

# Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

## Landmarks Nomination Report: *Jacob Folk House*

### Physical Description:

The Jacob Folk House is located off of Billmyer Mill Road in northern Jefferson County, West Virginia. The property sits about one mile west of Shepherdstown, between Fruit Hill Farm and Rocky Marsh Run. The farm consists of rolling agricultural fields and historic buildings along that stream.

### Historic Description:

The area that contains the Jacob Folk farm was originally sold in two separate grants by Lord Fairfax in 1754. Portions of this property were later owned by Michael Burkett who sold it to Solomon Ropp in 1813. In 1819 a part of the land transferred to George Folk, who died in 1833. His son, Jacob Folk, added to the land by purchasing 51 acres of Thomas N. Leman in 1850. Ten years later, Jacob Fulk constructed a fine brick house on his lands. After the Folk ownership ended in 1902, the Turner, Burwell and Tabler families farmed the land. The property, now seven acres, belongs to Earnest & Joan Johnston.

The Jacob Folk House has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Office.

### Historic Resources:

The main house, built in 1860, is a brick, L shaped dwelling. The exterior has the distinctive characteristics of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century construction such as common bond field and single brick soldiered headers. The rear chimney, containin the cooking fireplace, is a rare local example of an outboard chimney on a masonry building. Original iron-oxide paint and penciling can be seen on the house. The interior has refined millwork for the period. The well preserved interiors include built-in cupboards with faux grain painting.

### 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, Earnest & Joan Johnston, have agreed to have the property listed as Jefferson County Historic Landmark.

### Nomination Action:

The JCHLC voted unanimously to add the Jacob Folk House, under Criteria C, to the rolls of registered Jefferson County Historic Landmarks on October 15, 2007.