

PD-103

HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE & HISTORY
THE CULTURAL CENTER
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

(Staff Use Only)

File No
Theme(s)
Neg No(s)
USGS Quad
UTM Ref

DISTRICT SITE BUILDING/STRUCTURE OBJECT

- 1 NAME(S) historic/common Harper's Store
- 2 LOCATION street/road US Rte 33 & S.R. 28
city/town Seneca Rocks
(incorporated/unincorporated)
- 3 USE/FUNCTION present General Store
original General Store
- 4 OWNER/ADDRESS present Bardon Harper
Seneca Rocks, WV
original J.M. Harper, Seneca Rocks

(public/private, restricted)

(public/private)

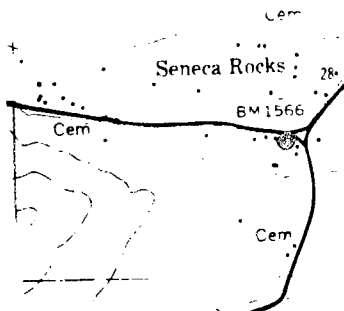
(phone no.)

5 PHOTO/SKETCH OF

7 PLAN (include approx. dimensions)



6 LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT (map)



HARPER'S GENERAL STORE
UTM REF = 17UACR6C
400440

Onego Quad

8 (A) ACREAGE (approx)

Lot size: 180' x 160'

(B) VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area includes all the land within the property lines of the lot upon which it stands.

Survey Region:
Planning District:

COUNTY Pendleton

PROPERTY NAME Harper's Store

9 DESCRIPTION (clarify as appropriate):

<p>a. <u>Exterior Fabric</u></p> <p>stone _____</p> <p>brick _____</p> <p>concrete _____</p> <p>stucco _____</p> <p>weatherboard _____</p> <p>clapboard _____</p> <p>board & batten _____</p> <p>shingle _____</p> <p>other <u>German siding</u></p>	<p>b. <u>Structural System</u></p> <p>masonry _____</p> <p>frame <u>X</u></p> <p>log _____</p> <p>metal _____</p> <p>other _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>foundation <u>stone</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>c. <u>Roofing Material</u></p> <p>wood _____</p> <p>metal <u>standing seam</u></p> <p>slate _____</p> <p>tile _____</p> <p>asphalt _____</p> <p>composition _____</p> <p>other _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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<p>d. <u>Associated Structures (use/type)</u></p> <p>outbuildings <u>1 story gable</u></p> <p><u>roofed storage building.</u></p> <p><u>(contributing)</u></p> <p>dependencies _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>other _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>e. <u>Integrity (include dates)</u></p> <p><u>original site/relocated</u> _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>alterations _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>additions _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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<p>f. <u>Condition</u></p> <p>excellent _____</p> <p>good <u>X</u></p> <p>fair _____</p> <p>deteriorated _____</p> <p>abandoned _____</p>	<p>g. <u>Threats</u></p>
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10 SIGNIFICANCE (use attachment sheet if necessary) This simple Italianate commercial building is significant for its association with the early 20th century which is conveyed through the building's relative lack of alterations. Italianate features include in particular the flat sloped roof with brackets. Another significant feature is the antique gas pump installed in 1918. The store maintains its original use and appearance and is therefore an important architectural example and representation of rural mountain commerce.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adapted from survey documentation compiled by Nan Stevens, Region VIII Planning and Development Council, Petersburg, WV. 1983.

12 FORM PREPARED BY Paula S. Reed DATE September 1984

a. Address 207 S. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740

b. Organization Preservation Associates, Inc.

c. Phone no. (301) 791-7880

ATTACHMENT TO HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE & HISTORY
THE CULTURAL CENTER
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

1. Name(s) Historic/Common: Harper's Store

(#10. Significance, continued)

Built about 1905, the store remains with minimal alterations and functions today much as it did originally. Available merchandise includes groceries, hardware and gasoline. Its viability is based on the local crossroads community of Seneca Rocks and the surrounding area and on the tourists who come to hunt, fish and view the unusual mountaintop formations known as Seneca Rocks.

The significance of this building derives from its minimally altered condition which helps it to convey early 20th century business and commerce in a rural area; and its relative rarity with such enterprises becoming fewer and fewer in number.

4. Mr. Joe Harper
General Delivery
Seneca Rocks, WV 26884

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME _____

SITE # _____



HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE & HISTORY
SCIENCE & CULTURE CENTER
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

(Staff Use Only)

File No:
Drawn(s):
Mag No(s):
USGS Quad:
UTM Ref:

DISTRICT: SITE: BUILDING: STRUCTURE: OBJECT

1. NAME(S), historic/common: J. M. Harper
D. C. Harper & Company

2. LOCATION, street/road:

city/town: Seneca Rocks
(incorporated/unincorporated)

3. USE/FUNCTION, present: General Store/Service Station

(public/private,
restricted)

original: General Store

4. OWNER/ADDRESS, present: Bardon Harper
Seneca Rocks

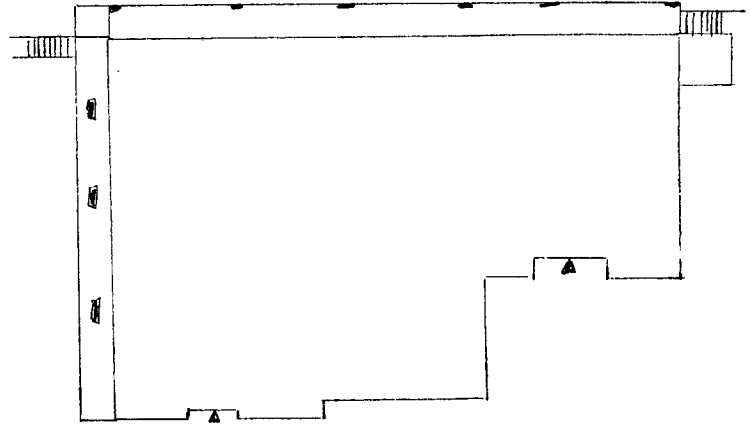
(public/private)

original: J. M. Harper
Seneca Rocks

5. PHOTO/SKETCH OF:

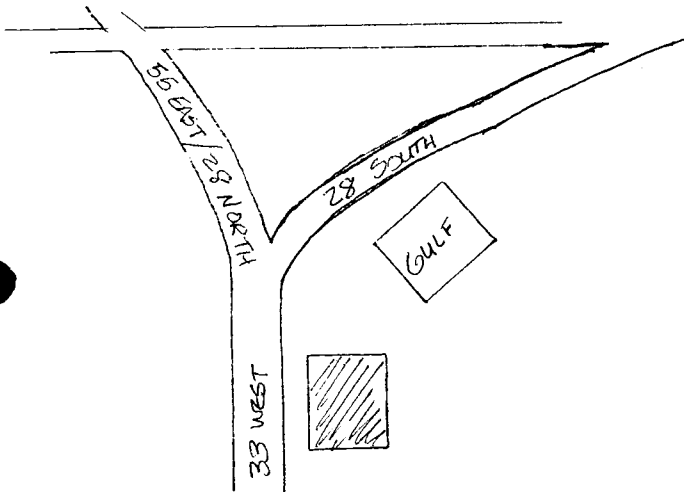
7. PLAN (include approx. dimensions):

SEE ATTACHED SHEET



6. LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT (map):

8. ACREAGE (approx):



Lot Size:

180' x 160'

COUNTY: Pendleton
Survey Range: _____
Planning District: _____

a. Exterior Fabric

stone _____
brick _____
concrete _____
stucco _____
weatherboard _____
clapboard _____
board & batten _____
shingle _____
other German Siding

b. Structural System

masonry _____
frame heavy frame
log _____
metal _____
other _____
_____ foundation Stone

c. Roofing Material

wood _____
metal rolled Standing Seam Tin
slate _____
tile _____
asphalt _____
composition _____
other _____

d. Associated Structures (use/type):

outbuildings _____

dependencies _____

other _____

e. Integrity (include dates):

original site/relocated _____
alterations _____

additions _____

f. Condition:

excellent _____
good X _____
fair _____
deteriorated _____
abandoned _____

g. Threats:

None

10. SIGNIFICANCE (use additional sheet if necessary):

a. Architect/Builder/Engineer:
J. M. Harper
b. Style/Period: _____
c. Date(s): Circa 1905

ATTACHED

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY: ATTACHED

12. FORM PREPARED BY Nan Stevens, Economic Dev. Coord. DATE _____
a. Address Box 887, Petersburg, WV 26847
b. Organization Region VIII Planning and Development Council

ATTACHMENT TO HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

1. Name(s) Historic/Common: J. M. Harper
D. C. Harper & Company

2. Owner/Address, Present: Bardon (Buck) Harper
Seneca Rocks

3. <u>Legal Description:</u>	<u>Deed Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Will Book</u>	<u>Page</u>
	54	470	7	375
	43	328		

4. Description:

In 1905 Sampson Sites sold a parcel of land situated at the Mouth of Seneca Creek to J. M. Harper and Annie, his wife, for \$50. According to the deed, approximately one acre was involved in the transaction.

J. M. Harper, soon after the purchase of the lot, constructed a building that would house his general store. This two story, heavy frame building has a stone foundation and a rolled standing seam tin roof. The exterior fabric is German siding with end boards painted white. Brackets underline the cornice. A circular decoration is found periodically on the structure (see photographs). A porch was not added to the structure until about 1917, due to the location of the county road.

In 1914, J. M. Harper began selling gasoline at his store in addition to the general merchandise. He purchased it from a distributor located in Petersburg. The gasoline was transported in barrels on wagons and sold directly from the barrel. Gasoline was sold this way until 1918 when a pump (see photographs) was installed.

On January 11, 1923 J. M. Harper sold the lot with the store building and other improvements to his son, D. C. Harper. It was under his proprietorship that the business became known as D. C. Harper and Company.

It was in 1923 that D. C. Harper began operating a sub-dealership under M. A. Bean, for the purpose of selling Model-T cars. In 1946 he began selling Ford cars, trucks and tractors under the name of

Seneca Motor Company, on an adjacent lot. He continues in this line until 1963-64.

The store is operated today by Bardon (Buck) Harper, under the same name as his father, D. C. Harper and Company. Stock includes hardware, groceries, clothing and miscellaneous items.

The interior of the store is very much like it was in the early 1900's. Original wood floors and counters are still intact. A coffered metal ceiling, installed in the 1920's replaced the papered ceiling (the walls were also papered).

There are several other interesting features contained in the store that were part of the original operation. These include a McCaskey Account Register from Alliance, Ohio (not in use); an old National Cash Register (in use); a Ring Down Telephone (not in use); the old showcases and the original shelving to name a few. As mentioned above the counters are the original and contain bins underneath that once held loose coffee beans, white sugar and brown sugar.

The D. C. Harper and Company general store is proclaimed to be the oldest Exxon dealer in the state (then Standard Oil) and retains the architectural features of the building constructed by J. M. Harper, in the early 1900's. Both contribute to its significance.

D. C. HARPER & COMPANY



D. C. HARPER & COMPANY

