United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Ropp, Baker House
other name/site number: Homestead Farm; H-32

2. Location

street & number: 2301 Harlan Spring Road  not for publication: N/A
city/town: Martinsburg  vicinity: N/A
state: West Virginia-WV  county: Berkeley  code: 003  zip code: 25401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination _X_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X_ meets _X_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _X_ nationally _X_ statewide _X_ locally. (_ See continuation sheet.)

[Signature]

Susan Pierce  10/29/02
Signature of Certifying Official  Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau  Date

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets _X_ does not meet the National Register criteria (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]

Signature of Certifying Official/Title  Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau  Date
4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):
  -
  -

Signature of Keeper | Date of Action
-------------------|-------------------

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- X private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of property
(Check only one box)

- X building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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<thead>
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<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>0 sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>0 structures</td>
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<tr>
<td>0 objects</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 TOTAL</td>
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</table>

Name of related multiple property listing  N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously in the listed National Register  N/A
6. Function or Use

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<thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Agriculture/Subsistence: Agricultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outbuilding</td>
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7. Description

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walls Brick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roof Metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other Weatherboard (shed/privy)</td>
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</table>

Narrative Description
(See continuation on sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [ ] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

- [X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

- [ ] D Property has yielded or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
Ropp, Baker House
Berkeley
West Virginia-WV

Name of Property
County and State

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

_____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

_____ B removed from its original location.

_____ C a birthplace or grave.

_____ D a cemetery.

_____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

_____ F a commemorative property.

_____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance
1890-1892

Significant Dates
1890-1892

Significant Person
(Complete if criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(See continuation sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliographical
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
_____ previously listed in the National Register
_____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
_____ designated a National Historic Landmark
_____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
_____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

_____ State Historic Preservation Office
_____ Other State Agency
_____ Federal Agency
_____ Local government
_____ University
_____ Other

Name of Repository Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Quad Map Name: Hedgesville

A 17  246702  4380860  B  ____  ____  ____
Zone Easting  Northing  Zone Easting  Northing

C  ____  ____  ____  D  ____  ____  ____
Zone Easting  Northing  Zone Easting  Northing

_____ see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(See continuation sheet.)
11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Geoffrey B. Henry and Jared N. Tuk, Architectural Historians
Organization: GAI Consultants, Inc. Date: June 2002
Street & Number: 570 Beatty Road Telephone: 412-856-6400
City or Town: Monroeville State: PA Zip: 15146

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dillard
Street & Number: 2301 Harlan Spring Road Telephone: Unlisted
City or Town: Martinsburg State: WV Zip: 25401
LOCATION AND SETTING

The Ropp House (Homestead Farm) is located on the west side of Harlan Spring Road (CR 8/1) approximately one mile southeast of the hamlet of Harlan Spring, in the Hedgesville Magisterial District of northwestern Berkeley County WV. The surrounding topography is gently rolling piedmont and is rural and agricultural. The Ropp House property is bordered on the east by a farmstead with fenced pastures, on the north by active apple orchards and pastures, on the west by mixed hardwoods and a fenced pasture, and on the south by the R.C. Ropp House property. A paved driveway leads from the road to the main house, terminating to the south of the house. The immediate setting of the main house and outbuildings consists of a grass lawn, landscaped with mature trees and shrubbery.

CONTRIBUTING HISTORIC RESOURCES

The Ropp House (Homestead) property contains three contributing buildings—the main house, a brick smokehouse, and a privy/shed; two non-contributing building—a log smokehouse and a barn; and two-contributing sites—a stone chimney and the stone foundations of a bank barn.

MAIN HOUSE (1890-1892)—Contributing Building

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The main house of the Ropp (Homestead) property is oriented to the east and is a two-story, five-bay, gable-roofed brick house built on an L plan. The foundation consists of cut fieldstones laid in regular courses. There is a below-ground entrance to an unfinished cellar on the north. The bricks were manufactured on the property, are laid in seven-course common bond on all four elevations, and are in excellent and unaltered condition. There is some decorative use of brickwork on the exterior, particularly the soldier bond brickwork used around door and window openings.

The present standing seam metal roof is a replacement of the original slate tile roof. There is a central cross gable on the east elevation, also with a metal roof. There are three interior-end brick chimneys near the south, north, and west gable ends. The chimneys have corbelled brick chimney caps.

The Ropp House dates from between 1890 and 1892 and was built in a vernacular variant of the Queen Anne style with some elements of the late Gothic Revival style present on the exterior. The most notable feature of the latter style is the wooden cornice and bargeboard incised with a continuous quatrefoil design.

The east (front) porch is the focus of most the house's exterior decoration. It is a one-story, five-bay frame porch with a hipped roof with a central cross gable and is covered with modern standing seam metal. The porch rests on stone piers and has a wood floor. There are brick steps on the east. The turned porch posts are flanked by Eastlake-style wooden brackets, a molded handrail, and a turned balustrade. The turned wooden pilasters at the rear of the porch are not original. The applied mouse-tooth cornice between the brackets is a replacement of the original cornice. The cross gable is trimmed with applied molding in a broken pediment design with a central cartouche painted with the date 1890.
The principal entrance is on the east and consists of a central double-door. Each door has four raised panels and is decorated with applied wooden strapwork molding typical of the Queen Anne Style. Above the door is a rectangular transom with a border of individual colored glass panes.

Most windows have segmental-arched heads trimmed with soldier bond brickwork. These windows are flanked by working louvered shutters that are the same shape as the window heads. The windows have 1/1 double-hung sash. Most windows have an upper sash with a border consisting of small colored glass panes in shades of blue, yellow, green, and red. The cross gable on the east has paired quarter-round, fixed-sash windows. There are pairs of round-arched 1/1 sash windows at the attic level of the north and south gable ends.

There is a two-story polygonal brick window bay on the north elevation. It has bracketed corners and a belt course of brick laid in a mouse-tooth pattern. Its gable end is covered with scalloped shingles and there is a Palladian window in its center. There is an entrance to the west of this bay, near the northwest corner of the house. It is reached by stone steps and has a single wooden door with two glass windows above two raised panels. A porch originally connected the window bay with this entrance. This porch was removed at an unknown date by a previous owner.

The west ell is contemporary with the rest of the house and is three-bays long. The west gable end differs from the rest of the house in that the window heads are square, not segmental-arched. They have 1/1 double hung sash with clear-glass upper sash. The attic windows are not arched, as they are elsewhere on the house, and have 1/1 double hung sash, also with clear-glass upper sash.

A two-story frame porch runs along the south elevation of the west ell. Originally open on both stories, the second story was enclosed by the present owners. It presently has a cement floor and is reached a short flight of brick steps. The chamfered wooden porch posts are flanked by jig-sawn brackets and a turned balustrade.

The windows on this elevation have 1/1 double-hung sash with brick keystones lintels. There are two entrances on this elevation, each with a single door with a window above raised panels.

**INTERIOR DESCRIPTION**

The Ropp House interior consists of finished living space on the first and second floors, along with an unfinished cellar and a partially finished attic. The first and second floor plans of the main block feature a center stair hall flanked by a single room on each side; the rear ell features two rooms on each floor separated by an enclosed staircase.

The central **Stair Hall** has a stair on the east that rises in a single flight to the second floor. At the bottom of the staircase is an octagonal-section mahogany newel post with a ball finial. The staircase has a molded mahogany handrail and there are two turned balusters per tread. There is a small closet beneath the staircase. A passage to the south of the staircase leads directly to the dining room to the west.

The **Living Room** is located to the north of the center hall. Like the rest of the house's interior, it features original hardwood floors, molded baseboard trim, and plaster walls. Window and door openings feature fluted surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks. There is a door with transom on the west leading to the dining room. The fireplace on the north wall features a mantel consisting
of flanking pilasters, scalloped trim, a bracketed shelf, and a frieze with fluted keystone and center medallion. The opening is faced with a metal coal grate and there is a brick hearth floor.

The **Parlor** is located to the south of the stairhall. It closely resembles the living room and retains its original floors, window and door trim and fireplace mantel. The mantel consists of flanking pilasters, scalloped trim, a shelf with brackets at each end, and a frieze with fluted keystone and center medallion. Some of the paint on the window trim in this room appears to be original and never repainted.

The **Dining Room** is located at the east end of the house’s rear wing. It has original floors, molded baseboard trim and fluted door and window surrounds with bull’s eye corner blocks. The fireplace on the west has plain pilasters, scalloped trim, and a mantel shelf with brackets at each end. There is an original built-in cupboard on the south side of the fireplace. The polygonal window bay on the north has interior louvered shutters. Doors on three sides of the dining room lead to other rooms in the house, while the south door opens outside to the south porch.

The **Kitchen** is located to the west of the dining room. The floors, and molded door and window trim are original. Although modernized with appliances and counters, it retains the original fireplace on the west wall. The fireplace features a plain mantel shelf with a molding strip below and is flanked by plain pilasters. A four-panel door with metal box lock and porcelain knob opens to an enclosed staircase leading to the basement. An additional enclosed staircase leads to the rear second story of the house.

There are four **Bedrooms** on the second floor. The four-panel door to the south bedroom retains its original dark mahogany stain and its porcelain knob. The trim in this room is also stained. There is a fireplace on the south wall with plain pilasters and shelf and a segmental-arched opening. The north bedroom has painted trim, original floors, and a fireplace mantel similar in design to the south bedroom. The bedroom directly over the first-floor dining room is the largest in the house and has three separate entrances, in addition to two closet doors and a polygonal window bay on the north. The fireplace mantel on the west wall is similar to that found in the other bedrooms. A door on the southwest leads to the enclosed back staircase as well as an additional bedroom on the west.

The only major change to the interior of the house is the construction of a full bathroom within the original south porch and a partial enclosure of the rest of the porch to create a sunroom.

**Smokehouse (1890-1892)—Contributing Building**
The brick smokehouse dates ca. 1890, is located a few feet from its northwest corner, and is oriented east. It is a one-story, one-bay, gable-roofed brick building with a gable-end façade. The building is trimmed with a corbeled brick cornice and the door on the east has a soldier bond brick jack arch. On the east gable end, the bricks are laid to create openings that form a diamond design. The door is made up of boards fitted in a diagonal pattern and is attached with original metal strap hinges.

**Shed/Privy (1890-1892)—Contributing Building**
According to the current owner, the shed/privy dates from the same period as the main house. It is located to the south of the main house. The shed is oriented east, is covered with vertical board siding, and has a later (ca. 1920) portico and entrance on the east. The log privy is attached to the
west gable end of the shed and has weatherboard siding and crude vent holes below the eaves on the north.

Smokehouse (ca. 1803)—Non-contributing Building
The smokehouse dates from the late eighteenth century and is located on the west end of the nominated property. It is a single-pen structure built of unfinished logs with saddle-notched joints. There is an entrance with a batten door on the east. The building was sided with both vertical and horizontal weatherboard siding in the early twentieth century and now has a metal roof.

Barn/Granary (ca. 1900)—Non-contributing Building
To the north of the log smokehouse is a two-story frame barn/ granary with a slate roof, German siding, and an exterior stairway on the west. There is an additional lean-to on the east.

Chimney (ca. 1803)—Non-contributing Site
The remains of a fieldstone chimney are located to the west of the shed/privy. It is believed this was the chimney to the log Ropp House built on this property ca. 1803. The chimney is in deteriorated condition.

Bank Barn (ca. 1775)—Non-contributing Site
Between the log smokehouse and the barn are the stone foundations of a bank barn, also thought to date from the eighteenth century. It too is in deteriorated condition.
Statement of Significance

The Baker Ropp House (Homestead Farm) is significant on the local level under Criterion C for Architecture as a well-preserved example of Queen Anne-style domestic architecture in northern Berkeley County. The period of significance is 1890-1892. An architectural survey conducted in 2000-2001 in the Hedgesville and Falling Water districts of Berkeley County identified this as the area’s most significant brick Queen Anne-style residence. The area has a tradition of stone or log domestic architecture, and examples of brick dwellings before 1920 are rare. The main house and brick smokehouse were built between 1890 and 1892 by Baker Ropp near the site of an early-nineteenth-century house since demolished. The architect of the Baker Ropp House is not known, but E.D. Leda served as the brick mason. Although its house form is traditional, the Baker Ropp House displays many sophisticated features of the Queen Anne style. These include the two-story polygonal bay with shingled gable end and Palladian window, the front porch with turned posts and Eastlake-style brackets, the segmental-arched windows with upper sash with colored glass panes, and the double-leaf front door with applied woodwork. A few elements of the late Gothic Revival style are also present, including the central cross gable, and the pierced quatrefoil design of the bargeboard. The interior is in excellent condition and retains its original woodwork throughout. The house contains six original period fireplace mantels, most displaying sophisticated interpretations of the Queen Anne style. The Baker Ropp House and outbuildings retain a high level of integrity.

Historical Background

The Baker Ropp House property is part of a 441-acre land grant in 1760 from Thomas, Lord Fairfax to George Harlan II (Northern Neck Grant Book K, page 163). The property descended to his son Jehu Harlan (Frederick County Will Book 3, page 62). In two deeds, executed in 1803 and 1806, Jehu Harlan sold to his son George Harlan III 110 acres in the southeast corner of the Harlan family’s 441-acre tract (Berkeley County Deed Book 18, page 207 and Deed Book 20, page 126). Either Jehu Harlan or George Harlan III may have been responsible for the construction of a log dwelling on this property. The site of this dwelling, now consisting only of a portion of the stone chimney, is located to the southwest of the present brick house. Also dating from this period is the log smokehouse, now covered with weatherboard siding, located to the west of the house site. The log-and-stone bank barn located north of the smokehouse was standing until destroyed by fire in 1966. Reputedly, the initials J.H. and the date 1775 were carved in one of the logs (Wood 1982: 10).

George Harlan III acquired an additional 32 acres in 1810 (Wood 1982: 9-10). In 1818, George Harlan III and wife Elizabeth sold the 142-acre tract to Solomon Ropp of Jefferson County, Virginia. Ropp died in 1835 and his property was acquired from his other heirs by son Daniel Ropp (Wood 1982: 10). Daniel Ropp died in 1873 and left the farm to his son Baker Ropp.

Berkeley County tax records and family tradition indicate that Baker Ropp began construction of his house in late 1890 and completed it in early 1892 (Berkeley County Land Book 1890 and 1892). The construction cost reputedly was $3,000 (Ruth 1976: 1). The architect is unknown. The bricks were manufactured on site and the brick mason is known to be E.D. Leda (interview with owner Joan Dillard 8/28/01). The brick smokehouse also dates from this period. The shed/privy dates from ca. 1890 and the granary dates from ca. 1900.
An architectural survey conducted in 2000-2001 in the Hedgesville and Falling Waters magisterial district identified this as the most significant brick Queen Anne-style residence in the area. During the colonial and antebellum periods, most houses in this area were constructed of either log or fieldstone. Brick was rarely employed. Exceptions are the 1834 Falling Waters Presbyterian Church, the 1859 Teter Myers French House, and the 1859 Owen Tudor Hedges House (the latter two are listed in the National Register of Historic Places)(GAI Consultants 2001: 21-22).

After the Civil War, wood-framed houses became increasingly common in Berkeley County. A good collection of Queen Anne-style houses stands in the Clary's Mountain section of northern Berkeley County, just east of Hedgesville. These houses, dating from between 1884 and 1925 possess such typical Queen Anne-style features as an irregular floor plan, a wrap-around porch, one or more polygonal bays, and the use of patterned shingle siding (GAI Consultants 2001: 25).

The house form of the 1892 Baker Ropp House is more traditional and consists of a five-bay, two-story, gable-roofed front section, with a two-story, gable-roofed rear ell. The front door is centrally placed and the porch is one story high with a hipped roof.

The Baker Ropp House has several important Queen Anne-style elements that have been integrated with this traditional house form. There is a two-story polygonal brick bay on the north elevation. It features a wood-shingled attic level, bracketed corners, and a Palladian window. The front porch has turned posts, jig-sawn brackets typical of the Eastlake style, and a mousetooth cornice. Queen Anne-style windows often featured double-hung sash with a single-pane lower sash and a multi-pane upper sash. In this case, the upper sash is bordered by small panes of colored glass. The central entrance has a double-leaf door with applied moldings in a strapwork design. The transom also features a border of small colored panes.

The Baker Ropp House interior retains both its original floor plan and its woodwork nearly intact. Each floor's plan consists of a center stair hall flanked by a room on each side, with two additional rooms in the rear ell. Door and window trim consists of molded surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks. These are typical of this period and style. The house retains six original fireplace mantels of varying degrees of decorative detail. The three mantels in the first-floor rooms feature pilasters, scalloped trim, molded shelf, and brackets.

The interior woodwork of the Baker Ropp House is considerably more elaborate than was typically found in antebellum houses in this area of Berkeley County. Yet, there is no indication that Ropp was particularly wealthy. The introduction of machine-made millwork after the Civil War allowed home builders to forego expensive hand-carved decorative woodwork in favor of cheaper, mass-produced woodwork. This was usually ordered by catalogue and delivered by railroad. Martinsburg's location along a main Baltimore & Ohio railroad line between Baltimore and Chicago made ordering architectural woodwork relatively easy for local home builders.

The farm was acquired by R. Culler Ropp after Baker Ropp's death in 1921 (Berkeley County Deed Book 141, page 521). In 1956, R. Culler Ropp willed the farm to his daughters Mary Catherine and Nancy Rebecca Ropp (Will Book 31, page 352). The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dillard purchased the 10-acre tract containing the main house and outbuildings in 1994 (Deed Book 525, page 285).
SUMMARY
The Baker Ropp House (Homestead Farm) is significant as a well-preserved example of Queen Anne-style domestic architecture in northern Berkeley County. The main house and brick smokehouse were built between 1890 and 1892 by Baker Ropp near the site of an early-nineteenth-century house since demolished. The architect of the Baker Ropp House is not known. Although its house form is traditional, the Baker Ropp House displays many sophisticated features of the Queen Anne style. A few elements of the late Gothic Revival style are also present, including the central cross gable, and the pierced quatrefoil design of the bargeboard. The interior is in excellent condition and retains its original woodwork throughout.
REFERENCES

Berkeley County Deed Records, Martinsburg, WV
Berkeley County Land Books, Martinsburg, WV
Berkeley County Will Records, Martinsburg, WV
Frederick County Deed Records, Winchester, VA


VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The boundaries of the nominated property follow the solid black lot lines of the entire 10-acre parcel, known as "Tract A" as shown on a survey dated 28 February 1994, contained in Berkeley County Deed Book 525, page 287.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION
The nominated boundary includes the entire area historically associated with the Baker Ropp House and includes the historic approach from Harlan Spring Road, the main house, and two associated contributing outbuildings.
Photographs

All photographs are of the Baker Ropp House (Homestead Farm), 2301 Harlan Spring Road, Martinsburg, Berkeley County, WV 25401

Photographer: Geoffrey B. Henry, GAI Consultants, Inc. 28 August 2001

Negatives located at West Virginia Division of Culture and History (SHPO), Charleston WV

Photograph 1  Main House, Southeast elevation, facing northwest
Photograph 2  Main House, East elevation, facing west
Photograph 3  Main House, North elevation, facing south
Photograph 4  Main House, Southwest elevation, facing northeast
Photograph 5  Main House, Living Room, facing north
Photograph 6  Main House, Dining Room, facing southwest
Photograph 7  Main House, Stair, facing southeast
Photograph 8  Brick Smokehouse, East elevation, facing west
Photograph 9  Log Smokehouse, East elevation, facing west
Photograph 10 Barn/Granary, South elevation, facing north
A - MAIN HOUSE - CONTRIBUTING
B - BRICK SMOKEHOUSE - CONTRIBUTING
C - BARN/GRANARY - NON-CONTRIBUTING
D - LOG SMOKEHOUSE - NON-CONTRIBUTING
E - SHED/PRIVY - CONTRIBUTING
F - BARN SITE - NON-CONTRIBUTING
G - HOUSE SITE - NON-CONTRIBUTING

SKETCH SITE PLAN
BAKER ROPP HOUSE
BERKELEY COUNTY, WV
(NOT TO SCALE)
G. HENRY 10/01
1ST FLOOR PLAN
Baker Ropp House
Berkeley County WV
(NOT TO SCALE)
G. Henr. 10/01