1. **Name of Property**
   - Historic name: Frederick Rosenberger Farm
   - Other names/site number: Current name: Brown Farm ______________
   - Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
   - (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. **Location**
   - Street & number: 494 Harry Shirley Road
   - City or town: Kearneysville____________ State: WV____________ County: Jefferson___
   - Vicinity: X

3. **State/Federal Agency Certification**
   - As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   - I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets
   - the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
   - Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   - In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I
   - recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
   - level(s) of significance:
   - ___national ___statewide X_local
   - Applicable National Register Criteria:
   - _X_ A B C D

---

**Signature of certifying official/Title:**

Date

---------------------------

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

---

**In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.**

**Signature of commenting official:**

Date

---------------------------

**Title:**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- [ ] entered in the National Register
- [ ] determined eligible for the National Register
- [ ] determined not eligible for the National Register
- [ ] removed from the National Register
- [ ] other (explain:) __________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of the Keeper</th>
<th>Date of Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### 5. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [ ] Private: ✗
- [ ] Public – Local
- [ ] Public – State
- [ ] Public – Federal

#### Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- [ ] Building(s)
- [ ] District ✗
- [ ] Site
- [ ] Structure
- [ ] Object
Rosenberger-Brown Farm
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
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<td>4</td>
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</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register **None**

6. **Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural Outbuilding
DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural Outbuilding
DOMESTIC/Single dwelling
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
COLONIAL/Georgian

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Uncoursed limestone; Walls: uncoursed limestone; Roofing: Standing seam metal.

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph
The Brown Farm is a 272-acre complex reached from Harry Shirley Road, in rural Kearneysville/Middleway, West Virginia (Figs 1, 2). An unpaved drive about a mile long leads from Harry Shirley Road to the house, meat house, and other outbuildings (Fig.3). The drive is flat and passes fields under cultivation, grazing pasture for 100 cattle, occasional rock outcrops, and copses of Lebanon cedars. Cattle fence surrounds areas of pasture. The Brown farmhouse is two-and-a-half stories, Colonial/Georgian in plan, rectangular, with a cross-gable roof. Its foundation and walls are uncoursed limestone; its roof is standing-seam metal. Outbuildings include a wood bank barn on a stone foundation, smaller shelters for animals, and equipment sheds. Undeveloped farmland surrounds the farm building complex. Boundaries have remained largely unchanged since the early 1800s (Fig.5).

Historical integrity
Except for utility poles, a modern metal pole barn, and motorized farm equipment, the site retains strong historical integrity. The unpaved drive leads to the farm complex, also unpaved. No other houses are within sight of the complex. The house has not been embellished and probably looks much like it did when built. Grazing dairy and beef cattle give the resource the sight, sounds, and smells of an historical farm.
Narrative Description

Resource 1. Rosenberger/Brown Farm, 272 acres, contributing site.
Though 81 acres larger than in 1809 when William McDonald bought 191 acres, the Rosenberger-Brown Farm retains its core footprint of 1809. The farm today remains planted in wheat and soybeans, and provides considerable acreage to graze 100 prize beef cattle (Photo 1). Although metal cattle fence surrounds acreage for grazing, no other visual intrusions are seen. The site is distinctly rural and quiet. What is present are sounds and smells of a working farm. Corn cribs underscore the need to feed animals in off seasons. Equipment sheds shelter tractors and other farm implements. But for these modern necessities, a barn and other shelters focus on feeding cattle with farm-grown grasses and grains.

Resource 2. Rosenberger/Brown Farm house (ca. 1815), contributing building.
Built ca. 1815 the Rosenberger-Brown house is two-and-one-half-stories and five-bays with a two-bay, two-story addition (Photo 2). Its style is Colonial/Georgian with a side-gable roof of standing-seam metal, and one interior, gable-end stone chimney between the addition and the main house. The house is built on a foundation of uncoursed limestone. Fenestration on the front façade is flat-arch stone lintels with double-hung sash. The main house and addition measure overall 62’-8” wide by 20’-4” deep. (Fig. 4, “A”).

East façade
The east façade is front of the house and location of its principal entryway (Photo 2). The side-gable roof is metal, standing seam with an interior stone chimney on the north end adjoining the addition. An interior stone chimney on the south end collapsed in an earthquake in 2011. Main house walls are laid in uniformly colored uncoursed limestone; addition walls are also uncoursed stone more crudely selected than in the main house. First story openings in the main house are a six-panel centered entry door flanked by two 6/6, wood, double hung sash. Second story openings are five 6/6 double-hung sash windows above openings on the first story. Flat-arch stone lintels support openings. A simple porch supported by two columns covers the main entrance. The addition is two stories. Its entrance is on the end of the north wall. To its left is a single 6/6 double-hung window. On the second story are two 6/6 wood, double-hung sash windows. Stone flat-arch lintels support openings. A metal, standing-seam roof covers the main house and addition.

North façade
The addition covers the principal part of the north façade (Photo 3). It is laid in uncoursed stone of variegated coloring. Its first story is a sold wall of stone with no openings. In its second story are two evenly-spaced, 6/6 wood, double-hung sash. At the gable story is a single, fixed, four-panel wood window. Extending west from the addition is a modern, single story, concrete block addition housing a kitchen. Its entrance is a single, white, metal door. Its shed roof is metal.

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1 Owner G.W.Z. Black sold a fifteen-acre parcel April 19, 1906, to N. R. Roberts (Jefferson County Deed Book 113:26).
Rosenberger-Brown Farm Jefferson County, WV

Name of Property County and State

West façade

The modern, single story, concrete block addition extends across the addition and overlaps the main house (Photo 4). In the single story are two evenly-spaced, 6/6 wood, double-hung sash windows. The shed roof is metal. In the addition are two evenly-spaced 6/6 wood, double-hung sash windows. The addition roof is standing-seam metal with snow birds. The main house is three-bay on first and second stories. Its cellar level is partially exposed. Its centered entrance on the first story is reached by five steps leading to a small, covered, entry porch supported by four columns. A pair of 9/6 wood, double-hung sash flank the entry doorway. On the second story above first story openings below are three evenly-spaced 6/6 wood, double-hung sash windows. Roofing is standing-seam metal.

South façade

The south façade is uncoursed limestone from partially-exposed cellar to peak of the gable (Photo 5). Dressed stone form quoins at corners. A small wood batten door leads to the cellar. Above the eave is a four-pane casement window for attic ventilation. Until 2011, a brick interior chimney rose from the peak of the gable, however the earthquake of 2011 destroyed it.

Resource 3. Rosenberger/Brown Farm Meat House (ca. 1815), contributing building. Built at about the same time as the main house, the meat house was a necessity to any farm family and the enslaved or hired servants who lived there. The meat house at the Rosenberger/Brown farm is important for having survived more than 200 years since its construction (Photos 6, 7). The base story is built of thick limestone blocks. The front (and rear) gables are vertical boards, painted. The roof is standing seam metal. A wood, batten door is off center on the front gable. There are no other entries or ventilation ports. Outside dimensions on each side are 14’ 3”. (Fig. 4, “B”).

Resource 4. Rosenberger/Brown Farm Dairy Barn (ca 1960s), non-contributing building. Four generations of Browns have kept a dairy herd at their farm. The dairy barn has a concrete block first story and ell that supports a wood gambrel roof covered with standing seam metal (Photos 8, 18, 19). (Fig. 4, “C”).

Resource 5. Rosenberger/Brown Wooden Equipment Shed (undated), non-contributing building. Shelter of any composition is important to protect livestock and equipment (Photo 10). This example helps protect valuable farm equipment from the elements. (Fig. 4, “D”).

Resource 6. Rosenberger/Brown Pair Corn Cribs (undated), non-contributing structures. Two wire corn cribs covered with conical metal roofs are common among many farms (Photo 11). Exposed to air, the design allows corn to dry rather than molt and rot. Corn is often fed to beef and swine. Chickens or other poultry can peck for cobs or kernels that drop. (Fig. 4, “E”).

Resource 7. Rosenberger/Brown Old Barn (ca. early 1900s), contributing building. Buildings wear out over time or suffer damage from wind, rain, and snow (Photos 12, 16, 17, 18, 19). This gambrel-roofed structure endured the elements and may have been further damaged by an earthquake in 2011. (Fig. 4, “F”).

Section 7 page 6
Resource 8. Rosenberger/Brown Metal Barn (ca. 1990), non-contributing building. This equipment shed represents other metal structures like this that are located throughout the farm (Photo 9). This particular structure shelters hay and fodder, crucial food for animals. Other buildings and structures shelter farm equipment or animals. (Fig. 4, “G”).

Resource 9. Rosenberger/Brown Metal Barn (ca. 2022), non-contributing building. This is a new building, constructed in 2022, to house equipment (Photo 13). (Fig. 4, “H”).

Resource 10. Rosenberger/Brown Metal Barn (ca. 1990), non-contributing building. This equipment shed represents other metal structures like this that are located throughout the farm (Photo 14). This particular structure shelters equipment. Others shelter food for livestock. (Fig. 4, “I”).

Resource 11. Rosenberger/Brown Animal Shelter (ca. 1980), non-contributing building. Livestock need shade from hot suns in summer, provided by this simple system of corrugated metal roofing on wooden poles (Photo 15). In footprint this building covers more area than any other building/structure on the farm. Its size is necessary to provide shade for as many as 100 head of cattle. (Fig. 4, “J”).

Resource 12. Rosenberger/Brown Equipment Shed (ca. 1990), non-contributing building. This is an older building, constructed of corrugated metal roofing supported by poles. It shelters equipment (Photo 20). (Fig. 4, “K”).

Resource 13. Rosenberger/Brown Metal Barn (ca. 1990), non-contributing building. This newer, metal barn serves as an adjunct to the older barn just behind it. Here livestock are sheltered from weather extremes in a building that is stronger than the old one it replaced. The Brown family can erect single-story buildings such as these by themselves in less time and at considerably less expense than a comparable cost of a wooden barn (Photo 17). (Fig. 4, “L”).
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
Rosenberger-Brown Farm
Name of Property

Period of Significance
1809-1951

Significant Dates
None

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
None

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Rosenberger/Brown Farm is locally significant under Criterion A: Agriculture, for its role as a working farm from 1809 when sold by William McDonald to Frederick Rosenberger to 1951 when it was sold to the Brown family, who own it to this day. The Rosenberger/Brown House and meat house are locally significant under Criterion C: Architecture, as an example of early Colonial/Georgian architecture in Jefferson County.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

A note on acreage: Acreage is most accurately measured by a surveyor. In 1765 Thomas Rutherford surveyed the core Alexander Fryer tract at 151 acres. To this 151-acre area, owners later sold land to successive Rosenberger/Brown Farm buyers. For clarity, deeded acreage of each sale is noted. With each sale appears a slight increase in acreage. There appears no explanation for this “acreage creep.” Perhaps sellers took latitude with the oft used deed term “more or less,” to claim they were selling slightly more acreage than they owned. Jefferson County surveyor James K. Hendricks surveyed the farm in 1903 (Fig. 8). His survey of 297 acres has been the benchmark measurement for property transfers since 1903, including the most recent. When acreage of deeded outsales has been deducted, current net acreage is 272.
Agriculture and the Rosenberger-Brown Farm

With the Albany Treaty of 1722, the six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy (now including the Tuscarora) agreed in theory to allow European settlement of the Shenandoah Valley. Conflicts and tension would follow for another six years until 1728 when the Iroquois formally abandoned their claims. Peace gave way to increased European settlement in the Shenandoah Valley, especially by English transplants from eastern Virginia.\(^2\) Prospective landowners in the northern Shenandoah Valley could claim land from one of three sources: (1) a royal patent issued by the colonial governor; (2) powers delegated to Jost Hite (1685-1760), the royal governor’s surrogate in the Valley; or (3) a land grant from Thomas, Lord Fairfax (1693-1782), whose family received nearly six million acres from Charles II in 1639.\(^3\) Lawsuits ensued between owners granted land by Lord Fairfax and those who traced their deeds to a royal patent. These lawsuits would not be settled until 1802.\(^4\) No matter the source of grant or patent, the applicant needed a land survey to help validate the property claimed.

Sensing relative peace among Indian nations, Virginia Royal Governor William Gooch pressed for settlements in the northern Shenandoah Valley. He felt settlers and settlements would act as a buffer to renewed encroachments by French and Indians, and eventually provide stability to Virginia’s claim to land beyond the Blue Ridge. French and Indian encroachment, however, recurred, and came to a head with the French and Indian Wars beginning in 1756. Battles and contention remained to the late 1750s.

By 1760 relative peace had returned to the Shenandoah Valley. Britain had subdued French advances in the Ohio Valley, and the Treaty of Paris in 1763 would put a temporary end to British-French warfare in the British colonies. But for the northern Shenandoah Valley there was an upside to years of recent warfare: the area had become a commissary to British occupation. Local farmers and millers supplied British garrisons with ample wheat and flour, and others along the Opequon Creek provided beef, pork, butter, and cheese in quantities above those needed locally. Local sales to the British army generated cash, a much-needed medium of exchange, and stimulated agricultural production.

**Lord Fairfax; Alexander Fryer (also Frier)**

In 1765, Thomas, Lord Fairfax, granted a 151-acre parcel to Alexander Fryer (d. 1793) (Fig. 5).\(^5\) Not much is known about Fryer. After the Revolutionary War, Fryer filed a Revolutionary War

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\(^4\) Duplicate claims for the same property form the heart of the well-documented Fairfax-Hite lawsuits and are beyond the scope of this study. For simplicity see: Rebecca Ebert, *Finding Your People in the Shenandoah Valley: A Genealogical Guide* (Ashland, WI: Heartland Press, 1988).

Rosenberger-Brown Farm

Name of Property: Rosenberger-Brown Farm

County and State: Jefferson County, WV

Public Service Claim, probably for non-military services rendered or goods supplied. In 1777, Fryer sold the 151-acre parcel to his son, Alexander, Jr. Then, in 1787, Fryer, Jr. and his wife Rebekah, sold their 151-acre parcel to William and Rebekah McDonald. Fryer, Sr., died in 1793. Deeded acreage in 1787: 151.

William and Rebekah McDonald (sometimes McDaniel)

Two other owners sold contiguous parcels to the McDonalds: Carver and Frances Willis, and Nathaniel and Euphernia Manning, both in 1803. In 1809 the McDonalds sold the consolidated tract to Frederick Rosenberger (d. 1823). The parcel comprised 191 deeded acres.

Frederick Rosenberger

In the federal census for 1810 Frederick Rosenberger listed a household size of five. Except for himself, no other household member is detailed by name. He did not own any enslaved persons. But ten years later, the Fourth Census of Occupations and Manufactures of 1820 listed his household size as seven with the addition of an unnamed child and one enslaved person. Rosenberger’s occupation was “farmer.” A newspaper ad in 1834 announced that Frederick Rosenberger had corralled two stray horses. Their owner could claim them by identification and payment of charges. Rosenberger died in 1834. To his son, David, Rosenberger left his farm and his “negro man, Bob.” Deeded acreage in 1809: 191.

David Rosenberger

David Rosenberger (1799-1879) already owned 68 acres he bought in 1825 from neighbor Nicholas Shaull. The federal census for 1830 listed David Rosenberger (1799-1879) as a “farmer” with a household of seven whites and three enslaved. Ten years later, the federal census for 1840 listed David with a household size of seventeen, eleven whites and six enslaved, with four persons engaged in agriculture. The decade of the 1840s proved difficult for David. In 1842 he dissolved a partnership with George McClure, his presumed partner in a grist mill. A year later in early April, a devastating flood damaged his mill on the Opequon. After the flood, he advertised “60 or 70 acres” of prime limestone land “near the Opequon,” with about half the acreage in “thriving timber.” His land did not sell.

In December, 1843, David and Elizabeth sold their enlarged tract – 68 acres they bought in 1825 and 191 acres David inherited from his father. The buyer was Anthony Rosenberger (1771-1853)

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6 Anne Waller Reddy, West Virginia Revolutionary Ancestors whose services were non-military, and whose names, therefore, do not appear in Revolutionary indexes of soldiers and sailors. (Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Company, 2001), 31.
7 Berkeley County Deed Book 4:125.
8 Berkeley County Deed Book 7:220.
9 Willis: JCDB 1:518; Manning: JCDB 1:521.
10 JCDB 5:297.
12 Virginia Free Press, June 26, 1834, 4.
13 Jefferson County Will Book 8:7.
14 JCDB 13:311.
15 Virginia Free Press, April 20, 1843, 1.
whose relationship to David is unknown. David and Elizabeth moved to Barbour County in central West Virginia. By the federal census for 1850, the family of David Rosenberger, age 50, had increased. Elizabeth, his wife, had born nine children. His occupation was listed as “agriculture.” The 1860 census listed David as a “miller.” Deeded acreage in 1843: 259; land tax cited: 261 acres.

Anthony Rosenberger
Anthony Rosenberger held the farm only four years. In 1847 he sold it to John and Mary Stewart. Deeded acreage in 1847: 265.

John and Mary Stewart
John and Mary Stewart owned property adjoining Anthony Rosenberger. The Stewarts held the farm a relatively short time selling it to John W. and Phoebe Grantham in 1851 for $10,980. Grantham’s ownership is documented on the county map drawn by county surveyor Samuel Howell Brown in 1852 (Fig. 6). Deeded acreage in 1851: 274.

John W. and Phoebe Grantham
In what was likely the shortest period of ownership – two years – John W. and Phoebe Grantham sold the tract to Peter Bowers in 1853 for $12,650. Deeded acreage in 1853: 274.

Peter Bowers
Peter Bowers (1820-1881) and his wife Harriet (1831-1868) owned the farm until his death in 1881. Bowers was owner for the last three years of the federal agricultural censuses for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. For 1850, John W. Stewart owned the farm and is documented in the federal agricultural census for that year as is illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1. Federal Agricultural Censuses for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 for Rosenberger-Brown Farm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>improved land</th>
<th>Unimproved land</th>
<th>Cash value of land</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>Farm Implement $</th>
<th>Value wages paid</th>
<th>Horses</th>
<th>Milk cows</th>
<th>Other cattle</th>
<th>Swine</th>
<th>Livestock $</th>
<th>Wheat bushels</th>
<th>Indian corn Bushels</th>
<th>Wool in pounds</th>
<th>Irish potatoes bushels</th>
<th>Butter, pounds</th>
<th>Hay, tons</th>
<th>Clover seed, bushels</th>
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Note: John W. Stewart owned the farm in 1850. For 1860, 1870, and 1880, when owned by Peter Bowers, censuses do not report production. For 1860, the farm is listed to “Charles Bowers.”

16 JCDB 29:69.
17 JCDB 31:418.
18 JCDB 34:101.
Although incomplete for the years 1860 and 1880, the remaining agricultural census data for 1850 and 1870 document the site’s use as a farm. Though detailed agricultural data for succeeding decades is not available, Rosenberger-Brown Farm has retained its use as a farm.

The 1883 map of Jefferson County drawn by county surveyor Samuel Howell Brown shows the farm owned by “Peter Bowers Heirs” (Fig. 7). Peter Bowers’ heirs tried to sell the tract. They posted ads in local newspapers, but in the end, county commissioners ordered the property sold at auction. Newspapers reported more than one buyer, first Jno. Nicely at $17.50 an acre,19 and in 1885, A[ddison] L[ewis] Withers at $25.50 an acre.20 A. L. Withers was successful buyer.21 Deeded acreage in 1885: 301.

A. L. Withers
By his will, probated in 1903, A. L. Withers (1804-1890) devised the tract to his widow and sons.22 They, in turn, sold the tract to G. W. Z. Black.23 The deed included an important, surveyor-generated plat by Jefferson County surveyor James K. Hendricks (Fig. 8). Deeded acreage in 1903: 297 as properly surveyed by James Hendricks.

G. W. Z. Black
George Washington Ziegler Black (1844-1914) was from Bedford County, south-central Pennsylvania. He was a Union officer in the Civil War and in 1862 was wounded at the Battle of Antietam. In 1869 Black was appointed postmaster for Frederick, Maryland.24 In 1906, the Spirit of Jefferson reported that Black, who now went by his military rank and was known as “Colonel” Black, lived at “Beall-Air,” a prominent Jefferson County home near Halltown. In 1906, Black sold 15 acres to Nelson Roberts,25 and then sold the remaining 282-acre tract to J. W. Harper.26 Net deeded acreage in 1906 (297 acres less 15 acres): 282.

J. William Harper
J. William Harper (1867-1934) was a stock farmer, specializing in sheep. In 1909 he owned 100 “Wall’s Western Ewes” and bought a “Shropshire ram” to service them.27 Sheep grazed, provided wool, and could be slaughtered for meat. Later, Harper bought 30 stock steer.28 But by 1913, Harper was ready to give up farming. He built a brick house in Charles Town,29 leased his

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19 Spirit of Jefferson, November 10, 1885, 4.
20 Spirit of Jefferson, December 8, 1885, 4.
21 JCDB O: 331.
22 JCWB A:452.
23 JCDB 93:491.
26 JCDB 98:280.
28 Spirit of Jefferson, August 19, 1913, 6.
29 Virginia Free Press, February 27, 1913. 4.
Rosenberger-Brown Farm Jefferson County, WV

Name of Property County and State

Farm, and advertised for sale his livestock and farm implements (Fig. 9).\textsuperscript{30} His ad conveyed the extent of his farming operation. Horses, mules, cows, sheep, and hogs and a full spectrum of farm implements are all listed in detail. Harper sold his 282-acre farm in 1915 to E. G. Staubs for $12,500.\textsuperscript{31} Deeded acreage: 282.

E. G. Staubs
Born in West Virginia, Edward Gardner Staubs (1874-1949) was a “general farmer” according to the federal census of 1920, living on his farm in Middleway. His World War I draft card lists him of “medium height and build” with “brown hair” and “blue eyes.” He and his wife, Rosa, had eight children ranging in age from three to nineteen. A newspaper article in 1915 describes him as “one of Jefferson County’s young and aggressive farmers,” and one who planned to turn his property into a “Stock Farm.”\textsuperscript{32} In 1919 he advertised “100 cords of slab wood” and “200 cords of lap wood” for sale at his farm near Middleway. A livestock sale in 1926 grossed Staubs $5,181.23 of which nearly “two fifths were in cash.”\textsuperscript{33} In 1940, E. G. and his wife, Rosie, sold their farm to Howard W. Wilt and Oscar L. Wilt.\textsuperscript{34} Deeded acreage (inferred): 282.

Howard William Wilt and Oscar Leo Wilt
Howard William Wilt (1908-1958) and Oscar Leo Wilt (dates unknown) kept the property only five years, selling it in 1945 to Julian Alfred Everly (1911-1979) and Frances Everly (1909-1998).\textsuperscript{35} No sales price given. Deeded acreage: 282.

Julian and Frances Everly
According to the federal census for 1950, the Everlys lived on a farm in Greenaway, Clarke County, Virginia. Greenaway is where Thomas, Lord Fairfax lived when he administered his Northern Neck grants. The Everlys appear to be absentee owners of the Rosenberger/Brown Farm. In 1951 they sold the property to Emerson Brown.\textsuperscript{36} Deeded acreage: 282.

Emerson Brown and the Brown family
Emerson Brown was father of successive owner Ronald Brown, grandfather of current owners, Tim and Staci Brown, and great-grandfather of Tim and Staci’s children, Victor and Rylee, who will inherit the farm from their parents.\textsuperscript{37}

The federal census for 1950 lists 50-year-old Emerson as a “farmer,” and his 14-year-old son, Ronald, as a “farm helper.” The Brown family have owned and farmed the Rosenberger-Brown Farm more than 70 years and have entered it into the Farmland Protection Program, ensuring it

\textsuperscript{30} Spirit of Jefferson, February 25, 1913, 3.
\textsuperscript{31} Spirit of Jefferson, August 31, 1915, 6.
\textsuperscript{32} Spirit of Jefferson, August 24, 1915, 6.
\textsuperscript{33} Spirit of Jefferson, March 17, 1927, 7.
\textsuperscript{34} JCDB 151:530. In 1937, for $1,000, Edgar and Rosie Staubs satisfied an outstanding mortgage made in 1926 by D.W. Staubs described in JCDB 146:9.
\textsuperscript{35} JCDB 162: 487.
\textsuperscript{36} JCDB 184:76.

Architecture and the Rosenberger-Brown Farm

The Rosenberger/Brown house and meat house are the contributing buildings of this nomination. The house is significant for its Colonial/Georgian style. The meat house, though lacking the style of the house, is an important surviving element of any Jefferson County farm from the 1700s, 1800s, and early 1900s.

The Rosenberger/Brown house

As defined in the descriptive terms of Virginia and Lee McAlester, the house is a simple classic side-gable, two-and-a-half story Colonial/Georgian design with an uncoursed stone foundation, three-rank form (three-bay), dressed stone walls, 6/6 sash windows arranged in bilateral symmetry, jack-arch lintels, an interior stone gable-end chimney, and a standing seam metal roof. The McAlesters would further define the house style as distinctly Colonial/Georgian for its “paneled front door, windows with double-hung sashes having small panes and aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows, and three ranked on the front façade.”

Unfortunately, neither the builder nor architect/designer of the Rosenberger/Brown house is known. No record survives that Rosenberger traveled any distance from Jefferson County; therefore inspiration for his new stone house likely did not result from a distant trip. But the Rosenberger/Brown house resembles other houses that architectural historian John Allen describes in Chapter One of Uncommon Vernacular, his compendium of early houses in Jefferson County. For Allen, three-bay and five-bay, center hall, houses are more common to southern Jefferson County than northern. Three-bay and five-bay, center hall houses can perhaps take inspiration from Young Carpenter’s Assistant (1805) a how-to guide written by Philadelphia builder-architect Owen Biddle (1774-1805) (Fig. 10).

Instead, inspiration for the Rosenberger house (Fig. 11) could have come from other houses nearby and throughout the county. The five-bay, two-story, side-gable with interior gable-end chimneys form of the Rosenberger house resembles other neighboring Jefferson County houses in form and material: the Michael Shaull House (ca. 1815), and the Nicholas Shaull House (ca. 1816, Fig. 12). Allen posits that these three houses shared the same builder and were built at about the same time. Precisely when the stone house was built is unknown. Architectural historian John Allen places the date ca. 1815. The addition, however, appears to have been added later.

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40 McAlesters, Field Guide to American Houses, 139.  
41 Allen, Uncommon Vernacular, 20-33.  
42 Allen, Uncommon Vernacular, 90-95.
Each of the three center hallways reflects the personal preference of its owner on location of the stairway. The Rosenberger/Brown stairway, a “closed winder stairway,” ascends as a dogleg perpendicular to its hallway. Both the Nicholas Shaull and Michael Shaull stairways ascend parallel to their center hallways. Stairway locations of the three properties point to the adaptability of a center hallway in a Colonial/Georgian plan illustrated by Owen Biddle.

Dates of construction are difficult to pinpoint. Three sources from the 1700s sometimes offer clues. The 1774 List of Tithables, oldest printed reference to early property owners in Berkeley County, does not reference Alexander Fryer, probably because records for the district where he lived are missing. Likewise, the Jonathan Clark Notebook, compiled in 1786, does not mention a “Fryer” (or any other variant of the name). The remaining 1700s source, the 1798 House and Slave Tax, also does not describe buildings of any owner before Frederick Rosenberger.

More documentation to dates of construction may be available in land tax records. Prior to 1820, Jefferson County Land Tax records do not separate assessments of land and buildings. After 1820 they do. In 1821 the land tax record assessed Frederick Rosenberger with buildings valued at $1,500 and 192 acres of land valued at $3,300, for which Rosenberger paid $4.32 in property taxes. In 1825 the same appraisal resulted in taxes of $3.84; in 1835 that amount increased to $5.27. The increase in 1835 may have resulted when David Rosenberger inherited the farm from his father and his land was reappraised.

David Rosenberger owned land in addition to what he inherited from his father. The land tax entry for 1842 lists David as owning 261 acres, “land transferred from George Reynolds” and adds, “allowed $538 added for new house.” The entry suggests that the addition to the Rosenberger house occurred in 1842. In style and construction this makes sense. The stone is less carefully chosen for color and is not dressed. Lintels are uncoursed stone and not flat-arch as in the main house. No other dwelling has survived that appears to be a house built in 1842.

The Meat House

The only other surviving early building is the meat house. Before refrigeration, the importance of a meat house can be summarized in the couplet, “No meat/No eat.” A meat house, sometimes called a smokehouse, preserved mostly hams and bacon, but also beef and venison, to feed farm families throughout times when fresh meat was not available. Referencing Virginia Housewife, published in 1824, architectural historian John Allen described how owners bled and butchered a cut of meat, rubbed it with salt, salt-peter, and brown sugar, then hung it in their meat house to...


Section 8 page 16
cure. Cuts were “hung” to allow air circulation and to keep meat away from rodents. Small vent holes facilitated air circulation. Stout doors and locks helped deter thievery.

The Rosenberger/Brown meat house is one-story, uncoursed limestone with vertical wood gables, and covered with a metal standing-seam roof (Fig. 13). Its doorway is in the gable-end façade. Architectural historian Allen describes the Rosenberger/Brown entry as an “off-center doorway.” As Jonathan Clark did not describe the meat house in 1786, its construction probably postdates 1786. There are no openings for air circulation and to keep the interior temperature more constant for curing.

The meat house is an important legacy to food preservation in Jefferson County from its settlement to the late 1800s. Though relatively small in size it played a major role in ensuring farm families were fed in off-harvest months with plentiful, high-calorie food to help sustain the hard physical work they performed. Farm families perform the same hard physical work today, but fortunately modern food preservation assists them.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Public Records available on line directly or through FamilySearch.org
- Berkeley County, VA and WV, Deeds and Wills
- Jefferson County, VA and WV, Deeds and Wills

Newspaper accounts available through GenealogyBank (subscription)
- Farmers Repository (Charles Town, WV)
- Shepherdstown Register (Shepherdstown, WV)
- Spirit of Jefferson (Charles Town, WV)
- Virginia Free Press (Charles Town, WV)

Federal Census Records available through FamilySearch.org


Rosenberger-Brown Farm
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #__________
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #__________
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #__________

Primary location of additional data:
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
   Name of repository: ____________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ____________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 272__________

UTM References: See Figure 3.
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or □ NAD 1983

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The Rosenberger/Brown Farm is a 272-acre, more-narrow-than-wide, polygon extending from Harry Shirley Road slightly northeast to adjoin other land bound properties. Its only access is from Harry Shirley Road that starts off the Leetown Road (WV Route 1) near Middleway, West Virginia. Small outparcels sold by George Washington Ziegler Brown in the early 1900s cut into its extremities. See Figure 8, “Plat of deed from Withers to Black (1903).”

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
Boundaries selected represent the entirety of the nomination and are close to boundaries of the original land grants.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: _John Demer, Compiler_
organization: _Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission__________________________
street & number: _P.O. Box 23_________________________________________________________
city or town: Charles Town___ state: _WV_________ zip code:25414_______
e-mail _jdemer@hotmail.com__________________________
telephone: _304-876-6013_________________________
date: _November 19, 2023_________________________

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
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<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alternate location map of Rosenberger/Brown Farm</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Map of UTM locations.</td>
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<td>Plat of land grants for Rosenberger/Brown Farm.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Samuel Howell Brown map (1852).</td>
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<td>Sales ad of J. William Harper (1913).</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Georgian/Colonial three-bay, center hall house plan and elevation.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Rosenberger/Brown restored perspective view.</td>
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<td>Michael Shaull and Nicholas Shaull restored perspective views.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Cutaway views of a typical Jefferson County meat house.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Plat of Brown family farmland donated to Farmland Protection.</td>
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**Figure 1. USGS map of property location.** The 272-acre Rosenberger/Brown Farm is located at 494 Harry Shirley Road, Kearneysville (near Middleway), West Virginia 25430. Source: WV SHPO Map Viewer [https://mapwv.gov/shpo/viewer/index.html](https://mapwv.gov/shpo/viewer/index.html). Accessed 2023-10-26.
Figure 2. Alternate location map of Rosenberger/Brown Farm. The Farm is located at 494 Harry Shirley Road near Middleway, West Virginia. Opequon Creek is the boundary between Jefferson and Berkeley Counties.

Figure 3. Plat showing UTM locations.
Source: WV SHPO Map Viewer
Rosenberger-Brown Farm
Jefferson County, WV

Jefferson County West Virginia
Tax Map Viewer

Figure 4. Key to buildings/structures and photographs.

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<td>Pole shelter, view to south.</td>
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Figure 5. Plat and grant for Rosenberger/Brown Farm. A land grant of 151 acres from Thomas, Lord Fairfax, dated July 22, 1765, to Alexander Fire (Fryer) formed the core of the present 272-acre Rosenberger/Brown Farm.

Figure 6. Samuel Howell Brown map (1852). County surveyor Samuel Howell Brown mapped and platted Jefferson County early in his career. The owner of the Rosenberger/Brown Farm was John W. Grantham. Grantham owned the farm only two years, but because his ownership coincided with Howell Brown’s map, Grantham’s ownership is enshrined in perpetuity.


Figure 7. Samuel Howell Brown map (1883). Late in his career, county surveyor Samuel Howell Brown mapped and platted Jefferson County again. This map shows the property owned by the heirs of Peter Bowers.
Rosenberger-Brown Farm

Jefferson County, WV

Name of Property


---

**Figure 8. Plat in deed from Withers to Black (1903).** In 1903, the Withers family sold the tract to Colonel George Washington Zeigler Black. The deed includes a plat drawn by county surveyor James K. Hendricks (1870-1952). Black owned 297 acres, but sold a small, 15-acre outparcel that reduced the property’s area to 282 acres. This deed and plat will anchor future conveyances, and future deeds to the present will refer to it.

Source: Jefferson County Deed Book 93:491.
Public sales – auctions – were an expedient way of disposing of property without the need to sell individual animals or equipment piecemeal.

Horses, mules, and colts were the big draw for any farm auction as they were the 1913 equivalent of John Deere tractors: big, heavy, and powerful.

No. 6, “Polly,” a bay mule, was a good barshear (type of plow) leader. No. 9, “Diamond,” could pull a carriage at about “9 miles per hour.”

Horses, mules, and colts had names; for this ad, cows did not. They were just “cows.”

Sheep provided wool for clothing and could be slaughtered for meat.

Hogs ate just about anything and provided hams and bacon that were preserved as high calorie food.

The extensive list of farming implements detail equipment needed for a 272-acre farm. The 3.5-horsepower gasoline engine is almost an afterthought. Harness, however, is not, and is listed in detail.

Common payment terms: cash for anything selling for less than $10, limited, short-time credit for sales higher than $10.
Figure 10. Georgian/Colonial three-bay, center hall house plan and elevation. The original ca. 1815 Frederick Rosenberger house resembled in plan the example Owen Biddle (1774-1806) depicted in plate 36 of his Young Carpenter’s Assistant (1805). In elevation and embellishment, however, the Rosenberger house is a more plain, Colonial/Georgian style. It lacks Chinese tracery at the roof ridge, a raised basement, Doric-columned portico, and glazed demi-lune door lintel. Nonetheless, the plan of the Rosenberger house resembles that of a house from a design book printed ten years earlier.

Source: Allen, Uncommon Vernacular, 90.
Figure 11. **Rosenberger/Brown restored perspective view.** As current owners Tim and Staci Brown point out, the restored perspective view of the addition shows the first-story entry door and window transposed. The doorway should be where the window is, and vice-versa. The Browns also point out that the chimney at the far left no longer stands as it was lost in the earthquake of 2011. From the parlor ascends a “closed winder stairway” that opens the center hallway but takes room from the parlor it occupies.

Figure 12. Michael Shaull and Nicholas Shaull restored perspective views. Circa 1815, the Shaulls and Rosenberger owned adjoining properties. In all likelihood the same builder built their respective houses that are nearly identical in dimensions and massing. Only the locations of additions and layouts of their central hallways differ. Nonetheless the three houses illustrate the Colonial/Georgian style was adaptable and popular.

Figure 13. **Cutaway views of a typical Jefferson County meat house.** Before refrigeration, the importance of a meat house can be summarized in the couplet, “No meat/No eat.” A meat house, sometimes called a smokehouse, preserved mostly hams and bacon, but also beef and venison, to feed farm families throughout times when fresh meat was not available.

Figure 14. Plat of Rosenberger/Brown farmland donated to Farmland Protection.
In 2022 the Brown family donated 311 acres to Farmland Protection, ensuring their land would remain farmland forever. A Farmland Protection sign at the head of their lane aptly reads “Protected Forever.”
Source of plat: Jefferson County Plat Book 26:471.
Rosenberger-Brown Farm

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Rosenberger/Brown Farm
City or Vicinity: Middleway
County: Jefferson
State: WV
Photographer: John Demer
Date Photographed: November 3, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view and direction of camera:

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WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0001. View to northeast. Farmstead and buildings are reached from a one-mile gravel road off Harry Shirley Road. Photo shows the house (ca. 1815), metal structures and sheds. Cattle graze freely throughout the property.
WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0002. View to north. The house was likely built in two sections: the earliest (left) circa 1815, and the addition (right, behind the tree) circa 1842. Cattle graze freely throughout the immediate vicinity and largely reduce the need to mow.
Rosenberger-Brown Farm
Name of Property
Jefferson County, WV
County and State

WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0003. View to southwest. Although
the addition has corner blocks dressed as quoins, uncoursed stone in walls varies in color,
unlike the stone in the main house.
WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0004. View to south. Unlike five-bays of the front of the main house, the rear has only three, no doubt a cost savings. A modern furnace is attached to the brick chimney. The concrete block addition to the addition houses a modern kitchen.
Rosenberger-Brown Farm

WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0005. View to southeast. Until 2011, the west façade had an interior chimney that an earthquake destroyed. A small door gives access to the cellar, and a four-panel casement widow gives ventilation to the attic.
<table>
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**WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0006.** View to northwest. A family cured and stored pork, hams, bacon, beef and venison in their meat house (Fig 13). Thick stone helped keep the structure cool in summer. In style, this meat house has an off-center doorway on its gable end.

**WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0007.** Meat house, view to southeast.
Rosenberger-Brown Farm

WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0009. View to southeast. The Brown family keeps more than 100 head of cattle that require hay over winter months. This metal storage building provides ample, easy-to-reach space to store hay and straw.
WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0010. View to north. These sheds help shelter farm equipment from rain and snow.
VW_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0011. View to north. Dried corn provides food for poultry, cattle, and swine during winter months.
Rosenberger-Brown Farm

Jefferson County, WV

View to north. Modern metal structures have supplanted in use this old wooden barn.
Metal barn, view to southeast. Metal buildings such as this provide shelter for livestock and equipment formerly housed in the Old Barn and other wooden buildings and pole shelters. These provide adequate shelter, can be assembled by family and a small crew, and cost less than a traditional wood, barn-frame barn.
Rosenberger-Brown Farm
Jefferson County, WV

WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0014. Equipment shed, view to southeast.
As with other metal buildings on the property, this serves an important need to house valuable equipment.
**Rosenberger-Brown Farm**

Name of Property: **Rosenberger-Brown Farm**

County and State: **Jefferson County, WV**

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**WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0015.** Animal shelter, view to north. Livestock need shade from hot sun in summertime. This construct of corrugated metal roofing atop a system of vertical poles, provides at least some respite for them.
WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0016. Old barn (corral), view to southwest. Low sun caused a poor photo. The corral is bordered with fence or buildings and allows livestock room to roam, however limited.
Rosenberger-Brown Farm
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV
County and State

WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0017. Old barn & metal barn, view to southwest. The new metal barn has taken the place of the old in providing shelter for livestock.
Rosenberger-Brown Farm
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV
County and State

WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0018. Old barn front, view to south.

WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0019. Dairy barn & old barn; view to southeast.
Rosenberger-Brown Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

WV_Jefferson County_Rosenberger/Brown Farm_0020. Pole shelter, view to south. Pole shelters of metal roofing supported by poles or 6” x 6” lumber prove an adequate shelter for valuable equipment.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.