

USE TO COPY

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: The Hermitage

other name/site number: _____

2. Location

street & number: Kabletown Road, County Road #25 not for publication: _____

city/town: Charles Town vicinity: X

state: WV code: WV county: Jefferson code: 037 zip code: 25414

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (____ See continuation sheet.)

William C. [Signature]
Signature of Certifying Official

11/16/93
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

The Hermitage
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV
County and State

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property:

(Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

building(s) object
 district
 site
 structure

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>		buildings
		sites
	<u>1</u>	structures
	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic/Late Georgian/
Federal
Late Victorian/East Lake
Other/I House

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Limestone
Walls Fiberglass over clapboard
Limestone - Cottage
Roof Tin
Other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

The Hermitage
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV
County and State

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military
Architecture

Period of Significance

1734-1899

The Hermitage
Name of Property

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Significant Dates
N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Chew, Roger Preston

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
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Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository: Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission
Jefferson County Historical Society

The Hermitage
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV
County and State

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Dr. Charles Ritcheson

Street & Number: 3605 Lowell St., N.W. Telephone: (202)363-9814

City or Town: Washington State: D.C. Zip: 20016

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Hermitage is one of a few early 19th century log-frame farm houses extant in the Kabletown farm area of Jefferson County, West Virginia. The two-story I-House with Georgian elements has a center portico and is at the apex of a long tree-lined driveway with the Blue Ridge Mountains in the background. Its L-shaped configuration is a result of a wing added incorporating a stone cookhouse at the north end of the original two-pen center hall building. The gable-end chimneys and foundation are of local limestone. The interior exhibits a variety of Victorian to contemporary styles in the wing. A contributing 18th-century 1-1/2 story two-pen limestone cottage is north of the main house and faces the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is vacant and deteriorating. A seriously deteriorated 18th-century contributing weatherboard outhouse is east of the main house. The main house is in good condition though the wood clapboard siding is wrapped in fiberglass. A noncontributing tennis court and pool are on the south side of the driveway that approaches the house.

EXTERIOR - See sketch page 1.

This two-story farmhouse, a contributing building and representing 18th to late 19th-century architecture, is at the end of a tree-lined drive. The Hermitage is surrounded by a large expanse of lawn broken by occasional groups of trees with a back-drop of the Blue Ridge Mountains barely visible in the distance. At the south end of the house is the original 18th-century frame of log with brick nogging and suggests the structure was a single pile with a side hall; a later addition changed the plan to single pile with a center hall. The later two-story gable end wing of an 18th-century cookhouse joined to the house by a 20th-century breezeway is at the rear and exhibits several alterations. The whole build is sheathed in white fiberglass siding over original wood clapboard visible only at the rear of the oldest section. The house rests on limestone foundations. The west facade with a flagstone patio is viewed as one approaches the driveway. At the center of the west facade is a Neo-Classical Revival, turn-of-the-century porch. There are a pair of wood doric columns on square brick pedestals supporting the porch roof at either end. A single pair of engaged wood pilasters also on brick pedestals are opposite the columns. The front door, containing raised panels with Eastlake design, appears to be at the center of the house but not at the center of the porch. It has a surround of simple raised moulding, a five-light transom and five-light side lights over a panelled base. The floor of the porch, a recent repair, is cement bordered in brick on concrete block. The step is of the same material and design. The first floor west facade has three 1x1 double-hung windows; one at the north end and one at the south end. A smaller 1x1 double-hung window is just above the roof of the porch. The four-bay facade is not symmetrical. All windows have fiberglass shutter blinds.

The south gable end elevation of the earliest section has a stone chimney at its center with a shoulder at the second floor level and is brick from this point to the chimney crest.

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The north gable end also has a 1x1 double-hung window at the east side of the chimney at the first floor; a 1x1 double-hung window is at the second floor level also east of the chimney. The screened porch on concrete block foundation is at the rear, east elevation, of the south and earliest section. See sketch. The west wall of the porch reveals the original wood clapboard siding of the house and there also are two floor length 1x1 double-hung windows and a door into the living room. At the north end of the porch is an entrance to the dining room which is a nine-light door above panelling flanked by 6x6 double-hung windows; all are recent alterations. Above the porch at the south elevation, second floor, just below the eaves, are two 6x6 double-hung windows with shutter blinds. The green roof of the earlier sections is of standing seam tin with two rows of snowbirds and painted green.

The two-story wing at the rear of the house was a kitchen outbuilding joined to the earlier sections by a later infill. It rests on a stone foundation with a full basement. It has undergone several alterations and additions so that the fenestration is not symmetrical and the green standing seam tin roof with double rows of snowbirds appears to have been extended at the south elevation to accommodate the addition. There is a three-light basement window at the center of the wing's south elevation. Immediately above it is a double-hung 6x6 window; at the second story are three double-hung windows not symmetrical. At the east elevation of the wing is a brick chimney on a stone fireplace foundation at the basement and was the regional cooking fireplace. The brick chimney has been widened and reaches above the ridgepole of the gable end. At the basement level of the east elevation and south of the chimney is a 6x6 double-hung recently installed window; above that is 6x6 double-hung window with shutter blinds, between it and the chimney is a recently installed 1x1 double-hung window; immediately above it at the second story is a 6x6 double-hung window. The chimney is flanked at the attic level by wooden louvres.

The north elevation of the wing is flush with the older section. There is another screened porch at the first floor on concrete block piers. Beneath is a ramp of concrete block tiles leading to the basement strap-hinged panelled door. (Steps lead up to a first story porch which has an entrance to the kitchen. At the second floor above the porch are four 6x6 double-hung windows, reading from east to west the placement is a single, a single and a pair. The roof of the older gable-end section (a single pen with center hall) is supported by mortise and tenoned beams with wood pegs. The original random width beaded edge wood siding of this section exists under the fiberglass wrap.

INTERIOR - See sketch pages 2 and 3.

The interior of the first floor 18th-century section underwent a Victorian Eastlake style renovation in the last quarter of the 19th-century. All the doors in the center hall have raised panels, a pair of longer ones over pairs of shorter ones with Eastlake design in each

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panel. They are painted brown and have box locks with white ceramic knobs. Along the north hallway wall is a stairway with a walnut handrail over a machine-turned balustrade that ends with a mushroom cap on a machine-turned, round-necked octagon-shaped newell post. The hall has three-inch wide beaded edge tongue-and-groove brown painted wainscoting beneath an ogee chair rail. The doors' surrounds are triple-beaded centers with bulls-eye corner blocks, also painted brown.

Living rooms flank the center hall. The south living room is wallpapered above a South Carolina poplar chair rail and diagonal beaded-edge tongue-and-groove panelling. The same material and design is used for the over-mantel. The fireplace painted wood rest on a pair of pilasters. The machine-turned pilasters stand on blocks repeating the ones above. The hearth is of large handmade bricks. The window and door painted surrounds are of triple-centered bead with bulls-eye medallion corner blocks. Each panel of the four-panel door leading to the hall is centered with an Eastlake design and border. On the east and west walls are double-hung 1x1 floor-length windows.

The north living room (parlor) is completely panelled in the previously described beaded-panelling above and the diagonal panelling below. The panelling in the ceiling is designed to have a center medallion where a hook remains to hang a lighting fixture. A modern brick fireplace with raised hearth is on the north wall. Door and window surrounds are the same as in the hall and the south living room Eastlake design, corner blocks and triple-centered bead trim. The yellow pine four inch floors are the same throughout these rooms and hall.

The wallpapered dining room stretches across the width of the wing. There are 6x6 double-hung windows on the north side and the two 6x6 double-hung windows flanking the door to the porch on the south side. The surrounds of all windows and doors are of plain rounded-edge boards painted brown. The baseboard is a simple board with ogee cap. The floor is the same as the two living rooms, four-inch yellow pine. This room is the connecting section of the older part of the house and the 18th century cookhouse. A door at the south end of the east wall leads to a small hall which provides access to a stairway to the second floor and kitchen. The stairway has painted random width beaded-edge panelling on the east wall and plaster over brick opposite it.

The modern kitchen with a modern brick fireplace is at the other side of this stairway. No original architectural features exist in this room except a beaded-edge panelled door leading to the basement and panelled doors leading to the pantry on the south-side, the porch on the north end and the previously mentioned random width beaded-edge panelling at the staircase west wall. This area is within the perimeters of the original cookhouse.

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The second floor rooms have the same configuration as the first floor. The two wallpapered bedrooms above the living room on the second floor of the original house are divided by a painted plaster hall with the same wood trim as the first floor hall. They have had ceilings raised into the attic space probably for ventilation. The south bedroom has a flat-arch fireplace with a simple board mantel and surrounds on the south wall; the fireplace on the north of the north bedroom has been sealed. Doors are raised double-panel and the floors are original wide yellow pine. The second story of the wing appears to have been added to the original kitchen building and dining room infill. The rooms are wallpapered; the back stairway hall is panelled in beaded-edge tongue-and-groove. The floors are wide yellow pine. See sketch.

The limestone basement is in three sections indicating additions and alterations. Under the oldest west section is a crawl space revealing sawn joists and floor replacement. To the east is the basement of the infill or dining room section. It has a log summer-beam at the south end and log and sawn joists. The most easterly section is lower and was the basement of the cookhouse. The stone walls have been white-washed. A cooking fireplace, now sealed, is on the east wall and a wide-panelled strap hinge outside door is at the north wall. The doorway is partly filled in for a smaller entrance. The floors of the two basements are concrete. The basement windows have wooden vertical grates.

The Stone Cottage - See sketch page 4.

EXTERIOR

This 1-1/2-story mid-18th-century flat seam roofed stone cottage with quoins is a contributing building. It faces east with a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance and is north of the main house. The roof is supported by rafters mortised and tenoned with wooden pegs. Its gable ends, with beaded-edge rake boards, have inside stone chimneys flanked at the attic level with 2'x3' windows which have stone lintels. The east facade has lost its original three-bay symmetry due to alterations that placed a 6x6 double-hung window at the center entrance, a six-light window over two raised panel doors at the original window at the northern end and addition of another window immediately beside it. The west, or rear, three-bay elevation retains its original 6x6 double-hung windows evenly spaced across the west wall and opposite the original three bays of the east wall. All windows have beaded edge surrounds. The building generally retains excellent integrity.

INTERIOR

The door opens to one large room. At the north wall is a stone and brick fireplace altered to accommodate a stove. The room is almost square with hair plaster and ogee molding on flat board baseboards. A room at the south end of the cottage mirrors this room except it has a panelled cupboard to the east of the fireplace. Some hand-split lath is visible in

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in this room. A small room with one window is between these two rooms at the rear, or west side. All rooms have 8' ceilings. A wood staircase at the center front of the cottage leads to the attic space. The staircase has a wood panel door at its entrance. The interior doors are panelled with strap hinges. Door and window surrounds have simple beaded edge with the exception of the door from the north room to the rear center room which has a simple board frame. All windows have 18" panelled reveals. The two rooms added at the foot of the stairway are partitioned in beaded tongue-in-groove 3' panelling to accommodate a bath and pantry. The 4" width pine flooring was installed about 1910.

The attic is divided into two rooms north and south. A strap hinge beaded edge panel door leads into the north room. The rooms are not finished but have 14" pine 2'x3' windows on the fireplace walls.

The Cottage is of the same era and similar style as Prato Rio in Leetown, an NHL and National Register property. Both are 1-1/2 stories Georgian-style and built of local limestone. Prato Rio has two entrances making it a duplex.

Outhouse

A tin roofed horizontal random width, weatherboarded outhouse is at the rear, or east, of the main house (see #4 in sketch #1). It is a contributing building because it has hand sawn post and beam framing with wooden pegs and a panelled strap hinged door on the west side. A small 10x10 window is at the north gable. Stone and beam replacements took place at the base of the outhouse. The weatherboard siding was originally nailed with hand cut nails. Repairs have taken place with 20th century nails and scrap lumber. The ceiling is of hand hewn lath and the walls are of hair plaster. Two holes were cut into a box that stretches across the east wall. It has a dirt floor and was probably built about the same time as the Stone Cottage. The building is an extremely rare example of a type and period in Jefferson County. It may be the oldest surviving privy in West Virginia.

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The Hermitage is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B and C. B, because of Colonel Roger Preston Chew, a hero of the Confederate Army during the Civil War. He lived at The Hermitage as a child until he married in 1871. Although Chew became prominent in later years for contributions to politics area developments, and industry, he is best remembered at The Hermitage for his Civil War exploits. The Hermitage is also eligible under Criterion C because of the 18th-century Stone Cottage and the several periods displayed in the main house due to expansion over several architectural periods. A privy is another rare surviving feature.

Under Criterion C the three contributing elements of the nominated property, the frame house, the stone cottage, and the privy, form a significant settlement-period and later Jefferson County family homestead. Each resource of this ensemble possesses age or structural characteristics of distinction.

The stone cottage at The Hermitage is one of a relatively small number of stone buildings in Jefferson County that survives from the pre-1760 settlement period. The c.1734 date of construction distinguishes the limestone building as one of the oldest in West Virginia. Its design is similar to "Prato Rio", a one and one-half-story stone house at Leetown that was designated a National Historic Landmark for its association with Revolutionary War Major-General Charles Lee. Both buildings are constructed of limestone and possess striking quoin blocks. The difference in the design relates to the placement of the entrances. Prato Rio has two while the stone cottage at The Hermitage has but one doorway.

The main house of Hermitage farm contains significant structural elements that trace the evolution of the building from its beginnings in the eighteenth-century to the point of its final refinement in the last years of the 19th-century. Log pens are the earliest core material of the house. In the fashion of many of the state's earliest houses these constructions became frames upon which larger additions resulted in the formation of fairly typical I-House, or similar style nineteenth houses containing single or double-pile plans with three to five-bay fronts. The L-shape plan, exterior stone end chimneys, and metal raised seam roof all contribute to the essential form the house assumed by the late nineteenth century.

By about 1890 an unusual and significant interior modification introduced East Lake-style paneling and trim to first floor parlors and hallways. The owner, in an effort to introduce a fashionable decor, added wainscot, mantels, and decorative paneling; it survives as one of Jefferson County's finest Victorian interiors.

East of the house stands a very old privy. Careful analysis of the fabric indicates a structure of considerable age and architectural character. The post and beam construction of the tiny building is mortised and tenoned. The building may be the oldest outhouse in West Virginia.

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Section number 8 Page 2 The Hermitage, Jefferson Co., WV

Jefferson County today is bounded by the Potomac and Shendandoah Rivers, the Blue Ridge Mountains and Clark County, Virginia. It is an area that began development in the early 1700s when it was largely forest and limestone outcropping. Settlers from Europe acquired grants from England and began developing the land for farming and extraction of iron ore, copper and limestone. The county then was known as Frederick County, Virginia. It saw many skirmishes with Indians during the French and Indian War of 1755. The county is proud of its role in the Revolutionary War because of its volunteers being the first to arrive in Boston after marching 600 miles in 24 days.

The attractiveness of mountains and rich soil soon brought others from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia to settle. George Washington, a surveyor for the King, and his brothers were among the first to purchase land in the area. The Chew family came to the area in 1846 and settled at the Heritage farm.

Colonel Roger Preston Chew came with his parents, Roger Augustine Chew and Sarah Aldridge Chew, from Loudoun County, Virginia at the age of three to live at The Hermitage. He attended Charles Town Academy, three miles from his home; Virginia Military Institute followed. As a cadet there, he was sent to help maintain order in Charles Town at the John Brown hanging. He then joined the Confederate Army at the beginning of the Civil War. His career was a distinguished one. He became commander of the first mounted battery of flying artillery and it was known as Chew's Battery. It "was engaged in more skirmishes and battles than any battery in the Confederate Army." ¹ His command included five battalions of two batteries. Chew, as a resident of Jefferson County, furnished in 1862 valuable information about the surrounding country. On February 12, 1863, he was also a leader in raids on the Unionists at Middleway and on May 12 in Charles Town. For these reasons The Hermitage is eligible under Criterion B.

After the surrender Chew and his brother Robert returned to the damaged Hermitage farm and began work to rebuild the farm which eventually prospered.

In 1871 Roger Preston Chew married Louise Fontaine Washington, daughter of the last owner of Mt. Vernon. They were married at Blakely and had six children.

In early association with the property, one a Daniel Burnett received a Kings grant for the Hermitage homestead and 490 acres by Lt. Governor William Gooch of Virginia Colony on October 30, 1734. The original stone cottage of that period still stands. Burnett was a partner of the Barr Iron Works established in 1742, also known as the "Bloomery" forge and is believed to be the first one constructed west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was located on the Shenandoah River near the Burnett property.

1. Bushong, p. 206

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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The Hermitage
Jefferson Co., WV

Bibliography

Bushong, Millard K. "History of Jefferson County"
Carr Publishing Co. Inc., Boyce, VA 1972

Berkeley County Historical Society
John St., Martinsburg, WV

Berkeley County Land Records Office
County Court House, Martinsburg, WV

Jefferson County Land Records Office
County Court House, Charles Town, WV

Martinsburg-Berkeley County Library
101 W. King St., Martinsburg, WV

Link, J. Lester. Marriages Jefferson County, Virginia
and West Virginia
1801-1890. September 4, 1973

The Magazine of the Jefferson Historical Society
Volume 40, December, 1974

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of the farm lane with Kqbletown Road, the boundary runs south along the east edge of the road approximately 210 feet; thence in a straight line southeast approximately 600 feet; thence northeast in a straight line approximately 420 feet; thence northwest approximately 600 feet to intersect with the east edge of Kobletown Road; thence 300 feet wouth along the east edge of Kqbletown Road to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundary is inclusive of the resources and grounds that represent a cohesive Jefferson County farstead. The compact boundary includes the farm lane entrance to The Hermitage and its three principal components: the house, stone cottage, and privy. The adjacent tree-shaded space, traditional to the complex, is enclosed in the boundary to define the historical setting.

562 N SW
(MIDDLEWAY)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

THE HERMITAGE



77° 52' 30" 2 180 000 FEET (VA.); 253 000m. E. 254 255 50' 256 257 (CHA) 5

THE HERMITAGE
CHARLES TOWN VIC.
JEFFERSON CO.,
W. VA.

UTM:
18/254760/4347940

570 000 FEET
(VA.)





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