

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property SHANNONDALE SPRINGS

historic name: Shannondale Springs
other name/site number: NA

2. Location

street & number: [REDACTED]
city/town: [REDACTED] Not for Publication
state code: WV county: Jefferson code: 037 zip code: N/A Vicinity:

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.)

Susan M. Pierce _____ Date 2/19/98
Signature of Certifying Official

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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

Signature at Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of 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): _____		

Shannondale Springs
Name of Property

Jefferson County, West Virginia
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of property
(Check only one box)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

HEALTH CARE: resort
AGRICULTURE: Subsistence Farming

LANDSCAPE: Hunting and Fishing Preserve
RECREATION & CULTURE

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials

Other: No style

Foundation: limestone
Walls: limestone
Roof: limestone, earth
Other:

Narrative Description

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

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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 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)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
HEALTH/MEDICINE

Period of Significance

1820-1937

Shannondale Springs
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Significant Dates

1820, 1838, 1890, 1903, 1909

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of significance

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

(See 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.)

(See 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: Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: 66.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Zone-Easting-Northing Quad Map

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: William D. Theriault, chairman
organization: Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission
street & number: P. O. Box 173 date: September 1997
city or town: Bakerton telephone: (304) 876-3321
state: West Virginia zip code: 25410

Property Owner

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

Name: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
Street & Number: State Capitol Complex, Building 3
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E.
City or Town: Charleston State: West Virginia Zip: 25305

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The Shannondale Springs Resort is a 66.5-acre site on the south bank of the Shenandoah River. The area adjacent to the Shenandoah River is in the flood plain, and the land rises gradually to the south, reaching a plateau approximately 80 feet above the river bank. The resort was in operation from 1820 until 1909, with the springs continuing in use for another 30 years.

Ruins of resort buildings are found midway up the hill. The ruins of the hotel foundation is surrounded by a semi-circle of contributing structures and foundations within a 2,500-foot radius of the hotel. Three mineral springs are located northwest of the hotel ruins, between the hotel and the riverbank. The mineral springs still flow, although choked with silt and debris. During the period that the resort was in operation, the landscape included lawns, large elms, sycamores, and oaks, and land under cultivation. The property is now overgrown with *multiflora rose* and *Russian olive*, although portions are maintained in grass and several of the old, large trees remain. Topographically, the resort area has remained essentially unchanged.

The resort began in 1820 with the construction of 10 to 12 wooden cottages and the addition of a two-story hotel the following year. The hotel and at least two of the cottages burned in 1858. Several brick cottages were constructed after the Civil War and a new hotel was built on the original site in 1890. The hotel burned again in 1909 and was not rebuilt. The cottages and outbuildings continued in use for approximately 30 years until they deteriorated to the point of being inhabitable. Throughout this period, the springs themselves remained in use as a source of medicinal waters.

Of the original structures, only a stone bath/spring house (northeast of the hotel ruins) and a cement fountain (approximately 50 feet south of the hotel ruins) remain. Both of these structures are in good condition. Within the semicircle with the hotel as its center, several foundations have survived, with brick rubble and stone foundations marking the possible subsurface remains of the cottages, stables, and outbuildings. Between 20 and 40 outbuildings probably existed on the resort property during its 100-year history. Further archaeological investigation may be able to identify more of the buildings lost to fire, deterioration, and remodeling efforts.

Bath/Spring House

Located approximately 50 feet northeast of the hotel, this one-story, mortared stone structure measuring approximately 15 feet by 12 feet is the only extant building at Shannondale Springs. Oriented with two corners on the north-south axis, the structure was built into the hillside, with soil contributing to the upslope or southeast side onto the top of the structure. Because of this construction techniques, the roofing material is composed of soil, which is held in place with vegetation. Large cut stones anchor the north and east corners, while large stones cap the three stone walls. A lime-based coating, somewhat heavier than a whitewash, apparently once covered the entire structure, although much of it has now deteriorated. A doorway pierces the northeast wall, while the sole window opening is situated at ground level in the southwest wall. The interior of the building is vaulted brick. Recent reconstruction required the replacement of the heavily deteriorated wood door and window frames; however, the long cut stone sill of the doorway remains intact.

A series of three stone steps led down to the dirt floor of the structure. The mortared and whitewashed interior exhibits an arched ceiling constructed of stone. The arch is held in place with the clay soil found in the top of the building and is supported by the southeast and northwest walls. The southeast and southwest walls are lined with stone benches, approximately three feet wide and two and a half feet high. Two-thirds of the top surface of the benches is covered with a thick mortared surface. A drain, measuring approximately six inches by four inches and lined with brick on its sides, is found above the bench in the southeast or upslope wall. The northwest or downslope wall contains another drain, similar in construction. Scars in the mortared northwest wall indicated that this drain was blocked during a later period of the building's use.

The date of the structure is unclear. A surface collection of artifacts found during reconstruction of the building illustrates a wide date range between the late eighteenth and late nineteenth centuries. The building is interpreted as being constructed as a small bathhouse, possibly built around 1820, when the historic record indicates that Shannondale Springs was first used as a resort. Probing the dirt floor indicates another

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surface may exist 15 inches below the current floor. This would have made a pool with a depth of approximately 18 inches, surrounded on two sides by benches. It is thought that the building may have been later reused as a springhouse, with the benches modified into a trough, using the heavy mortar to create a non-porous surface and some type of side wall, now missing. This may have been when the northwest wall drain was blocked.

Well

A brick-lined well is located immediately uphill (south) from the Bath/Spring House. The well, now approximately 8 feet deep, is dry. A pipe with a one-way flow valve is located on the south wall of the well; it was probably installed in 1903 to pump water uphill to the hotel.

Cement Fountain

A cement fountain/pool is located approximately 50 feet north of the site of the hotel. The object is 9.5 feet in diameter and is pierced in the center. It was constructed in 1903 when the hotel was renovated by H.C. Getzendanner.

Cisterns (2 Features)

Two cement cisterns are located on the property, one immediately east of the site of the hotel and the other approximately 3,000 feet south of the hotel near a stone foundation. The cisterns appear to have been constructed at the same time as the fountain/pool (1903).

The Springs (3 Features)

The last known analysis of the three mineral springs was performed by the West Virginia Geological Survey in 1935. The three springs are located between the ruins of the hotel and the bank of the Shenandoah river. At this time, all three springs are still flowing, although they are choked by silt and debris.

Foundation (possible farmhouse)

Stone foundation, approximately 18' X 20', located 300 feet south (uphill) from the hotel. Further archaeological investigation will be necessary to determine this feature's function and time frame.

Foundation(s) (possible farm outbuildings)

L-shaped area containing remains of several stone foundations, located approximately 40 feet northeast of the "Farmhouse" foundation. Further archeological investigation is required to determine the number of foundations in this area, their function and time frame.

Rubble (possible "Presidential Cottages")

Brick rubble forming a rough 20' X 120' rectangle thought to mark the site of two "Presidential Cottages," located 200 feet southwest of the hotel. Further archaeological investigation will be necessary to determine this feature's function and time frame.

Foundation (possible "pavilion")

Stone foundation approximately 18-foot square with interior corner notches thought to accommodate posts for a roof. Located approximately 50 feet northeast of the hotel and 50 feet northwest of the spring/bath house. Further archaeological investigation will be necessary to determine this feature's function and time frame.

Foundation (function unknown)

Stone foundation approximately 18 feet square located approximately 100 feet southeast of the hotel. Further archaeological investigation will be necessary to determine this feature's function and time frame.

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Statement of Significance

The Shannondale Springs resort was one of the many 19th century enterprises developed ostensibly to profit from the curative powers of mineral springs. Criterion A and D are supported by the extensive written documentation collected about the political, recreational, social, and commercial activities associated with the resort during its of operation, and initial site investigation. The site is significant under Entertainment and Recreation, and Health and Medicine.

The original 29,000 acre Shannondale tract was owned by Ferdinando Fairfax (1769-1820), when he began to fall on hard times just before his death. Several tracts were sold, between 1811 and 1819 to settle his debts. Maps by Charles Varle (1809) and John Wood (1820) both record Fairfax's residence Shannon Hill, across the river from the site. But neither map shows a ferry or any structure on Horse Shoe Bend, the name first given to the area.

Fairfax sold an undivided two-thirds of the land containing Shannondale Springs in November 1819, to two investors, Thomas Griggs, Jr., and Benjamin Beeler. The property was described in the deed as being "opposite the Shannon Hill tract, containing by estimation about sixty acres more or less and being commonly called the Horse Shoe Tract..." The July of the following year, Fairfax sold his remaining interest in the Horse Shoe Tract a few months before his death.

The resort had attracted attention after the sale in 1819, with the original hotel being constructed the following year. Thomas Deakin of Harper's Ferry advertised in the *Farmers Repository* for June 21, 1820, that "he intends keeping neat and substantial hack for hire at harpers Ferry for accommodation of persons visiting Shannondale Springs." Furthermore, Rosalie Stier Calvert reported visiting the Springs about the 15th of July 1820. Noting the efficacy of the waters, she lamented, "I would have liked to drink them for a whole week, but all the houses were full. We would have had to go back the same day except for the courtesy of a gentleman who had dined at our home several years ago and who gave up his room to us. However, it was so uncomfortable that we only stayed for two days." (Calvert, p. 362)

An undated painting of the Springs may document this phase of its construction. Entitled "A view of the Shannondale Springs and the Horse Shoe bend on the Shenandoah River" (photo 2), the scene depicts a man, woman, and baby sitting on a hill on the north side of the Shenandoah River (possibly at Shannon Hill). Behind them, on the south side of the river lies a U-shaped collection of one and two-story buildings. No hotel is visible. In the lower right portion of the picture, the road leading to the ferry is shown as well as a structure on the riverbank and a boat crossing the river.

During the construction of the "houses" at Shannondale Springs, Beeler had become indebted to the sum of \$1,590. To repay this debt, he mortgaged his interest which included his share in the 60 acre-parcel, the ferry, the mineral waters and full possession of the houses already erected by Beeler. An agreement indicates that by the summer of 1821 the "boarding house" (i.e., hotel) was erected along with several other structures (baths or bath houses) which augmented the houses constructed by Beeler the previous year. This sequence of events is substantiated by Samuel Kercheval (1835) who noted that "a company of gentlemen in the neighborhood joined and purchased the site, and forthwith erected a large brick boarding house, and ten or twelve small buildings for the accommodation of visitors."

After getting off to a good start in the 1820s, the Springs appears to have fallen upon hard times, lasting perhaps until the late 1830s. Until the arrival of the railroads and the C&O Canal, access to the resort from Washington, Richmond, or Baltimore would have been difficult. The reputation of the resort also appears to have suffered during this period. A visitor to the Spring s writing in 1838 believed that disagreements among the original owners had lead to the resort being only partially completed and that the original buildings deteriorated to the point where no guests could be accommodated.

The layout of the early resort was well documented by the pen of Charles Burton about 1831 (Photo 3). His illustration shows the hotel as a two-story red-roofed, white building with an additional basement and a porch spanning the entire first floor. The first and second floors show eight rectangular windows evenly spaced across the front; the basement level reveals eight evenly spaced square windows. Ten single-story buildings form a rough

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semicircle around the hotel. A barn-like building and a two-story house lie close behind the cottages on the southeast. Far in the distance to the southwest, two other buildings can be seen near the edge of the woods. Near the river's edge, to the northwest of the hotel, two small buildings are located near the Shannondale Ferry. The latter buildings may include the ferryman's house (known to be there in 1848 and 1852) and another building associated with the ferry operation. Up hill from these structures, several people can be seen lounging in the shade of a tree, possibly at the site of one of the springs.

Shares of the resort property were frequently bought and sold throughout the first half of the 1830s, perhaps reflecting economic hardship, cholera epidemics, or speculation based on the arrival of the railroads. The C&O Canal reached Harpers Ferry in 1833, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1834, and the Winchester and Potomac Railroad in 1835. Shannondale Springs was now accessible to the wealthy and influential from Baltimore, Washington, and Richmond and the improvements in transportation were opening up new markets for the area's natural resources.

A new group of investors comprised the ownership of Shannondale Springs Company when it was incorporated in March 1838. Several men, such as Thomas Griggs, Jr. and John S. Gallaher, were members of the Virginia Whig party who had been working for more than a decade to have the legislature fund internal improvements such as railroads, highways, and canals.

The hotel, under its new ownership, reopened in June 1838. Isaac N. Carter was hired as proprietor of the hotel, and a writer noted that the "company are erecting bath houses where persons can be provided with warm or cold baths, for which purpose they can use either the mineral waters, or the river water, as may be preferred." Gallaher lost no time in promoting the virtues of his new investment. In 1838, his Charles Town newspaper, the *Free Press*, published a prospectus entitled *Shannondale: the Quality and Character of the Waters and Their Effects upon Various Diseases*. Gallaher's prospectus includes the following description of the resort by a Professor Hall of Maryland: ... "As you descend towards the Ferry, you see on the Northern side of the hill, and near its base, a long two-story brick edifice, made snow white by lime, and back of it, farther up the hill, a dozen or more small dwellings, mostly of wood, and now in good repair. Back of these, and withdrawn a few rods from them, stand two one-story brick lodgments, separated each into four small convenient apartments. These are the best private rooms belonging to the concern, and are preferred by those who love and seek retirement. The upper stories of the long edifice are divided into twenty-five lodging rooms. The dining room, in the first story, is 80 feet long and 30 feet wide."

A visitor to the hotel in 1848 provided further details of the landscape. Describing the panoramic view from the hill in back of the hotel, he noted, "To the right, the waving and sloping ground is devoted to agricultural purposes, and exhibits an appearance of great fertility and productiveness. To the left of the main building [are] graveled walks, bordered by trees..."

Outlining the regimen at the Springs, Professor Hall asserted that "no mineral water of this country, possessing the same constituent parts, is more active purgative, when freely taken, than the Shannondale; being, in general, equal in power to most of the neutral salts; or, on the contrary, more bland in its operation, when used with moderation, acting as gently as the mildest aperient, without giving rise to griping or flatulence, or that feeling of debility so often occasioned by ordinary cathartics. George Watterson, visiting the Springs a decade later provides some detail on the process of taking the waters: "The principal Spring is surrounded by magnificent elms and other ornamental trees, under the shade of which are placed seats for the accommodation of those who wish to drink its water. An old colored woman seated near the Spring, from morning to night, employs herself in dipping up the water for visitors, and whose compensation is regulated by the charity of those who avail themselves of her voluntary aid."

Visitors to Shannondale Springs during the 1840s and 1850s included invalids taking the waters, artists seeking inspiration, and members of the social and political elite who renewed old friendships and forged new alliances. Residents of the surrounding counties, many of them friends and associates of the owners, mingled with the guests for a fortnight, a day, or an evening, returning regularly for concerts, dress balls, July Fourth fireworks,

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and ring tournaments - good natured jousting matches in which local knights vied for the honor of crowning their lady. Guests could find quieter amusements with boating and fishing available, or backgammon, checker and puzzle boards.

One writer of the period further advanced the Springs reputation when she stayed there in July and August of 1850. Mrs. Emma D.E.N. Southworth, one of the best known female novelists of her time, penned her novel *Shannondale* at the resort. A romantic tale with a convoluted plot, set at the estate of the fictitious Lord Summerfield, the novel has virtually nothing to do with its namesake. Southworth's novel appears to be the origin of the myth about "Lovers Leap," a cliff overhanging the Shenandoah River across from the Springs. The story has been used frequently to promote the hotel since the novel's publication.

Throughout the 1840s and 1850s, the resort continued to be owned by the Shannondale Springs Corporation who employed in 1847, John J. Abell, as manager. Abell seems to have been careful in the use of the hotel's resources, suspending all credit to guests in 1848, and hiring out slaves to be used as domestic servants when they were not needed at the hotel.

In 1852, when S. Howell Brown had completed his first detailed map of Jefferson County, he showed 11 buildings arranged around the hotel to the north and west, a bowling green to the northwest and three mineral springs to the southwest of the hotel, between it and the river. The road to the ferry is shown on the north side of the river, a building is indicated at the ferry crossing; and the road from the ferry continues along the south bank of the river, passing in front of the hotel.

The election of Democrat Franklin Pierce caused John S. Gallaher and other Fillmore (Whig) supporters to lose their political appointments. In April 1855, corporation president Samuel W. Lackland advertised that the Springs was for rent. A month later Lackland advertised that the furniture and 140 acres attached to the Springs were for sale. With John S. Gallaher's continued absence in Washington, the *Virginia Free Press's* promotion of the hotel and reportage of its events dwindled.

In March of 1858, a fire from a burning chimney progressed so rapidly that efforts to save the hotel were fruitless. Although the *Free Press* reported that "the entire buildings...all now lie in a mass of smoldering ruin," the damage seems to have been limited to the hotel and a few adjacent structures. Before the hotel was rebuilt, the nation would experience the devastation of the Civil War.

A sale notice from 1859 describes the property: "Although the main building burned some two years ago, the walls are in a fair condition to admit of improvement at comparatively little expense, whilst there are 15 cabins on the lawns attached. There are two brick cabins, with 8 rooms, all having chimneys, 13 frame, besides Bath Houses, Dairy, Stabling, Ice House, Corn House, etc... The Lawn occupies about 16 acres - a rich garden is attached."

Little information about Shannondale Springs is available for the war years. The area was frequented by Confederate raider John Singleton Mosby and his men and by Federal cavalry responsible for destroying Mosby's disruptive operations.

By 1867, Shannondale Springs was once again in use, the Shannondale Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal South holding its First Quarterly Meeting there. Religious services, church meetings, and church picnics were frequently held at the Springs during the summer months even though the hotel was no longer standing. Many attendees to these meetings stayed overnight, presumably in the remaining cabins or in tents erected for the occasion. The *Free Press* observed that some of the cabins were being renovated, and that Shannondale Springs "is now an attractive resort for Pic-Nic and Fishing parties." That summer new proprietors attempted to revive the elegant festivities that had been held at the Springs in its Antebellum days.

The property was advertised for sale again in 1868, and was still on the market in 1870. In October of that year, the flood that devastated Harpers Ferry and many of the industries along the Shenandoah River also took its toll on Shannondale Springs. The *Spirit of Jefferson* reported that "the old Ferry-House at Shannondale is no more, but acted as escort to its downstream neighbors, Walraven's saw mill and house." Some of the cottages were renovated in 1872, in an effort to accommodate a few of the visitors that frequented the site.

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Shannondale Springs appears to have dwindled to only eight cottages by 1883. New owners, Eugene Baker and J. Garland Hurst, purchased the property at a public sale in 1888. The men began construction of a new Shannondale Springs Hotel in the spring of 1890. The frame structure was built on the spot where the earlier hotel had been. The building was 100 feet long by 45 feet in width, and included a basement and two stories. There were 25 guest rooms, a ball room, and several bath rooms. When allowances are made for porches and piazzas, the new building appears to have closely resembled the original structure in size and external appearance.

The rebirth of the hotel at this time was directly related to the establishment of the Charlestown Mining, Manufacturing and Improvement Company. Formed to inject new economic vitality into Jefferson County, the corporation planned to improve transportation, establish major industries, create a large residential and commercial subdivision adjacent to Charles Town, and utilize local resources such as limestone, timber, clay and iron ore. The company purchased options on both the iron deposits at Shannondale and the Shannondale Springs resort. The financial boom envisioned did not materialize, and the hopes of Shannondale Springs owners collapsed with those of the grand project. After defaulting on the loan, the property was purchased by H.C. Getzendanner in October 1902 at public auction. The purchase included the 66 ½ acre Springs property, the adjacent 125 acre farm and the "ferry and ferry franchise and cable and large ferry boat."

When the hotel opened under Getzendanner in 1903, he issued a prospectus describing the Springs and its offerings in detail. The hotel was described as a plain wooden structure consisting of a basement, two stories, and an attic. The overall dimensions of the building were about 100 feet long by 30 feet wide, with the addition of porches. The basement contained a dining room of 50 feet by 30 feet, a kitchen about 25 feet by 30 feet, plus a cellar and pantry. The first floor contained a ball room about 32 by 30 feet, an office and waiting room and eight bedrooms, with front and rear porches. The second floor had sixteen bedrooms and a rear porch. Two brick cottages, with shingle roofs, were located near the hotel. Referred to by later writers as the "Presidential Cottages," each was about 50 by 15 feet with a porch and four bedrooms. Getzendanner also built a new stable and servants' quarters. A large wooden water tank, provided the hotel with water for the bathrooms and domestic purposes; the water being pumped to this tank from a driven well by means of a gasoline engine.

The hotel was destroyed by fire early in November 1909. According to a contemporary source, "the conflagration began about 5 p.m. and in a short while the entire building and contents with one of the cottages were destroyed." A few weeks later the farmhouse was also leveled by fire. Despite the fire, the ferry continued to operate and visitors continued to frequent the Springs for picnics and religious retreats. A visitor recalls: "We ride toward the famous Spring and the outlines of the race track and golf course still show, but the large hotel which burnt down is only a pile of ashes. The big Spring is still intact. It is enclosed in a circular concrete wall about four feet in diameter, and there is a roof overhead. The water tastes fine and is slightly laxative. Much in demand in Charles Town, it is delivered in 5 gallon glass jars encased in a wooden crate. Nearby is the smaller Sulphur Spring which tastes awful and smells like rotten eggs. Back of the burned out hotel is a long row of stone buildings where the help used to live, and untouched by the fire, one end of the building is occupied by the tenant, and we used to come down weekends and "camp" in the other end."

In October 1919, Henry C. Getzendanner and his wife Anna sold the resort property and the adjacent farm to E.B. Frye for \$500. Frye grazed cattle on the land, attempted to raise sugar beets and continued to make what was left of the resort available to friends. Despite financial hardships, the Frye's managed to hold on to the property for more than a decade, and in August 1931, they gave a lease to C.L. Crane on the Springs resources. Crane advertised and sold spring water for \$1 per five-gallon bottle. Representative from the West Virginia Geological Survey, visiting the property in 1936, noted that "at present, only the remains of President's Row (cottages) give hint of the former size of the resort." Commenting on the condition of the mineral springs, they noted that the "Blue(or Black) Spring was not adequately protected," and at the Red Spring, "rain water had backed up and polluted [it]...each time it was visited... Not protected, and very dirty." For the largest (White Sulphur Spring), "a wooden canopy and curbing, both in poor condition, shelter and protect this spring."

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The property was sold again in 1937, when Thornton T. Perry, Sr., began acquiring portions of the original Shannondale Springs tract, including the resort property. His heirs later donated 580 acres to the Nature Conservancy. Ownership of the property was transferred to the state of West Virginia in 1986. The entire property is now administered as a hunting and fishing preserve by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

In March 1996, the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission obtained a lease from the state of West Virginia on the portion of the Shannondale Springs property where the resort had been located. At that time, only two structures on the resort property were still intact - a stone spring house/bathhouse dating from the early period of the resort's history and a concrete fountain probably dating from Getzendanner's renovations in 1903.

The deteriorating spring house/bath house was restored in the Summer of 1997 under a Fairs and Festivals grant from the state of West Virginia. The work involved replacing the stones falling from the bath house, especially the river side which was collapsing, and resetting the stones back in place with new mortar. Although against instructions, the stone masons dug a trench along the exterior walls of the buildings to replace the stones. During this time pieces of ceramics and glass were found dating to the late 18th and late 19th centuries. Unfortunately, the soil was replaced before archaeological inspections could be conducted.

A grant from the State Historic Preservation Office, allowed the historic boundaries to be resurveyed and the locations of the foundations of some of the buildings and structures were identified from walking the property and identifying surface features. Historic written documentation and old maps were examined and used to identify the building remains.

Archaeological Potential

Shannondale Springs was a resort frequented for the medicinal qualities of its waters during part of the 19th century and as a retreat from the increasingly hectic life in the cities. The complex included facilities for drinking the medicinal waters as well as bathing in them. The available literature suggests that diet, exercise, and entertainment were part of the overall health regimen. Archeological investigation of the site could provide insight into health practices of the period. (Cohen, Historic Springs; Moorman, Virginia Springs; Gallaher, Shannondale; Getzendanner, Shannondale Springs). Detailed examination around the springs and the bath house areas may provide information as to the design of the structures, and if pools or foot baths were provided.

The written documentation of the resort provides insight into the social life at mineral spas and recreational activities during the 19th century. During its antebellum period, the resort was frequented by the nation's political and social elite and its activities included frequent ring tournaments, balls, and horse races. After the Civil War, the hotel and its clientele changed, reflecting the interests of the sportsman and the middle class family. Sites identified in the literature included landscaped gardens, a bowling green, a golf course, and a race course (Perry, Shannondale: Winter, Short History). Examination of the site may lead to the identification of these recreational areas, and knowledge about edible plants and floral gardens. Artifacts may lead to a more intensive knowledge of the type of people who frequented the site.

Before the Civil War, much of the resort's staff was made up of slaves, including field hands, domestic servants, and musicians (Virginia Free Press, August 24, 1848 and September 11, 1851). Slaves, used as agricultural and domestic help, were lodged within the resort complex. The specific location of their habitations is yet to be identified. Additional study of the site may yield important information and artifacts (i.e., china, buttons, or domestic trash) about African American culture in Jefferson County, and the design and location of any slave cabins. Written texts from 1903 and 1909, identify new low stone buildings were constructed after the turn of the century for servants. These structures may also be found and investigated for any information they may yield.

Although some of the larger building foundations have been identified, many of the small cabins and the layout of the site has yet to be determined. With the written descriptions of the buildings, and the ferry landing, the site has the potential to yield further information about the design of the buildings, their siting and their use for the resort, or as later farm buildings.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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Summary

Shannondale Springs has a well documented written history as a 19th and early 20th century resort, focusing around its mineral springs and rural location. The Shannondale Springs resort area has had little other construction since the hotel burned in 1909. A preliminary surface collection indicates the presence of artifacts dating from the late eighteenth century through the early twentieth century. Archeological investigation of the features within the site, as well as the potential to find other features such as trash pits, privy pits, or any slave cabins, promise to yield important information about the sociocultural history of this area of Jefferson County.

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Name: Shannondale Springs
 Shannondale Vicinity
 Jefferson County, West Virginia

Photographer: William D. Theriault (copyist)

Date of Photos: September 1, 1997

Negatives: William D. Theriault

Photo 1 of 36:

Copy of Map of Shannondale Springs and vicinity from H.C. Genzendanner's 1903 prospectus.

Photo 2 of 36:

Copy of watercolor, ca. 1820, "A view of the Shannondale Springs and the horse shoe bend of the Shenandoah River."

Photo 3 of 36:

Copy of "Shannondale Springs, Virginia." Drawing by C. Burton, New York, Engraved and printed by Fenner, Sears, & Co. Published London, September 1, 1831, by I.T. Hinton & Simpkin & Marshall.

Photo 4 of 36:

Plate used at Shannondale Springs (ante bellum period), from the Jefferson County Museum, Charles Town, WV.

Photo 5 of 36:

Copy of portion of "Shannondale Springs" illustration by Henry Howe, from Historical Collections of Virginia (1845).

Photo 6 of 36:

Copy of detail from S. Howell Brown's 1852 Map of Jefferson County, Virginia, showing Shannondale Springs.

Photo 7 of 36:

Copy of detail from S. Howell Brown's 1883 Map of Jefferson County, West Virginia, showing Shannondale Springs and cottages and outbuildings (hotel destroyed in 1858).

Photo 8 of 36:

Camera of Virginia Koonce Cosy and sister Estelle near the cement fountain/pool in front of hotel, ca. 1908. One of the mineral springs is visible in the upper left section. Photographer unknown.

Photo 9 of 36:

Camera of front of hotel from H. C. Getzendanner's 1903 prospectus. Photographer unknown.

Photo 10 of 36:

Detail from panorama of Shannondale Springs (artist unknown) from H.C. Getzendanner's 1903 prospectus. Using the hotel as a reference point, the "pavilion" is visible at 7 o'clock, the bath/spring house and outbuildings at 8 o'clock, unknown foundation(s) at 9 o'clock, possible farm outbuildings at 11 o'clock, and possible farm house at 12 o'clock.

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Photo 11 of 36:

Camera view of back (southwest) side of the hotel, showing the two-story porch and the bath rooms (right). From left: Virginia, Estelle, and Pauline Koonce, ca. 1908. Photographer unknown.

Photo 12 of 36:

Camera view of back (southeast) side of the hotel, showing Estelle Koonce, two-story porch on rear, and wrap-around porch on west side, ca. 1909. Photographer unknown.

Photo 13 of 36:

Camera view of the largest (middle) mineral spring from Getzendanner's 1903 prospectus. Photographer unknown.

Photo 14 of 36:

Camera view of southern and middle mineral springs from Getzendanner's 1903 prospectus. Photographer unknown.

Photo 15 of 36:

Camera view of restored bath/spring house showing doorway and front, April 1997. C. Cramer, photographer.

Photo 16 of 36:

Camera view of bath/spring house showing window and stone "bench," 1997. C. Cramer photographer.

Photo 17 of 36:

Camera view of Shannondale Ferry landing, looking from Shannondale Springs property across the Shenandoah River. Hole in middle of tree was the place where the cable from the ferry was secured, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 18 of 36:

Camera view of North Spring, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 19 of 36:

Camera view of Middle Spring, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 20 of 36:

Camera view of "Farm House" foundation, top of hill near farm outbuilding foundations, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 21 of 36:

Camera view of cistern next to "Farm House" foundation, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 22 of 36:

Camera view of hotel site, east end, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 23 of 36:

Camera view of hotel site, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

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Photo 24 of 36:

Camera view of farm outbuildings area, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 25 of 36:

Camera view from bath/spring house to the Shenandoah River, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 26 of 36:

Camera view of north front of bath/spring house before restoration, 1996. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 27 of 36:

Camera view of bath/spring house before restoration, east side, 1996. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 28 of 36:

Camera view of bath/spring house door before restoration, east side, 1996. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 29 of 36:

Camera view of well behind bath/spring house, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 30 of 36:

Camera view of bath/spring house, west side, before restoration, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 31 of 36:

Camera view of bath/spring house, north front, before restoration, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 32 of 36:

Camera view of "pavilion" foundation, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 33 of 36:

Camera view of hotel site, east side, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 34 of 36:

Camera view of cement fountain/pool, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 35 of 36:

Camera view of cistern by left corner of hotel, 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

Photo 36 of 36:

Camera view of site of "Presidential Cottages," 1997. William Hartgroves photographer.

