United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  

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

1. Name  

historic  

William Wilson House  

and/or common  

"Prospect Hill"  

2. Location  

On the south side of West Virginia State Route #51, west of  
Gerrardstown; at the foot of North Mountain  

_ not for publication  

street & number  

city, town  

Gerrardstown  

x vicinity of  

congressional district  

state  

West Virginia  

code  

54  

county  

Berkeley  

code  

003  

3. Classification  

Category  

district  

building(s)  

structure  

site  

object  

Ownership  

public  

private  

both  

Status  

occupied  

unoccupied  

work in progress  

Accessible  

yes: restricted  

yes: unrestricted  

Present Use  

agriculture  

commercial  

educational  

entertainment  

government  

industrial  

military  

museum  

park  

private residence  

religious  

scientific  

transportation  

other:  

4. Owner of Property  

name  

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Hudock  

street & number  

Post Office Box #135, Route #1  

city, town  

Gerrardstown  

x vicinity of  

state  

West Virginia  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  

Berkeley County Courthouse  

street & number  

100 West King Street  

city, town  

Martinsburg  

state  

West Virginia  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

title  

T-3 Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  

has this property been determined eligible?  

x yes  

no  

date  

1973 - 1983  

federal  

state  

x county  

local  

depository for survey records  

Berkeley County Courthouse  

city, town  

Martinsburg  

state  

West Virginia
Prospect Hill" is located one (1) mile west of Gerrardstown on West Virginia State Route #51. It is situated on a hill, in an expansive yard with several period dependencies.

A large two story house, it measures thirty six and one-half (36½) feet deep and seventy (70) feet wide, consisting of a three bay central block with four bay side wing. It was constructed in 1792 - 1802 of brick in Flemish bond and three row common bond with random glazing on a stone foundation. The house relates better to the late 1700's than to the early 1800's. The one story, one bay entrance portico is not the original but is appropriate in size and style. It was built in the 1930's by Mr. Lester Busey of Gerrardstown. Windows are 6/6 double sash. A flush beaded barge board decorates the gables and a box cornice extends across the front and rear façades. The steeply pitched roof is of patterned slate.

The layout of the main section is side hall, two rooms deep. The entrance hall has a very handsome four flight open-well stair to the balcony landing on the third floor. The step-ends are decorated with pierced scrolls and a chair-rail on newel-like pilasters extends up the stair wall.

The scenic mural in the hall is an outstanding feature of the house. It was painted in 1936 by a Baltimore artist, Olive Verna Rogers. As a pattern, she used a DuFore wallpaper, a French firm in business from 1780 - 1820. The mural reflects commercial and domestic life of the early republic. Included are scenes of ring jousting, lawn games, harbor scenes with British and American ships, covered wagons coming through a mountain gap, and on the first stair landing is "Prospect Hill". The mural is in excellent condition, quite beautiful, and unique to the area.

The dominant feature in most of the rooms is the fireplace. All of the mantels throughout are nearly identical. The most sophisticated is of course in the main parlor, which has a corniced over-mantle with a picture area. The frieze has a plain central tablet and end tablets with mantel shelf projections. A "picture frame" surround highlights the firebox. The other mantels have a plain frieze and no shelf projections, and most have a two-tiered, paneled-door, recessed cupboard to one side. These mantels are of a simple Georgian design and are quite nice. Both fireplaces in the main ground floor rooms have early decorative iron Franklin fireboxes permanently installed.

Attic rooms are partitioned with beaded board walls; likewise, the second floor rooms of the wing.

Window and door trim is plain with a beaded facing and architrave backbanding. Random width original floors are throughout.
There are four outbuildings, three of which are contemporary with the
dwelling house and are also built of brick in Flemish and three row common
bond. Two of these are two story, two bay, gable roofed buildings with
exterior stairs and were a kitchen and a springhouse. The third is a three
bay, six convenience privy built in Flemish bond. All are in good condi-
tion. The fourth outbuilding is the very early, possibly c.1750, original
stone dwelling house. The exterior is relatively intact.

All of these are located just on the other side of the circular drive
and are clearly seen from the house. Access was important since they served
important functions.
"Prospect Hill" is significant for its architecture, being a very fine example of late Georgian design. This is evidenced by the squat proportions, steep gable roofs, and interior mantels and trim. Other examples of this in Berkeley County are not easy to find, as Federal and later architecture is more prevalent. The Hughes-Cunningham house, a log house constructed in 1771, has a near identical mantel in the second story, the variation being in the type of molding used.

Adding particularly to the architectural significance are the three contemporary outbuildings in placement and design. Daily routines are more easily interpreted using the relationships these buildings have with the main dwelling house.

The workmanship, including brick work and execution of interior trim, is excellent in all the buildings. The scenic mural, although later, is significant as a panorama of historical American life, and for its visual impact.

William Wilson constructed the brick buildings of "Prospect Hill". He acquired several tracts of land in the Garrardstown area. He was a money lender and a merchant, selling supplies to settlers going west. The house is located on West Virginia State Route #51, an early road to the West.

Wilson made significant contributions to the economic and architectural development of the area by his business enterprises and by his construction of the "Prospect Hill" estate.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Martinsburg Gazette, on microfilm at Berkeley County Library, 1810 thru 1831
Mutual Assurance Society Records, Virginia Antiquities Commission, Richmond, Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres
Quadrangle name Tablers Station, WV
Quadrangle scale 1 : 24,000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification
Beginning 50' east of the driveway; thence south 470', thence west 420', thence north along the garden fence 520'; thence east along West Virginia State Route #51 (south side) to the beginning, (see map).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frances D. Ruth - Chairperson
organization Berkeley County Historic
Landmarks Commission
date November 15, 1983
street & number Route #2, Box 320
telephone (304) 754 - 7097
city or town Martinsburg
state West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national ___ state ___ local X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for Inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Commissioner, WV Department of Culture and History
date November 18, 1983
WILLIAM WILSON HOUSE

Tablers Station Quadrangle

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 5 acres

Main House
Convenience
Springhouse
Kitchen
Dwelling House

Gerardstown 0.6 mi.

North

SCALE 1 : 7,920

Copied September 1983 from photo AGS-66-66
by Galtjo L. Geertsema
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: West Virginia coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked.