

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received FEB 6 1985
date entered FEB 27 1985

1. Name

historic Pence Springs Hotel Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number *Buggy Branch, and*
Roughly bounded by Buggy Branch Rd, WV 3, Pence Springs Access Rd.
Route 3 not for publication

city, town Pence Springs N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

state West Virginia code 54 county Summers code 089

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheet)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Summers County Courthouse; Book 35, pp. 294-295

street & number Ballancee and Park Streets

city, town Hinton state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Pence Springs Hotel Historic District sits majestically atop a knoll and around its outskirts, overlooking a bend in the Greenbrier River, off State Route 3, at the community of Pence Springs, in Summers County, West Virginia.

The historic district is small, consisting of ten structures, as well as two bridges, seven of which form the supporting, or ancillary structures which focus upon the Pence Springs Hotel. The district is highly rural in nature, being located in a very rural setting, some fifteen miles from the nearest incorporated entity in an area that is typified by forested hills and agricultural river bottom land.

The first structure to be located in the present historic district was the confinement of the mineral spring in a hollow "gum stump" in 1872. The spring containment structure is still extant. Later in the same decade, a hotel was built to take advantage of the popularity of the spring. This structure, the first Pence Springs Hotel, burned in the early part of the 20th Century. This building was replaced by the present hotel building, constructed between 1916 and 1918. The other structures within the district were constructed between 1901 and 1925, the period of the district's flourishing as a grand resort. The entire district is contained within an approximately thirty-acre area, and having a very distinctive and cohesive ambience. The structures presently extant within the boundaries of the historic district include:

1. Pence Spring Hotel Building, 1916-18 (Pivotal). This building, the focus of the entire district, is a massive three-story masonry structure on a raised masonry foundation built between December, 1916 and June, 1918, to replace the previous hotel that was destroyed by fire. This structure has a roughly "v" shaped configuration with its principal, two bay facade facing south across a spacious front lawn that runs down to West Virginia Route 3. The hotel building is Georgian or Colonial Revival in style, the massive three-story portico on the south facade principally giving the building this feeling. This massive portico consists of a massive rectangular entablature at the roof level with a dentilated cornice and undecorated frieze and architrave, supported by four massive heavily squared piers, or columns that are typified by recessed panels; the whole creating a three bay effect at this, the principal facade. Originally these columns had projections above the cornice and supported a wooden balustrade of an elaborate rectangular and crossed latticed design, referred to by local historians Long and Trail as "Chinese" in style. This balustrade, which along with the column projections, was removed in the late 1940's, is replicated on the second story level of the portico. The first story balustrade, in contrast, is spindle work in design and is open at the central bay. The entrance door on this facade is a large double door, each containing eight rectangular lights. The doors are flanked by rectangular side lights of eight lights each and the whole surmounted by a rectangular overlight, also consisting of eight lights. This entrance arrangement is replicated above on the second floor balcony level.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

State and Local History

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** Meador and Sweeney, Architects;
Park-Grimm Corp., Builders

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Pence Springs Hotel Historic District, located on West Virginia Route 3 in the village of Pence Springs, Summers County, West Virginia, is significant as one of the four remaining grand hotel complexes of the spa and springs period in the history of the Virginia's¹; as a historic focal point for significant aspects of Summers County history,² and as a significant example of Georgian/Colonial Revival architecture in southeastern West Virginia.³

Explanatory Notes

- Throughout the 19th and well into the 20th century, one of, if not the primary, recreational pastimes for the upper classes of the Eastern Seaboard, and particularly in the South of the United States, was the mountain resort that centered about a mineral spring. The "leisure class" would flock to these "spas", which were all located in mountainous areas, during the hot summer months to escape the heat, humidity, and insects of the lower lying regions of the South and East to partake of the "healing" medicinal mineral waters of the springs and enjoy a life of leisure and relaxation. The vast majority of these "spas", which always gravitated around a springhouse and a large central hotel, were located in the Alleghany Mountains of the western most counties of Virginia and the eastern counties of West Virginia, an area referred to in the 19th century as "America's Sanitarium". In Virginia, dozens of such spring-resorts flourished at one time or another, while in West Virginia at least 15 were in operation during the 19th and 20th centuries. Of those in West Virginia, most are long since closed, some gone with hardly a trace of their existence remaining. Only three remain operating in West Virginia; Capon Springs, "The Greenbrier" at White Sulphur Springs, and Berkeley Springs, the latter two being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Berkeley Springs is operated as a state park. Changing social circumstances, modes of transportation and, in particular, the rising use of the automobile and its accompanying mobility, brought about the decline and virtual end of the Spring/Spa Resort Era in the two Virginia's.

Pence Springs began operation in 1872 when Jesse Beard built the first springhouse to dispense the sulphur and alkaline mineral waters and constructed the first hotel building. In 1878 the springs and hotel, along with 300 acres, were purchased from the heirs of Jesse Beard by Andrew P. Pence, scion of a prominent local family. Andrew P. Pence (1839-1915) is the man responsible for developing the Summers County spring into a major resort. A greatly expanded hotel facility was opened in

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cohen, Stan, Historic Springs of the Virginias, Pictorial Historic Publishing Co., Charleston, WV, 1981. West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia, Vol. 17, Ramstock Publishing, Richwood, WV, 1975 (1883). Long, Fred and Trail, Stephen, Bibliography of Pence Springs Subjects, 13 pp. 250 entries, Hinton, WV, 1983. (See 9 Continuation.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 30 acres

Quadrangle name Alderson, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	5	2	4	9	6	0
Zone	Easting			Northing			

B

1	7	5	2	4	9	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing			

C

1	7	5	2	4	7	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing			

D

1	7	5	2	4	6	2	0
Zone	Easting			Northing			

E

1	7	5	2	4	6	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing			

F

1	7	5	2	4	5	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing			

G

1	7	5	2	4	6	5	0
Zone	Easting			Northing			

H

Zone	Easting			Northing			

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See 10. Continuation Sheet)

Beginning at a point on the northern side of West Virginia Route 3 where that road intersects with the west side of Buggy Branch Road; thence running in a line north along the west side of Buggy Branch Road for 1,000 feet to a point south of its intersection

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 Michael J. Pauley, Historian

organization Hart and Pauley, Consultants

date January 15, 1985

street & number 4651 Victoria Road

telephone (304) 744-9342

city or town Charleston

state West Virginia 25313

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 National Park Service

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 22, 1985

For NPS use only

hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date 2/27/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Owner of Property Item number 4 Page 2

The property comprising the Pence Springs Hotel Historic District has, at the time of the preparation of this document, two owners. The State of West Virginia, through its Department of Natural Resources is one owner, and Mr. Ashby Berkley of Pence Springs is the other. However, as of December, 1984, Mr. Berkley obtained a lease with Option to Purchase on the property owned by the State of West Virginia and it is anticipated that Mr. Berkley will own all property within the boundaries of the historic district by the end of 1985.

At present, the ownership of the buildings (as enumerated in Part 7) is divided thusly:

Owner - State of West Virginia
c/o Dept. of Natural Resources
Capitol Complex
Charleston, WV 25305

- #1. Pence Springs Hotel
- #2. Pavilion/Casino
- #3. Guard House
- #4. Kitchen Manager/Hotel Worker's Dormitory
- #5. Hotel Manager's Residence
- #6. Hotel Garage

Owner - Mr. Ashby Berkley
Route 3
Pence Springs, WV 24962

- #7. Golf Caddy House
- #8. Pence Springs Bottling Works
- #9. Pence Springhouse
- #10. Cinderblock Outbuilding

Mr. Berkley also owns the two pedestrian bridges.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet	Description	Item number	7	Page	2
--------------------	-------------	-------------	---	------	---

Another feature on the front, or south, elevation that lends a Colonial Revivalist feeling to the building is a large single shed dormer with paired window openings in the center of the roof line.

The great flanking three story wings that extend from the front facade to form a "v" are not identical. The west wing is the longer of the two, having eighteen bays that are each represented by arched windows, with a double row of headers comprising each arch, on the second and third levels. The first level of the west wing is dominated on the exterior by a gallery, or enclosed porch, that runs most of its length. This gallery originally was surmounted by spindlework balustrade which has long since disappeared. An open colonnaded porch runs along the first level of the east wing, its roof (which was also originally surmounted by a spindled balustrade) upheld by seven squared columns.

Both wings have had small additions placed at their ends; this being carried out in the 1947 renovation to enlarge the facility for use as a prison. The additions are architecturally compatible, particularly the one on the end of the east wing and do not detract from the integrity of the building.

At the rear, or north elevation, a large one story porte cochere, original to the hotel, graces that entrance way, which is the principal entrance. This porte cochere is rectangular in configuration, with a plain entablature, and is upheld by two sets of paired columns, squared to replicate those on the front facade, and two pilasters of the same style. At the rear elevation roof line are two hipped dormers on each wing flanking a triple light shed dormer that is positioned above the porte cochere.

The interior of the Pence Springs Hotel was heavily re-adapted in 1947 to accommodate its altered use as a prison. However, such significant interior features as the elegant main stairway, the octagonal reception room at the front entrance, the octagonal sitting room on the second floor, and the massive masonry boiler rooms, and the hotel's elevator remain.

The Pence Springs Hotel's principal entrance, beneath the porte cochere of the rear, or north elevation, is reached by a circular driveway which connects to a driveway running west down to the gate house.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 3

A discussion of the other buildings within the historic district, all of which are ancillary to the hotel building and which, taken together, form a cohesive complex, follows:

2. The Pavilion/Casino, 1919 (Pivotal) is a large, one story side gabled wood frame structure surmounted by a low pitched roof with overhanging eaves and open rafter ends in the gable ends. It sits upon a concrete block foundation and has a full basement. Except for the roof material (which is presently asphalt shingles) and some interior alterations, the building is in close to original condition. It was constructed in 1919 to serve as a ballroom and restaurant for the Pence Springs Hotel, and is located just to the southwest of the hotel building, and is referred to locally as "The Casino". It was converted to use as classrooms during the period that Pence Springs was a penitentiary.
3. Guard House, c.1970 (Intrusive), a small one story concrete block structure with a low pitched gable roof. This building stands at the bottom of the driveway leading up to the hotel building. It was constructed for use by the penitentiary authorities.
4. Kitchen Manager/Hotel Workers Dormitory Building, c.1919 (Contributing), is a two story, seven bay side gabled structure on a masonry foundation. Built c.1919 to serve as a dormitory for the hotel's kitchen manager and for other workers at the hotel, this large residential building, with its full front verandah, is significant in that it survives as a statement of the high regard in which the hotel's workers were held by the hotel management. This is good, substantial housing in an era in West Virginia notorious for its company towns and shoddy workers' housing. Although this building has been sheathed in metal siding, it retains its original six-over-six windows and its historic integrity survives.
5. Hotel Manager's Residence/Warden's Residence, c.1919 (Contributing), is a one story gable and wood frame building on a masonry foundation, clad in horizontal wood siding. It is four bays across with a porch on the front entrance that extends across three bays. Paired double hung windows are on the gable end as well as constituting three of the four bays. The residential building was constructed c.1919 to serve as a residence for the manager of the Pence Springs Hotel. During the penitentiary period, the building served as the official residence of the prison's warden. It is in near original condition, with the exception of an asphalt composition roof and aluminum porch awning, and contributes to the district.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 4

6. Hotel Garage, 1925 (Contributing), is a large wood frame front gable structure. It is clad in horizontal wood siding and its windows, two on each side elevation and two in the rear elevation, are double hung with six-over-six lights. It was constructed in 1925 to serve as a garage for the hotel, whose guests by this time were arriving increasingly by automobile. It continued this function throughout the penitentiary period. It has an asphalt, front gable roof. It is in nearly original condition and contributes to the district.
7. Golf Caddy House, 1919 (Contributing), is a small one story, three bay wood-frame building with a small central one bay porch. Its windows are double hung with six-over-six lights. A wooden door with quartered panels serve as the entrance. The building was constructed in 1919 to serve as the caddy house for the hotel's golf course, and was later used as an office by penitentiary personnel. Located to the northeast of the hotel near Buggy Branch, Golf Caddy House is in nearly original condition and contributes to the historic district.
8. Pence Springs Bottling Works, c.1915 (Pivotal), is a one story wood frame building constructed in the Bungaloid style of architecture that was gaining popularity at the time this building was constructed. It has a broad gable-on-hip roof and open rafter ends. Six bays across, each bay is represented by large multi-paned windows with fully twenty lights.

This building was constructed c.1915 to house the Pence Springs Bottling Works, an operation that bottled and sold commercially the prize winning mineral water of the spring, an operation which lasted until 1936. Today, the building is used as a restaurant and gift shop.

9. Pence Springhouse, c.1901, (Pivotal), covers the sulfo-alkaline mineral spring that is the cause of the existence of this district. Inside the springhouse is the spring itself, brought forth by the original 1872 "gum stump" operative. The first springhouse was a modest wood frame structure that was demolished about 1900 and the present springhouse built in its place. The present structure survives nearly intact from the time of its construction. It is a one story gabled pavilion with side elevation arcades that originally were open but are now enclosed. The arcade arches are separated by decorative horizontal pendants. Within the spring itself flows into a concrete basin which is original; in fact, an early regional use of concrete construction technology in West Virginia. The building is still used for its original function.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet	Description	Item number	7	Page	5
--------------------	-------------	-------------	---	------	---

10. Cinderblock Outbuilding, c.1970 (Intrusive), a small gabled roof cinderblock outbuilding of recent origin is located directly to the rear, or north, of the Bottling Works and the Springhouse.

There are also two small pedestrian bridges that cross Buggy Branch and lead to the Springhouse and to the Bottling Works. The western most bridge is of concrete construction and is a simple horizontal span with rounded ends and recessed panels on each side. It was built about the same time as the Springhouse. The eastern most bridge is a picturesque wooden arch with wood railings, built about 1925. Both bridges contribute to the integrity of the historic district.

Taken together, all of these buildings and structures, gravitating around the grand Pence Springs Hotel, form a cohesive rural historic district in Summers County, West Virginia that has contributed significantly to the history of the region.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

Date entered

Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

1897 as the Pence Springs Hotel, and in 1901 a new springhouse was built over the mineral spring and the spring itself encased in concrete, an early regional use of concrete construction technology which is in itself significant to the history of the area. Pence also bottled the water of the springs and sold it over a large geographic area. In 1904, Andrew Pence received the second medal for his bottled mineral water at the St. Louis World's Fair.

The present grand Pence Springs Hotel, which is the focal point of this small but significant rural historic district, was constructed between 1916 and 1918 after the destruction by fire (an all too common fate for such resort hotels), of the original Pence Springs Hotel. Andrew P. Pence died in 1915. The hotel was constructed under the supervision of his sons, Dr. George L. Pence, Jacob D. Pence and Silas H. Pence. The Charleston, West Virginia architectural firm of Meanor and Sweeney designed the hotel, which was constructed by Park-Grimm Corporation of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The construction of the new hotel, which was completed on June 15, 1918, is highly significant as the last such springs resort hotel built in West Virginia. Coming at what was really the end of the era of the spa resort, when other such hotels were either closed or closing, its construction reflected the continuing prosperity of the Pence Springs resort and the Pence family's optimism for the future.

The Pence Springs Resort flourished through most of the 1920's, offering guests all of the latest in "modern" conveniences, such as telephones, electricity, and automobile service, as well as such sports as tennis and golf. During this period, over one hundred employees staffed the hotel, which was known throughout the east for its "splendid accommodations". The Pence Springs Hotel closed late in 1929, a victim of the Great Depression. While the buildings and grounds have remained and served a variety of functions, narrated below, its reign as one of the last of the great Spa's of the Virginia's was at an end.

2. The Pence Springs and the Pence family have played highly significant roles in the history of Summers County and the surrounding area. The land was originally owned by one, William Kincaide, an early settler in what is now Summers County. The land later passed to Jesse Beard and, as narrated above, to Andrew P. Pence, who was primarily responsible for the development of the springs as a major resort. Pence, for whom both the hotel and the community of Pence Springs is named, was a locally prominent individual involved in county and, to a limited extent, state affairs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

Date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 3

The Pence family had always been a locally prominent family, Andrew's grandmother, Elizabeth Graham, being famed in local annals for having been captured by and rescued from American Indians in 1777. Andrew Pence served in the Confederate Army throughout the American Civil War and afterwards became a prominent merchant, operating stores in at least three different communities. He was involved in the formation of Summers County in 1871. In addition to his development of the important Pence Springs resort, he also found time to serve as President of the Talcott District Board of Education for many years and represented Summers County in the West Virginia House of Delegates during the 1911-1913 Session, one of the most critical in the state's history. His son, Dr. George L. Pence, who carried on, with his brothers, the operation of the resort after Andrew's death, was also a prominent Summers County physician and surgeon.

The Pence Spring's Hotel, during its operating days, was the focus of social life in Summers County, playing host to the wealthy and socially prominent from all over the United States. Most especially during the 1920's was the resort a gathering place for those seeking relaxation and entertainment during this era of prohibition and conservatism. Governors and Senators were among the hotel's clientele, who were served by such local personalities as Sat Kelly, a black gentleman who served as "official dipper" at the springs from c.1901 until 1929. The hotel was also host to many "colorful" characters who came to escape the rigors of officially enforced temperance, as is evidenced by the persistent local legend, undocumented by official sources, that the hotel was host to Charlie Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd, the notorious but popular ganster during this period.

After the closing of the Pence Springs Hotel in 1929, the building and grounds went through a period best described as "graceful decline". The Pence Springs Bottling Works, which bottled and sold the mineral waters, continued to struggle on until it finally ceased operation in 1936. Local historians Long and Trail (See Part 9) record that the local citizenry continued to focus upon the hotel and its grounds as a favorite trysting place, picnic area and gathering place for church, civic and social events. Various commercial schemes, such as an idea for using the hotel as a "Dude Ranch" came and went.

In 1947 the State of West Virginia purchased the Pence Springs Hotel for use as a state penitentiary for women. Various modifications to the interior (described in Part 7) were undertaken under the supervision of prominent Bluefield architect Alexander B. Mahood; one of whose buildings, the Mercer County Courthouse is listed in the National

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8

Page

4

Register. Pence Springs remained the West Virginia State Penitentiary for Women for thirty-seven years, the largest state institution in the county and region, until its closing on March 29, 1983. Plans are currently underway by the owner and leasee to rehabilitate the resort complex to its original use as a hotel and resort, where it will continue to be a focal point of community affairs.

3. The Pence Springs Hotel building, the focus of this small historic district, is a highly significant work of architecture in southern West Virginia. A massive "V" shaped building, three stories high, with a massive full, four columned classical Revival Portico at the front elevation, this building is easily the most impressive example of Colonial Revival architecture in the region. In fact, there is not another building of its combination of architectural style, unique configuration and massing in all of West Virginia. Although large Classical Revival style architecture was a favorite type for the "grand" hotels of the spring resorts, the construction of the Pence Springs Hotel, designed by West Virginia architects, came well after the era of the building of such hotels had closed and, perhaps for that reason, stands somewhat apart from the other spring/spa hotels in being less conforming to strict interpretations of classical architecture and thus presents a more vernacular approach to the style than is seen by other surviving examples. On its architectural significance alone, the Pence Springs Hotel would qualify as a National Register eligible property. The other contributing buildings (described in Part 7) support the architectural ambience of the hotel and form a coherent whole that easily sets it apart from the surrounding environment as a historic district.

The Pence Springs Hotel Historic District is a complex whose historic and architectural significance is unique not only to its county and region, but to the State of West Virginia.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Major Bibliographical
References

Item number 9

Page 2

Long, Fred and Trail, Stephen, The Pence Springs; A History and Pre-History, Hinton, WV, 1983.

Miller, James H., History of Summers County From Earliest Settlement to the Present, Hinton, WV, 1908.

Price, Paul, McCue, J.B. Hoskins, Hamer, Springs of West Virginia, WV, Geological Survey, Morgantown, WV, 1936.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

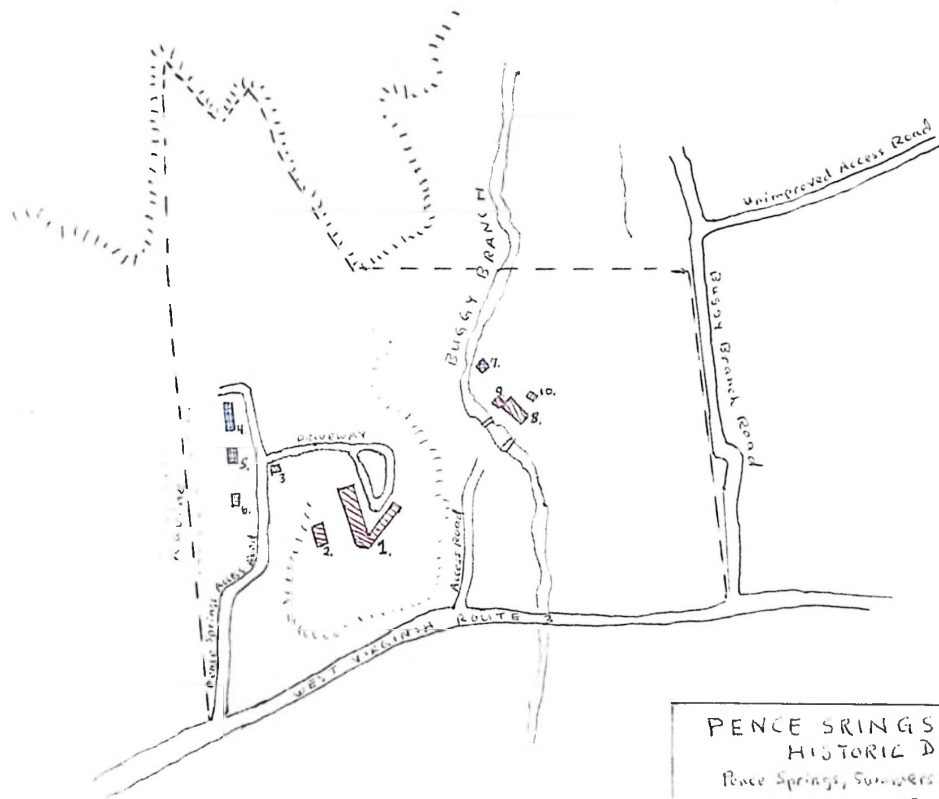
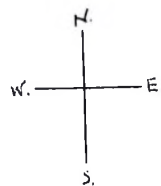
For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Geographical Data Item number 10 Page 2


with an unimproved access road (that runs east); thence in a line due west for 1,000 feet to the crest of a knoll that faces south; thence in a north western direction along the crest (or contour line) for 750 feet to where the contour line bends south; thence approximately 100 feet south along said contour line; thence west and then north for 200 feet along said contour line; thence due south, southwest 2,000 feet (staying for 600 feet along the contour line) to a point where the western side of the Pence Springs Hotel access road intersects with West Virginia Route 3; thence 1,500 feet east along the northern side of West Virginia Route 3 to the point of beginning, enclosing approximately 30 acres. This boundary thus encloses The Pence Springs Hotel, all its ancillary buildings, as well as significant landscape, especially the vista to the north, to give the rural district integrity.



PENCE SPRINGS HOTEL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Pence Springs, Summers County, West Virginia

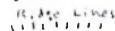
LEGEND

 PIVOTAL STRUCTURES

 CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

 INTRUSIVE STRUCTURES

 District Boundary

 Ridge Lines

Buildings are Numbered According to Part 7 of
National Register Nominations

 1 inch

Scale: 1" = 400'