

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Cometti, Elizabeth. "Swiss Immigration to West Virginia, 1864-1884: A Case Study," Mississippi Valley Historical Review, XLVII (June 1960), 66-87.
- Interviews. Col. C.E. Turley with Mrs. Eleanor Mailloux and Rev. Robert Raborn of Helvetia, September 1976 and March and April 1978. On file with the Historic Preservation Unit, West Virginia Department of Culture and History.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 45 (approximate)

QUADRANGLE NAME Pickens, W.Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 7 | 5, 6, 9, 1, 9, 0 | 4, 2, 8, 4, 8, 4, 0

B 1, 7 | 5, 6, 9, 4, 6, 0 | 4, 2, 8, 4, 2, 7, 0

C 1, 7 | 5, 6, 9, 5, 0, 0 | 4, 2, 8, 4, 3, 1, 0

D 1, 7 | 5, 6, 9, 7, 4, 0 | 4, 2, 8, 4, 0, 9, 0

E 1, 7 | 5, 6, 9, 6, 6, 0 | 4, 2, 8, 4, 0, 3, 0

F 1, 7 | 5, 6, 9, 4, 9, 0 | 4, 2, 8, 4, 1, 3, 0

G 1, 7 | 5, 6, 9, 0, 0, 0 | 4, 2, 8, 3, 8, 2, 0

H 1, 7 | 5, 6, 8, 9, 3, 0 | 4, 2, 8, 3, 8, 4, 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The district boundary is as marked in orange on the sketch map. Where the boundary deviates from highway lines it follows established property lines one lot deep from Pickens, Gruber and Mill Creek Roads and includes the land between Gruber

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Col. C.E. Turley, Field Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Unit

DATE

W.Va. Department of Culture and History

April 17, 1978

STREET & NUMBER Cultural Center

TELEPHONE

Capitol Complex

(304) 348-0244

CITY OR TOWN

Charleston

STATE

West Virginia

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Clarence Morrow

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 16, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

HELVETIA VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT, HELVETIA, RANDOLPH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

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Kek, Anna Dale, ed. Randolph County Profile - 1976. Parsons, W.Va.: McClain
Printing Co., 1976

The Story of Helvetia Community, Randolph County, West Virginia. N.p., n.d.
(Compiled by the Centennial History Committee, 1969 (?)).

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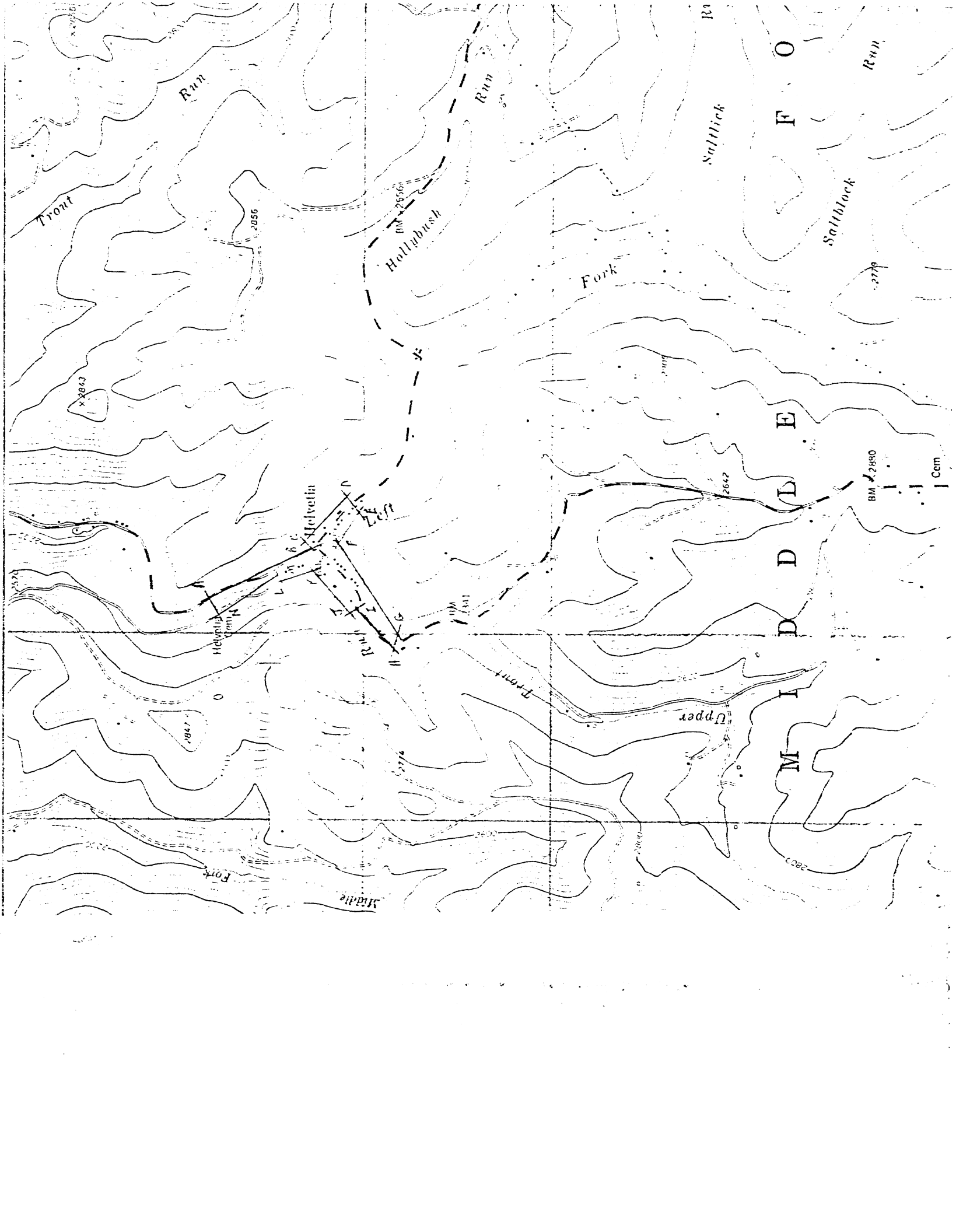
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UTM REFERENCES:

- I - 17/569130/4284040
- J - 17/569110/4284070
- K - 17/569340/4284270
- L - 17/569280/4284440
- M - 17/569310/4284460
- N - 17/569100/4284780

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

and Czar Roads up to and including Helvetia Cemetery. Boundaries are based on the "Map Showing Town of Helvetia, Middle Fork District, Randolph County, West Virginia" obtained from the Assessor's Office, Randolph County Courthouse, Elkins, West Virginia, April 1978. (A copy of this map is on file with the Historic Preservation Unit, West Virginia Department of Culture and History)



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Helvetia Village Historic District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Intersection of County Routes 45 and 46

(Buildings do not have street numbers)

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Helvetia

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Randolph

CODE

083

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

__ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Randolph County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Randolph Avenue and High Street

CITY, TOWN

Elkins

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The first homes of settlers at Helvetia were constructed of rough-hewn, small logs hastily erected to provide shelter for those who were embarking on a new phase of life in an unfamiliar land during the winter of 1869-1870. Then, as they had time, the settlers built carefully planned and artfully constructed homes of well-hewn, tight-fitting logs with slab floors, shingled roofs and a cantilevered porch covering.

About the end of the 1870s, rough-sawn lumber was probably used for additions to the cabins and for farm buildings. August Vogel brought the first steam sawmill to Helvetia in 1887, and it produced the lumber for the better homes that still stand. From this time on into the early decades of the twentieth century, white-painted frame farm houses were built throughout the community. Examples of each of these groups are among the buildings of today, and they have been joined by more modern construction and such nonconforming intrusions as three mobile homes, two ranch-style cottages and a "little stone chalet."

The community extends along two small streams that flow through narrow valleys with rather steep hills at the sides. Most of the original small farms were strips of land that extended across the little valleys and up the hills. The houses were built along the roads beside the streams. At the junction of the streams the village of Helvetia was established, with some small farms, a few structures on town lots, and many open, park-like plots of ground. Flower beds, touches of bright paint on several buildings, and roadsides well cared for by 4-H Club members add to the attractiveness of the village.

Most structures are well maintained; many show some degree of restoration. The people of Helvetia, led by their local clubs and associations, work to promote and keep their Swiss-American heritage, crafts and skills. While they do this for guests and visitors to an extent, it is more for the satisfaction and pleasure generated by pride. This is some part of Helvetia's uniqueness.

Fifteen buildings in the village have been deemed pivotal, for without them the character would change to the extent of removing the qualities upon which this nomination is based. They are as follows:

1. The Church (Presbyterian) building was constructed in 1882 by the congregation of "The German Evangelical Reformed Church at Helvetia." The structure was a 50' x 26' rectangle built in a meetinghouse style with narrow weatherboarding, a metal roof, and a bell tower. The tower now contains an hour-chiming bell. The sanctuary had a high ceiling and three triple-hung windows on each side; these are now lovely stained-glass memorials. In 1953 a large vestibule with a south-facing side door was added to provide a cloak room and to keep out the cold. Four classrooms and a kitchen were built at the rear of the sanctuary in 1963. Its site gives the church a visible position in the village which is in keeping with the affection the people have for their place of worship. The pulpit furniture and communion table are among the last works of Rudolph Zumbach, community master carpenter. They have the beauty which came from his skilled hands.

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2. Huber Inn (Eleanor Mailloux House). Located on two acres of ground, this house was originally built for Frank Huber around 1880. It is a U-shaped, two-story frame structure with a three-bay front and a one-story porch at the center bay. There is a two-story porch in the ell of the main part of the house which is enclosed at the lower level. The rear prong of the U-shape is of two stories and three bays. It is probable that the latter originally was not joined directly to the main house. Each section of the building has a metal-covered gabled roof. One chimney is centered in the main part, while another is at the opposite (north) end. An early photograph shows the building's exterior to be very plain. Recent additions consist of trim in the cornice of windows and doors; at the eaves is a box cornice with brackets in pairs, and the porch bracket system is in the "Italianate" tradition. Porch rail and post decoration is probably the house's only touch of Swiss styling other than the many window boxes. The lower floor is of a T-plan of rooms but has no hall. Two stairways and the upper level of the side porch connect the upper floor rooms with the lower floor. This house, like most others in Helvetia, contains a veritable museum of interesting furnishings.

3. The Post Office and Store/house was built in the 1920s of cement blocks which copy stones that are rock-faced with margins. The broad lower floor of blocks extends beyond the width of the frame upper floor which contains the living quarters. The double porch gives to the building the look of the hundreds of such store/houses that dotted the small towns of West Virginia. The elevated lower porch was common before paved roads and cars.

4. The Swiss Museum is the single occupant of the Historical Square. This building is one of the original log cabins used by the earliest settlers. It was moved from a farm to this place in 1968 as part of the village's 100th birthday celebration. It was marked, dismantled, and then reconstructed at its new site. Originally there was a sleeping loft in the cabin but it was left out for the sake of height in the museum. Many works, objects and products of the crafts of the people before 1900 are exhibited and preserved here. The large hand-hewn logs, split shingles, and porch supports of the cabin are of great interest to visitors. The museum is open most weekends from May 15 to the early fall.

5. One of the older and better houses of the village is the Frank Daetwyler House which has been somewhat neglected and has lost its porch to a great weight of snow this past winter. It is a clean-lined, two-story frame house of three bays and full-width porch. This L-shaped structure has a floor plan of center hall and two side rooms for each floor, with a dining room and kitchen in the ell at the left rear. Two small chimneys pierce the center of the roof. Window trim with a decorative cornice and the rectangular transom and sidelights at the door are touches that hint at the handsome facade of the dwelling before its deterioration.

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6. One can picture an old time town band and hear its melodious tunes as he stands in front of the building known as the Star Band Hall. This plain rectangular frame structure was for many years home of a quite famous brass concert and marching band. The well kept hall has, for some time, been used as a youth center for learning and making use of both old and modern crafts. A more recent use is as a library.

7. The Gordon Mailloux House is a "Carpenters' Gothic" building so hidden in a grove of spruce trees that it is not often noticed. It is a two-story, L-shaped frame structure, stained brown and freely decorated with touches of bright colors after the Swiss style. A small building close to the front of this house is used as a pottery. The house originally stood across a stream on a site near the Star Band Hall, but it was moved here by rolling it on logs placed over poles that forded the run.

8. At one time the front half of the Cheese Häüs was a storage building. When the demand for the famous Helvetia cheese grew beyond the supply from homes, this storage place was enlarged to be used as a cheese factory. This 60' x 20' low-roofed structure is rather drab appearing except for its front which is decorated with touches of bright paint. The rear half of the Cheese Häüs is used for the curing. Cheese produced here is for sale, in season, May 15 to early fall.

9. The front part of this one-story frame house was built in the early 1900s for Dr. Hanz Gruber who practiced medicine for ten years in the community. This square, four-room cottage even now has some of its small prettiness, although the building has had several additions. Dr. Gruber was a nephew of Franz Gruber, who wrote a carol for his choir in Austria. We now hold it very dear as "Silent Night, Holy Night."

10. The Joseph MacInroys now occupy this well preserved, two-story frame house. MacInroy is a woodworker who makes Swiss chairs. The house is three bays wide; the center bay has a one-story portico with sunburst pediment. It is L-shaped with center halls, one room to each side in the front, and dining room and kitchen to the rear. There is a paneled frieze under the eaves, contributing to the fresh, lively appearance of the house.

11. The "Hutte" Restaurant was opened after the Helvetia Inn closed in 1960 and is located in a dwelling on the Pickens Road. This is a 1 1/2-story frame building with a five-bay front. It has a wide porch with an artfully sawn rail, and there are three gabled dormers within the width of the porch. The building is similar to some of the Virginia springs' cottages in exterior shape. The menu consists of excellent local dishes cooked and served by local people in dining rooms furnished with many antiques.

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12. The Arts and Crafts Gift Shop occupies a converted dwelling and is the one building in the village devoted to business for visitors. It is a large, L-shaped, two-story frame structure with a shed-roofed addition on the east side. The many rooms on both floors are used for display of local goods. The building has been given a decorative treatment that emphatically is Swiss. It is painted a light blue, has white shutters, a white outside stairway to match the shutters, bright painted signs and figures, and a dazzlingly colorful door. This shop and "The Hutte" are open during summer months.

13. An Original Cabin, which has been unchanged and unmoved, has its site on a large plot of land called "The Meadow". This cabin was built at this location in 1870 and was used as a dwelling for some years and afterward as a dependency. It is built of hewn logs, has one room and a wide overhang of the shake roof that provides a porch cover. "The Meadow" is a park and its principal use is as the ground for the annual Helvetia Fall Fair. Since 1917 this state chartered fair has been presented in order to picture the rural life which the people of the community live and love.

14. With much "pomp and circumstance" the Helvetia Community Hall was dedicated in May 1939. Even before the May ceremony a Fastnacht Eve (Shrove Tuesday) dance was held. This dance is a joyful celebration for the coming Lenten Season. This large building is on the Mill Creek Road and with a large plot of land and a covered picnic area provides a recreation center for the community. The hall is a one-story (with basement) frame structure with a hall for dining and dancing and a well equipped and much used kitchen. The hall was carefully planned for safety and comfort and is well cared for.

15. Rudolph's Carpenter Shop, the last of the village's pivotal buildings, is a natural representative among Helvetia's houses of what the community and its people have been and are. It may be the first of all the frame houses. Its exterior is of rough lumber which has never been painted or stained. It is of two stories and rectangular with a side porch. Its gabled roof is metal and steep. The lower floor has a front room backed by two others, the upper floor has four rooms. A shop is an addition at the rear, and beyond the shop is a joined storage space which may have been an early barn. This property was, surely, part of an early farm. As this building has special meaning in the history of Helvetia, Rudolph Zumbach, too, has a particular place in its story. He was born in this house, lived all his life in the community, held fast to the traditions and the faith of his people and left behind many examples of his craft in beautiful cabinet work.

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Secondary buildings in Helvetia Village have been so classified because as a group they are less significant than the pivotal structures but their importance is such that their removal would leave a pronounced gap in the interrelationships of the community. They are as follows:

16. On the Pickens Road at the very edge of the District is an old log house which is one of the Original Cabins built in 1870. For many years it has been weatherboarded by vertical siding and has been used as a farm barn.
17. The Elwood Koerner House is one of several farm houses on small hillside farms within the boundary of Helvetia. This house is a small, one-story frame cottage placed on the hill near the upper limits of the farm to give the better ground to cultivation.
18. The Little School, before they used the public school, was for little scholars. After that use ended, additions were made to convert it to a dwelling. It is a neat, L-shaped, cottage with a two-story ell. The house sits close to the Pickens Road.
19. The Manse for the Helvetia Church was built about 1907 to replace one which burned in 1905. It is a three-bay, two-story frame building that was originally L-shaped. An attractive one-story portico is the house's only adornment. In 1965 a large living room was added on the north end.
20. The O.L. Malcomb House is a three-bay, two-story, building in an L-shape and with a full-width porch. Each floor has a center hall, with one room to each side. There are two rooms in the ell, and the porch along this section is enclosed. Like many others, this house is painted bright white.
21. Huber Inn Barn was built soon after the 1887 Inn. It was constructed to house horses of guests. It is two stories, almost square, and still stands in good condition. Many of these Helvetia houses have barns and other farm buildings close by that are still used.
22. The New School is a one-story, rectangular, frame building which was constructed by the state in 1927 and used as a school until 1959. It is unused now but remains in good condition. All children of the community are now bused to Pickens for classes.
23. Another building on Gruber Road is the Helvetia Wood Shop. It is a plain, unpainted, one-story frame structure which was built beside the Joseph MacInroy home. He makes Swiss chairs for sale and expects to expand to other products. His chairs are brightly painted "stiff backs".

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Beyond this building, about 1000 feet on Gruber Road, is the Helvetia cemetery. It has been the burying ground for five generations.

24. Myrtle Koerner House on Mill Creek Road is a two-story, three-bay, frame house. It is L-shaped and has a porch. There is a cluster of small buildings behind it and an old shed-barn by the road.

25. Ella Betler's House is a one-story, cottage-type farm dwelling with a small porch. It, too, is frame and white and has its farm outbuildings close by. Just across Mill Creek Road is the Community Hall.

Neutral buildings (neither contributing to nor detracting from the character of the district):

26. Ed Suttons' frame 1 1/2-story cottage on Pickens Road.

27. Rev. Robert Raborn's summer cottage on Mill Creek Road. A one-story frame building of four rooms and a "loafing porch".

28. Mildred Thayer's hunting lodge (rental). A state park-type cabin.

Nonconforming intrusions:

29, 30, 31. Three mobile homes on the Pickens Road.

32. This is a modern frame, ranch-type cottage.

33. "Little Stone Chalet" just does not seem to belong.

34. Pleasing modern brick ranch-type house that does not fit.

Helvetia Village is located in a narrow valley high in a mountainous region that has never been easily accessible. Because of its relative isolation from the main avenues of travel and better farmland, the area was not frequently visited by prehistoric peoples and was not settled until the nineteenth century. Its potential for providing archeological data is therefore quite limited.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Helvetia is both a village and a small community in an Allegheny Mountain valley of Randolph County, West Virginia. Its center is a cluster of about thirty-five buildings along the junction of two country roads. It forms a village, but its perimeter incorporates high mountain farms into a community of about three hundred people. This community is distinctive because of its continuing effort to preserve the traditional Swiss character of its inheritance. Efforts to hold to tradition, however, do not hinder the people's determination to be useful and dependable citizens of their state and country.

Many German and Swiss settlers came to the United States shortly before and during the Civil War, and a large portion of the men were actively engaged in events of the time. Because their families could not move inland by reason of the conflict, they gathered in Brooklyn, New York. After the war many German-speaking Swiss formed a society and pledged to emigrate to a place to live and labor as they desired. One member of the society who had worked with a surveying crew in the mountains of West Virginia gave a glowing account of the country he had seen. The society selected a committee of six men to find land suitable to their needs. They traveled by rail to Clarksburg, then by wagon, horseback and foot seventy-five miles into the Allegheny Mountains where they explored the valleys of the forks of the Buckhannon River, an endless wilderness of forest. The people there were hospitable and the land reasonably priced, so the society in Brooklyn voted to emigrate. Thus in 1868 these high-country farmers, herdsmen, craftsmen and professionals committed themselves to a new home in a valley of West Virginia's Randolph County.

This handful of Swiss people discovered a wilderness of vast beauty and appeal. With unfamiliar tools and skills they built lodging and plowed the unyielding land. They named their community Helvetia.

Initial efforts went into construction of a log cabin to house new arrivals (this building still stands in "the Meadow"). Much land was bought by families in plots of a hundred or more acres, but others could afford only small lots. A tract of one hundred acres was reserved in the heart of the community and laid off into lots, and these were sold to skilled craftsmen and laborers who came to the village. Early homes and other buildings in both the village and out on the farms of the community were of hewn logs, an example of which is the transplanted log museum in the "historic square." By 1871 there were only thirty-two settlers.

Among those who immigrated to Helvetia were five families that came directly from Switzerland in 1873-74. Soon after this group arrived, a very energetic local land agent began to advertise advantages of the region. This brought people from other states and Canada. The glowing accounts made by the agent were, in many instances,

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exaggerated, producing results of disappointment that caused some people to move away while others were forced to stay because they had no funds left. Many of the latter became outstanding members of Helvetia.

The first generation of settlers contained persons of great competence in such trades as the following: stone mason, carpenter, blacksmith, wagon maker, painter, shoemaker, tailor, hatmaker, watchmaker, baker, confectioner, cheesemaker, instrumental music and voice instructor, German school teacher, a minister, and a doctor of medicine. At the close of the year 1874 there were ninety German and Swiss families living in Helvetia Community, with a total of 380 persons. By this date many frame buildings had been constructed or were being erected. These generally carried marks of Swiss workmanship and style, and a number of houses of the 1870s and 1880s are still in use.

Before 1875 life was full of hardships. Many people were from cities and towns and knew little about farm life and much less of removing forests to make place for farming. The nearest mill, post office, and store were twenty-five to thirty-five miles away. Goods were carried by men because there were no farm animals. In 1874 the first grist mill was built in the community, and the first steam sawmill was brought in. The village's first hotel was constructed in 1879 but was little used. Another hotel was opened in 1887 and served as such until 1960; this was the Huber Inn (now the home of the Mailloux family). Dr. C. F. Stucky came from Ohio about 1890, bringing foxglove plants (*digitalis purpurea*) that now grow wild to beautify the community in summer. In the early 1900s Dr. Hanz Gruber was the village doctor for about ten years. He was a nephew of Franz Gruber who wrote for his Austrian church choir the much loved carol "Silent Night, Holy Night." Dr. Gruber's house is still standing.

An independent religious organization formed in 1883 by Rev. Andrew Kern was known as "The German Evangelical Reformed Church at Helvetia, Randolph County, West Virginia." Twenty-three men were present and comprised the charter membership, to which, of course, were added their wives and confirmed children. Christian Wenger's log house was rented at \$2.00 a month as the "lokal" for services. In the midst of their poverty the people were happy. They had a congregation and a pastor, the church they loved best, with the Holy Bible and the Heidelberg Catechism. The first church building (still standing and recently enlarged) was completed in 1882. The congregation voted in 1945 to join the Presbyterian Church in the United States as the Zion Presbyterian Church of the Presbytery of Greenbrier. The work and worship of their church has been first in the lives of Helvetia's people down to the present.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

HELVETIA VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT, HELVETIA, RANDOLPH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

CONTINUATION SHEET

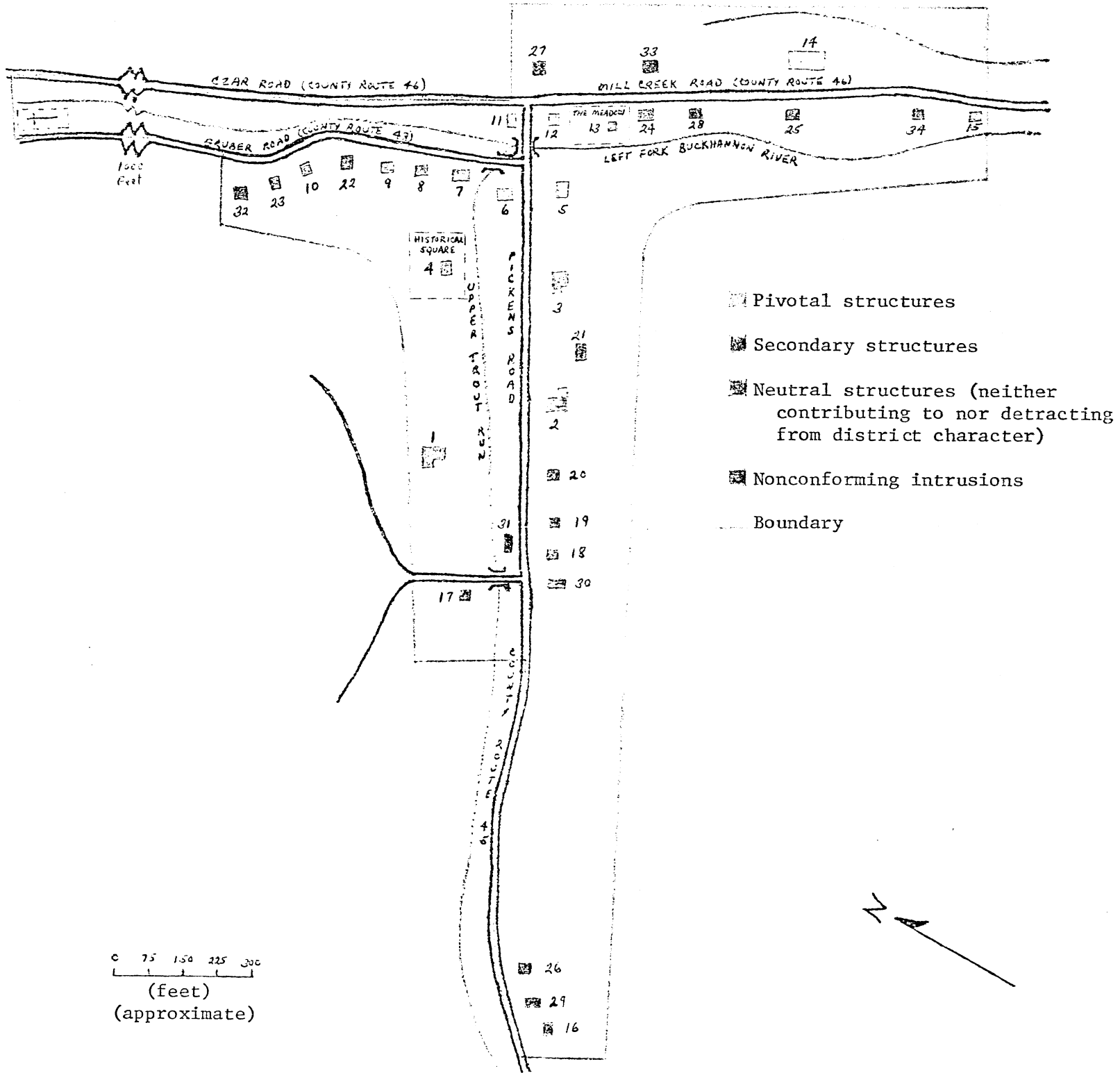
ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

A local school was established in 1875. The newly formed state "free-school system" provided a building, a lot was donated, and school was started and served to 1959 when consolidation carried all students out of the community. In the village school the children received a basic education for the success which they had world-wide in many fields of endeavor. The community had its own telephone system from about 1917 to 1966 when the Chesapeake and Potomac Company took it over. The Star Band of Helvetia, which was widely known for its classic Swiss presentations was active for 65 years. Its hall is still used, now as a youth center and library.

Helvetia Fair Association is responsible for the annual (since 1917) fair which is held the second weekend in September. Part of the program is folk dancing, display and sale of local arts and crafts products, and display and competition for prizes in agricultural skills--all for the entertainment of visitors. The Helvetia Restoration and Development Association, Inc., was formed in November 1966, and has as its purpose promotion and restoration of the village's Swiss-American heritage and development of the community, culturally, economically and socially. A very useful Community Hall and campus, the restored Star Band Hall, the large Swiss-type building to house the Arts and Crafts Gift Shop, a century-old Log Cabin Museum within the Historic Square, and the Centennial Celebration of 1969 speak well of this Association's purpose and endeavors. The story of Helvetia Community, Randolph County, West Virginia is a small, beautiful portion of the story of the state. What began in hardship in the late 1860s has continued as a viable ethnic village much atuned to both past and present and involved in preparation for a hopefully promising future.

HELVETIA VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

HELVETIA, RANDOLPH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA



HELVETIA VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
HELVETIA, RANDOLPH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

PIVOTAL STRUCTURES (RED, 1-15):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
1. Zion Presbyterian Church	Pickens Road
2. Huber Inn (Eleanor Mailloux House)	Pickens Road
3. Post Office and store/house	Pickens Road
4. Swiss Museum and Historical Square	Pickens Road
5. Frank Daetwyler House	Pickens Road
6. Star Band Hall	Pickens Road
7. Gordon Mailloux House	Gruber Road
8. Cheese Haus	Gruber Road
9. Dr. Hanz Gruber House	Gruber Road
10. Joseph McInroy House	Gruber Road
11. The "Hutte" Restaurant	Pickens Road
12. Arts and Crafts Gift Shop	Pickens Road
13. Original Cabin and "The Meadow"	Mill Creek Road
14. Helvetia Community Hall	Mill Creek Road
15. Rudolph's Carpenter Shop	Mill Creek Road

SECONDARY STRUCTURES (GREEN, 16-25):

16. Original Cabin (barn)	Pickens Road
17. Elwood Koerner House	Pickens Road
18. Little School	Pickens Road
19. Presbyterian Church Manse	Pickens Road
20. O. L. Malcomb House	Pickens Road
21. Huber Inn Barn	Pickens Road
22. New School	Gruber Road
23. Helvetia Wood Shop	Gruber Road
24. Myrtle Koerner House	Mill Creek Road
25. Ella Betler House	Mill Creek Road

NEUTRAL STRUCTURES (BROWN, 26-28):

26. Edward Sutton House	Pickens Road
27. Rev. Robert Raborn Cottage	Mill Creek Road
28. Mildred Thayer Lodge	Mill Creek Road

NONCONFORMING INTRUSIONS (BLACK, 29-34):

29. Mobile Home	Pickens Road
30. Mobile Home	Pickens Road
31. Mobile Home	Pickens Road
32. Modern Cottage	Gruber Road
33. "Little Stone Chalet"	Mill Creek Road
34. Modern House	Mill Creek Road

PROPERTY OWNERS

HELVETIA VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

HELVETIA, RANDOLPH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Ella Betler
Helvetia, WV 26224

John Eisenegger
Helvetia, WV 26224

Wesley Farrar
Helvetia, WV 26224

Helvetia Community Hall
c/o Delbert Betler, President
Helvetia, WV 26224

Elwood Koerner
Helvetia, WV 26224

Joseph McInroy
Helvetia, WV 26224

Gorden Mailloux
Helvetia, WV 26224

O. L. Malcomb
Helvetia, WV 26224

Mary Marti
Helvetia, WV 26224

Augustine Merkli
Helvetia, WV 26224

Edward Sutton
Helvetia, WV 26224

William Umbright
Helvetia, WV 26224

Christin Zumbach
Helvetia, WV 26224

Virginia Zumbach
Helvetia, WV 26224

Frank Daetwyler
Helvetia, WV 26224

Gottlieb Fahrner
Helvetia, WV 26224

Ernest and Margaret Isch
Helvetia, WV 26224

Helvetia Restoration and Development, Inc
c/o Alvin Wooten, President
Helvetia, WV 26224

Myrtle Koerner
Helvetia, WV 26224

Eleanor Mailloux
Helvetia, WV 26224

Luther Malcomb
Helvetia, WV 26224

L. D. Marsh
Helvetia, WV 26224

Albert Merkli
Helvetia, WV 26224

Ed Metzger
Helvetia, WV 26224

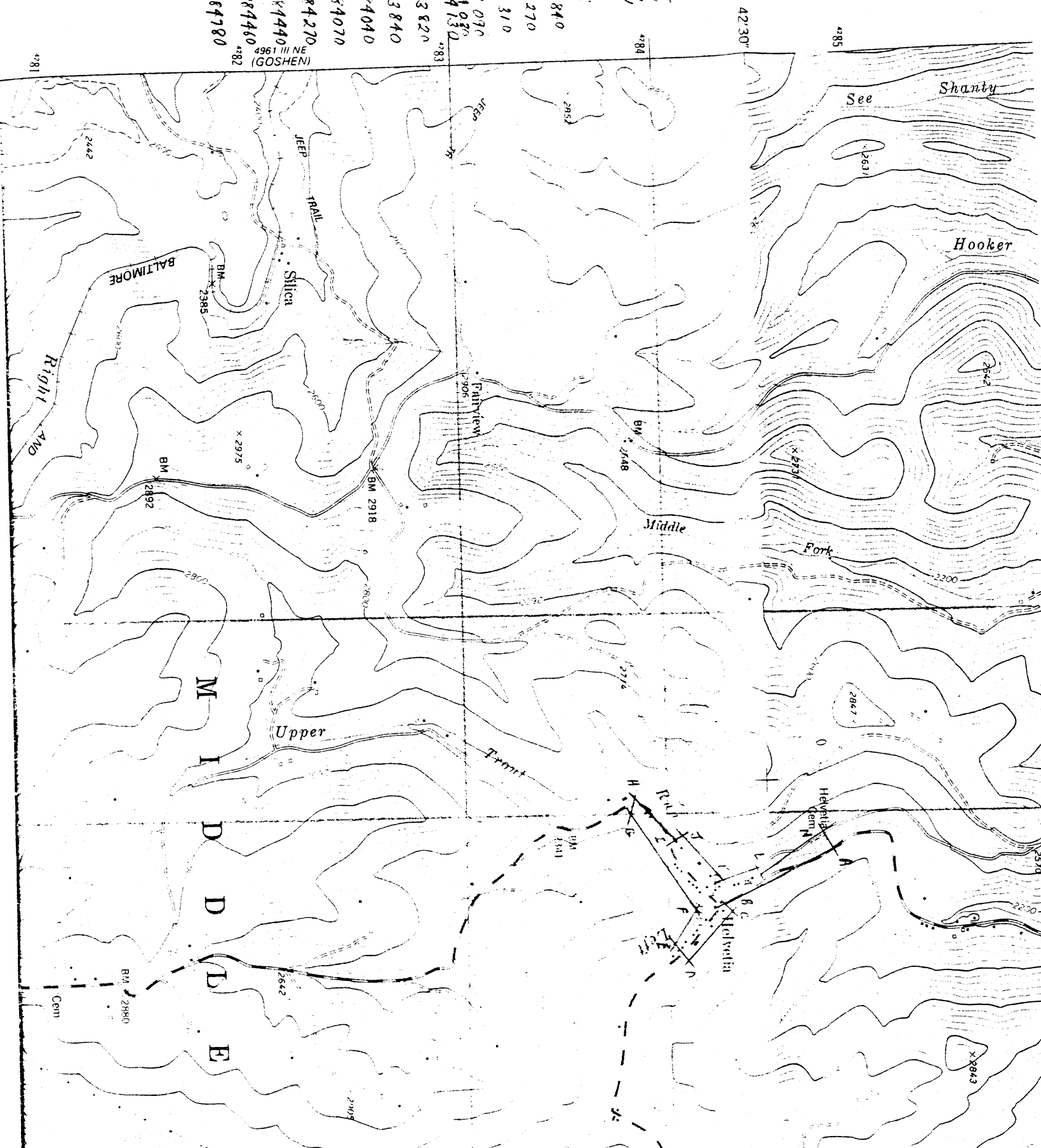
Mildred Thayer
Helvetia, WV 26224

Mary Zickefoose
Helvetia, WV 26224

Fred Zumbach
Helvetia, WV 26224

Presbytery of Greenbrier
1270 Greenbrier Street
Charleston, WV 25311

HELVETIA VILLAGE
 HISTORIC DISTRICT,
 RANDOLPH COUNTY,
 WEST VIRGINIA
 UTM REFERENCE S:
 A-17/569190/4284840
 B-17/569460/4284270
 C-17/569500/4284310
 D-17/569740/4284090
 E-17/569660/4284030
 F-17/569490/4284130
 G-17/569000/4283820
 H-17/568930/4283840
 I-17/569130/4284040
 J-17/569110/4284070
 K-17/569340/4284220
 L-17/569280/4284440
 M-17/569310/4284460
 N-17/569100/4284780



4281

4961 III NE (GOSHEN)

42'30"

4285

4284

Shanty

See

Hooker

BALTIMORE

Right AND

M

I

D

D

B

E

Middle

Fork

Upper

Front

Helvetia Cem

Helvetia

Cem

X 2863







HELVETIA
STAR BAND HALL

© P. S. P. R. K. E.





Belgia
1913