

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

984

See Instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ^(MRA) Bulltown Multiple Resource Area

and/or common Cunningham Farm

2. Location

street & number [redacted] not for publication

city, town [redacted] vicinity of [redacted]

state West Virginia code 15429 county Braxton code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
Multiple	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
Resource Area	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name US Army Corps of Engineers

street & number 502 Eighth Street

city, town Huntington vicinity of state West Virginia 25701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Braxton County Court House

street & number Main Street

city, town Sutton state West Virginia 26601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historical and Architectural Survey of Burnsville
title Lake Project, Braxton County, WV has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records US Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

city, town Huntington state West Virginia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The nominated historic resources include the Cunningham house and two outbuildings (the granary and the food cellar), and the Union Civil War entrenchments at Bulltown. The structures and the Civil War Site are located on the [REDACTED]

The most architecturally important building of the Cunningham farm is the Cunningham farmhouse, a two-story, gable-roofed, log dwelling built in the early nineteenth century by Henry Cunningham. Originally, the house was a dogtrot log structure with two two-story pens with separate entrances. Today, the house is rectangular in shape and has a porch supported by six columns. The porch is floored with random width boards attached with cut nails across the facade. At the rear, a four-room, shed roof frame addition has been attached. The entire house is sided with narrow clapboards which were once painted white. Centered on each end of the dwelling are cut sandstone fireplaces. The entire structure, with the exception of the porch, rests on a dry laid rubble sandstone foundation.

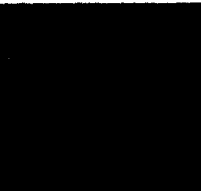
The eleven rooms in the log portion of the present house are well-finished and show that care was taken in their completion. All the walls in these rooms are covered with hand planed, random width, tongue and groove beaded wainscoting vertically applied on the first floor and horizontally applied on the second floor. The paneling on the second floor also covers the sloping and flat portions of the ceiling.

The granary and the food cellar are the only remaining outbuildings on the Cunningham farm believed to be in existence at the turn of the twentieth century. The granary consists of a gable-roofed corncrib with a floor 4' above the ground surface. It is sided with narrow, diagonally applied boards with a space between each board for air circulation. Entry is gained by ascending five steps at the front and passing through a doorway closed by a four board, two batten door which is hung from two strap hinges and held closed by a wooden latch mechanism and a forged hasp.

The food cellar is believed to be one of the oldest outbuildings on the farm. The frame structure is sided with vertical boards with battens, and the roof is covered with sheet metal. The roof overhangs 4' 9" at the front, thus providing a protected entryway to the building. The door is composed of a double thickness of boards; on the exterior the boards are vertical while on the interior they are horizontally arranged. The single window measures 2' 5" wide X 2' 4" high. The floor and foundation are poured concrete. The ceiling and the double walls are insulated with sawdust.

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The Union Army Civil War fortifications

[REDACTED]

Historical sources mention several structures associated with the Union fort, including one or more blockhouses, a commissary, winter quarters built of lumber, cavalry sheds, a magazine, and a well. Originally constructed in late 1861, the Bulltown defensive works consisted of a blockhouse and a set of trenches. During the summer of 1863, Union soldiers erected semi-permanent buildings to serve as winter quarters. The main entrenchments enclose a vaguely triangular area of about 1 1/2 acres and were quite variable in size, shape, and manner of construction. About 1000 ft. north of the main fortifications were the outer defense works, consisting of a trench about 80 ft. long, 10 ft. wide, and 3 ft. deep, with a drain at the rear. The defenses

[REDACTED]

After the Civil War, the site was farmed and portions of the trenches and rifle pits were filled by erosion. Today the site is covered with secondary forest. Portions of the trenches are clearly visible but there are no above surface remains of the blockhouse and log structures.

In 1981 the University of Akron Archeological Field School tested the Union fortifications. Two segments of the main trenches and a segment of the lower trenches were cross-sectioned to determine construction techniques and their original configuration. Excavations within the circle of the main trench uncovered portions of two rectangular structures and a deep pit which may have been the powder magazine. The well was also located between the main trench and the lower trenches.

These components have been nominated as a MRA because they are integral to the understanding of the Civil War and subsistence farming in central West Virginia. The Union Army erected its

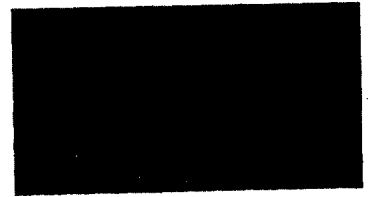
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Cunningham farm was settled by the Cunningham family in the early 1800's and remained in the family until it was purchased by the Corps of Engineers. The house and the two outbuildings reflect the typical architecture of a subsistence farm in central West Virginia and many of the changes that took place from the Civil War to the modern era.

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The nominations for the Bulltown area are based on an architectural survey by Michael and Carlisle (1979), field inspections and discussions with the State Historic Preservation Office, an archeological survey by Broyles, Liddel and Berry (1975), and test excavations by Marwitt et.al. (1982).

Four other structures (St. Michael's Church, the McCauley barn, the Fleming house and the Johnson house) from the reservoir area have been reconstructed in the Bulltown area, but these do not qualify for the register because they were moved from their original location. The Weston-Gauley Bridge Turnpike was not included in the nomination because the road was rebuilt and resurfaced, whereas original sections of the turnpike remain as a connecting trail between Burnsville Lake and Stonewall Jackson Lake. The foundations of the spring house, and the coal-and-wood house will be preserved for interpretive purposes. The outhouse will also be preserved but will not be placed on the register because it is not over 50 years old. The confederate overlook area is not included in the nomination because the rifle pits are not clearly defined and test excavations failed to produce diagnostic artifacts.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input 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		

Farmhouse--ca. 1830

Specific dates Civil War date--1863 Bullder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The MRA includes two elements -- the Cunningham farmstead and the Bulltown Civil War Site which together encompass several elements of Central West Virginia History.

In terms of agriculture and architecture the Cunningham House, granary and food cellar reflect traditional central West Virginia subsistence farming techniques which have existed relatively unchanged for over a hundred years. The house represents a very early, well preserved log structure which was modified to suit changing family needs. The house was eventually sided with clapboard, the interior walls were covered with random width beaded wainscoting, the parlor floor was finished in hardwood, and a frame addition was added on to the rear. Portions of the original hand rived clapboard siding can still be seen in the bedroom/storage area above the dogtrot. The Cunningham house is one of the oldest, best preserved log structures in Braxton County.

The granary and the food cellar are architecturally significant because they represent excellent examples of crop and domestic food storage facilities constructed during the mid-1800's. They are integral to operating and maintaining a subsistence farm and show excellent craftsmanship and quality design elements which were not present in many of the more recent structures which were dismantled.

In terms of historic archeology and military history, the Union fortifications at Bulltown are significant because the site is typical of Civil War sites in central West Virginia and represents the first major test excavation on a relatively intact Civil War site of this type. The test excavations (Batug et.al. 1982 and Marwitt et.al. 1981) uncovered two possible structures and several minor features. Artifacts recovered include cut nails, spent rifle and pistol bullets, military hardware and personal items. Over 95% of the site remains intact and this will be preserved for future archeological research of a problem oriented nature.

On 13 October 1863 the Confederate forces of Colonel William L. Jackson attacked the fortifications at Bulltown and were defeated after 12 hours of fighting. This victory enabled Union forces to maintain control of the Weston-Gauley Bridge Turnpike, a major north-south road critical to the control of central West Virginia.

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The significance of the Civil War site and the Cunningham Farmstead are enhanced by each other and exemplify the divided sympathies in Braxton County. The Union Army constructed its fortifications on the farm of Moses Cunningham, a southern sympathizer. Moses was wounded in the back at the Battle of Bulltown when he allegedly cheered for the Confederacy. A Confederate bullet hole is still visible in the door of the Cunningham house. George Armstrong, the father of Moses Cunningham's daughter-in-law, Sara Armstrong Cunningham, was a Union soldier. He was captured in Upshur county and died at Andersonville, a Confederate prison camp.

Together the Cunningham farm and the Union fortifications offer a rare opportunity to anyone interested in Americana to study several aspects of nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture and history within a confined area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Broyles, B.J., R. Liddel, and D. Berry. Archaeological Survey and Test Excavation in the Burnsville Reservoir, Braxton County. Report Submitted to National Park Service, 1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.83 ac

Quadrangle name Orlando, WV

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References

A	Zone	Easting	Northing	B	Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The Cunningham farmstead includes a .74 ac rectangular parcel of land beginning at point A, 60 ft. northwest of the granary. The boundary proceeds 120 ft due south to point B, 270 ft. east to point C, 120 ft north to the southern corner of the McCauley Barn (Point D) and back to point A. This parcel includes the three standing structures and

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Robert F. Maslowski Archeologist

organization US Army Corps of Engineers date 12 September 1983

street & number 502 Eighth Street telephone 304/529-5712

city or town Huntington state West Virginia

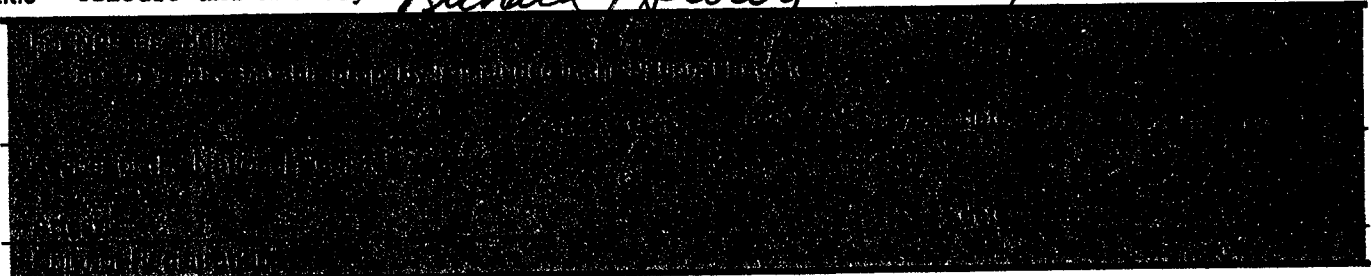
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Richard A. Hewitt
Commissioner, West Virginia Department of PRESERVATION OFFICER, USCE - Civil 27 Jan 1984
title Culture and History date 24 October 1983



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Batug, S., B. Davis, J.P. Marwitt and C.L. Lady. Archeological Test Excavations at the Bulltown Civil War Site, Braxton County, West Virginia. West Virginia Archeologist 34, 1982.

Kemp, E.L. and J.K. Kemp. A History of the Weston-Gauley Bridge Turnpike. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, 1979.

Marwitt, J.P. Archeological Test Excavations at the Bulltown Civil War Site, Braxton County, West Virginia. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, 1982.

Michael, R.L. and R.C. Carlisle. Historical and Architectural Study of Buildings and Artifacts Associated with the Bulltown Historic Area, Burnsville Lake Project, Braxton County, West Virginia. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, 1979.

Parkinson, G. and J. Hymes. Oral History Report of the Bulltown Historic Area. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, 1980.

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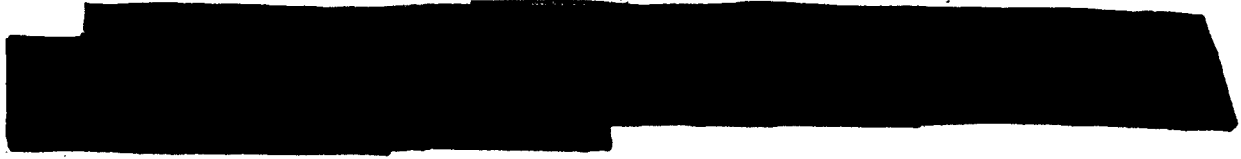
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Verbal boundary description and justification (continued)

foundations of the springhouse and the coal-and-wood house while excluding the reconstructed buildings.



The MRA surveyed includes the 13,224 acres encompassed in the Burnsville Reservoir Project. The boundaries are marked on the attached project map.

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For NPS use only
received 2/6/84
date entered 3/21/84

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Bulltown Multiple Resource Area
State Braxton County, WEST VIRGINIA

Corn 6/26/84

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Union Civil War Fortification
(Bulltown Civil War Site) Representative Review

Keeper Wm Dinkie 3/21/84

Attest _____

2. Cunningham House and
Outbuildings Representative Review

Keeper Wm Dinkie 3/21/84

Attest _____

3.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

4.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

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Keeper _____

Attest _____

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Keeper _____

Attest _____

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Keeper _____

Attest _____

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Keeper _____

Attest _____

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Keeper _____

Attest _____

10.

Keeper _____

Attest _____