

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCPS use only

received

date entered

**1. Name**

historic Gilbert and Samuel McKown House

and/or common "Marshy Dell"

**2. Location**

street & number On West Virginia State Route #51, 0.4 mile east  
of Gerrardstown, West Virginia. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Gerrardstown  vicinity of congressional district

state West Virginia code 54 county Berkeley code 003

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. John Douglas Miller

street & number "Marshy Dell"  
Route #2, Box 42

city, town Inwood  vicinity of state West Virginia

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berkeley County Courthouse

street & number 100 West King Street

city, town Martinsburg state West Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title G - 30 Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes \_\_\_ no

date 1973 - 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Berkeley County Courthouse

city, town Martinsburg state West Virginia

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on West Virginia State Route #51 just east of Gerrardstown, the McKown house is a substantial, two story, four bay log house measuring forty-seven feet (47') by thirty-two feet (32'). The house is constructed on a stone foundation with large exterior, double flue stone end chimneys.

The eastern half of the house was constructed by Gilbert McKown ca. 1774 as his dwelling house. The original beaded, board wall partitions are intact on the second floor as is the dog-leg winder stair that leads to the attic. A very handsome two-tiered, panelled door cupboard is located in the south-east bedroom as is a small fireplace. The mantel has a beaded surround and a shallow shelf. The main room on the first floor has a stone fireplace with a plain mantel highlighted by a "picture frame" molding and a shallow shelf. These mantels are vernacular; of a type often found in the older homes in the area.

The ca. 1810 addition doubled the size of the house and was constructed by Gilbert's son, Samuel McKown. In the attic, part of the original east gable siding of the early section was left intact. The pole rafters and gable ends were whitewashed whereas the hewn rafters and newer east (ca. 1810) gable end were not. It evidently was no longer necessary to employ attic space as living space due to the enlargement of the house. There are also two fireplaces on this side. At this time, alterations included the removal of the first floor winder stairs and the board walls. Space was re-allocated to create a central hall, and a Federal period, open-well staircase was installed. Around 1880, the single flight balustrade was replaced with the heavier turned newels and turned spindles associated with the Victorian era. The Federal balustrade was left intact on the second floor around the open-well.

Original floors are throughout the house and there is some early hardware, particularly "HL" hinges, and a nice box lock on the entrance door. Trim is beaded with period backbanding, doors are six-panel, and windows have 6/6 double hung sash set in pegged frames.

To the rear of the house is a story-and-a-half stone outbuilding which measures eighteen feet (18') by twenty-four feet (24'). It is of coursed-rubble construction with a large interior stone end chimney. The heavily pegged window and door frames are trimmed with an 18th century quirked ovolo molding. It is in excellent condition.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		* recorded local history

Specific dates 1774/ca. 1810 Builder/Architect- Gilbert McKown/Samuel McKown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The McKown house, located just east of Gerrardstown, is historically significant for its associations with the McKown family.

Gilbert McKown was born in Ireland in 1736. He and his wife Jane Crawford immigrated and settled in York County, Pennsylvania. He purchased land in Berkeley County in 1774 and built a solid, two story log dwelling for his family. His professions included farming and roof thatching. He was active in local affairs and was one of five founding trustees for the town of Gerrardstown. He contributed to the establishment of and became an elder in both the Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church and the Cool Spring Presbyterian Church. He was a soldier during the Revolutionary War and was present at Yorktown to witness the surrender of Cornwallis. At his death in 1803, he left his 230 acre farm to his son Samuel McKown.

Samuel McKown was a prosperous farmer and ultimately owned five adjoining farms in the Gerrardstown area totaling 974 acres. He enlarged the house where he was raised using log construction and later sided the entire house. At his death in 1837, he left one of five farms to each of his sons, his son Samuel inheriting the home place.

This Samuel McKown married Sarah Morgan and thus the family found a permanent place in Berkeley County recorded history. Sarah Morgan McKown kept a diary that records her daily life and impressions. It begins in 1860 and ends in 1899 and covers as many volumes with a page devoted to each day. It is extremely interesting, particularly during the Civil War years, as she records the activities of both the Federal and Confederate armies in the area. They alternately camped in her (McKown house) backyard, which is bordered by Mill Creek, and helped themselves to livestock and crops. The diary continues to the end of the 20th century and gives an area insight on Reconstruction, the economically depressed 1870's, social occasions, daily life, etc. Sarah Morgan McKown died in 1901. Mr. Scott Grove of Martinsburg received a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Foundation to study and index her diaries. His work received a Best Documentary Award by the West Virginia Associated Press in 1983.

The McKowns intermarried with the Millers. The McKown house is owned and lived in today by a direct descendant of Gilbert McKown.

EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Gilbert McKown House

Item number

8

Page

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The McKown house is architecturally significant as an example of early permanent settler housing that was successfully integrated as a major part of a Berkeley County vernacular farmhouse.

The original log house, built by Gilbert McKown in 1774, is approximately one-half of the present farmhouse. Most of the moldings and trim are original in this section, as are the board walls and the dog-leg stairs on the second floor, roof rafters, and some hardware. Most importantly, the early house is still very visible, on the interior and exterior. When Samuel McKown added to the house, he perfectly doubled the old house by adding a two bay section and extending the roof line. He finished with another double flue exterior stone end chimney. The window openings again are small and the use of fenestration is limited. The exterior appearance of the house realtes very well in proportion and fenestration to a late 18th century dwelling. Samuel probably built this way because it was expedient, but the resulting all log building is an architecturally significant and very pleasing dwelling house. It is one of the largest log dwellings in the county and is representative of a father and son building effort, the latter respecting the design and proportions established by the former.

There is a further significance in the stone outbuilding. After Gilbert McKown became established in Berkeley County, he sent for his father, Andrew McKown, who had remained in Ireland. McKown and Miller records indicate that Andrew was a stone mason and that he lived in his own house on Gilbert's farm. The 18th century trim, proportions and size of the building support that this was in fact Andrew's dwelling. These small stone cottages are found throughout Ireland and are of coursed or uncoursed stone rubble construction, as this one is. The stone cottage is architecturally significant as being a cultural link in building methods and design, from the "new" country to the "old" country, since it was built and lived in by an immigrant, Andrew McKown. Andrew came directly to Berkeley County and was not influenced into the log construction techniques adapted by his son Gilbert who was undoubtedly exposed to them during his years spent in York, Pennsylvania. The cottage is in excellent condition and is fittingly used as a guest cottage.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

McKown and Miller family records, Gerrardstown, West Virginia.  
 Sarah Morgan McKown Diaries, microfilm, Berkeley County Courthouse, Martinsburg.  
 Chronicles of Old Berkeley, by M. H. Gardiner and A. H. Gardiner, Durham, North Carolina 1938, pages 50 and 237.  
 Gerrardstown Presbyterian Churchyard, Gerrardstown, West Virginia, McKown gravestones.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre  
 Quadrangle name Inwood

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24,000

### UMT References

A 17 750720 4361380  
 Zone Easting Northing

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

Verbal boundary description and justification Nominated property includes roughly 100' on each side of the buildings between West Virginia State Route #51 and Mill Creek and about 20' west of the lane (see map).

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frances D. Ruth - Chairperson  
 organization Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission date September 30, 1983  
 street & number Route #2, Box 320 telephone (304) 754 - 7097  
 city or town Martinsburg state West Virginia

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Commissioner, WV Department of Culture and History

date November 18, 1983

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

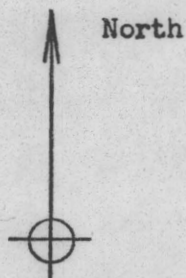
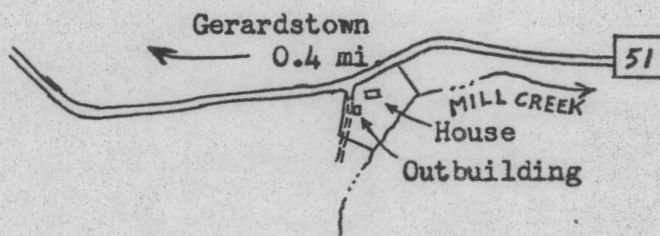
GILBERT and SAMUEL McKOWN HOUSE

G-30

Inwood Quadrangle

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 1 acre



SCALE 1 : 7,920

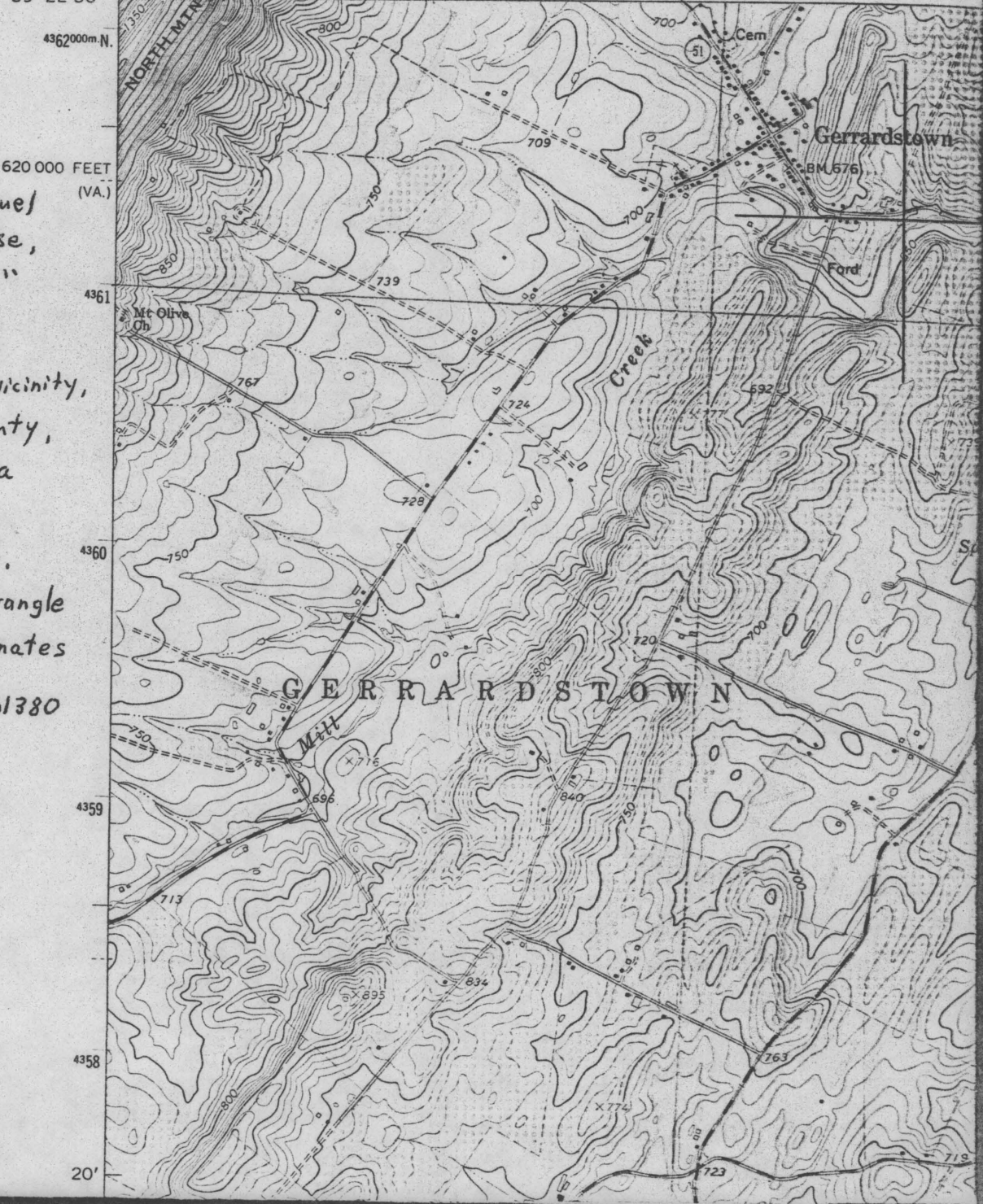
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photo AGS-90-35  
by Galtjo L. Geertsema

5382 / NW  
(GLENARY)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



78°07'30" 748000m E. 2 110 000 FEET (VA.) 1.5 MI. TO W. VA. 45



Gilbert and Samuel  
McKown House,  
"Marshy Dell"  
W.Va. Route 51,  
Gerrardstown vicinity,  
Berkeley County,  
West Virginia

Inwood, W.Va.  
U.S. G. S. Quadrangle  
U.T. M. Coordinates  
17/750720/4361380

