

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Deitz Farm

other names/site number General Robert E. Lee Headquarters

2. Location

street & number State Routes 20 and 28 <sup>N/A</sup>  not for publication

city or town Meadow Bluff  vicinity

state West Virginia code 54 county Greenbrier code 025 zip code 24958

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 2/13/92

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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Deitz Farm  
Name of Property

Greenbrier Co. West Virginia  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
		objects
<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic  
Agricultural  
Defense (fortification, military facility, military hospital, etc.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agricultural

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation masonry  
walls masonry  
roof metal;  
composition  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Deitz Farm  
Name of Property

Greenbrier Co. West Virginia  
County and State

**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.
- 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.

**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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(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  
# N/A
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # N/A

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

**Period of Significance**

1840-1865

**Significant Dates**

1840: 1861-1865

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Generals R.E. Lee, George Crook, Alfred N. Duffie, John B. Floyd

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Not Known

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Deitz Farm  
Name of Property

Greenbrier Co. West Virginia  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 96 acres (Rupert, WV Quadrangle)

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	529250	41957810
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	17	528620	4196140

3	17	5297810	419561010
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	17	528840	41951210

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tim McKinney and Michael J. Pauley, Historians

organization Division of Culture & History date January, 1992

street & number Cultural Center, Capitol Complex telephone (304) 348-0220

city or town Charleston state W V zip code 25305

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

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

name Patricia Deitz

street & number 3034 Holly Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Titusville state Florida zip code 32796

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Deitz Farm, Greenbrier Co. WV

The Deitz House, historically the headquarters of General Robert E. Lee, occupies a high knoll with gently sloping pastures and adjacent woodlands at Meadow Bluff, Greenbrier County. The farm is situated near the intersection of West Virginia Routes 20 and 28, three miles from Interstate 64, and overlooks the historic Kanawha and James River Turnpike.

Captain John Young purchased the farm property in 1839 and constructed the residence in 1840. Situated at an elevation of 2531 feet above sea level, the residence commands an awe-inspiring view of the Meadow River Valley. The Deitz House, Greek Revival in style, is a single pile, two story side gabled red brick residence, with a two over two room arrangement divided by a central hall and staircase that returns to the second floor level. The residence is three bays wide, with long wide windows on both floors and single entrance door on the first floor at the central bay. The surviving windows are eight over eight panes. The door is surrounded by segmented sidelights. Both side elevations contain four additional windows, and the rear of the building contains two windows at the second floor level, which overlook a red brick kitchen addition that is not original to the house, though in all probability dating to the 19th century. There is a three bay, one-story wooden porch across the front of the house, its roof upheld by four wooden columns. The gable roof is a combination of metal and wood with fiberglass wooden shingles replacing the original wood shingles in some locations.

The interior of the Deitz House is, as stated, a two over two arrangement with a central stair. Hardwood floors are in each room and there are four brick and stone fireplaces, two on each floor. The interior remains basically unaltered from its original design, the only remodeling being the addition of the kitchen and a floral design wallpaper that was added to the plaster walls of three bays. Vandals have torn away the original hand-rail from the staircase, though it has been preserved, awaiting rehabilitation. There has also been vandalization in the form of graffiti on the plaster wall surfaces. Vandalism has also occurred on two of the four fireplaces. A few bricks have been removed from each fireplace. The wooden porch, not believed to be original to the house, has partially collapsed and will, in all likelihood, be removed. Its restoration at some point is not, however, to be ruled out.

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There are two wooden outbuildings in the immediate vicinity of the brick house, both of which are contributing buildings. A wooden two-story barn, adjacent to the gate of the property, dates from the early part of the 20th century. It is a noncontributing building.

On two knolls, several hundred meters due west of the house, are the earthwork remains of Confederate fortifications. They are semi-elliptical in configuration and each is a contributing structure (see sketch map). In a depression between the two knolls are the unmarked graves of an unknown number (no more than a dozen) of Confederate soldiers who died in the house during the time that it was serving as a hospital. This "cemetery", or grouping of graves, is considered to be one contributing site. Within sight of the house, south of the old turnpike road, is a contributing trench-like earthwork that was built by the Confederates in 1861. It is a third contributing structure within the nominated boundary.

**Inventory of Contributing/Noncontributing Resources**

Brick house-	1 contributing building
Wooden Outbuildings-	2 contributing buildings
Barn-	1 noncontributing building
Earthworks-	3 contributing structures
Cemetery-	1 contributing site

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Deitz Farm, Greenbrier Co., WV

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The Deitz Farm, or Gen. Robert E. Lee Headquarters, located above the Old James River and Kanawha Turnpike at Meadow Bluff, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, is significant under National Register Criterion A for having been associated with events, specifically of a military character, that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. It is also significant for having been associated with persons of historical importance during the Civil War. Criteria Exception D is also applicable to the Deitz Farm, as it contains the burial site of a number of soldiers who died here during the period of significance are associated with the event that gives the site its significance. The period of significance extends from the time of the construction of the residence (see below) until the end of the Civil War in 1865.

Constructed in 1840 and situated on a small hill adjacent to the Old James River and Kanawha Turnpike (present Route 20, also called the Tanyard-Little Sewell Road), the house first served as a residence for Captain John Young. In 1861 the house became the focal point for significant military activity in the area. Being situated in a strategic section of western (now West) Virginia, the Deitz property was frequented by forces of both the Union and Confederacy between 1861 and 1865.

In August 1861 the house was taken over for several days as headquarters for Confederate General John B. Floyd. Following Floyd's retreat from Nicholas County, (West) Virginia after the September 10 Battle of Carnifex Ferry, General Floyd, a former U.S. secretary of war and governor of Virginia, again occupied the Deitz House as military headquarters. It was at this time that the home was first used as a soldiers' hospital.

On September 21, 1861 Confederate General Robert E. Lee arrived at Meadow Bluff and assumed command of the Confederate forces then operating in the area. General Lee, with Gen. Floyd, occupied the Deitz House as headquarters. General Lee remained at the Deitz Farm just two days, at which time he moved his camp to Big Sewell Mountain, sixteen miles northeast of Meadow Bluff. Lee returned to the Deitz farm on October 21, remaining until October 29, at which time he returned to the Confederate capital at Richmond.

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Deitz Farm, Greenbrier Co., WV

As General Lee departed Meadow Bluff he placed in charge of the camp there Colonel James L. Davis of the Tenth Regiment Virginia Cavalry. In early December 1861 Confederate forces withdrew from Meadow Bluff and on December 15, one hundred fifty Union soldiers destroyed the one hundred ten log huts which Lee's Confederates had constructed for winter quarters. These huts were located on the Deitz Farm, near the residence.

Following the Battle of Lewisburg in May, 1862, Union Colonel (later Major General) George Crook occupied Meadow Bluff and the Deitz Farm. At this time several thousand Union soldiers camped on and near the Deitz farm and the house itself was once again used as a military headquarters and hospital. Crook's army remained at Meadow Bluff for several weeks.

After the crucial Battle of Droop Mountain, West Virginia, fought on November 6, 1863, Union troops commanded by General Alfred N. Duffie occupied Meadow Bluff and the house became Duffie's headquarters. These men arrived at the Deitz Farm on November 9, 1863 and remained several days before marching westward to Charleston.

Following the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain, Virginia, fought May 9, 1864, Union troops commanded by now General George Crook re-occupied Meadow Bluff and once again the Deitz home became a military hospital and headquarters. Gen. Crook's army was several thousand strong and their tents dotted the landscape for miles around the Deitz property. This 1864 occupation was the last large-scale military occupation of the Deitz Farm, though the site was frequented by military personnel through May 1865.

On a hill adjacent to the Deitz house are several extant military trenches and fifteen unmarked graves said to be of Confederate soldiers who died at the site while it was being used as a hospital. Also, approximately two dozen soldiers' names and regimental inscriptions can be found on several walls of the interior of the house. These inscriptions are by members of both Union and Confederate regiments, spanning 1861-1865.



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Deitz Farm, Greenbrier Co., WV

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In its Civil War Context, this property is the only one known in West Virginia with which General Robert E. Lee is as closely associated and the only building that he used as a military headquarters for as long as he used the Deitz Farm. According to historian Tim McKinney, whose Robert E. Lee at Sewell Mountain is the definitive source for this campaign, this is the primary site associated with General Lee during this, his only campaign conducted exclusively in what is now West Virginia. Also within the Context, few if any sites within West Virginia served as campaign headquarters for such long periods of time for so many different general officers from both sides of the conflict. Few sites were used as medical facilities over the extended period that the Deitz Farm was so used.

Following the period of significance, the house was again used as a private residence. Ownership since the Civil War period has included David Frantz from 1866 until 1876, Elizabeth Littlepage from 1876 to 1879 and W.N. Nickell (who was a founder of The Grange in the Greenbrier-Fayette County area) from 1879 until 1907. The property was acquired by W. A. Bivens in 1907, whose close relative, H.W. Bivens represented Greenbrier County in the W.Va. House of Delegates from 1907 to 1909. A daughter of Mr. Bivens, Lillie Deitz, subsequently owned the house, and today it is locally known as the Deitz House. It remains in the Deitz family today, though it has been unoccupied for approximately fifteen years and is in disrepair, as well as having been subjected to recent vandalism.

The Deitz Farm is significant, therefore, for its close association with events of the Civil War in West Virginia. The farm's use as headquarters by both Confederate and Union commanders, as a hospital for wounded soldiers, as a fortified stronghold and even as a burial ground for Civil War dead all contribute to its significance as an important Civil War site in West Virginia.

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Deitz Farm, Greenbrier Co., WV

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PART NINE -- MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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"House Has Civil War Past." The Meadow River Post, April 8, 1987.

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"Selected Archeological and Historical Sites in West Virginia." Wheeling College. 1965. (At WV S.H.P.O. Files).

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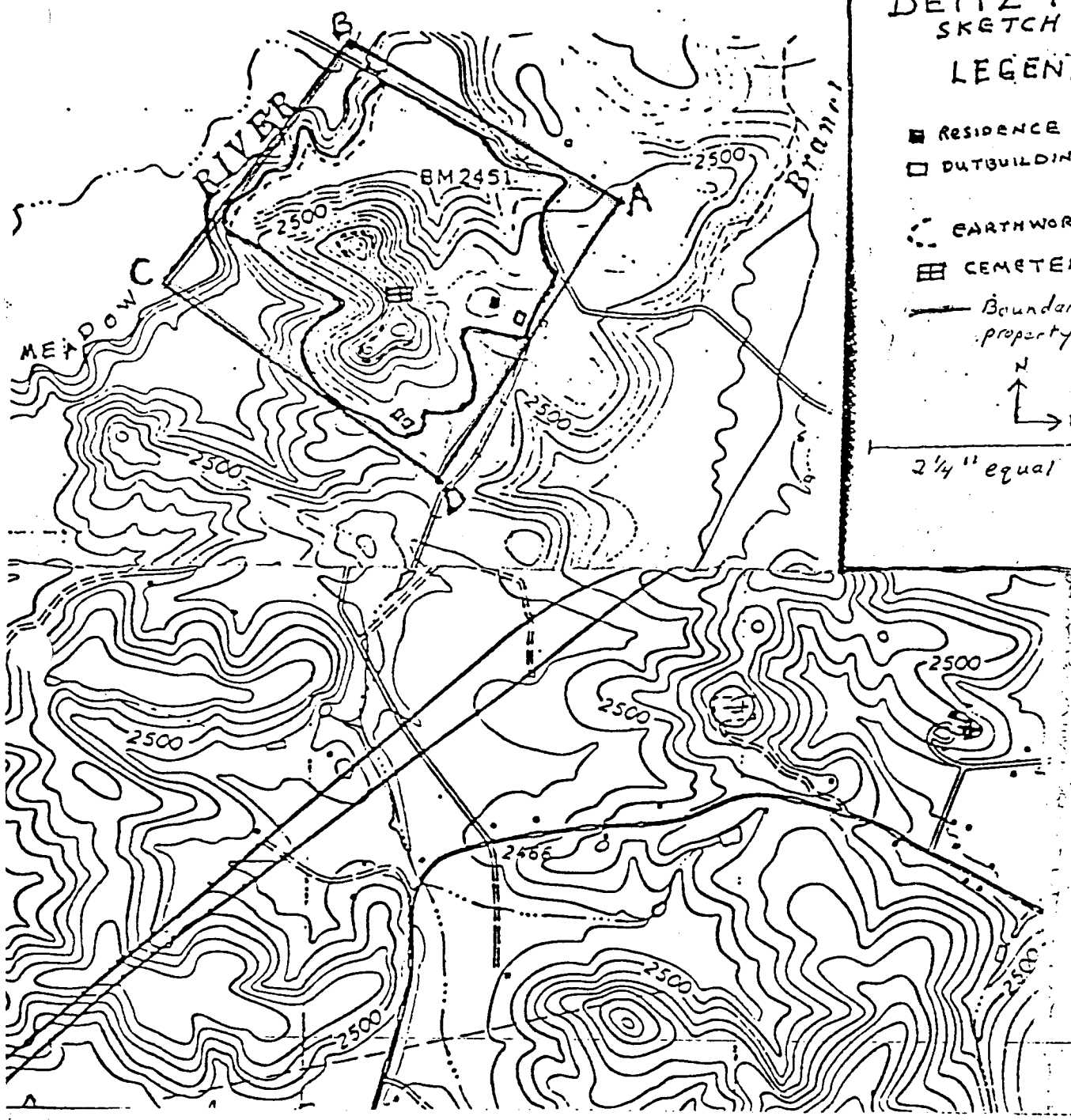
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## Part 10 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point where County Route 60/25 meets State Route 28; thence approximately 750 feet northeast along the west side of Route 60/25; thence in a line approximately 1600 feet due northwest along the southern side of Route 60/25 to where said route begins to cross The Meadow River; thence in a slightly meandering fashion following the east bank of The Meadow River for approximately 2500 feet southwest to where the major contour line meets the east side of The Meadow River; thence following the principal 2500 foot contour-line (as lined in red on the accompanying U.S.G.S. Topographic Map) in an eastward direction; thence south eastward; thence north for approximately 2000 feet until the line meets the east side of State Route 28; thence in a line northwest for approximately 500 feet along the west side of State Route 28 to the point of beginning, encompassing approximately 96 acres.

## Part 10 VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is drawn so as to include the principal area immediately around the Dietz House/Headquarters that served as outdoor bivouac for soldiers of both sides during the time the property was used for military purposes. On the north and west the boundaries are drawn so as to include the major Confederate trenches along the east side of The Meadow River and the defensive earthworks on the two principal rises that were constructed in anticipation of Federal assault down Route 60 from the northwest. The boundaries also include the burial sites of Confederate soldiers who died while the property was being used as a field hospital.

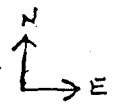


LEGEND

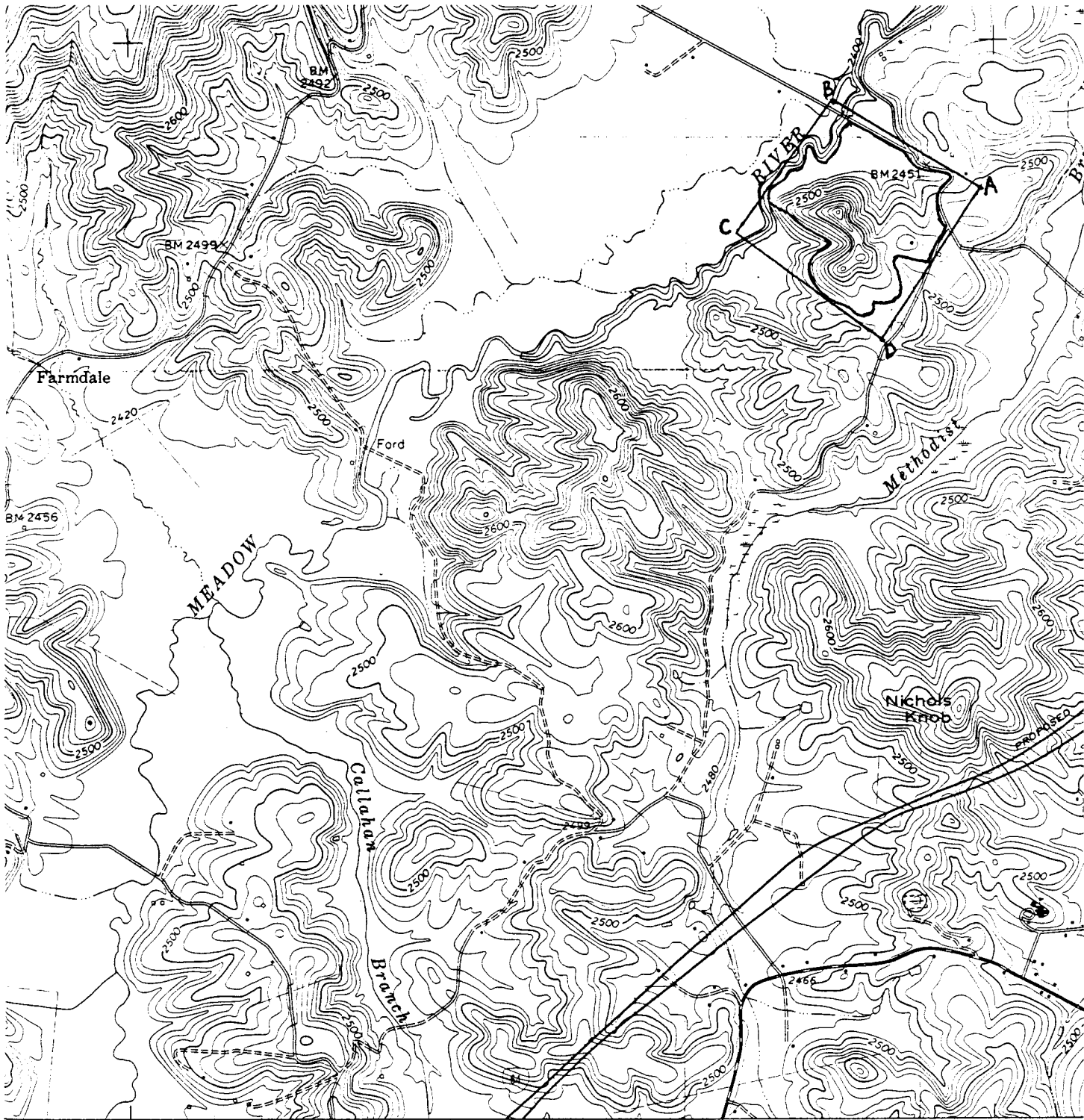
DEITZ FARM  
SKETCH MAP

LEGEND

- RESIDENCE
- OUTBUILDINGS
- ⊞ CEMETERY
- ⋯⋯⋯ EARTHWORKS
- Boundary of nominated property

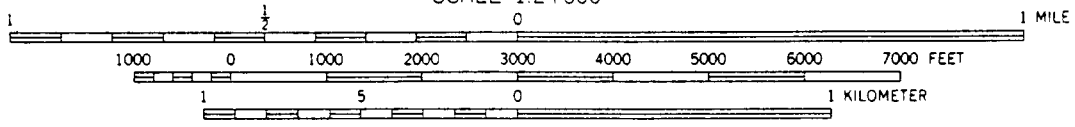


2 1/4" equal 1/2 mile



42'30" 26 27 (DAWSON) 28 DAWSON 2.5 MI. 29 40'

SCALE 1:24 000



0°12' 4 MILS

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

*Rupert Quad*

MAGNETIC NORTH  
 QUARTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

