

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Harrison
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Smith, Watters, Memorial State Park	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Watters Smith Farm on Duck Creek	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Harrison County Secondary Routes 6 and 25. RFD 1, Grant County Route 25/6 District, South of Clarksburg, West Virginia			
CITY OR TOWN: * Lost Creek West Milford vicinity		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First	
STATE West Virginia	CODE 54	COUNTY: Harrison	CODE 033

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
☒ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☒ Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC			
Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☒ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☒ Museum	☒ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Comments _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: State of West Virginia			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1800 Washington Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: West Virginia	CODE 54	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Harrison County Courthouse, Office of County Clerk, Records			
STREET AND NUMBER: 301 West Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Clarksburg	STATE: West Virginia	CODE 54	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: _____			
☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

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* See letter of January 11, 1977, Dr. Leonard Davis to Dr. William Marting.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 236 acres of the Watters Smith farm lie on either side of the old West Milford-New Salem Turnpike, now Harrison County Secondary Routes 6 and 25 along the waters of Duck Creek in Grant District, Harrison County, West Virginia. This is an area of rolling hills, many of which are tree-covered. The area is noted for its good pastureland for livestock grazing. The historic area includes the site of the first log cabin home of Watters Smith built by 1796, the house built in 1876, and the surrounding outbuildings. The house has 7 rooms and is the residence for the park's superintendent and his family. To conform with W.Va. Department of Natural Resources policy, the house is painted gray to indicate an historic area. The house will be restored to its 19th Century condition and will be used for housing a museum. Changes made to accommodate the present residents have been made without altering the original structure. The upstairs bedrooms are unchanged and feature exposed horizontal finishing strips. Many pieces of the original furniture remain in the house. The house is open for tours on a limited basis until restoration is completed and the park personnel can be provided with another dwelling.

The outbuildings were made of hand hewn logs. The logs are pinned with wooden pegs made by the Smith family. Boards are fastened with nails made in the family's blacksmith shop. Outbuildings have white oak shingled roofs. One exception is the newer farm barn. Additional shingles have been hand-cut on the shaving horse on display in the park museum. These shingles will be used to replace the barn roof and for replacement shingles on other buildings as needed. The exterior and roofs of all farm buildings are regularly treated with wood preservative and retain their natural weathered appearance. The stilted corncrib is built of small, notched logs. The smokehouse has its original shingles and was used for salt and smoke curing the family's meat. A good root cellar lies under the woodworking shop. Adjoining the woodworking shop is the blacksmith shop. Tools used in these buildings have been moved to the museum. A hand-dug well has been restored near the site of the original cabin. The cabin site is enclosed by a picket fence, and a commemorative tablet marks the cabin's location. Efforts to find and move a suitable log cabin to the site are being made. A mill room for storing ground feed and flour lies near the horse and cattle barn. The barn houses larger pieces of farm equipment, buggies, and plows. At some distance is a farm barn with a hay mow. Fenced lots surround the barns. Many fences are rail and "worm" rail design.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian; ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Phi- | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | losophy | |
| ☒ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Science | |
| ☒ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Art | Architecture | ☐ Social/Human- | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | itarian | |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Military | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | ☐ Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Watters Smith Memorial State Park occupies land once owned by Watters Smith, the first settler on Duck Creek in present Grant District, Harrison County, West Virginia. Smith was born in 1767 in New Jersey and later moved to Pennsylvania. Harrison County records show that in 1792 Smith purchased 200 acres of land on Duck Creek from John Prunty. Smith arrived here in 1794. Records do not indicate the exact date of settlement, but by 1796 Smith and his family were settled in their cabin home. Smith had begun or had completed construction of his home at some time between the 1792 land purchase and the arrival of his wife and children in 1796. At first Watters and Elizabeth Smith and their eight children eked out a meager living on their hilly acres. As the family's farming operation prospered from raising cattle, sheep and hogs, a number of outbuildings were erected.

Watters Smith and his sons shouldered community responsibility. They participated in founding the Good Hope Church in 1804, now the Broad Run Baptist Church west of Jane Lew. The Smiths encouraged plans for constructing a road through the rural area, and when the West Milford and New Salem Turnpike Company was formed, Smith purchased a share of the company's stock.

Through inheritance Watters Smith's descendants continued to own and farm the land. Acreage was acquired and parcels of land were sold from time to time, but the original land purchase remained in the family. Watters Smith's great grandson, Burr Smith continued the farming tradition. He inherited the farm when his five brothers received their portions of their father's estate in money and other aid prior to their father's death. Burr Smith never married.

One phase of park development has been the historical significance of the Smith family and farm as a part of the agrarian culture of this region of Virginia and of West Virginia when the western section of Virginia was admitted as a separate state in 1863. This historic area of the park includes the site of the original log cabin now marked by a stone and memorial tablet. Nearby is the substantial family farmhouse built in 1876. The house is typical of rural farm homes in this diversified farming region. Near the house are a number of outbuildings that housed farm industries and preserved food for the farm's human and animal inhabitants. These buildings were constructed over a period of time and include a food storage cellar, a hog pen built in 1840, a mill room, a smokehouse, a corncrib, a horse and cattle barn built in 1835, a woodworking shop and adjoining blacksmith shop, and another barn for storing the winter's hay supply.

The emphasis of development of the Watters Smith Memorial State Park has been one of historical significance. The historic area of the park attempts to preserve for posterity 175 years of Western Virginia culture

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(Continuation Sheet)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

typical of the community which the pioneer Watters Smith founded.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

" 'Uncle Ed' and 'Aunt Bird' Smith, Born and Reared Near Lost Creek, Recall Days When State Was Formed." Sunday Exponent-Telegram (Clarksburg, W.Va.) May 12, 1935, p. 26.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Dorothy. History of Harrison County, West Virginia. Ed. by Elizabeth Sloan, Clarksburg, W.Va.: American Association of University Women, 1970 (pp. 66-67)

Hill, Frank. "A Clock Stopped for Posterity." West Virginia Conservation, XXVIII (Aug. 1964), 13-21.

Lane, Warden W. "Watters Smith," West Virginia Conservation, XXVIII (Aug. 1964), 1.

Smith Family Papers. Collected and displayed at the Watters Smith Memorial State Park Museum.

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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	39°	10'	12"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	17/550930	4335590	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4.5 Acres

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: Ann Post, Field Agent	
ORGANIZATION West Virginia Antiquities Commission	DATE 9/11/71
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University	
CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown	STATE West Virginia CODE 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Leonard M. Davis
Leonard M. Davis

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date March 12, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

West Virginia

COUNTY

Harrison

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Smith, Watters, Memorial State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC: Watters Smith Farm on Duck Creek

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

RFD 1, Harrison County Secondary Route 6 and 25

CITY OR TOWN:

Lost Creek

STATE:

West Virginia 26385

CODE

54

COUNTY:

Harrison

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford Lewis, S.J.

DATE OF PHOTO: December 1968

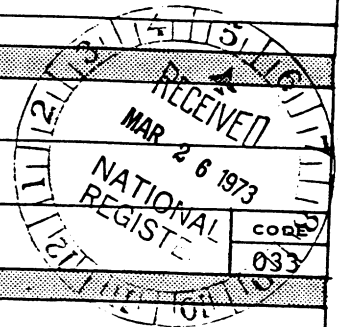
NEGATIVE FILED AT: State of West Virginia Antiquities Commission

Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.Va. 26506

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Pictured is the front of the house with porch and the northern side of the residence which now serves as residence and office for the park superintendent. At present the exterior is painted gray to illustrate the Department of Natural Resources system for indicating historical areas.



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