

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC Vandiver, John, House; Hull House; Trout, Henry, House;
Clause, Henry, House

AND/OR COMMON

Vandiver-Trout-Clause House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Routes 50 and 220

CITY, TOWN

Ridgeville

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Mineral

CODE

057

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Margaret L. Crites

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 862

CITY, TOWN

Keyser

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 26726

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mineral County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Armstrong Street

CITY, TOWN

Keyser

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYSTITLE Historic Properties Inventory
Highway Corridor "H" Field Review Project

DATE

May 1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSHistoric Preservation Unit, Dept. of Culture and History
The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

STATE

West Virginia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

___EXCELLENT

___DETERIORATED

___UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

XGOOD

___RUINS

XALTERED

___MOVED

DATE _____

___FAIR

___UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On a slight rise above the old Northwestern Turnpike, where the road begins its ascent of Knobley Mountain, sits the Vandiver-Trout-Clause House, a farm dwelling that for so many years provided accommodations and meals for travelers and served the Ridgeville community as post office, tavern, polling place and landmark. This L-shaped, five-bay front building has a facade that belies its integrity, for a vertical seam in the weatherboarding to the left of center marks a change in size of siding and appears somewhat incongruous. But except for a small addition to the rear of the ell and a bay on the first floor of the southeast elevation, the two-story frame house with gable roof was constructed as a single unit, probably sometime in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Stylistically it displays some Federal and Greek Revival features, yet overall character is formed by vernacular adaptations popular in the Allegheny Mountains area just west of the valley of the South Branch of the Potomac River where fine brick plantation houses of high-style Federal and Greek Revival line dominate.

The slope of the land here is such that the limestone foundation is evident above ground level at the front (northeast), while the fill is almost as high as the first-floor ceiling to the rear of the ell. It is basically symmetrical in fenestration--though the left side of the facade is slightly more crowded than the right side--and has 6/6 double-hung sash throughout (the twentieth-century bay on the southeast side has 1/1 sash). Outside doors in the main house are at the ends of the center hall; in the ell they are placed irregularly. Chimneys break the ridge line at each original gable, their brick caps being plain despite a drip course near the top. The front "porch" is now only a landing with steps to either side; the three-bay porch on the outside of the ell has turned posts supporting a hipped roof; the original double porch inside the ell features squared and tapering posts, simple balusters and rail on the second floor, and a roof that is a continuation of the slope of the main standing-seam metal covering. Except for shutters (which it apparently has always had) and the overlight and sidelights of the main entrance, the exterior is plain and devoid of decorative elements.

The interior is as simple as the exterior and reveals the symmetry evident from the outside. The front portion has a single-pile, center-hall plan with an open-well, two-run stair with landing. This configuration is repeated on the second floor, and each room, except that on the southeast of the upper story, has a fireplace with nondescript mantel. The ell contains a dining room with fireplace and a kitchen on the first floor and bedrooms and baths (added recently by dividing an old bedroom) on the second. Flooring is original throughout the house, and the pleasing rounded stair rail with simple balusters is early if not original. Otherwise, the

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interior does not retain many visible reminders of the early nineteenth century design, although it does display many characteristics it assumed as a hotel in the early 1900s.

Outside of living space, the house includes a low attic, full basement under the main section, and an old built-in outhouse (now a storage area) at the second-floor rear of the porch in the ell. Near the back of the dwelling is a one-story ice house that was used for cold storage and behind it is the old well structure. The only other man-made elements in the nominated area are a relatively new shed about 150 feet from the west corner of the house and a small pond along the southeast side.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" 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	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
----------------	-------------------

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The relatively short interim between the end of the French and Indian War (1763) and beginning of the American War of Independence (1776) witnessed an influx of settlement in that section of Virginia south of the Potomac River known as the Northern Neck. Although the Vandiver-Trout-Clause House was not constructed during this period, it does trace its antecedents to a land grant of the era of renewed "opening" of the frontier. By the early nineteenth century roads through Allegheny Mountain passes were becoming increasingly important to western development, and it was movement of people and goods along what became the Northwestern Turnpike that fostered establishment of a residence, farm, inn-tavern-ordinary at the crossroads community now known as Ridgeville, Mineral County, West Virginia. Because the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal followed the Potomac River to the north and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad meandered along the same stream, the turnpike became a significant thoroughfare during the Civil War, and the old tavern hosted people and activities associated with events of that divisive affair. Unlike many such establishments, however, this inn did not lose its business to river, railroad and improved road transportation; it continued to host travelers well into the twentieth century.

The land on which the Vandiver-Trout-Clause House stands was first transferred from Thomas, Lord Fairfax in 1766. Shortly after the French and Indian War it was probably improved to some extent, but permanence in the form of a substantial house and a productive farm waited until the construction of the present building early in the nineteenth century and its development into a tavern or ordinary catering to westward trudging pioneers and eastward moving travelers and drovers. A fellow named John Vandiver apparently built the dwelling at this place where an old wagon road from the Romney area to the east reached Knobley Mountain at what is now Ridgeville and headed south toward a pass near present Antioch. It was surely the subscription turnpike (called the Northwestern) from Winchester to Parkersburg on the Ohio River that proved the spur to business here at this fine house on a prime location along the eastern edge of the front of a range of mountains in the heart of the Alleghenies.

Farming remained a primary pursuit, yet the inn became noteworthy and comparatively prosperous. In addition, a blacksmith shop

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took on importance because of location along the road and nearness to some iron ore developed by the Allegheny Coal and Iron Manufacturing Company, an enterprise in which John Vandiver held an interest. Vandiver seems to have arranged for either of two Hull sisters or their husbands to run the ordinary, for they licensed the premises as early as 1844, and at the time of the Civil War the postmaster from the office at New Creek Station (Keyser) wrote of visiting Hull House several times for meals, meetings and a chance to disseminate mail and information. It was at this latter time, too, that a brigade of Union forces is said to have camped in the vicinity, and the house is mentioned traditionally as the place of lodging for the commander's party (potential for historic archeological work on the property is enhanced by this possibility).

Henry Trout, a man of some local esteem, bought the property in 1869. He is said to have repaired damage to the left front of the house done by Civil War-era mischief or other activity on the part of military personnel, and to have reopened it as an inn. Henry's son, James, either lived here for a short time or visited frequently, but he was more often planning business enterprises at Keyser, acting as sheriff of Mineral County, or reminiscing about having represented this area at the First General Assembly of the Restored Government of Virginia and the Second Wheeling Convention in 1861 (Hampshire County delegates met at Hull House before leaving for Wheeling) and helping create the state of West Virginia. During the Trout residency postal service was apparently provided here for some time, and, landmark that it had become, the house seems to have been used as a polling place for a number of years.

After Trout's ownership of about twenty-four years the house passed to a family named Mott, and in 1904 it was purchased by Henry Clause, a man of strong religious principles who had recently run a hotel or similar business at Elkins. Clause opened a hotel here, continuing the tradition with one major change: liquor was no longer served. In addition, his wife, Olivia, became local postmistress and used a small room for these functions.

With the passing of Henry and Olivia Clause, the hotel business ended, perhaps in part because of improvements in roads, vehicles, rail service and development of more modern facilities at larger towns. The house continued to be occupied by their adopted daughter until her death in the early 1970s. It is now owned by a long-time area resident who has brought to this place fond memories and a desire to preserve the old inn in a way that is expressive of its significance to this small Mineral County community.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Writes, Margaret L. "The Vandivere House." Keyser, W.Va., n.d.
(Typescript on file at the Historic Preservation Unit, Department
of Culture and History, The Cultural Center, Charleston, W.Va.)
Keyser, W.Va. Keyser-Mineral County Library. Sanders Papers.
Keyser, W.Va. Mineral County Courthouse. Deed Books 2, 17 and 26.
Morgantown, W.Va. West Virginia Collection, West Virginia University
Library. Historic Records Survey, Mineral County.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Burlington, W.Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 6 7 2 9 8 0 4 3 5 7 2 8 0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

E

G

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

F

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated area are U.S. Routes 50 and 220 along the front (Northeast), the Antioch Road along the southeast side to a point where a knoll about 100 feet to the rear of the house descends to the

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James E. Harding, Historian

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Unit
Dept. of Culture and History

DATE
December 27, 1978

STREET & NUMBER The Cultural Center
Capitol Complex

TELEPHONE
(304) 348-0244

CITY OR TOWN
Charleston

STATE
West Virginia

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Clarence Moore

3/26/79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued):

Romney, W.Va. Hampshire County Courthouse. Deed Books 4, 36, 37 and 43.
Wolfe, William W., ed. "Diary of William S. Purgitt, 1865, of New Creek
(Keyser), West Virginia." Keyser, W.Va., 1965. (Typescript copy in
Keyser-Mineral County Library, Keyser, W.Va.)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (continued):

road, along the knoll to the northwest beyond the shed at the west
corner to an intersection with the roadbed of old U.S. Routes 50 and
220 and along that old roadbed (still paved) to the present U.S.
Routes 50 and 220. The nominated area is approximately 325 feet along
the front and 300 feet deep.

51621 NE
(WESTERNPORT)

5262 IV A
(KEYSE







