

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 HCRA use only

received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Edward Tabb House

and/or common "Rural Hill"

## 2. Location

street & number On the western side of West Virginia Secondary Route #4, 1.7 miles south of the intersection with W.Va. State Route #9. not for publication

city, town Hedgesville  vicinity of congressional district

state West Virginia code 54 county Berkeley code 003

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" 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. David R. Dillon

street & number "Rural Hill", Route #6, Box 91

city, town Martinsburg  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 B-8 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

Situated on a hill at the end of a half-mile private driveway, "Rural Hill" is a large, thirty-seven feet (37') deep and sixty-two feet (62') across, two story, central block with wing Federal dwelling house constructed ca. 1810 of coursed rubble limestone. The front section is five bays wide, the rear section is divided into three bays, and the two bay, two story kitchen wing has a two-tiered recessed entrance porch. The main entrance porch has coupled Doric columns with like pilasters and a Chippendale transom is over the entrance door. Windows have 12/12 and 12/8 double sash with rough cut radiating stone lintels. The outstanding feature of the front façade is the corbel and lozenge cornice with elaborate fretwork architrave.

The front section has a central hall, one room each side. The four-flight, open-well stair has elaborate scroll step-end decoration and the graceful balustrade is walnut. Panelled wainscoting with reeded pilasters follow on the stair wall. Door facings are elaborate and varied. Those in the hall and main parlor have a full entablature on panelled (hall) or reeded (parlor) pilasters topped with acanthus leaf work. The end block trim on the frieze also varies. In the parlor, it matches that on the mantel, small coupled urns. The hall door end block trim matches that used on a second floor mantel, fanciful Adams urns. Coupled cornicopia is used in still another. Fret work cornices decorate most of these rooms.

The three bay, two story rear section was added in a cross gable manner, ca. 1820, also in coursed rubble limestone construction. Windows are 12/8 double sash with the same quirked ovolo exterior trim. The plan is central hall, one room each side with a very nice open-well stairway in the hall. Door and window trim is symmetrically molded with small rosette corner blocks. The one fireplace in this section has a mantel with a single panelled frieze over like pilasters.

Two fireboxes in the house have decorative cast iron plates covering the jambs and rear wall of the firebox. They are decorated with the classical urn motif and are very similar to those manufactured by Mark Richards, ca. 1811, of Philadelphia.

First floor window and door jambs in the 23" stone walls are panelled throughout the house, and door locks were imported from Willenhall, England.

# 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 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1810/1820 **Builder/Architect** Edward Tabb/ John Tabb

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

"Rural Hill", built ca. 1810 and 1820, is historically significant for its associations with the Tabb family and for being an excellent example of period workmanship and design.

About 1770, four sons of William Tabb moved from Gloucester County, Virginia, to Berkeley County. They were Robert, William, George, and Edward. All but Edward served in the Revolutionary War. By 1795, Edward had acquired 490 acres and subsequently built "Rural Hill". Edward had no children but raised here his nephews John, William, and Edward Tabb. By 1819, John Tabb (still another nephew) owned all the shares of his uncle's "Rural Hill" estate and ultimately amassed 1123 acres. He was a well known agriculturist and also owned several mills, including the Patterson Mill near Martinsburg. At his death in 1847, a complete inventory was made of the house, room by room, and farm. Included were twenty-one slaves, some of which were sold at this time, and over \$10,000 worth of flour sold in Baltimore in just six months. In 1857, "Rural Hill" was sold out of the Tabb family. It has been owned by the Dillon family since 1934.

"Rural Hill" is also significant as an example of period architecture. The craftsmanship throughout the house is excellent. The mantels and other trim in the Federal section in particular are of well developed classical, Adams designs. These designs are carried into other rooms resulting in a uniformity but are not continuously repeated so that the design characteristics remain interesting. The door locks were traced by the National Park Service in Harpers Ferry to Willenhall, England.

The later section was perhaps added as a dormitory. The rear windows became clothes presses with panelled doors, very nicely done. The stone construction is the same, so the sections blend together very well.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Kauffman, Henry J. The American Fireplace, Galahad Books: New York City, 1972.

"Rural Hill Mansion House", pamphlet written and published by Mr. and Mrs. David R. Dillon, 1978. Copy in the possession of the Dillon family at "Rural Hill".

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Big Pool, WV-MD

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	7	7	5	7	7	9	0	4	3	7	8	0	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification of the house (see map).

Nominated property includes 100' on each side

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frances D. Ruth - Chairperson

organization Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission date September 30, 1983

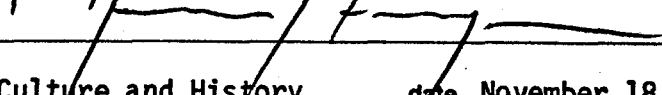
street & number Route #2, Box 320 telephone (304) 754 - 7097

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.

Keeper of the National Register

Attest

Chief of Registration

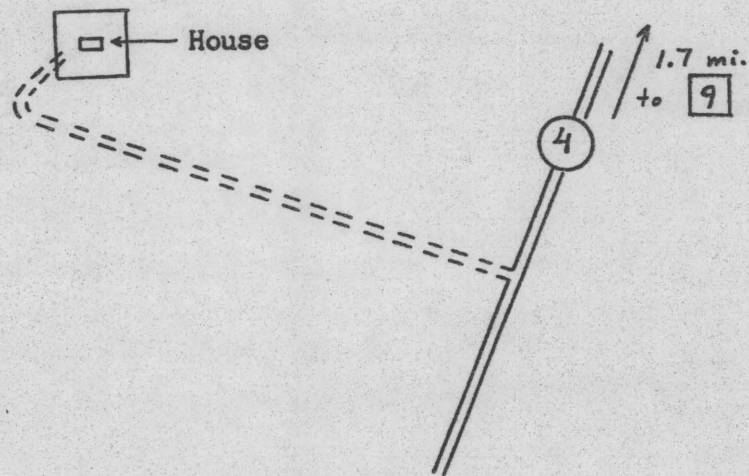
EDWARD TABB HOUSE

B-8

Big Pool Quadrangle

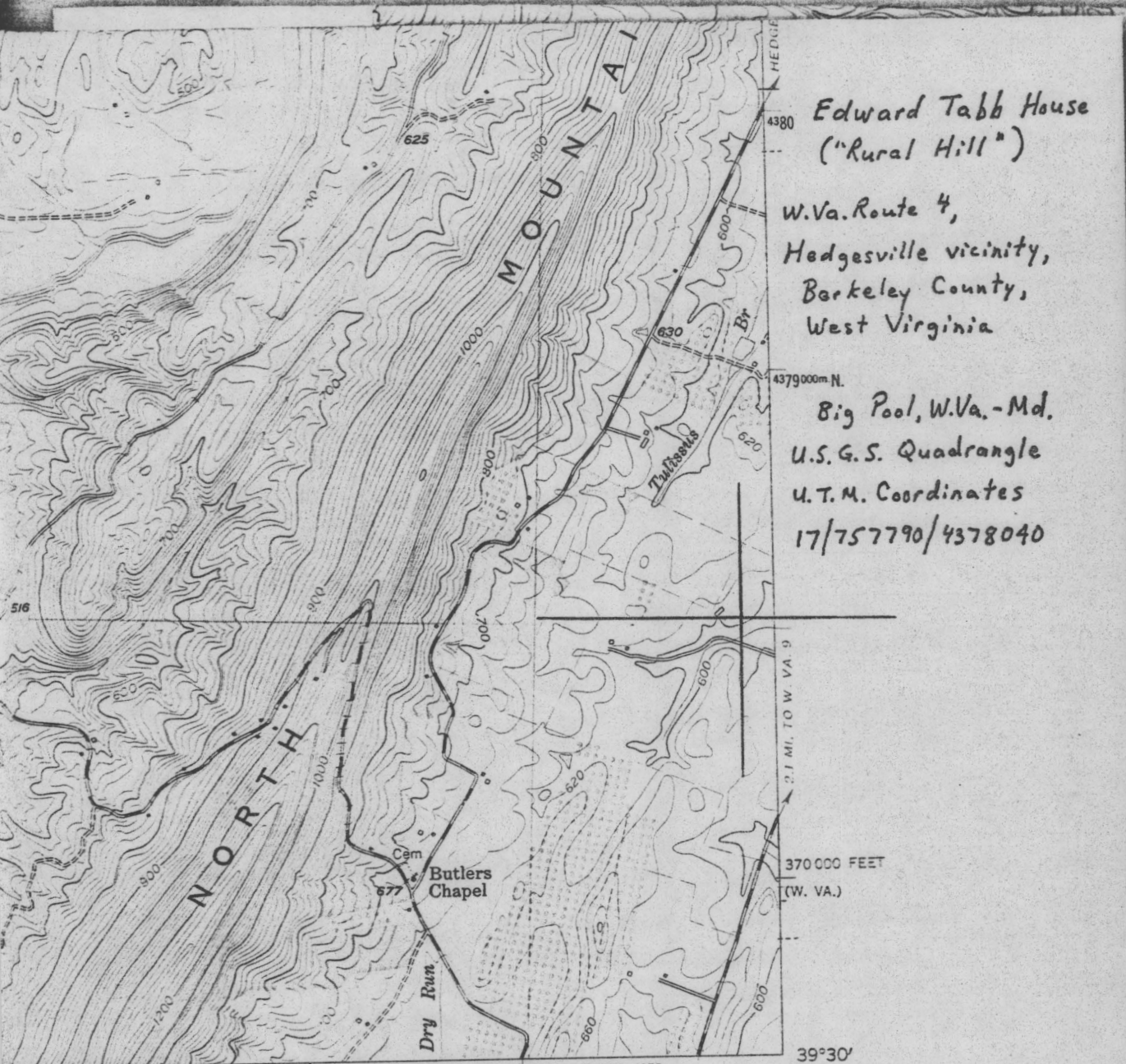
Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 1 acre



SCALE 1 : 7,920

Copied September 1983 from  
photo AGS-43-27, Nov 23 1937  
by Galtjo L. Geertsema



Edward Tabb House  
("Rural Hill")

W.Va. Route 4,  
Hedgesville vicinity,  
Berkeley County,  
West Virginia

Big Pool, W.Va.-Md.  
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle  
U.T.M. Coordinates  
17/757790/4378040

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty —————
- Light-duty —————
- Unimproved dirt = = = = =

○ State Route

BIG POOL, W. VA.—MD.

SE/4 HANCOCK 15' QUADRANGLE  
N 3930—W 7800/7.5  
MINOR CORRECTIONS MADE 1976  
1958

AMS 5363 II SE—SERIES V854

THE S. SPENCER MOORE CO.  
118 CAPITOL STREET  
CHARLESTON, W. VA. 25301  
PH. 304-342-6185



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

