

WEST VIRGINIA ANTIQUITIES COMMISSION

HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

Inv	Res	Prep	Sub	Acc	Rej

RATING: Am-H
 Please send completed forms to:
 West Virginia Antiquities Commission
 Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University
 Morgantown, West Virginia 26506

CONTEXT: 11-12-93

1	NAME	COMMON	CAPON SPRINGS	RATING <u>NR</u>
		and/or HISTORIC	FRYE'S SPRING, "WATSON"	
2	LOCATION	STREET & NUMBER	<u>11-12-93</u>	CONTEXT <u>ARCH</u>
		TOWN	CAPON SPRINGS	
		COUNTY	HAMPSHIRE	
3	STATUS	OWNER'S NAME	^{2 Farms} CAPON SPRINGS MINERAL WATERS INC., MR. ^{Porter L. Austin} E. L. AUSTIN	
		OWNER'S ADDRESS	1712 WALNUT STREET Capon Springs, W. Va.	
		PROPERTY USE	PHILADELPHIA, PA. 26823	
		PUBLIC ACCESS	Hotel - Resort	
4	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	COURTHOUSE AT WHICH RECORDED	HAMPSHIRE COUNTY	
		ADDRESS	ROMNEY, WVA	
		APPROX. ACREAGE	50	
5	SITE DESCRIPTION	CONDITION	Good	
		PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (include photograph if possible)	THE COMMUNITY AND RESORT OF CAPON SPRINGS SPRANG UP AROUND THE LITHIA SPRING LOCATED AT THE BASE OF A VERTICAL OUTCROP OF SANDSTONE ON THE WESTERN SLOPE OF BEAR RIDGE. THE TOWN WAS LAID OUT IN 1787 AND THE MAIN BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1849 BY THE STATE OF VIRGINIA. THIS MAIN BUILDING BURNED IN 1911. THE ONLY STRUCTURES THAT WERE BUILT BY THE STATE OF VIRGINIA THAT ARE STILL IN EXISTANCE IS A BATH HOUSE AND A POOL. THE OVAL POOL MEASURES 48'X90' WITH A DEPTH VARYING FROM 3 1/2' TO 8'. OTHER STRUCTURES AT CAPON SPRING INCLUDE A BOWLING ALLEY, TENNIS COURTS, THREE LARGE COTTAGES AND A NEW THIRTY-SIX ROOM HOTEL.	
6	SITE SIGNIFICANCE	TIME PERIOD	1787	
		STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	THE SPRINGS WERE PROBABLY USED BY INDIANS LONG BEFORE THE FIRST WHITE SETTLERS CAME TO THE AREA. IN 1747 THE LAND ON WHICH THE SPRING IS LOCATED WAS SURVEYED BY A PARTY THAT INCLUDED GEORGE WASHINGTON FOR THE FAIRFAX GRANTS. THE FIRST WHITE PERSON TO USE THE SPRING IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN HENRY FRYE IN 1765. THE SPRING WAS KNOWN AS FRYE'S SPRING FOR A TIME. IN 1787 UNDER THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA, TWENTY ACRES WERE LAID OUT IN LOTS AND A BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS APPOINTED. THIS COMMUNITY WAS CALLED WATSON. A NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS APPOINTED IN 1800 AND ANOTHER IN 1816. A CLERK TO THE BOARD WAS APPOINTED IN 1830. (OVER)	
7	MAP	ROUGH MAP OF PROPERTY IN RELATION TO SURROUNDINGS (show route numbers and street names)		
8	FORM PREPARED BY	NAME	PHIL PITTS, RESEARCH ASSISTANT	
		ADDRESS	West Virginia Antiquities Commission	
		DATE	Morgantown, West Virginia 26506 FEB. 1976	

6) SIGNIFICANCE

THE MAIN BUILDING WAS BUILT IN 1849 BY THE STATE OF VIRGINIA AT A COST OF \$75,000. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CIVIL WAR IN 1860 THE TRUSTEES WERE \$8,000 IN DEBT. THE STATE OF VIRGINIA ORDERED THE SPRINGS SOLD TO SATISFY THE DEBT. ~~THE SPRINGS WERE NOT SOLD~~ AND WHEN THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA WAS FORMED ~~THE SPRINGS~~ WERE WITHIN ITS BOUNDARY AND WAS A PART OF THE DEBT TO THE STATE OF VIRGINIA. THE MAIN BUILDING BURNED IN 1911 LEAVING ONLY THE BATH HOUSE AND A POOL OF THE STRUCTURES BUILT BY THE STATE OF VIRGINIA.

MANY WELL KNOWN PEOPLE HAVE VISITED CAPON SPRINGS. DANIEL WEBSTER MADE A SPEECH IN 1851 FROM THE PORTICO OF THE BATH HOUSE. SIR HENRY ~~WEB~~ LYTON BULWER, AN ENGLISH AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED WEBSTER. PRESIDENT PIERCE VISITED THE SPRINGS AND PRESIDENT POLK ONCE DEDICATED THE SITE. J. P. MORGAN WAS AT ONE TIME A TRUSTEE OF THE SPRINGS. NOT ONLY WAS THE SPRINGS WELL KNOWN AS A RESORT, BUT THE WATER FROM THE SPRING HAS BEEN SOLD WORLD WIDE.

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM
CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME Capon Springs

SITE # Amv Hm-0058



OCT 1968



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