

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Beagle Hotel

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number: 1/10 mile west from Valley Grove Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Valley Grove

vicinity: X

state: WV

county: Ohio

code: 069

zip code: 26060

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: PRIVATE

Category of Property: BUILDING

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources along the National Road in Ohio County, West Virginia

=====  
4. State/Federal Agency Certification  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this

nomination  
 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

meets  
 does not meet  
the National Register Criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*William G. Lanan*  
-----  
Signature of Certifying Official

*6/4/92*  
-----  
Date

-----  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  
 meets  
 does not meet  
the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

-----  
Signature of commenting or other official                      Date

-----  
State or Federal agency and bureau                                      Date

=====  
5. National Park Service Certification  
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- |   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register   | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.            |       |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the        | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Register                  |       |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.            |       |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the    | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Register                  |       |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____             |       |       |

-----  
Signature of Keeper

-----  
Date of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

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Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: HOTEL

Current: VACANT

Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Other: Early Republic

Other Description: Folk: Pre-Railroad

Materials: foundation Sandstone  
walls Wood

roof Asphalt  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Transportation  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1827 to 1893

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet. **X**

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 -- Specify Repository: N/A

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

17    537180    4437470

Verbal Boundary Description: **X** See continuation sheet.

Being part of a 1.65 lot along the south side of the National Road in Valley Grove, West Virginia, and known as the Mrs. Beagle Hotel property and more particularly bounded and described as follows: beginning at a

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The boundaries include the adjoining hotel and general store, as well as a rear shed. It excludes a small barn/garage and a later house on the west section of the property.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Katherine M. Jourdan and Laura J. Pfeifer

Organization: Division of Culture and History      Date: 20 April 1992

Street & Number: 1528 Market Street      Telephone: (304) 238-1300

City or Town: Wheeling      State: WV      ZIP: 26003

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The clapboard tavern was probably present in 1827 when Mary Rhodes moved to the property to operate a hotel. She later acquired the land in 1835 from John Maxwell. That same year she married Abram Beagle, a public works contractor from Chester County, Pennsylvania. The hotel continued to operate under the name of Beagle Hotel until 1893, when it was sold by the heir. The general store which abutts the hotel on the west had been added in the late nineteenth century to serve the needs of travelers on the National Road and the nearby community of Valley Grove. Just to the south of the adjoining buildings is a small contributing two door shed.

The buildings are located on the south side of the National Road approximately fifteen feet from the edge of the highway. Sited on the same level as the road bed at a bend in the National Road it was a good vantage point to be seen by travelers. Little Wheeling Creek flows to the south of the buildings with a hillside rising up the other side of the bank.

The adjoining clapboard buildings are each two and a half stories, although the general store has a greater height. The front, or north facade, of each building has three bays each making a total of six bays. The early inn to the left has a full porch across the first floor with wooden posts supporting the shed roof. On each floor there is a center door with windows to each side of the doorway being 6/6 double-hung openings. The asphalt roof is gabled with the open end to the east side and butting against the general store on the west. The general store has a center door with large display windows to each side that are currently covered with plywood. On the second floor are two single 2/2 double-hung windows. The asphalt roof has a gable end with aluminum siding in the peak.

The west facade has one doorway with a transom centered on the first floor of the general store. The rest of the wall has no opening allowing the second floor to act as a billboard for a painted Mail Pouch Tobacco advertisement. The sign has a black background with white and yellow lettering.

The east facade of the hotel has a one and a half story wing projecting out from the middle of the facade to the right rear of the building. The wing is clapboard with a shed roof, and there is a six panel door with a six light transom on the north side. Above the door is a window as well as one on the east side. The facade of the main section of the hotel has a window opening on each floor at the right corner, plus one under the gable end. All the windows on the hotel are 6/6 double-hung openings.

The south facade has the hotel slightly recessed to the right with three bays on each of the two floors. There is a rear exit on the center of the

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first floor and the center window on the second floor is lower on the facade than the other two openings. To the left is the general store with two 2/2 double-hung windows on each floor. Where the two buildings join is a small shed roof addition.

Approximately fifteen feet to the south of the hotel is a one story shed with two vertical wood doors on the north facade and two windows on the south side. The clapboard shed has a gabled asphalt roof.

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The Beagle Hotel in Valley Grove, West Virginia, is being nominated under National Register criteria A and C. The hotel and store are significant for their association with the National Road and their high degree of architectural integrity.

The tavern was probably built before 1827, and the accompanying general store had been added during the late nineteenth century. Both buildings have a high degree of integrity. The hotel is an excellent example of an early folk style with an I-house form. The architectural details on the buildings are relatively unchanged. The store provides a good example of a late nineteenth century commercial building. The two commercial establishments together provide an interesting look at a business on the National Road.

Constant heavy traffic began pouring over the National Road through Ohio County after the route had been completed to Wheeling in 1818. Local economic activity increased, and people rushed to take advantage of the new transportation route. Taverns and other businesses located next to the road in an attempt to make a profit from travelers. Many of these inns began as homes of settlers who opened their doors as hospitable hosts. As increasing numbers of pioneers began to stop, settlers soon began charging their guests and turned their homes into taverns or inns, encouraging stagecoaches to stop at their door. Some local farmers provided pens for drovers taking stock to markets while others provided public kitchens selling their extra produce, butter, and eggs to travelers. Eventually almost every mile of the National Road had some type of stopping point to provide for the needs of the emigrants.

Mary Rhodes was born on April 10, 1794, in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, and came to West Virginia in 1822, after marrying John Rhodes. Later the Rhodes family moved to Valley Grove and ran a hotel. Mary moved to this property to manage the hotel in 1827, following the death of her husband. In 1835 she purchased the tavern from John Maxwell. That same year she married Abram Beagle, a wagoner and public works contractor from Chester County, Pennsylvania. The property became known as the Beagle Hotel, and was recognized throughout Ohio County as a good tavern and was largely patronized. The property was sold by Mary's daughter in 1893.

The architectural form of the hotel is that of a I-house with two stories, and has three rooms across the front with a center hall. The popular early style is a folk dwelling, common among local carpenters, but labeled today by architectural historians as Pre-Railroad style. The few details on the house seem unchanged, including the small 6/6 double-hung windows and the six panel doors. The general store is a late nineteenth century commercial building with a center door and flanking display windows. The second floor windows are those commonly seen in this time period, being an elongated opening with 2/2 double-hung sashes. The west facade of the store provides an unbroken second floor facade for a Mail Pouch tobacco advertisement. The painted sign is the trademark

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for the Wheeling firm Bloch Brothers Tobacco. These signs were painted on barns and buildings beginning in the late nineteenth century, and at one time were found throughout the United States as far west as California. The remaining signs survive today mainly in the Midwest and are protected by a 1974 act of Congress.

The Beagle Hotel is only one of three early National Road inns still in existence in Ohio County, West Virginia. Documented by the county histories, it was managed by the same family for 66 years. The architectural character of the two adjoining buildings is strong and well represents the styles popular at the time of their construction.



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Newton, J.H., G.G. Nichols, and A.G. Sprankle. History of the Panhandle: Being Historical Collections of the Counties of Ohio, Brooke, Marshall, and Hancock, West Virginia. Wheeling, West Virginia: J.A. Caldwell, 1979.

Platania, Joseph. "Mail Pouch Wheeling's Other Tobacco Giant."  
Goldenseal (Winter 1989): 46-47.

Searight, Thomas B. The Old Pike: A History of the National Road.  
Uniontown, Pennsylvania: Thomas B. Searight, 1894.

Section number 10

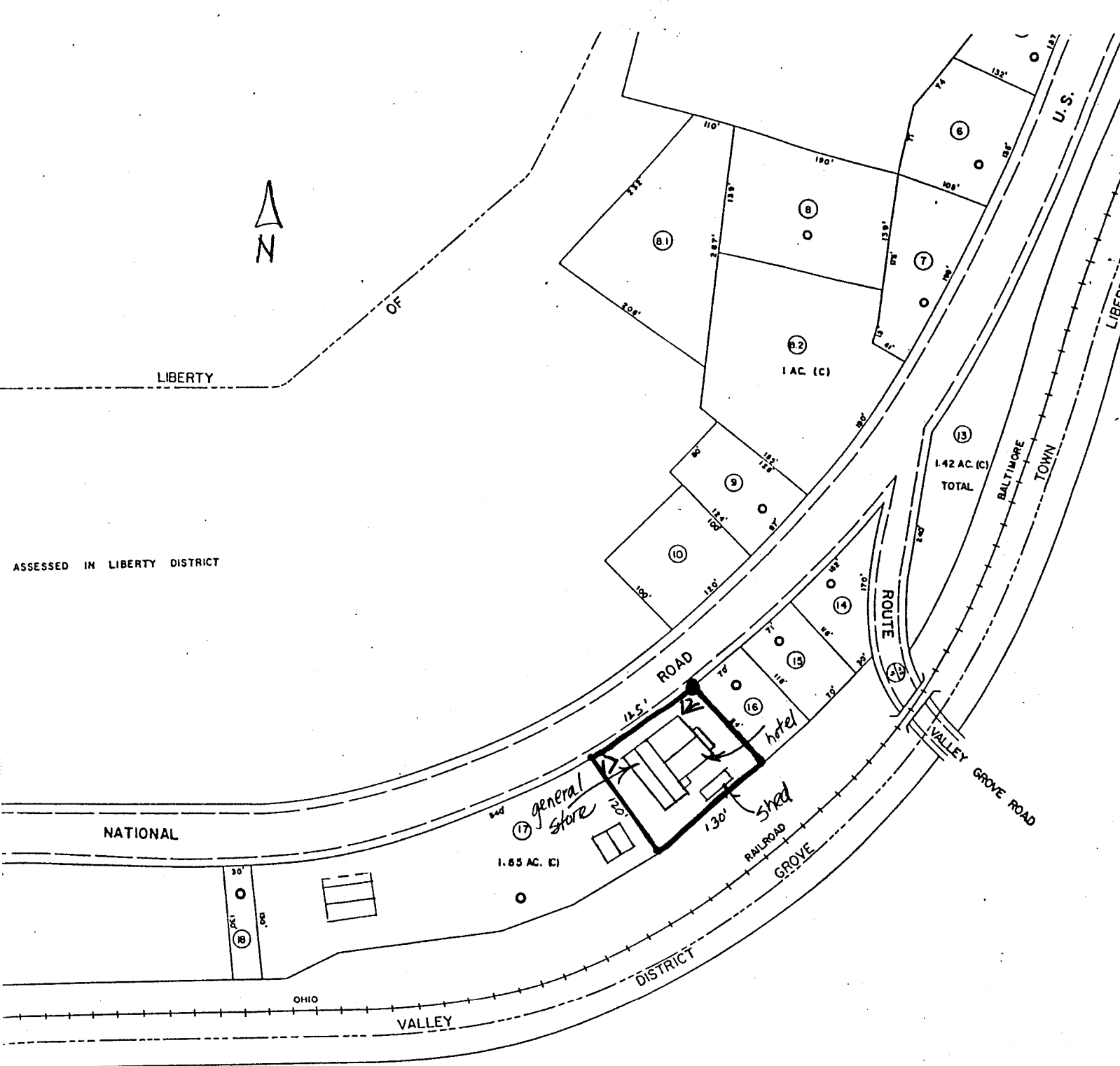
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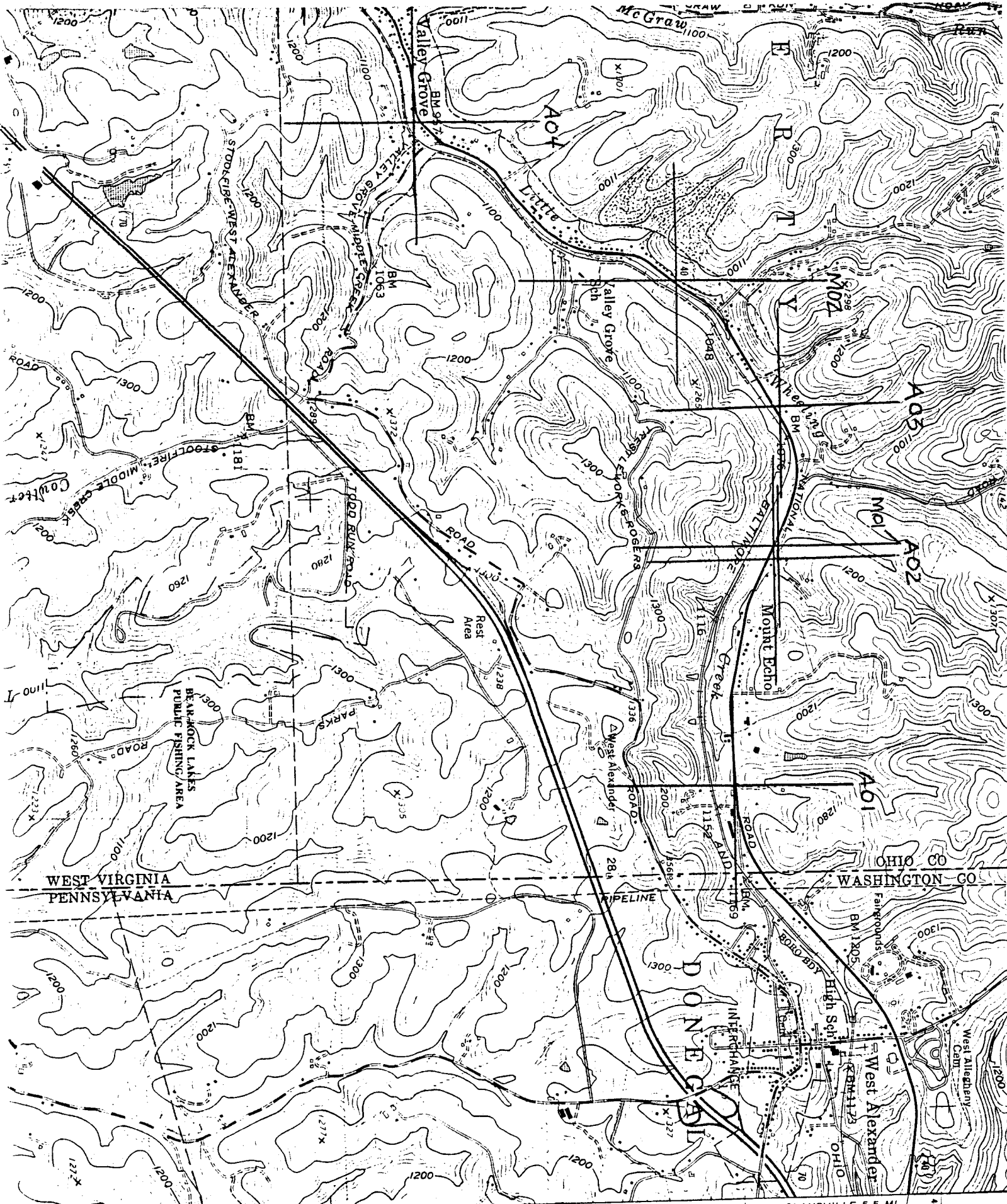
Verbal Boundary Description

point 293 feet west of the point of intersection of Valley Grove Road and the National Road; thence following the east property line 114 feet to the right-of-way for the B&O Railroad; thence approximately 130 feet west following the right-of-way; thence approximately 120 feet north to the south edge of the National Road; thence approximately 125 feet east along the south edge of the National Road to the place of beginning.

BEAGLE HOTEL  
SKETCH MAP



Legend		Revisions			
—	Original lot line	1	Revised 10-25-62 State Tax dlh	9	All tax maps created under I
- - -	Dead lot number in parenthesis (13)	2	REVISED TO JULY 1965 ras	10	



WEST VIRGINIA  
PENNSYLVANIA

OHIO CO  
WASHINGTON CO

DONE  
COMMERCIAL  
INTERCHANGE

West Alexander  
High Sch  
OHIO

CLAYVILLE 5.5 MI.  
WASHINGTON 16 MI.

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