United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name: Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary Increase)
other names/site number:

2. Location

street & number: N side Hedgesville Road (West Virginia Route 9), W of Hedgesville
not for publication: N/A
city or town: Hedgesville
vicinity:
state: West Virginia
code: WV
county: Berkeley
code: 003
zip code: 25427

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title: ____________________________
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.)

Signature of commenting official/Title: ____________________________
Date: ____________________________
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
### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
(Write in the number of boxes as apply)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<td>Private</td>
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**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

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### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

COMMERCIAL/TRADE/tavern

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

FUNDAMENTAL/secondary structure

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**Current Functions**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

FUNERARY/cemetery

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

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### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

OTHER/side passage

**Materials**

foundation _STONE/sandstone_

walls _STONE/sandstone_

roof _ASPHALT; METAL; WOOD_

other _WOOD; STONE/sandstone_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Refer to Continuation Sheets
## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Areas of Significance</th>
<th>Period of Significance</th>
<th>Significant Dates</th>
<th>Significant Person</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔️ A Property is associated with events that have made significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
<td>Architecture, Exploration/Settlement</td>
<td>c.1742-c.1900</td>
<td>c.1742; 1813</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
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<td>✔️ 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
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### Criteria Considerations

Mark “X” in all the boxes that apply.

- Property is:
  - ✔️ 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

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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:  
X State Historic Preservation Office  
Other state agency  
Federal agency  
Local government  
University  
Other

Name of repository:  
Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission

Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary Increase)  
Berkeley County, WV

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  205 acres

U. S. G. S. Quad map:  Big Pool, West Virginia  
UTM

References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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N/A  See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description  
(See Continuation Sheet)

Boundary Justification  
(See Continuation Sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  David L. Taylor, Principal

organization  Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc.  
date  September, 2005

street & number  9 Walnut Street  
telephone  814-849-4900

city or town  Brookville  
state  PA  
zip code  15825

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps  
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property’s location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs  
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items
Property Owner

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

name  Roland Gonano

street & number  10401 Regina Court  telephone  301-831-9791

city or town  Clarksburg  state  MD  zip code  20871
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary Increase)                                Berkeley County, WV
Name of Property                                                   County/State

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Location and Setting

Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary Increase) is located along Back Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River, on a rural tract in the Hedgesville District of northern Berkeley County. It lies north of Hedgesville Road (formerly Warm Springs Road), west of the unincorporated village of Hedgesville, in West Virginia’s Eastern Panhandle. The nominated area includes the previously-listed tavern, a slave cemetery, a chicken coop, a timber frame smokehouse, a stone slave house, a small wood frame shed, a mobile home, and a substantial timber frame bank barn, all located in close proximity to the tavern. South of the tavern is a substantial stone retaining wall (Photo 1, 2, 5); the wall is an uncounted landscape feature with respect to the resource count appearing in Section 5.

Description

Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary Increase) (Photos 1-20) encompasses a 2½-story eighteenth-century wood and stone tavern originally listed in the National Register in 1973; the boundary is being increased to include its associated dependencies. The nominated tract contains 205 acres, including agricultural fields presently and historically associated with the property. All resources except for the mobile home contribute to the character of the nominated tract. The property retains integrity and reflects the overall appearance which it possessed at the end of the period of significance.

Snodgrass Tavern   c. 1742 and after  1 previously-listed building

The previously-listed Snodgrass Tavern (Photo 2-4; Property 1 on the enclosed sketch map) anchors the nominated tract. It is a 2-story vernacular building, c. 60' × 45', built in several stages after c. 1742. The earliest section is at the southeast corner of the existing building and is of log construction, two bays in width. As originally built, it measured approximately sixteen feet square. Shortly thereafter, at an indeterminate date, a free-standing three-bay log section was constructed west of the first section; the two sections were eventually connected with a hallway, creating a side-passage

1 The term, “vernacular,” when used in this context, conforms to the definition which appears in Ward Bucher’s Dictionary of Building Preservation: “a building built without being designed by an architect or someone with similar formal training; often based on traditional or regional forms.”

2 Manuscript prepared by owner George W. Fuss, 1927, in the collection of the Berkeley County Historical Society, Martinsburg, West Virginia.
house form. Prior to 1813, a 2-story sandstone addition was erected along the rear elevations of the earlier portions, which essentially completed the construction of the building. With the pre-1813 section, an attic was added and the roofs on the earlier sections were raised to their present height, differing slightly from one another in elevation. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

As it now exists, the tavern exhibits an asymmetrically-massed six-bay facade oriented to the south and penetrated by two doors accessing the interior. The door to the early connector includes sidelights and a transom, while that to the western addition does not. The rear (north) elevation (Photo 4) is four bays in width and a door on the east gable end of the stone addition accesses the kitchen. Fenestration is flat-topped, with historic wood sash intact, some with six-over-six-light configurations and others two-over-two. Four stone chimneys rise along the gable ends, corresponding to the tavern’s distinct phases of construction. An early double-gallery porch extended across a portion of the facade; it was replaced late in the nineteenth century with the spacious veranda (Photo 3) which presently extends across the entire facade, supported by Eastlake-style turned posts and trimmed both with “sandwich” brackets and single-stage brackets.

**Interior**

The interior of the tavern (Photos 13-20) incorporates on the first story the original bar room (the present-day livingroom on the western section) and a smaller room (now the diningroom) on the east side, separated from each other by a stair hall in the connector (Photo 13). An open-string, straight-run stair leads from the hall to the second story, retaining the historic balustrade and newel. The c. 1813 stone section incorporates a kitchen, a downstairs bedroom, and a bathroom and laundry area. Original wood mantles are found in the bar room and in the parlor (Photos 14, 15) and a cooking fireplace is in the kitchen. The second story includes a broad hallway (Photo 16) along with several bedrooms (Photos 17-19) with mantles and a bathroom, created from a bedroom c. 1920. A slight change of grade indicates the change between the oldest sections of the building. An enclosed straight-
Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary Increase)  Berkeley County, WV
Name of Property  County/State

run stair accesses the unfinished attic (Photo 20).

But for the classically-derived mantles, the finishes of the tavern are modest. Historic wood floors have been retained as have baseboards, doors, and window and door surrounds. Walls are finished in plaster. Beyond the modernization of the kitchen and the addition of bathrooms and a laundry area, the plan, volumes, and finishes are only minimally altered.

The following additional properties are contained with the boundary-increase nomination, with numbering keyed to the accompanying sketch map:

2. Smokehouse  1894  1 contributing building
One-story wood smokehouse with a gable roof and gable-end orientation; chiseled into a paving stone in front of the smokehouse is the inscription, APR 4 1894, likely indicating the date of construction of building

3. Slave quarters  c. 1742 and after  1 contributing building
Gable-roofed stone and wood building built in three phases which served as slave quarters for the Snodgrass property.

4. Machine shed/carriage house  1883  1 contributing building
Modest 2-story timber frame machine/shed/carriage house with a metal-clad gable roof and gable-end orientation; date is carved into the stone foundation

5. Mobile home  c. 1970  1 non-contributing building
Modern mobile home, built outside the period of significance

6. Chicken coop  1940s  1 contributing building
Chicken coop of wood construction, built from materials salvaged from a summer cabin washed away in a 1942 flood; in deteriorated condition.

7. Slave cemetery  c. 1742 and after  1 contributing site
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Continuation Sheet

Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary Increase)  Berkeley County, WV
Name of Property  County/State

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Unenclosed slave cemetery (Photo 9) which has the present appearance of a continuation of the pasture land south of the aforementioned bank barn. An undated West Virginia SHPO Cemetery Survey Form indicates that five headstone had been found but that other graves are thought to lie in close proximity. No gravestones are evident on the cultural landscape.

8. Bank barn  c. 1870  1 contributing building
A substantial timber frame bank barn, c. 100’ × 40’ (Photo 10, 11), built on a foundation of rock-faced cut stone. The barn has a laterally-oriented gable roof of metal and exhibits two outward-projecting shed-roofed feeding cribs on either side of the principal entrance on the north elevation. A hipped-roofed addition with an open side on the south elevation was built along the barn’s east gable end at an indeterminate time and incorporates an open wagon shed and a corn crib. The forebay extending along the south elevation is supported by a series of six round logs set symmetrically between the extensions of the stone foundation.

9. Agricultural fields  c. 1742 and after  1 contributing site
Agricultural fields historically associated with the property

Summarizing, the boundary increase nomination for the previously-listed Snodgrass Tavern involves the retention of the tavern and the addition of immediately adjacent historic dependencies, a slave cemetery, and historically-associated agricultural fields.

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6Files of the West Virginia SHPO, Division of Culture and History Charleston, West Virginia.
8. **Significance**

Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary Increase) is significant under National Register Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the property’s importance lies in the area of *exploration/settlement*, as a mid-eighteenth-century tavern which served travelers traversing Warm Springs Road which led from Alexandria, Virginia, to the mineral springs at Bath, now known as Berkeley Springs, in neighboring Morgan County. Among the visitors to the tavern was George Washington. The property is also significant in the area of *agriculture*, as an eighteenth-century farmstead which developed as the region matured and which by the turn of the twentieth century included a substantial timber frame bank barn, a smokehouse, an early, pre-Emancipation slave house, and a slave cemetery. Architecturally, it is significant as an early log and sandstone building, characteristic of the building traditions of the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and representing the maturing of the area in its own growth from a small log house to a substantial rural tavern. The Period of Significance begins c. 1742, the approximate date of construction of the earliest section of the tavern, and ends c. 1900, marking the approximate date of construction of the large veranda which extends across the facade of the tavern as well as several of the agricultural dependencies. As noted in Section 7, the property retains integrity.

In 1730, the Governing Council of the Virginia colony issued a directive that this section of the colony be settled. The area was at that time part of Spotsylvania County, but as settlers came west, a new county, Orange, was erected in 1734. Four years later Frederick County was formed. A 1751 survey housed at the Virginia State Library\(^7\) showed one John Ford to be living on the land which included the nominated tract. Ford apparently sold his right to the land to Stephen Rawlings; it is not clear who built the earliest sections of the tavern. It is known, however, that Rawlings’ daughter, Susannah (1742-1820), married Revolutionary War veteran Robert Snodgrass (1742-1823) and that the Snodgrasses conducted a tavern here. The property was sometimes referred to as “Halfway House” since it lay midway between the county seat at Martinsburg and Berkeley Springs. George Washington is known to have stayed here on two occasions. His first documented visit occurred in 1750 while he was surveying for Lord Fairfax. His diary recorded a visit thirty years later when on September 5, 1784 he recorded, “dispatched my wagon (with the baggage) at daylight and at 7 o’clock followed it--bated at one Snodgrasses on Back Creek and dined there.”\(^8\) Robert and Susannah Snodgrass operated the tavern here until 1801 when they sold their tavern and 248 acres to their son, Robert Snodgrass, Jr.


(1773-1830). The property appears as “Snodgrass Tavern” on Charles Varle’s 1809 map of Frederick, Berkeley, and Jefferson Counties (Fig. 1). After the death of Robert Snodgrass, Jr. the tavern was inherited by his son, Joseph Evan Snodgrass (1813-1884).

The next Berkeley County map, prepared in 1820 (Fig. 2), shows the property again as “Snodgrass Tavern.” In July, 1827, during Joseph Snodgrass’ operation of the tavern, Secretary of State Henry Clay stayed at the historic hostelry. In 1839 Joseph Evan Snodgrass sold the tavern along with 248 acres and several other parcels to his brother-in-law, Hezekiah Hedges (1796-1847), whose family had founded the community of Hedgesville, east of the Snodgrass Tavern. Apparently Hedges encountered financial problems since he mortgaged the Snodgrass property and other holdings to Henry J. Seibert in 1843 and in 1856 the tavern was assigned to the Seiberts. The Seiberts, too, suffered financial reversals, perhaps in the wake of the Civil War, since in 1866 a Chancery commissioner ordered the tavern property to be sold. It was purchased by Frederick Fuss (1823-1881) who farmed the lands. In July, 1938, his grand-daughter Neva Fuss, opened a restaurant in the tavern, serving lunches and dinners (Fig. 3). At the time of the preparation of the nomination documents, the tavern was a single-family residence and remains in the ownership of descendants of Frederick Fuss.

The complex associated with the Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary Increase) clearly reflects the pattern of exploration and settlement in Berkeley County during the middle decades of the eighteenth century. The property’s Criterion A significance for agriculture is established by its position as a farmstead including both the tavern and associated agricultural dependencies and agricultural fields. These fields consisted of grazing pastures and also produced both fodder for farm animals and food for use by the tavern-keeper and his family. The custom of farming and tavernkeeping was common practice in early Berkeley County and is also seen in Miller Tavern, in the eastern reaches of the county; Miller Tavern is being nominated to the National Register concomitantly with the boundary increase for Snodgrass Tavern. Architecturally, the property ably represents vernacular building traditions in Berkeley County during this same period, in this case executed in both log and stone. While the Berkeley County landscape is dotted by significant deposits of limestone, Robert Snodgrass chose native sandstone to complete his house and to erect his slave quarters. The tavern and its associated dependencies are a collective reminder of the era when Berkeley County was only sparsely settled and George Washington and many others traveled Warm Springs Road, the popular thoroughfare leading to the mineral waters at what would become Berkeley Springs.
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section Number</th>
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</table>

Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary Increase)
Berkeley County, WV
9. Major Bibliographical References

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Aler, Vernon E. *Aler's History of Martinsburg and Berkeley County, West Virginia*. Hagerstown, Maryland: Mail Publishing Co., 1888.

Berkeley County Land Records, Berkeley County Court House, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Evans, Willis F. *History of Berkeley County*. 1928.


Kearfott, Jonathan P. “Map of Berkeley County, Virginia.” [Martinsburg], 1847.


West Virginia Cemetery Survey Form for Snodgrass Salve Cemetery.


10. Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being that portion of the tract of land depicted on Berkeley County Assessment Maps as Hedgesville District Map No. 21, Parcel No. 4, lying north of Hedgesville Road (West Virginia Route 9), containing 205 acres.

JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of this nomination consist of the tract immediately surrounding the nominated property. The lands south of Hedgesville Road which were historically associated with the subject property contain no historic properties, are in different ownership and are undergoing suburban development; they are not included within the nominated tract.
Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary Increase)
Berkeley County, WV

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

All Photographs:
Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary Increase)
Berkeley County, West Virginia
Photographer: David L. Taylor
Date: 2005
Negatives filed at: West Virginia SHPO
Charleston, West Virginia

1. View toward tavern from driveway, looking W, with slave quarters in foreground, followed by smokehouse and tavern

2. SE perspective of tavern., Looking NW and showing distinct phases of construction evident in slope of roof; also showing stone wall in front of tavern

3. Veranda on tavern, likely added in late nineteenth century, looking NE

4. NE perspective of tavern, showing stone rear section added c. 1813, exterior stone chimney, etc.

5. Slave quarters, looking N

6. Smokehouse, looking E

7. Small barn and non-contributing mobile home, looking NE

8. Chicken coop, looking NE

9. View looking S across slave cemetery toward tavern

10. Bank barn, SW perspective looking NE and showing forebay supported by log posts

11. Bank barn, NE perspective looking SW
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National Park Service

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Berkeley County, WV

12. Bank barn, SE perspective looking NW

13. Interior of tavern, stair hall, looking N

14. Interior of tavern, barroom, looking E showing window and mantle

15. Interior of tavern, parlor, looking W

16. Interior of tavern, stair, looking down from second floor to first, view to the S

17. Interior of tavern, typical bedroom, showing volumes, trim, etc., looking W

18. Interior of tavern, bedroom showing mantle

19. Interior of tavern, bedroom with exposed log rafters

20. Interior of tavern, attic, looking E, showing roof structure
This detail from Charles Varle’s 1809 map shows the Snodgrass Tavern indicated by the superimposed arrow.
At the time of the publication of this county map in 1820, the tavern was still in commercial use along Warm Spring Road. It is indicated by the superimposed arrow.
Announcing...

THE OPENING OF

Snodgrass Tavern

JULY 3, 1938

Delicious Home Cooked Food

Cool, Attractive, Historic Surroundings

Sandwiches, Cold Drinks, Home-Made Ice Cream and Cake

Served at Any Time

Parties a Specialty

Dinners and Luncheons by Reservation Only

(Telephone Hedgesville 2572) or write Miss Neta Font, Hedgesville, W. Va.

SNODGRASS TAVERN
(Formerly used as a tavern under same name about 1760)

On Route 9, at Back Creek Bridge—
9 Miles West of Martinsburg, W. Va., 18 Miles East of Berkeley Springs, W. Va.,
24 Miles South of Hagerstown, Md.

Fig. 3  This card was developed for
the opening of the Snodgrass Tavern as a restaurant in the summer of 1938.
Snodgrass Tavern (Boundary I crease)

SKETCH MAP

1. Tavern
2. Smokehouse
3. Slave quarters
4. Smnall barn
5. Mobile home
6. Corn Crib
7. Slave cemetery
8. Bank barn

AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

Hedgesville (formerly Warm Spring) Road (WV Rt. 9)
SNODGRASS TAVERN (BOUNDARY INCREASE)
Berkeley County, West Virginia
Floor Plan of Tavern
Snodgrass Tavern
(Boundary Increase)

SKETCH MAP

1. Tavern
2. Smokehouse
3. Slave quarters
4. Machine shed/carriage house
5. Mobile home
6. Chicken coop
7. Slave cemetery
8. Bank barn
SNOOGRASS TAVERN (Boundary Inoxor) Berkeley Co. Wv