United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Boggs Farm, William

Other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: State Route 7
City or town: Hedgesville
State: West Virginia

Not for publication: N/A
Vicinity: X
County: Berkeley
Code: 003
Zip code: 25427

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1935, 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 nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

__________________________  10/2/2000
Signature of certifying official                              Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

__________________________                Date
Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the
National Register:
See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the
National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain):

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- X private
- ____ public-local
- ____ public-State
- ____ public-Federal

Category of Property:

- X building(s)
- ____ district
- ____ site
- ____ structure
- ____ object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing Noncontributing
2 _____ buildings
_____ sites
_____ structures
_____ objects
2 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
USDI/NPS Registration Form

William Boggs Farm
Berkeley County, West Virginia

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
Cat: DOMESTIC: Sub: single dwelling secondary structure
AGRICULTURE: agricultural field
animal facility

Current Functions:
Cat: VACANT Sub:
AGRICULTURE: agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Vernacular - I-House Plan

Materials:

Foundation: Stone
Roof: Cedar shakes
Walls: Log/wood siding
Other: Local field stone

Narrative Description: (See continuation sheet.)

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)

   __X__ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
   __X__ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
   __X__ 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.
USDI/NPS Registration Form

William Boggs Farm
Berkeley County, West Virginia

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 a grave.
___ d a cemetery.
___ e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
___ f a commemorative property.
___ g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance:
Agriculture
Exploration/Settlement
Architecture

Period of Significance:
1790-1836

Significant Dates:
1790
1836

Significant Person:
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Boggs, William, Sr.

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance: (See continuation sheet.)
USDI/NPS Registration Form
William Boggs Farm
Berkeley County, West Virginia

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography:
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

(See continuation sheet.)

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    # __________

Primary Location of Additional Data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 164 acres

UTM References:

Quad Name: BIG POOL

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USDI/NPS Registration Form

William Boggs Farm
Berkeley County, West Virginia

Verbal Boundary Description: (See continuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification: (See continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Daniel T. Goggin
Organization: 
Street & number: 3001 Veazey Ter. NW, Apt. 1513 Telephone: (202) 244-6838
City or town: Washington State: DC Zip code: 20008-5409
Date: June 15, 2000

Name/title: Richard W. Dodge
Organization: 
Street & number: 334 So. Carolina Ave. SE Telephone: (202) 544-2033
City or town: Washington State: DC Zip code: 20003
Date: June 15, 2000

Property Owners

Name: Daniel T. Goggin, Co-owner
Street & number: 3001 Veazey Ter. NW, Apt. 1513 Telephone: (202) 244-6838
City or town: Washington State: DC Zip code: 20008-5409

Name: Richard W. Dodge, Co-owner
Street & number: 334 So. Carolina Ave. SE Telephone: (202) 544-2033
City or town: Washington State: DC Zip code: 20003
The William Boggs house and farm is off State Route 7 and is not visible from the roadway. A steep drive leads down the hill to the home which faces east. Nestled among the trees, the home overlooks the lower fields and pastures bordering Back Creek.

**Residence c. 1790**  

The two and half story house has three bays on the front and rear, with a center door and side 2/2 double-hung sash windows. The siding is wide plank boards, with narrower wood siding in the gable ends. The large stone fireplace was rebuilt on the old foundation in 1984. The front wooden door is exceptionally thick, and is locally called an Indian Door for the double thickness. It has a design of 6 panels while the rear door is vertical planks. Bands of metal cover the siding where porches were once attached to the rear and front facades. The gable roof has cedar shakes.

The interior has an I-house plan with central hall spanning between the two doors, and four rooms. Narrow stairs lead to the second floor with cutwork and dropped pendant designs on the side risers. The walls of the main parlor are vertical boards that have been whitewashed, with wood wainscoting, wooden floors and simple trim. The joists are log beams and the stone fireplace has a stone hearth. The second downstairs room is narrow with the logs exposed and layered with whitewash. No evidence was present that the walls had ever been covered with plaster or wood boards, but a chair rail is attached.

The upstairs has two rooms, although the larger room has a thin dividing partition wall. The fireplace has a tall mantel dating to the late 18th or early 19th century. In the narrow north room are dogleg stairs leading to the attic. The windows in this room appear to be original with 9/6 double-hung sash windows.

**Root Cellar c. 1800s**  

Two stories with wood board siding, gable seamed metal roof, stone foundation. Built into the hillside, one enters the building from opposite sides. The last farm family, the Laings, used the building to store meats and canned goods.
Other:

Also on the property are a dilapidated outbuilding, a c. 1930s garage/workshop, and metal sided "saw mill shanty" that was moved onto the property in the late 1930s by the Laings. These buildings are in extremely poor condition and may be slated for removal. They are not included in the count of contributing buildings.
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: William Boggs Farm
County and State: Berkeley County, West Virginia

Section 8

Statement of Significance

The William Boggs Farm is significant under Criterion A for Agriculture, Criterion B for William Boggs, Sr. for his part in the Exploration/Settlement of the area. The farm was the first land grant (1750) in the area of Back Creek Valley and is typical of Western migration and exploration in this wilderness. Boggs ultimately developed a prosperous crop and livestock farm that provided for the economic and intellectual growth of the Boggs family for more than 100 years. Most importantly, the Boggs log house is significant under Criterion C for Architecture because it illustrates local vernacular architecture of the late 18th century having been constructed about 1790. The period of significance begins in 1790 when the house was built and extends to 1836, the year of William Boggs, Jr’s. death.

Historical Context

A group of loyal supporters of the English Monarchy was given a vast area of unsettled land in 1649 situated between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers in the Colony of Virginia. The area, commonly called the Northern Neck, consisted of approximately 5.3 million acres and came under the ownership of Thomas, Lord Culpeper by 1688. His daughter married Thomas, Lord Fairfax, in 1690. Since then, the area has been associated with the Fairfax name. Their son Thomas, the 6th to bear the title, like others who controlled vast land areas, was required to encourage settlement and assign ownership to those who occupied and farmed the land. A significant barrier to settlement on Lord Fairfax’s western lands fell in the summer of 1744 when colonial officials in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania met in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and negotiated a treaty with the Native American Indians. This guaranteed colonists the right to settle on lands which were formerly considered Native American Indian hunting grounds and included Frederick County in northwestern Virginia, a part of the Northern Neck.

Would-be settlers purchased warrants for a specified amount of ungranted land. The settlers then located on the land, cleared it sufficiently to grow crops for a season to support a family, and built a modest log dwelling. They then had a surveyor from the proprietor’s office survey the land, who drew a plat and verified that the holder of the warrant occupied the land. These papers were sent to the proprietor’s office and a grant was
issued to the original warrant holder and the heirs.

Fairfax issued grants from his estate at Belvoir in eastern Virginia, near Mount Vernon, and through a branch office which opened at Greenway Court near Winchester in the summer of 1749.

Settlement of the Property

Prior to 1750 William Boggs (spelled Bogs in some early documents) arrived in Back Creek Valley, Frederick County, Virginia. He cleared land and constructed a small log structure along the west bank of Back Creek. John Mauzy, a surveyor for the Northern Neck Proprietary, surveyed the Boggs settlement. The survey, dated March 26, 1750, defines the boundaries of the 275 acres settled by Boggs and includes a plat along with a drawing of a small dwelling near the creek. Mauzy added a note to the survey stating, in part, that “[t]his Survey was made in this manner to include Bogs’s improvements and etc. That was partly the reason of runing so far upon the Creek [unclear] the low grounds [unclear] being so very narrow & the chiepest part of the rest being not tendable.” The grant was executed on April 2, 1750.

This is the earliest dated grant we have found for this area of Back Creek Valley and, perhaps, for all of Back Creek Valley, among the records of the Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia. It is important to note that the boundary description makes no mention of any other settlers on land adjoining the Boggs land, which was a common practice then and today in land descriptions. This, along with the fact that Boggs obtained two more grants of land adjoining the original grant, indicates that Boggs was the first to be granted land in this area.

By the time Boggs received a second grant of land, the survey description identifies other settlers in the area whose property adjoined the new parcel. This grant consisted of 243 acres, and was made October 6, 1766. The third and final grant was made on March 17, 1798, and contained 22 acres. Hedgesville, the first village in the area, was not settled until lots were sold in 1832.

The 549 acres are roughly divided into two major segments, the lower or bottom land is rich loam soil and runs for almost 1 ½ miles along Back Creek. It was excellent for growing cash crops, such as wheat and corn. Boggs grew clover on the land he cleared on the flatter sections of the ridges that ran west of the creek. On this
higher land he grazed sheep, cattle, and horses. The State of Virginia assessor on July 4, 1787, recorded that Boggs owned 4 horses and 9 cattle. Four years later, at the time of his death, an appraisal, April 16, 1791, that was ordered by the court of Berkeley County, showed that the estate had grown to include a mare, black horse, a wagon and wagon gear, sheep and lambs, plow and harrow, cattle, pots, pewter plates, sundry kitchen furniture, and bushels of wheat. The real and personal property was willed to one of his sons, William Boggs (who will be referred to as Jr.), 20 pounds to his son John contingent upon William Jr., selling the land, and to his three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Janeth, the “... sum of five pounds each when my son William shall chuse to dispose of the Plantation...”

William Boggs, Jr., remained at the farm until his death in 1836. A very detailed personal property inventory of William Boggs, Jr., was recorded on June 12, 1837. His daughter, Jane Boggs, testified as to the accuracy of the inventory. The total value was listed as $606.00. The two and one-half page listing includes items from farm animals - mare, bay horse, stallion horse, five milk cattle to farm equipment - axe, manure fork, shovel, hoes to household items - Windsor chairs, china, carpets, forks, etc. This personal property inventory documents how a family with few possessions in 1750 grew and prospered on this land by the mid-1830s.

William Jr.’s will divided the land among his wife, Sarah (one third), his two daughters, Elizabeth and Jane (one third each), and 20 dollars to his son John. Sarah Boggs had died in 1832, so her one-third share was divided equally between Elizabeth and Jane, as provided in William Jr.’s will. However, Elizabeth died in December 1837 without a will so that her share of the property was divided between Jane and her brother John. An agreement between Jane and John Boggs in 1838 provided for John to retain 243 acres and to relinquish all rights to the remaining 306 acres. In 1846, John sold his 243 acre tract for $2,000.00 to Thomas C. Harper, who had married Jane Boggs in 1839.

During the period Jane and Thomas Harper owned the farm, one of the daughters of John Boggs, Theresa, came to live at the farm. She inherited the entire farm upon the death of her uncle Thomas in 1884; Jane, his wife, having died in 1859. Theresa remained single until shortly after Thomas’s death, when she married a widower, Plummer Mussetter. She was 55 and he was 65.

The inherited farm was in debt when Theresa assumed it. She negotiated a bond extension for payment of $380.00 on July 24, 1885. By the end of 1887, she was unable to pay the debt. Enoch G. Hedges, and others,
forced a sale of the property. The public auction was announced in at least one Martinsburg newspaper on January 7 and again on January 14, 1888, the very day of the auction. By the terms of the court ordered sale, the title remained in the hands of the special commissioners, E. Boyd Faulkner and W. H. H. Flick, until the three annual payments by the purchaser were made. On April 21, 1891, full title to the property was transferred to the purchaser, D. E. Stone.

William Boggs, Sr., and his family, by settling on land prior to 1750 in Back Creek Valley and receiving the first known land grant in the area, are significant for their pioneering efforts and are a microcosm of western Virginia farm life. This is illustrative of the general pattern of the development of family farms in colonial and early Federal America showing both growing prosperity and developing regional and local ties.

**Significant Boggs Family Members**

William Boggs, Sr., and his family are significant collectively as exemplifying mid-18th century western expansion, settlement, and farm life. Two descendants, both born on the Boggs farm, are notable as individuals.

Lydia Boggs, born on the farm in 1766, was the daughter of John Boggs, oldest son of William Boggs, Sr., who, with his family moved to what is present day Wheeling, West Virginia, in the early 1770s. He was a Captain in Lord Dunmore’s War and was involved in various skirmishes with the Native American Indians in the Wheeling area. Lydia Boggs married Moses Shepherd, the grandson of the founder of Shepherdstown and, after he died in in 1832, married Daniel Cruger, who had fought in the War of 1812 and was a one-term congressman from upstate New York. Lydia Boggs became well known as a forceful advocate of the National Road. In this endeavor, she developed a close friendship with Henry Clay and other well known American historical figures during the first half of the 19th century. Lydia spent a large portion of each year over a long period of time in Washington, DC, and lived until 1867. The building of the National Road opened the west to rapid growth and greatly facilitated the expansion of commerce through the 19th century.

Another notable family member was John Boggs, son of William Boggs, Jr., who became a well known Presbyterian minister. He was born on the farm in 1785 and graduated from Princeton University Seminary. He served as pastor in various churches in New Jersey, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana. In 1845, he announced plans to open a female seminary in Martinsburg, but failing health forced him in 1847 to move to
the warmer climate of South Carolina where he died in September 1848.

Architecture

The Boggs family constructed a center-hall log house on a bluff overlooking about half of its 549 acre farm. This log house, constructed about 1790, was within the boundaries of the original grant. The house is significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of vernacular architecture, embodying characteristics both distinctive for reflecting frontier construction by using local materials and for incorporating a contemporary floor plan and decorative moldings and other distinctive woodwork. It has three bays and two stories. The interior of the house has been little changed during two centuries. Most of the interior walls were never covered; the exposed logs, including the hand hewn beveled beams, were white washed. The only modern conveniences have been the installation of electrical wiring and a telephone line. The woodwork reflects period styles; and the two mantels, one on each floor, are fine examples of early Federal craftsmanship. The first floor mantel is fairly sophisticated, the pilasters are paneled with reeded appliqués on the end blocks and the frieze has a reeded, oval appliqué. The shelf is shallow with an outline of scotia and fillet moldings. The second floor mantel has two large recessed panels with small moldings surrounding it and a picture frame molding around the opening (firebox). This mantel is transitional (Georgian-Federal) in design.

The main entrance door of six flat panels sheathed with vertical beaded boards and hung on full strap hinges on pintles is original and excellent. This opens to a central hall of beaded board walls with chair rail and a fine open-string, open-well, two flight stairs. The staircase is enclosed in beaded boards; the lower edge of the stringer course is beaded and the step-ends have a beautiful triple scroll appliqué. The newels are tall and slender, round-in-section, with neck moldings and decorative knobs.

The two exterior doors and most interior doors retain the original or early 19th century hardware, including fine examples of door latches and hinges. The interior walls setting off the rooms are of beaded board in good condition. The drawing room's walls above the chair rail are covered by wood paneling; below, the wall has beaded wood. The dining room's exterior walls have not been covered, although there is a chair rail of fine design attached to it.

The over-all effect of the house is quite astounding and the interior is of excellent period workmanship and
design. The house remains largely as it was at the time of its construction; without any amenities of modern day life. The structure embodies the distinctive characteristics of permanent log-house construction of the late 18th century.

A significant contributing structure sits a short distance from the house. It is built into the side of a hill that slopes down from the house. This 2 ½ story root cellar, also called "cave" in the area, has two entrances. One is on the first floor at ground level and the other is on the opposite side into the second floor, also at ground level. The high ceilinged first floor is built of local stone and appears to have been constructed about the time of the log house. More than half of the first floor is buried into the hill side. The interior, all stone with wooden ceiling, remains cool and moist year round. The upper levels are frame constructed by using unmilled small logs for upright studs. The second floor interior is plain with some shelving for housing preserved food and other domestic products. The exterior door to the second floor is wood and has two full length strap hinges and a metal latch lock.

Conclusion

The William Boggs family migration to Back Creek Valley prior to 1750 is illustrative of early exploration and settlement by establishing a farm on the fringe of western settlement in colonial Virginia. The family received the first land grant from Lord Fairfax in Back Creek Valley and farmed the land for more than 100 years, growing various crops and raising cattle, sheep, and hogs. By 1790, they had constructed a 2-story, 3-bay, center-hall log house, which has changed little since it was built and is an excellent example of local vernacular architecture. Two descendants born on the farm became well known: Lydia Boggs, as a later resident of Wheeling, was an outspoken advocate for improving transportation to the West through construction of the National Road and John Boggs, her cousin, was a notable Presbyterian minister who graduated from Princeton University Seminary and had parishes in several states.
Bibliography

1. Depository: The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia

   Digital Library Program
   Land Records
   Land Office Grants, Northern Neck Proprietary Grants (original copy books of the grants)
   (microfilm of originals available on line at http://www.lva.lib.va.us/dlp/land/)

2. Depository: Berkeley County Courthouse, Martinsburg, West Virginia

   Deed books (hand copied in 1890s from originals in Richmond)
   Will books
   Appraisals (personal property inventories)
   Chancery Court records

3. Depository: Berkeley County Historical Society, Martinsburg, West Virginia

   The Martinsburg Gazette (microfilm)
   The Martinsburg Herald (microfilm)
   Geertsema, Galtjo. Compiler. Manuscript maps overlaid on USGS maps showing plats of Lord Fairfax land grants including Back Creek Valley area. 1969.

4. Depository: Martinsburg Berkeley County Library, Martinsburg, West Virginia

   The Martinsburg Gazette (microfilm)
   The Martinsburg Herald (microfilm)
   Marriage Records of Berkeley Country, 1781-1854
   Marriage Records of Berkeley Country, 1854-1906
Section 9

Published U.S. Census Returns, 1810-1870
Evans, Willis F. *History of Berkeley County West Virginia*. Martinsburg, WV: no pub., 1928.

5. Records and books of property owners, Washington, DC

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at (1), a 3/4" pipe in the center of an abandoned road, at the SE corner of the Robert Kinkead 1.32-acre lot, about 400' East of the East side of West Virginia Secondary Route 7, about a mile south of West Virginia State Route 9; then N. 28-3/4° E., with the easterly side of the C. L. Laing Subdivision, first with said Kinkead, then crossing the 20' access roadway, then with Ralph Laing, to a fence post with a flanged axle on its W. side, and then with Leonard Goss lot for 76.5' to (2), a 1-1/4" tube painted white, for a total 456' in all; then continuing with another line of the C. L. Laing Subdivision, N. 12-3/4° E. first continuing with the Terry Michael Ring lot, then with the Larry Laing lot, and finally with the Bernard Basore lot, 775' in all to (3), a 2" diameter pipe with a 1-1/4" reducing el on top, a corner with Ronald G. Ricker; then with Ricker N. 25-1/2° E. 80' to (4), a 1-1/4" pipe in a cross fence, another corner with Ricker; then with Ricker and a cross fence, in part, S. 86-3/4° E. 117' to the creek bank at (5), a 1-1/4" pipe; then down the creek bank, along what was formerly the main stem but is now only a small stream, with the following courses and distances to unmarked points: (5)-(6), S. 27-3/4° E. 644'; (6)-(7) S. 8-1/2° E. 242.6'; (7)-(8), S. 65-1/4° E. 140.3'; (8)-(9), N. 66° E. 313.5' to what is now the main stem of the creek; then continuing down the main stem of the creek, along its west bank, from unmarked point to unmarked point: (9)-(10), S. 57-1/2° E. 495'; (10)-(11), S. 40-1/2° E. 561'; (11)-(12), S. 20-1/2° E. 907.5'; (12)-(13), S. 11° E. 891'; (13)-(14), S. 3-1/2° E. 787.9' to a planted stone on the W. creek bank in the power line clearing; then leaving the creek and running with the north side of the Florence Neal 30-acre tract, in the power line clearing in part and then through the woods, N. 89° W. 2,149' to (15), a 24" white oak with wire on its east side, in the line of Chace; then with the easterly side of Chace with remains of a wire fence and painted trees, crossing the power line clearing N. 2° W. 757.2' to (16), a corner cedar post and a 5/8" rebar; then with Ackerman crossing the road and then leaving the road and coming back to its center, N. 57-3/4° W. 293.7' to (17), a railroad spike in the center of the road; then N. 38-1/2° W. 285.4' to (18), a railroad spike in the center of the road; then N. 33-3/4° W. 331.6' to (19), a ¼" pipe in the center line of the road; then N. 60-3/4° W. 43', a call added to reach the corner of the Aikens, Neal and Ackerman properties to (20), a 5/8" rebar at a fence corner; then with Florence Neal, N. 100' crossing the Abe Miller [sic, Myers] road and following the Hollow Road, to (21), an unmarked point on the east side of the Hollow Road; then N. 10-3/4° E. 400' following Hollow Road to (22), an unmarked point in Neal fence on W. side of Hollow Road; then N. 18° E. 289' with Neal fence to (23), a fence corner on the W. side of the Hollow Road; then N. 52-1/4° E. 146' with Neal fence to (24), a fence corner on the W. side of the Hollow Road; then N. 70-1/2° E. 155' to (25), a fence corner on the W. side of the Hollow Road at its intersection with the C. L. Laing Road; then with the wire fence on the W. side of the C. L. Laing Road, N. 23-1/2° E. 350' to (26), a fence corner and a 1-1/4" pipe; then with a wire fence on the S. side of C. L.
Laing Road and an old abandoned road, N. 77-3/4° W. 252.3' to (27), a 5/8" rod in a fence on the S. side of a former road; then N. 2° W. 10.5' to (1), the place of the beginning, containing approximately 164 acres, usable area.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary description includes the remaining 164 acres historically associated with the land grant to William Boggs, April 2, 1750 - the first Lord Fairfax grant in the Back Creek Valley area. It includes the 1790-log house constructed by the Boggs family, and the land was actively farmed and used for pasture by the family for more than 100 years.
William Boggs Farm
Berkeley County, West Virginia

Sketch Map - 164 acres

See next page for details of log house footprint and photo positions.