

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

1. Name of Property

historic name: Fort Hill

other name/site number: Fort Hill Farm

2. Location

street & number: Patterson Creek Road not for publication: N/A
city/town: Burlington vicinity: X
state: WV code: WV county: Mineral code: 057 zip code: 26710

3. 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet.)

William C. Farnsworth

Signature of Certifying Official

11/15/96

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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

Date

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Agriculture - animal facility

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Materials

Mid-nineteenth century:
Federal

Foundation Brick
Walls Brick

Roof Tin
Other Glass, Weatherboard

Narrative Description

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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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.

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Agriculture

Period of Significance

1853 - 1946

Significant Dates

1853
1882
1907

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Architect/Builder
n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) (see attached)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Bibliography

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

X See 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 #

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Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of Repository: Bonar Family, Fort Hill, Burlington, WV

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreeage of Property: 240 acres

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

A 17 678205 4354160
Zone Easting Northing
C 17 678100 4351870
Zone Easting Northing

B 17 678660 4353620
Zone Easting Northing
D 17 677585 4352500
Zone Easting Northing

X 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.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Beth Ann McPherson, Assistant Curator /Susan M. Pierce,
Deputy SHPO for Resource Protection

Organization: Mark Twain Museum/WV SHPO Date: September
20,1996

Street & Number: 54 S. Main Street/1900 Kanawha Blvd East
Telephone: (203) 247-0998/(304) 558-0220

City or Town: Ipswich/Charleston State: MA/WV ZIP: 01938 /25305

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

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.

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Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

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

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

Name: Mary Alice Hannah, Charles Bonar and James Bonar

Street & Number: Fort Hill Farm, Patterson Creek Road Telephone:
n/a HC84 Box 8

City or Town: Burlington State: WV Zip: 26710

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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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Fort Hill is a farm complex containing a main house surrounded by numerous contributing, support buildings. The present main barn (c.1875), smoke house, dairy/icehouse, and wash house and privy are all situated close to the rear of the main house. There is also a well opening directly behind the rear of the main house. The garage is situated to the right of the main house. Below the barn are several outbuildings, including a scalehouse/crib, a tool shop/forge, machine shed, and chicken coop. Two subsidiary barns (c. 1937 and 1940) and silo are situated in the field behind the main property. There is also one 1950s non-contributing barn behind the main barn.

The complex is spacious, in keeping with the feel of the expansive landscape. At the center of the farm complex is the Federal style main house. This two-story, L-shaped brick building is composed of a side gable roofed, five bay building with a rear extension. The rear extension is three bays deep with a dual-pitched gable roof. The brick is laid in a common bond. Within the angle of the rear ell is a partially enclosed clapboard two story porch. The front section is capped by a tin gable roof, presently painted green, contrasting nicely with the red brickwork and the dark green shutters. There are four interior chimney stacks. Brackets adorn the rear eaves.

The front facade of the house is dominated by a three-bay, one-story front porch supported by four one foot square Tuscan piers. Two pilasters rest against the front facade of the house on the outside edges of the porch. The flat roofed porch is capped by a balustrade. This wooden porch painted white replaced an earlier two story portico.

The house is divided into five bays. Two sidelights flank the central door opening; this treatment is repeated on the second story. A white painted, wood lintel caps each sash window. Painted slatted shutters flank each opening. The doorways are also demarcated with white lintels.

Each side elevation of the front portion of the house is divided into two bays by two sash windows. The extension of the rear wing is divided into six bays by single windows at each end with two pairs of windows in the middle. The end facade of the rear wing has a single window.

White paint on the mortar between the brick rows emphasizes their linearity and the brickwork pattern. The house was repointed in 1975, so some of the white lines may be covered up. Signatures, both of craftsmen and visitors can still be deciphered in the cracks.

A small weatherboard wooden shed projects off the rear, providing access to stairs leading down to the basement under the rear kitchen

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wing of the house. These walls are brick, rising out of a dirt floor. The lower half of the brick wall has been covered with a layer of cement. There is only a crawl space under the front of the house. A stone patio has been laid out at the rectangular area in the rear of the two wings of the house. Stone block steps lead up to the back door.

Inside the main house, the first floor is laid out with two opposing rooms off the front hall. A dining room is behind the right parlor. The front hall staircase provides access to the second story and attic level. The attic is the size of a crawl space, rather than full room size. The beams used were hand hewn. The visible nails are cut, not rosehead.

The honey-colored front door of the house is natural wood. The interior doors have been grained. Directly opposite the front entrance, at the rear of the hall, is a door that presently leads onto a glassed-in back porch space. A five cross panel door off the left front parlor leads to the 1926 bath and laundry addition located behind it. On the back porch next to the laundry, a wooden staircase leads to the second floor porch overlooking the stone patio. A pantry is at the end of the porch.

A large fireplace dominates the kitchen, and like the parlor fireplaces, is plain in appearance. The kitchen is accessible from both the dining room and the side rear porch. The door to the rear porch consists of a glass panel atop a vertical wooden panel, over two horizontal wooden panels. A third door, situated opposite the one leading onto the glassed-in porch, exits the kitchen onto a wooden, shed porch supported by thin rail columns spaced six feet apart.

The four panel, grained doorway from the kitchen to the dining room is the only swinging door in the house. A two door china closet has been built into the wall next to the fireplace. Leading from the dining room, the door to the glassed-in porch has a transom window above it.

The fireplaces and mantels in the house project outward into each room with wall length chimney breasts. The marbelized fireplaces in the front parlors incorporate classical pilasters which support the lintel mantelpiece. A rectangular, brick fireguard has been laid in front of the fireplace.

Upstairs, a second bathroom has been added off the stair landing. An adjacent doorway on the landing leads to a glassed-in porch that runs parallel to the bedrooms. This is directly above the first floor porch. At the end of the porch space, above the downstairs pantry area is a storage room. Doors open off the porch to two

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upstairs bedrooms. Perpendicular to this enclosed porch space is a covered open wooden porch supported by thin rail columns and enclosed with a balustrade. The space is entered via a screen door off the glass porch. The second floor hall opens out onto the top of the present day front porch through twelve-paneled French double doors. These doors are flanked by transom lights.

The upstairs floor plan mirrors that of the first floor. The fireplaces in the front bedrooms boast the same faux black marble treatment seen elsewhere in the house. These rooms have the most colorful fireplace treatment seen in the house. Grey, white, and orange combine to create a marbled effect. The mantle and the flanking plain pilasters are painted black.

OUTBUILDINGS

There are numerous contributing outbuildings, serving different functions on the Fort Hill property. According to a plat of the property prepared for the family in 1933 the property boasted a washhouse and cellar, a dairy and ice house, a meat house, a wood house, a garage, a hog house, poultry houses, a barn, and a well. The wood house was taken down circa 1945.

The icehouse is contemporary with the main house. The structure is built of brick, laid in a pattern of six stretchers per header row, topped by a pyramid roofed vent. The eaves are turned at the edge of the gable roof. The upper level has been used as fruit preserve storage and the lower level, set into the hill, served as the dairy. In the floor of the lower level is a grooved channel for melted ice. To the east side of the dairy is a clapboard building that served as the smokehouse/meathouse.

A third wooden building found to the right of the dairy house is known as the washhouse. It is located on the site of Solomon Hedges eighteenth-century field office. To the rear of the three larger outbuildings is the privy, the "little hole", a wooden outhouse with two different size seats. Lids cover the three adult height seats and one shorter, child height seat.

An additional tenant house was located behind Fort Hill Farm. This burned; there may be archaeological remains from this structure. Testing is necessary to verify the extent of this resource.

Several barns are situated to the rear of the main house and the domestic outbuildings. The main barn, a huge wooden "bank barn", was built in 1873. It is open to the south. Clad in red clapboard, the L-shaped barn has a brick lower level. The tin gable roof is topped with two enclosed cupolas with layered slats for ventilation on the North/South axis and three on the East/West axis. Similar to the ice

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house, the eaves are turned. To the south of the main barn is a 1950s barn which is noncontributing. Various animal pens are located adjacent to the barn.

There are two other barns to the south of the main house. A bank barn with silo was constructed in 1930 for the storage of hay and silage for the beef herds. Another barn, built in the 1940s, is a drive through structure allowing for the storage of grain on both sides. The chicken coop, originally located in the clothes yard near the washhouse, was a shanty that was brought in from the woods. A scales and corn crib structure was added to the complex of barns in the 1930s. The wood-sided garage, originally a two-stall carriage house, is located on the side of the drive to the east of the main house.

The family cemetery is across the road west of the main house. Located within the farm's pasture land, it has a view of the entire property and overlooks the main house, outbuildings and barns. Within a white rail fence and beneath several shade trees are the graves of James Sloan, Sr, his wife, Magdalena Arnold, and their descendants.

Less than half a mile south on County Road 11 is "Woodside", a school house built in 1890 by James Sloan, Jr. for the various children in the family. It is clad in board and batten under the front gable and clapboard beneath the side gable. Its interior has been altered for residential use. To the right of the entrance are two, six over six, double-hung windows with a smaller, double-hung window over each opening. To the left of the entrance are two larger, double-hung, four over four windows. A shed overhang supported by posts protects the entry door.

Adjacent to the schoolhouse, are two other contributing buildings. A tenant house was built in the 1920s. It is a side gable, one story structure that is in poor condition. It is clad with composite shingle and has a partial, shed porch. It is currently used for storage. A board and batten summer kitchen, also from the 1920s, is located in this set of buildings. To the rear is a non-contributing metal storage building built in the 1980s.

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Fort Hill Farm is eligible to the National Register according to Criteria A and C for its significance in the early to mid nineteenth century agricultural development of the Patterson Creek watershed, a subsidiary of the South Branch of the Potomac River. The completion of the Federal plantation house in 1853 represents the affluence of the Sloan family, a family instrumental in the settlement of the north-central region of West Virginia. The farm is an example of the historic development of the Patterson Creek watershed as prosperous farmland.

"Patterson Creek Manor" was originally a portion of the original Lord Fairfax grant associated with this corner of West Virginia. The survey of this property was recorded in Hardy County, Virginia on September 7, 1773. Lot 3, an area encompassing 625 acres, was originally claimed by Solomon Hedges and is associated with the Fort Hill Farm. Hedges' office stood behind the Fort Hill main house and is said to have housed George Washington for a night. (It was subsequently removed by the family.) Lots 2 and 3 passed to Lucy Ann Colston. Upon her death Richard Sloan and his siblings purchased this property.

Originally an immigrant from Scotland via Ireland, Richard Sloan had already constructed the Stone House located on Route 50 east of Junction, WV. (listed on the National Register 6/5/75) Several of his sons never married, remaining together while their mother, Charlotte nee Van Horn, cared for the running of the bachelor household. When the daughters married, the brothers drew straws to determine who would find a woman to help their mother and marry her, bringing her into the family circle. James, Sr. drew the lucky straw. Wanting to start out in a new environment, the bachelors moved out of the family home, selling the "Stone House" to the Parker family.

The Sloan family was already committed to the settlement of the area. James Sloan, Sr.'s departure from Stone House expanded the farming activities of the family. Married to Magdalena Arnold (1810-1863) on January 6, 1835, he is said to have finished construction of Fort Hill in 1853. A receipt from George Sloan and brothers to Philip Breebeck and Westfall Garrett dated October 22, 1853 ordered the firing of "173,000 bricks on Patterson's Creek at \$1.25 per thousand" totalling \$216.25. It is likely that a kiln was set up on the hill near the house for the manufacture of the bricks. A second house, "Longview", was built north of Fort Hill. This was built for and perhaps by John Sloan, son of James, Sr. It is no longer owned by the family.

James Sloan, Sr. continued to live at Fort Hill until his death in 1907. His son, James, Jr. married Mary Isabel Arnold of Knobley Farm on January 24, 1877. James, Jr. did not outlive his father, dying in

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1903. Three of his daughters, known locally as the "Sloan sisters", ran the farm with their grandfather and continued to do so after his death. (The sisters used the "Sloan Sisters" on their letterhead and envelopes.) Jane Pierce, Magdalene Arnold and Helen Mary employed cousins to assist in the running of the farm. At their death, the farm was left to a cousin, Cornelia Harmison, granddaughter of Elizabeth Sloan Stump, sister of James Sloan, Jr. Cornelia Harmison married Clyde Bonar. Their three children, James, Charles and Mary Alice Bonar Hannah currently own and manage the farm and home.

The farm has traditionally been a cattle farm and historically was significant for its local introduction of the Aberdeen Angus breed. According to family oral history, Mary Isabella Arnold's uncles went to Missouri to farm and learned of the superiority of the "black baldy" breed to the common Hereford. D.A. Arnold received an Aberdeen Angus bull from Missouri and sent the bull by railroad in a wooden crate to Keyser where it was walked home to Knobley Farm on Christmas Day, 1882. Following this incident, the cattle were introduced to Fort Hill. In the early twentieth century the Bonar family began the present herd in 1927 with new stock purchased from J.G. Hanlin of Maple Croft Farm, Mt. Storm, WV. It has been a registered herd by the American Angus Association for over fifty years.

The farm and the family were self sufficient. Richard Sloan and his children were by trade weavers and provided cloth goods for the family. (Woven coverlets remain in the possession of the family as well as at Stone House with the Parker family.) Historically, the family raised sheep to supply the wool for weaving. Today the family no longer weaves, but continue to raise sheep as well as cattle.

The patriarch of the family also provided schooling for the younger members of the family. In 1890 James Sloan, Jr. constructed a school house known as "Woodside". Lena Wright, a cousin, taught the family's children. Graffiti on the rear exterior wall marks various initials and dates.

The Sloans were relatively uninvolved in local politics. Although a Southern sympathizer, James Sloan, Sr. did not own slaves. During the Civil War, he was called upon in the middle of the night by witnesses of a fight to retrieve the bodies of two young men. They had been murdered after boasting publicly about their enlistment as Union soldiers. James Sloan, Jr. brought the bodies to Fort Hill Farm where they were stretched out on door planks to lie in the hallway.

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The use of the Federal style demonstrates the prosperity of the family in the nineteenth century. This clearly is a significant plantation in the Patterson Creek watershed. Stylistically, the house has changed little since its construction. Apart from the porch which has been altered twice in the 1920s and in 1975, only two windows have been altered to allow for a door onto the second story rear porch, and closed in for a book case. Portions of the rear porches have been enclosed for indoor lavatories.

The plantation retains almost all of the original structures: the smokehouse (1853), icehouse (1853) and wash house (1910) remain virtually unaltered. The main barn dates to 1875, with additional barns constructed in the 1930s and 1940s. Only two buildings are non-contributing: the 1950s barn and 1977 equipment building.

The landscape remains unchanged. Fencelines are historically set and follow the lay of the land including the meandering of Patterson Creek. The fields continue to be used for their original uses: pasture and harvest crops.

At this time the farm is not nominated according to Criterion D. Surface collection from the southern fields on the property near Russeldale Road has identified the location of a "fort" site. This has been recorded as an archaeological site in the West Virginia State Archaeological Inventory at the SHPO, but no extensive testing has been conducted to verify the significance of the resource. Fort Hill Farm acquired its name from this site. Also, two historic archaeological sites are likely on the property: the location of the kiln for the bricks used for construction of the main house and a tenant house that was destroyed. These have not been located.

In its entirety the farm is an example of the personal commitment demonstrated by the original land holders of West Virginia. Each generation of the Sloan family has contributed to the vitality of the farm, handing down an honest affection for the land. A centennial farm, it has remained in continual use by a single family for over 100 years. From the cemetery, one can view the landscape of the farm and understand the family's connection to the land. This honest affection speaks to the character of the people who live in eastern West Virginia.

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(In possession of Bonars of Burlington after rescue from the Keyser Courthouse trash piles).

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point (A on attached quad map) at the northwest corner of the property limits where it intersects County Road 11, proceed east along the parcel line (which is fenced) to Patterson Creek. Then proceed south along the creek until it reaches its closest point to Russeldale Road. Then proceed northwest along Russeldale Road until it intersects with County Road 11. Proceed south on County Road 11 turning west at the fenceline located south of "Woodside" school on the west side of County Road 11. Proceed west along this fenceline approximately .2 mile until it intersects with another fenceline. Proceed north along this fenceline approximately .5 mile until it meets Shirley Lane. Proceed east on Shirley Lane until it meets County Road 11. Proceed north along County Road 11 approximately .7 mile to return to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

Of the original property of approximately 5000 acres, which stretched as far as the Mill Creek area and present day Route 220, about 1600 acres are owned by the family today. Of that, approximately 240 acres are nominated in order to include the pasture and fields cultivated by the nineteenth and early twentieth century generations. This boundary also includes all contributing buildings, structures and cemetery associated with the three significant generations of the family: James, Sr.; James, Jr.; and the "three sisters."

The boundary follows the course of Patterson Creek, fencelines outlining parcels taken from the 1907 estate map of Richard Sloan and current roads. To the north is excluded "Longview Farm". Originally part of the Sloan Family property, it was sold outside the family. Its original structure contemporaneous with Fort Hill is still standing. It is a separate property now owned outside the family.

UTM REFERENCES CONTINUED

| | | |
|-------|---------|----------|
| E. 17 | 677480 | 4352300 |
| ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| F. 17 | 677160 | 4352380 |
| ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| G. 17 | 677285 | 4353190 |
| ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

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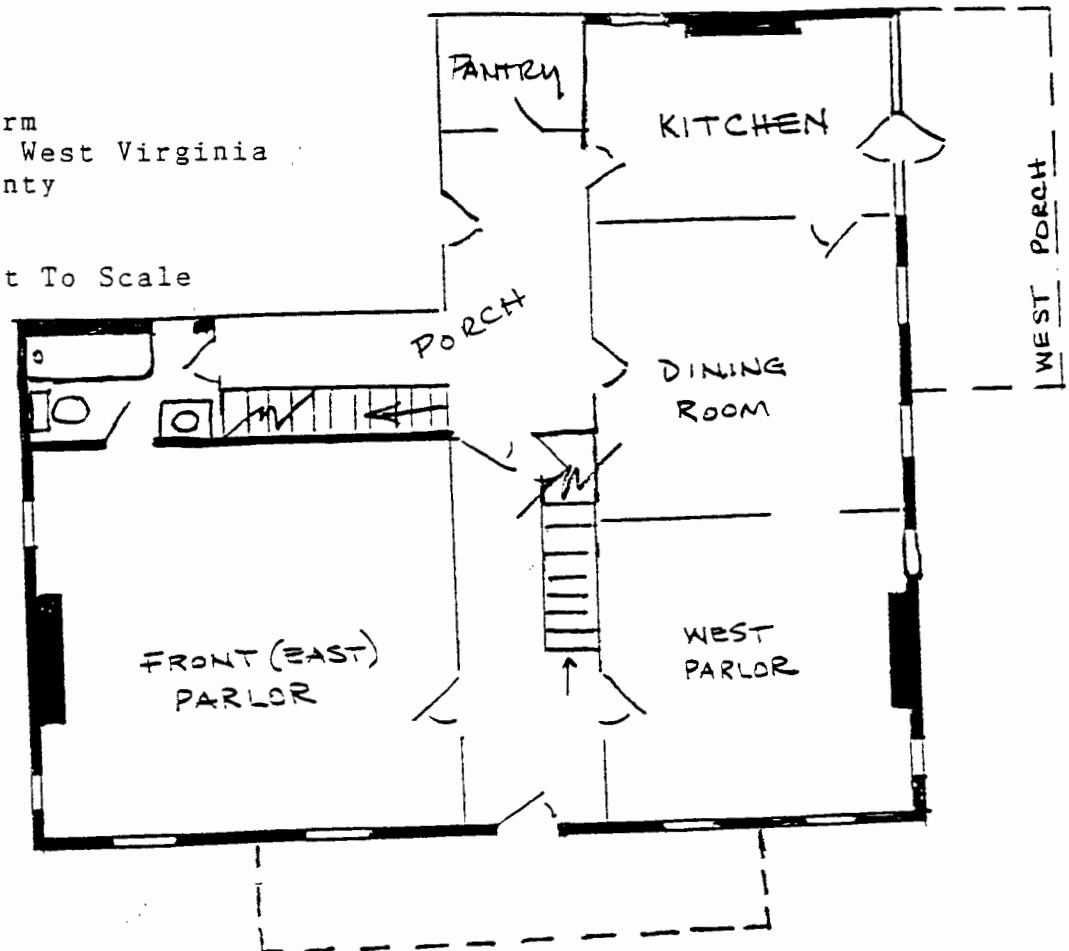
1. North facade of Fort Hill main house - camera facing south
2. West and South facades of Fort Hill main house - camera facing northeast.
3. South facade of Fort Hill main house - camera facing north
4. Interior view of east parlor - camera facing southeast
5. Interior view of central hall - camera facing south
6. North facades of smokehouse (clapboard) and dairy (brick) - camera facing south
7. Washhouse - camera facing southeast
8. Garage - camera facing east
9. Main barn - camera facing southwest
10. Main barn, detail of scarf joint
11. Non-contributing 1950s barn behind main barn - camera facing west
12. Scales and cribhouse - camera facing south
13. View of fields and contributing field barns - camera facing south
14. "Woodside" school - camera facing west
15. Tenant house at "Woodside" - camera facing northwest
16. Summer kitchen and non-contributing farm equipment building - camera facing southwest
17. Family cemetery - camera facing northwest
18. Panoramic view of farm landscape - camera facing east from cemetery

Photographers: Katherine Jourdan and Susan Pierce, WV SHPO
Date: August 28, 1996
Negatives are on file at the WV SHPO.

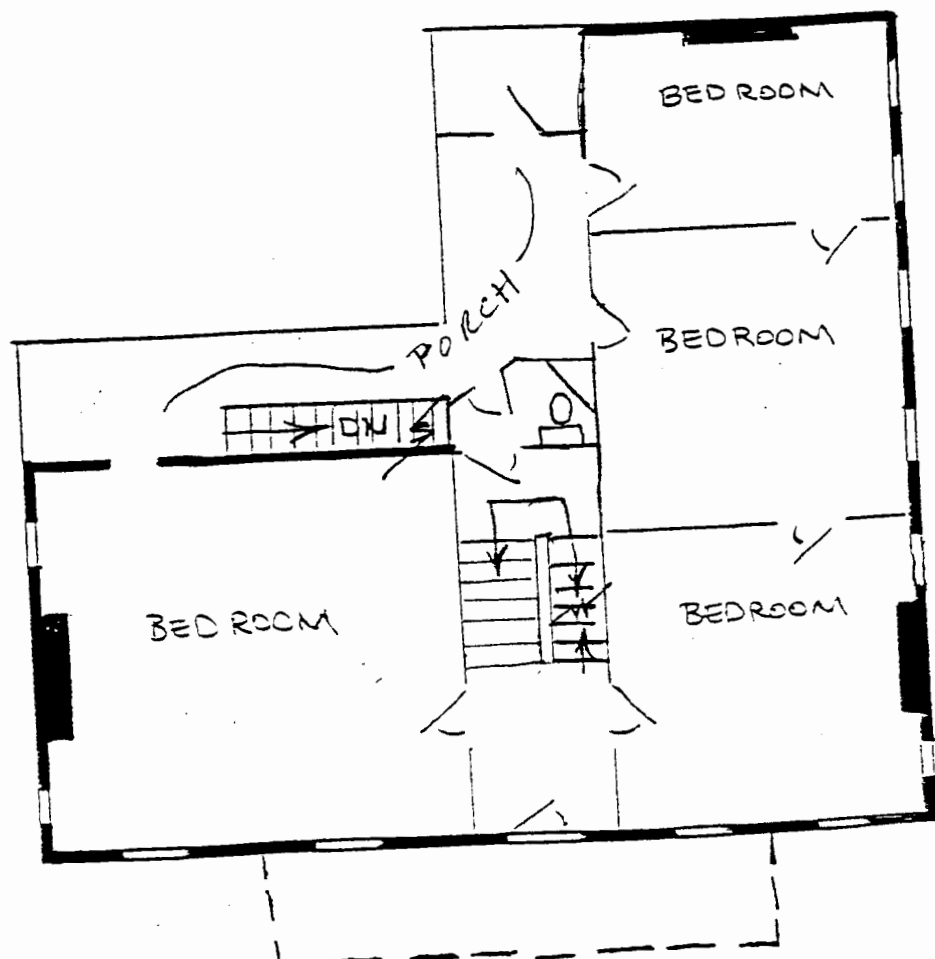
Ft. Hill Farm
Burlington, West Virginia
Mineral County

Drawings Not To Scale

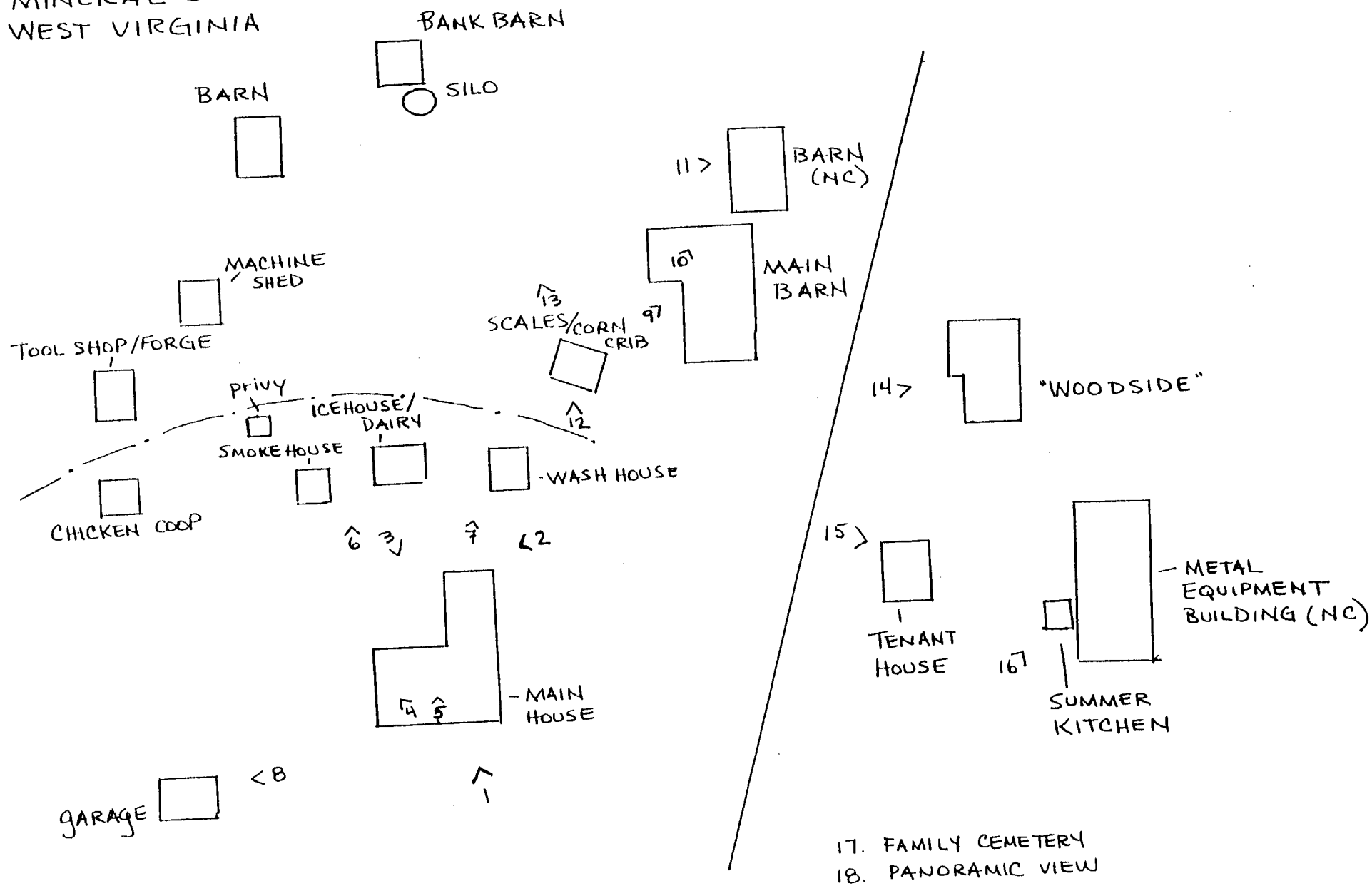
FIRST
FLOOR



SECOND
FLOOR



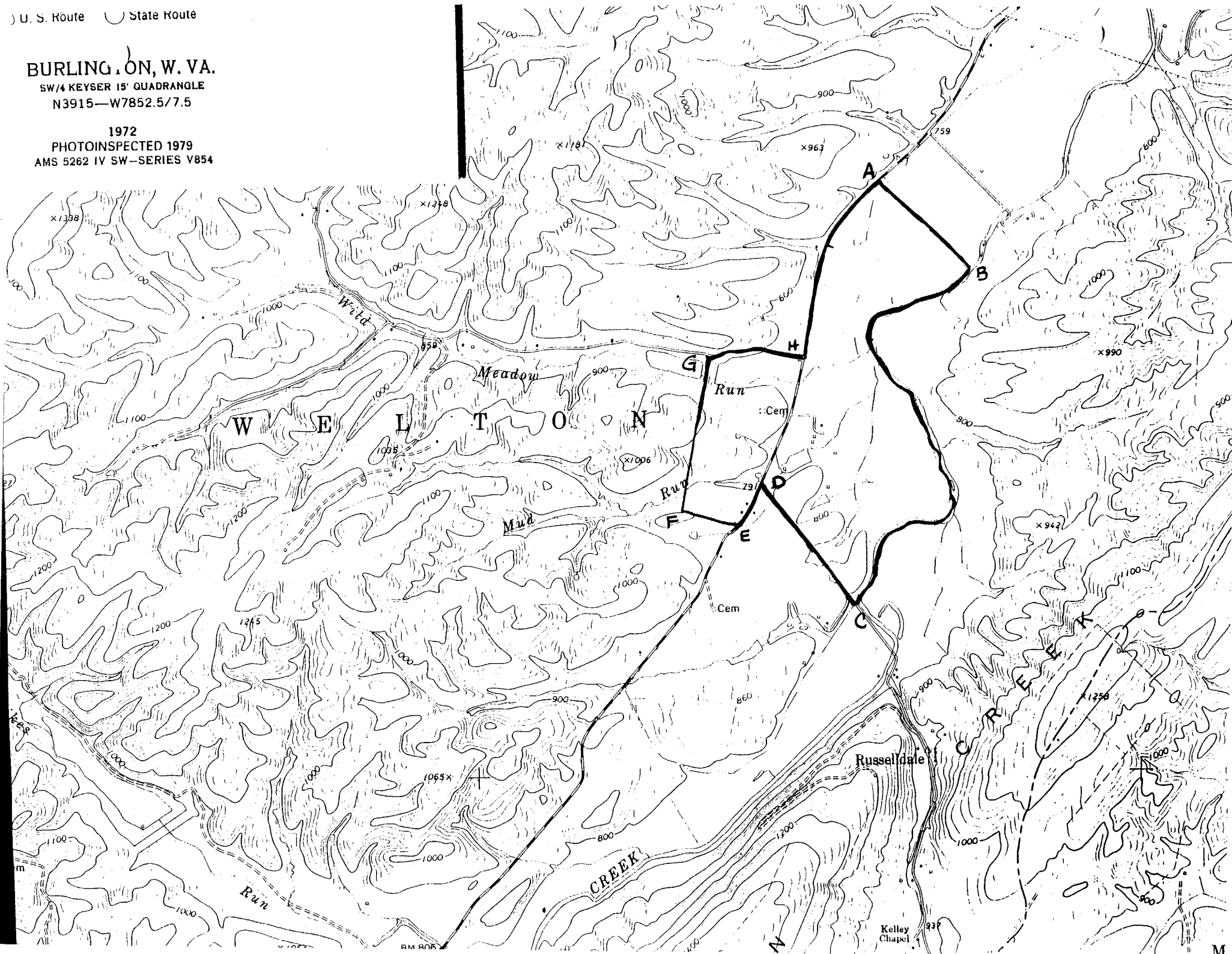
FORT HILL FARM - SKETCH MAP/PHOTO KEY
 BURLINGTON VICINITY
 MINERAL COUNTY
 WEST VIRGINIA

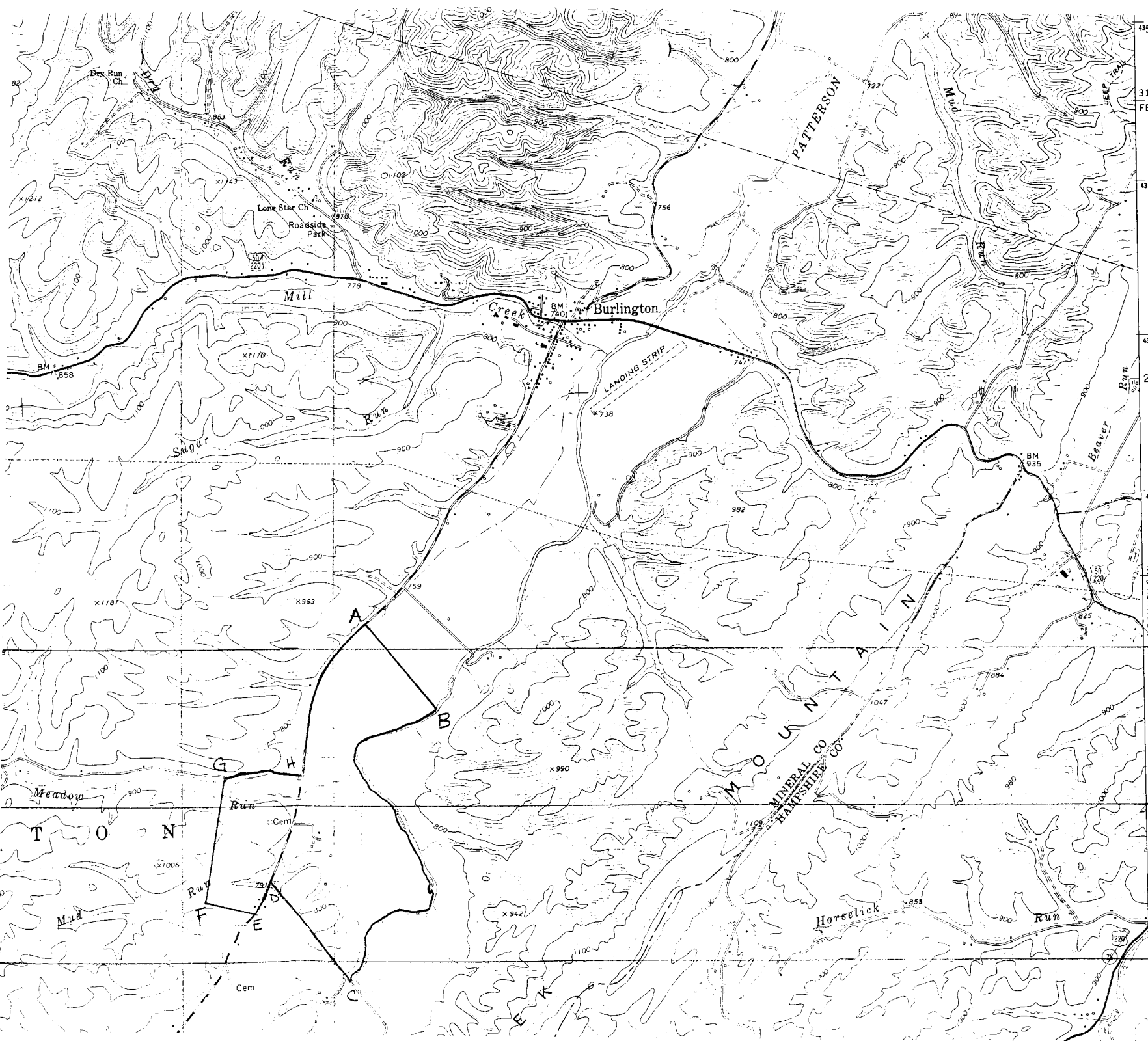


U. S. Route State Route

BURLINGTON, W. VA.
SW/4 KEYSER 15' QUADRANGLE
N3915—W7852.5/7.5

1972
PHOTOINSPECTED 1979
AMS 5262 IV SW—SERIES V854





FORT HILL FARM
MINERAL COUNT
WEST VIRGINIA

- 20' A 17 678205
4354160
B 17 678660
4353620
C 17 677535
4351870
D 17 677535
4352500
E 17 677430
4352300
F 17 677160
4352330
G 17 677285
4353190

ROMNEY 8 MI
WINCHESTER, VA 57 MI
(ROMNEY)
5202 IV SE

