

VLR-4/18/72 NRHP-11/9/72

139-6

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: WYTHE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Haller-Gibboney Rock House

AND OR HISTORIC:
Haller-Gibboney Rack House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
NW corner of Monroe and Tazewell Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Wytheville (William C. Wampler, Ninth District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY: Wythe CODE 197

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Wytheville

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Wytheville STATE: Virginia CODE 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC:
Wythe County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Wytheville STATE: Virginia CODE 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE 11

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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Facing south from the northwest corner of Monroe and Tazewell Streets, the Haller-Gibboney Rock House is a two story dwelling executed in random laid grey limestone with a gable roof, two interior end chimneys and a box cornice that returns into the gable end. The main core of the building displays a central hall plan with two main rooms on each floor. At the turn-of-the-century a frame ell with gable roof was built on the rear of the house.

Set close to the sidewalk, the five-bay front is lighted by six-over-six sash windows with narrow muntins, a simple molded architrave framing and two-panel louvered shutters. A stone step rises from the sidewalk to a recessed central entrance with paneled reveals and four light rectangular transom.

The east end of the Rock House has two bays on each floor and two nine light single sash openings are recessed into the gable. On the opposite gable the sash of the west end has been somewhat altered over the years. By 1903 the first floor windows had been filled in and converted into interior shelf space. In that year, the south window was recut and a demi-octagonal frame bay with one-over-one sash was added. On the second floor the south bay has been filled in and the north bay widened.

The two story frame rear ell terminating in a demi-octagonal end with sunburst bracketing at the eavesline supporting the projecting gable ends. Resting on a stone foundation the ell is flanked by a one story porch and shed roofed wing.

The simple interior woodwork features paneled dado and window reveals, with architrave framing around door, window and fireplace openings, the latter being capped by a molded cornice shelf.

The stairway uses slender turned newels, square balusters and simple handrail. The railing is ramped both at the single landing and the second floor level and is reflected in the paneled dado opposite. At the landing a short flight of stairs leads north to the 1903 addition.

R.S.

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 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) <u>local history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input 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

Built between 1822 and 1823 the Haller-Giboney Rock House stands today as the best preserved example of the stone houses once constructed in Wythe County. Of the six dwellings which have withstood the years, the Rock House exhibits the finest design and retains the integrity of the original structure. Now being readied for its use as a museum sponsored by the Wythe County Historical Society, the Rock House is symbolic of the character of the settlers who during the latter part of the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth centuries chose to live in this area so close to the southwestern frontier. Having migrated from the more urban areas, these Virginians were determined to create a comfortable existence in the rural area of the state's Southwest. The Rock House is an outstanding example of a builder's efforts to combine the natural effects of indigenous limestone with the fine design of the late Federal Period.

After the town was initially established in 1792 under the name of Evansham, it was augmented in 1817 when lots along the new extension of Monroe Street were sold. Henry Simmerman was the first owner of the lot on which the Rock House stands and in 1822 Simmerman sold this and a number of lots to Adam Saftly. Saftly is thought to have started building the house, and the structure was largely unfinished when it was purchased by Dr. John Haller in 1823. In the deed of title, a revealing sentence describes the property as "Beginning at the corner of the Stone House and with the road leading from the town of Evansham to the German Meeting House..." Haller's original three acre lot also supported "the red house", the meat house, the stable and the barn.

The first resident of the Rock House, Dr. John Haller, came to the area from York County, Pennsylvania and set to work as the first resident physician in the town of what was to be called Wytheville. Dr. Haller is first recorded to have been in Wythe County in 1806 and through his profession, he travelled widely in the area. Haller returned to Pennsylvania in the following year but by 1809 he had returned to Wythe County and purchased a house on Main Street. Six years later the doctor married Catherine Goering in York, Pennsylvania and returned to Evansham to settle on Main Street. Because professional men were rare in the area of Southwest Virginia, they often were required to take on a number of civic duties. At various times Dr. Haller was not only Justice of the Peace and town coroner but was also recorded to have been in the tanyard business. Although when Haller died in 1840 he left a number of debts, his wife Catherine Haller was able to maintain the house and her place in the community.

During the War Between the States the Rock House found itself in the center of Toland's raid in 1863 on Wytheville. The structure bears

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(Number all entries)

8.

bullet holes in the sash of the parlor window from the battle which commenced only one block away.

Following Catherine Haller's death in 1870, the property was divided up among four of her children. In 1902 Frances Gibboney, Dr. Haller's granddaughter purchased one-half interest to the house at auction and lived there with her sister Mrs. Kate Gibboney Campbell who also owned half interest in the property. The ownership was reunited in 1940 when Kathleen Campbell, daughter of Mrs. Kate Gibboney Campbell, bought her aunt's half interest. The Rock House was sold to the Town of Wytheville in 1967 and Wythe County Historical Society is now planning a museum in the main part of the building and a craft center will be located in the ell.

R.S.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

FILES OF VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION.

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 ° 57 ' 01 "	81 ° 05 ' 05 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 acres.

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: April, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

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: *James W. Moody, Jr.*
 Title: Director
Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: APR 18 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

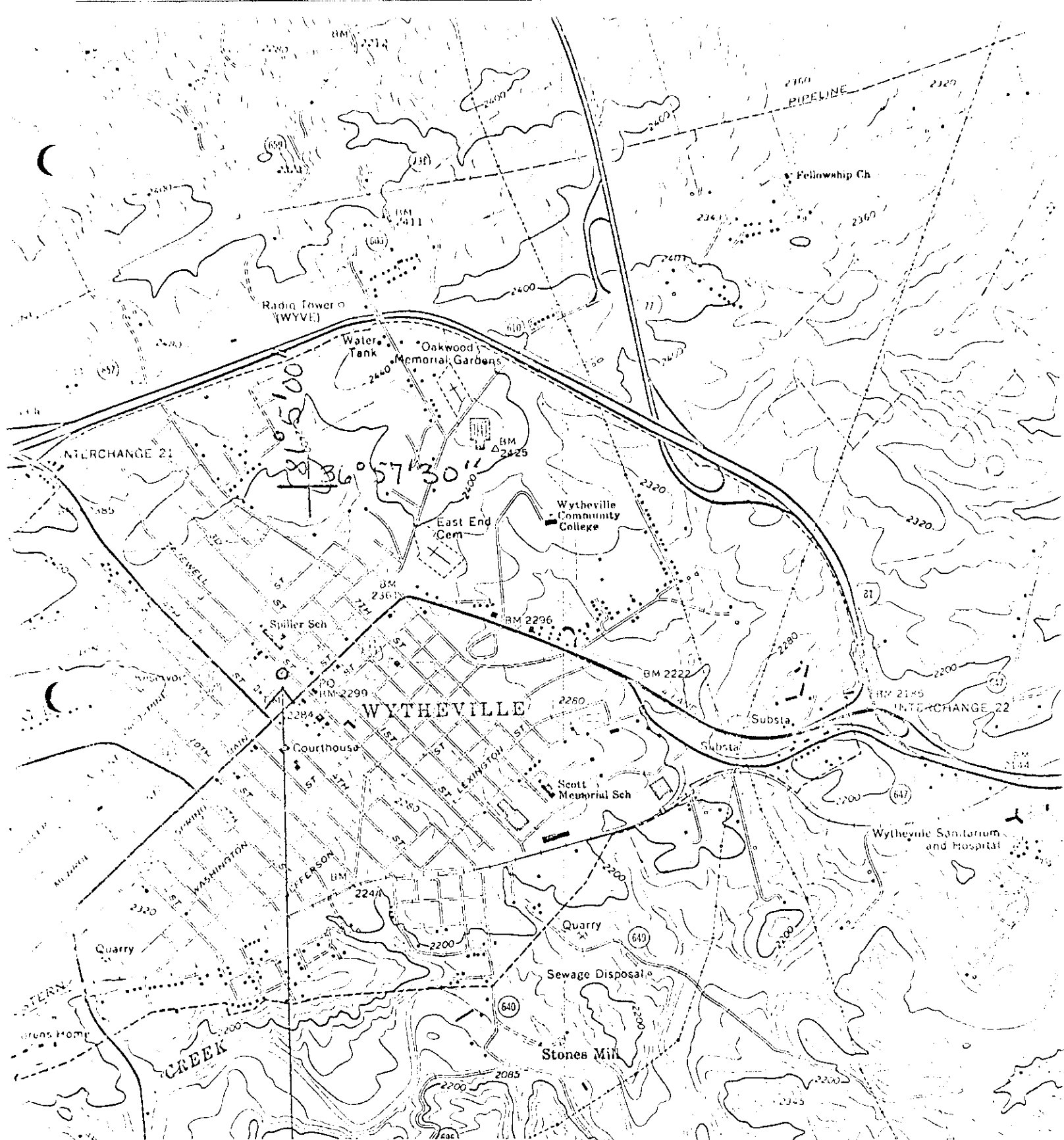
Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Wytheville, Va. 1968

HALLER-GIBBONEY ROCK HOUSE

latitude
 36°57'01"

longitude
 81°05'05"

