

VLR-11/20/73 NRHP-6/7/74

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE Virginia
COUNTY Wise
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**John Fox, Jr., House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**117 Shawnee Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Big Stone Gap**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**Ninth (William C. Wampler)**

STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51** COUNTY: **Wise** CODE: **195**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Lonesome Pine Arts & Crafts Association**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Big Stone Gap**

STATE:  
**Virginia** CODE: **51**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Wise County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Wise**

STATE:  
**Virginia** CODE: **195**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1969**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D. C.** CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Wise  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The core of the John Fox, Jr. House was constructed in 1890 as a cottage residence for the Fox brothers, who were supervising their mining investments in Big Stone Gap. During the next twenty years the small four-room cottage grew into the present rambling twenty-room two-story house as more members of the Fox family decided to make it their home.

The house's foundations are stone, and its frame construction is covered with dark brown wood shingles. A long one-story shed porch shelters part of the north side and east end, and a smaller screened shed porch covers one gabled section of the west end. Brick chimneys, both interior and exterior, are randomly placed. Windows and door frames are plain. The windows have two-over-two sash. The series of gable roofs follow an irregular line.

The present floor plan grew around the original two-room single-pile core and is very irregular. A single-run stair ascends in the principal hall, although it is said that the upper floor of the original cottage was reached only by a ladder. Walls and ceiling are plaster and are decorated with either paint or wall paper. Fireplaces with simple mantels remain in all the rooms, even though the house now has central heating.

Located in the residential section of Big Stone Gap, the Fox House faces north and is set in a spacious shady yard enclosed by a chicken wire fence.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>local history</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The well-known Virginia author John Fox, Jr., lived in the rambling shingle-style house in Big Stone Gap from 1890 until his death in 1919. Most of Fox's productive years were spent in the house and indeed the surrounding mountain regions of Kentucky and Southwest Virginia provided inspiration for his most popular works. Fox was the author of two best-selling novels, The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come, a Civil War tale, and The Trail of the Lonesome Pine, an account of the 1890's mining boom and bust, spun into the love story of a young mountain girl and a cultured Kentucky geologist. Fox also wrote several other popular novels and a number of sketches picturing the mountaineer and his way of life. Today John Fox is generally recognized as being adept at capturing the character of the mountains and their people, and sympathetically portraying their struggle to cope with the coming of the mining boom era and a more modern life style. Fox also explored the theme of the clash between the alienated sections of Kentucky -- the genteel Bluegrass and the isolated mountains.

About 1890 two of John Fox's elder brothers invested in mining options around Big Stone Gap, and began construction of the Fox House. That year John Fox joined his brothers, and soon the rest of his family were living in the Gap. The house was enlarged to accomodate the John Foxes, Sr., and their younger children. About 1908 the house was enlarged once more, when Fox brought his wife, Viennese prima donna, Fritzi Scheff, to Big Stone Gap.

The house remained in the Fox family until the death in 1971 of John Fox's last remaining sister, Elizabeth, wife of Dr. Cabell Moore. The Foxes, originally from the Bluegrass section of Kentucky, made their home in Big Stone Gap the center of art, culture, and lively entertainment. The house is now owned by the Lonesome Pine Arts and Crafts Association and is open to the public as a museum.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

John Fox, Jr., A Purple Rhododendron, Appalachia, Va.: Young Publications, 1967.  
 Harriet R. Holman, ed., John Fox and Tom Page as They Were, Miami, Florida: Field Research Projects, nd.  
 Warren I. Titus, John Fox, Jr., New York: Twayne Publishers, 1971

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36 ° 51' 49 "	84 ° 46 ' 43 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than an acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: November, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

**NOV 20 1973**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATES  
Y AUTHORITY  
YS BRANCH

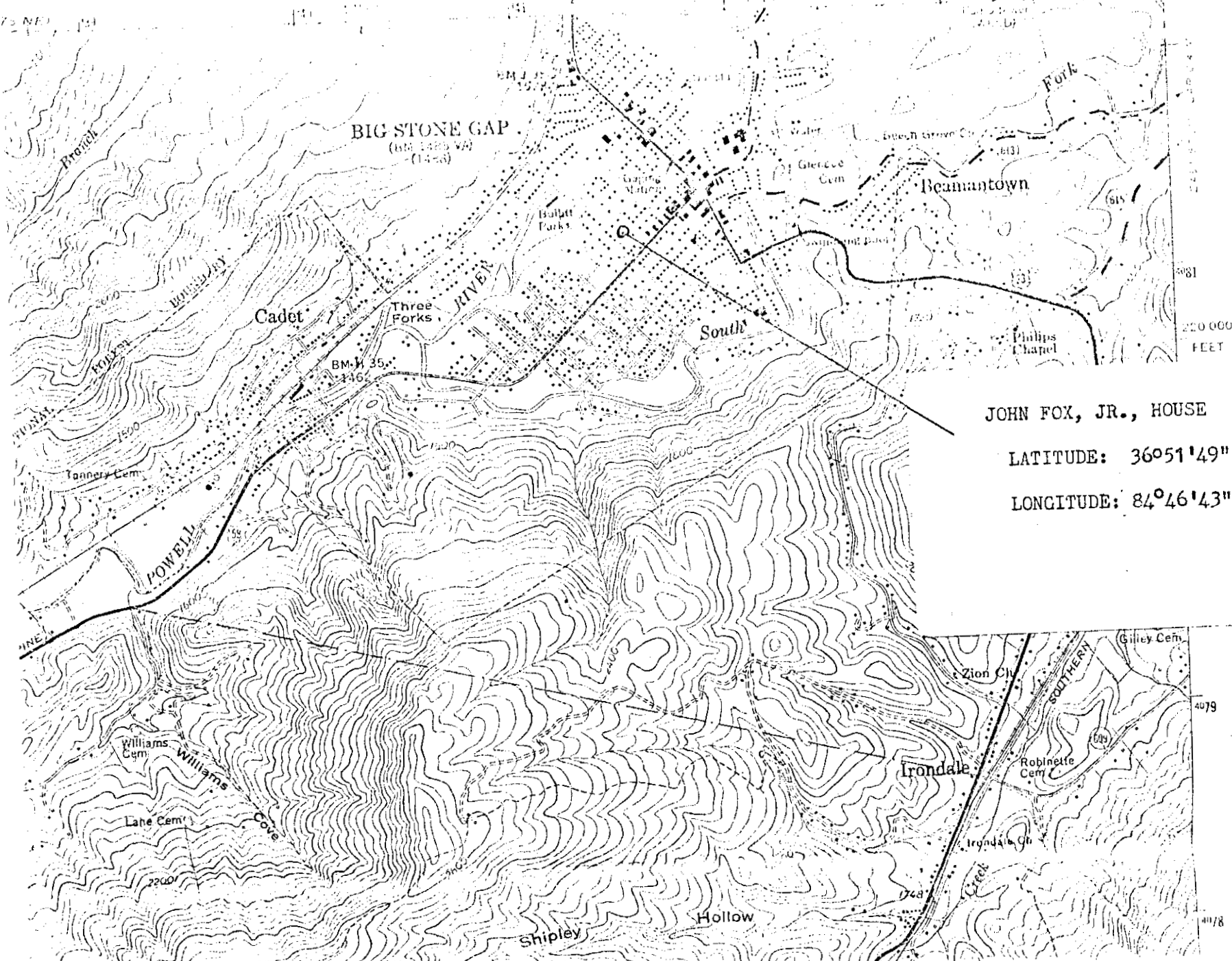
# BIG STONE GAP QUADRANGLE

VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC) 178-SE

BIG STONE GAP QUADRANGLE

178-SE  
178-SE  
178-SE



JOHN FOX, JR., HOUSE

LATITUDE: 36°51'49"

LONGITUDE: 84°46'43"

2000  
FEET

4079

4078