

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| STATE: West Virginia | |
| COUNTY: Hardy | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Pleasant

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Old Fields (2nd. Congressional District)

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54 COUNTY: Hardy CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Renick Williams

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Old Fields

STATE:
West Virginia

CODE:
54

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hardy County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Moorefield

STATE:
West Virginia

CODE:
54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Fairfax Grant Survey, made by George Washington

DATE OF SURVEY: 1749-50 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress; Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney, West Virginia; Virginia State Archives, Richmond, Virginia

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: West Virginia

COUNTY: Hardy

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a massive double-chimney styled building made of brick from clay on the Fort Pleasant farm. The style of the house is severe Federal with the country touches that come from building with semi-skilled help far from city elegancies. The 18 remaining rooms are an architectural unit with the exception of the two room half basement half-house section of a much earlier date.

The main house was complete by the end of the 18th century and the early use of a massive colonnade is distinctive. Inspection of the front portico establishes its inclusion when the house was constructed.

The interior is severely Federal. No ceiling cornices, but neat chair rails and wash boards, simply decorated door frames and magnificently elegant Federal style mantels. The stair runs up three floors to the attic with a very plain Federal style bannister. The ceilings in the front section are 14 feet high, the large paned windows make the company rooms light and airy.

When the Renick Williams' family purchased the farm in 1969, the house had been allowed to decline. The old bachelor quarter had disappeared, and the rest of the house showed the signs of age unrelieved by wealth.

The Williams are being extremely careful in their restoration, and are proceeding at a slow pace because of the high cost of the initial repairs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian: | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present "Fort Pleasant" is built on the site of Isaac Vanmeter's home and fortress which were constructed of logs around 1744. The fort was one in a chain running north and south along the Allegheny frontier. These were designed by George Washington for the protection of settlers during Indian unrest which reached a local climax in the years 1756-1758. From the Fort Pleasant sanctuary men went out on many occasions to attack and disperse threatening Indians. Isaac Vanmeter himself was killed by Indians while he was working in his fields in 1757.

During his work as a surveyor for Lord Fairfax, George Washington called at Fort Pleasant, and records in his journal that he visited with "Mr. Vanmetrise." Contacts between the two were less than happy; Lord Fairfax claimed the Vanmeter tract as a part of his South Branch Manor, included in the original "Northern Neck" grant from Charles II. Vanmeter claimed that his lands were not included in the Fairfax grant; rather, that they were granted separately by the Virginia Council in 1730. Resulting litigation from the dispute went on for many years, and finally was settled after the Revolutionary War by a court decree upholding the Vanmeter heirs in their claim.

Isaac's son, Garrett, improved the Vanmeter lands by allowing the removal of the old fort and cabin, and replaced it by a strong brick structure, half below ground and half above, and designed for defense. This stronghold, portions still extant, is an awkward, crudely fashioned building linked to the rest of the existing Fort Pleasant by a series of enclosed steps. The stronghold was a center of activity during the bloody "Battle of the Trough," an engagement between Indians and settlers in 1756.

Garrett Vanmeter's son, Isaac, married Elizabeth Inskip, daughter of a pioneer family in the South Branch of the Potomac Valley. Together they planned and built the beautiful home, "Fort Pleasant," on the site of the old fort which bore that name. Their residence was soon recognized as one of the "great houses" in the South Branch Valley. It was one of the earliest to use massive columns at its entrance.

Fort Pleasant is situated just above "The Trough," a natural gateway to the South Branch Valley. The first highway to the upper valley passed nearby, and to it came soldiers, surveyors, hunters and trappers, Indian traders, and such men of affairs as Christopher Gist. It was a center of activity during the Revolution, during the years of westward expansion, and through the Civil War and later conflicts in which the nation has been engaged. The purpose of the present owners is to preserve and restore it with utmost fidelity to the original residence structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

George Washington's Diary- March 27- April 8, 1748

Kercheval's History of the Valley of Virginia--pp. 40, 55, 74-76, 82, 92, 93

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 39 ° 08 ' 02 " | 78 ° 56 ' 54 " | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 171 677300 | 4333400 | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Nancy Snider, Field Research Agent

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission DATE: August 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Mountainlair--West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown STATE: West Virginia CODE: 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Maurice G. Brooks
Maurice G. Brooks
Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date June 5, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

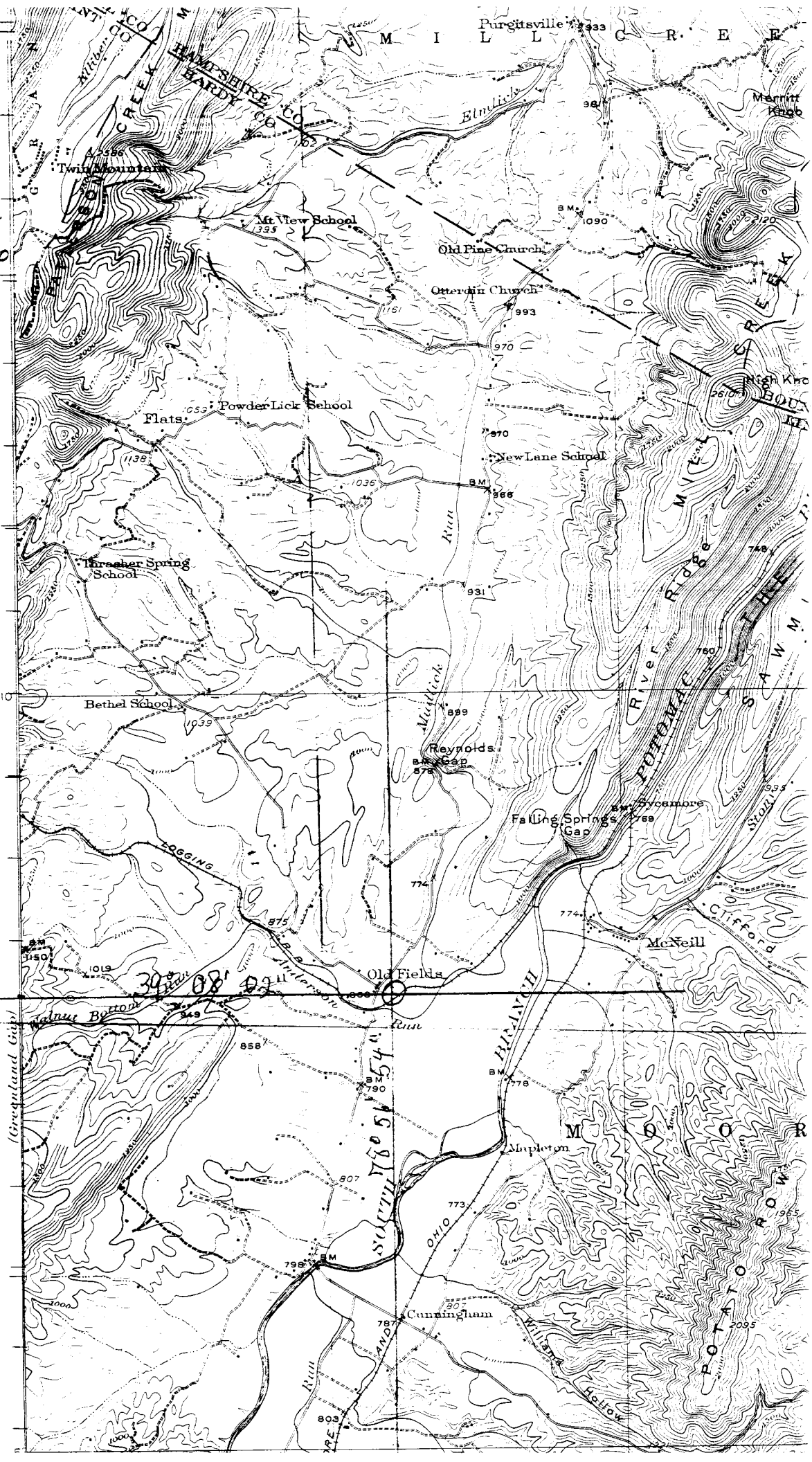
4345000m N

M I L L G R E E

FORT PLEASANT
HARDY COUNTY
WEST VIRGINIA
UTM REFERENCE

17/676088/4333040

FORT
PLEASANT



39° 08' 02" N

Survey 7605154

(Greatland Grid)

