United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

<table>
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2. Location

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<tr>
<td>state</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>county</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally, statewide, or locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
Valley View  Hampshire County, West Virginia

Name of Property  County and State

5. Classification

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<th>Ownership of Property</th>
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Name of related multiple property listing

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

<table>
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7. Description

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</table>

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- [ ] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] 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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

- Local

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1855

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

- [ ] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- [ ] 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.

Significant Dates

1855

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance:

See Continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State Agency
- [ ] Federal Agency
- [x] Local Government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository:

Record # ____________________________
Valley View, Hampshire County, West Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.63 acre

UTM References

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Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Courtney Fint Zimmerman
organization Aurora Research Associates/ Hampshire Co. Landmarks Comm.
date August 24, 2012
street & number 1436 Graham Road
city or town Silver Lake, OH
state OH
zip code 4424

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.
- CD with electronic images if digital photographs.
Floorplans for individual listings
Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name
street & number __________________________ telephone ____________
city or town __________________________ state ____________ zip code ___________

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20330.
LOCATION and SETTING

Valley View is located just outside of the city of Romney, the Hampshire County seat. Romney was established in 1762 and is one of the oldest towns in West Virginia. Its 2000 census population was 1,940. Valley View is located in a rural setting overlooking the South Branch Valley. The South Branch Valley Railroad, currently being used by the Potomac Eagle scenic railroad, is located adjacent to the property. The house is surrounded by a number of farm buildings.

DESCRIPTION

1. Valley View     1855     Contributing

Valley View (1855) is a two-story brick house with a rectangular plan with exterior dimensions of approximately 49’ x 32’. The brick walls are laid in common bond pattern. The house has a standing-seam metal gabled roof with wide double chimneys extending above the roofline on each end. The southwest facade of the house (Photo 1) is five bays wide and contains the front entrance of the house in the center bay first floor (Photo 11). The front entrance is covered by a small porch approximately 12’x12’ with a gabled roof supported by wooden Doric columns and engaged columns at the wall. The porch has simple wooden vertical railings. The trabeated front entrance includes a six-light transom and three-light sidelights. Windows are symmetrically placed in each bay and consist of four 9-over-6 wooden sashes on the first floor and the five 6-over-6 wooden sashes on the second floor. Each window is flanked by green wooden shutters and white wood lintels and sills. The right (southeast) facade of the house contains one small square window at the attic level (Photo 3).

The rear (northeast) facade of the house (Photos 4, 5) takes advantage of the scenic vista of the South Branch River and valley that gives Valley View its name (Photo 19). A two story wooden porch approximately 9’ in depth extends across the entire rear elevation and is covered by a shed roof extending from the main roof at a slightly shallower pitch. Porch supports consist of brown wooden turned posts and no railings on the first level and white painted square wood posts and vertical railings on the second level (Photo 18). The rear facade is also five bays wide and contains doors to the porch in the central bay on both levels. The other four bays contain 9-over-6 wooden sashes on the first level and 6-over-6 wooden sashes on the second level, with no shutters.

A one-story kitchen addition (1961-62) extends from the northwest side of the building and has dimensions of approximately 21’ x 14’ (Photo 9). The kitchen addition has a gabled standing-seam metal roof and is covered in white board-and-batten siding. The kitchen has a vinyl bay window on the northwest side, a one-over-one double-hung vinyl window on the southeast side and a door adjacent to the original 1855 house on the southeast side. An enclosed porch area, also board-and-batten, with dimensions of approximately 14’ x 10’ and a shed roof extends from the front (northwest) of the kitchen addition. The original cellar beneath the 1855 portion of the house is accessed through the enclosed porch.
The interior of the house has a two-room-deep center hall plan. The wide center hall contains the prominent center staircase, which has wooden railing with square balusters and a simple turned newel post (Photo 12). Ceilings are 10’ high. Tall ceilings and large windows contribute to a sense of light and openness in the interior of the house. Each of the eight rooms has a fireplace with a trabeated classical wood mantel (Photo 13). The rooms on the main floor are finished with simple wide wood trim including baseboards and door surrounds with subtly demarcated corners. The dining room and parlor have wide wood chair rails. Most wood trim throughout the house is painted white and walls are plaster with the exception of the office/den, which has dark stained wood trim and brick walls (Photo 14). The plaster was removed from the office/den in 1960s, exposing the interior brick structural walls. All rooms have original wide plank wooden floors. The four bedrooms on the second floor include closets on either side of the fireplace, and similar simple wood baseboards and door surrounds (Photo 16).

2. Smokehouse   ca. 1855   Contributing

The original smoke house (Photos 8, 10) for the property is located adjacent to the kitchen. It is a log structure with a rubble stone foundation and is set into the hillside so that it has at-grade entrances on both levels. The logs are square cut and are filled with white chinking. The dimensions of the structure are approximately 15’x20’. The structure has a standing seam metal gabled roof. This structure may predate the main house.

3. Well     ca. 1855     Contributing

A well (Photo 7) enclosed by a brick structure approximately 7’ x 7’ in plan and 3 ½’ in height is located approximately 15’ from the rear (northeast) door of the kitchen. A metal hand pump extends from the center of the brick well cap. The bricks match those used in the construction of the main house, but the well itself may date from an earlier residence located on the same site.

4. Icehouse Foundation   ca. 1855   Non-Contributing

The brick foundation of the icehouse (Photo 6) is located approximately 25' south of the smokehouse. The foundation has dimensions of approximately 15’x20’. A contemporary wooden pergola and patio structure has been added to the foundation.

5. Summer Kitchen Foundation   ca. 1855   Non-Contributing

The brick foundation of the summer kitchen (Photo 8) is located approximately 35' north of the smokehouse and has dimensions of approximately 15’x20’. A wooden pavilion with gabled roof has been constructed over the summer kitchen foundation.
6. Garage     2010     Non-Contributing

A one-story one-car garage frame garage with red brick veneer is located adjacent to Depot Valley Road approximately 30’ south of the house. It has a gabled roof and dimensions of 24’x24’.
STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

Valley View is locally significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its Greek Revival architecture. The house displays a number of integral Greek Revival design characteristics, particularly in its symmetry, organized plan and substantial, formal mass. Valley View’s applied details in the Greek Revival style, including the front entrance entablature and portico, are more limited, yet the variations that can be seen on Valley View and other estates in the South Branch Valley illustrate the flexibility inherent in the style. Valley View’s period of significance is 1855, its date of construction.

HISTORY

Historical Context and Background

Hampshire County, West Virginia was first explored around 1725 by Europeans following the South Branch of the Potomac River from Harper’s Ferry. Several families settled in the Springfield area around 1735, and a few years later in 1738, the Pearsall brothers, John and Job, established a settlement near what is now Romney. This area, called Pearsall’s Flats, steadily grew until about 200 people were living there in 1748. Hampshire County was part of the estate of Thomas, Sixth Lord Fairfax. Fairfax’s lands, known as the Northern Neck Proprietary, were granted to his ancestors and five other supporters by King George III in 1649 and included over 5 million acres in Virginia. Fairfax sent a surveying party to assess and map his land along the Potomac River in 1748 for purposes of renting and granting lots to settlers; the group was led by James Genn and included a young George Washington, who visited Romney and wrote about the area in his diary. A British citizen, Fairfax lost his lands in America after the Revolutionary War. Hampshire County was created in 1754 by an act of the Virginia General Assembly and was given its name by Lord Fairfax. The county originally encompassed most of the current eastern West Virginia, including Grant, Hardy, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton Counties.1

The French and Indian War affected the frontier area of Hampshire County and Fort Pearsall was constructed in 1756 to guard against Indian attacks. The town of Romney was formally established in 1762 is the oldest chartered town in West Virginia. Romney grew in importance when the Northwestern Turnpike, a major east-west route, was constructed through the town in 1837. The town’s location along the turnpike in combination with the presence of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in northern Hampshire County made the area a strategic location in the Civil War. Romney is said to have changed hands 56 times during the Civil War. Sharp divides in the county between Northern and Southern sympathizers contributed to conflict during the war.2

1 Ken Sullivan, The West Virginia Encyclopedia, 309.
2 Sullivan 309.
Hampshire County has remained a largely agricultural area since its initial settlement. Villages served as local trade centers and stops along important transportation corridors, including the Northwestern Turnpike and B&O Railroad. A number of buildings that served as taverns, inns and stagecoach stops still exist in Romney and other towns along U.S. Route 50. The South Branch Valley is dotted with grand houses built by the prominent owners of large land tracts and farms, including the Captain David Pugh House, the Sloan-Parker House, Sycamore Dale and Washington Bottom Farm, all listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Hampshire County and the nearby Eastern Panhandle region include a substantial number of 19th-century farm estate homes as evidenced by recent architectural survey efforts.

Valley View and the Parsons Family

The land upon which Valley View is located was leased to John Collins by Lord Fairfax in 1749. The 425-acre tract was called Lot #20 in Genn’s survey. John’s son Thomas came into possession of Lot #20 by 1772 and lived there with his wife Elizabeth. They sold the property in 1817 to James Parsons, a neighbor who lived on Lot #21. Thomas and Elizabeth Collins died in 1822 and 1823, respectively; it is not known whether they continued living on the property after 1817. The Parsons family was a prominent family whose ancestors were among the first English settlers in the colonies in 1635, and migrated to Hampshire County around 1740. James Parsons, born in Hampshire County in 1773, married Catherine Casey in 1795. Her grandfather Peter Casey had received Lot 21 from Lord Fairfax and James and Catherine in turn inherited it from her father Nicholas. Nicholas built the family home “Wappocomo” on the tract in 1774 and that is where James and Catherine raised their twelve children. In his will, executed in 1846, James divided most of his extensive land holdings between his three sons James, Jr., David, and Isaac. James, Jr. received the Collins Tract (Lot 20), David received Lot 13, and Isaac received the Casey Tract (Lot 21) including Wappocomo. However, according to census research by William K. Rice, all three brothers already had families and were living on the respective farms before 1846. Rice surmises that James, Jr. moved to the Collins Tract around 1829, the year of his marriage to Elizabeth Miller, and most likely lived in the Collins home before building his own house in the same location in 1855. The log smokehouse and foundations of the summer kitchen and icehouse remaining on the property today are thought to have been built prior to Valley View, possibly by Collins, though the dates could not be verified. In addition, a log kitchen (a separate structure from the summer kitchen) stood adjacent to the house.

4 Rice, 2.
5 Catherine Long, Pioneers, their homes and families, on the lower South Branch, 123.
6 Ibid., 126
7 Ibid., 127-128, 183.
8 Ibid., 122.
9 Rice, 3.
10 Ibid., 2.
11 Long, 155.
James Parsons, Jr., known as “Big Jim” due to his height, was a farmer. He was thus described by Catherine Long: “He was devoted to farming and cattle raising. He was square and honorable in business, and had a large circle of friends; he had the urbanity and the gentility of manner which characterizes the true gentleman.” He and his wife had eleven children, several of whom attended college. Big Jim wrote numerous letters to his sister Mary Gregg Parsons Stump relating general news of farming, cattle, family health and community events. Unfortunately, no letters from the time period of the construction of houses were available for review. However, Long’s history of the house notes that the bricks were fired nearby on the bank of the South Branch and the nine-inch brick walls were reinforced with hand-wrought iron angles. Nails were made by the local blacksmith and wood sills and joists were sawn by hand. The Parsons family owned several slaves, so it is likely they helped with the construction. Signatures and graffiti of family members dating from 1856 can still be seen in the attic on the stairwell wall. The costly construction took a financial toll on the family, and Big Jim was only able to enjoy his home for three years before he died in 1858 of tuberculosis. His widow and children remained in the house through the Civil War until 1869, when Elizabeth sold the property to Charles Harmison and moved to Missouri.

Charles Harmison moved his wife Elizabeth and seven children from Harrison County to Hampshire County. Elizabeth named the house “Valley View,” inspired by her old home in Virginia, which was called “Western View.” Their son George inherited Valley View around 1903 and removed an old log kitchen, replacing it with a newer kitchen structure. The house remained in the Harmison family until 1963 when it was sold to Martha Newell. The Mayhew family, current owners, bought the property in 1979. Over the years, the original Lot 20 has been divided and sold. The current parcel containing Valley View is approximately 6 acres.

Criterion C: Architectural Significance

Valley View is a characteristic example of the Greek Revival style for more practical residential applications in outlying areas. The building’s strict symmetry, both in plan and elevation, conforms to classical principles of order and organization. Though the building does not assume the form of the Greek temple as literally as other high-style examples, the substantial massing of the house is rooted in the same objectives of stability and formality. Valley View’s central one-story portico and entrance entablature are definitive features of the

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12 Ibid., 151.
13 Marry Gregg Parson Stump was married to Adam Stump. In 1838 they moved to Hickory Grove a farm and log house formerly owned by Mary’s uncle David Parsons. They built a brick house on the property in 1849. Hickory Grove was listed in the National Register in 2010.
14 Long, 151.
15 Long, 152.
16 Rice, 5.
17 Ibid., 153.
18 Ibid., 154.
19 Ibid., 155.
20 Rice, 7.
Greek Revival style (Photo 11). Regardless of an owner’s ability or desire to execute large-scale Greek elements, a front entrance afforded the most efficient and visible opportunity to make a stylish architectural statement. Valley View’s pediment-like gable porch roof with Doric columns and trabeated entrance incorporating a generous quantity of valuable glass focused the architectural message on the arriving guest. For Jim Parsons, Jr., a man with a distinguished family heritage, many children and a “large circle of friends,” this message was likely a combination of an honored welcome to visitors and an assertion of wealth and status.

The orientation of the home and the extensive two-story back porch takes advantage of the property’s stunning vistas (Photos 4, 5, 19). The porch, though greatly simplified, is also evocative of the grand two-story colonnades found especially on Southern Greek Revival plantation houses. The turned rails are more Victorian in style and may be a later alteration. Certainly the celebration of grandeur and careful siting of buildings is a typical Greek objective. Other interior details reflect the more austere aspects of Greek Revival design, including the simple white panel door trim and geometric fireplace mantles (Photos 13, 16). High ceilings, large, open rooms and high levels of light contribute to the overall effect of spaciousness, flow and size (Photo 12). Though Valley View lacks high concentrations of Greek Revival details such as columns, a cornice, friezes and other elements, it is no simple farmhouse with a few tacked-on details. The fact that Big Jim Parsons spent beyond his means to achieve it attests to the fact that Valley View was designed with thought and deliberation.

Within the South Branch Valley, Valley View is one of a number of significant farm estates built in the mid 19th century. These homes were the centers of the large working farms and plantations that collectively formed the basis of the local economy and social life in Hampshire County and beyond. Among those residences listed in the National Register, Valley View is most comparable to Hickory Grove (1849) Sycamore Dale (1839) and Washington Bottom Farm (1832), all listed under Criterion C for Greek Revival architecture. Each of these properties ranges in application of the style from high style at Washington Bottom Farm to vernacular at Hickory Grove. Valley View is an excellent example of the use of Greek Revival design concepts through organization, plan and massing rather than large-scale, extensive detailing. These properties together are illustrative of the various ways in which people in more remote areas could apply architectural styles based on available materials, design sources and personal preference. Valley View also has excellent integrity, with all of the original windows, trim, and materials in the main section of the house still intact. The 1962 addition is low-scale, modest and easily distinguishable from the original house (Photo 5). The well and the smokehouse are of the same era and retain integrity, and thus are contributing structures as part of the residential complex.

SUMMARY
In summary, Valley View is an exemplary local mid-19th century home with deep ties to historically important families in the South Branch Valley. The house’s Greek Revival design and excellent integrity convey a value of prosperity, formality and order, combined with an appreciation of the surrounding land. The house is locally significant under Criterion C for architecture.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The National Register boundary for Valley View encompasses the 6.63-acre lot upon which the house sits, and coincides with the boundaries of Hampshire County Tax Parcel 07-028-021.1.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Historically, Valley View was part of a 425-acre farm owned by Thomas Collins and Jim Parsons, Jr. Over time, much of the property was subdivided and sold off. Modern intrusions have compromised the historical integrity and setting of the larger farm. The 6.63-acre nominated property is all that remains of the original farm associated with the house.
Name of Property: Valley View  
City or Vicinity: Romney  
County: Hampshire  
State: WV  
Name of Photographer: Courtney Fint Zimmerman  
Date of Photographs: May 16, 2012  
Location of Original Digital Files: 1436 Graham Road, Silver Lake, OH 44224

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<tr>
<th>Photo Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Front (southwest) elevation looking northeast</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oblique view of front façade looking east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Side (southeast) elevation looking north</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rear (northeast) elevation looking southwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Oblique view of rear façade and kitchen addition</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oblique view of summer kitchen pavilion looking west</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>View of well in back yard looking southwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oblique view (looking west) of log smokehouse with icehouse foundation and modern deck in the background</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>View of kitchen addition looking east</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>View of smokehouse looking north with icehouse foundation in foreground</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Detail of front entrance and portico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Interior: center hall looking towards rear of house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Interior: first floor parlor (southwest room)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Interior: first floor den/office (southeast room)</td>
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<td>Interior: second floor stair hall looking towards front of house</td>
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<td>Interior: second floor bedroom 1 (northwest room)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Interior: attic – brick stairwell structure with 1856 graffiti</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Interior: second level of porch on rear of house</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Environ: South Branch Valley viewed from rear of house looking northeast</td>
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Valley View, Hampshire County, West Virginia
National Register boundary
Valley View
National Register Nomination
Site Plan and Photo Key

Aurora Research Associates
July 2012

*Dimensions and locations are approximate
Valley View
Hampshire County, West Virginia
National Register Nomination
First Floor Plan

Drawn by: CFZ
Aurora Research Associates, LLC
July 24, 2012

*Dimensions are approximate
Valley View
Hampshire County, West Virginia
National Register Nomination

Second Floor Plan

Drawn by: CFZ
Aurora Research Associates, LLC
July 24, 2012

*Dimensions are approximate
Photo 1:
Front (southwest) elevation looking northeast

Photo 2:
Oblique view of front façade looking east
Photo 3:
Side (southeast) elevation looking north

Photo 4:
Rear (northeast) elevation looking southwest
Photo 5:
Oblique view of rear façade and kitchen addition

Photo 6:
Oblique view of summer kitchen pavilion looking west
Photo 7: View of well in back yard looking southwest

Photo 8: Oblique view (looking west) of log smokehouse with icehouse foundation and modern deck in the background
Photo 9:
View of kitchen addition looking east

Photo 10:
View of smokehouse looking north with icehouse foundation in foreground
Photo 11:
Detail of front entrance and portico

Photo 12:
Interior: center hall looking towards rear of house
Photo 13:
Interior: first floor parlor (southwest room)

Photo 14:
Interior: first floor den/office (southeast room)
Photo 15:
Interior: second floor stair hall looking towards front of house

Photo 16:
Interior: second floor bedroom 1 (northwest room)
Photo 17:
Interior: attic – brick stairwell structure with 1856 graffiti

Photo 18:
Interior: second level of porch on rear of house
Photo 19:
Environ: South Branch Valley viewed from rear of house looking northeast