1. NAME
   Council: Blennerhassett Island Historic Area
   AND OR HISTORIC: Blennerhassett Island Historic Area

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: On the Ohio River, 1.7 miles south of
   CITY OR TOWN: Parkersburg
   STATE: West Virginia
   COUNTY: Wood
   CODE: 34
   CODE: 107

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One) □ District □ Site □ Structure □ Object
   □ Building □ Public □ Public Acquisition
   □ Structure □ Private □ In Process
   □ Object □ Both □ Being Considered
   □ Public Acquisition

   OWNERSHIP: □ Occupied
   □ Unoccupied
   □ Preservation work in progress
   □ Yes
   □ Restricted
   □ Unrestricted
   □ No

   PRESENT USE (Check One as Necessary)
   □ Agricultural
   □ Government
   □ Park
   □ Commercial
   □ Industrial
   □ Private Residence
   □ Educational
   □ Military
   □ Religious
   □ Other (Specify)
   □ Transportation
   □ Scientific
   □ Conserve
   □ Historic
   □ Supply by owner

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   STREET AND NUMBER: 
   CITY OR TOWN: Washington
   STATE: West Virginia
   CODE: 34

3. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURT HOUSE: Wood County Court House, Deed Book 514, Page 530
   STREET AND NUMBER: 
   CITY OR TOWN: Parkersburg
   STATE: West Virginia
   CODE: 34

4. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY: E. I. duPont
   DATE OF SURVEY: 1966
   □ Federal
   □ State
   □ County
   □ Local
   DENOMINATOR FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   STAFF: 318

   CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington
   STATE: Delaware
   CODE: 10
### Description

The island presents a quiet, rustic appearance due to the absence of man-made structures. The vegetation is presently made up of annual weeds, brush and hardwood trees. A tulip poplar tree exists, which is more than seven feet in diameter, probably one of the largest of its kind in the United States. Also present are other large hardwoods. There are three groves of trees planted by man. They are made up of walnut, poplar and a mixture of walnuts and tulip poplar. The ages of these stands are approximately 40 years of age.
Blennerhassett Island is a nationally known historic landmark. The Island is located in the Ohio River with its northern tip approximately 1.7 miles south of Parkersburg, Wood County, West Virginia. Originally a cluster of islands, this historic island is now a solid land mass exceeding three miles in length. It varies in width from some 1800 feet at its widest to some 700 feet at its "neck" or narrowest point, which is slightly north of center of the Island. Blennerhassett Island is situated some 800 feet from the West Virginia shore of the Ohio River. The broad flat bottomlands of the Island are in part covered with woodland. Two large weather-beaten, two-story frame farm houses are now standing, one on the northern and one on the southern section of the Island. On the western side of the Island near the south farm house stands a long, barack type structure which the owner has used as a cattle shelter.

George Washington visited present Blennerhassett Island in 1770, and there have been unsubstantiated reports that Washington laid claim to the Island. Opposite the southern section of the Island, however, Washington secured "Washington Bottom," over 2300 acres of land, his second largest tract of land in present West Virginia.

Blennerhassett Island has been owned by several persons since it was first surveyed in 1784 under a patent issued by Governor Patrick Henry. The Island, however, figures prominently in American history as a result of its purchase by Harman Blennerhassett on January 28, 1799. Naming his purchase the "Isle of Beau," Blennerhassett completed his famous mansion on the northern section of the Island in 1800.

To the layman the prominence of Blennerhassett Island in American history stems from its selection as the situs of the alleged crime of levying war against the United States on December 10, 1806, for which Aaron Burr and Blennerhassett were indicted. The choice of the Island as the situs of the alleged crime brought the trial into the circuit court in which presided John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. In 1806 and 1807 Burr was acquitted by three courts.

There is also great potential for archaeological work on the Island, both historic and prehistoric; Indian artifacts from the Island representing every prehistoric period are located in the Stahl Collection at Parkersburg High School, Parkersburg, West Virginia.
Callahan, J. H., Semi-Centennial History of W. Va., Charleston, W. Va., 1913.
Wood County Band Book No. 7
Ambler, C. H., George Washington and the West, Chapel Hill, 1936
Gibbens, Alvaro F., Historic Blennerhassett, Charleston, 1906
Stafford, William H., The Blennerhassett Papers, Cincinnati, 1864.

GEOPHYSICAL DATA

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APPROXIMATE AVERAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 508.59

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

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FORM PREPARED BY

Marlene Hershman, Executive Secretary

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

STREET AND NUMBER

Old Mountainair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN

Morgantown 26506

STATE

West Virginia

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

ATTACH:

Keeper of The National Register

DATE