

3067

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 30 1988

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Corbin, George T., Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

Corbin Cabin

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Shenandoah National Park

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Nethers

NA VICINITY OF

7

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Virginia

51

Madison

113

3 CLASSIFICATION

Number of Resources within Property: 1 Contributing building

CATEGORY**OWNERSHIP****STATUS****PRESENT USE**☐ DISTRICT☒ PUBLIC☒ OCCUPIED (periodically)☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ BUILDING(S)☐ PRIVATE☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ COMMERCIAL☒ PARK☐ STRUCTURE☐ BOTH☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ SITE☐ PUBLIC ACQUISITION**ACCESSIBLE**☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECT

NA IN PROCESS

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC

NA BEING CONSIDERED

☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ NO☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER: recreation**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Mid-Atlantic Region

STREET & NUMBER

143 South Third Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Philadelphia

NA VICINITY OF

PA 19106

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Madison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Madison

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

General Management Plan for Shenandoah National Park

DATE

January 1983

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Shenandoah National Park Headquarters

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Luray

Virginia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☒ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Corbin Cabin was built ca. 1910 by George T. Corbin. As originally constructed, the cabin consisted of a living room and an upstairs room directly overhead. The kitchen was added by Corbin at a later date, and a lean-to bathroom had been partially completed when Mr. Corbin was evicted from the property in 1938. The property was purchased by the Commonwealth of Virginia for eventual inclusion within Shenandoah National Park. From the time of its abandonment in 1938 to 1953 the cabin was vacant. In 1954 the Potomac-Appalachian Trail Club renovated the cabin for use as an overnight stopping point for hikers in Shenandoah National Park.

Exterior - As in the days when the cabin was first constructed, no roads lead to the cabin. Today, the closest road is Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park, approximately 1.5 miles distant. The cabin is a 22 foot by 16 foot single room saddle and "V" notched log cabin with side and rear log lean-tos. The 11 foot by 12-1/2 foot lean-to on the northeast side was under construction when the cabin was vacated by the Corbin family in 1938. It was later completed by the Potomac-Appalachian Trail Club and is now used as a sleeping area. The 9 foot by 16 foot rear lean-to has a smaller stone chimney behind the stone cabin chimney and is used as a kitchen. The cabin and rear lean-to rest upon an enclosed stone foundation. The side lean-to rests on supporting stones under the corners. A tin roof covers the entire structure including the front porch. This roof has been covered over by layers of asphaltic roofing compound to preserve it and seal leaks. A front porch and stairs leading to the front porch which were part of the original construction of the cabin have been replaced in kind by the Potomac-Appalachian Trail Club. To reduce vandalism, the club has added bars and shutters on the windows and bars on the doors. Scattered about the one-acre tract surrounding the cabin are features which were once part of the farmstead of George T. Corbin. They include stone walls, fences, and building foundations.

Interior - The interior consists of the previously mentioned living and kitchen areas as well as the side lean-to. An attic or loft area above the main living room is reached by a stairway to the right of the front door. The attic ceiling is made up of peeled logs running the full length of the building. On top of the logs are rafters which are flat boards laid on their sides with lath on top.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Corbin Cabin, Madison County, Va.

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

6

PAGE 2

Title

List of Classified Structures

Date

February 21, 1976 XFederal

Depository

National Park Service, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office (Phila., Pa.);
Shenandoah NP (Luray, Va.); Washington Office (Wash., D.C.)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☒ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1909-10 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE *

Corbin Cabin is significant in that it is the only structure in Shenandoah National Park which remains as an intact example of a mountain cabin. It is typical of those built and used by residents of the various "hollow" communities which existed prior to the establishment of Shenandoah National Park. Hollows are small, remote mountain valleys, in this case where small groups of people resided.

The area in which Corbin Cabin is located is known as Nicholson Hollow, which is thought to have been permanently settled in the late-18th century. The hollows of the area were occupied by families whose livelihoods were dependent upon grazing, farming, distilling, apple growing, and similar agricultural pursuits. In purchasing land for the establishment of the Shenandoah National Park, families which formerly occupied the area were moved and the culture which once existed in the area was dispersed. George T. Corbin was typical of the residents who lived in the vicinity, and his former home remains as the sole complete testimony to the lives of the mountain farmers.

The alterations that have been made to the cabin such as the completion of the side lean-to which was partially constructed at the time the cabin was abandoned, the replacement of the front porch and steps, and the addition of a covering to the original metal roof, do not detract from the significance of the structure. Because of the relative isolation of the structure, most alterations have been carried out in a fashion similar to that used in the original construction, that is, simple hand tools have been used.

Originally the area around the cabin contained several out-buildings. Because of lack of maintenance, these buildings and structures such as various pens, hen houses, and other storage facilities necessary to mountain life have fallen into rubble. Remnant features of the structures can still be found in the vicinity of the cabin. Stone fences and non-native plants left behind as the Corbins departed are still evident. The land around the cabin completes the picture and provides physical evidence of the occupation of the property.

The Potomac-Appalachian Trail Club continues to maintain and use the cabin as a back country, overnight facility.

*Corbin Cabin qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, because it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history: the exploration and settlement of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the southern Appalachians; and Criteria C, because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction: the mountain cabin.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Pollock, George Freeman. Skyland the Heart of the Shenandoah National Park. (Berryville, Virginia:Chesapeake Book Company, 1960).
- Lambert, Darwin. The Earth Man Story. (New York:The Exposition Press, 1972).
- Shenandoah National Park, Administrative and Archival Files, 1936 to present.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

Quadrangle Name Old Rag Mtn., Va.

Quadrangle Scale 1:24,000

A 17 731200 4275760
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

In Nicholson Hollow at end of Corbin Cabin cut-off trail, 1.5 miles from Skyline Drive at Milepost 37.9 in Shenandoah National Park. (See Henry Heatwole, Guide to Skyline Drive.) Accessible only by foot trail. Boundaries are defined as a one-acre square with the cabin in the center and coincide with the one-acre enclave of non-wilderness lands surrounding the structure.

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

STATE	NA	CODE	NA	COUNTY	NA	CODE	NA
STATE	NA	CODE	NA	COUNTY	NA	CODE	NA

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jacob Hoogland and Linda Romola, Cultural Resource Specialists

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Denver Service Center

DATE

September 1983

STREET & NUMBER

12795 W. Alameda Parkway, P. O. Box 25287

TELEPHONE

(303) 327-2413

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

CO 80225-0287

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☒

NO ☐

NONE ☐

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ☐ National ☐ State ☒ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Chief Historian

DATE

Nov. 8, 1983

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Patrick Anderson

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1/13/89

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88003067

Date Listed: 1/13/89

George T. Corbin Cabin
Property Name

Madison
County

VA
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

1/13/89
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

The Federal Preservation Officer for the National Park Service requested that the form be amended to delete Exploration/Settlement as an area of significance. The form is now officially amended to include Architecture as the sole area of significance.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

5361 III NW
(LURAY)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
JAMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST

78°22'30"
38°37'30"

729000m.E.

730

731

732

20'

FRONT ROYAL 36 MI.
3.8 MI. TO U.S. 211

5361 III NE
(THORNTON GAP)

735

4278000m.N.

CORBIN CABIN

SHENANDOAH NAT'L PARK, VA.

UTM REFERENCE:

17/731 200/4275 760

