the frontispiece while those to the south are not; an unmatched, large second story window with sidelights and an overlight rests in the western side of the southern portico. Of still greater difference are the types of stones used to comprise the south facade. These were collected by Governor MacCorkle while on his travels through the United States. Each has been carefully cut to fit into the building, and each is engraved to show its origin.
Sunrise, a thirty-six room mansion surrounded by fifteen acres, was built in 1905 by West Virginia's ninth governor, William A. MacCorkle (1857-1930). Its architecture is somewhat significant because of the unusual collection of stones used in its construction; considering the public prominence of its builder and many of its guests, Sunrise is also politically significant.

The Virginia-born MacCorkle graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1879, and he immediately began to practice law in Charleston. Gaining political prominence, he was elected governor of West Virginia in 1892 at the age of thirty-five, the youngest chief executive in the state's history. A few years after his term expired he built his beautiful home overlooking the Kanawha River and metropolitan Charleston. MacCorkle did not simply retire behind Sunrise's unusual facade, however, for he served a term in the State Senate and wrote several books.

Just as those who visit the mansion today are impressed by the beauty of the building, so must have been those who visited Sunrise in the early 1900's when it was the showplace of the entire Kanawha Valley. Among the most notable visitors were Adlai Stevenson, Vice President under Grover Cleveland; Josephus Daniels, Secretary of War during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson; James L. Corbett of fisticuffs fame; Al C. Fields, noted minstrel of his day; William Jennings Bryan, prominent political figure, advocate of free silver, and special prosecutor in the Scopes trial; John Philip Sousa, world renowned composer-bandmaster; "Billy" Sunday, the great evangelist; and Evangeline Booth, national commander of the Salvation Army.

When he built his mansion, Governor MacCorkle incorporated in its construction stones he had collected throughout the United States, each carefully cut and engraved to show its origin. The interior of Sunrise is not to be outdone by the exterior. For example, the paneled livingroom is two stories in height and holds a very unusual fireplace, most of its seventy-five stones having come from places as widespread as London, Egypt, China, Rome and Versailles.

In 1961 Sunrise Foundation, Inc., was formed for the purpose of purchasing the mansion and grounds. The plans were successful, and as a result, the Sunrise of today is one of the most frequented attractions of the Kanawha Valley.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Smith, I.N. "Sunrise." Travel West Virginia, II (Summer 1963), 11.
Yago, John W. "The Second Sunrise." Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette-Mail, Mar. 15, 1959, p. 4C.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>0° 0′ 0″</td>
<td>0° 0′ 0″</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>0° 0′ 0″</td>
<td>0° 0′ 0″</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>0° 0′ 0″</td>
<td>0° 0′ 0″</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY
OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38° 20′ 44.1″</td>
<td>81° 38′ 28.8″</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 Acre

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: Ted McGee, Field Agent
ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University
CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown
STATE: West Virginia
CODE: 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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. Leonard M. Davis
TITLE: State Historic Preservation Officer
DATE: February 22, 1974

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

__________________________________________
Director, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

DATE: ____________________________
ATTEST: ____________________________

__________________________________________
Keeper of The National Register

DATE: ____________________________
**Property Map Form**

**Common Name:** Sunrise MacCorkle Mansion

**Street and Number:** 745 Myrtle Road

**City or Town:** Charleston

**State:** West Virginia

**County:** Kanawha

**Entry Number:** 039

**Source:** United States Geological Survey

**Scale:** 1:24,000

**Date:** 1976

**Code:** 039

**Requirements:**
1. Property boundaries where required.
3. Date.

**Location:**

**Source:** United States Geological Survey

**Scale:** 1:24,000

**Date:** July 1969

**Reference:** Kanawha County - Kanawha Co.

**State:** West Virginia

**County:** Kanawha

**City:** Charleston

**Street:** 745 Myrtle Road

**Number:** 3456

**Property:** Sunrise MacCorkle Mansion