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

**Type all entries - complete applicable sections**

### 1. NAME

**COMMON:**
Carson House

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**

### 2. LOCATION

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
U.S. 70 west of Marion

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Pleasant Gardens Community

**STATE:**
North Carolina

**CODE:**
32

**COUNTY:**
McDowell

**CODE:**
56

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Building</td>
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<td>Public Acquisitions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
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<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
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**PRESENT USE (Check One or more as Appropriate):**
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Private Residence
- Park
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)
- Comments

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

**OWNER'S NAME:**
Carson House Restoration, Inc. & McDowell County Historical Society

c/o Miss Ruth Greenlee, Route 4

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Old Fort 28762

**STATE:**
North Carolina

**CODE:**
32

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**
McDowell County Courthouse

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Marion 28752

**STATE:**
North Carolina

**CODE:**
32

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**
Historic American Buildings Survey

**DATE OF SURVEY:**
1959

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
Library of Congress

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
East Capitol and Independence Avenue, S.E.

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Washington

**STATE:**
D. C.

**CODE:**
51
The Carson House is a two-story-plus-attic frame structure rectangular in plan. There is a full-length, five-bay, two-story verandah along the front of the house. It features tapered wooden pillars rectangular in section and simple wooden grill railings. The elevations are marked by massive pediments which extend over the verandah. There are two exterior chimneys on either end. The one serving the front room on each side falls in the center of the pedimented wall, the other is smaller and stands near the rear corner.

In plan there is a central stair hall with two rooms of unequal size on either side. The two front rooms are larger than the two rear ones. There are relatively modern one-story shed rooms along the rear of the house.

The Carson House reached its present form as the result of several expansions. The earliest section of the building was a single-room log dwelling. To this section another one-room unit was added with an open passage or "dog-run" between the two. Probably at a later date the two rear rooms were added and the "dog-run" extended. On the other hand, it is possible that the three later rooms were contemporaneous. In any case, it is clear that the building reached what is essentially its present form near the middle of the nineteenth century. Most of the interior trim dates from this period.

One interesting feature is the marbleizing on the sheathed walls of the dining room. This is supposed to have been executed later in the nineteenth century by an itinerant artisan. The walls are mainly blue-gray in color with the baseboard accented in delicate shades of red, blue, and brown.
The Carson House was begun about 1810 by Colonel John Carson, Irish immigrant and pioneer of the upper Catawba Valley. Colonel Carson was a representative to the Fayetteville Convention of 1789, in which the United States Constitution was ratified by North Carolina. He also served in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1805 to 1806.

Colonel Carson's son, Samuel Price Carson, was a member of the State Senate for three terms and of the United States House of Representatives from 1825 to 1833. In 1835 he represented Burke County in the State Constitutional Convention.

Joseph McDowell Carson and William Carson, two other sons of Colonel Carson, were state legislators. A fourth son, Jonathan Logan Carson, inherited the homeplace where, in 1843, McDowell County was organized. Until a courthouse was constructed, the Carson home served as the seat of county government.

During the War Between the States a small school for girls was conducted in the house. Near the end of the War General Stoneman's raiders, while carrying on operations in western North Carolina, looted it.

On the death of Jonathan Logan Carson in 1887 the house and property were sold to John S. Brown and subsequent owners. On August 13, 1963, the house was bought from Mrs. Leona Cuthbertson Moore by the Carson House Restoration Corporation. The house is now jointly administered by the Carson House Restoration, Inc. and the McDowell County Historical Society.
Arthur, John Preston. Western North Carolina; a History (from 1730 to 1913). Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1914
McDowell-Carson Papers, in the Greenlee Genealogy Room, Carson House, Marion, North Carolina.
McDowell County Records, McDowell County Courthouse, Marion, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corner</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
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<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name and Title: J. G. Zehmer, Survey Specialist; Sherry I. Penny, Survey Assistant
Organization: State Department of Archives and History
Date: June 23, 1970

### 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National [ ]
- State [ ]
- Local [ ]

Name: Dr. H. C. Jones
Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History
Date: June 23, 1970

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

Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register
9. McDowell County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

North Carolina Manual, Office of the Secretary of State, Raleigh, 1913.


Carson House

U.S. 70 west of Marion
Pleasant Gardens, McDowell County
North Carolina

Highway Map of McDowell County
State Highway Commission
Scale 1"/2 miles
January 1, 1968

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Latitude</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>82° 03' 35&quot;</td>
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