

Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

Landmarks Nomination Report: *McMurrin Farm*

Physical Description:

The McMurrin Farm property is located on the south side of Engle Moler Road in northern Jefferson County, West Virginia. The property sits about 2.5 miles south east of Shepherdstown, near Moler's Crossroads. The farm consists of rolling agricultural fields and historic buildings along Rattlesnake Run, formerly Lucas Run.

Historic Description:

The farm now known as the McMurrin farm was first granted to Samuel Taylor in 1734. His son, John Taylor built the existing brick house about 1780. At this time the land was known as "Taylor's Meadow." In the 19th century, the farm passed from the Taylor family to Jacob Hess and onto Jacob Reinhart, both from Washington County, Maryland.

McMurrin Farm has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Office.

Historic Resources:

The main house, built c.1780, is one of the oldest brick dwellings in Jefferson County. The exterior has the distinctive characteristics of early construction such as Flemish bond, segmental jack arches, and molded watertable. It is a well preserved example of English Hall & Parlor plan with very refined interior millwork. The interiors include paneled end walls and built-in glass door cupboards with butterfly shelving.

The Swisser-type, bank barn on the farm was constructed about 1900. It is a well preserved example of the local timber framing techniques. In addition to the bank barn, the farm retains its historic corn crib and stone springhouse.

Nomination Criteria:

The JCHLC nominates this property under Criteria C for inclusion on the list of registered county landmarks. Criteria C states that a site may be nominated if, in the opinion of the JCHLC, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values. Owners, Eric & Joy Lewis, have agreed to have the property listed as Jefferson County Historic Landmark.

Nomination Action:

The JCHLC voted unanimously to add McMurrin Farm, under Criteria C, to the rolls of registered Jefferson County Historic Landmarks on May 17, 2007.