

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Kanawha
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Sunrise

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
MacCorkle Mansion

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
746 Myrtle Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charleston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Third

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

COUNTY:  
Kanawha

CODE:  
039

**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	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 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"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Sunrise Foundation, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
746 Myrtle Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charleston

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

**5. 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

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: West Virginia

COUNTY: Kanawha

ENTRY NUMBER:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

7. 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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1905 (Built)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ambler, Charles H. and Festus P. Summers. West Virginia: the Mountain State. 2nd. Ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1958. (p. 286)  
 Conley, Phil and Boyd B. Stutler. West Virginia Yesterday and Today. 3rd. ed. Charleston, W.Va.: Education Foundation, Inc., 1952. (p. 425)  
 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			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	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 20 ' 44.1"	81 ° 38 ' 28.8"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ted McGee, Field Agent

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission DATE: October 25, 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 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 Leonard M. Davis

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 Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CHARLESTON WEST QUADRANGLE  
 WEST VIRGINIA - KANAWHA CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4660 1.  
 (BIG CHIMNEY)

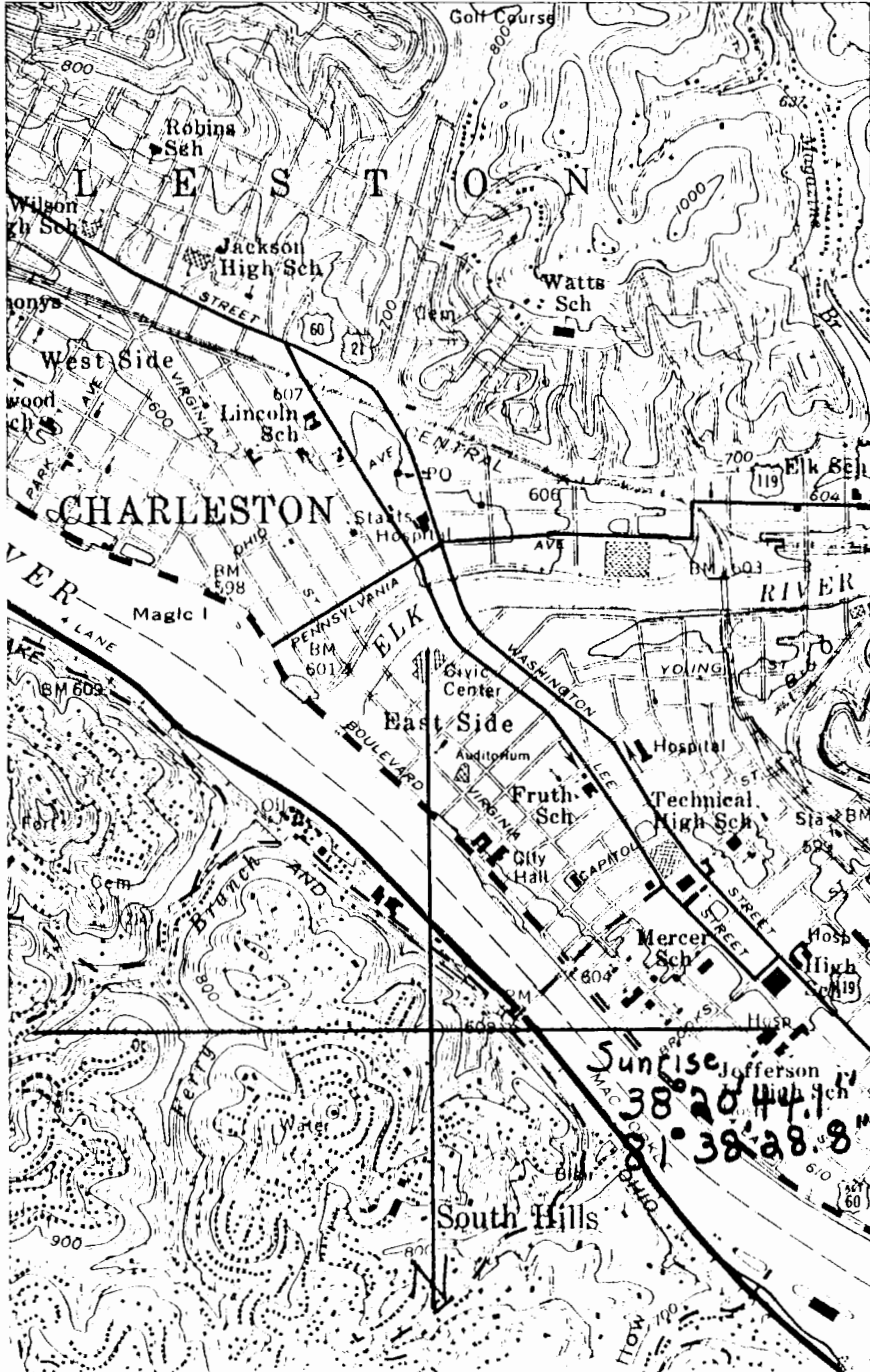
443

444

1 820 000 FEET

81° 37' 30"

38° 22' 30"



500 000  
 FEET

BIG CHIMNEY 7 MI  
 TELKVIEW 12 MI

4245

STATE CAPITOL 1 MI  
 WEST VIRGINIA TURNPIKE 4.2 MI

WVA CITY 2.3 MI  
 VIRGINIA TURNPIKE 3.4 MI

Sunrise Jefferson  
 38° 20' 44.7" N  
 81° 38' 28.8" W

