

Section 7, the Narrative Description

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

Name of Property _____ County and State _____

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

STEPS FOR WRITING THE NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Refer to the NPS Bulletin: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form for more detailed instructions

- I. INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH
 - A. Summarize the building
 1. What is the date of construction
 2. what is its basic shape and size
 3. what is its architectural style or building type
 - B. Summarize the setting
 1. is it within a community or in a rural location
 2. what is the landscaping of the property like
 3. are there other buildings/structures on the property
- II. EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION
 - A. Describe the primary elevation
 1. how many doors and windows are there & how they are arranged
 2. how is the main facade oriented on the property
 3. what are the unique architectural features
 4. what alterations have been made and when were they done
 - B. Describe the secondary elevations as outlined above
- III. INTERIOR DESCRIPTION
 - A. Describe the floorplan
 1. have any significant changes occurred and when were they done
 2. are the original details intact (fireplaces, door/window trim, cabinets, etc.)
- IV. SETTING
 - A. If the property is complex, describe the landscape in further detail enhancing what was noted in the introductory paragraph
 - B. Provide some description for the other buildings and/or structures on the property
 1. when were they constructed
 2. are they contributing or noncontributing (corresponds with Section 5 of the form)
- V. SUMMARY
 - A. Briefly conclude by evaluating the property's integrity. What are the important physical characteristics that illustrate the property's historic significance?

** POINTS TO REMEMBER **

1. Every detail does not have to be described.
2. Relate the written text to nomination photographs. Put photo numbers next to any points to be illustrated within the narrative.
3. The narrative should be written from the general to the specific.