## 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                                                         | County Alms House                           |                                        |                |
| other names/site numberSnow Hill                                      |                                             |                                        |                |
| 2 Lecation                                                            | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·       |                                        |                |
|                                                                       |                                             |                                        |                |
| street & numberWV_Second                                              | ary 15                                      | ☐ not for p                            | ublication     |
| city or townLeetown                                                   |                                             |                                        | ty             |
| state <u>West Virginia</u> code                                       | WV county <u>Jefferson</u>                  |                                        | 25430          |
| 3. State/Federal Agency Certification                                 |                                             | ······································ |                |
| Historic Places and meets the procedural and    meets                 | ister criteria. I recommend that this prope | erty be considered significant         | perty          |
| In my opinion, the property  meets does comments.)                    | s not meet the National Register criteria.  | ( See continuation sheet for addition  | onal           |
| Signature of certifying official/Title                                | Date                                        | <del></del>                            | ,              |
| State or Federal agency and bureau                                    |                                             |                                        |                |
| 1. National Park Service Certification                                |                                             |                                        | <del></del>    |
| hereby certify that the property is:                                  | Signature of the Keeper                     |                                        | Date of Action |
| 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:)                                                     |                                             |                                        |                |
|                                                                       |                                             |                                        |                |
|                                                                       |                                             |                                        |                |

| Alms House                                                        | 1 - 4 - 4 - 1                                | Jeffer                                   | rson County, WV                                        |                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Name of Property                                                  | <del></del>                                  | County and                               | State                                                  |                                       |
| 5. Classification                                                 |                                              |                                          |                                                        |                                       |
| Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)              | Category of Property<br>(Check only one box) | Number of Res<br>(Do not include pre     | cources within Propert viously listed resources in the | y<br>e count.)                        |
| ☐ private                                                         | building(s)                                  | Contributing                             | Noncontributing                                        |                                       |
| ☐ public-local ☑ public-State                                     | ☐ district<br>☐ site                         | 1                                        | 2                                                      | buildin                               |
| public-State                                                      | ☐ site ☐ structure                           | 0                                        | 4                                                      | sites                                 |
| •                                                                 | ☐ object · · · · ·                           |                                          | <u> </u>                                               | structu                               |
|                                                                   |                                              |                                          |                                                        | objects                               |
| .*                                                                |                                              | 1                                        | 6                                                      | Total                                 |
|                                                                   |                                              |                                          |                                                        |                                       |
| N/A 6. Function or Use                                            |                                              | N/A                                      |                                                        |                                       |
| Historic Functions<br>(Enter categories from instructions)        |                                              | Current Functions (Enter categories from | instructions)                                          |                                       |
| Domestic: Single Dw                                               | elling                                       | Idle                                     |                                                        | ·                                     |
| Healthcare: Alms Ho                                               | use                                          |                                          |                                                        |                                       |
|                                                                   |                                              |                                          |                                                        | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
|                                                                   |                                              |                                          |                                                        |                                       |
|                                                                   |                                              |                                          |                                                        |                                       |
|                                                                   |                                              |                                          |                                                        | <del></del>                           |
|                                                                   |                                              |                                          |                                                        |                                       |
|                                                                   |                                              |                                          |                                                        |                                       |
| 7. Description                                                    |                                              |                                          | ···                                                    |                                       |
| Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) |                                              | Materials<br>(Enter categories from      | instructions)                                          |                                       |

Stone

Brick

roof Tin over Slate

other \_\_\_\_\_

foundation \_\_\_\_

walls \_\_\_\_\_

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

Early Republic: Federal

Alms House Name of Property

| 8. Statement of Significance                                                                                       | 'Auran of Olemificana                                                          |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property      | Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)                     |  |  |  |  |
| for National Register listing.)                                                                                    | Architecture                                                                   |  |  |  |  |
| A Property is associated with events that have made                                                                | Health and Medicine                                                            |  |  |  |  |
| a significant contribution to the broad patterns of                                                                | nearth and instrum                                                             |  |  |  |  |
| our history.                                                                                                       |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| our motory.                                                                                                        |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| ☐ 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                                                                       | Period of Significance                                                         |  |  |  |  |
| individual distinction.                                                                                            | 1813 - 1940                                                                    |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| □ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,                                                                   |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| information important in prehistory or history.                                                                    | 5.33 · Exel 1 5 . 3 · 4                                                        |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)                                                    | Significant Dates                                                              |  |  |  |  |
| (Main X III all the boxes that apply.)                                                                             | 1813                                                                           |  |  |  |  |
| Property is:                                                                                                       | 1857                                                                           |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for                                                                   |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| religious purposes.                                                                                                | Cinciliant Demon                                                               |  |  |  |  |
| TR removed from its original location                                                                              | Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)                   |  |  |  |  |
| □ B removed from its original location.                                                                            |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| C a birthplace or grave.                                                                                           | N/A                                                                            |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                    | Cultural Affiliation                                                           |  |  |  |  |
| ☐ <b>D</b> a cemetery.                                                                                             |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.                                                                |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| ☐ F a commemorative property.                                                                                      |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| a commemorative property.                                                                                          |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance                                                             | Architect/Builder                                                              |  |  |  |  |
| within the past 50 years.                                                                                          | Not known                                                                      |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                |  |  |  |  |
| 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 on                                     | ne or more continuation sheets.)                                               |  |  |  |  |
| Previous documentation on file (NPS):                                                                              | Primary location of additional data:                                           |  |  |  |  |
| preliminary determination of individual listing (36                                                                | ☐ State Historic Preservation Office                                           |  |  |  |  |
| CFR 67) has been requested                                                                                         | ☐ Other State agency                                                           |  |  |  |  |
| previously listed in the National Register                                                                         | Federal agency                                                                 |  |  |  |  |
| previously determined eligible by the National                                                                     | ☐ Local government                                                             |  |  |  |  |
| Register                                                                                                           | ☐ University                                                                   |  |  |  |  |
| designated a National Historic Landmark                                                                            | ☐ Other                                                                        |  |  |  |  |
| ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #                                                                 | Name of repository:                                                            |  |  |  |  |
| recorded by Historic American Engineering                                                                          | Hal Brown 1852 map - Jas. F. Moore, est. Hal Brown 1893 map - County Infirmary |  |  |  |  |
| Record #                                                                                                           | ner prown 1930 map - county initiality                                         |  |  |  |  |

| Alms House Name of Property                                                                    |                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10. Geographical Data                                                                          |                                                                                     |
| Acreage of Property                                                                            |                                                                                     |
| UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)                      |                                                                                     |
| 1 1 8 2 4 9 3 2 0 4 3 5 7 8 3 0 Northing                                                       | 3                                                                                   |
| 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 <u>Don Wood</u> . <u>Historian</u> - <u>Bev</u>                                     | men Creamer, Archaeologist<br>erly Grove, Research<br>Galtjo L. Geertsema, Surveyor |
| organization <u>Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority</u>                                     |                                                                                     |
| street & number P.O. Box 70                                                                    | telephone <u>304/728-0430 &amp; 304/725-</u> 9053                                   |
| city or town Ranson state                                                                      | e zip code                                                                          |
| Additional Documentation                                                                       |                                                                                     |
| Submit the following items with the completed form:                                            |                                                                                     |
| Continuation Sheets                                                                            |                                                                                     |
| Maps _ 3 _                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
| 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 Jefferson County Solid Waste Authorit                                                     | У                                                                                   |
| street & number P.O. Box 70                                                                    | telephone <u>304/738-0430_&amp;_304/725</u> -9053                                   |
| city or town Ranson state                                                                      | ·                                                                                   |
| Barrier A. B. C. M. A. A. A. A. B. C. B. C.                |                                                                                     |

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.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JEFFERSON COUNTY ALMS HOUSE SNOW HILL FARM Jefferson County, West Virginia

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#### 7. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

#### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The front section of the building was constructed first, in 1813, as a single family residence called Snow Hill. The two and a half story brick building has five bays, with interior end chimneys and a centrally placed entry door. Built on a raised stone foundation, the house is approached by four steps up to the concrete block and slab of the wood front porch, which appears to have been a later alteration. The entry originally held a double door; while no longer place, these doors have been recovered on the site. A rectangular transom above the door contains five lights. All of the sash windows are two lights over two lights; with the exception of the rear window, which illuminates the stairway. The stairway window is six over six, and appears to have been added with the later west rear addition. The windows on the front, or south, and west elevations have flat-arched window heads. The side gabled roof is tin, laid over slate; the latter probably represents a late nineteenth century roof. While no cornice is evident, a wood corbel extends along the front facade directly beneath the roof line. This corbel also appears to be a later alteration.

While the front facade brickwork is in Flemish bond, a distinctive feature of the house is the brickwork of the side walls. These walls are constructed with a variation of common bond, consisting of three rows of stretchers and a row of headers. Alternate bricks in the header rows are glazed; while the glazing has worn through the years, the pattern formed by the glazed brick essentially consists of a series of interrupted horizontal lines. The use of glazed bricks to create patterns in side walls has both English and Swedish antecedents, and can be found in seventeenth and eighteenth century houses in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Gowans indicates the technique was used by landed families to signify their newly acquired status (Gowans 1986:385). This may have been the purpose for the use of this technique at Snow Hill, which could explain the presence of this early technique on a nineteenth century building.

The interior plan is an I-type, with a central passage, or hall, flanked by one room on each side. The stairway wraps from the east to the west along the rear of the hall, with a landing running parallel along the rear wall. The wood handrail, balusters and newels as well as the wood molding on the stringer appear to be original. The floor plan is mimicked upstairs, with a small central room above the hall. A narrow staircase leads from this room to the attic, which is one large, unpartitioned room lit by two small windows in each side wall.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JEFFERSON COUNTY ALMS HOUSE SNOW HILL FARM Jefferson County, West Virginia

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| Section | number |   | Page |   |

#### 7. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

#### DESCRIPTION

Notable interior features include molded wood chair rails in three of the four rooms; scarring along the wall in the first floor west room indicates a chair rail was also once present in this room. A chair rail is also present in the hall and above the stair landing. While the upstairs rooms contain plain wood mantles, those of the first floor are more elaborate. In the west room, originally the most formal room, the classical style wood mantlpiece covers the chimney breast and extends to the ceiling. Five panels are located between the shelf and ceiling molding, consisting of a large central panel flanked on each side by one long, narrow panel and a small panel near the top. Two additional panels are situated beneath the shelf and above the chimney; these panels are interrupted and flanked by small pilasters. The molding beneath the shelf is a modified denticulate pattern; a denticulate pattern also occurs in the ceiling cornice. The fireplace surround is also molded. The chimney piece in the east room is done in a similar style, but does not extend above the mantle shelf. Other interior woodwork features include the wood stairway and a wood pegboard in the hall.

Overall, the earliest portion of the building is best described as a vernacular expression of the Federal style, with its Flemish bond brickwork, narrow windows, rectangular plan, high basement, and door treatment. With the exception of the glazed brickwork, it bears similarities to other houses in the region, such as La Grange (early 1800s), Howell House (1828/9), Mount Ellen (1787), Elmwood (1797), and Shenstone (1811) (Jefferson County Historical Society 1990:53, 30, 87, 122, and 90). Most notable is the similarity to La Grange, located nearby and apparently built by James Hurst for his son John Hurst.

A west wing was added to the building occurred when it became the county poorhouse in 1858. The two story, brick wing along the western elevation added eight rooms to the original structure. The brickwork of the wing consists of rows of stretchers occasionally interrupted by a row of headers, forming no particular type of bond. The wing is accessed through the main house by a door beneath the stairway; where a small entry, with a wood pantry, leads to a two story exterior porch. This wood porch later had a brick wall added to the north, perhaps to protect it from the weather; the porch is currently badly deteriorated. Each of the rooms in the wing originallly formed a separate space, with its own door onto the porch, three rooms to each story and two rooms in the basement. northern basement room is the size of two rooms above, and has a fireplace, as do the other north rooms on the first and second floors. Narrow doorways, which appear to be later alterations, were cut between the rooms on the first and second floors. Each room, including the basement rooms, has two six over six sash windows, one facing east and

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JEFFERSON COUNTY ALMS HOUSE SNOW HILL FARM Jefferson County, West Virginia

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## 7. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued) DESCRIPTION

the other facing west. Also built of stone, as with the original building, the basement is at grade along the rear elevation because of the sloping landscape.

Other additions include a brick lean-to, enlarged with frame, along the north or rear wall of the main house. Since the brick lean-to is accessed by wood frame doorways in the main house, this addition appears to have been done soon after, if not during, the construction of the main house. This portion of the building is badly deteriorated. The later frame enlargement has engulfed the brick lean-to; it appears this enlargement may have ran along the north wall, or rear, of the original house. There is also evidence of another addition along the east wall of the main house. Both the first and second story windows were once doors, and the painted ghost of an old porch is also visible. This addition burned in this century.

Various outbuildings on the property include a board and batten dairy / springhouse, a board and batten combined summer kitchen and carriage house; the latter contains a large fireplace.

#### NOTES:

- 1. Gowans, Alan
  - 1986 The Mansions of Alloways Creek. In <u>COMMON PLACE</u>, <u>READINGS IN AMERICAN VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE</u>. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, editors. Pages 367-393. Athens, The University of Georgia Oress.
- 2. JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
  - 1990 BETWEEN THE SHENANDOAH AND THE POTOMAC: HISTORIC HOMES OF

    JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA. Winchester, Virginia, Winchester

    Printers, Inc.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JEFFERSON COUNTY ALMS HOUSE SNOW HILL FARM Jefferson County, West Virginia

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#### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Snow Hill Jefferson County Almshouse was constructed in 1813, as a Federal style brick mansion house. The 1813 exterior brickside walls are constructed with alternate glazed bricks in the header rows and form a pattern in each side wall. While the English and Swedish antecedent can be found in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, it is most unusual and may be one of a kind with none known to exist in adjoining Berkeley County (Jefferson County being a part of Berkeley until 1801). The west room classical style wood mantlepiece with both Georgian and Federal influence is a work of art.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This handsome brick house was built for John Hurst, son of James Hurst, 1744 - 1829 and Mary Gurnell 1746 - 1823, daughter of Major Henry Gurnall, Fairfax County, Va., James Hurst and family moved from Fairfax County, Va. to (then Berkeley) Jefferson County, Va. in 1795 and established in the former Hite Town (now Leetown) area of present Jefferson County. John Hurst next to the eldest of James Hurst's 11 (eleven) children was almost as prosperous here in Jefferson County as his father; when John Hurst's estate was divided by the local court he owned 30 slaves, men, women and children who were valued at \$9,570.00 and over 1,300 acres. He had established a house for each of his sons. Grandson James V. Moore, only child of his deceased daughter, Betty Hurst Moore, inherited the Snow Hill House. In 1854, James V. Moore sold the Snow Hill House to his cousin, Dr. Minor Hurst who sold the house and farm of more that 218 acres to the overseers of the poor of Jefferson County for \$11,000.00 The house and farm played a role in the history of Jefferson County. A brick wing was soon added to the north side of the house, to house the inmates. This with basement was three stories. As additional space was needed a wooden wing was added to the east of the house. This section no longer exists having been destroyed by fire. At present, the property is owned by the Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority, having been deeded from the present Jefferson County County Commission on May 26, 1994, recorded in Deed Book 778 at page 630.1

The Overseers of the Poor was an outgrowth of the Glebe Farms, which was originally part of the English Church. Norborne Parish was established on February 5, 1771 2 Old Norborne Parish Part 11. 1771 - 1816, page 12, Volume XLL, December 1979, by William J. Barnhart, Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society, page 17. Norborne Vestry purchased their Glebe of 131 acres for 180 lbs. from John and Jane Berry by deed dated December 7, 1772. The wardens were Samuel Washington and William Henshaw. Before the American Revolution parishes in Virginia held a power to levy assessments and the responsiblity to support and maintain the poor. After the Revolution, when

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JEFFERSON COUNTY ALMS HOUSE SNOW HILL FARM Jefferson County, West Virginia

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8. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (continued)

the English Church was disestablished, glebe lands became the property of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In the 1780's and 1790's the General Assembly passed a series of laws that dissolved the parish vestries and transferred responsibility for care of the poor to the "overseers of the poor" elected in each county.

At a court held for Jefferson County on Tuesday the 20th day of January, 1846 it was ordered that the election of the overseer of the poor be held the first Saturday in March. In district No. 1 at Shepherdstown, at Daniel Entlers tavern, Charles Harper and Dr. John Quigles or either of them, district No. 2 at Charlestown at the Court House, John R. F. Cagg and Saml Ridenour or either of them, district No. 3 at Smithfield at Henry Smith tavern, John A. Smith, A. C. Timberlake and Walter J. Burwell or either of them, in district No. 4 at Harpers Ferry at Walling Tavern, John Hole, Gerard Wager and George B. Stephenson or either of them. Three persons were to be elected as overseers of the poor in each of said districts. Note there were eight districts (Jefferson County Order Book 9, unnumbered pages.) 3

There are many entries in the Jefferson County Order Books where the overseers of the poor bound the free negro boys and girls out and collected money for their use. Page 224, Order Book 12. 4 It is ordered that the overseer of the poor of District No. 6 bind George Robinson a free negro boy, five years old, to Jacob Fulk till he comes of age of 21, \$65 at age of 12, \$10 at the age of 13, \$15 at the age of 14, \$25 at the age of 18, \$65 at the age of 19, \$75 at the age of 20 and \$75 at age of 21 years. All the hire is to be paid to the overseers of the poor except for the three last years, which is to be paid to the apprentice when free. Bond free negro girls were valued at \$10 at age 13, \$15 at age 14, \$20 at age 15, \$25 at age 16, \$30 at age 17 and 18 years. They were set free when 18 years old.

At the December term, 1857, the Justices of the Peace of the County of Jefferson considered the purchase of a farm for the use of the poor of Jefferson County, the overseers of the poor having conditionally contracted with Minor Hurst for the purchase of his farm "Snow Hill". 16 voted for the purchase and 9 negative. The Law Order Books of Jefferson County show the overseers of the poor had a rather advanced system where they not only took care of the inmates of the alms house but the representatives of each district would send the doctor to visit the poor, pay for their medicine and other supplies as well as pay for a coffin and digging the grave, furnish coal and wood, also the board for women with children 5 (Law Order Book C, page 119). In the 1880's, they were paying men to work on the farm. They would receive \$1.50 per day but then, they were paid 30¢ a mile for their travel time. John Gibson received \$6.00 for 4 days work and \$5.00 for traveling 25 miles each day 6 (Law Order Book C, page 120)

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JEFFERSON COUNTY ALMS HOUSE SNOW HILL FARM Jefferson County, West Virginia

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8. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (continued)

Following the West Virginia Constitution of 1872, the Virginia plan for the care of the poor was revived. In 1881, the County Courts were authorized to provide a county infirmary, workhouse, farm for the use and benefit of the poor. It was found that much abuse was connected with the care of the alms houses with County Courts making assignment of their maintenance to the lowest bidder. In a message by Governor Glasscock in 1913, he stated that many of the almshouses of the state are a disgrace with unsanitary conditions which endanger the health and lives of the inmates 7. (Page 598, History of West Virginia, old and new, Volume 1, The American Historical Society, the title superintendent of infirmary was applied to the supervisor of the alms house West Virginia Rule Book 1934.)

The Jefferson Almshouse and infirmary had a wooden addition added ca. 1880 attached by a porch on the east side of the brick original Snow Hill House. The 1880 Census for the Jefferson County Farm and Alms House lists Charles White, male 59 years old as the keeper with wife and 3 daughters, 32 white inmates, ages 1 - 86 and 8 black inmates ranging from 1 years to 80 years old. 8 (1880 Census of West Virginia, Volume 13, compiled by William A. Marsh.)

During the depression the Jefferson County Infirmary became neglected and newspaper articles were written about the "almost unmentionable condition of the County Alms House," stating the institution had become a menace and the inmates were considered little more than animals. (Spirit of Jefferson-Advocate)

In 1931 the County Court took action that changed these conditions. Apparently, the most caring of all of the supervisors took place with the hiring of Mrs. Daisey Fritts. One year later, the following appeared in the local paper: "We had occassion to go to the Alms House a week or two ago and the transformation was so great that it seemed impossible. Floors, ceilings and walls were clean, the quarters had been made more attractive. The expression on the faces of the inmates was more peaceful and all heard praise for Mrs. Fritts.

The Court is to congratulated on having a woman there who is interested in her work and effective. She deserves the thanks of the people of Jefferson County, bringing a County institution from the filth and grime of carelessness to the cleanliness and neatness of a comfortable home. The quality of food has improved. Indeed, the whole atmosphere of the place is different and to Mrs. Fritts goes the credit; to the County Court goes credit for such a splendid selection. Miss Daisy was in charge of the Alms House for the next 28 years.

When Daisey Fritts retired at age 77, in 1959, she states that she had a happy and useful life from childhood, but the last 28 years had been most heart warming, pleasant and satisfying. The County Commission decided to relocate the 9 remaining inmates and closed the Jefferson County Infirmary (Alms House) on November 19, 1959. (Spirit of Jefferson/Advocate) The Alms House played a major role in the social structure of Jefferson County for 102 years, serving as a home for the abused and less fortunate of Jefferson County for both black and white. Also, the County Commissioners looked forward to inspection tours, as they knew there would be a good dinner and give enjoyment to inmates as they made their inspections. Jazzbo, a freed slave, had one of his hands severed as punishment before coming to the Alms House. Here he was assigned to take care of the two seater

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JEFFERSON COUNTY ALMS HOUSE SNOW HILL FARM Jefferson County, West Virginia

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8. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (continued)

Dayton wagon with a hard top. He was trusted to make trips to market for supplies or whatever was needed. An African-American woman, known as "Aunt Till", had been beaten over the head with a red hot poker as punishment, which caused her to be partially retarded. She gave birth to a little girl soon after being brought to the Alms House to recover. She and her daughter helped with the washing and ironing and cleaning of part of the rooms for years. (Details of life at the Alms House have been given to us by Mrs. Eunice (Kenneth) Fritts, daughter in law of Miss Daisey).

With the closing of the Infirmary, a part of the County Government of Jefferson County, became history. The farm now houses several County related or controlled agencies, part is the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, part the Animal Shelter, part the Parks and Recreation and the Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority. The beautiful "Snow Hill" brick Jefferson County Alms House, which is now vacant, was deeded this year to the Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority, who feel the house merits being preserved and would like to make it a public museum.

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#### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

21 February, 1791. Francis McKenny and Edward McKenny sold for 66 lbs 20 acres to Robert Carter. DEED BOOK 10, page 14 BERKELEY COUNTY, WV. Francis McKenny sold to Robert Carter all that tract Beginning at the original beginning of the said tract being a white oak corner to Joseph Hite then with Hites line S77 deg. W one hundred and forty poles to two red oaks Hite corner N 25 deb ET one hundred and forty two poles (with same courses) to a white oak then down the middle of a road in Hites line to the middle of Hites road and with said road S 60 E two hundred sixty three poles to a certain point in the center of said road at the intersection of Edward McKenney's line thence with said line No 27 deg. ET one hundred and seventy six poles to the old line of the original tract near two marked white oaks to a stake thence with the original line No 72 deg. WT forty four poles to the beginning. Note the course in the patent for the last mentioned line calls for No 61 WT, containing 194 acres, also lot 6.

Deed Book 6, page 154 on September 14, 1802, Robert Carter and Elizabeth, his wife, sold to John Hurst for \$4,537.50 a tract of land containing 1812 acres. The tract of land was located on Hite's road and joined Joseph Hite and Edward McKinland.

Jefferson County Deed Book 34, page 57 recorded on March 11th, 1854, James V. Moore and Ann, his wife, sold for \$10,500.00 a tract of land located on the road leading from Leetown to Charles Town containing 218 acres being all that tract of land known as the Carter Farm where John Hurst lived. Was assigned to said James V. Moore in the division of the lands of John Hurst, deceased.

The division of the slaves (negroes) of John Hurst's estate lists 30 men, women and children ranging value from Levinia of no value to Ann and her child Peyton valued at \$750.00 and Charles valued at \$750.00. Total value at \$9,570.00. Deed Book 39, page 313 on February 19th, the Jefferson County Commission confirmed the division of John Hurst's, deceased lands to William Hurst Lot 1, containing 1,321 acres where he lives, to James G. Hurst was assigned two tracts first lot 21 acres, 2nd tract where he lives containing 321 acres, to Mrs. Catharine S. Daniel lot 3 tract adjoins Briscoe and Washington containing 286 acres, also 2nd tract of 75 acres, to James V. Moore lot 4 tract containing 218 acres located on the Leetown Road, also tract of 130 acres. Graveyard was reserved with right of way to grave yard.

On December 26, 1857, Minor Hurst and Sarah, his wife of Jefferson County sold to the Overseers of the Poor for the County of Jefferson, for the sum of \$11,000.00 a tract of land containing 218 acres located on the road leading from Leetown to Charles Town, known as Snow Hill or the Carter Farm, which formerly belonged to John Hurst. Jefferson County Deed Book 38, page 24.

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- 10. Geographical Data UTM References (Continued):
  - 2. N59-15W .141.40 572.30 378.48
  - 3. N24-45E 231.58 782.60 475.43
  - 4. S60-00E 224.40 670.40 669.77 1.017.623 acs.
  - 5. S23-15W 118.20 561.80 623.11 .014 (for E/C)
  - 6. N64-30W 60.30 587.76 568.68 1.013 acs.

E/C N86'-03'E 1.42

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary includes the Alms House, outbuildings, such as the spring/dairy house, summer kitchen/carriage house and ruins of various known buildings. Acreage of orignal land deeds does not belong to the present owners.

(See sketch Map)

#### Justification

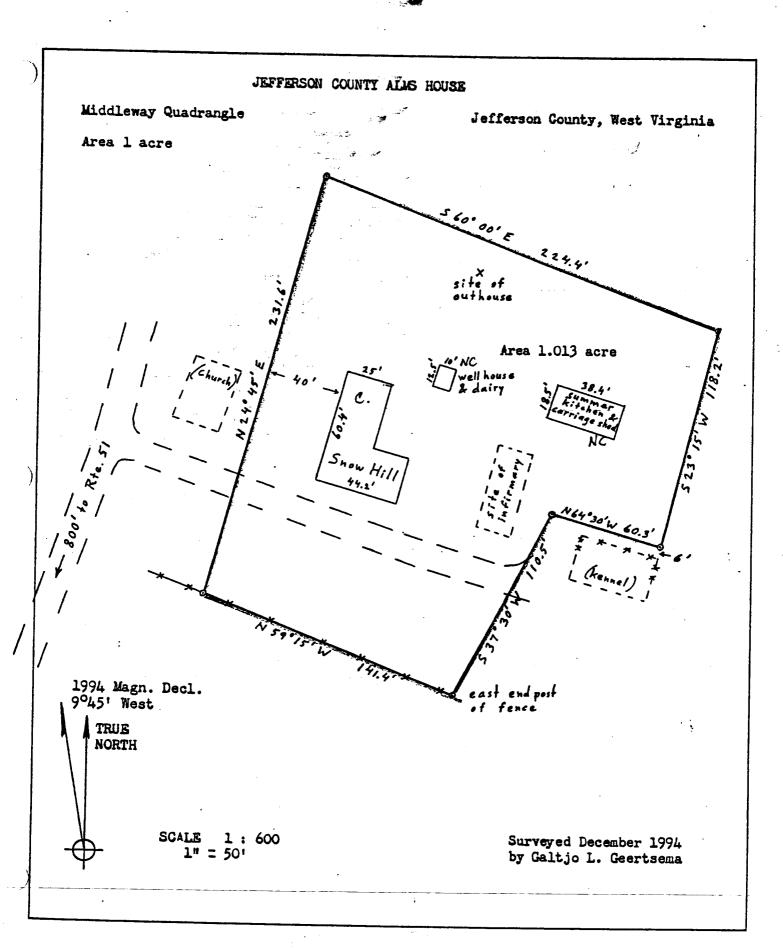
The nominated property occupies the tract historically associated with Snow Hill Farm.

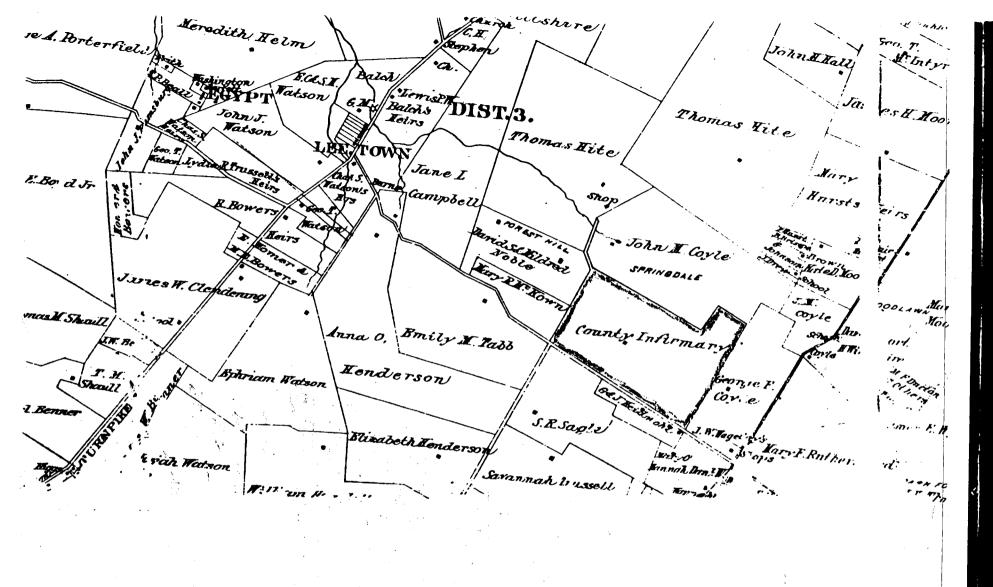
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#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

- 1. Jefferson County Alms House Jefferson Co., W.Va. Photo by Don C. Wood Nov., 1994 West elev.
- 2. Same as above
  Front (South and East elevs.)
- 3. Front (South and East elevs.)
- 4. Mantel
  Southwest parlor
  Dec. 13, 1994





SHOW HILL, JEFFERSON CO., W.V.

HOWELL BROWN 1893 MAPOF VEFFERSON COWUR.

