

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sites Homestead

other names/site number Wayside Inn, Sites Inn

2. Location

street & number Seneca Rocks Visitor Center not for publication

city or town Seneca Rocks vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Pendleton code 071 zip code 26884

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 does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Carol A. Morris Historic Preservation Officer 10/19/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

US Forest Service
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

William G. Lamar 10/20/92
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.

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): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Sites Homestead
Name of Property

Pendleton, WV
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single

Domestic/inn

Agriculture/outbuildings/fields

Landscape/natural feature

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/office

Recreation/museum

Landscape/natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

other/log cabin

other/I house

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone

walls wood bevel siding w/quirk bead

roof wood shingles

other chimneys sandstone

Narrative Description

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

Sites Homestead
Name of Property

Pendleton, WV
County and State

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.)

- 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.
- 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.

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 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Transportation

Archeology-Historic Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

1839 - present

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Appalachian

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Monongahela N.F. Elkins, WV

Sites Homestead
Name of Property

Pocahontas, WV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 7 6 4 1 1 3 0 4 2 9 9 6 1 0
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth A. Brinker, Forest Archaeologist

organization USDA, FS Monongahela N.F. date 8-31-92

street & number 200 Sycamore St. telephone (304) 636-1800

city or town Elkins state WV zip code 26241

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

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

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

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 listings. 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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Sites Homestead, Pendleton, WV

The original single pen log structure was probably built in 1839 (Howe and Kemp 1983) when Jacob Sites acquired the land beneath the imposing Seneca Rocks. The cabin was made of hewn logs with half dovetail corners and was 1½ stories. It has a sandstone chimney centered on the west gable end.

The house was expanded in the mid-1870s (Ibid.) to a 2½ story frame structure surrounding and incorporating the original log cabin. On the first floor are the log room, a hall with a stairway, a parlor with a stone fire place, and a narrow room north of the log room which tradition indicates was sometimes a porch and other times enclosed as a room. The second floor was one large room until another alteration added partitions.

Over the years the homestead was passed on to Sites heirs, and the original acreage was divided repeatedly. By 1952 only 6.8 acres remained with the house. As living patterns changed the farm patterns changed and outbuildings, gardens, and fences fell into disuse or were removed. Road locations changed and effected other site features. Through it all, one overpowering feature remained, the Seneca Rocks.

The homestead remained in the Sites family until purchased by the Forest Service in 1968. For many years prior to the purchase, the house had been used for storage of hay and farm machinery. The house was in poor condition from disuse, misuse and a flood (Hastie 1979). The house remained as purchased for several years.

As part of a Memorandum of Agreement, the house and the family history were documented (Howe and Kemp 1983), and archaeological excavations were conducted (Brashler 1983) which located post molds, a chimney fall, and a subsurface feature probably representing an outbuilding.

The Forest Service restored the building in the next few years. Some rotten sill logs and joist logs were replaced using logs recycled from a local cabin. Missing or rotten framing materials were replaced with new wood as was the wood siding. Original foundation and chimney stones were reset, and the metal roof was replaced with wood shingles. Window glass was recycled from the same old cabin.

The building was viewed from the outside by many of our visitors to Seneca Rocks, and on occasion, Sites family descendants provided a living history and interpretation of the homestead. In June 1992 the Seneca Rocks Visitor's Center burned down and the Sites Homestead is now the temporary visitor's information center.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1

Sites Homestead, Pendleton, WV

The Sites Homestead is representative of vernacular architecture typical of the Appalachian culture during the 19th and 20th centuries. According to Miller (1973) the "finished carpentry details in the hall, living room, and stairs were examples of excellent craftsmanship." In their determination of eligibility, the Keeper of the National Register states that, "The building appears to have local historical significance,.... The site also has historic archaeological potential to yield information important to the study of regional and ethnic similarities and differences," and that, "such sites are particularly valuable in establishing regional chronologies." Local oral tradition is that the structure served as an inn.

Archaeological excavations at the site (Brashler 1983) revealed subsurface features and substantiates Criterion D. Evidence from the excavations, tax records, census, and wills (Howe and Kemp 1988) suggest that the Sites were farmers not inn keepers. However, Geier (1981) searched county records and found that William Sites residing at the homestead, then still a one room log cabin, purchased licenses to "keep an ordinary" in 1859, 1860, and 1861. William enlisted in 1862 and died in 1863. If the place was an inn, it was for a short time, and provided limited space. Nevertheless, it still retains its traditional name, the Wayside Inn.

The Natural setting of the house is quite striking. Early traveler accounts mention the rocks and a number of old photos of the rocks have the house in the foreground for scale. The Forest Service chose this place for their visitor's center because of the view, the setting, and its proximity to the rocks. Thousands of tourists visit each year to view, learn, and some to climb. The Sites Homestead is highly visible and provides an excellent interpretive and educational opportunity for our many visitors.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
MODIFIED FOR USDA FOREST SERVICE USE

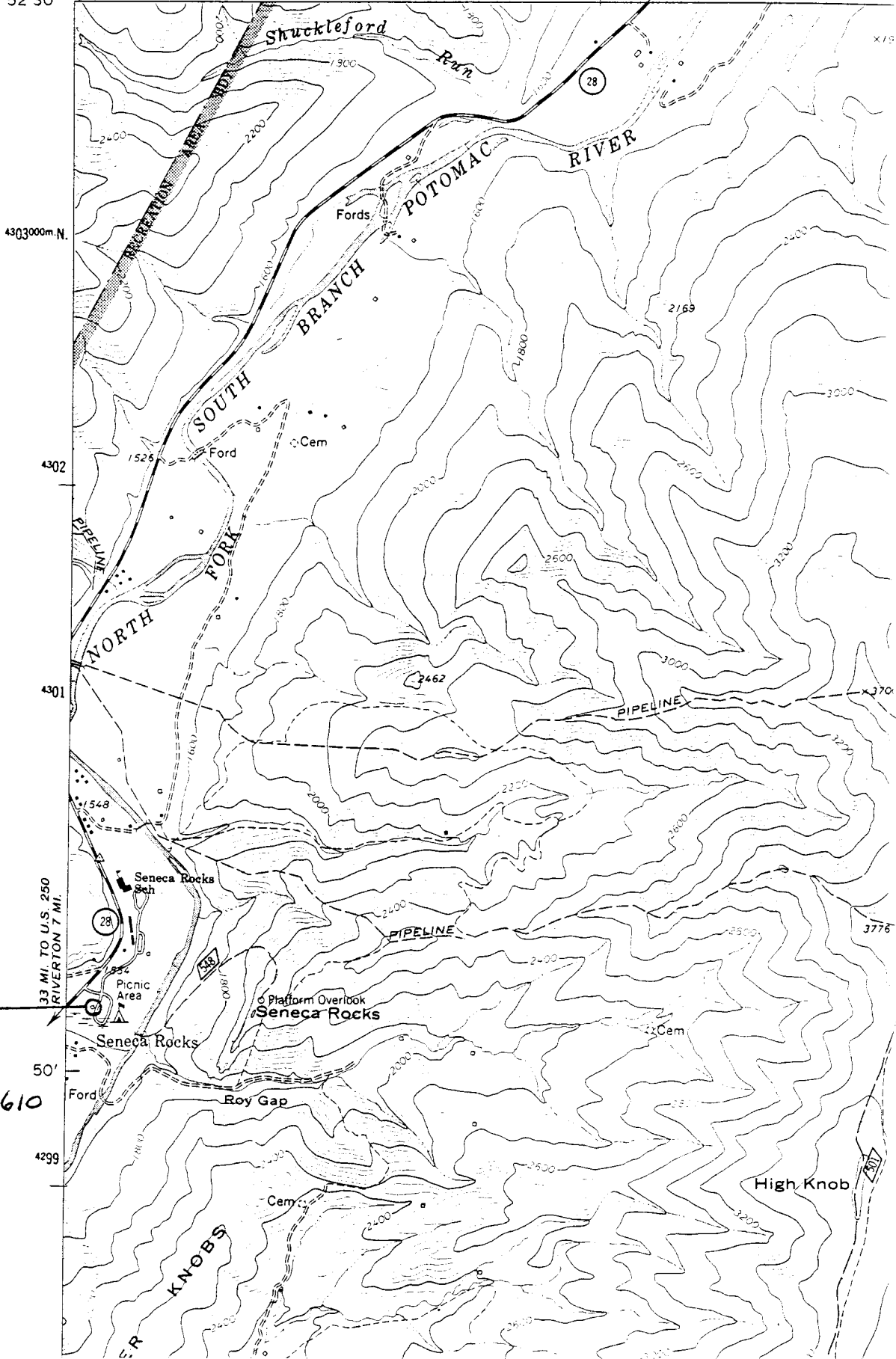
(LANEVILLE)

79° 22' 30"
38° 52' 30"

642000m E.

643

PETERSBURG 15 MI.
CABINS 9 MI



Sites Homestead
Pocahontas, WV
UTM
17/641130/4299610

33 MI. TO U.S. 250
RIVERTON 7 MI.

50'

4299

