

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 Post, William, Mansion

other names/site number Post Mansion Inn

2. Location

street & number 8 Island Avenue ☒ not for publication

city or town Buckhannon ☒ vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Upshur code 097 zip code 26201

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.)

William G. Lamm
Signature of certifying official/Title

5/25/93
Date

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.)

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

Post Mansion
Name of Property

Upshur County, West Virginia
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	6	buildings
		sites
	2	structures
		objects
1	8	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 DOMESTIC

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)
~~DOMESTIC, COMMERCE/TRADE/~~
~~Domestic, Commerce~~
DOMESTIC/hotel
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

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Post Mansion
Upshur County, WV

Description

The Post Mansion is a brick and stone two and one half story with tower residence located on US Route #33, at 8 Island Avenue (originally called the Parkersburg-Staunton Turnpike), Buckhannon, WV. The structure reflects two distinct architectural time eras. The original brick building was built during the 1860s. In 1891, William Post purchased the house and began major renovations in the Neo-Classical Revival style. Local Buckhannon architect, Draper Hughes designed the 1890s alterations. These included a stone veneer covering much of the previously existing structure, and the erection of a three story stone tower on the southwest corner. The property is situated on the island in Buckhannon, an area originally known as the delta. The property runs from the Buckhannon River in front to the Buckhannon River in the rear. With the exception of a brief bankruptcy in the 1930s, the Post family owned the property from 1891 until 1991. Marion Rebecca Post Johnston sold the property to Mrs. Juanita Reger. Juanita Reger is in the process of restoring the mansion to its 1890s period design. In the spring of 1992, Reger opened the mansion as a bed and breakfast inn.

The south side, or front of the mansion displays the Neo-Classical Revival styling of architecture as designed by Draper Hughes and instigated by the Post family in the early 1890s. The first floor has five 1/1 double-hung sash windows, one full glass paneled door, one glass paneled door with transom, one glass paneled double door with transom, main entrance, and a portico porch with Doric columns. The second floor has four 1/1 double-hung sash windows, one Palladian window, a porch with Doric columns and wood balusters, and one glass paneled door. The third floor has two dormers, one gabled hip dormer with fan window, which belonged to the original house, and one plain hip dormer which was added during the 1890s modifications. This second, and

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Upshur County, WV

Description (continued)

noticeably larger dormer was added to increase the amount of light allowed into the third-floor rooms. To the right or east side of the mansion is a porte cochere. A gymnasium was built over the porte cochere and a carport was added in the 1930s. To the left or west side of the mansion, is a three-story stone tower with battlements. The tower has four 1/1 double-hung sash windows on the first floor, five 1/1 double-hung sash windows on the second floor, and six 1/1 double-hung arched sash windows on the third floor. This tower bears a Gothic influence.

The north side, or rear of the structure has retained most of its pre-1890s appearance. The original structure, of rectangular shape with an ell on the southwestern corner, has a continuous stone foundation. Wall material is brick, laid in common bond. A truncated hip roof was used on the main structure, while a hip roof was used on the ell part of the structure. The entire structure is covered with a false slate type asphalt product. A bracketed cornice surrounds the entire structure on all sides. This continuous bracket work and roof design suggests that the size of the original house was not altered, but rather, the Post family's 1890s' modifications consisted of only stone veneer work to the front or south facade, addition of the third floor dormers, and the stone tower that was built onto the previously existing structure.

The north or rear side of the mansion's first floor has one 1/1 double-hung sash window, one glass paneled door, and a screened-in porch with screen door that was added during the 1930s. The second floor has three 1/1 double-hung sash windows. To the right or west side, there is an exterior brick chimney, and a plain hip dormer with three 1/1 double-hung sash windows on the third floor. A bathroom was added in the 1930s to the rear of the southwest ell, measuring approximately ten by twelve feet and covered with

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Upshur County, WV

Description (continued)

a false stone concrete block product. The bathroom addition has dentiled cornices below a hip roof. To the left or east side, two glass paneled doors can be seen under the porte cochere. Above the gymnasium, two plain hip dormers with three 1/1 double-hung sash windows in each can be seen.

From photographs dating to the early 1900s, it can be determined that there was originally a porch attached to the left side of the portico, of the mansion's south side or front. This porch was constructed in the same style as the portico, with Doric columns across the front. Also, located above the first floor porch, on the second floor, was a balcony with wood balusters that symmetrically matched the porch on the second floor's right side. This first floor porch was removed during the 1930s by the Post family, apparently because it restricted the amount of light entering that section of the house. The second floor balcony's balusters were also removed due to its difficult upkeep, date of this baluster removal is unknown.

The interior of the mansion has several noteworthy features. The foyer area inside the front double doors has a lincrusta walton (pressed asphaltum) wall covering with bas relief. This same type of wall covering was also used in the front bedroom, presently used as business office. This same room also contains a fireplace with an Italian terra cotta tile covering. The front parlor, just off the foyer to the left has a hand laid parquet floor. Several of the mansion's front rooms have large arched doorways. The main staircase, which sets near the center of the house, is of grand canopy styling. Since no early interior photographs exist, it is difficult to exactly date these various features, but most likely are of the 1890s.

During the 1930s, William Post established a dairy on the rear section of this lot and constructed a variety of buildings to house this operation. These include a dairy

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**Post Mansion
Upshur County, WV**

Description (continued)

barn with concrete animal stalls and a hay mow. It would appear that the framework for this structure, being of heavy sawn post and beam construction, possibly was moved from another site and reconstruction since there are missing parts at the joints. Other buildings used for the dairy include the corn crib/granary, hay barn, one large equipment shed and two additional storage sheds. These buildings are all wooden constructions with metal roofing. A concrete base indicates that a silo was located between the granary and the equipment shed. Various concrete structures including watering troughs and a possible silage or manure holding bin are located near the dairy barn. A small cottage is located at the northwest corner and was originally used as a caretakers residence and then later as a guest house. This building is a simple, one story T shaped structure.

Two other exterior structures of note is a rustic gazebo located at the western side of the main house and a cut stone horse mounting block located near the porte cochere. All exterior features are located and identified on the attached sketch map.

Statement of Significance

The Post Mansion meets National Register Criteria C for its architectural style and Criteria B for the role its owner/resident played in society. Architecturally, this house represents one of the most significant residential examples of Neo-Classical Revival style in Upshur County. It is also significant because its former owner/resident was William Post, prominent area business person and state senator.

Historical Background and Significance:

Located at 8 Island Avenue/US Route #33 along what was

Post Mansion
Name of Property

Upshur County, West Virginia
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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

~~Architectural~~ ARCHITECTURE

~~Politics/Government~~

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1891-1908

Significant Dates

1860, 1891-1895, 1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Post, Senator William

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

N/A

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

The Upshur County Historical Society

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Upshur County, WV

Statement of Significance (continued)

originally known as the Parkerburg-Staunton Turnpike, the main thoroughfare from Virginia across the mountains to western Virginia, this property reflects the placement of large and grandiose residences in a prominent community location. This property originally bordered the Elizabeth Cummins Jackson property, known to be the first such residence in the present city of Buckhannon.

Upshur County Tax Assessor's office records suggest that the original Post mansion brick structure was built in the 1860s by the Bastable family. The Bastables were a prominent business family in Buckhannon during the mid-to-late 1800s. This lavish home characterized their stature in the community. The property was also owned by S.B. Phillips in the late 1860s and early 1870s. Phillips owned the local pottery works/brick yard as well as various other tracts of land on Island Avenue.

The William Post family purchased the property in 1891 and in the following four years made the extensive alterations to the property that can be seen today. These alterations most likely reflected the wealth and influence of the Post family. When the architectural changes were completed, the house became locally and fondly known as the "mansion" or the "castle." William Post was a very prominent businessman in Upshur County during the late 1800s and early 1900s. At one point, Post owned in excess of 1500 acres in the Buckhannon area. He served as president of the Traders National Bank of Buckhannon for some time. In 1891, he married Annie Lee Hawthorne. Post is most noted for his role as state senator in West Virginia. He was appointed to the state senate to fill the vacant seat of the thirteenth district in 1907 when William Dameron Talbott died of typhoid pneumonia. Post completed the term but did not run for re-election.

The Post family lost the property due to bankruptcy in the

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Upshur County, WV

Statement of Significance (continued)

early 1930s. William Post's son, John Post, bought the property back from a neighbor, who had purchased it from bankruptcy court. During the period of ownership by the neighbor, Mr. Spies, the Post family continued to occupy the property and paid rent. John Post and his wife June lived in the house until his death in 1950. June Post then transferred ownership of the property to her daughter Marion Rebecca Post Johnston, who in turn sold the property to Mrs. Juanita Reger in 1991. In the years preceding the purchase by Mrs. Reger, the property had fallen into disrepair.

Mrs. Juanita Reger, present owner, grew up only a few houses away from the Post mansion. Upon her acquisition of the property, she began a careful and continuing restoration of the house and grounds to its 1890s splendor. In the spring of 1992, Mrs. Reger opened the mansion as a commercial bed and breakfast inn and food service business. To meet fire codes, the rear staircase, which entered into the kitchen, was rerouted to open to the outside, providing a fire escape for guests on the second floor. The mansion is open to the public upon reservation and private tours may be arranged.

Bibliography

Cutright, William B. History of Upshur County. 1907.
Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Company. 1977, reprint.

Reger, Juanita, interview of present owner. 20 November
1992, by Shawn Hanifan in Buckhannon, WV.

Spies, Norman to Post, John. personal letter dated 28 May
1934. Bekki Lewis Collection, Buckhannon, WV.

Tenney, Noel W. From Camp Rock and Cabin to Courthouse, A
Survey of Upshur County, Its Historic Sites and Buildings,
Presettlement to 1913. Buckhannon, WV: Printex Print Shop.
1984.

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Upshur County, W.V.

Significance (continued)

The Post Mansion derives additional significance for its local importance as an unusual example of late 19th century architecture, the work of Draper Hughes, Buckhannon's best known architect. Large houses in Buckhannon and in Upshur County during the period were often constructed of brick or wood. Many were designed in popular architectural styles, such as the Queen Anne or Italianate. The Post Mansion, however, was built of locally quarried rock-faced stone in a style that differs markedly from these. Its principal massing features many classical elements, such as the corner two-tier porch with Roman Doric columns. The columned single-bay entrance portico, above which a large Palladian window is centered, is decorated with a dentiled cornice. The whole of the hipped roof mass is encircled with a row of modillion blocks. The highlight of the house's design is not found in the hipped roof block however. The visually dominant segment is the three-story tower with a corbeled parapet punctuated with crenelations. Stone textures, high chimneys and tower, and the steeply pitched hipped roof, lend the Post Mansion a baronial dignity that is not found in any other house of the county.

Post Mansion
Name of Property

Upshur County, WV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.34 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 566960 4316400
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 Donovan S. Hanifan, Researcher/ Noel W. Tenney, Corr. Sec.
organization The Upshur County Historical Society date April 16, 1993
street & number 81 W. Main St. P.O. Box 2082 telephone (304) 472-2738
city or town Buckhannon state WV zip code 26201

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.)

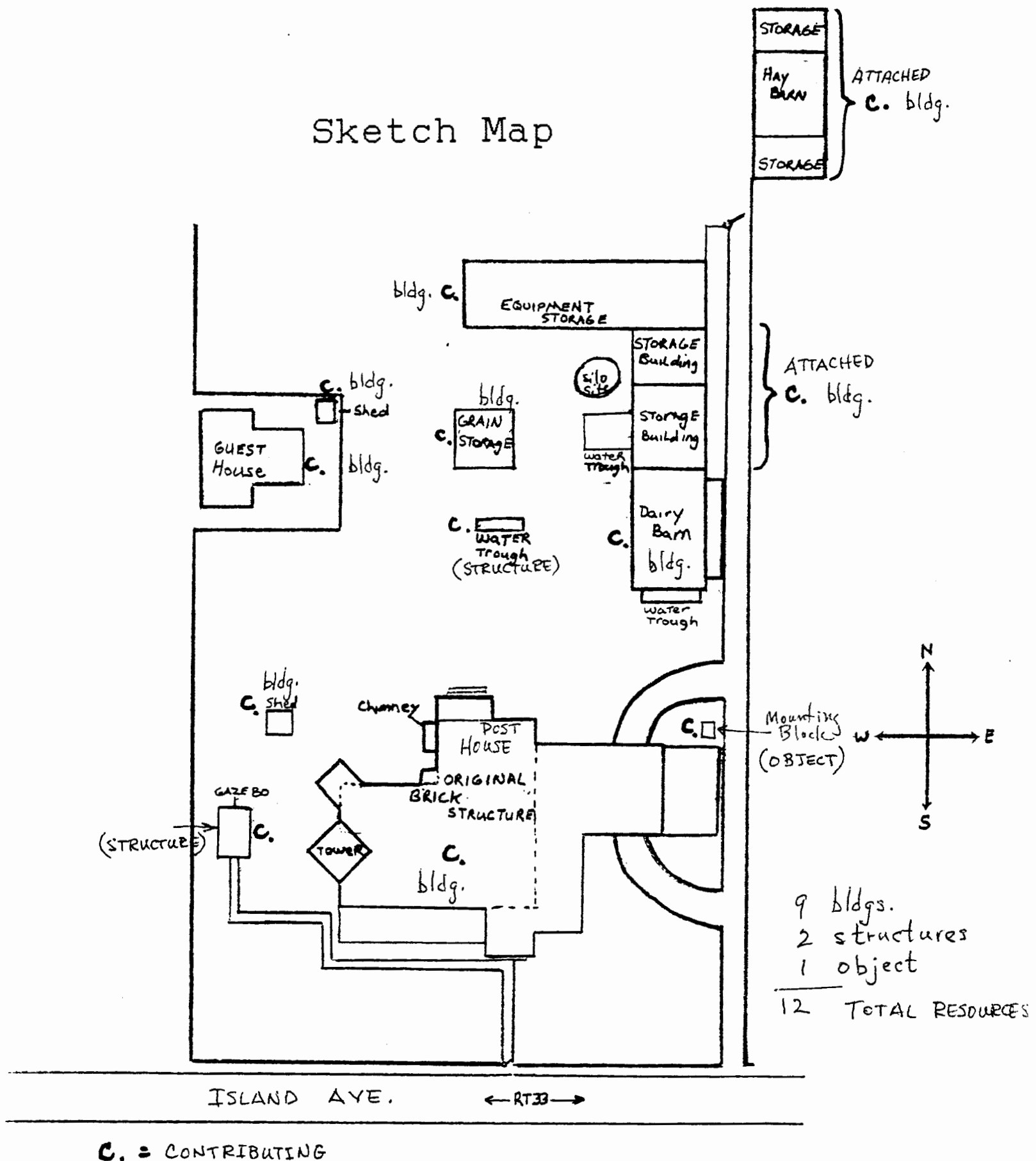
name Juanita Reger
street & number 8 Island Avenue telephone (304) 472-8959
city or town Buckhannon state WV zip code 26201

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.).

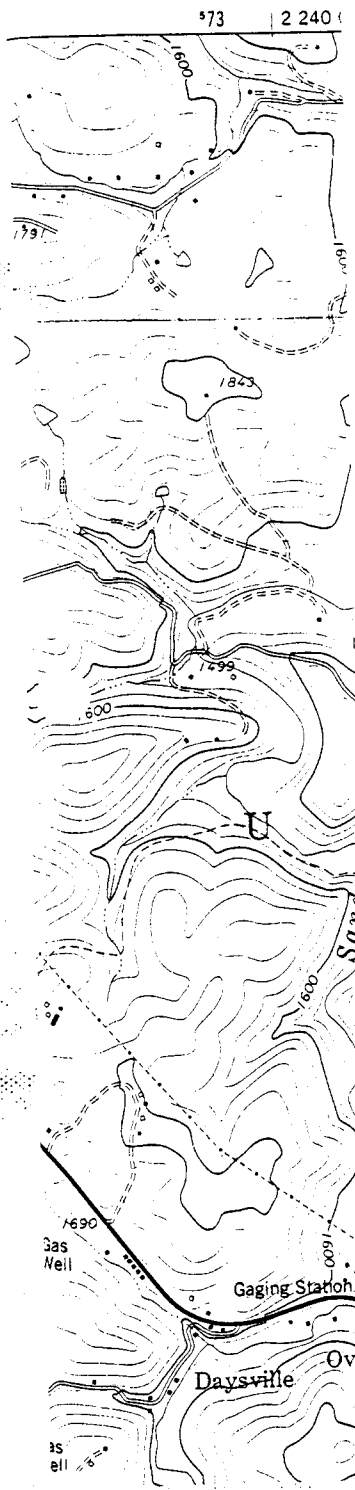
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form 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.

Post Mansion
8 Island Avenue
Buckhannon, Upshur County, WV 26201

Sketch Map



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



POST MANSION
8 ISLAND AVE.
BUCKHANNON,
UPSHUR CO., W.V.

UTM :

17/566960/4316400

