
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2002



Richmond-Hamilton Farm
New River Gorge National River

Contents

Executive Summary

Landscape Description

CLI Hierarchy Description

Location Map

Boundary Description

Regional Context

Site Plan

Chronology

Statement Of Significance

History

Analysis And Evaluation

Management Information

Appendix

Executive Summary

General Introduction to the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, physical development, significance, National Register of Historic Places eligibility, condition, integrity and current management. Inventoried landscapes are listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise treated as cultural resources. To automate the inventory, the Cultural Landscapes Automated Inventory Management System (CLAIMS) database was created in 1996. CLAIMS provides an analytical tool for evaluating information associated with the CLI.

The information contained within the CLI is derived primarily from existing sources found in parks, libraries, archives, NPS regions and support offices, as well as through on-site investigation of the existing landscape. A variety of steps are involved in completing each cultural landscape inventory, from initial meetings with park management and staff to clarify the purpose of the CLI, to the historical research, to fieldwork and data input into CLAIMS, to assisting with the preparation of State Historic Preservation Officers consensus determination documentation.

Completion of the CLI for each landscape fulfills the inventory requirements of Section 110(a)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies, and the Cultural Resource Management Guideline. The CLI effort has established a baseline of cultural landscapes in the National Park System and serves as a vehicle for tracking the condition of these resources. Hence, the CLI effort supports the mission and long-term goals of the National Park Service Strategic Plan. Completion of the CLI, and entry of the data into the CLAIMS database, provides each park with an official count of the landscapes in the park, as well as the condition assessment required by the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA).

The Park Cultural Landscapes Program considers completion of the CLI a servicewide priority. The information is needed at the national and regional levels to inform planning efforts and budget decisions. At the park level, the CLI is needed to aid managers in planning, programming, prioritizing funding, enhancing interpretation programs, and recording treatment and management decisions for their park landscapes.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated on the Regional/Support Office level. Each Region/Support Office creates a priority list for CLI work based on park planning needs, proposed development and construction projects, lack of documentation (which adversely affects the preservation or management of the resource), baseline information needs and regional/support office priorities. The priority list is updated regularly as landscapes are inventoried and as priorities change. Once each landscape's CLI is completed, it is entered into the Regional/Support Office CLAIMS, and uploaded annually to the National Center in Washington, D.C. Only the data officially entered into the National Center database, considered certified data, is used for GPRA reporting.

The CLI is completed in a four level process; each level corresponds to a specific degree of effort and detail. The four levels include:

Level 0: Park Reconnaissance Survey identifies the scope of landscapes and component landscapes in a particular park, existing and needed information about the resources, immediate threats to the resources,

and establishes priorities for Level I inventory. Priorities for Level I are landscapes lacking information and consequently adversely affecting preservation or management of the resource, or is required for current or proposed park planning, resource management efforts, cultural and natural resource research projects (e.g. Historic Resource Study, Cultural Landscape Report, Vegetation Management Plan), or development and construction projects (e.g. utilities upgrade, FHWA projects, section 106 projects).

Level I: Landscape Reconnaissance Survey identifies existing and needed information for a specific landscape or component landscape in a park. Research is the primary function of Level I, involving a literature search of all readily available secondary source material. In addition, a site visit is conducted. Level I provides an initial evaluation of the significance and character of the landscape or component landscape if the landscape has not been previously evaluated or adequately documented. Additionally, priorities are established for Level II inventory. Priorities for Level II inventory are landscapes with immediate threats, proposed development or construction projects, are part of park planning or resource management efforts, have undetermined National Register status, or are lacking information.

Level II: Landscape Analysis and Evaluation identifies the landscape characteristics and their associated features of a specific landscape or component landscape. A landscape's National Register eligibility is determined or clarified if necessary. Level II includes condition assessment, as well as costs associated with treatment and stabilization. A Level II for landscapes or component landscapes whose National Register eligibility was formerly undetermined, is completed with a consensus determination by the State Historic Preservation Office. Finally, priorities are established for Level III inventory and the preparation of Cultural Landscape Reports. Priorities for Level III inventories are landscape features whose significance, condition, park planning or resource management objectives require a more detailed level of information. The CLI is not considered complete until a Level II CLI is finished.

Level III: Feature Inventory and Assessment provides an inventory and evaluation of a physical feature identified in Level II as contributing to the significance of a landscape or component landscape. In addition, the condition of the feature is assessed and costs associated with treatment are recorded.

As the inventory process proceeds from Level 0 to II, additional information is collected, prior information is refined, and decisions regarding if and how to proceed are made. The relationship between Level 0, I and II is direct; the CLI is not considered finished until Level II has been fully completed.

The ultimate goal of the Park Cultural Landscapes Program is a completed inventory of landscapes, component landscapes, and associated features in the National Parks. The end result, when combined with the List of Classified Structures (LCS), will be an inventory of all physical aspects of any given property.

Relationship between the CLI and a CLR

While there are some similarities, the CLI is not the same as a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Using secondary sources, the CLI provides information to identify historic significance and determine whether there are features still present to generally convey that historic significance. The CLI includes the preliminary identification and analysis to define contributing features, but does not provide the more definitive detail contained within a CLR.

A Cultural Landscape Report involves more in-depth research, using primary rather than secondary source material. The CLR is a treatment document and presents recommendations on how to preserve

the identified landscape and its contributing features. Conversely, the CLI records previous management decisions relating to the landscape and may advise on simple and appropriate mitigation for adverse impacts affecting the landscape. The CLI does not contain any new recommendations on preservation treatment, other than a very general cost estimate for stabilizing the landscape and its features.

Once the park makes the decision to manage and treat an identified cultural landscape, the Historical Landscape Architect providing technical assistance to the park can assist the park in deciding whether an identified landscape needs a Cultural Landscape Report to develop specific recommendations for treatment. For minimal actions, a CLI may be sufficient to guide Section 106 assessments of impacts.

New River Gorge National River and the CLI

According to NPS-28, “The CLI is a computerized, evaluated inventory of all cultural landscapes in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. Its purpose is to identify cultural landscapes in the system and provide information on their location, historical development, character-defining features, and management. The CLI assists park managers in planning, programming, and recording treatment and management decisions. CLI forms, including maps, drawings, and photographs, are maintained at the support offices and the parks.” (NPS-28 1997, 22).

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) at the Richmond-Hamilton Farm will provide valuable baseline information regarding its cultural landscape. The WVSHPO has determined that the buildings on the site are eligible to the National Register in concurrence with the recommendations of the Baker, Jr. report (Baker 1997). It has no structures listed on the National Register or in the List of Classified Structures.

The statement of significance contained within this document has been based on CLI secondary research of previous evaluations, a historic context study, and the National Register nomination of a similar resource in the New River Gorge (Trump-Lilly Farm). As this is a Level I CLI, the statement and period of significance should be considered as a preliminary draft that establishes the property as significant enough to warrant continuing the inventory to Level II. At this time, however, sufficient information regarding the historic conditions of the Richmond-Hamilton Farm is not available to complete a Level II CLI. At such time as this information becomes available and the Level II inventory proceeds, it is possible that these assessments will be altered.

Park Information

Park Name: New River Gorge National River
Administrative Unit: New River Gorge National River
Park Organization Code: 4780
Park Alpha Code: NERI

Property Level And CLI Number

Property Level: Landscape
Name: Richmond-Hamilton Farm
CLI Identification Number: 300209
Parent Landscape CLI ID Number: 300209

Inventory Summary

Inventory Level: Level I

Completion Status:

Level 0

Date Data Collected - Level 0: 8/20/2001
Level 0 Recorder: Nancy J. Brown
Date Level 0 Entered: 8/20/2001
Level 0 Data Entry Recorder: Nancy J. Brown
Level 0 Site Visit: Yes

Level I

Date Level I Data Collected: 7/17/2001
Level I Data Collection: Cheryl Sams, Nancy J. Brown, Matthew Witters
Date Level I Entered: 4/15/2002
Level I Data Entry Recorder: Cheryl Sams, Nancy J. Brown, Matthew Witters
Level I Site Visit: Yes

Explanatory Narrative:

The field work for the Level 1 inventory for the Richmond-Hamilton Farm was conducted in July 2001 by Cheryl Sams, Nancy J. Brown and Matthew Witters. Further historic research was performed and the report written by Sams, which was edited by Brown. Witters prepared the existing conditions maps, which were edited and revised by Sams.

Level 0 establishes the park in the CLAIMS database. Further information will be added as the Cultural Landscapes Inventory is completed at Level I and II.

Landscape Description

The Richmond-Hamilton Farm landscape consists of two tracts of land acquired by the National Park Service from two separate owners in the New River Gorge National River area of West Virginia. The first tract, 101-10 purchased Harry H. Ballard, is a 7.9-acre parcel that contains all the built structures that are features of the historic farm. While the second tract, 101-11 purchased from Earl and John Hellems, is much larger (20.24 acres) there were no improvements made to the site other than clearing the forest vegetation. However, the chain of title for the property indicates that the farm sold in 1902 to John S. Richmond by the heirs of William C. Richmond included 134 acres. The property was not split into the 7.9-acre parcel until it was sold to H. A. Hamilton in 1957. The Cultural Landscape Inventory is therefore making the assumption that during the period of significance, both parcels were part of the Richmond Farm.

The Richmond-Hamilton Farm, a former farm that is adjacent to the flood plain overlooking the New River, is one of the few remaining examples of subsistence farms in the New River Gorge. The property is located in the Richmond District of Raleigh County and is accessed by a one-lane dirt road that joins Route 26, which runs on the west side of the New River north of Hinton, WV.

The Richmond-Hamilton Farm landscape includes several features that are typical of subsistence farms in this region. They include a farmhouse, two split-log barns, a frame outbuilding, a utility building, a spring house, a pasture, field, and wooded hillside. The farm also contains two small archeological sites of unknown age that are located on the terrace close to Route 26 and along the stream behind the farmhouse.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

The Richmond-Hamilton Farm is a landscape located within the New River Gorge National River. The National Park Service owns a number of non-contiguous sites along the New River, some of which will be documented by the Cultural Landscapes Inventory. The Richmond-Hamilton Farm landscape is located in the southern section of the New River Gorge.

The New River Gorge National River is located in the Allegheny Cluster of the Northeast Region of the National Park Service.

Location Map

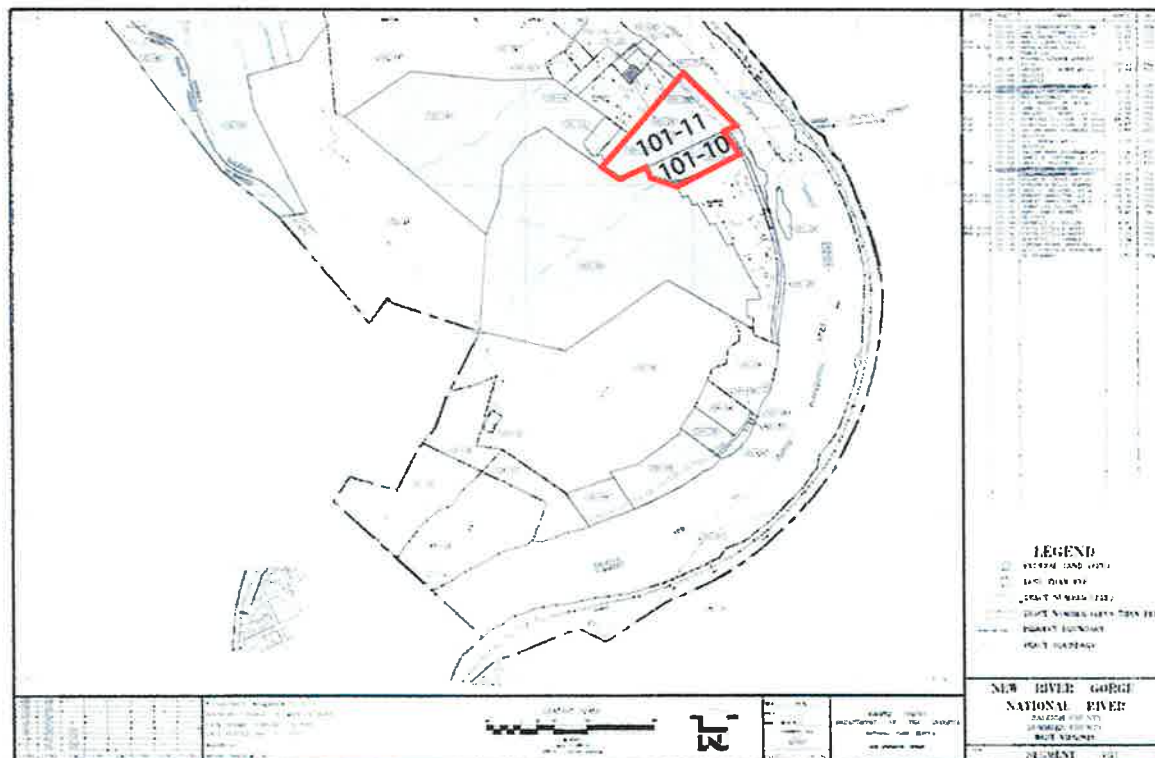


Location of New River Gorge National River within the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States (Source: www.mapquest.com)

Richmond-Hamilton Farm
New River Gorge National River



Location of the Richmond-Hamilton Farm within the New River Gorge National River (Source: <http://www.nps.gov/neri/graphics/parkmap.gif>)



New River Gorge National River Tract Map, Segment 101, demonstrating the location of the Richmond Hamilton Farm and its division into two tracts. The red property line is described in the Boundary Description section of this report.

Boundary Description

The boundary for the Richmond-Hamilton Farm landscape matches the property line for the National Park Service-owned 7.9-acre tract (101-10) and 20.24-acre tract (101-11). The property boundary description begins at the northwest corner of the property, which is located at the edge of the river at the northern most point of the property. The property line then heads approximately 930 feet southeast along the edge of the river. At this point, the property jogs approximately 150 feet west, across the Route 26 right of way at which point it heads southwest for about another 485 feet running parallel to the road. At this point the property line marks the southern-most edge of the property by heading approximately 860 feet west along the fenceline at the south end of the pasture. Near where the property enters the woods on the hillside, the property line shifts slightly west-northwest and continues up the hill for approximately 260 feet. At this point the line runs north along the hillside, behind the stone retaining wall and springhouse for approximately 315 feet, then turns northwest for 285 feet. Finally the property line runs approximately 1520 feet northeast to its point of origin.

7.9 acres (101-10) 20.24 acres (101-11)

Regional Context

Physiographic Context

The Richmond-Hamilton Farm is located in the Allegheny section of the Appalachian Plateaus Province. This section is indicated by a regular succession of high, sharp ridges separated by sharp, v-shaped valleys. The New River, a dominant natural feature near the Richmond-Hamilton Farm, is a sharply dropping river. Its elevation drops as quickly as 17.3 feet per mile north of the farm, which formed the sharp gorge for which this area is known. Near the Richmond-Hamilton Farm the river does not drop as quickly, so the valley has a wider U-shape. The gorge depth ranges from 600-800' and is approximately 1200' wide (Fuerst 1982, 8).

Cultural Context

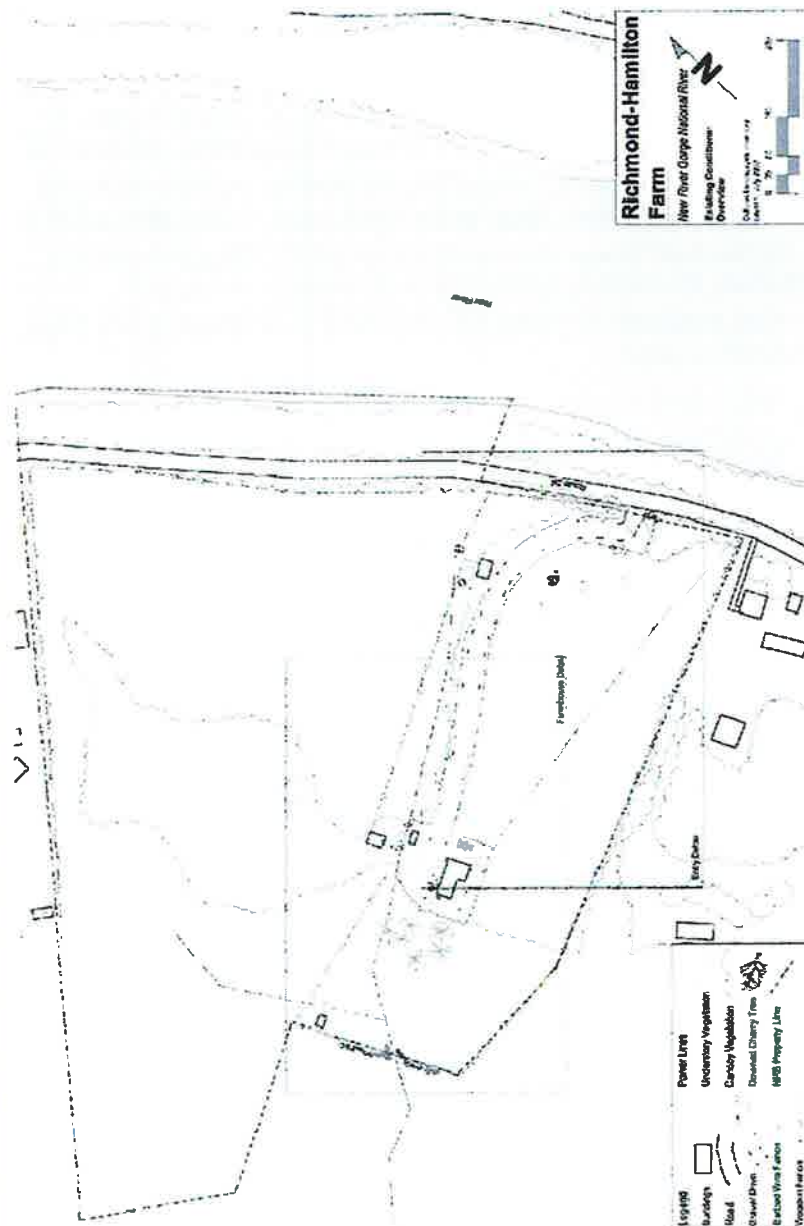
The Richmond-Hamilton Farm is located within a very rural area of West Virginia. However, the area is no longer is dominated by agricultural land use. The farm is situated among a series of single residential homes that line the river. The density of the houses varies from a few houses located on larger lots, like the houses located directly south of the farm, to the denser housing located immediately to the north.

Political Context

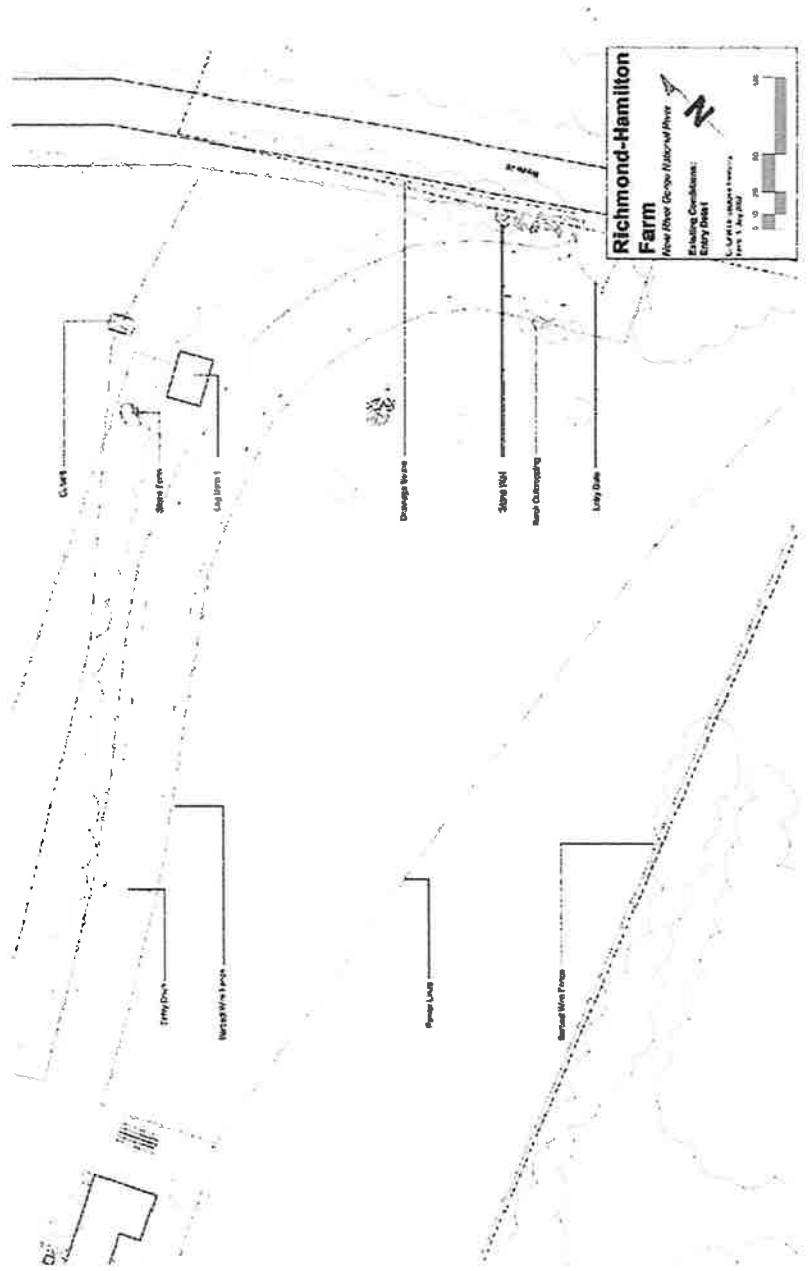
The Richmond-Hamilton Farm is located in the Richmond District of Raleigh County in West Virginia. It is accessed by Route 26, also known as River Road, which runs on the west side of the New River. The farm is in the community of Richmond Bottom, which is just north of Hinton, WV. The property is also in the Third Congressional District, and on Raleigh County Tax Parcel 19-22.

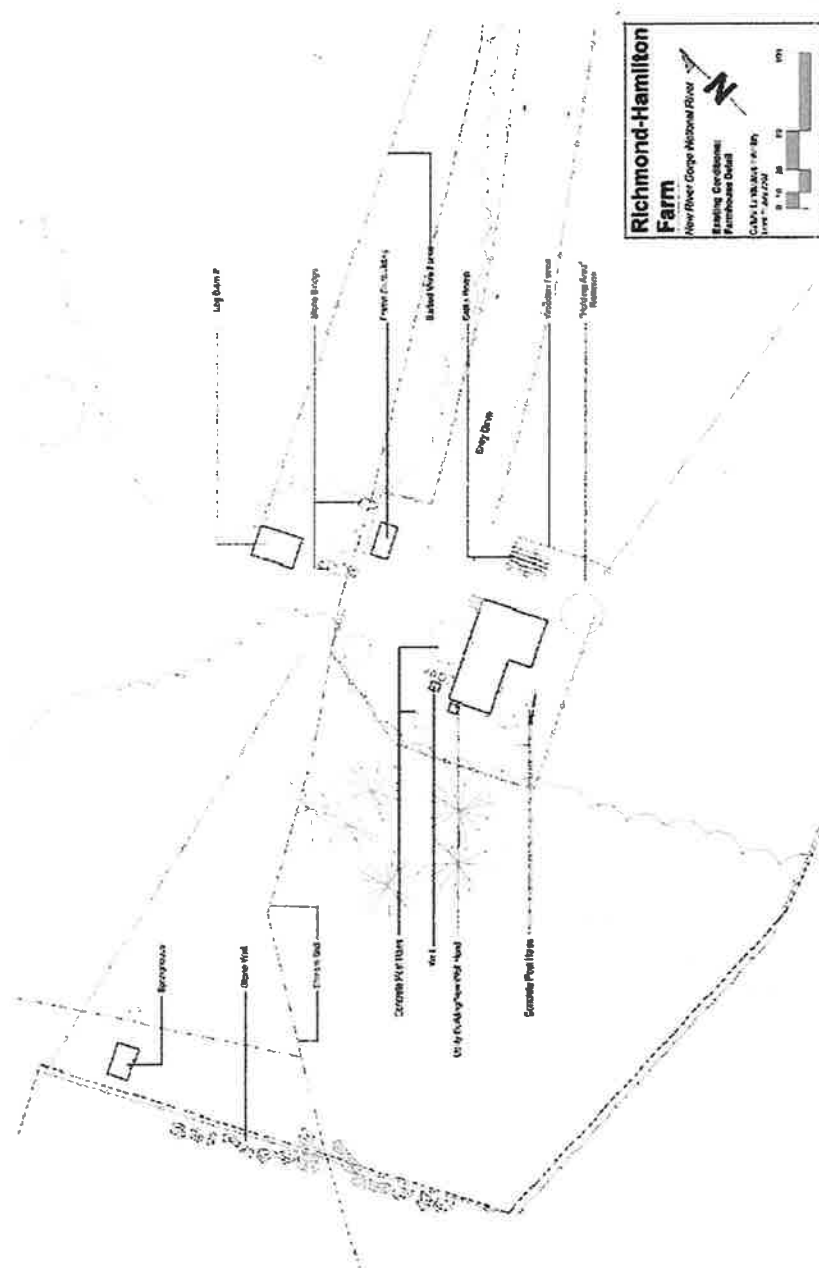
Site Plan

Richmond-Hamilton Farm Existing Conditions: Overview (See addenda for enlargement).



Richmond-Hamilton Farm Existing Conditions: Entry Detail (See addenda for enlargement).





Chronology

Year	Event	Description
11000 BC - 8000 BC	Inhabited	Paleo Indian Period: Native American habitation in New River Gorge (Land and Community Associates 1994, 2-2).
8000 BC - 1000 BC	Inhabited	Archaic Period: Native American habitation in New River Gorge (Land and Community Associates 1994, 2-2).
1000 BC - 900 AD	Inhabited	Woodland Period: Native American habitation in New River Gorge (Land and Community Associates 1994, 2-2).
900 AD - 1650 AD	Inhabited	Late Prehistoric Period: Native American habitation in New River Gorge (Land and Community Associates 1994, 2-2).
1650 AD - 1770 AD	Inhabited	Protohistoric Period: Native American habitation in New River Gorge (Land and Community Associates 1994, 2-2).
1671 AD - 1671 AD	Explored	Earliest known exploration by Europeans. Explorers: Batts and Fallam
1790 AD - 1790 AD	Built	State Road provided access to the New River Gorge and enabled more settlement.
1790 AD - 1870 AD	Farmed/Harvested	Farmers began to settle and clear land for subsistence farms. Settlement began along the river and then moved up onto the ridges as riverfront land became unavailable.
1873 AD - 1873 AD	Built	C&O Railroad built on the east side of the New River to link the Atlantic Coast to the Midwest.
1873 AD - 1950 AD	Exploited	Coal and timber industries became prevalent in the region after the railroads were established to provide a method to remove the resources from the New River Gorge.

1873 AD - 1950 AD	Settled	Opportunities for employment by the coal and timber industries caused settlement in denser populations such as towns and villages to increase.
1902 AD - 1902 AD	Purchased/Sold	134 acres sold to John S. Richmond by the heirs of William C. Richmond (Baker 1997, B-10).
1930 AD - 1950 AD	Abandoned	Coal and timber industries began to pull out of the region after the available resources were utilized.
1956 AD - 1956 AD	Purchased/Sold	142 acres sold to A.H. Lough, Earl and Mary Hellems by Zora A. Richmond (Baker 1997, B-10).
1957 AD - 1957 AD	Purchased/Sold	A. H. Lough, Earl and Mary Hellems sold the 7.9 acre tract 101-10 to H. A. Hamilton (Baker 1997, B-9).
1969 AD - 1969 AD	Established	First commercial whitewater outfitter opened at the New River Gorge.
1975 AD - 1975 AD	Purchased/Sold	Alice Ballard purchased 7.9 acres from the heirs of H. A. Hamilton (Baker 1997, B-9).
1978 AD - 1978 AD	Established	November 10, 1978 New River Gorge National River was established by Congress.
1987 AD - 1987 AD	Land Transfer	The will of Alice Ballard transferred the 7.9-acre property to Dr. Harry Hampton Ballard (Baker 1997, B-9).
1992 AD - 1992 AD	Purchased/Sold	The National Park Service purchased the 7.9-acre property from Harry H. and Dolly Ballard (Baker 1997, B-9).

Statement Of Significance

To have historical significance, a landscape must be associated with at least one of four criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places. The four criteria are Criterion A: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; Criterion B: Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; Criterion C: Embodies distinct characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; Criterion D: has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. These criteria can be judged to be significant at the national, state or local level.

The Richmond-Hamilton Farm has been determined to be significant at least at the local level under Criterion A, in that it may be associated with a broad pattern of American history: subsistence agriculture of the Mid-Appalachian region. It is representative of a culture of subsistence farms that were quite common in the New River Gorge in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The farm might also be significant under Criterion C, in that it contains vernacular architecture that was typical in the region in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Physical History

Native American Culture History and European Exploration: ca. 11,000 BC – 1790

Archeological research in the New River Gorge indicates that prehistoric occupation was continuous in the New River region from the Paleo Indian period to the Historic period (NPS-GMP 1982, 69). Dating back to the Paleo Indian period of 11,000 BC – 10,000 BC, the Native Americans in the New River Gorge region were mostly small, free-wandering groups that subsisted by hunting large game animals and foraging wild plants. (Fuerst 1981, 83) As they moved into the early Archaic period, the more temperate climate allowed the Native Americans to “shift to a more ‘diffuse’ subsistence mode based on seasonal hunting and gathering” (Fuerst 1981, 84). The late Archaic period is indicated by a more settled people who supplemented the hunting and gathering by harvesting sunflowers, pumpkins and gourds (Fuerst 1981, 87). As they progressed to the woodland period, the Native Americans had sedentary villages with economies based on intensive maize-based agriculture. The Native American presence was strong in this area up through contact with European explorers in the late 1600s.

The first explorers to discover the New River Gorge were Thomas Batts and Robert Fallam in 1671. They were sent out from Virginia by Major General Abraham Wood to find water on the other side of the mountains (Unrau 1996, 108). They discovered a stream that began to flow west instead of east and claimed all land drained by the river’s water for England.

Early Settlement 1740-1840

The early European settlement in the New River Gorge near present-day Narrows, VA, began after the English made the Treaty of Lancaster with the Six Nations in 1744. The treaty purchased all the land between the Alleghenies and the Ohio River from the Six Nations for 400 pounds. However, the Shawnee Indians disputed that all the land purchased by England belonged to the Six Nations and the settlers who began to move into the area suffered attacks.

There were several ways men could lay claim to areas in the New River Gorge. Since at this time this land was part of Virginia, a common way to claim land was known as “corn rights” (Unrau 1996, 118). A settler would choose an area and clear the land of trees and plant corn. After the corn was grown, the settler would send a claim for the land to Richmond, the capital of Virginia, for the land. As long as no other claims on the piece of property were made within six months of the original claim, a patent for the land would be issued to the settler. Parcels of land would also be given to men for payment for their service in the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars.

Early European settlers in the 1700s and early 1800s were primarily English, German and Scotch Irish. The completion of the Old State Road from the James River to Kanawha Falls in 1790 made the New River area more open to settlement. The settlers tended to follow a dendritic pattern when choosing their lands. They would first choose the lower land adjacent to the New River and its tributaries. Then as the fertile lower lands were filled, they would move up onto the ridges and plateaus of the Allegheny Mountains. The farms during this time were subsistence farms that would only provide for their immediate family. During this period the farms were very remote and had little contact with others. The settlers needed to be self-reliant for all of their necessities: food, shelter, clothing and tools. William Richmond, a Revolutionary War veteran, settled near Sandstone Falls in 1796. The Richmond family

became well known in the region and descendants of William Richmond owned the Richmond-Hamilton Farm in the 1800s.

Agricultural Development: 1860 –1900

By the late 1800s agriculture began to develop beyond simple subsistence farms. “West Virginia was a fairly homogenous rural state, with about 80 percent of its people engaged in general agriculture, including both horticulture and animal husbandry” (Unrau 1996, 113). However, the farms in the New River Gorge “remained essentially diversified and independent, producing primarily for their own use. During the mid-to-late 19th century, Appalachia contained a greater concentration of noncommercial family farms than any other area of the nation” (Unrau 1996, 123). It is during this time period that the farmhouse and wood barns at the Richmond-Hamilton Farm were thought to have been built. The way that Unrau describes a typical mountain farm in Appalachia seems to match many of the features of the Richmond-Hamilton Farm.

“The typical mountain farm in Appalachia, including most of those in New River Gorge, during the preindustrial period, consisted of a disparate mixture of bottomland and rugged mountainside. The average farm had about 25 percent of its land in cultivation, 20 percent in cleared pasture, and the remainder in woodland. Dotted by springs and frequently crossed by a creek, the highland farm was generally blessed with good water, a relatively mild climate, and a long growing season seldom threatened by early frost. Corn was the staple crop, occupying about 50 percent of the acreage under cultivation, but oats and wheat were also harvested, as well as hay, sorghum, rye, potatoes, buckwheat, and other crops. Most farms had a vegetable garden, beehive, and apple orchard, and often a variety of pear, plum, cherry, or other fruit trees. Wild blackberries and huckleberries were abundant, as were rabbits, squirrels, quail, and other wild game. By the late 19th century, large portions of the mountain hillsides had been cleared (usually by burning or girdling the trees) for raising cattle, sheep, mules, and fowl. The greatest proportion of the farm, including the “public land” that surrounded it, remained in woodland, however, and it was here that the family hogs grazed throughout much of the year” (Unrau 1996, 123).

The Railroad and the Coal and Timber Industries: 1870s –1950s

The coming of the railroad to the New River Gorge brought dramatic and profound change to the region. The rugged physical environment of the gorge had limited human activity in the area, but the railroad allowed human access to the pristine woods and mineral wealth of the New River. After the railroad came, numerous coal mining towns grew up throughout the region. Towns were developed to provide a commercial center (Thurmond) and a railroad center (Hinton). Millions of tons of coal and coke were produced in the region and thousands of people took up residence in the gorge. The railroads also opened the New River Gorge to the logging industry. The virgin hardwood forests of the Appalachians in West Virginia were very tempting to the lumber magnates of the East who were looking for new sources of lumber. The railroads offered a means to inexpensively move the lumber to their markets, and many temporary lumbering camps were established throughout the gorge until the area’s lumber was tapped out. Then, they would pack up, often dismantling houses and other structures, and move to a new area.

The New River Gorge prospered in the first half of the 20th century due to the coal and lumber

industries. However, when the natural resources were used up, the large industries moved out and many of the workers left the region as well.

Post-Coal and Lumber Recession: 1950s – 1970s

The New River Gorge faced a difficult time after the coal and lumber industries depleted West Virginia's natural resources and moved on. Many of the "boom towns" that had sprung up to support the people working at the mills and mines cleared out and became deserted. The logging and mining camps were abandoned or moved and nature began to reclaim the land. Much of the forest grew back and began to cover the denuded hills. Those people that stayed in the region had difficulty finding work.

New River Gorge National River and the Recreation Industry: 1970s – Present

The rugged terrain and wild river, with many series of rapids that prohibited the use of the New River as a means of transportation in the 18th and 19th centuries, provided an ideal use beginning in the late 19th and continuing into the latter half of the 20th century: recreation. As some of the most challenging whitewater courses in the Eastern United States, the New River Gorge and Gauley River have become a destination spot for weekend recreational use. The first commercial whitewater outfitter opened in the New River Gorge in 1969 and operations have increased steadily in the past 30 years. Rafting has become one of the main sources for the economy in the New River Gorge.

In 1978, Congress established 53 miles of the New River from Hinton, WV, to U.S. 19 near Fayetteville, WV, as the New River Gorge National River. The park comprises approximately 71,000 acres surrounding the New River in south central West Virginia. "The national river was established for the purpose of conserving and interpreting outstanding natural, scenic, and historic values and objects in and around the New River Gorge and preserving as a free-flowing stream an important segment of the New River in West Virginia for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations" (Unrau 1996, 1).

The National Park Service purchased the Richmond-Hamilton Farm in 1992. After purchase, the NPS stabilized and painted some of the buildings, and keeps up general maintenance of the landscape. The house is currently vacant.



Vacant Richmond-Hamilton Farmhouse (PHSO 2001).

Analysis And Evaluation

Summary

The Richmond-Hamilton Farm is one of a few examples of a pre-industrial subsistence farmstead in the New River Gorge that has not been significantly updated or altered. Early settlers in the New River Gorge primarily cleared and farmed their land for their own use. Large farms that produced commercial crops were not prevalent in this area. When the railroad provided easier access to the region in the 1870s, the area began to be settled much more densely with people who made their living by working in the coal and timber industries and many of the subsistence farms were abandoned.

The Richmond-Hamilton Farm retains many of the features of a subsistence farm. There is the farmhouse, two log barns and a frame outbuilding that are contributing features of the farm. The spatial organization of these buildings, entry drive and pastures most likely has not been changed. As a Level 1 Inventory, assumptions have been made about the age and use of many of the features on the site. There is enough evidence and information on the site to establish that the Richmond-Hamilton Farm has enough significance to warrant a Level II inventory. However, at this time there is not adequate historical information available to be able to establish the site-specific history of the Richmond-Hamilton Farm, which is necessary to assess the integrity of the historic features. When such information becomes available, the Level II Inventory will be completed and will verify or correct the assumptions made at this level.

Landscape Characteristics And Features

Natural Systems And Features

The Richmond-Hamilton Farm is located in the Allegheny section of the Appalachian Plateaus Province. This section is indicated by a regular succession of high, sharp ridges separated by sharp, v-shaped valleys. The New River, a dominant natural feature near the Richmond-Hamilton Farm, is a sharply dropping river. Its elevation drops as quickly as 17.3 feet per mile north of the farm, which formed the sharp gorge for which this area is known. Near the Richmond-Hamilton Farm the river is meandering and the bottomland is on the low-energy side of the river. The gorge depth ranges from 600-800' and is approximately 1200' wide (Fuerst 1982, 8).

The Richmond-Hamilton Farm is located adjacent to the flood plain of the New River. The farm is situated to take advantage of the level ground and richer soil closer to the river for agricultural purposes, and the house and outbuildings are placed on the higher land closer to the mountain to avoid flooding of the river. There is a small rock outcropping located near the front entrance of the pasture. This outcropping, along with the stone walls and stone-lined culverts, indicate that the pasture originally had many large rocks before it was cleared for cultivation.



View from farmhouse of Allegheny Mountains surrounding the New River Gorge (PHSO 2001).

Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of the Richmond-Hamilton Farm seems to be closely related to landuse and topography.

The farmhouse and outbuildings are set back away from the Route 26 against the base of the mountains. The entry drive curves around the pasture in front of the house. The first log barn is located at the northern end of the property adjacent to the entry drive.

The farmhouse cluster consists of the farmhouse, a utility building and a frame outbuilding. The farmhouse is centered in the farmhouse clearing and the utility building is located directly behind the house. The framed outbuilding is located at the west side of this clearing. The house cluster is set off from the pasture by a barbed wire fence.

Immediately past the framed outbuilding is the second barn. It is separated from the house cluster by the stream bed ravine. There are remnants of fencing in this area to contain the livestock. The fencing near this barn opens to the vegetated hillside where the springhouse is located.

Land Use

The land use at the Richmond-Hamilton Farm has been subsistence farming with a single-family dwelling. The large pasture located between the house and Route 26 appears to have been used for large livestock, such as cattle. There are remnants of a cattle ramp located adjacent to the pasture, and the fencing appears to have been electrified at some point.

The second barn's smaller pens and location adjacent to the wooded mountainside seem to indicate that smaller livestock, such as sheep or pigs, were kept here. It is possible that the smaller livestock were released on the hillside to graze and were watered by water collected from the springhouse.

The open field beyond the second barn was most likely used for agricultural purposes, such as growing corn and other subsistence agricultural crops. More research will be necessary to determine if these assumptions are correct.

Topography

The Richmond-Hamilton Farm is located adjacent to the New River flood plain. The main part of the farm takes advantage of the gently sloping topography to accommodate the pasture and field. The elevation drops 25 feet from the house to the entry gate, which is a distance of approximately 400 feet.

The topography changes distinctly at the rear of the house. The grade begins to slope more steeply for the first 200 feet from the house, then climbs sharply up the mountain. This steeper topography has not been cleared of its forest vegetation.

The site is also marked by a significant drainage swale that runs along the entire site close to the border between the two tracts of land comprising the site. The drainage swale contains an ephemeral stream that will run with water during times of precipitation or during the spring thaw. The swale is a naturally occurring feature, but it has been enhanced and stabilized by man-made rock placements in several locations. More details of these enhancements are located in the Small Scale Features section of this report.



Sharply sloping topography located directly behind farmhouse. Note grove of spruce mentioned in Vegetation section (PHSO 2001).

Vegetation

The vegetation at Richmond-Hamilton Farm consists of both natural and planted specimens. The large pasture located between the house and the road is covered in a natural grass that appears to be maintained by semi-regular mowing. There are also several planted White Ash trees [*Fraxinus americana*] in the pasture that appear to be planted in a line. Three of the trees are standing, and the fourth tree had fallen at the time of the field survey.

The farmhouse cluster of the site has turf grass groundcover and several planted specimen trees, including Mulberry [*Morus* sp.]. As the topography begins to steepen behind the house, deciduous trees such as tulip poplar [*Liriodendron tulipifera*], maple [*Acer* sp.] and oak [*Quercus* sp.] begin to cover the landscape. However, there is a grove of mature spruce trees [*Picea* sp.] near the edge of the woods that appear to be deliberately planted. The large field north of the house cluster is covered with tall grass, wildflowers and weeds. This section of the farm does not appear to be maintained by the park staff.

Unplanned vegetation growth is having an impact around the site as well. There are thick growths of vegetation, such as poison ivy [*Rhus radicans*], sweet pea [*Lathyrus latifolius*], and honeysuckle vines [*Lonicera* sp.], in drainage swales and on the property boundary along Route 26.



Deciduous trees located in pasture between farmhouse and road (PHSO 2001).



Looking south at gate entrance to farm with Route 26 immediately behind photographer. Understory invasive vegetation typical on the site. Note dry-laid masonry wall mentioned in the Buildings and Structures section of this report (PHSO 2001).

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Planted trees in pasture and farmhouse yard	Undetermined			
Unplanned vegetation: undergrowth and vines	Non-Contributing			
Deciduous tree forest cover on mountain	Undetermined			
Group of spruce trees at forest's edge	Undetermined			

Circulation

Richmond-Hamilton Farm has very few features that pertain to a formal circulation system. The primary circulation feature is the one-lane gravel drive that leads west from Route 26, then curves northwest to the log barn before it turns southwest to lead to the house cluster. The drive is approximately 8-10' wide and grass has begun to encroach into the gravel. The ratio of grass to gravel increases as the drive approaches the house.

There are some minor pedestrian circulation features at the Richmond-Hamilton Farm as well. The house has limestone stepping stone walks leading to the front and side doors. A stone path also leads to the stone bridge that covers the drainage swale between the frame outbuilding and the smaller log barn.

The large field west of the smaller barn has several paths worn by animals such as deer, but no other kind of man-made circulation.



Gravel entry drive heading toward the first log barn (PHSO 2001).

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Entry drive	Contributing			
Stone bridge	Undetermined			
Stepping stone walks	Undetermined			

Buildings And Structures

Most of the buildings at the Richmond-Hamilton Farm relate to its use as a pre-industrial subsistence farm. These buildings include the farmhouse, two log barns, a frame outbuilding and the springhouse. The farmhouse (S-122) appears to have been constructed in two phases. The main section measures 42'x14' and has a wooden porch supported on piers. The addition measures 36'x19' and includes a porch on both the north and south elevations. The house is sided with clapboard and has a metal gable roof. The original house has a sandstone foundation and the addition is supported on a concrete foundation. It is possible that under the clapboard siding the original house might be constructed with chestnut logs with dovetail-corner notching similar to the barns located on the site. Adjacent to the west end of the addition is a small concrete block utility building with wood gable and roof that contains the well head and water heater.

The first and larger of the two barns (S-119) that is located along the entry drive, close to the east end of the property, most likely housed larger livestock such as cattle and horses. The barn is constructed of squared chestnut logs with half-dovetail notching. The 1½- story main section of the barn has pens located on the north and south sides, and there is also a loft. The metal gable roof has a large overhang that covers the animal pens. The barn's east side also has a large overhang, which is supported by log posts.

The second barn (S-120) is located north of the farmhouse, and it is similar in construction to the other barn but smaller in size. The 1.5 story barn with loft storage is also constructed of squared chestnut logs with half-dovetail notching. The metal roof is a single steep pitched gable with large overhangs that cover the animal pens.

Between the house and the second barn is a small frame outbuilding that is supported on concrete piers. The one-room building has clapboard siding and a gable metal roof. Several of the clapboards are rotting or missing.

Located west of the house and built into the hillside is a small springhouse. The structure is wood framed, but sided with poured concrete. The gable roof is also covered with poured concrete resting on wood planks. The springhouse is situated at a spring head so that it collects the water emerging from the mountain, and transports it via a wooden trough. More research will be necessary to determine the age of all the buildings located at the Richmond-Hamilton Farm.

The Richmond-Hamilton Farm also has some stone wall structures at several locations on the site. The largest retaining wall is located near the springhouse on the hillside. The stacked stone wall runs approximately 100' south of the springhouse except where there is a break to accommodate a streambed that leads all the way through the site. The second stone structure is a freestanding stone wall that is located within the understory vegetation at the edge of Route 26. This approximately 3-foot high wall runs along the property line at the road and would have been a decorative feature marking the entrance to the farm. Today the wall has toppled in several places and is difficult to see due to the vegetation.



Log barn 1 looking northwest from entry drive (PHSO 2001).



Log barn 2 (PHSO 2001).



Frame outbuilding looking southeast from stone bridge over stream bed (PHSO 2001).



Springhouse located on hillside. (Note tub in foreground, which is mentioned in Small Scale Features section (PHSO 2001).

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Farmhouse	Contributing			
Frame outbuilding	Contributing			
Log Barn 1	Contributing			
Log Barn 2	Contributing			
Stone wall	Contributing			
Utility building	Non-Contributing			
Springhouse	Undetermined			

Views And Vistas

The views at the Richmond Hamilton Farm are some of its most aesthetic assets. The view out from the farmhouse encompasses the New River Gorge, and while the river itself is not visible, the sight of the series of ridges surrounding the valley is quite remarkable. There is also a good view from the entry drive to the house and outbuildings in their rural setting. The house's location at the base of the mountain provides a focal point and an ideal backdrop. There are several houses located adjacent to the south side of the farm that are not screened from view. Their presence is not overly intrusive, but they are clearly not contributing to the period of significance.

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
View of New River Gorge	Contributing			
View of farm from entry drive	Contributing			

Small Scale Features

Very few of the small scale features at the Richmond-Hamilton Farm appear to be contributing. Most seem to be more modern additions. Additional research will be necessary to determine the approximate date that each feature was installed.

Small scale features that might be contributing include a filled-in well, concrete post holes and a stone culvert. A stone feature located to the north of the farmhouse is most likely a well that was filled in when the more modern wellhead was built inside the utility shed. The structure has poured concrete walls measuring 5'-square with a circular hole in the center that has been filled with dirt. The farmhouse yard also has several concrete supports for wooden posts. The spacing of these post holes probably indicate a previous fenceline within the farmhouse yard. The final small scale feature that may be contributing is a stone culvert located adjacent to barn 1. The culvert made of local stones, most likely dug up from the pasture, is about four feet wide. The sides of the culvert are supported by stacked stones and one large stone, which is approximately 5-6 feet long and rests on top of the two stacked walls to form the top. The culvert is difficult to access because of the thick growth of undergrowth in this area.

Non-contributing small scale features at the Richmond-Hamilton Farm include the fencing and gate, the utility poles, a basin or tub, and a cattle ramp. Most of the fencing on the site is barbed wire strung between natural wooden poles. The only exception is the split-rail fence located immediately in front of the farmhouse. A locked metal gate across the entry drive has been added to block unauthorized vehicular access to the site. There is a series of utility poles that run through the middle of the pasture to bring electricity and phone service to the farmhouse. Up on the wooded hillside near the springhouse is a bathtub or basin. There are several hoses in the vicinity that indicate that the basin was filled with water from the springhouse. It is possible that the basin could have been used to provide drinking water for the farm's livestock. The final small scale feature on the site is a wooden cattle ramp and the remains of a holding pen. The cattle ramp is located in front of the farmhouse and on the south side of the ramp is a series of cut-off posts that are most likely the remains of a holding pen for cattle waiting to be loaded onto trucks.

More research is necessary to verify the age and functions of all the small scale features listed in this report.



Locked metal entry gate barring access to site from Route 26 (PHSO 2001).



Stone culvert built over stream bed adjacent to barn 1 (PHSO 2001).

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Barbed wire fencing	Non-Contributing			
Basin	Non-Contributing			
Cattle ramp	Undetermined			
Concrete post holes	Undetermined			
Holding pen remains	Non-Contributing			
Metal gate	Non-Contributing			
Split rail fencing	Undetermined			
Stone culvert	Undetermined			
Utility poles	Non-Contributing			
Well	Undetermined			

Management Information

Descriptive And Geographic Information

Historic Name(s): Richmond-Hamilton Farm
Current Name(s): Richmond-Hamilton Farm
Management Unit:
Tract Numbers: 101-10, 101-11
State and County: Raleigh County, WV
Size (acres): 28.14

Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM(s):	Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	17	510410	4171820
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	17	510080	4171580
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	17	510600	4171560
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	17	510280	4171320

GIS File Name:

GIS File Description:

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: No Documentation

Explanatory Narrative:

The statement of significance contained within this document has been based on CLI secondary research of previous evaluations, a historic context study, and the National Register nomination of a similar resource in the New River Gorge (Trump-Lilly Farm). As this is a Level I CLI, the statement and period of significance should be considered as a preliminary draft that establishes the property as significant enough to warrant continuing the inventory to Level II. At this time, however, sufficient information regarding the historic conditions of the Richmond-Hamilton Farm is not available to complete a Level II CLI. At such time as this information becomes available and the Level II inventory proceeds, it is possible that these assessments will be altered.

National Register Eligibility: Undetermined

Explanatory Narrative:

Date of Eligibility Determination:

National Register Classification: Site

Significance Level: State

Contributing/Individual: Individual

Significance Criteria: C -- Inventory Unit embodies distinctive characteristics of type/period/method of construction; or represents work of master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents significant/distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction
A -- Inventory Unit is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

Period Of Significance

Time Period: 1870 - 1952

Historic Context Theme: Developing the American Economy

Historic Context Subtheme: Agriculture

Historic Context Facet: Subsistence Agriculture

Area Of Significance:

Category: Agriculture

Priority: 1

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic

Landmark Status: No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Vernacular Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Use/Function Category:	Agriculture/Subsistence
Use/Function:	Livestock
Detailed Use/Function:	Livestock
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic
Use/Function Category:	Agriculture/Subsistence
Use/Function:	Agricultural Field
Detailed Use/Function:	Agricultural Field
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic
Use/Function Category:	Agriculture/Subsistence
Use/Function:	Agricultural Outbuilding
Detailed Use/Function:	Barn
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic
Use/Function Category:	Domestic (Residential)
Use/Function:	Single Family Dwelling
Detailed Use/Function:	Single Family House
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Description:

The adjacent lands at the Richmond-Hamilton Farm do not detract from the site. The farm still exists in a rural setting, although there are several single family homes directly south of the farm. The area is not facing any severe development pressure so its situation should not change in the immediate future. The only audible intrusion on the site is the sound of vehicular traffic on Route 26, which is the primary road to provide access to the west side of the river. However, traffic is not constant so the intrusion is intermittent.

General Management Information

Management Category:

Management Category Date:

Explanatory Narrative:

Condition Assessment And Impacts

The criteria for determining the condition of landscapes is consistent with the Resource Management Plan Guideline definitions (1994) and is decided with the concurrence of park management. Cultural landscape conditions are defined as follows:

Good: indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

Undetermined: Not enough information available to make an evaluation.

Condition Assessment:	Fair
Assessment Date:	07/20/2001
Date Recorded:	03/03/2002
Park Management Concurrence:	No
Level Of Impact Severity:	Moderate

Stabilization Measures:

Impact:

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Uncontrolled vegetative growth is adversely affecting the Richmond-Hamilton Farm, and is most prevalent along fencerows, walls, within the drainage swale, at the edge of the forest canopy and within the field located on the northern tract of the property. The CLI recommends taking stabilization measures in the areas where the cultural resources are being irreversibly damaged. Specifically, vegetation is growing on and around the stone wall located along Route 26 on both sides of the entry drive, and at the locations where there are stone bridges and culverts over the drainage swale. Uncontrolled vegetation in both these areas is causing the wall to collapse and the culverts to fail.

Note to park: Cost estimates for clearing this vegetation will need to be prepared jointly by the PHSO CLI staff, the NERI CLI contact and NERI maintenance staff. The cost estimate will need to be prepared before the final draft of this Level I CLI is completed.

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Structural deterioration is another impact that is adversely affecting the condition of the Richmond-Hamilton Farm landscape. While the house has been closed up with vented windows and painted to aid its preservation, some of the other buildings and structures need some stabilization measures as well. It is the recommendation of the CLI that the park initiate putting the buildings and structures of the Richmond-Hamilton Farm on the List of Classified Structures, which will then provide stabilization measures and costs to preserve the buildings.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Public Access: No Access Currently

Treatment

Approved Treatment:

Approved Treatment Document:

Document Date:

Explanatory Narrative:

Approved Treatment Completed:

Approved Treatment Cost

**LCS Structure Approved
Treatment Cost:**

**Landscape Approved
Treatment Cost:**

Cost Date:

Level of Estimate:

Cost Estimator:

Explanatory Description:

Stabilization Costs

LCS Structure Stabilization Cost:

Landscape Stabilization Costs:

Cost Date:

Level Of Estimate:

Cost Estimator:

Explanatory Description:

Documentation Assessment and Checklist

Documentation Assessment: Fair

Documentation:

Document: General Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1982

Adequate Documentation:

Document: Resource Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1982

Adequate Documentation:

Appendix

Bibliography

Citations:

Citation Author:	Baker, Jr. Michael
Citation Title:	New River Parkway: Cultural Resources Draft Technical Report for the Proposed New River Parkway Draft Environmental Impact Statement Addendum Volume III
Year of Publication:	1997
Source Name:	NERI archives
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	NERI Archives

Citation Author:	Fuerst, David N.
Citation Title:	A Cultural Research Project, The New River Gorge National River, West Virginia, Volume I - Prehistory
Year of Publication:	1981
Source Name:	CRBIB
Citation Number:	010869

Citation Author:	Land and Community Associates
Citation Title:	Grandview New River Gorge Cultural Landscape Report
Year of Publication:	1994
Source Name:	CRBIB
Citation Number:	402236

Citation Author: Marshall, Paul D
Citation Title: A Cultural Research Project, The New River Gorge
National River, West Virginia, Volume II - History,
Architecture and Community
Year of Publication: 1981
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 010867

Citation Author: Nicely, John
Citation Title: The Trump-Lilly Farm: Historic Structures & Cultural
Landscape Report
Year of Publication: 1993
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 016590

Citation Author: Staff
Citation Title: The New River Gorge National River, A Cultural
Resource Inventory
Year of Publication: 1990
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 402229
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Author: Unrau, Harlan D.
Citation Title: Special History Study/Historic Context Study
Year of Publication: 1996
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 402227
Citation Type: Narrative

Supplemental Information

Title: Existing Conditions Photographs

Description: Photographs taken on site by the Philadelphia Support Office CLI field team, July 2001.