

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Hardy	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: The Willows

AND/OR HISTORIC: The Randolph Place

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Moorefield (2nd. Congressional District)

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54 COUNTY: Hardy CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. K.F. Johnson

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Moorefield STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hardy County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Moorefield 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: DATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: West Virginia

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"The Willows" is a combination house built in the telescope style of Tidewater Maryland. One small log house, a middle section of frame, and a brick mansion are all connected end to end. The oldest section is a 1½ story log house built so long ago that the earliest deed available in the Hardy Courthouse, dated 1773, mentions it as being part of the property acquired from a squatter named Mr. Smith who could not afford to pay Fairfax's quit rents.

The log section was originally a two room cabin with a massive fireplace in one of the two rooms. There was a loft in this section which has been made into an upperhall and two small stoop-over rooms. The ceiling of one of these rooms (all ceilings in this section are puncheon) cleverly conceals an entrance to a loft or hiding hole. Casual inspection does not reveal the location of the entrance.

An end section was added to the log structure on the eastern end of the house in the early 1900's. This portion of five rooms is totally undistinguished historically or architecturally. The design of this section does conform to the appearance of the house as a unit and is not undesirable, for it serves as a tennant house for the present owners.

The main section of the house is the part that is the historical section. This section is a distinguished Greek Revival (with some Victorian leanings) mansion house. The house is of brick construction, laid in the American or Common bond. The brick was made on the site. All lintels and entablatures that appear to be of stone are actually of carved wood. The front of the house is decorated with a square-columned Greek Revival porch and two fine sets of windows and half-windows on the first floor. The second floor is plain except for some fine wooden lintels above the ordinary, many-light, double-hung windows. A string course of brick interrupts the facade at this point, and the third floor of the mansion house is lighted with small eyebrow windows.

The side walls of the house are windowless and have no ornamentations except a well-proportioned chimney at each end.

The back of the house reveals a double service porch, necessary service stairway, and two service rooms (now made into bathrooms). The service porch is unique in this area and was obviously set up to provide privacy and elegance to this stairway interior. If the service stairway and porches had not existed, slaves and masters would have constantly intruded upon each other in the house. The porch's service room and service stair were obviously part of the original construction, and were not added as an afterthought.

The interior of the house is finished in a most unusual combination of styles from rustic to severe elegance, as one progresses from floor to floor and room to room.

Upon entering the house by way of the front hall, a very large three-floor stairway may be seen. The hall is so shallow (because this formal brick section of the house is only one room deep), that the stairway nearly engulfs it. The woodwork around the door entrance and door into the main parlor is a skillful combination of three simple moldings and their reverses. The molds were obviously made on the premises when the house was built. They are a shallow "S"

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. Description (Continued)

of about 1½ inches in width, a head and a bend. These moldings are combined in the main parlor (located to the left of the front door) in a beautiful entablature and cornice over the doors and windows. This room is the most elegant room in the house. The large windows have half windows beside them, making the room well-lighted and open. The mantel is a very plain (almost too plain) piece, but it and the inconsistent size of each window in the house bear out the fact that these were made on the premises.

The library room across the hall is not comparably elegant, but is, however, formal in character. The doors and windows are not finished with cornices, but with a simple block and lintel. This woodwork was originally finished in a tortoiseshell and marble design painted over the woodgrain. The mantel still retains the finish.

The two bedrooms on the second floor were finished as the library was, but were painted. The third floor rooms are very rustic, with plain board doors and mantels. The eyebrow windows are framed by a very simple bevel, comparable to those made by work with a saw and drawknife.

The log section of the house contains the pantry, kitchen and upstairs storage rooms.

8. Significance (Continued)

and any other member of McNeil's Rangers that could be found. They were directed to the earlier hiding place of Major Gilmor and, of course, he had long since been gone. They then crossed through the woodlands and fields around Moorefield and found nothing. At early dawn they resumed their search, and spotted a group of Confederate cavalymen riding swiftly across the fields near the South Fork River. The Union troop gave chase and soon lost the Confederates in the vicinity of "The Willows."

As the Union force was searching the area, they came across a young negro girl who had been milking in the barn. "Where's Major Gilmor?" "He's inside," the startled child answered. The Union Major and his men ran into the house and upstairs where a sleeping Major Gilmor was awakened. He was told that he was under arrest and was taken out of the house into town, then to Romney. A train ride to Baltimore and prison further removed Major Gilmor from the War.

After the war, Major Morrey Randolph came home and life at "The Willows" resumed in the slow easy way it had before. The Randolph girls inherited "The Willows" but a series of unfortunate family and financial reverses forced them to sell. "The Willows" was purchased and restored by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Allen. They later sold it to Dr. and Mrs. K. Johnson, formerly of Washington, D.C.

"The Willows" has been open to the public every year during Hardy County's "Heritage Weekend", the last weekend in September. Visitors to the house are regaled with its history, admire the tranquil setting, and enjoy the beauty of the home.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

The brick section of "The Willows" was built in the early 1850's by Felix Seymour as a wedding gift for a daughter. "The Willows" is very similar to a bridal or dower cottage in England. The Seymours were only one generation away from life in England.

Because of the remote location of "The Willows," it was used as a wintering spot for Confederate troops. The home was near Moorefield. McNeil's Rangers used the farm for care of some of their horses.

On one of the few Union foraging trips to the house, the resourceful Mrs. Randolph Seymour saw the troops approaching from the South Fork Road some 2½ miles away. She warned the farm slaves to drive the horses, cattle and pigs up the mountain directly behind the house. She and the household servants quickly gathered up her jewelry, china, silver and those things that were dear to her. She had just had a child a week before, so she climbed into her bed, which had been placed in the library before the baby arrived. All precious china, silver and belongings were placed around her, padded by sheets. The covers were pulled up and the baby put into her arms.

When the Union officer came to the door, a slave answered it and showed him into Mrs. Randolph's room with much muttering about how a poor lady whose husband is away with General Lee can't have any peace, and her sick in childbed. Mrs. Randolph received him and explained that she was very ill from childbirth complications (the baby was obviously new born). The Union officer was urged to search about for whatever it was he was looking for. He and some men quietly searched the house, found little to carry away, and left. A very relieved Mrs. Randolph called her servants to unpile her bed and put everything back where it belonged, and went to sleep.

In the last year of the Civil War, Major Harry Gilmore was sent to take command of McNeil's Rangers after Hanson McNeil's death. The troops had scattered to different farms for the winter and Gilmore himself, after discovering that they were impossible to gather together for winter raids, took up quarters at "The Willows." He had been seen in town by a Union spy who trailed him to the first house he had chosen for his winter's inactivity. Gilmore had later changed to "The Willows" because there was room for his staff and there was little chance of discovery there.

A Union troop, under the command of a Captain, came into the South Branch Valley for the express purpose of capturing Major Gilmore,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

correct copy

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Virgil Carrington Jones. Gray Ghosts and Rebel Raiders, pp. 353-355

Moore. History of Hardy County

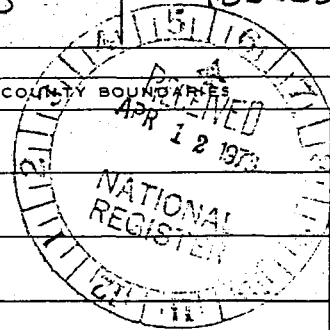
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 02 ' 00	78 ° 57 ' 44.4"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		17/676400	4322250	
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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Nancy Ann Snider, Field Research Agent

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE: August 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: Old Mountainlair--West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown, STATE: West Virginia 26506 CODE: 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Maurice G. Brooks
Maurice G. Brooks

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: April 2, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

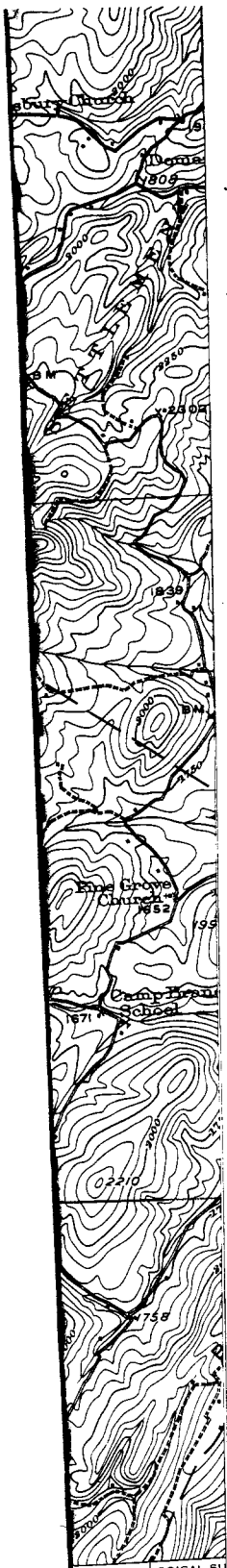
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

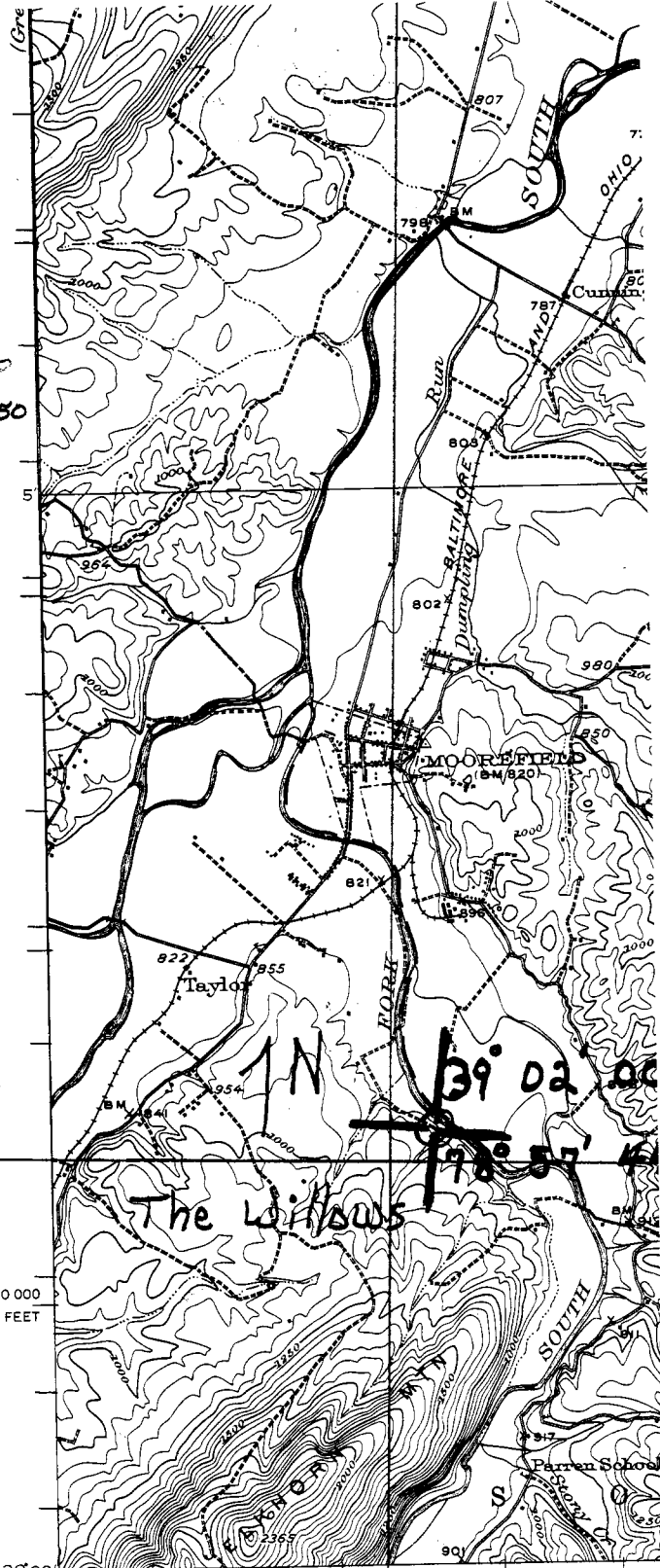
Date: _____



THE WILLOWS
 HARDY COUNTY
 WEST VIRGINIA
 UTM REFERENCE

17/676240/4322250

676400/4322250



190 000
 FEET

Petersburg
 79°00'

39°02'00"
 79°07'00"

The Willows

C. H. Birdseye, Chief Topographic Engineer.
 Frank Sutton, Topographic Engineer in charge.
 Topography by E. I. Ireland, R. C. Seltz,
 Roscoe Reeves, and W. K. McKinley.
 Control by E. L. McNair, G. T. Hawkins,
 J. B. Metcalfe, Jr., and F. L. Shalibo.
 Surveyed in 1920.

APPROX
 DECLIN

