

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Schlack, George, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 212 Speck's Run Road not for publication N/A

city or town Ridgeway vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Berkeley code 019 zip code 25413

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 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 of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, Division of Culture and History
State or 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 commenting official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

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

Schalck, George, House Berkeley County, WV
Name of Property County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property Number of Resources within Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	public-local	_____district	1	1	buildings
_____	public-State	_____site	_____	_____	sites
_____	public-Federal	_____structure	_____	_____	structures
_____		_____object	_____	_____	objects
			1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

_____ N/A _____

_____ none _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Current Functions

_____ DOMESTIC/single dwelling _____

_____ DOMESTIC/single dwelling _____

_____ DOMESTIC/secondary structure _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Materials

_____ LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS _____

_____ foundation STONE/limestone _____

_____ Colonial Revival _____

_____ walls CONCRETE/concrete block _____

_____ roof METAL _____

_____ other WOOD; CONCRETE _____

Narrative Description

Refer to Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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

Refer to Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Refer to 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1913

Significant Dates

1913

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Undefined

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Schalck, George, House
Name of Property

Berkeley County, WV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	752387	4353898	3		
2				4		

Verbal Boundary Description Refer to Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification Refer to Continuation Sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Taylor, Principal

organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. date November, 2007

street & number 9 Walnut Street telephone 814-849-4900

city or town Brookville state PA zip code 15825

Property Owner

name Rondale O. DeHaven and Floyd A. Lee, Jr.

street & number 212 Speck's Run Road telephone _____

city or town Bunker Hill state WV zip code 25413

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7. Description

The George Schlack House is a 2½-story rectangular Colonial Revival-style residence finished in rock-faced concrete block, located in the unincorporated village of Ridgeway, in Berkeley County, West Virginia, less than one mile north of the Virginia state line. Ridgeway is located in the Mill Creek District of Berkeley County, in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. The Schlack house occupies a one-half-acre tract on the south side of Speck's Run Road, east of U. S. Route 11, formerly a toll road known as the Winchester and Martinsburg Turnpike; Route 11 presently is known as Winchester Pike. The property is also east of the north-south trackage of the former Cumberland Valley Railroad which historically stopped in the village. The house retains integrity and has been minimally altered from the original.

Schlack, George, House, residential

Date: 1913

1 contributing building

The Schlack house is five bays in width and four bays deep, modest in its detailing, with the main entrance centered on the north-facing facade. The foundation is parged and is capped with a smooth-dressed water table. Fenestration is flat-topped throughout, with double-hung windows with replacement sash which essentially match the original and occupy the original openings. The fenestration is articulated by extended concrete sills and is capped with smooth-dressed lintels. Extending across the facade is a single-story hip-roofed front porch, supported by four rock-faced concrete block piers which rest on matching bases. The porch rests on concrete block piers and is raised approximately two feet above grade; it is accessed by a centered wood stair. The porch floor is of wood, as are the soffit and fascia which is ornamented by a dentil band. The five-bay west elevation is distinguished by a two-story bay window. The rear (south) elevation is dominated by a double-gallery porch of wood construction, supported by five rock-faced concrete block piers, and extends across the entire south elevation. Two pairs of back doors access the interior on both the first and second story. The building is capped by a truncated hipped roof clad in standing-seam metal with undersized hipped dormers. Non-historic hung gutters and downspouts drain onto stone splash blocks. A beltcourse of smooth-dressed concrete is under the eaves, decorated with a concrete dentil band similar to the wood dentil band on the porch roof. Two rock-faced concrete block chimneys penetrate the roof, serving both the furnace and the fireplaces inside.

The interior of the Schlack house is organized around a central-passage, four-over-four-room plan. The basement is unfinished. On the first story, the stair hall is accessed by the original wood front door with an oval opening of clear glass and features a straight-run wood stair with turned balusters, a plain handrail and a simple wood newel characteristic of the 1913 date of construction, and unadorned face and wall strings. A half-bath has been inserted into the rear of the hall. The first story, once partitioned into apartments, has been returned to its original configuration and includes sitting rooms on either side of the hall and the bay window opening into the sitting room on the west side of the house. A kitchen and diningroom occupy much of the southern half of the downstairs. The second story contains an upstairs hallway with a newel and an open balustrade along the stair. A small room, perhaps originally a sewing room or nursery, is located at the north end of the upstairs hall and four bedrooms are arranged around the perimeter. The aforementioned bay window is located in the master bedroom. A bathroom is centered at the southern end of the hall.

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Original flooring and plaster wall surfaces have been retained throughout and/or restored to their original finish. Door and window trim includes reeded wood surrounds and bull's-eye corner blocks finished both naturally and painted. Fireplace mantles are of wood and baseboards are of wood with molded caps.

The Schlack house occupies a flat half-acre parcel in the rural village of Ridgeway. At the north perimeter of the lot near Speck's Run Road are a pair of rock-faced masonry entry portals which may have connected to a fence, no longer extant. A second set of portals, nearer to the house, are capped with masonry urns. Lawns are on all sides of the house and a gravel driveway west of the house leads from Speck's Run Road southward to a gravel parking area southwest of the house. A non-historic shed of wood construction is located at the rear of the lot; it rests on treated wood piers and because of its recent date of construction is a non-contributing feature within the context of the nomination.

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8. Significance

The George Schlack House is significant and meets National Register Criterion C for *architecture*, as a well-preserved early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival-style house executed in concrete block, which was a modern and innovative building material at the time of its original 1913 date of construction.

The beginnings of Berkeley County can be traced to the Colonial administration of William Gooch, who served as the Colonial Governor of Virginia from 1727 until 1749. However, since the governor himself spent much of his time in England, Gooch exercised considerably more influence than he might otherwise have done. Among Gooch's priorities was the protection of Virginia's western territory both from Native Americans and from incursion by the French. In 1730, three years after Gooch assumed office, the Governing Council of the Colony of Virginia issued orders for this section of the colony to be settled. Originally part of Spotsylvania County, a new county, Orange, was formed in 1734, followed by Frederick County in 1738. Berkeley County was formed from portions of Frederick County in 1772. Adam Stephen (1718-1791) became the county sheriff and commanded a division during the American Revolution. In 1773 he laid out Berkeley County's new county seat of government along Warm Springs Road, an established route between Alexandria, Virginia and the town of Bath, now Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. Stephen christened his new town Martinsburg, after his friend Thomas Bryan Martin, a nephew of Lord Fairfax. Midway into the nineteenth century the railroad came to Martinsburg and Berkeley County's fortunes paralleled those of both the Cumberland Valley Railroad and the Baltimore and Ohio. Martinsburg became a thriving railroad town, bolstered by the development of the orchard industry which continues to the present. Diverse other industries developed in the county as well, schools and churches were built, and new neighborhoods and villages developed outward from Adam Stephen's original eighteenth-century settlement.

In 1752, John Ridgeway, a New Jersey Quaker, had surveyed a 358-acre tract in what was then Frederick County, Virginia, in the area that would eventually bear his name. He erected a side-passage stone house, extant but significantly altered. His holdings eventually grew to 758 acres and after his death in 1794, the plantation passed to his son, Richard. Descendant Andrew Ridgeway eventually acquired the property and farmed it.¹

The settlement of Ridgeway lies along present-day U. S. Route 11, which began as the nineteenth-century Winchester and Martinsburg Turnpike. Planning for this highway began as early as 1834 but the crushed stone road was not built until 1849 when it first linked the two communities whose names it bears. Winchester is eleven miles south of Ridgeway and Martinsburg is fifteen miles to the north. The turnpike remained a toll road until 1919 when a "Washington Post" article reported, "Stockholders of the Winchester and Martinsburg Turnpike Company have accepted a proposition made by State Highway Commissioner Coleman to transfer the nine miles of turnpike in Virginia to the State without cost. The commissioner has a right to continue the one toll gate until September 1, 1919, but it is planned to abolish it sooner. By that time it is stated, there will be no toll gates on any trunk line highway extending from Pennsylvania."²

¹Don C. Wood, **Documented History of Martinsburg and Berkeley County, West Virginia** (Martinsburg: Berkeley County Historical Society, 2004), 204-207.

²"Washington Post," February 12, 1919.

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While the Turnpike aided significantly in travel between Martinsburg and Winchester, the advent of the railroad contributed directly to the birth of the settlement which would become Ridgeway. Berkeley County land records suggest that, along with the Ridgeway family, Joseph Hill was among the nineteenth-century landowners in the area. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad had been built through Martinsburg in the 1840s and in 1888, Hill sold a right-of-way east of the Turnpike containing 2.62 acres to the Cumberland Valley Railroad. The Cumberland Valley line dated from the 1830s, having reached Chambersburg, Pennsylvania from Carlisle in 1839, from which it continued to Hagerstown, Maryland. In 1873 the line was extended southward from Hagerstown to the Potomac River and by 1889 it had reached Martinsburg, West Virginia and Winchester, Virginia. Ridgeway was the last stop on the CVRR before it entered Virginia.

The right-of-way which Joseph Hill transferred to the railroad was sixty feet in width, extending thirty feet on both sides of a center line. His sales agreement called for the railroad to provide fencing as well as road and cattle crossings.³ A station was built as was a station master's house; neither are extant. Ridgeway never grew beyond its initial character as a whistle-stop railroad settlement. As the orchard industry became a mainstay of the Berkeley County economy, Ridgeway residents gained employment in the orchards—typified by those operated by the Ridgeway Orchard Company—or in the processing plants, including the Musselman operation at Inwood, north along the Turnpike and the National Fruit Company, to the south in Winchester.

In 1890, Joseph Hill platted a series of lots in the settlement and the hitherto unnamed community went on to be named for the pioneer Ridgeway family. In 1899, George and Sadie Schlack acquired portions of the old Ridgeway home farm. In 1912, the Schlacks acquired two lots in Hill's Addition and likely erected the nominated property shortly thereafter. Little is known about Schlack or his wife. They retained ownership of the house until 1927, when it was sold to Isa W. Santmier, who held the property for only a few months before selling it to John J. Ridgeway. After the death of John Ridgeway in 1930 and that of his widow, Elizabeth W. Ridgeway the following year, the house passed to their children, Fred and Emma Mae. In 1937 Fred Ridgeway conveyed his one-half ownership of the property to his sister. It is thought that Emma Mae Ridgeway converted the house into apartments, occupying one of the units herself and renting the remainder. She remained in the house until her death in 1982, bequeathing the proceeds from the sale of the house to Payne's Chapel (a rural church east of the community) and to Winchester's Braddock Street Methodist Church.

The Criterion C significance of the Schlack House is vested in its position as a locally-distinctive example of the Colonial Revival style of architecture, executed in rock-faced concrete block. Born of the fervor of patriotism in the wake of the American Centennial of 1876, the Colonial Revival style borrowed the form and detail of eighteenth-century architecture and replicated, sometimes faithfully and sometimes incidentally, the appearance both of pre-Revolutionary urban architecture and plantation houses. George Schlack's 1913 Ridgeway home employs the central-passage four-over-four plan characteristic of the eighteenth-century Georgian style, along with the truncated hipped roof and denticulated trim which were also derivative elements of eighteenth-century design.

³Berkeley County Deed Book 85, Page 369, October 5, 1888.

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The use of rock-faced concrete block—intended to give the appearance of stone—for the Schlack house also contributes to its significance. Concrete, like stucco, has ancient precedents in the construction trades, but its appeal as a fashionable building material did not develop until just after the turn of the twentieth century. Concrete originally consisted of natural materials like clay and lime, such as that found in volcanic ash that had been exposed to intense heat. Portland cement, a synthetic, was invented during the Industrial Revolution in England, but the natural formula continued to be marketable until the 1890s.

Early production of concrete block in the nineteenth century was achieved by filling cast iron or wooden box molds called side-face machines with a dry mix of concrete added in layers and hand-tamped, while being mixed with the minimum amount of water for hardening. The finished unit was removed through the hinged sides of the mold box and laid out to dry for seven to ten days in an upright position.

Mass production of concrete block buildings did not develop until Harmon S. Palmer's 1890 development of the hollow concrete block and his subsequent 1900 patent of a cast iron hollow block machine. With Palmer's invention, it was claimed that two men could produce between eighty to one hundred blocks in a day. Blocks were cast with the design plate on the bottom in "down-face" machines that rotated up 90 degrees for release of the block. Hollow blocks were considered superior as they were lighter, insulated better and were more moisture-resistant. With the popularity of the concrete block as a building material established, competing companies began marketing their own machines. All followed Palmer's pattern of metal frame and mold box with a hand release lever for opening the sides and removing the finished product. In the years prior to standardization of the concrete industry, the size of some early blocks was as much as from 24" to 32" long. Blocks were also thicker, sometimes weighing as much as 180 pounds. With the organization of manufacturing associations, by the 1920s the standard block size for most machines was reduced to 8" × 8" × 16." However, one-half or one-quarter size block attachments were accessible, as well as gable, bay window, circular and corner block attachments.⁴

Sears, Roebuck and Company had offered a portable block maker in their catalogs of the early twentieth century, and as the century progressed concrete block, smooth-dressed, rusticated, and rock-faced, became a popular material for foundations and, in the case of the Schlack house, for exterior finishes. Entire houses of concrete block houses were marketed by Sears as early as 1908 and their catalogs claimed that "concrete block houses can be constructed at about one-third less than stone construction, and if properly furred on the inside to make a dead air space between the blocks and plaster, will be perfectly dry and healthful."⁵

Concrete block was employed throughout Berkeley County after the turn of the twentieth century, but generally for foundations and garages. By way of comparison, another Berkeley County National Register property employing concrete block construction is the James Mason House (NR 2006). The Mason House consists of a 4-bay c. 1809 limestone hall-and-parlor house to which was appended a 3-bay c. 1900 addition of rock-faced concrete block. The blocks for the addition were manufactured *in*

⁴http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/historic-properties/national-register/siding_materials.asp?page=con

⁵Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, **Houses By Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck, and Company**. Washington, D. C.: The Preservation Press, 1986, p. 263.

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situ using a machine purchased from Sears, Roebuck. Unlike the Mason House, the entirety of the Schlack house was built from the beginning of concrete block.

The village of Ridgeway is architecturally undistinguished and is characterized by vernacular residences, small of scale and unpretentious in their detail. Many are clad in non-historic siding and/or have undergone significant alterations. The Schalck house is the most distinguished house in the village and retains integrity in all of its composite qualities. In the context of Ridgeway and Berkeley County it is a distinctive, locally-significant, well-preserved example of Colonial Revival-style concrete block domestic architecture dating from the second decade of the twentieth century.

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Section Number 9 Page 7

9. Bibliography

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

Public Documents

Public records, Berkeley County Court House, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Unpublished Manuscripts

Don C. Wood, "Concrete Block House," MS in collection of Berkeley County Historical Society, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Published Articles

Simpson, Pamela H. "Cheap, Quick, and Easy: The Early History of Rockfaced Concrete Block Building," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* 3 (1989), pp. 108-118.

Books

Stevenson, Katherine Cole and Jandl, H. Ward. **Houses By Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck, and Company.** Washington, D. C.: The Preservation Press, 1986, p. 263.

Wood, Don. C. **Documented History of Martinsburg and Berkeley County.** Martinsburg: Berkeley County Historical Society, 2004.

Maps

Kearfott, J. Baker. "Map of Berkeley County, Virginia," 1847.

_____. "Map of Map of Berkeley County, West Virginia," 1894.

Internet Sites

Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office website: http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/historic-properties/national-register/siding_materials.asp?page=con

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Schlack, George, House

Berkeley County, WV

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10. Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being that parcel described in Berkeley County, West Virginia Deed Book 786, Page 499.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for this nomination includes only that single parcel historically associated with the subject property.

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Photography Log

All Photographs:

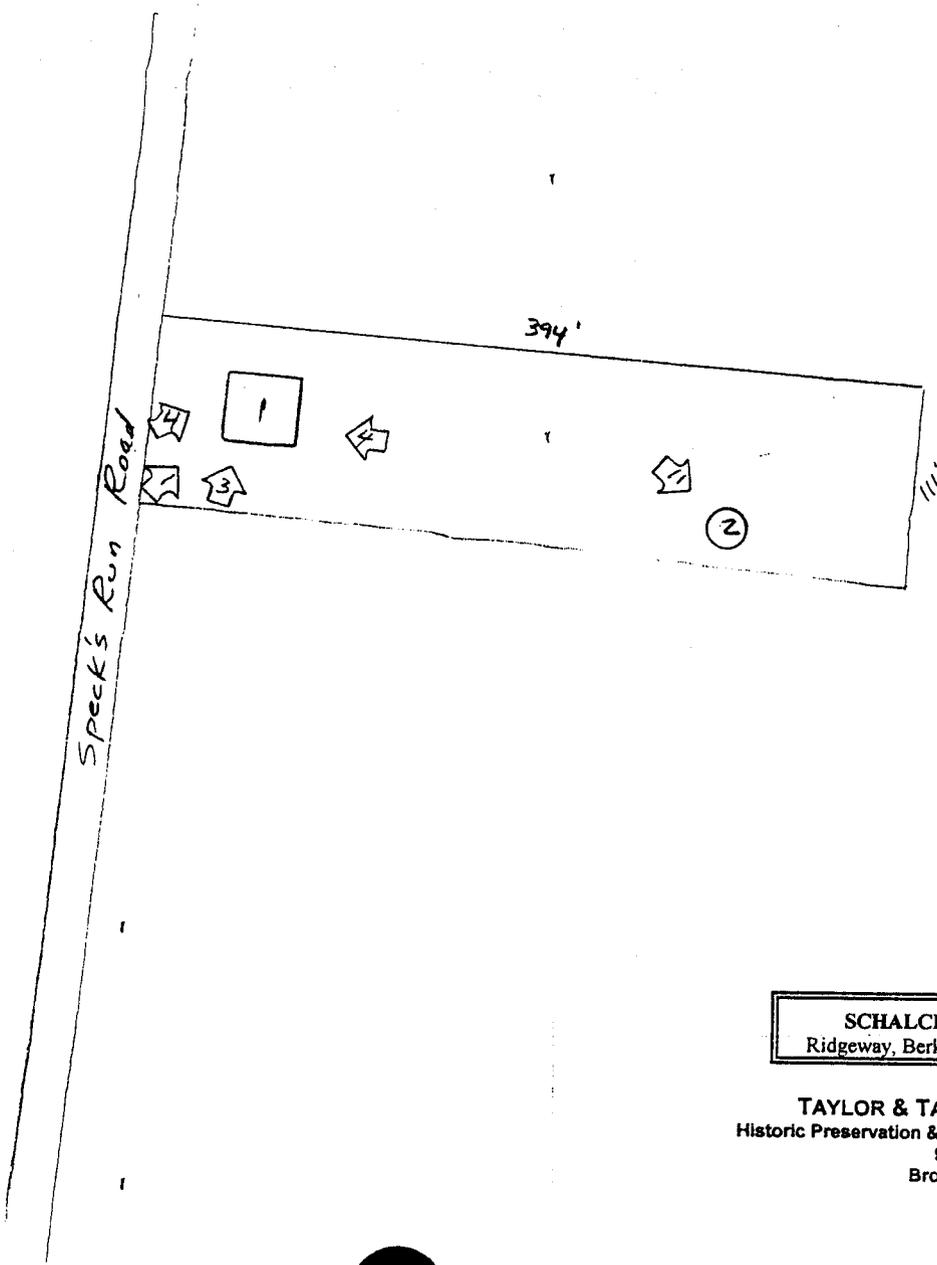
Schlack, George, House

Berkeley County, WV

David L. Taylor, 2007

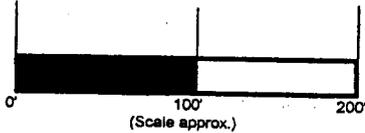
Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc., Brookville, PA

1. Facade, looking south, and showing 5-bay configuration, massing, finishes, front porch, fenestration, etc.
2. Facade, detail showing front porch
3. Northwest perspective looking southeast, and showing 2-story bay window on west elevation
4. South elevation, looking north, and showing double-gallery porch at rear, as well as massing, finishes, etc. of this elevation.
5. Interior, detail, showing central hallway, newel, staircase, finishes, etc., along with door at south end of stair hall
6. Interior, detail, central hallway, showing balustrade, railing, turned balusters, etc.
7. Interior, detail of woodwork, showing characteristic reeded door and window surrounds, bull's-eye corner blocks, etc., some of which is painted and in other areas is finished naturally and varnished.
8. Interior, diningroom looking south
9. Interior, second story, detail, showing upstairs hall, balustrade, stairs, finishes, etc.
10. Interior, second story, detail, showing bedroom and second-story of bay window
11. Modern shed (non-contributing), located at southwest corner of lot, looking southwest.



SCHALCK, GEORGE, HOUSE
 Ridgeway, Berkeley County, West Virginia

TAYLOR & TAYLOR ASSOCIATES, INC.
 Historic Preservation & Community Development Specialists
 9 Walnut Street
 Brookville, PA 15825
 814-849-4900
 March, 2008

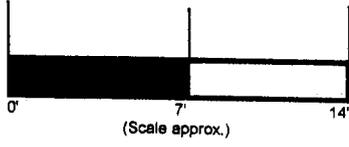


Site Plan—Photo Key

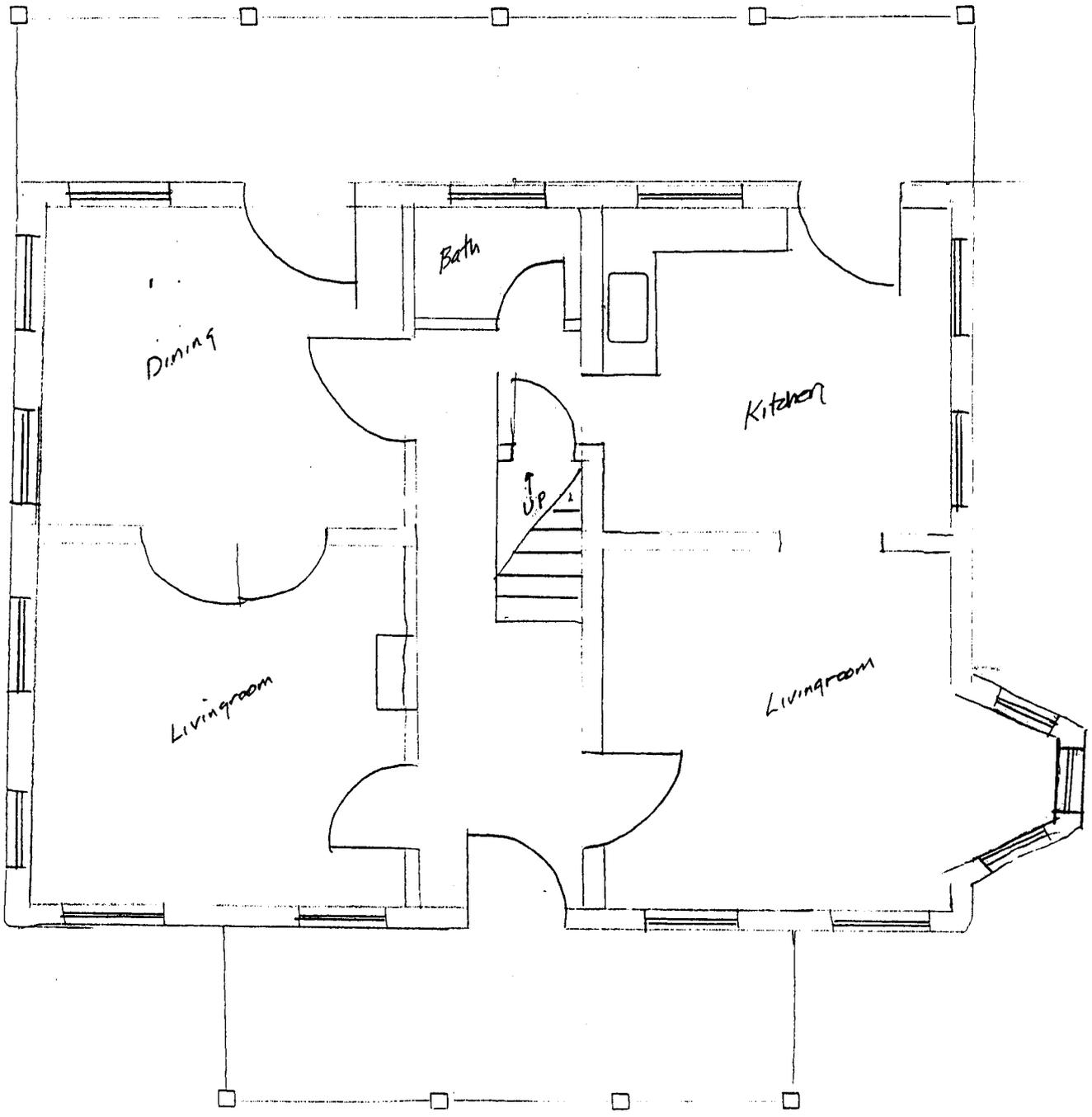
- 1 House
- 2 Storage Shed (non-contributing)
- Photo Number & Camera Orientation

SCARLETT, GEORGE, HOUSE
Ridgeway, Berkeley County, West Virginia

TAYLOR & TAYLOR ASSOCIATES, INC.
Historic Preservation & Community Development Specialists
9 Walnut Street
Brookville, PA 15825
814-849-4900
March, 2008

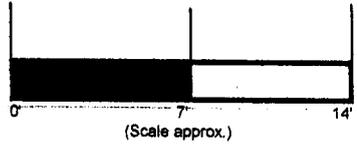


First Story

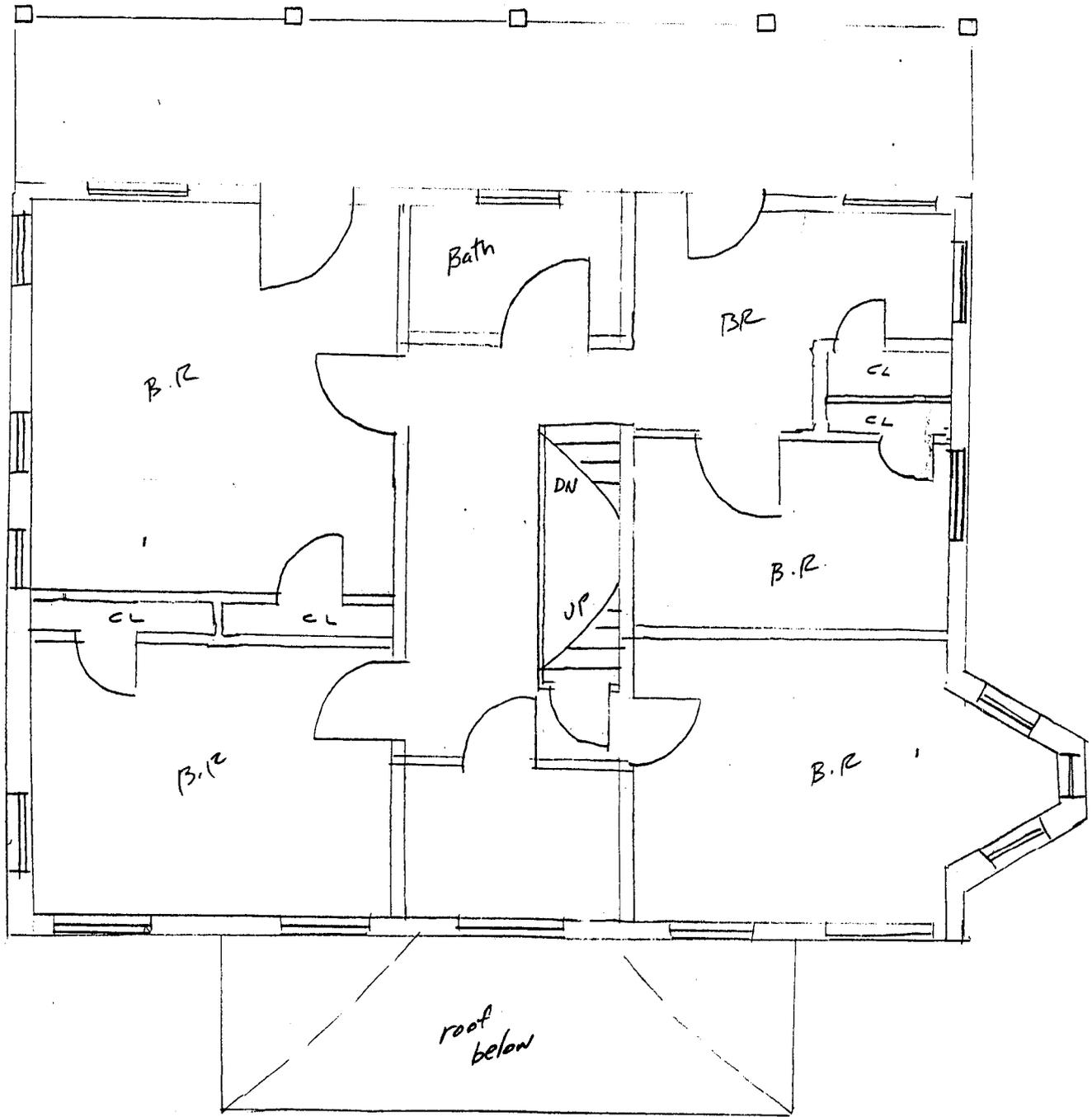


SCHALCK, GEORGE, HOUSE
Ridgeway, Berkeley County, West Virginia

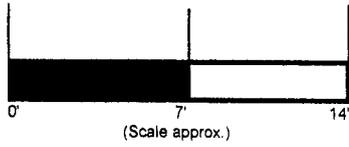
TAYLOR & TAYLOR ASSOCIATES, INC.
Historic Preservation & Community Development Specialists
9 Walnut Street
Brookville, PA 15825
814-849-4900
March, 2008



Second Story



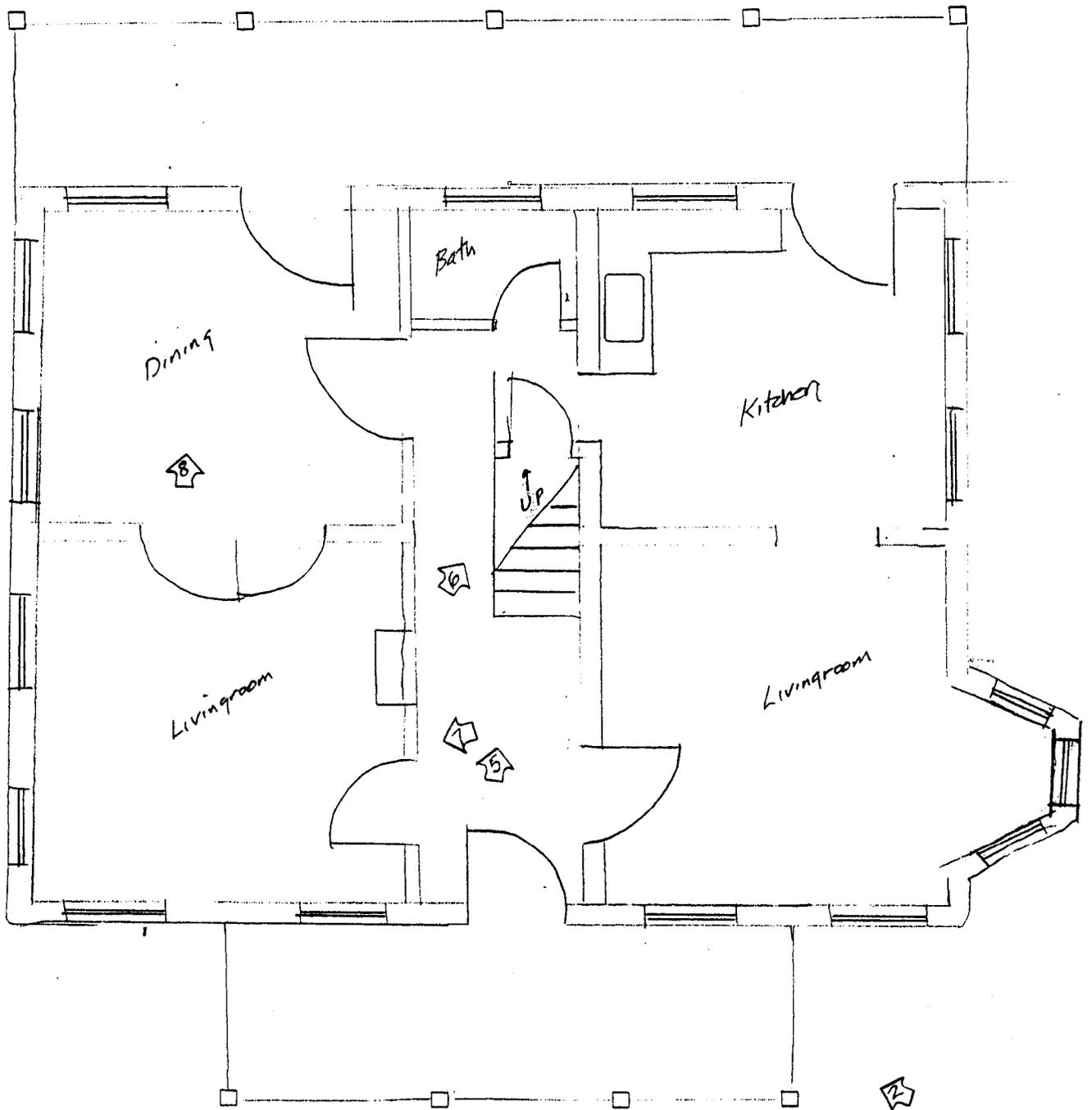
TAYLOR & TAYLOR ASSOCIATES, INC.
Historic Preservation & Community Development Specialists
9 Walnut Street
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PHOTOGRAPHY KEY MAP

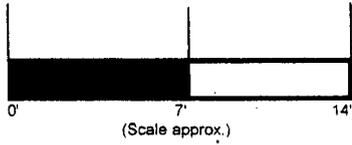
Photo Number & Camera Orientation

First story



SCHALCK, GEORGE, HOUSE
Ridgeway, Berkeley County, West Virginia

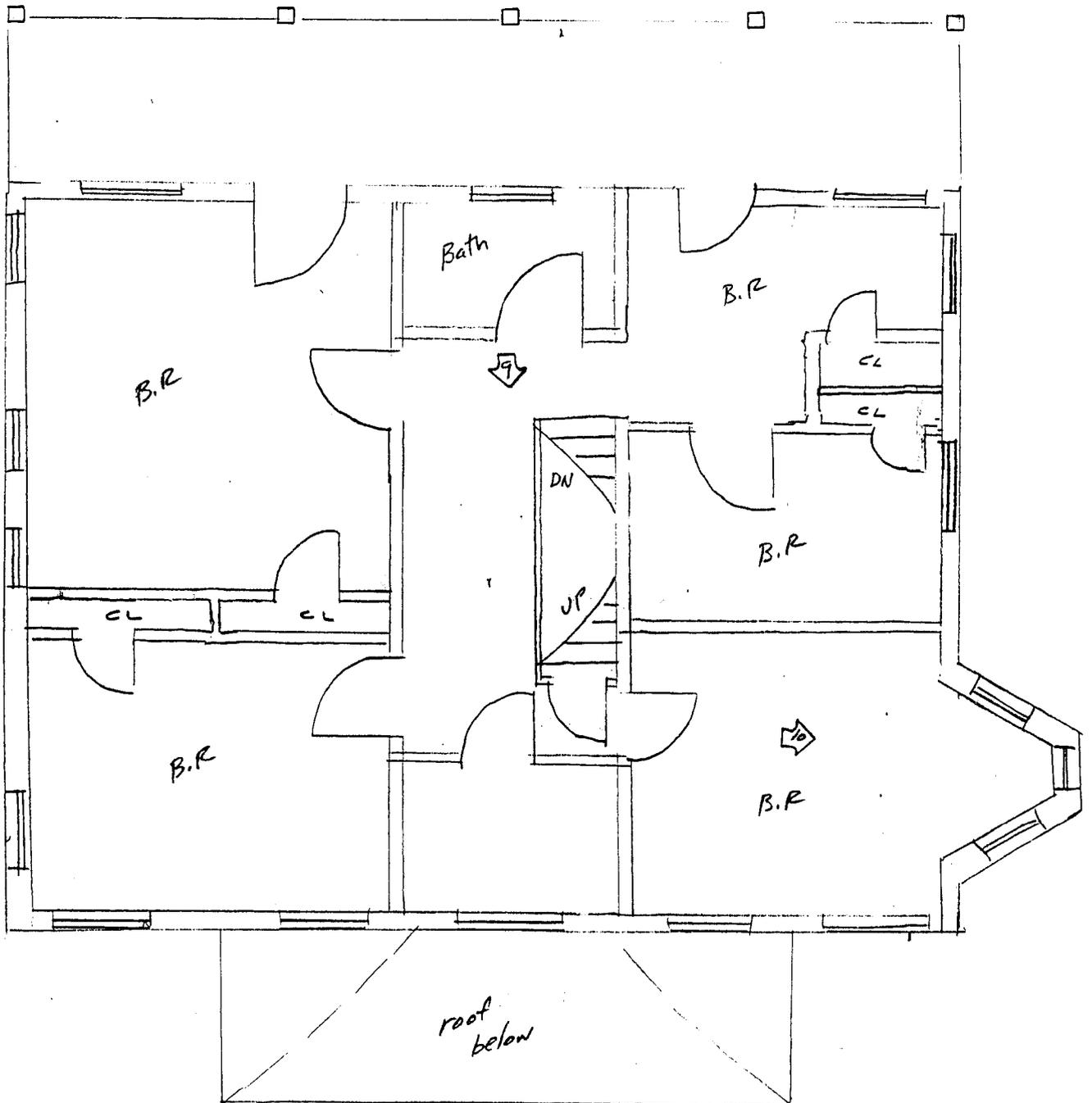
TAYLOR & TAYLOR ASSOCIATES, INC.
Historic Preservation & Community Development Specialists
9 Walnut Street
Brookville, PA 15825
814-849-4900
March, 2008

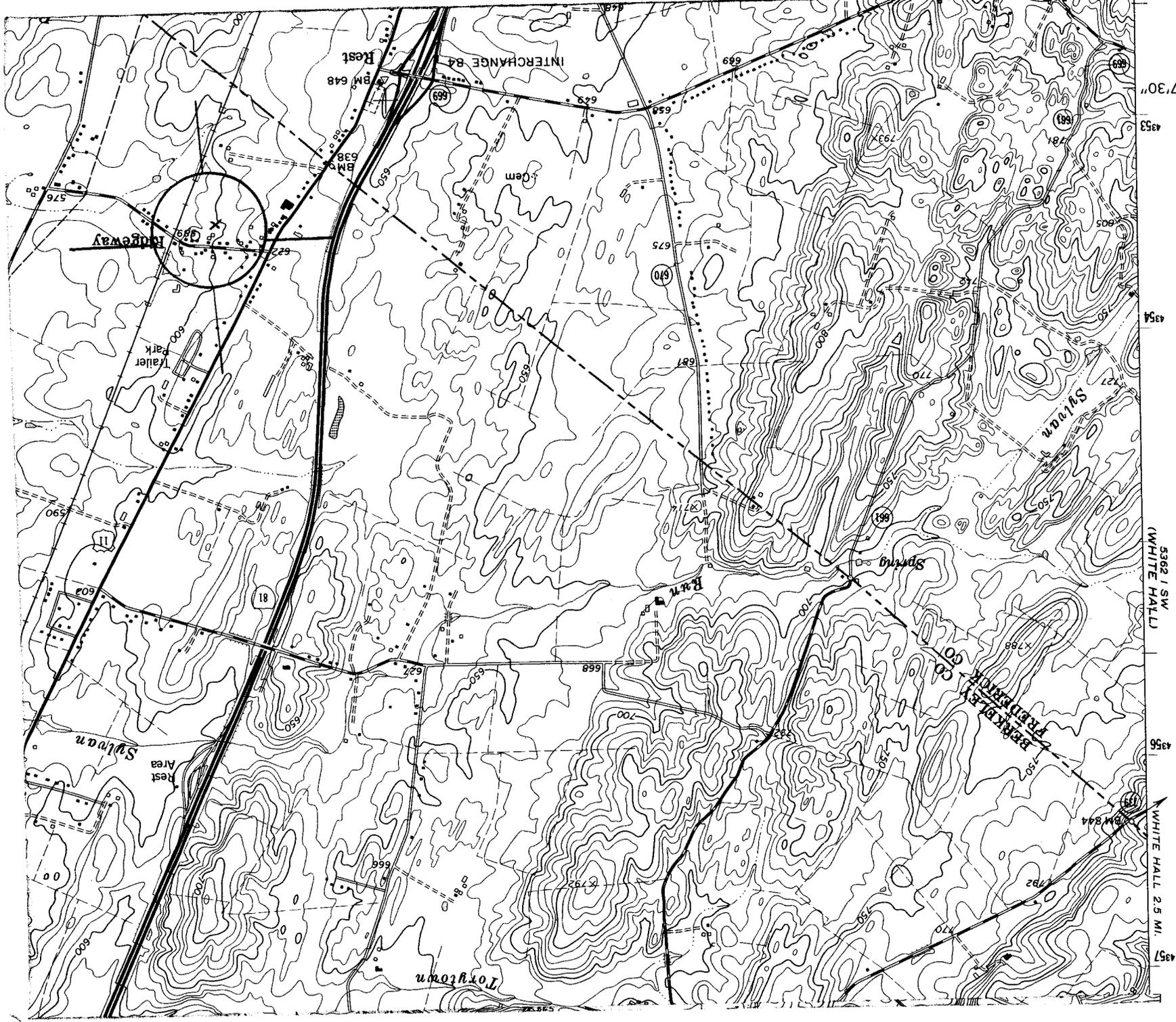


PHOTOGRAPHY KEY MAP

Photo Number & Camera Orientation

Second story





17.30"
4353
4354
4356
4357

5362 / SW
(WHITE HALL)
17/152383 /
4353671
at George House
W Reference

WHITE HALL 2.5 MI.





















