

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Orndoff, Henry, House

other names/site number Orndoff-Cross House

2. Location

street & number 6 Winebrenner Road not for publication N/A

city or town Martinsburg vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Berkeley; Jefferson code 003; 037 zip code 25402

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

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

Henry Orndoff House
Name of Property

Berkeley & Jefferson Counties, WV
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER/log
SIDE-PASSAGE

Materials

foundation STONE/limestone
walls WOOD/log; WOOD/weatherboard
roof METAL
other WOOD

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.

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1796; c. 1830

Significant Dates

c. 1796; c.1830

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

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

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 # _____

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

Henry Orndoff House
Name of Property

Berkeley & Jefferson Counties, WV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>18</u>	<u>253760</u>	<u>4368840</u>

Verbal Boundary Description Refer to Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification Refer to Continuation Sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Taylor, Principal and Bethany Canfield (WVSHPO)
organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. date February 2010
street & number 9 Walnut Street telephone 814-849-4900
city or town Brookville state PA zip code 15825

Property Owner

name Thomas and Jane McSwain
street & number P. O. Box 1524 telephone _____
city or town Shepherdstown state WV zip code 25443

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7. Description

The Henry Orndoff House (Photos 1-13) is located on a rural tract straddling the Berkeley-Jefferson County line, lying in both the Opequon District of Berkeley County and the Shepherdstown District of Jefferson County, in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. The property lies at the tiny settlement known as Wyncoop Spring, consisting essentially of the subject property and the Wyncoop house across the road. Rockymarsh Run passes west of the property. The nomination consists of a c.1796 log house with additions, the earliest of which dates from c.1830 and the latest from the 1990s, along with a contributing c.1796 meat-hanging shed of log construction, located immediately southwest of the house. The house retains integrity in all of its composite qualities.

The Henry Orndoff House is situated on an 11-acre parcel in the rural reaches of eastern Berkeley County. Other than the meat-hanging shed incorporated within the nomination, the other outbuildings associated with the property are architecturally unremarkable and possess no identified historical significance. Only the less-than-one-acre tract containing the house, its immediate lawns, and the meat-hanging shed are included within the nomination. The terrain slopes away from the house to the south. The Berkeley-Jefferson County line passes through the nominated property.

Within the nominated parcel are the following two resources:

1. Henry Orndoff House, residential

Description: The Henry Orndoff House is a 2-story vernacular¹ residence whose earliest section, the easternmost section, dates from c. 1796 (photo 1, left side of photo). Built of log and clad in German siding, in its present configuration the earliest section is three bays in width, c. 25' × 18', incorporating a side-passage plan, with the front door offset and shielded by a modestly-detailed single-story wood portico dating from 1998 (photo 1). Appended to the west side of this section is a 2-story addition (photos 1-2, right side of photo), c. 22' × 15', dating from c. 1830, which is two bays in width and also of log construction covered in German siding. The Berkeley-Jefferson County line crosses through the early addition. A two-story gable-roofed log ell (photo 3), c. 20' × 11', with an exterior gable-end chimney extends southward from the c. 1830 addition, and a single-story sunroom addition (photo 3), c. 20' × 13' and dating from c. 1993, is in the angle of the ell on the rear (south) elevation. At approximately the same time, a two-story addition (photo 4), c. 13' square, was built onto the west gable end of the c. 1830 addition, set back c. 15 feet from the plane of the facade. This addition contains a recessed corner porch, utility rooms, and storage on the first story and a master bathroom and storage above.

¹As it is used here, the term "vernacular" corresponds to that term as it is defined in Ward Bucher's **Dictionary of Building Preservation**, "a building built without being designed by an architect or someone with similar formal training; often based on traditional or regional forms."

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Both of these 1990s additions are designed compatibly with the character of the original house, are on secondary elevations, and do not detract materially from the otherwise high integrity of the property as a whole.²

The house is capped with a side-gable roof of standing seam metal, with interior gable-end red brick chimneys at both gable ends. Fenestration is flat-topped throughout, with modest surrounds and historic 6/6 sash retained in most windows, along with exterior operable louvered wood shutters.

The interior (photos 6-12) of the Henry Orndoff House is in excellent condition and retains much of its historic plan, including the original c. 1796 log section, the c. 1830 log addition, and the c. 1830 kitchen ell. There is a partial basement, unfinished, with exposed log floor joists. On the first story, a side-passage stair hall is located in the c. 1796 section, with a four-run stair featuring a turned newel with a finial, a walnut handrail, chair rail, and attenuated turned balusters (photo 6). The stair extends in two runs to the second story and two more runs to the attic. A half-bath has been inserted at the rear of the hall. The stair hall opens into a livingroom (photos 7 and 9) on the east side, part of the original c. 1796 construction, and a diningroom (photo 8) on the west side, part of the c. 1830 addition. Both the diningroom and livingroom have fireplaces with early Classical Revival-style wood mantles and retain six-panel wood doors. Baseboard and window trim are painted and are modestly detailed; a chair rail extends around the perimeter of the diningroom. The rearward-projecting kitchen incorporates a narrow double-run back stair (photo 10), open on the first story and enclosed as it rises to the second floor. The kitchen features contemporary cabinetry, an island, and floor and wall finishes. It is accessed from the diningroom, from the c. 1993 sunroom, and from the c. 1993 addition.

The second story (photos 11-12) of the Henry Orndoff House contains two bedrooms which flank the upstairs hallway. A third bedroom (photo 12) is over the kitchen ell which has access to the kitchen via the back stair. A door opens from this back bedroom into the c. 1993 addition, which contains a master bathroom and closet space. Closets have been added to the master bedroom. Fireplaces (photo 11) are in both bedrooms; that of the master bedroom has an exposed brick finish.

Floors are generally of wood, finished naturally. Plaster walls are found throughout and the gable-end section of the upstairs back bedroom features an exposed log end wall. The attic is only partially finished and the roof framing is pegged at the ridge.

Date: c. 1796, c. 1830, c. 1993, c. 1998

1 contributing building

2. Meat-hanging shed, domestic dependency (photo 13)

Description: 1-story log dependency gable roof, located south of the main house

Date: c. 1796

1 contributing building

²When the front stoop was constructed in 1998, no evidence remained for the original porch construction. Therefore, the property owner commissioned the construction of a porch that was compatible and sensitive to the historic house (based on information from the property owner).

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Statement of Significance

The Orndoff House meets National Register Criterion C for *architecture*, as a late eighteenth-century rural log house, representative of the earliest permanent domestic architecture built in this area during the first decades of non-native settlement. The Period of Significance is c. 1796, corresponding to the approximate date of construction of the earliest part of the house and the meat-hanging shed, and c. 1830, the approximate date of construction of the early addition.

History

In 1730, the Governing Council of the Colony of Virginia issued orders for this section of the colony to be settled. Originally part of Spottsylvania County, Orange County 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) was 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, the overland route between Alexandria, Virginia and the town of Bath, now Berkeley Springs. Stephen christened his new town Martinsburg, after his friend Thomas Bryan Martin, a nephew of Lord Fairfax.

The Orndoff House was built along Park Horse Road c. 1796, after Henry Orndoff's acquisition of a 322-acre tract that same year. Pack Horse Road, an early overland road in Berkeley County, was originally a Native American pathway which had its non-native beginnings when the Pack Horse Trail was widened c. 1727 and became part of the Philadelphia Wagon Road.³ The Philadelphia Wagon Road extended westward from Philadelphia and passed through Lancaster and York, Pennsylvania before turning southwest and crossing the Potomac River at the present-day site of Shepherdstown, West Virginia (until 1863 part of Virginia). It then traversed Jefferson County and entered what would become Berkeley County at the settlement of Wyncoop Spring. Before moving to VanClevessville, Bunker Hill, and Arden and crossing Little Mountain to make its way southward to Winchester and beyond.

Orndoff's parcel was part of a 1786 King's Patent tract first surveyed in 1734 for John VanMetre. Orndoff reared his family here, including six surviving children mentioned in his Will. It seems likely that the growing family outgrew the original log house and that the early addition was built accordingly. The Orndoffs were slaveholders, and the second-story of the kitchen wing, accessed by the rear stairs, likely served as servants' quarters. Henry Orndoff died in 1833 and his son, James, retained the family farm (Fig. 1). James Orndoff never married, but ran the farm with the help of his slaves. Upon his death in 1846, he left his real estate to his two nephews, William and Thomas, along with slaves, with provisions for their being granted their freedom, some immediately and others after they attained specific ages. The Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, likely occurred first.

³Paula Reed, "Pack Horse Ford," Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Properties Form, 2003

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After a suit brought by James Orndoff's brother, Jacob, nephew William became vested with the log house and all of the Berkeley County acreage. William Orndoff retained ownership until 1865, when he sold the family homestead to Rezin (also spelled "Regin" in some accounts) T. Cross, whose father and namesake had been a prisoner of John Brown's during the Harper's Ferry raid of 1859. After Rezin Cross's death in the late 1880s, his widow, Annie remained in the house until her own death in 1922; the property remained in the Cross family until 1933. The house eventually anchored a dairy farm operated by the Wright family from the 1940s to the 1980s.

Criterion C: Architecture

The property's Criterion C significance lies in its position as a late-eighteenth-century log house erected during the early decades of development in Berkeley County along Pack Horse Road, an important overland route which crossed Berkeley County and eventually made its way to Winchester and the West. The property represents the "Initial Occupance" of this part of Berkeley County, taking that term as it was employed by cultural geographer Fred Kniffen: "the first postpioneer, permanent settlement imprint established in the several sections of the wooded eastern United States, an epoch ending about 1850."⁴

As pioneers settled the area that would become West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, they began the process of clearing their lands for subsistence. The most readily-available building material was wood, and log was the preferable method of construction for many of the county's earliest farmhouses. Part of Virginia during the early decades of settlement, Berkeley County, rural and urban alike, was dotted with log architecture, whose rudimentary and rustic form and quality eventually gave way to more permanent materials such as brick and stone and wood frame using building materials fashioned at sawmills. In some cases, however, farms remained anchored by the original log farmhouse which was simply expanded over time to meet the family needs.

The Orndoff House was first documented in 2004 as part of the Martinsburg East Historic Resource Survey. The survey covered approximately 20,000 acres, primarily rural, to the east and southeast of Martinsburg to the Jefferson County line. The survey documented resources that were constructed before 1955 and retained a certain degree of historic integrity. Out of 150 documented resources, six were identified as log, or partially log, houses. With exception of the Orndoff House, they each have exterior exposed logs and were constructed in the first half of the nineteenth century.

The original section of the Orndoff House was constructed the earliest c.1796. The second earliest log house in this survey area is the c.1809 log section of the Newcomer Mansion at 1735 Douglas Grove Road. Like the Orndoff House, the Newcomer Mansion received a major addition in the early nineteenth century. However, the Newcomer Mansion has a much different appearance. Rather than incorporating the new addition under one roof, creating the appearance of one building, the c.1820 brick addition of the Newcomer Mansion towers over the original log building. Its addition is a good example of the Federal style of architecture. The remaining log

⁴Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 55 (1965), p. 551.

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buildings in the survey area were constructed between the 1820s and 1840s and are generally two stories with side gables, exposed logs and various levels of integrity.

The Pitzer House, located southwest of Martinsburg at 10930 Apple Harvest Drive (outside of the previously mentioned survey area), is similar to the Orndoff House in that it began as an early eighteenth-century log house and evolved with additions over time. The Pitzer House has a much different appearance, however, with Tuscan-style porch columns with dentils and large gable wall dormers. Also similar to the Orndoff House is the Davis-Keesecker House located north of Martinsburg at 3337 Little Georgetown Road. It too was constructed as a small log house in the eighteenth century (c.1770) and has an early nineteenth century addition (c.1820). It is clad in wood siding and gable roof spans the entire house.

Kniffen notes, "There is a strong element of urgency in dealing with the older folk housing, for it is largely unchronicled and its overwhelming wood composition makes it highly vulnerable to destructive forces."⁵ Approaching his subject as a historical geographer rather than as an architectural historian, Kniffen maintains that "the humbler buildings by reason of their adherence to type and numerical superiority are far more important as markers of basic cultural processes than are uniquely designed individual structures."⁶ Thus, the Orndoff House, like the others, is an excellent example of a domestic log architecture from this early time period.

Summary

The Henry Orndoff House, humble though its beginnings may have been, represents the early development of the county through its architecture, first as a single-pen log house, to which an early addition was added as its owner's family grew. Its Criterion C significance derives from its being a well-preserved example of late-eighteenth/early-nineteenth century Berkeley County domestic log architecture, with its historic finishes intact and its window sash and roof form unaltered.

⁵Ibid., p. 550.

⁶Ibid., p. 553.

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9. Bibliography**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES****Public Documents**

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

Unpublished Manuscripts

Wood, Don C. "Orndoff-Cross House." unpublished MS, Berkeley County Historical Society, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Books

Wood, Don. C. **Documented History of Berkeley County, West Virginia.** Berkeley County Historical Society, 2004.

Maps

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

Other

Kniffen Fred. "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 55 (1965), 549-577.

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Section Number 10 Page 7

10. Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being a portion of that tract described in Berkeley County Deed Book No. 442, Page 675. Beginning at the crossing of Rockymarsh Run and Winebrenner Road, then westerly along the south curblineline of Winebrenner Road 400' to a point c. 30' west of the west elevation of the house; then southerly ca. 200' to a point south of the house; then easterly c. 400' to the west bank of Rockymarsh Run, then northerly along Rockymarsh Run to the place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of this nomination reflect only that tract containing the house and lawns on all sides. It provides enough property to provide for integrity of setting. Other outbuildings associated with the current property parcel are architecturally unremarkable and possess no identified historical significance. Thus, they have been excluded from the National Register boundary.

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Photography Log

All Photographs:

Henry Orndoff House

Berkeley & Jefferson Counties, WV

David L. Taylor, 2007

Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc., Brookville, PA

1. Facade, looking south and showing overall form, massing, fenestration, roof form and finish, chimneys, etc.
2. Northwest perspective, showing facade, portico, fenestration, etc.
3. Southwest perspective, and showing sunroom added in angle of the L-shaped rear, main house, kitchen ell, roof form and finishes, fenestration, etc.
4. Looking northeast to the Addition to accommodate new master bathroom on second story, set back from the plane of the building on a secondary elevation
5. Facade, detail, looking south showing windows, shutters, German siding finishes, etc.
6. Interior, detail showing hallway, staircase, newel, balustrade, et., looking south
7. Livingroom looking east and showing volume, mantle, finishes, etc.
8. Diningroom looking west and showing volume, trim, finishes, mantle, etc.
9. Livingroom, detail, looking west into hall., showing trim, flooring, chair rail, etc.
10. Interior, detail, looking east, showing back stair accessing servants' quarters above kitchen in rear ell.
11. Interior, detail, looking west, showing upstairs bedroom
12. Interior, detail, looking south, back bedroom over kitchen in rear ell.
13. Meat-hanging house, southwest perspective, looking northeast.

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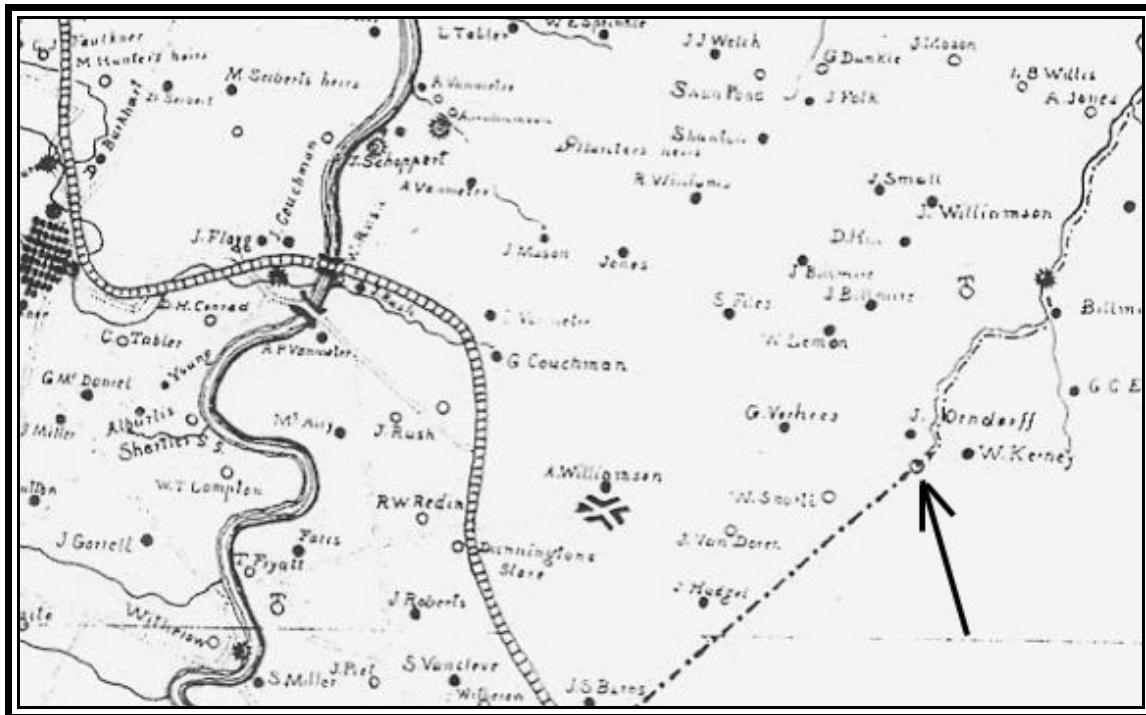
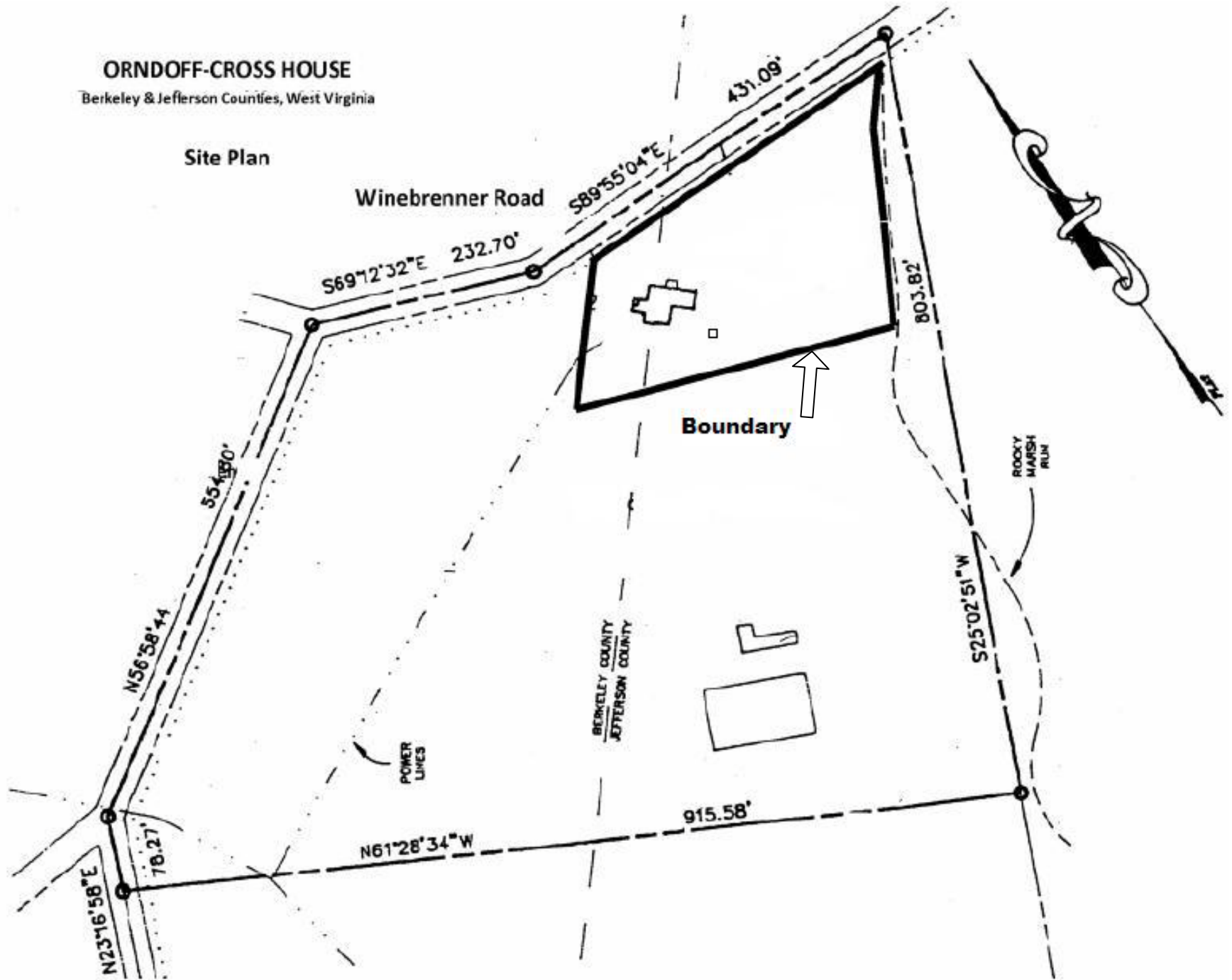


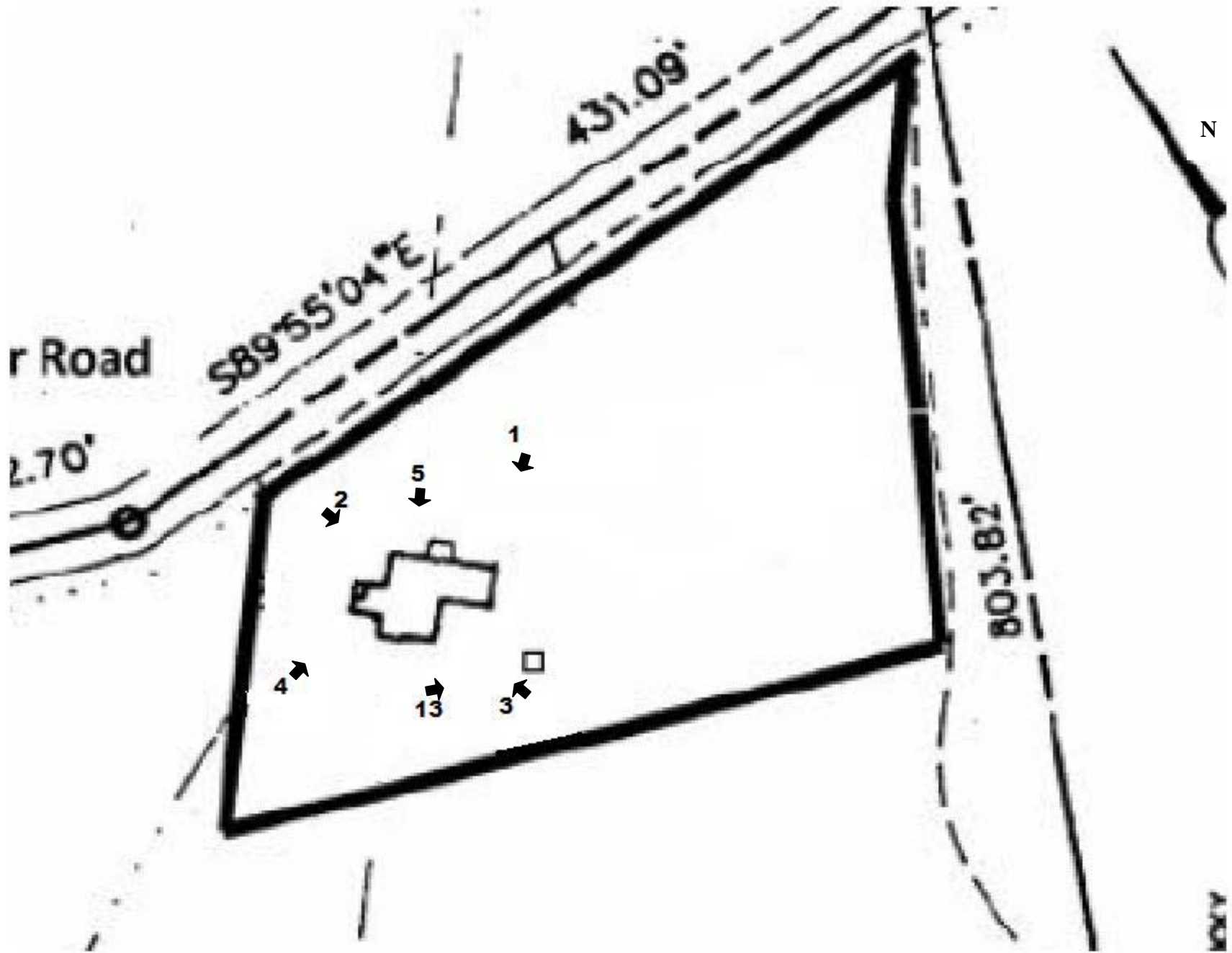
Fig. 1 Although James Orndoff died the year before this map was published, his occupancy of the property appears on this segment of the 1847 J. Baker Kearfoot map of Berkeley County. It is indicated by the superimposed black arrow.

ORNDOFF-CROSS HOUSE

Berkeley & Jefferson Counties, West Virginia

Site Plan

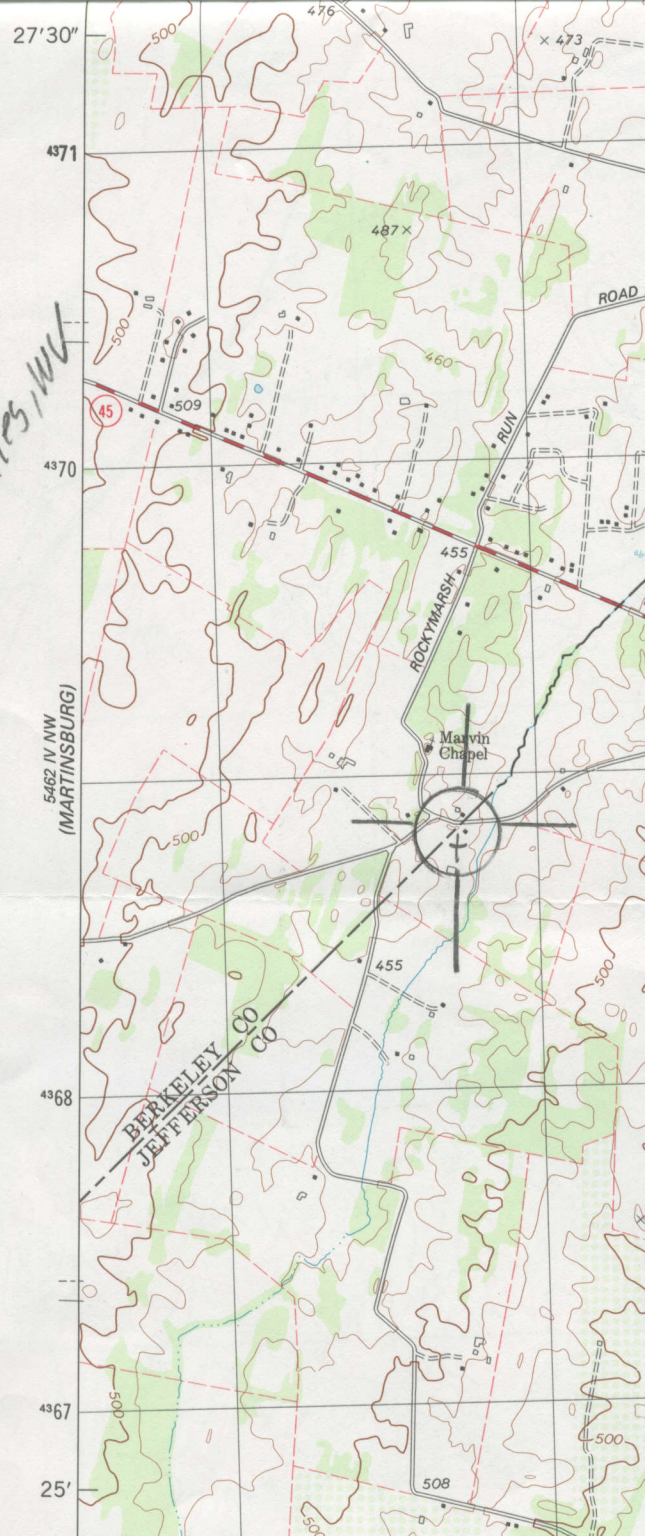




Orndoff House, Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, WV

Photograph Orientation

Ondoff-Gross House
Berkeley & Jefferson Counties, WV
UTM Reference:
18/253760/4288000



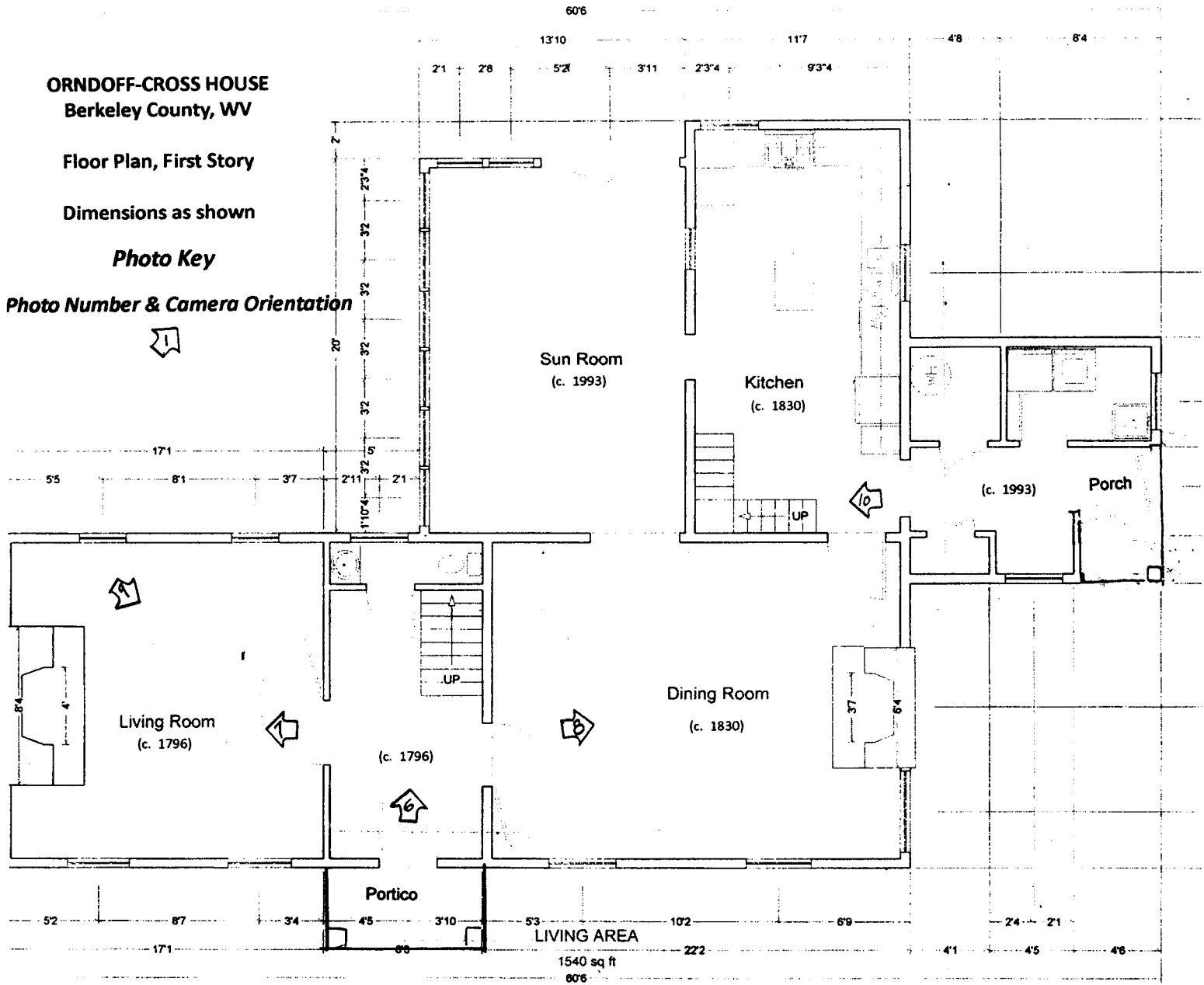
ORNDOFF-CROSS HOUSE
Berkeley County, WV

Floor Plan, First Story

Dimensions as shown

Photo Key

Photo Number & Camera Orientation





ORNDOFF-CROSS HSE, Berkeley + Jefferson Co, WV (1)



ORNDOFF-CROSS HSE, Berkeley + Jefferson Co, WV (2)



ORNDOFF-CROSS HSE, Berkeley + Jefferson Co, WV (3)



ORNDORFF-CROSS HSE. Berkeley + Jefferson Co, WV (4)



ORNDORFF-CROSS HSE Berkeley + Jefferson G, WV (5)



ORNDORFF-CROSS HSE, Berkeley + Jefferson 6, WJ 6



ORNDOFF - CROSS HSE Berkeley + Jefferson Co, WV (7)



ORNDOFF - CROSS HSE Berkeley + Jefferson Co, WV (8)



ORNDOFF - CROSS HSE Berkeley + Jefferson Co, WV (7)



ORNDOFF - CROSS HSE Berkeley + Jefferson Co, WV (8)



ORNDOFF - CROSS HSE, Berkeley + Jefferson Co, WV (9)



DRUDOFF-CROSS HSE Berkeley, Jefferson Co, WV (10)



ORNDOFF-CROSS HSE Berkelay + Jefferson Co. WV (11)



ORNDOFF-CROSS HSE Berkelay + Jefferson Co. WV (12)



ORUDOFF-CROSS HSE Berkeley + Jefferson Co, WV (13)