1. NAME
COMMON: Tomlinson Mansion
AND/OR HISTORIC: 

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 901 W. 3rd. Street
CITY OR TOWN: Williamstown
STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Wood

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One) OWNERSHIP STATUS ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
[ ] District [ ] Building [ ] Public [ ] Occupied [ ] Yes
[ ] Site [ ] Structure [ ] Private [ ] Unoccupied [ ] Restricted
[ ] Object [ ] Both [ ] Public Acquisitions: [ ] Preservation work

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
[ ] Agricultural [ ] Commercial [ ] Government [ ] Park [ ] Transportation [ ] Comments
[ ] Industrial [ ] Educational [ ] Military [ ] Private Residence [ ] Religious [ ] Other (Specify)
[ ] Entertainment [ ] Museum [ ] Scientific [ ]

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Frederick C. and Patricia A. Love
STREET AND NUMBER: Star Route #14, 901 W. 3rd. Street
CITY OR TOWN: Williamstown
STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Wood

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Wood County Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN: Parkersburg
STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: 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:
COUNTY:
CODE:
The Tomlinson Mansion is a two-story, common-bonded building with headers being exposed every fifth course. The house faces west and overlooks the Ohio River.

The slate-shingled, gabled roof almost appears to be lean-to as it descends the back porch.

The nine windows toward the west are symmetrically placed around the frontispiece; all are 3/3 double hung with stone lintels and stone sills (most panes are original).

The stone stoop is composed of large rectangular slabs and is on the same level as the concrete-stone foundation. The small, pediment-like roof above the front door is supported by four rectangular columns toward the front and one decorative column to each side of the sidelights. The latter, as well as the overlights, are composed of various-sized rectangular panes. The darker, angular area running from the northern corner to the stoop was slightly damaged by a heavy growth of ivy. (The ivy has since been removed.)

On the south side of the house is a window where once a door stood. Like those toward the front, this window and all others (with the exception of the 2/2 attic windows) are 3/3 double hung.

A wing lies to the southeast of the main section. A simple first and second story porch adorns the inside of the "L," running from the north end of the main unit one-half the depth of the wing. Also, a wooden alcove for storage has been added at the "toe" of the "L." (The date is unknown.)

Within the past few years, the brick, one-story summer kitchen, which was the same style as the rest of the home, was removed. It was located to the extreme southeast of the mansion and connected to it by a breezeway. In its place the owner has erected a two-story cinderblock garage, also connected by a breezeway.
The Tomlinson Mansion, the oldest home in Williamstown, is historically significant because it was the home of Joseph Tomlinson II, a descendant of the Tomlinsons of Moundsville and member of the General Assembly of Virginia. It has been visited by many important personalities, chief among whom was the world-renowned ornithologist, John James Audubon.

In 1770 Joseph Tomlinson I, and his son, Samuel, entered the Ohio Valley and secured "tomahawk" claims to lands at what was then Grave Creek (now Moundsville) and another 1,400 acres at the present site of Williamstown.

The two returned to their home at Little Meadows, Maryland, but a few years later Samuel and his brother, Joseph II, came once again to the Williamstown area. On this visit the latter built a log cabin which became the forerunner of the Tomlinson Mansion.

Because of a danger of Indian raids along the Ohio, Joseph II and his wife, Elizabeth, prepared to retreat eastward. They soon fled to Wills Creek (now Cumberland), Maryland, where, in the spring of 1781, Elizabeth gave birth to a son. The child was named for his father and grandfather and grew to manhood in the Williamstown area.

In April 1808, Joseph III married Susannah McMahon, and they had one child, a daughter. As the area grew in population, Joseph gained the respect and admiration of his community. From 1836 until his death in 1864, he was a real power and source of strength to those around him, not only holding numerous local offices but also serving one term as their representative to the Virginia Assembly.

In 1839 he built his handsome brick home which still stands majestically overlooking the Ohio River. From the time of its construction until his wife's death in 1857, the Tomlinson Mansion was the social center of the Upper Ohio Valley.

Perhaps the most notable guest was John James Audubon, the famous American naturalist. It was here that the middle-aged Audubon came while on several trips through the area. His purpose was to collect material on the blue bird and other birds native to the area. The Tomlinson Mansion, then a lonely spot in the wilderness, provided Audubon with the perfect setting for his study of nature.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


"Tomlinson Mansion Restored." *Parkersburg (W.Va.) News*, June 1, 1958. (p. 14)


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 Acre

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

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

Ted McGee, Field Agent, W.Va. Antiquities Commission and Mrs. Ralph A. Schmitz, Member, Garden Club Council of Wood County, for the West Virginia Antiquities Commission

Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

NATURAL 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:

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

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

Leonard M. Davis
State Historic Preservation Officer
February 22, 1974
Name: Tomlinson Mansion

Street and Number: 901 W. 3rd Street

City or Town: Williamsport

State: West Virginia

Source: United States Geological Survey

Scale: 1:24,000

DATE: 1957

Requirements:
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.