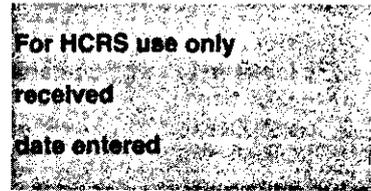


VLR 3/7/81
NRHP 7/8/82

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Stone Tavern

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 11 N/A
not for publication

city, town Atkins X vicinity of congressional district Ninth (William C. Wampler)

state Virginia code 51 county Smyth code 173

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: catering service

4. Owner of Property

name Alice Dibrell Freeman, Barbara Davis Mowbray, c/o Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Freeman

street & number 111 N. Park

city, town Marion N/A vicinity of state Virginia 24354

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Smyth County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Marion state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

title (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1959 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D. C.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		<input type="checkbox"/> date <u> </u> N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Stone Tavern is a picturesque landmark on the old Wilderness Road. Constructed ca. 1815, the two-story, three-bay house is built of random-coursed limestone taken from a quarry across the road. A beveled water table distinguishes the fine stonework of the building. The gable roof is trimmed with a box cornice which frames weatherboarded gable ends crowned by stone exterior end chimney caps.

The tavern's front (north) elevation is characterized by a mid-19th century porch supported by chamfered columns connected on each level by a decorative cyma frieze and sawn balustrade. The porch shelters the plainly framed, transom-lit main entry to the house. A similar entrance door is found directly above on the second story. Fenestration throughout the original section consists of later l/l hung sash with a plain ovolo window trim, capped by stone jack arches. The majority of window openings are flanked by louvred shutters.

A gable roof and cornice cover a frame ell dating to the mid-19th century. Extending along its east side is a single-story, shed-roofed addition with a lattice-work rail. Doorways on the gable end in both the first and second stories provide access to the ell. Corner boards with stylized capitals finish the outer edges.

The main block contains a central-hall plan. The present open-string stair in the hall is a 20th-century replacement. Its square newel with recessed panels on each face carries a molded handrail and one turned baluster per tread.

The first-floor rooms are the most elaborately treated with paneled window reveals and paneled wainscoting. Federal mantels ornament the fireplace surrounds. The west room mantel is flanked by paneled pilasters supporting endblocks with raised paterae and reeded and bead-and-reed molding strips defining the frieze. A similar mantel with reeded pilasters and endblocks with raised urns is located in the east room.

Interior details are simplified on the second story. Molded chair rails and plain Greek Revival mantels ornament the rooms.

The yard is defined by a picket fence. Within its boundaries are the tavern and a 19th-century outbuilding sheathed in shiplap siding and covered with a gable roof with a wide projecting box cornice. Shade trees and low bushes are scattered across the well-kept lawn.

MPM

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The bounds for the Old Stone Tavern have been drawn to include all of the land in the possession of the present owner, which consists of $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre. The property includes the house, outbuilding, and immediate yard.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1815 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Conspicuously located on the Wilderness Road (now U.S. Route 11) in Southwest Virginia, the Old Stone Tavern is a landmark in the transportation and settlement history of the state. The building was erected prior to 1815 by Frederick Cullop to accommodate travelers in the heavy migration through Cumberland Gap to the west in the early 19th century. The tavern is the oldest stone building in Smyth County and has been a familiar sight for journeyers along one of the nation's most historic traces for over 160 years. Architecturally, the Old Stone Tavern reflects the influence of the stone vernacular tradition of rural Pennsylvania on the settlement arteries into Kentucky and Tennessee.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Cullop family were pioneers in that portion of Wythe County which became the present Smyth County in 1831. St. Mark's, an early church located a short distance from the Old Stone Tavern, was known as Cullop's Church, indicating the prominence of the family in the area. Frederick Cullop first appears in the tax records of Wythe County in 1797. Between 1806 and 1808 he acquired the parcel of land on the Middle Fork of the Holston River where the present structure stands. From the tax rates and the personal property tax records, it can be inferred that he built the tavern prior to 1815. Material for it was undoubtedly obtained from a limestone quarry that was worked across the road.

The location of the tavern on the Wilderness Road made the building convenient for the many settlers heading west to Kentucky and Tennessee in the early 19th century. County records indicate that Frederick Cullop obtained a license for operating a place of private entertainment in 1818. A young traveler, Mrs. Julia Tevis, writing in her diary in 1822, noted that "...we reached the old Stone Tavern where we were ready to tarry for the night..."¹ Her entry indicates that the tavern already had become a well-known Southwestern hostelry.

While little is known of Frederick Cullop's life, the fact that his tavern was one of the most highly taxed structures in the county indicates that he was a very prosperous gentleman. His wealth and position are also attested by an inventory of his estate taken upon his death in 1826. Included were substantial livestock, a windmill, a still valued at \$75, spinning wheels, looms, and furniture, as well as nine bedsteads and related furniture likely used in his establishment. Cullop's possessions also included a dulcimer, a Bible, and a hymn book.

Following Cullop's death, his heirs eventually sold the "Stone House" tract to John Snaveley. One of Snaveley's heirs, Thomas J. Snaveley, lived there until the Civil War. The building survives in excellent condition and is presently the property of Isaac Freeman.

MTP

¹Goodrich Wilson, Smyth County History and Traditions (Kingsport, Tenn.: Kingsport Press, 1932), p. 206.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Old Stone Tavern, Smyth County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6

Page 1



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1980 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

9. Major Bibliographical References

Smyth County Land Tax Books, 1831-61; Deed Books 6, 7.

Wilson, Goodrich. Smyth County History and Traditions. Kingsport, Tenn.: Kingsport Press, 1932.

Wythe County Land Tax Books, 1793-1830; Personal Property Tax Books, 1815-20; Will Book 3.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name Atkins, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification Situated on a rectangular Atkins town lot measuring approximately 100' x 110', with about 100' of frontage on S side of U.S. Route 11, the NE corner of the property being located about 175' W of the intersection of U.S. 11 and VA 622.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date March 1981

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell

title H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director date MAY 10 1982
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

