

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: McDowell	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Carson House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: U.S. 70 west of Marion			
CITY OR TOWN: Pleasant Gardens Community			
STATE North Carolina	CODE 32	COUNTY: McDowell	CODE 56

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
Comments _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Carson House Restoration, Inc. & McDowell County Historical Society		
STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Miss Ruth Greenlee, Route 4		
CITY OR TOWN: Old Fort 28762	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 32

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: McDowell County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Marion 28752	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 32

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1959	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER: East Capitol and Independence Avenue, S.E.			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 51	

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Carson House is a two-story-plus-attic frame structure rectangular in plan. There is a full-length, five-bay, two-story verandah along the front of the house. It features tapered wooden pillars rectangular in section and simple wooden grill railings. The elevations are marked by massive pediments which extend over the verandah. There are two exterior chimneys on either end. The one serving the front room on each side falls in the center of the pedimented wall, the other is smaller and stands near the rear corner.

In plan there is a central stair hall with two rooms of unequal size on either side. The two front rooms are larger than the two rear ones. There are relatively modern one-story shed rooms along the rear of the house.

The Carson House reached its present form as the result of several expansions. The earliest section of the building was a single-room log dwelling. To this section another one-room unit was added with an open passage or "dog-run" between the two. Probably at a later date the two rear rooms were added and the "dog-run" extended. On the other hand, it is possible that the three later rooms were contemporaneous. In any case, it is clear that the building reached what is essentially its present form near the middle of the nineteenth century. Most of the interior trim dates from this period.

One interesting feature is the marbleizing on the sheathed walls of the dining room. This is supposed to have been executed later in the nineteenth century by an itinerant artisan. The walls are mainly blue-gray in color with the baseboard accented in delicate shades of red, blue, and brown.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                      |  |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |  | _____  |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Carson House was begun about 1810 by Colonel John Carson, Irish immigrant and pioneer of the upper Catawba Valley. Colonel Carson was a representative to the Fayetteville Convention of 1789, in which the United States Constitution was ratified by North Carolina. He also served in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1805 to 1806.

Colonel Carson's son, Samuel Price Carson, was a member of the State Senate for three terms and of the United States House of Representatives from 1825 to 1833. In 1835 he represented Burke County in the State Constitutional Convention.

Joseph McDowell Carson and William Carson, two other sons of Colonel Carson, were state legislators. A fourth son, Jonathan Logan Carson, inherited the homeplace where, in 1843, McDowell County was organized. Until a courthouse was constructed, the Carson home served as the seat of county government.

During the War Between the States a small school for girls was conducted in the house. Near the end of the War General Stoneman's raiders, while carrying on operations in western North Carolina, looted it.

On the death of Jonathan Logan Carson in 1887 the house and property were sold to John S. Brown and subsequent owners. On August 13, 1963, the house was bought from Mrs. Leona Cuthbertson Moore by the Carson House Restoration Corporation. The house is now jointly administered by the Carson House Restoration, Inc. and the McDowell County Historical Society.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arthur, John Preston. Western North Carolina; a History (from 1730 to 1913). Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1914  
 Corbitt, D. L. Formation of the North Carolina Counties. Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950.  
 McDowell-Carson Papers, in the Greenlee Genealogy Room, Carson House, Marion, North Carolina.  
 McDowell County Records, McDowell County Courthouse, Marion, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	0	0	34°	41'	26"	82°	03'	35"
NE	0	0	0						
SE	0	0	0						
SW	0	0	0						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 J. G. Zehmer, Survey Specialist; Sherry I. Penny, Survey Assistant

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History      DATE: June 23, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh, North Carolina      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 32

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Dr. H. C. Jones  
 Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date: June 23, 1970

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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(Continuation Sheet)

North Carolina	
COUNTY	
McDowell	
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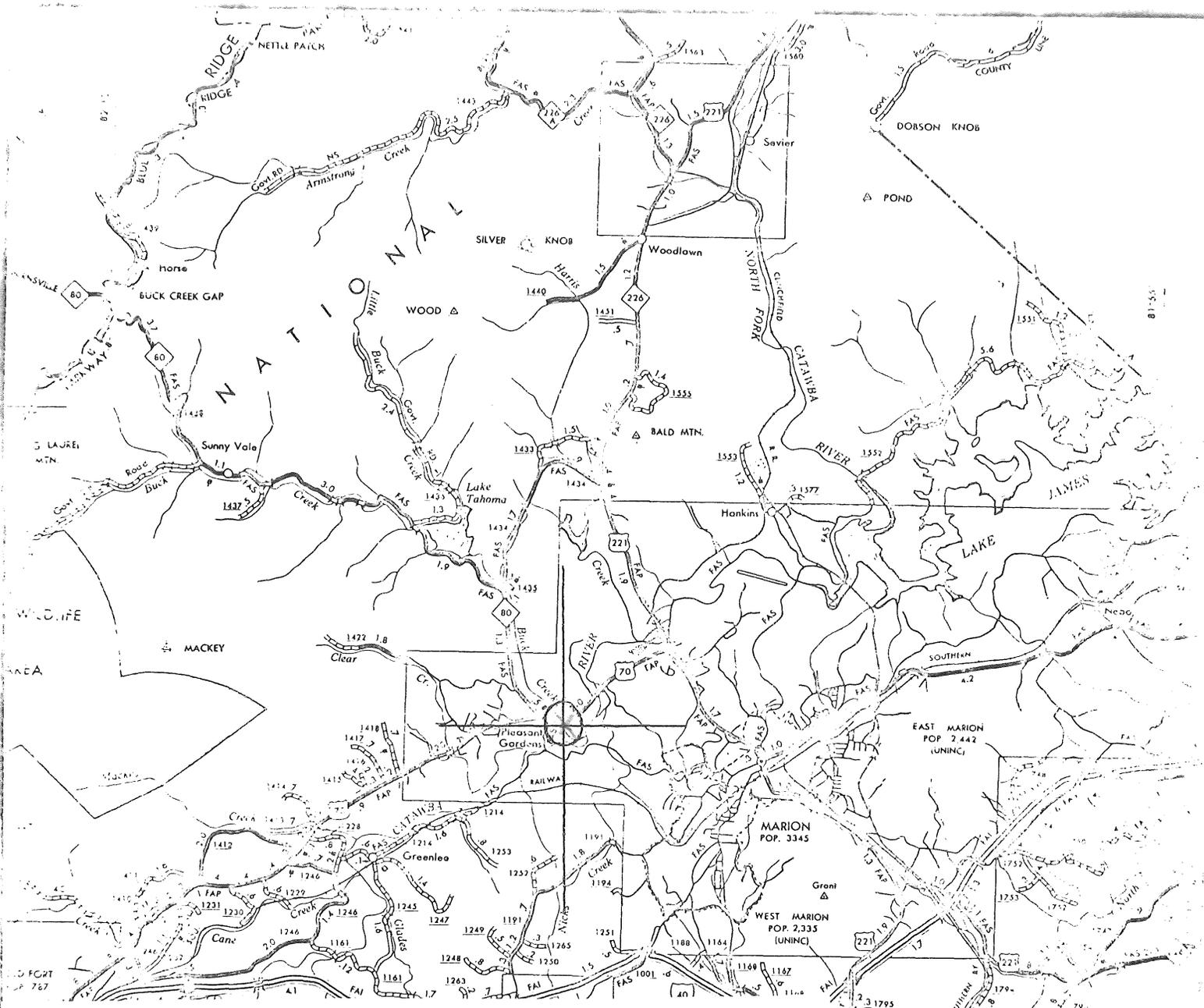
(Number all entries)

9. McDowell County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

North Carolina Manual, Office of the Secretary of State, Raleigh, 1913.

Public and Private Laws of the State of North Carolina, Raleigh: Thomas J. Lemay, 1843.

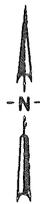
Van Noppen, Ina. "The Significance of Stoneman's Last Raid: The Home Yankees: The Raid Without Stoneman," North Carolina Historical Review, XXXVIII, 4 (October, 1961). pp. 500-526.



Carson House

U.S. 70 west of Marion  
 Pleasant Gardens, McDowell County  
 North Carolina

Highway Map of McDowell County  
 State Highway Commission  
 Scale 1 1/2 miles  
 January 1, 1968



<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
34°	41'	26"	82°	03'	35"

