

VLP 9/7/69
NPKS 11/25/69

86-3

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Smyth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Preston House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
John Montgomery Preston House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: E bank of Middle Fork Holston River, E side of Rt. 645, .1 mi. S of intersection of Rt. 645 and Rt. 11.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Smyth CODE: 173

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" 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 <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Miss Lucy Herndon Crockett

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Seven Mile Ford STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Smyth County Court House, Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Square

CITY OR TOWN: Marion STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 20 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Montgomery Preston House is a brick, two-story structure with gable roof and twin interior end chimneys at both ends. The central entrance to the five-bay facade has a porch with an unsheltered second level and access from the second story. These two closely matched doorways have a transom and sidelights, framed and divided by slender Tuscan columns with an entablature and Greek Revival block composition above. Accenting the entire facade are the plaster rectangular insets between stories and the fine Doric entablature complete with triglyphs, metapes and mutules. Each window in the first floor has nine-over-nine sash with six-over-nine sash on the second floor. The front facade brickwork is a veneer with no visible bond while the sides and rear are built with American bond. The two-story brick rear ell appears to be contemporary with the main block but is smaller in proportion. This rear section was recently connected to the main house.

The four rooms in the main block surround a central hall with a simple, single-landing stair. First floor mantels consist of two columns on either side of the opening supporting a plain entablature above. Door and window framings use the standard Greek Revival corner block-and-fluting moldings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

[Faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page]

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The John Montgomery Preston House represents the transition from the Federalist to the Greek Revival style, a change that occurred in western Virginia as late as the 1840's and 50's. This 1842 structure takes advantage of the features of both styles in a form which is more impressive because of its size than most structures of any period in this area. Its beautiful location on the Middle Fork of the Holston River in the hills west of Marion has been marred by the presence of Interstate 81 a few hundred feet to the north.

The house was built in 1842 by John Montgomery Preston on land his wife, Maria Thornton Carter Preston (died 1842) inherited from her father, General Francis Preston (1765-1836). The property had come into the possession of this branch of the Preston family through the marriage of General Preston to Sarah Buchanan Campbell, the daughter of General William Campbell (1745-1781), Revolutionary War soldier and hero of the Battle of King's Mountain. General Campbell had inherited the property from his father Charles Campbell.

For some years prior to the building of the present house a log tavern had stood on the site. This hostelry had quite a dubious reputation in the area as the innkeeper was believed to take advantage of the unwary, even going to the extreme of robbing and murdering the unprotected. This tradition was perhaps substantiated in the 1890's when twenty-one bodies were discovered in a cave on the property.

Partially to rid the area of this notorious inn and more probably to erect a finer establishment, John Montgomery Preston built the present house in 1842 "as a tavern or stagecoach inn along the Wilderness Road." This inn served travellers for some twenty-two years until 1864 when John Montgomery Preston, Junior, brought his bride, Mary Preston Lewis Cochran of Albemarle County, to the property and converted the inn into a private residence. Preston served as a captain in Company B, Fourtieth Virginia Infantry. His home was sacked and made the headquarters of General Stoneman's federal troops during their raid towards Saltville and Abingdon in 1864.

The house is not only important architecturally but also as the seat of one of the branches of the Preston family which played such an important role in the history of the whole southwestern part of Virginia. The well-known Preston Collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century manuscripts, the bulk of which are now in the Library of Congress or in the Draper Collection of the Wisconsin Historical Society, was once housed in the Preston House.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia - Special Virginia Edition (New York, 1884), p. 427.
 Summers, Lewis Preston, History of Southwest Virginia, 1746-1786, Washington County, 1777-1870.
 Wilson, Goodridge, Smyth County History and Traditions (1932), pp. 364-373.
 Wilson, L. A., ed., The Preston Genealogy (Salt Lake City, 1900), pp. 192-193.

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 ONE ACRE										
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	36 °	48'	34"	81 °	37'	30"									
NE	36 °	48'	34"	81 °	36'	42"									
SE	36 °	48'	02"	81 °	36'	42"									
SW	36 °	48'	02"	81 °	37'	30"									

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: August 12, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Smyth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #86-3
1968 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

