CITY, TOWN

Washington,

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### MATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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		AV 63.10 - 1874		

STATE

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RECEIVED

INVENTOR	Y NOMINATION F	ORM DA	TE ENTERED		
SEE	INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO TYPE ALL ENTRIES C			3	
NAME					
HISTORIC					
	White House Tavern; M	cCormick, Dr. Joh	nn, House		
AND/OR COMMON	775 : - 77	<b>.</b>			
ST OCATION	White House Farm (pre	rerred)			
LOCATION	V				
STREET & NUMBER					
CITY, TOWN	County Route 13			NOT FOR PUBLICATION  CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
3,11,737,11	Summit Point x	VICINITY OF	Second		
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
Water and the second	West Virginia	54	Jefferson	037	
CLASSIFIC	CATION				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE	
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM	
$\mathbf{x}$ BUILDING(S)	≥_PRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK	
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X_PRIVATE RESIDENCE	
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS	
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC	
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION	
		ZNO .	MILITARY	OTHER:	
<b>OWNER O</b>	F PROPERTY				
NAME	2 4 7 1 4 5 7 7				
	and Mrs. John Van Tol				
STREET & NUMBER Box	120				
CITY, TOWN			STATE		
		VICINITY OF	West Virgi	nia 25446	
LOCATION	N OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION			
COURTHOUSE.					
REGISTRY OF DEEDS	ETC. Jefferson Coun	ty Courthouse			
STREET & NUMBER	N. George & E.	Washington Stree	ets		
CITY, TOWN			STATE		
	Charles Town	·····	. West Virgi	nia	
REPRESEN	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS			
TITLE					
Histor	ic American Buildings S	Survey			
DATE	X_FEDERALSTATECOUNTYLOCAL				
DEPOSITORY FOR	W. V. 12		OOM		
SURVEY RECORDS	Library of Congress,	Prints and Photo	graphs Division		

CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

XCELLENT

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

\_\_GOOD

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_RUINS

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The stone house of White House Farm, also called White House Tavern, is located one-half mile west of Summit Point, on County Route 13, in Jefferson County, West Virginia. The story-and-a-half, coursed rubble building was built in 1742 and enlarged at or near the turn of the nineteenth century. It is today (1979) the principal building surviving from a small farm complex of dependencies and outbuildings including a spring house, stone barn, pump house, and smoke house. Of these, the stone barn, with its rubble stone walls and gambrel roof, is the oldest. The house and its dependencies stand in the midst of a five-acre lawn north of Route 13. The spring house is seen directly across the road at the head of Bullskin Run.

The stone house of White House Farm is a low, story-and-a-half, gable roofed rectangle of limestone rubble facing Route 13 to the south. The residence displays several structural changes that occured during its first century of existence, chief among these: A seam at the front center elevation indicating the construction of the house in two parts.

The older section of the house appears to be the eastern half by reason of its small window openings and stone chimney. The western section, though of great age, features much larger window openings with different sash, a frame gable, and a brick interior end chminey. The smooth stone wall surface at the center front elevation suggests an early alteration, the purpose of which may well have been to fill an open space or "Dog Trot" between the two sections of the house during the period following its use as a tavern. This would explain the westerly direction of the opening of the massive center interior chimney whose construction may have preceded these final alterations.

Front elevation gable dormers were added to the house shortly after 1901. Late nineteenth century alterations include the wooden trim of the front porch, (the porch may itself be an addition) and the standing steam tin roof. The rear dormers were constructed in the 1930s.

Following the purchase of the house in 1950 by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Blake, a kitchen, two baths, modern heating, and plumbing were added. Remodeling was otherwise limited to interior and exterior painting and restoration of old floors. The primitive woodwork has survived despite various coats of paint. The present owners (Mr. and Mrs. James Van Tol) have undertaken remodeling of the kitchen and bathrooms, but have been scrupulous in preserving the original state of the house so that it retains the atmosphere of a simple country home.

Archeological research potential at the White House Farm is very good. The old McCormick graveyard, said to be the oldest in the county, is located in the vicinity of the barn, though the graves are unmarked. The history of the stone barn itself, enriched with the varied uses of a century, may yield archeological data regarding the transportation history of the nineteenth century. The site of an ordinary may also provide potential archeological information.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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WHITE HOUSE FARM, SUMMIT POINT VICINITY, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

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PAGE :

Outbuildings forming the small complex of White House Farm include a smoke house and pump house of late frame and block construction, and a gambrel roofed rubble limestone barn with a later period silo. Across the road at the head of Bullskin Run a gable roofed rubble limestone spring house of some considerable antiquity stands adjacent to a shallow spring-fed pool. The tree-shaded lawn of the stone house and its dependencies is fronted by a three-foot high rubblework wall meandering roughly parallel to County Route 13. The five-acre lawn surrounding the house and buildings is part of a 62-1/2 acre tract.

### PEF ) AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW \_\_COMMUNITY PLANNING \_\_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE \_\_RELIGION \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC \_PREhioiOHIC \_LAW \_1400-1499 \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC \_\_CONSERVATION \_\_SCIENCE \_\_AGRICULTURE \_\_ECONOMICS \_\_LITERATURE SCULPTURE ..1500-1599 \_\_MILITARY \_\_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN \_1600-1699 \_\_ARCHITECTURE ....EDUCATION \_\_MUSIC \_\_ART \_\_THEATER \_\_ENGINEERING X 700-1799 XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT \_\_PHILOSOPHY \_\_TRANSPORTATION 1800-1899 \_\_COMMERCE \_\_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT XOTHER (SPECIFY) 1900-\_\_COMMUNICATIONS \_INDUSTRY \_INVENTION Local history BUILDER/ARCHITECT SPECIFIC DATES 1742

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The stone house of White House Farm, formerly called the White House Tavern, is one of the oldest houses of eastern West Virginia. Its structural history is noteworthy because it displays evolutionary changes that correspond to the growth of a family and to the expansion of commerce and traffic on the receding frontier of transmontane Virginia in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century.

Original acreage comprising what was to become White House Farm was granted by King George II to Joist Hite on October 3, 1734. The property was deeded to Dr. John McCormick of "Orange County" on March 21, 1740. The stone house built for Dr. McCormick in 1742 was enlarged in succeeding years to accommodate the large, growing family of the physician. (McCormick had eight children). During the last quarter of the eighteenth century a man named Whitehouse converted the building into a tavern necessitating possible alterations or expansion of the structure at the time.

Dr. John McCormick came to the United States from Ireland where he graduated in medicine from the University of Dublin. McCormick brought with him a valuable medical library that was sold upon his death to Dr. Cramer of Charles Town. A 157 acre portion of the McCormick holdings, now called Mt. Ellen, is thought to have been surveyed by George Washington. The survey was finished on March 13, 1752, and the deed, in George Washington's hand, is in the Williamsburg, Virginia, Library. The property of Dr. McCormick was flanked by land belonging to both George Washington and his brothers, Lawrence and Augustine.

The tavern that operated from this house in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century was located on a headspring of the south fork of Bullskin Run. The nearby trail from Frederick to Winchester made by Braddock's army in 1755 made it a popular stopover and watering place for horses and livestock. Drovers slept and ate in the property's ordinary (no longer standing) while gentlemen were housed in the finer quarters of the stone house.

A visible seam at the front elevation roughly dividing the house in half reveals significant structural alterations. The eastern section with its small window openings may be the older or original (1742) part of the house. The larger window openings of the western half and the brick chimney indicate the possibility of early nineteenth century construction. The center front elevation wall with its smooth textured surface may have been constructed at a later date to close an open space or "Dog Trot" that may once have existed to separate the innkeeper's family from the tenants.

The stone house of White House Farm, a landmark designated by the Jefferson

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

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WHITE HOUSE FARM, SUMMIT POINT VICINITY, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

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County Historical Landmarks Commission, is a significant example of settlement period architecture of eastern West Virginia exhibiting use of stone from locally plentiful limestone outcroppings. The building also establishes important links with the eighteenth and early nineteenth century movements of people passing from the settled regions of the East into the frontier of the Allegheny Plateau and the Ohio Valley. The dependencies and outbuildings of the stone house at White House Farm also form a small complex typical of those in this section of the nineteenth century.

### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

West Virginia: A Guide to the Mountain State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941, p. 310.

'White House Farm." Journal of the Jefferson County Historical Society, 1975, pp. 49-51.

GEOGRAPHICAL DA	<b>NTA</b>					
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY	_					
QUADRANGLE NAME Middle		L	QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000			
UTM REFERENCES			QUADRANGLE SCALE			
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ZONE EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE EA	STING NORTHING			
	<u> </u>					
E		FL.				
G		н[				
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPT	ION					
The nominated area i at a point approximately			s outbuildings. Beginning of the southeast corner			
LIST ALL STATES AND CO	UNTIES FOR PROPERTIE	S OVERLAPPING	STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE			
5,,,,,,	6002	0001411	3352			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE			
NAME/TITLE  ROdney S. Collin  ORGANIZATION Historic Pre	s, Architectural H	Iistorian	DATE			
	servation unit partment of Cultur	e & History	April 17, 1979			
STREET & NUMBER The Cultura		C d History	TELEPHONE			
Capitol Complex			304 348-0244			
CITY OR TOWN			STATE			
Charleston			West Virginia 25305			
STATE HISTORIC P	RESERVATION	OFFICER (	CERTIFICATION			
	TED SIGNIFICANCE OF TH					
NATIONAL	STATE	<del></del>	LOCAL X			
As the designated State Historic Pres	ervation Officer for the Nat	ional Historic Prese	ervation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I			
		gister and certify th	nat it has been evaluated according to the			
criteria and procedures set forth by th		Q	•			
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE	ER SIGNATURE Clar	ewell!	nau			
TITLE			DATE			
FOR NPS USE ONLY			**************************************			
	HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER					
			DATE			
YEEPER OF THE NATIONAL R	FGISTER		DAIL			
ATTEST:			DATE			
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION						

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WHITE HOUSE FARM, SUMMIT POINT VICINITY, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

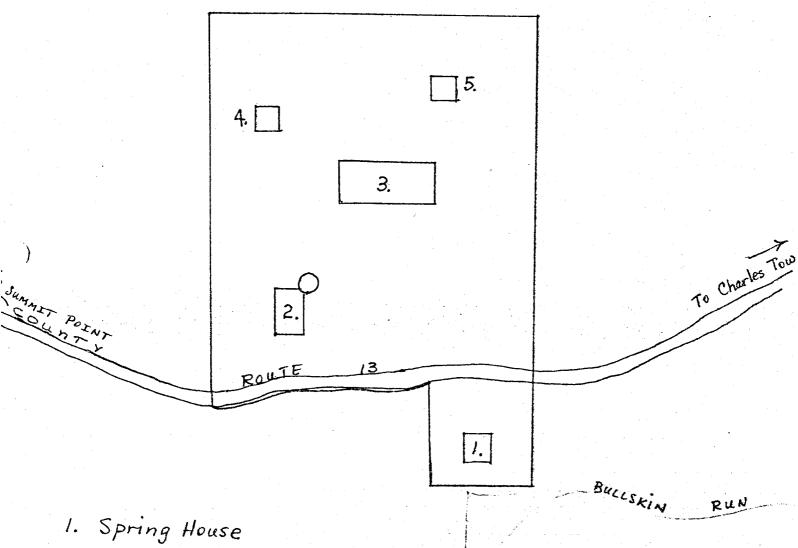
CONTINUATION SHEET

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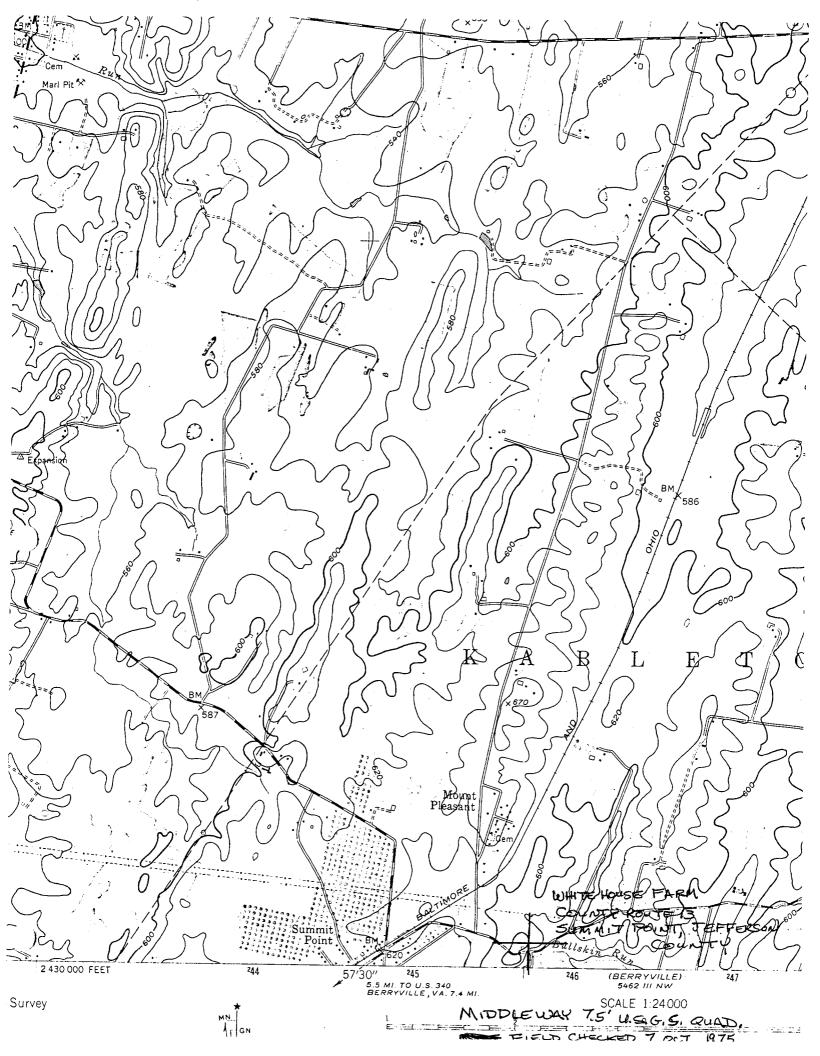
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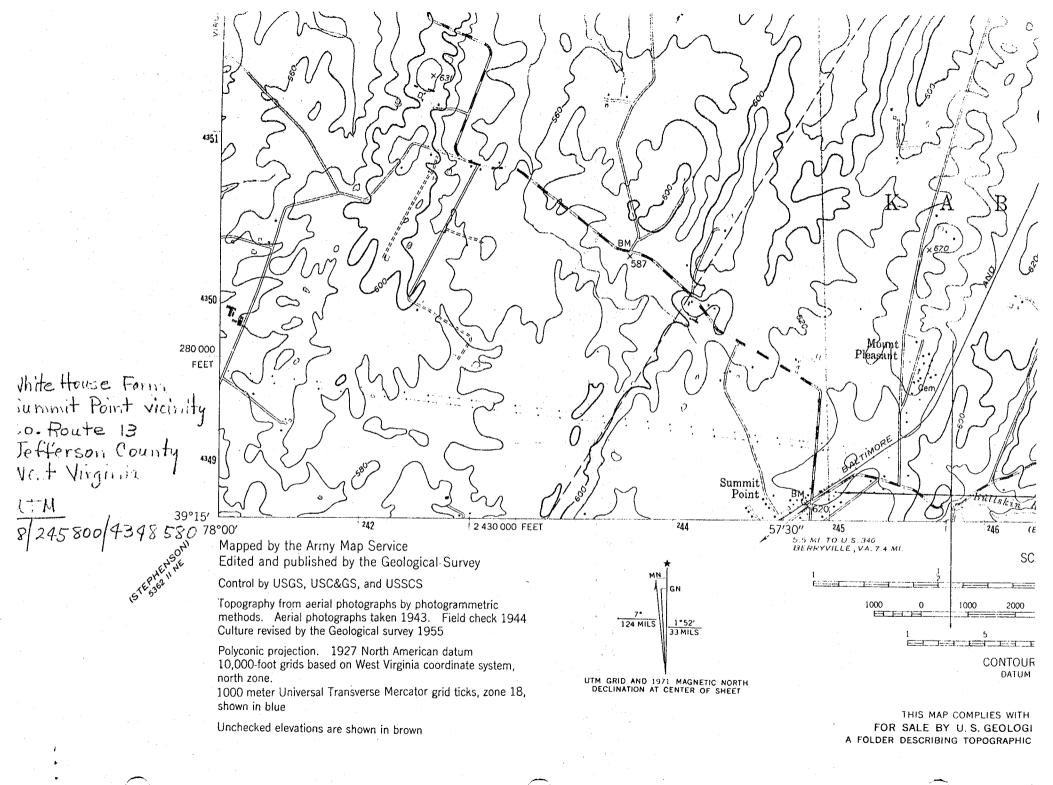
of the spring house, the boundary runs northward approximately 300 ft. to a point approximately 50 ft. to the north and east of the smoke house, and thence westward approximately 200 ft. in a straight line, and thence southward in a straight line approximately 275 ft. to a point on the south side of County Rt. 13 about 75 ft. from the southwest corner of the stone barn, and thence along Rt. 13 to a point about 50 ft. west of the spring house, at which point it proceeds southward at a radial distance of approximately 30 ft. from the west and south elevation of the spring house.

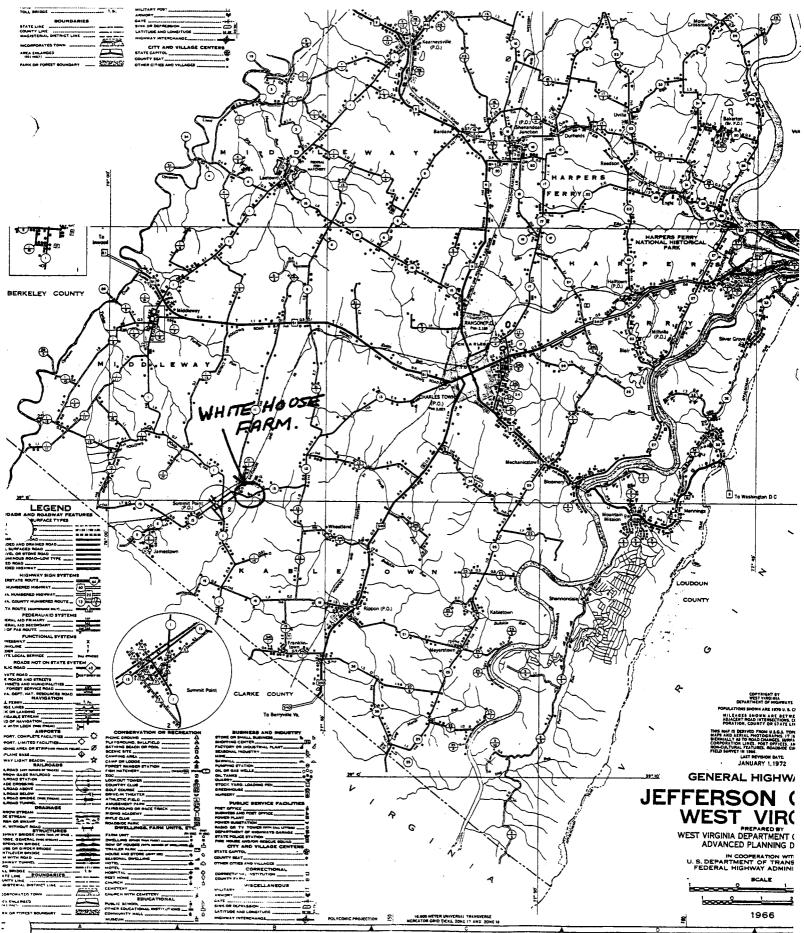
White House Farm, Summit Point Vicinity, Jefferson County, West Virginia



- 2. Stone Barn
- 3. Stone House
- 4. Pump House
- 5. Smoke House
- Boundary of Nominated Property







#8

WHITE HOUSE FARM
HOUSE LOCATED: LAT 39°15.2'N
LONG 77°56.7'W

ERAL HIGHWAY MAP JEFFE

