

# Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

## Landmarks Nomination Report:

### *Van Deveer-Orndorff House (Spring Run)*

#### Physical Description:

The Vandever-Orndorff House is located off of Route 45 in northern Jefferson County, West Virginia. The property sits about 1.5 miles west of Shepherdstown, in the new development, the Springs at Shepherdstown on Marsh Hawk Way. The farm consists of rolling agricultural fields and historic buildings along Rocky Marsh Run.

#### Historic Description:

The farm was granted from John Van Meter to Jacob Van Deever in 1768. Van Deever lived in Somerset County, New Jersey at the time and at his death willed the land to his son James. In 1796 Henry Orndorff purchased the 322 acre farm, which was divided among his children at his death. The house parcel, consisting of 107 acres was willed to Jacob Orndorff in 1842. In later years, the house was substantially enlarged. This may have been done during the subsequent ownership of David Orndorff, or later when the Staley family owned the property. In 1876, Orndorff sold the property now consisting of 173 acres to Joseph S. Staley. It was the Staleys who constructed the extant outbuildings. Cooper McQuilken, who purchased the property in 1960, recently sold the farm for development. The house, outbuildings and 37 acres is now owned by Gerry Randall and Amanda Reed, who are restoring the historic structures.

#### Historic Resources:

The main house, built c.1770, is an unusual stone building consisting of blank gables and a two bay front. In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the main house was reoriented into a center hall dwelling. Now the gable end, the original section has the distinctive characteristics of 18<sup>th</sup> century construction such as radiused jack arches. The addition of a much larger brick house was made in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The house then was reoriented from southfacing to be east-facing.

In addition to the main house, there are a number of historic outbuildings on this farm. A log kitchen was placed at the rear of the house in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. A log meat house is to the north of the house. To the south of the house are the timber framed bank barn and corn crib.

#### Nomination Criteria:

The JCHLC nominates this property under Criteria C for inclusion on the list of registered county landmarks. Criteria C states that a site may be nominated if, in the opinion of the JCHLC, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic

values. Owners, Gerry Randall & Amanda Reed, have agreed to have the property listed as Jefferson County Historic Landmark.

**Nomination Action:**

The JCHLC voted unanimously to add the Spring Run, the Vandever-Orndorff House, under Criteria C, to the rolls of registered Jefferson County Historic Landmarks on October 15, 2007.



Front Elevation



South Gable – Showing original front