

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

VLR-10/16/73 NRHP-1/21/74
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Alleghany
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME
 LOCATION:
 Sweet Chalybeate Springs
 LAND OF HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: West side of Route 311			
CITY OR TOWN: Sweet Chalybeate		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)	
STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51	COUNTY: Alleghany	CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BuildingS <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence S	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Sweet Chalybeate	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Alleghany County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Covington	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE: 11
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The resort hotel complex at Sweet Chalybeate Springs dates from the 1850's and is typical of Virginia spa architecture having a main building, guest ranges, and cottages all fronted with two level galleries. Set on Sweet Springs Creek below Peters Mountain with the Alleghanys forming a backdrop, Sweet Chalybeate retains the outlines of its former park. At one end of a thousand foot lawn are the springs flowing undisturbed from the bottom of a small rock bluff. Nearby to the north are the bathing pools with the adjacent foundations of the original bath houses, and the present modern bath house. The long lawn, once dotted with rows of magnificent trees, is now a pasture stretching from the springs at the south to the main building at the north end; the ranges are to the west of the lawn, the state highway to the east. "Bachelors' Row" sits across the highway from the main building.

The main building is a gable roof, weatherboarded, frame structure twelve bays long and two bays wide. The gable end fronts east on State Route 311, and the long side looks south over the lawn to the springs. On the south, east and north double-tiered galleries rise on brick piers above the brick English basement. The galleries have slender Greek Doric columns and a delicate Chinese balustrade. Doors and windows are surrounded by a simple molded trim. Wooden double hung windows have nine-over-six sash. A breeze way occupies the seventh bay of the building; the single-run open string stair ascends in the breezeway.

In the basement the original bar-room occupies the east end of the building, and on the first floor the reading room occupies the east fourth of the structure. The remaining area is divided into individual sleeping rooms. The reading room features two simple mantels with plain shelves, friezes and pilasters, and a fine curvilinear grill over the reception desk. The room has been used in recent years as a country store. The individual sleeping rooms in this building all have fireplaces with typical Greek mantels with plain pilasters, pentagonal friezes and plain shelves. Just north of the main building stands a many gabled summer house, supported by slender posts.

The north range of sleeping rooms originally stretched south from a western wing of the main building. This wing has now disappeared as have the northern-most bays. The six most northerly bays of the existing range are badly deteriorated, but retain the characteristic double-tiered gallery supported by rectangularly paneled piers. A breezeway with a stair is located near the center of this building. The remaining portion of the single-pile building is utilized as a multiple family dwelling. The double-tiered gallery is present, supported by paneled piers on the first level and posts with a simple balustrade featuring rectangular balusters on the second level. Doors and windows have a plain architrave trim. The windows have six-over-six sash. Breezeways with single run stairs provide access to the upper floor.

The north range is separated from the south range by two square, frame, weatherboarded cottages with pyramidal roofs. The northern cottage has a central quatrefoil "Gothic" chimney, but the original chimney on the southern cottage has been replaced by a square brick stack. The cottages are surrounded on the south, east and north by galleries supported by slender Greek Doric columns.

The south range is a gable roofed single-pile frame, weatherboarded structure. The double-tiered gallery is supported by slender Greek Doric

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

