

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

=====
1. Name of Property LOWTHER STORE
=====
historic name: HINKLE, JOHN A., AND SON STORE
other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_
=====

2. Location
=====
street & number: COUNTY ROUTE 3, HC-88, BOX 17 not for publication: N/A
city/town: WHEELER vicinity: X
state: WV county: WEBSTER code: 101 zip code: \_\_\_\_\_
=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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. ... 2/18/97
Signature of Certifying Official 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

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
=====
I, hereby certify that this property is:
Signature of Keeper Date
of Action
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_
National Register
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_
National Register
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

LOWTHER STORE  
Name of Property

WHEELER, WEBSTER CO.  
County and State

=====

**5. Classification**

=====

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3	0	TOTAL

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** 0

=====

**6. Function or Use**

=====

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

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

COMMERCE/TRADE: GENERAL STORE

COMMERCE/TRADE: GENERAL STORE

=====

**7. Description**

=====

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

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VERNACULAR

Foundation WOOD POST AND FIELD STONE  
Walls WOOD SIDING  
Roof METAL  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

LOWTHER STORE  
Name of Property

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County and State

=====

**8. Statement of Significance**

=====

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1900 to 1946  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

LOWTHER STORE  
Name of Property

WHEELER, WEBSTER CO.  
County and State

**Significant Dates**  
1900

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
HINKLE, JOHN A.  
HINKLE, PERRY C.

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A

**Architect/Builder**  
ANDERSON, GEORGE REUBEN

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

=====  
**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.)

**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: LOWTHER FAMILY

LOWTHER STORE  
Name of Property

WHEELER, WEBSTER CO.  
County and State

=====  
**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

Acreage of Property: APPROXIMATELY ONE ACRE

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

17      552890      4281000  
Zone      Easting      Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

Name/Title: Linda Lowther

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 14 November 1996

Street & Number: HC-88, Box 17 Telephone: 304/493-6443

City or Town: Hacker Valley State:     Zip: 26222

=====  
**Additional Documentation**  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

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

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

**Photographs**

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

**Additional Items**

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

LOWTHER STORE  
Name of Property

WHEELER, WEBSTER CO.  
County and State

=====  
**Property Owner**  
=====

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

Name: Max and Linda Lowther

Street & Number: HC-88, Box 17 Telephone: 304/493-6443

City or Town: Hacker Valley State: WV Zip: 26222  
=====

**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.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

LOWTHER STORE                      WHEELER, WEBSTER CO.  
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Located off County Route 3, is a small complex of buildings comprising the Lowther Store and its outbuildings. The store is perched on the side of a hill with the porch projecting to the edge of the road. Clustered close to the store are two contributing buildings including a frame coal house, and a storage building located across the roadway. A large beech tree stands near the shed, which is the site of a former mill house. A chain once tied around the tree has now become imbedded in the bark. In past years the chain as well as another post served as a hitching place for the horses.

The store is a one-story rectangular, wood-frame building roughly 34'-9" x 32'-2" in size, with a foundation of field stones and posts. The shape of the building suggests a hen and chick folk style with a center gable end, and shed wings to each side with metal roofing. The center porch area has a overhang supported by knee-bracing. There are steps leading up to the front entrance from the side. The front elevation has five front bays with a center five-panel door with transom, and 2/2 double-hung windows to each side. A single plank door leads into each of the side wings. On the windows are burglar-protection steel rods attached to the exterior of the main building which were installed in the early 1900s. A skylight has been added for extra illumination to the store.

The interior of the store has a central merchandise area with a side rear door opening into the ware room or storage area. The walls and ceiling have painted wooden boards, with a plank floor. A coal stove heats the space which has shelving for canned goods, videos, and an old fashioned glass counter and display case. The store was wired for electricity in 1948, but has no running water.

The original owner added a wing onto the south side of the building about 1910 which served as a jewelry store and repair shop. The only access is an entrance door from the front porch. The two window openings do not have security bars.

During the early years there were four outbuildings, all wood frame structures. Just across County Route 3 was a grist mill approximately 15' x 30' in size, which was operated each Saturday. To the north of the store was a well house constructed over a dug well, while to the south was an outdoor privy. Today, the oldest outbuilding is the coal house, a simple wood frame building with a small square opening off the road for unloading coal. The structure has a corrugated gable metal roof with a entrance door on the back side.

A feed shed was erected prior to 1941 opposite the store. This is a wood frame structure with insul-brick on three sides, that cantilevers over the hillside with an opening for cars, etc. on the lower level. The shed roof extends out in the front for an overhang, and paired center doors open for unloading. The building has single or paired square window openings. The mill building was removed from the property after the feed building was erected. Currently the feed building is used for storage.

The Lowther Store represents a place of commerce in a rural crossroads of Webster County. The vernacular architecture of the store

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provides an example of local carpentry work from the turn of the century. The setting and landscape are unchanged, and the complex retains its relationship of buildings.

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The Lowther Store is significant under Criterion A for its long association with Commerce or Trade in Webster County since 1900. It is contributing under Criterion B for its link with the Hinkle family, both the first owner John A. Hinkle, and his son, Perry C. Hinkle. The period of significance is 1900 to 1946, which covers the first 46 years of the store's operation.

The Lowther Store is the oldest continuous operating business in Webster County, opening at the turn of the century. The store's first owner was John A. Hinkle who had the building constructed about 1900. It was built by local carpenter George Reuben Anderson (1877-1970), who was a relative of John's wife, Eliza Ann Anderson. The business was known as the "John A. Hinkle and Son Store". The business was one of the major country stores of the area during the early 1900s. They stocked yardage, clothing, shoes, hardware, feed, and groceries. People traveled by horse and foot for miles around to patronize the business.

For the first few years of operation George Reuben Anderson ran the store for Mr. Hinkle, who was involved in logging and lumbering in the area at the turn of the century. When the Wheeler Post Office was established within the building on May 26, 1903, Anderson was appointed postmaster. John A. Hinkle became postmaster on June 29, 1905, and served in that capacity until August 29, 1913.

John A. Hinkle was a prominent and well-respected man in Hacker Valley District. He served as Secretary of the Hacker Valley District Board of Education from 1904-1905. He was a member of the board from 1906 to 1908, then served as board president for another two years. In addition to these and other endeavors, Mr. Hinkle was also a jeweler with his shop being located in the right wing of the building.

On August 29, 1913, John's son, Perry C. Hinkle, became postmaster and served until the post office was discontinued on August 25, 1952. Throughout all those years, Perry ran the store in conjunction with the post office. After the death of Perry in 1960, Walter William Lowther (1912-1995), Perry's son-in-law, took over the operation. In 1993, Walter's son Max and his wife, Linda, assumed the management of the store.

Many of the original store furnishings are still in the building, either being used in the daily operation of the store, or for display. This includes such items as the early cash register, scales, twine-string holder, display cases, etc. The interior retains the simple wooden plank construction for the ceiling, walls, and floor. The central room is still heated by a wood stove, although a skylight now adds some extra light to the store.

Several outbuildings were added to the complex, which also includes a large Beech tree with chain which was once used as a hitching post for horses. As a place of commerce the store provided the sale of coal which necessitated the construction of a small frame building. While the store once provided a means of grinding grain, the mill was removed after the store began stocking feed around 1940. A small storage shed was erected across the road to hold the feed about this same time.

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The Lowther Store has a long history of service to the community as a place of business and local post office. It was major point of trade within Webster County serving the rural community of Wheeler. The store and its outbuildings retain their historic character.

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**Bibliography**

- Alexander Anderson Cemetery No. 1 Inscriptions, Cleveland, West Virginia
- Anderson, Stanley J., HISTORY OF HACKER VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOLS:  
1877-1990. Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1990.
- Anderson, Stanley J., POSTAL SERVICE IN NORTHERN WEBSTER COUNTY.  
Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1996.
- Hinkle, John A., Family Bible in possession of Orla Lowther, Hacker  
Valley, WV
- Lowther, H. Zane (Grandson of Perry C. Hinkle), Personal Interview,  
April 25, 1996, Webster Springs, WV
- RECORD OF APPOINTMENT OF POSTMASTERS, 1832-SEPTEMBER 30, 1971. Post  
Office Department, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- Webster County Court House Records, Deed Book No. 13, p. 234, Webster  
Springs, WV.
- WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA, Centerfold Fall Picture,  
1991; Front Cover Winter Picture, Vol. 56, No. 11, January 1993.
- WEST VIRGINIA EDUCATION DIRECTORY, Published annually by the West Virginia  
Department of Education.

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**Boundary Description**

Beginning at a rock at the lower right hand side of the gas tank vault and running 60<sup>0</sup> northeast 50 feet to a fence post (total 105 feet) located behind the coal house; then proceeding to run 325<sup>0</sup> northwest 95 feet along the back of the store to the fence; then running 240<sup>0</sup> southwest 50 feet to the upper edge of the Replete Road and then running 50 feet more on past a huge beech tree (total 100 feet) to a corner and then running behind the feed-mill house 150<sup>0</sup> southeast running 70 feet to a telephone/electric pole; then continuing on southeast 145<sup>0</sup> for 46 feet to return to our starting point.

**Boundary Justification**

Description taken from the tax map, Webster County Assessors Office.

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LOWTHER STORE WHEELER, WEBSTER CO.  
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Name: Lowther Store  
Address: County Road 3  
City: Wheeler, West Virginia  
County: Webster County

Photographer: Linda Lowther

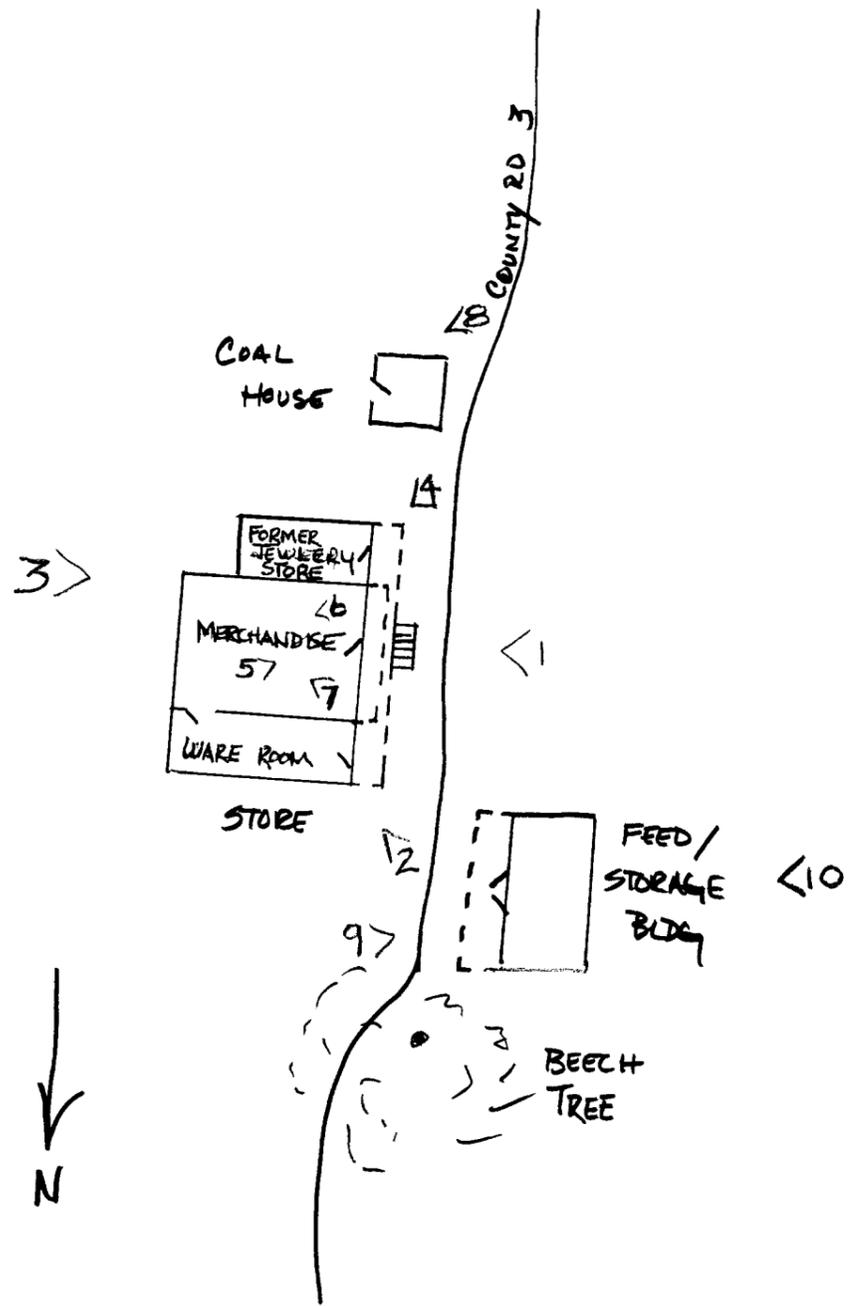
Date: October 17, 1996

Negatives: Linda Lowther

- Photo 1 of 10: View of West - Front facade of store  
Camera looking east
- Photo 2 of 10: View of north facade of store  
Camera looking southeast
- Photo 3 of 10: View of east, or rear facade of store  
Camera looking west
- Photo 4 of 10: View of south facade of store  
Camera looking northeast
- Photo 5 of 10: View of interior, front wall  
Camera looking west
- Photo 6 of 10: View of interior, north and rear wall  
Camera looking northeast
- Photo 7 of 10: View of interior, rear wall  
Camera looking east
- Photo 8 of 10: View of coal house  
Camera looking northeast
- Photo 9 of 10: View of feed/storage building, front facade  
Camera looking west
- Photo 10 of 10: View of feed/storage building, rear facade  
Camera looking east

LOWTHER STORE  
Wheeler, WV  
Webster County

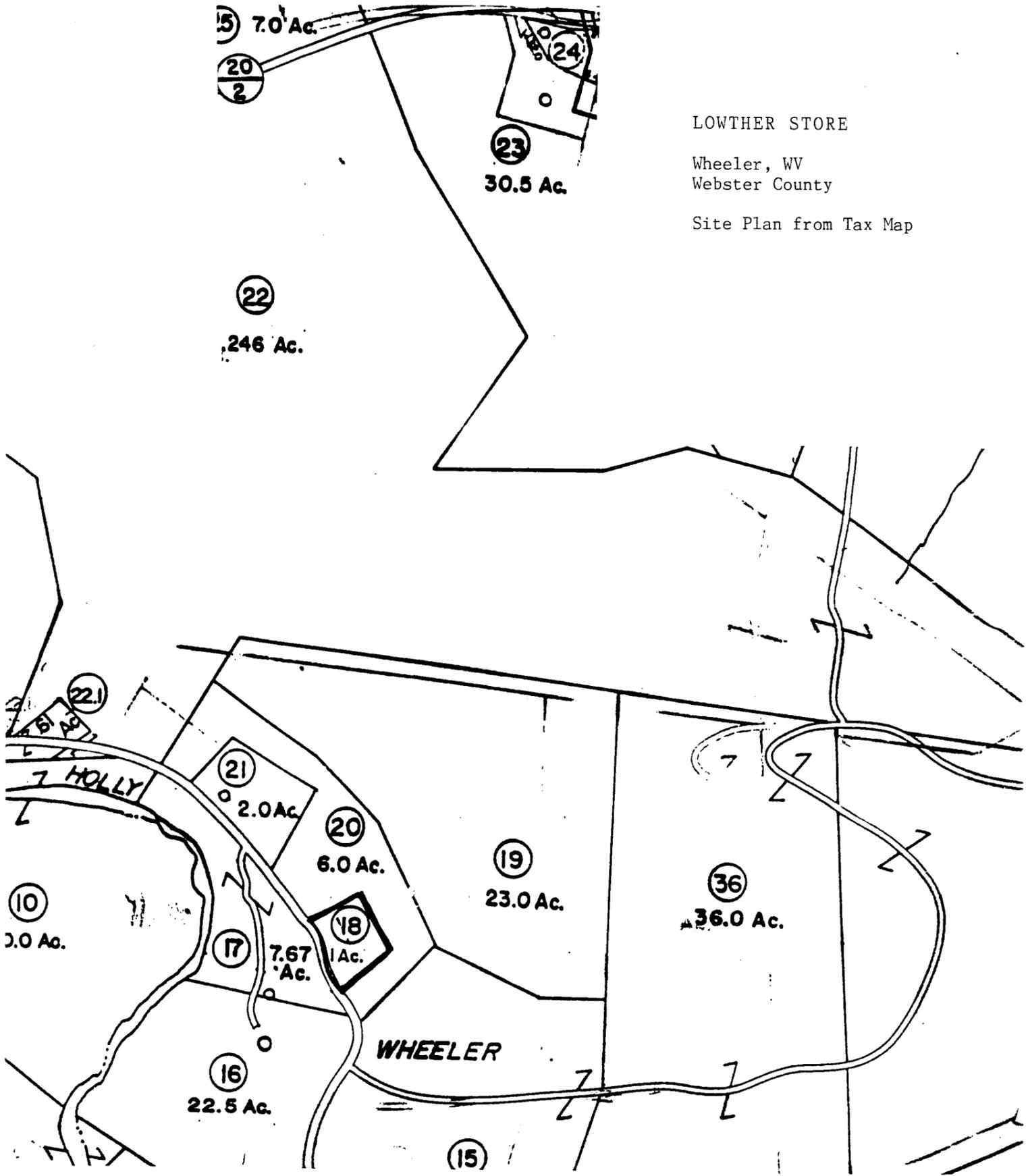
Site and Photo Plan

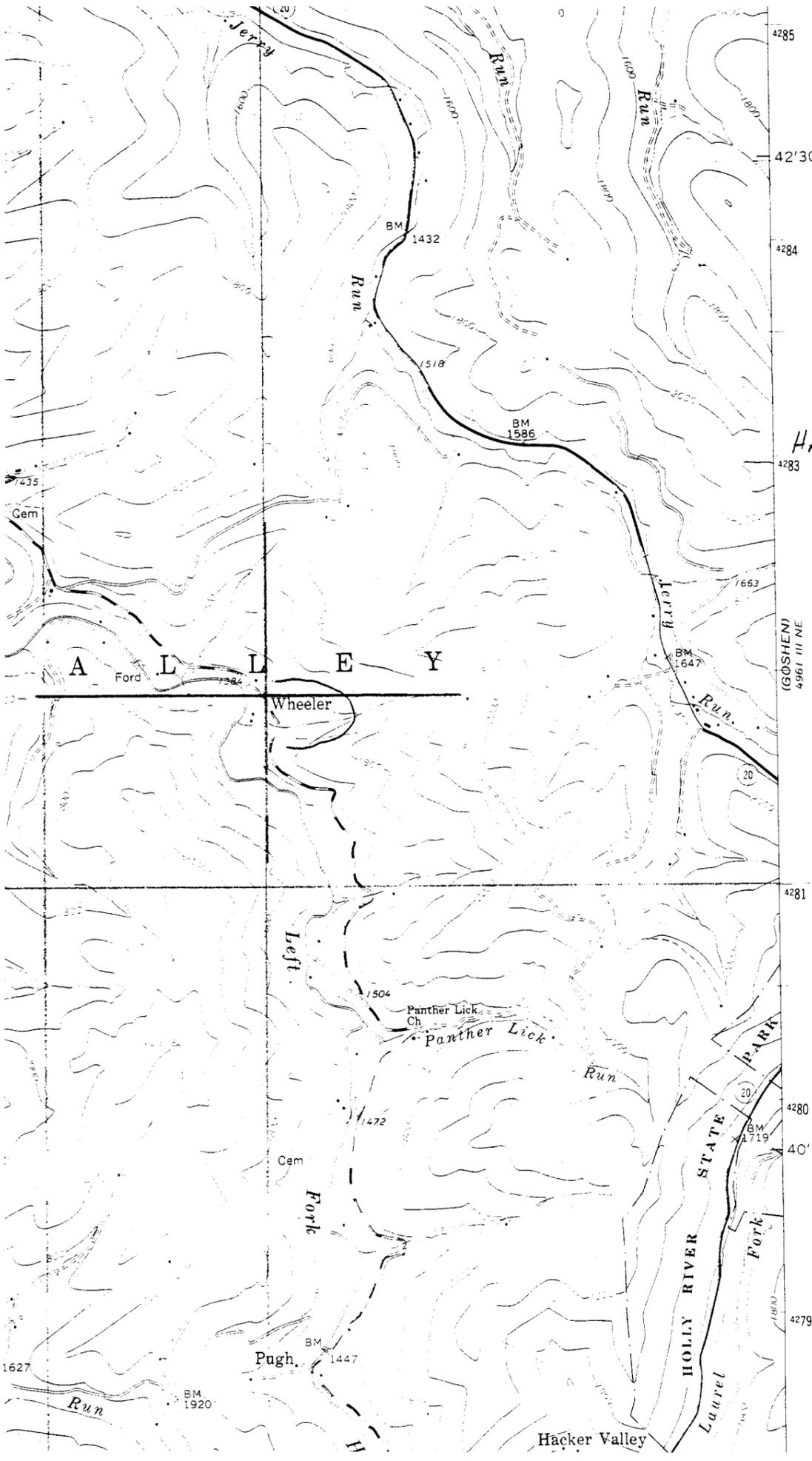


LOWTHER STORE

Wheeler, WV  
Webster County

Site Plan from Tax Map





4285  
42'30"  
4284  
4283  
4281  
4280  
40'  
4279

HACKER VALLEY  
QUAD  
  
LOWTHER STGE  
17 55L890  
4281000

(GOSHEN)  
4961 III NE

Hacker Valley



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