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United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

# 1. Name

historic Smithfield; Middleway; Wizard Clip

and/or common Middleway Historic District (preferred)

# 2. Location

street & number CR1 off USS1 \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Middleway \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Second

state West Virginia code 54 county Jefferson code 037

# 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: lodge

# 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state

# 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number Washington and George Streets

city, town Charles Town state West Virginia

# 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Jefferson County Historic  
title Landmarks Commission

has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

date 1972-73 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state ☒ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records c/o Dr. John A. Washington  
Harewood, R.F.D. 2

city, town Charles Town state West Virginia

## 7. 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

Middleway community is located in the rolling farmland of Jefferson County, West Virginia, just off State Route 51 and about one mile east of Opequon Creek, the divide between Jefferson and Berkeley counties. The countryside in this area is rapidly changing; a history of more than two hundred years of crops, livestock and orchards is being constantly pressed by housing developments and industry. A manufacturing plant has located about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of Middleway in recent years, taking advantage of the waters from an underground lake that feeds Turkey Run, the town's raison d'etre and power source for its once prominent mills. While the old north-south Shepherdstown-Berryville Road and east-west Charles Town Turnpike are no longer main thoroughfares except for local traffic, their former routes comprise the street system which includes Queen, King, Grace, Charles, North, South, East and West, appropriately assigned names from the days of the community's birth.

A comparative flatness of land from north to south gives way to gentle rises on both east and west. Building location and design continues in patterns well established, with densest concentrations along Queen and King streets, especially between Grace and Charles. Open spaces still abound, however, comprised of lots long vacant or set aside as cemeteries and the large backyards prevalent in days of greater self-sufficiency in foodstuffs. Outbuildings remain, too, log and stone smokehouses and small stone barns that attest to rustic qualities which seem quickly devoured by nearby development (or lack of proper development in the sometimes uncontained sprawl of mobile home parks and commercial strips) stretching out from Charles Town.

Perhaps because of these pressures, Middleway has not only discovered itself but has also been discovered as a rather tightly knit grouping of building types and vernacular architecture representative of this rural Jefferson County town of eighteenth and early nineteenth century roots. Houses arose as products of nature and necessity, a fact evident in the district's sixty major buildings, more than half of which are primarily or partly constructed of logs. And while brick is the next most evident facing material, rough field stone is seen in both residences and outbuildings, forming an in-town complement to grand and beautiful local farmhouses built of native limestone.

Central-entrance, single-pile, two-story, gable-roofed dwellings predominate, many having an ell formed from a now attached outside kitchen or somewhat later extension. An exterior end chimney of stone to the second level with brick cap above is common to log houses (e.g., sketch map #36), while the inside end chimney is seen in most brick residences (e.g., #44). Dormers appear occasionally (e.g., #45), 6/6 window sash are (were) predominant (e.g., #46), and louvered shutters (wooden rather than plastic or aluminum) are frequently seen (e.g., #32). In a community that probably has the greatest concentration of log dwellings in the county, it is striking, however, that logs are rarely seen except in outbuildings. The reason for this is that clapboards were early applied (e.g., #16), and where they were not used a covering

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of hand-split laths and plaster (e.g., #41) put a polished face on what might have been thought a too crude or rough framed house in a crossroads town of the early 1800s.

Colors are mostly subdued, blending with natural surroundings; weathered gray exteriors are intermixed with red brick, limestone, blue- and yellow-painted clapboards and white plaster shells. The recurring standing-seam metal roofs are in hues of red, gray and rust. Decorative features on the outsides are simple for the most part, but the fanlight entrance and Ionic capitals of porch columns at Scollay Hall (#47) stand out, as do the board-and-batten sided front of the former Daniel Fry House (#27) and a significant number of later nineteenth-century porches with saw-worked balusters and brackets and some turned posts (e.g., #44).

As originally laid out, the town was to consist of two major north-south and east-west streets, the former named King and Queen and the latter called Grace and Charles. In addition, connectors serving as boundaries were added as North, South, East and West streets. An east-west alley system (long unmaintained) was also included. Lots of an approximate one-third acre in size (roughly 90' x 180' rectangles) were standard. This fundamental layout remains intact today, and a grouping of houses on King and Queen streets between South Street and the Methodist Church (#22) is basically unchanged.

Buildings along Queen Street have facade lines quite close to the road, with concentrations here being densest in the community. Lots at extremities have apparently remained unused for buildings over the years and are now more akin to small farms (e.g., #21 at Queen and North streets). Especially close are buildings along Queen Street between the corners of South and Charles, where a business center originally developed. Smith Tavern (no longer standing), a former landmark of importance, was located on the east side of Queen Street just south of Turkey Run; Scollay Hall (#47), the brick store that served as a hospital during the War between the States (#35), and the Virginia Inn (#46) share a corner at Grace and Queen, and shops and a former post office (#27) located northward.

Elsewhere the concentration of buildings is somewhat less dense, if only because structures are often times of smaller dimensions than those along Queen Street. King Street is a principal residential neighborhood, with a house on nearly every lot from South Street to Charles. West Street has never really developed (in fact, this

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"street" is hardly worthy of a name), but East Street has always been the center of religious and social activity, for here Episcopal and Lutheran churches (#55 and #52, respectively), an A.F. & A.M. lodge (#54), and two cemeteries located. Vacant and open lots (about 15% of the lots and perhaps 20% of the land) now form grown-over fields, garden plots, and storage and parking areas.

Outside of Turkey Run, which flows from east to west between Grace and South streets, there are no natural features of enduring importance. Changes in the overall layout of the town have been few, and alterations of housing types, densities and relationships to open spaces have not been appreciable over the years, except for deterioration and loss of several of the older buildings which had been part of community evolution.

Middleway's significance primarily lies within its existence as a reasonably prosperous crossroads town from mid-eighteenth through the nineteenth centuries. Rather than having been center of one or more important or momentous events, home of especially noteworthy individuals, or a concentration of outstanding architectural styles, technologies, interpretations and designs, the community merely has survived, well intact, as a fitting example of its period.

During this time, the configuration of buildings, open spaces, roads and natural features was about as it is today. Dwellings, outbuildings, business structures, churches and lodge primarily were constructed from around 1790 (perhaps sections of some as early as 1750) until 1860, with a few replacements or additions of note coming after the War between the States (e.g., the 1883 Methodist Church, #22). Materials were fundamentally those logs, bricks and stones yet remaining, activity probably concentrated around churches, lodge, stores and inns still in use, and traffic crossed through on its way to Shepherdstown, Berryville and Charles Town via extant roadways. What has changed, however, is that the mill is long since gone, stores are now conveniences for local trade, inns are known today by name only, and roads simply act to siphon passersby and residents alike to newer thoroughfares that bypass the community.

As has been true always, buildings of the town are primarily dwellings; even where commercial or professional uses existed before (e.g., the office at house #31), these were frequently adjunct to residential purposes. The two stores on Queen Street (buildings #33 and #35) have served that function, at least at times, during a long past, and the same may be said of the churches and lodge.

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Scollay Hall (#47) has a large space set aside today as a commercial dining room of the "country inn" variety, but old Virginia Inn (#46) is strictly residential now. At various intervals during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, at least two dwellings (#36 and #48) were used in part as "academies" or schools; this pattern became extinct, however, with the advent of a better free school system, community school movements and more recent consolidation practices.

As little as ten years ago one might have passed through Middleway and remarked that its buildings were in various states of repair or disrepair, with generally good to fair conditions evident and a downward trend noted. Today there has been a turnabout of sorts, but in some ways it is not too much for the better. Remaining buildings are being lived in more and left vacant less, they are undergoing a "clean up, paint up, fix up" cycle in various degrees, and many have been or are being "restored, rehabilitated, renovated and modernized." Fortunately, most of what is being accomplished is carried out slowly and with thought, but aluminum siding, replacement windows with 1/1 or 2/2 sash, composition roofs, and "mobile" homes are exceptions. The general condition of buildings is now into the "good" range and the trend is upward, yet, as is true in most instances, a lack of knowledge and a need for an education program point to a possibility of difficulties still to come.

What direction Middleway takes is important, because it is now distinct from its surroundings in many respects. Of foremost significance is its existence as a town with a concentration of older buildings. To its north, along W.Va. Route 51, is a conglomeration of newer dwellings, trailer parks, gas stations and convenience groceries. To its east is a large amount of open land and strip housing development of the post-1950 era, a similar occurrence as to its south. This type of housing continues a short distance out of town on the west, almost reaching to the location of a large industrial plant operated by Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Corporation (fittingly, this complex is near the site of early town mills, the eighteenth century industry that gave rise to the community itself).

Archeological potential of this area is uncertain. Located as it is along a spring-fed run that empties into Coequon Creek about a mile west of town, prehistoric migrations and settlements might possibly have occurred. Most of the land has been disturbed for housing, farming and industrial purposes, however, and archeological potential is more probably limited to the historic era, perhaps in the study of building history through site excavation along the run. In addition,

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Civil War activity was prevalent over a period, for Middleway was on direct lines from Harpers Ferry (through Charles Town) and Sharpsburg (via Shepherdstown), and remnants of passage of troops might remain.

There are sixty major buildings within district boundaries, eleven of which merit rating as non-conforming intrusions (see sketch map). At least eight log or stone smokehouses, two older frame barns (there are also a few newer, small, frame barns), and two small stone barns add to the distinction of the district. Following is a list of all major buildings with assessment as to character and a brief description where necessary:

1. Non-conforming intrusion (mid-twentieth century house).
2. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling.
3. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling. This building has recently burned and is now in a deteriorated state.
4. Non-conforming intrusion (mobile home).
5. This is a newer building, but it does not detract from the district. Size, design and materials are such that it blends well.
6. Pivotal structure. Good example of a double house with sections of log and brick. The former is a typical, two-story unit with plaster-covered exterior.
7. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling with ell.
8. Non-conforming intrusion (new two-story, round-log house).
9. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling with rear extension or addition.
10. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling.
11. Larger two-story log (at least in part) dwelling with ell. Aluminum siding is now replacing clapboards and several alterations have been made to doors and windows.
12. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling.
13. Non-conforming intrusion (mid-twentieth century cinder block house).
14. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling.
15. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling.
16. Pivotal structure. This example of the typical three-bay, single-  
pile, two-story log house with stone exterior end chimney and  
clapboarded facade, although deteriorating, may represent a  
directional force. Whether it is torn down or rehabilitated and  
reused can influence Middleway's future.
17. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling.
18. Non-conforming intrusion (mid-twentieth century, single-story house).
19. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling with a frame addition to the east side.

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20. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling. It has been covered with a false-brick siding.
21. Pivotal structure. Substantial two-story log house with plaster-covered exterior. The property includes a large open space, and the dwelling (with associated log smokehouse) is important as a northern boundary to the district. The potential exists for use of its surrounding land for newer housing.
22. Pivotal structure. Although plain in appearance except for detailing in a brick cornice and open bell tower, the brick Methodist Church of 1883 (it has a newer addition) has a long tradition in community religious and social history.
23. This dwelling is probably partly of log construction, but it has had a number of alterations to basic lines.
24. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling with associated log smokehouse. It has been covered with a false-brick siding.
25. This old storage and work shop or garage consists of a stone rear section and a frame addition at the front.
26. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling with rear extension. A log smokehouse is on this lot.
27. Pivotal structure. Large two-story log (at least in part) dwelling with clapboarded sides and board-and-batten sided front. This is a good example of the five-bay log house found on Queen Street. A small stone barn is at the rear of the property.
28. This is a sizable log and stone house with a small stone barn on the back lot.
29. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling.
30. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling. There is also a log smokehouse on this property.
31. Pivotal structure. Another good example of the longer log house; a small, one-story brick office is on the south side.
32. Pivotal structure. This two-section log house includes a one-story stone ell that may be one of the oldest buildings in town.
33. Around 1850 a two-story frame store/house was constructed on this lot. Until this day it remains as the only building with its gable facing the street (except for the brick churches and lodge).
34. Typical, small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling with a frame addition to the rear.
35. Pivotal structure. This two-story brick store has inside end chimneys, jack-arch lintels and a corbeled cornice. It was used as a hospital after the battle at Antietam Creek in 1862.
36. Pivotal structure. Excellent example of the small, two-story log house. The front section is plaster covered, while an ell

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- has clapboards. The north end chimney is stone to the second level and brick above. A stone smokehouse is at the rear.
37. Pivotal structure. Combination log, frame and half-timber house. A frame section along the north front was added to the original log part, and a half-timbered, brick-infilled passageway was later constructed to attach what was probably a log kitchen at the rear.
38. Non-conforming intrusion (mid-twentieth century, one-story house).
39. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling.
40. Larger two-story log house. It has had a number of alterations, including changes to window and door configuration.
41. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling. This plaster-covered building has had several small additions; it now lists to one side.
42. Non-conforming intrusion (mid-twentieth century, single-story house).
43. Another example of the combination house, part log and part brick.
44. Pivotal structure. This is a long, two-story brick house with a one-story brick kitchen unit attached at the south end. It includes a good example of the later nineteenth century porch, with saw-worked balusters and brackets, that abounds in the community.
45. Pivotal structure. This is the only all stone house in town. It is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories high with an ell, inside end chimneys and dormers. There is a stone smokehouse at the rear.
46. Pivotal structure. Log sections of one,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and two stories combine to form a long and deep ell-shaped dwelling. The property includes a stone smokehouse and small frame barn.
47. Pivotal structure. Two brick sections (one of two stories and the other  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ) are to either side of an older log unit. Detailing, though not extravagant, is probably the best in Middleway. It includes a geometrically divided fanlight and sidelights around the entrance to the newer brick section and a porch with a roof supported by Ionic capiteled columns. There is also a log smokehouse and small frame barn on the large lot.
48. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling with an ell that includes a small stone unit.
49. Non-conforming intrusion (mid-twentieth century, one-story house).
50. Non-conforming intrusion (mid-twentieth century, one-story house).
51. Typical small, two-story log (at least in part) dwelling.
52. Pivotal structure. Former Union Church is a large brick edifice of c. 1823 construction with an open bell tower added around 1853. Plain, almost severe lines are part of its attraction. It is now used as an adjunct to Grace Episcopal Church.



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53. Combination house of brick and frame sections; the latter includes late nineteenth century elements seldom seen (but not distracting) in Middleway.
54. Pivotal structure. Triluminar Lodge, A.F. & A.M. Simple rectangular, two-story brick building with a 1960s, brick-veneered addition at the rear. This 1851 lodge hall has served an important function in the social life of the community.
55. Pivotal structure. The Gothic features of the c. 1851 Grace Episcopal Church, including the high spires of its bell tower, are impressive in this town of simplicity.
56. Small, two-story log or frame dwelling with ell.
57. Larger house consisting of an older frame section and a more recent stone addition.
58. Non-conforming intrusion (mid-twentieth century, one-story house).
59. Non-conforming intrusion (mobile home).
60. Pivotal structure. This small brick church was constructed about 1887. Along with building #22 it represents the long division of American Methodism, this being the Methodist Protestant Church and that being the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. It is now used as the Middleway Full Gospel Pentecostal Church.

## 8. 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		Community development

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Middleway Historic District is significant because it has survived, rather well intact, through nearly two centuries of growth and decline, varying degrees of prosperity and poverty, and changing tastes, attitudes and styles. A boom during the so-called Smithfield Promotion of the 1790s combined with increasing population and community commitment before the War between the States to produce a concentration of buildings reflecting time and place: the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries on the fringes of a frontier only recently gone farther west. What remains is a grand collection of log, brick and stone structures representative of a simple vernacular interpretation of period architecture and a town plan that is both fundamental and characteristic of its day. Holding this together is a thread of strong tradition, running from a consciousness of the town's former importance, through a continuation of the Wizard Clip legend, to a potential rallying of revived community spirit.

### Explanation of Significance Statement

The John Smiths, senior and junior, along with Rees Smith, son and brother, apparently first visited the area of today's Middleway about 1729. By 1734 they had established a grist and hemp mill (the latter did not prosper) along Turkey Run just west of the present town, a mill that soon became a point of concentration for farming families and later tradesmen who stopped and settled nearby. Thoughts of laying out a legislatively incorporated village must have occurred to the Smiths even before the Revolutionary War, for when it finally came to fruition in 1798, its main streets were called King and Queen, hardly appropriate if not decided upon before 1776.

The 1790s were important in area history for two major reasons: first, the Smithfield Promotion got underway (a concerted effort to gather a town population with attendant trade activity), and secondly, Adam Livingston became exceedingly troubled by the unexplained sound of snapping scissors. In consideration of nomination of Middleway Historic District, the former is by far the more meaningful, but the latter adds an element not normally encountered.

A small settlement composed primarily of simple log cabins or houses had begun along Turkey Run by the middle of the eighteenth century. What the John Smiths wanted, however, was a full-fledged corporate entity with trustees and regulations. A promotion to accomplish this began about 1794, several years after a sawmill was added to their industrial complex about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of the proposed town. By 1798 when Smithfield was chartered by an act of the Virginia legislature, many, maybe most, of the lots had been subscribed and buildings were quickly erected (within three years of sale as required by law). These early structures might

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have been expected to give way to second and third generation houses over a period of more than 175 years, but because of a downturn in community development after the War between the States, rarely did buildings go beyond enlargement of the early log dwelling with a rear addition.

These residences usually had three bays across the front with center entrance, a single-pile, two-story configuration, and a stone chimney, often with a brick cap, on one side. Because this was a growing and important crossroads town, the rough finish of logs was not suitable, so wide clapboards from the sawmill were applied or split laths and whitewashed plaster were employed to cover the exterior. By about the second decade of the nineteenth century, brick came into popular use, especially in dwellings, stores and offices along Queen Street (the central business district, so to speak), and this material was usually used for churches and such mid-century edifices as Triluminar Lodge (#54).

That second major occurrence of the 1790s will be noted briefly, for it did not fundamentally change Smithfield's history or have an ingrained effect on the community. As a legend, though, it has always held a grip on the minds and imaginations of townsfolk, for they have referred to the village as Wizard Clip or Clip and called themselves Clippers. Basically, as some versions of the story go, a traveler took lodging with one Adam Livingston, a gentleman who lived with his family on the road out of town to the west, because there was no room at the local inn. During the night he died, seized by a sudden illness and crying at times for the Livingstons to summon a priest. Soon after this stranger's burial, Adam Livingston saw coals popping out of his fireplace, he and a passerby tried to remove a nonexistent rope from the road in front of Livingston's house, and an almost constant clipping sound, as if scissors were snipping, invaded his dwelling. Townspeople who would dare to enter the house would come out with tattered clothes cut into crescent shapes, the "scissors" seeming to have been maneuvered to reduce them to shreds or half-moons. After seeking advice in Smithfield, Winchester and Leetown, Livingston, a mental wreck by this time, went to Shepherdstown to seek aid from a priest. After much discussion, Father Dennis Cahill visited Livingston's house and exorcised the spirit, leaving the town to consider these unexplained events for generations to come.

Returning to the more mundane, Smithfield was fortunate to have reached an era of some prosperity by 1810, when the town included two meetinghouses, three stores, an apothecary shop, a distillery, four

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shoemakers, five weavers, three blacksmiths, three tailors, a wagon maker, a saddle-tree maker, one hatter, an attorney and a physician. It was about this time, too, that the name of Middleway was more and more used, despite the fact that the corporate title of Smithfield remained unchanged. Apparently the U.S. Post Office Department forced this change, for confusion arose with mails destined for an older Smithfield, Virginia, along the James River. Conjecture is that the Middleway designation was chosen because it was approximately fifteen miles between the village and each of the towns of Martinsburg, Shepherdstown, Harpers Ferry and Winchester.

From a population of 221 in 1810, Middleway grew to 337 in 1820. By 1850 there were 349 whites and 95 slaves, and in 1870 the census indicated 267 whites and 94 blacks. Little had changed over this sixty year period insofar as the community's building stock was concerned. There were, however, at least two significant alterations which have had a lasting effect. The first was the War between the States, an occurrence that elicited a strong outflow of sympathy and support for the Confederacy; the second was an end to prosperity and a general decline in population as well as status.

Smithfield had sponsored a military company, called the Middleway Blues, almost since its creation. Although ceremonial in nature, its activities must have impacted the community in many respects, and a pride in service and strong ties to the southern militia tradition were instilled. With the coming of civil strife, Middleway sent forth many of its young men to join Confederate forces. Those who remained knew their village was located on a direct route to the arsenal and armory town of Harpers Ferry, and they well might have expected movements in and out of the area. These expectations came to pass, but it was the unexpected clash at Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg that had a greater effect, for after that 1862 engagement, troops departed Shepherdstown and headed south through Middleway, a large group of wounded being cared for at the former store/house on the corner of Queen and Grace streets (#35). A semblance of quiet was broken again in 1864, when the so-called Battle of Smithfield, a modest affair, encircled the town with skirmishing for several days. When war ended, men returned to reminisce, but southern sympathies in this new state of West Virginia led to some difficulties.

While the Civil War occurred at such a time that it appeared to cause the beginning of decline for Smithfield, the real genesis may have been earlier opposition to running a proposed valley branch of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad line from Harpers Ferry to Winchester

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Middleway Historic District, Jefferson County, West Virginia

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via Middleway. This happened in the 1850s, and the railroad eventually skirted the town, following a route several miles to the south and east. By the 1870s, Smithfield's roads were no longer so important; commodities that had once come to the mill for processing were sent elsewhere. Complications led to a significant population decline as many moved west, leaving the corporate shell to wither away by the end of the century. Eventually it became a quiet, unincorporated village, totally bypassed by more important thoroughfares farther north and east.

This decline has proved to be the savior of Middleway's late eighteenth and early nineteenth century character. The remaining log and brick buildings display a setting of materials and associations that has retained the historical and architectural cohesiveness established during the Promotion of the 1790s and continued through the 1850s. General age, density, size and construction techniques of these buildings form a physical and mental image of what a small, aspiring rural town was like during that period, and what non-conforming intrusions exist today have generally concentrated on the edges of the district, thereby creating minimal effects of pressures from without rather than from within. Even with the demolition of several important structures over the years, overall character has only recently been affected internally with increased use of modern materials, such as aluminum siding. Integrity of the district has not been impaired overly or even significantly, but small inroads have the potential to become major concerns.

Middleway Historic District basically follows the boundaries of John Smith's original town, but the scope of his paper layout has been circumscribed where necessary to exclude newer development that would change the character and impair district integrity if included. As a town with a considerable concentration of log buildings, in particular, and simple vernacular architecture from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, in general, Middleway has a quality unlike that of other communities in Jefferson County and relates only marginally to other towns in the region or state as a whole. This quality is inherent in building relationships and materials; the integrity of place and time is well established and retained.

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UTM References (continued):

I. 18/242950/4354440  
J. 18/242900/4354240  
K. 18/242760/4354270  
L. 18/242750/4354220  
M. 18/242660/4354240  
N. 18/242680/4354340  
O. 18/242610/4354350  
P. 18/242560/4354330  
Q. 18/242600/4354530  
R. 18/242560/4354660  
S. 18/242600/4354650  
T. 18/242720/4354750  
U. 18/242780/4354740  
V. 18/242830/4354970

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PAGE 3

Verbal boundary description and justification (continued):

file with the Historic Preservation Unit, Department of Culture and History, The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305. Included are lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, those sections of 18 marked as old lots (41), (44), (45) and (48), 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73 and 74 on Map 22A and lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, those sections of 8 marked as old lots (86), (87) and (90), that section of 9 marked as old lot (91), 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.1, 19.2, 20, 21, 22, 22.1, 22.2, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 on Map 22 B.

Beginning at the corner of North and Queen Streets, the boundary follows Queen Street southward to the line dividing lots 45 and 49 (Map 22A), turning eastward along that line to the line dividing lots 49 and 48 (Map 22A), thence southward in a straight line to Charles Street. Here the boundary follows Charles Street eastward to its intersection with East Street, thence southward along East Street to the parking lot adjacent to (on the north side of) Triluminar Lodge, A.F. & A.M., turning eastward to the end of that lot, then southward to the north line of lot 74 (Map 22A), turning eastward along that lot line to its eastern end, then southward along that lot line to its southern end, then eastward along that lot line to its intersection with the eastern line of lot 28 (Map 22B). From that point it turns southward and continues in a straight line to include lots 19.1 and 19.2 (Map 22B), turning westward along lot 19.2 (Map 22B) to lot 18 (Map 22B), then southward along lot 18 (Map 22B) to its southern end, then westward along lot 18 (Map 22B) to its intersection with lot 16 (Map 22B). It turns southward along the eastern end of lot 16 (Map 22B) and continues in a straight line to the southern end of lot 15 (Map 22B), thence along the southern edge of lot 15 (Map 22B) to the intersection with Queen Street. It continues southward along Queen Street to the intersection with the southern end of lot 10 (Map 22B), turning westward along lot 10 (Map 22B) to the west edge of old lot 91 as marked in parentheses (Map 22B), then northward in a straight line to the intersection with South Street. It continues westward along South Street to its intersection with King Street, thence southward along the eastern edge of lot 4 (Map 22B), then northward along the western end of lots 4, 3 and 2 (Map 22B) to the intersection of the latter with Grace Street. Crossing Grace Street, it continues northward along the western end of lot 6 (Map 22A) to its northern end, thence eastward along that line to the intersection of West Street. It continues northward along the western line of lots 10, 11,

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Middleway Historic District, Jefferson County, West Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 4

Verbal boundary description and justification (continued):

and 12 (Map 22A) to the intersection with the dividing line between lots 22 and 40 (Map 22A). The line then continues northward in a straight line along this dividing line between lots 22 and 40 (Map 22A) and on to the intersection with North Street. The boundary then continues eastward along North Street, connecting with the beginning line at the intersection of North and Queen Streets.

District boundaries have been selected to coincide, as much as practical, with the town map as delineated by S. Howell Brown on his map of May 12, 1883, as reproduced in Robert L. Bates' The Story of Smithfield (Middleway), Jefferson County, West Virginia (Vol. I, pp. 171-72). Modifications have been made to eliminate concentrations of what would be considered non-conforming intrusions that have been constructed on formerly vacant land at the extremities of the district.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- B...s, Robert L. "Middleway, a Study in Social History," West Virginia History, XI (Oct. 1949-Jan. 1950), 5-43.
- ... The Story of Smithfield (Middleway), Jefferson County, West Virginia. 2 vols. Endicott, N.Y.: Robert L. Pates, 1958.
- Marshall, A.L. Adam Livingston; The Wizard Clip; The Voice. Kearneysville, WV: Livingston Publications, 1978.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 40 acres

Quadrangle name Middleway, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

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2	4	2	8	9	0
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4	3	5	4	9	5	0
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Zone Easting

Northing

B 

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2	4	2	8	6	0
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4	3	5	4	8	4	0
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Zone Easting

Northing

C 

1	8
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2	4	2	9	0	0
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4	3	5	4	8	3	0
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D 

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2	4	2	8	8	0
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4	3	5	4	7	2	0
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E 

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2	4	2	9	4	0
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4	3	5	4	7	1	0
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F 

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2	4	2	9	2	0
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4	3	5	4	5	5	0
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G 

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2	4	3	0	3	0
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4	3	5	4	5	3	0
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2	4	3	0	0	0
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4	3	5	4	4	2	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries of Middleway Historic District are as delineated in red on tax maps for Middleway District (#7), Maps 22A and 22B, Jefferson County, West Virginia, dated April 23, 1963 (revisions on October 25, 1972), and on

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Harding, Historian  
Historic Preservation Unit

organization Dept. of Culture and History

date October 23, 1979

The Cultural Center

street & number Capitol Complex

telephone (304) 348-0240

city or town Charleston

state West Virginia

## 12. 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Clarence Morrow*

State Historic Preservation Officer

title Director, Historic Pres. Unit, W.V. Dept. of date December 17, 1979

For HCRRS use only Culture and History

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

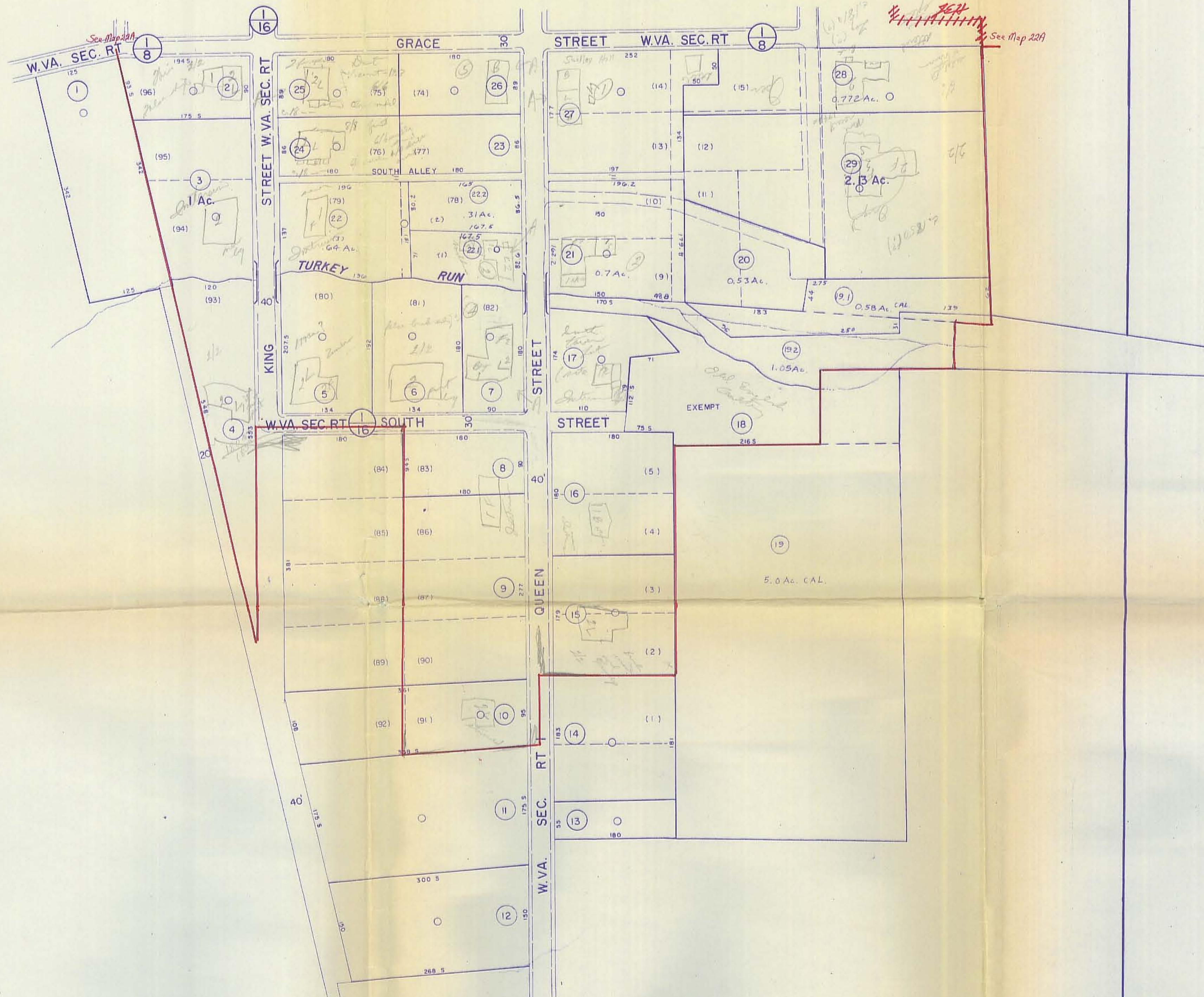
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



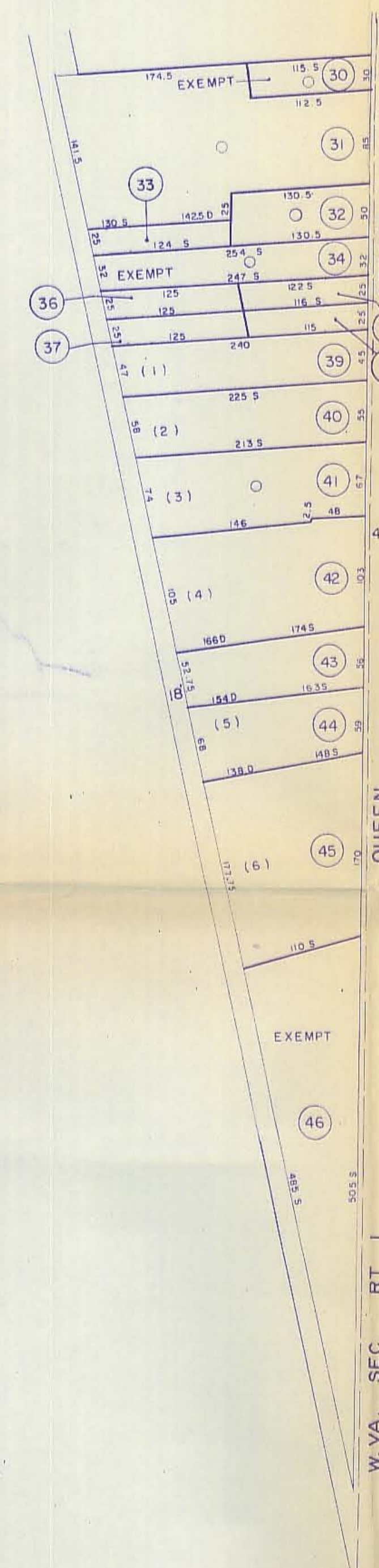
7-22 A



7-22 B (2)

Boundary, Middleway Historic District

7-22 B (1)



(2)

For Tax Purposes Only

Prepared by  
American Air Surveys, Inc.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Legend

Property line	Original lot line
Edge of pavement or roadway	Deed lot number in parenthesis
Corporation line	Parcel or index number in circle
District line	Improvement
County line	Railroad
Stream	District Number
	Scaled Dimension
	PLAT DIMENSION

Revisions

1	4-21-63	17
2	10-25-72	18
3		19
4		20
5		21
6		22
7		23
8		24

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

Office of Assessor

CHARLES TOWN, W. VA.

MIDDLEWAY DISTRICT

District 7 Map No. 22 B

Date, Aerial Photography: 1962  
Photo No.: 156  
Date, Map: April 23, 1963  
Scale: 1" = 100'





For Tax Purposes Only

Prepared by  
American Air Surveys, Inc.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Legend

Property line	Original lot line
Edge of pavement or roadway	Deed lot number in parenthesis
Corporation line	Parcel or index number in circle
District line	Improvement
County line	Railroad
Stream	District Number
PLAT DIMENSION	Scaled Dimension
DEED DIMENSION	DEED DIMENSION

Revisions

1	4-23-63	9
2	10/26/72	10
3		11
4		12
5		13
6		14
7		15
8		16

All tax maps created under the provisions of appraisal legislation are the property of the State of West Virginia and the reproduction, copying, distribution or sale of such tax maps or any contents thereof without the written permission of the State Tax Commissioner is prohibited.

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

Office of Assessor

CHARLES TOWN, W. VA.

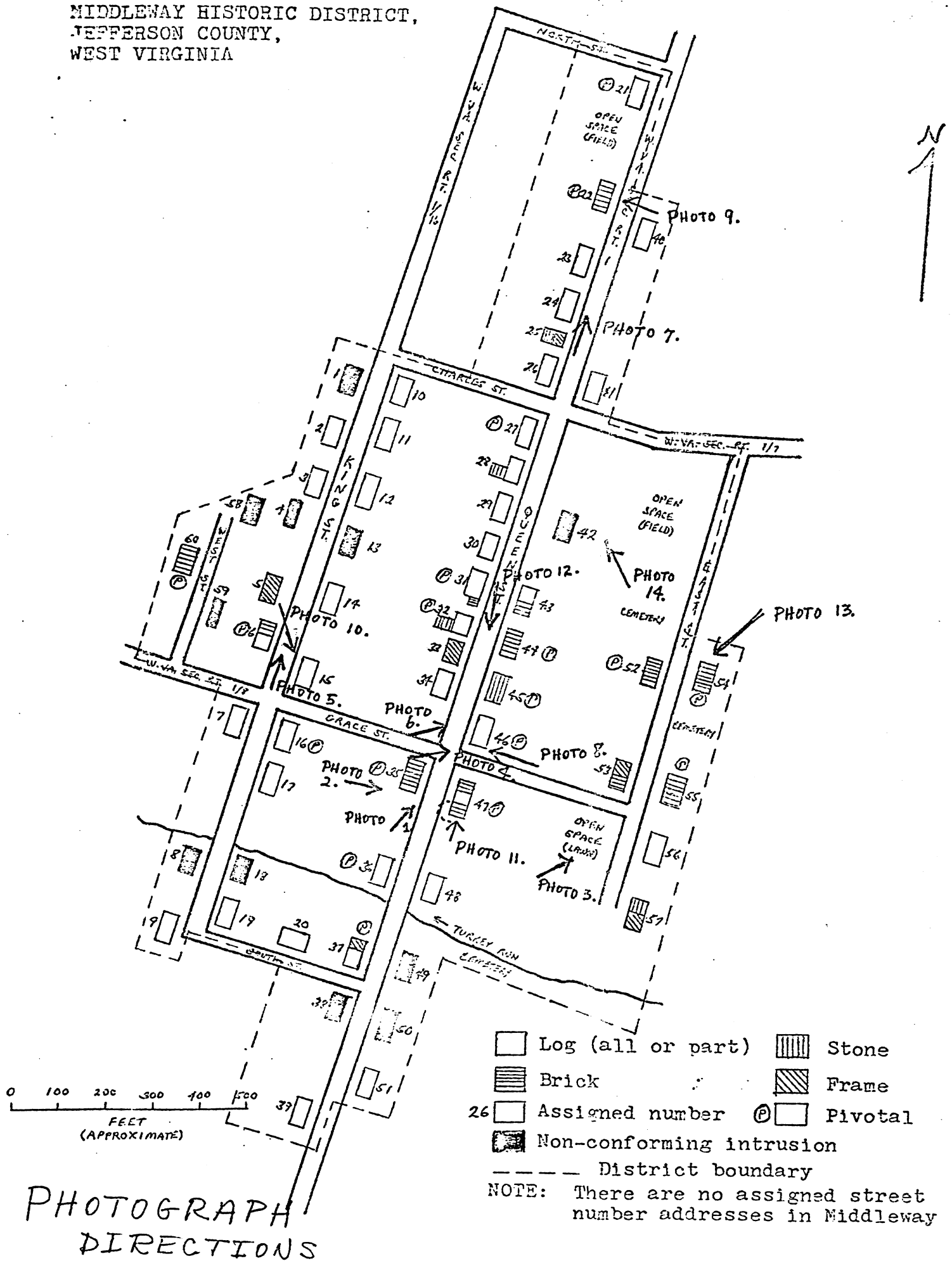
MIDDLEWAY DISTRICT

District 7 Map No. 22 A.

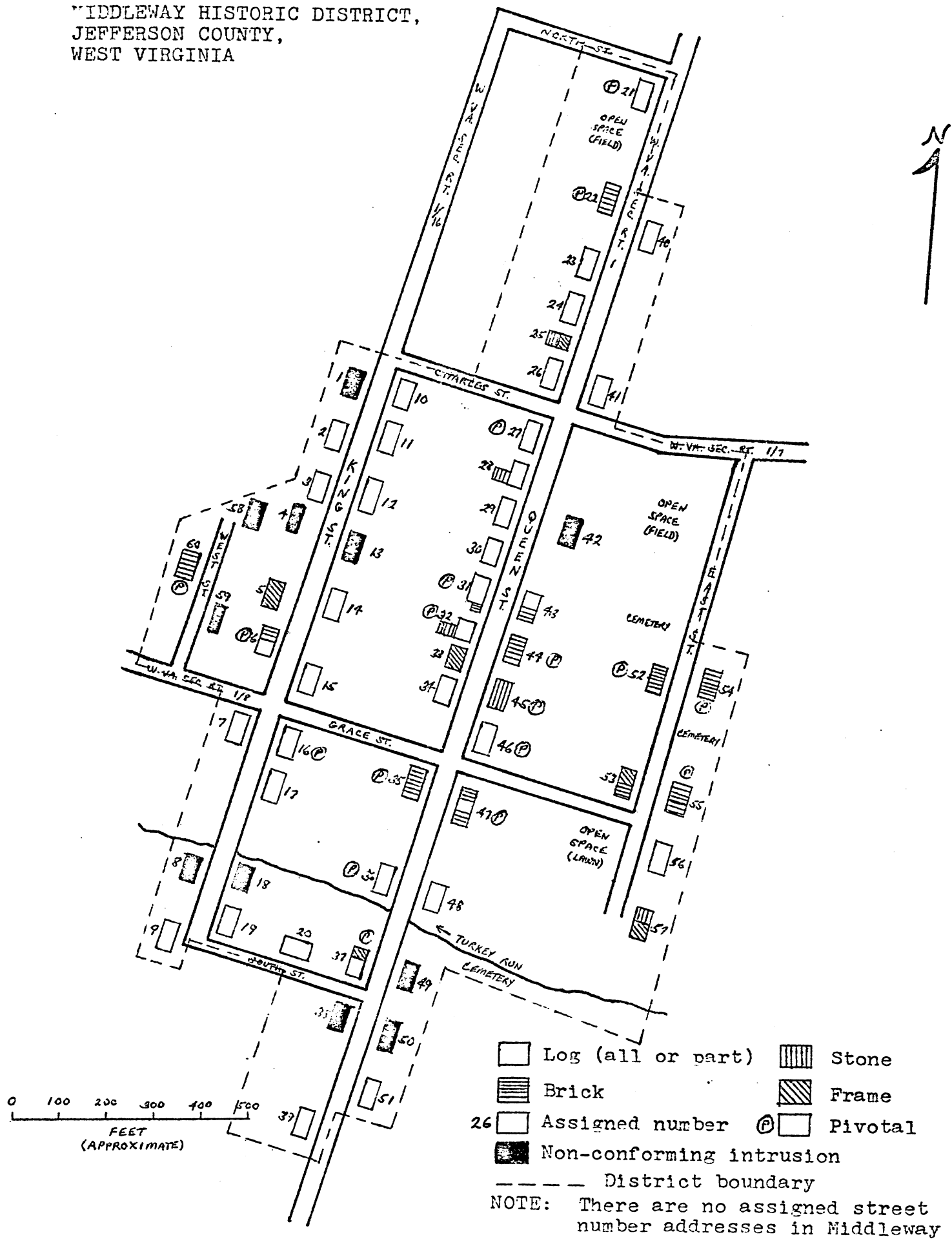
Date, Aerial Photography: 1962 Date, Map: April 23, 1963  
Photo No.: 156 Scale: 1" = 100'



MIDDLEWAY HISTORIC DISTRICT,  
JEFFERSON COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA



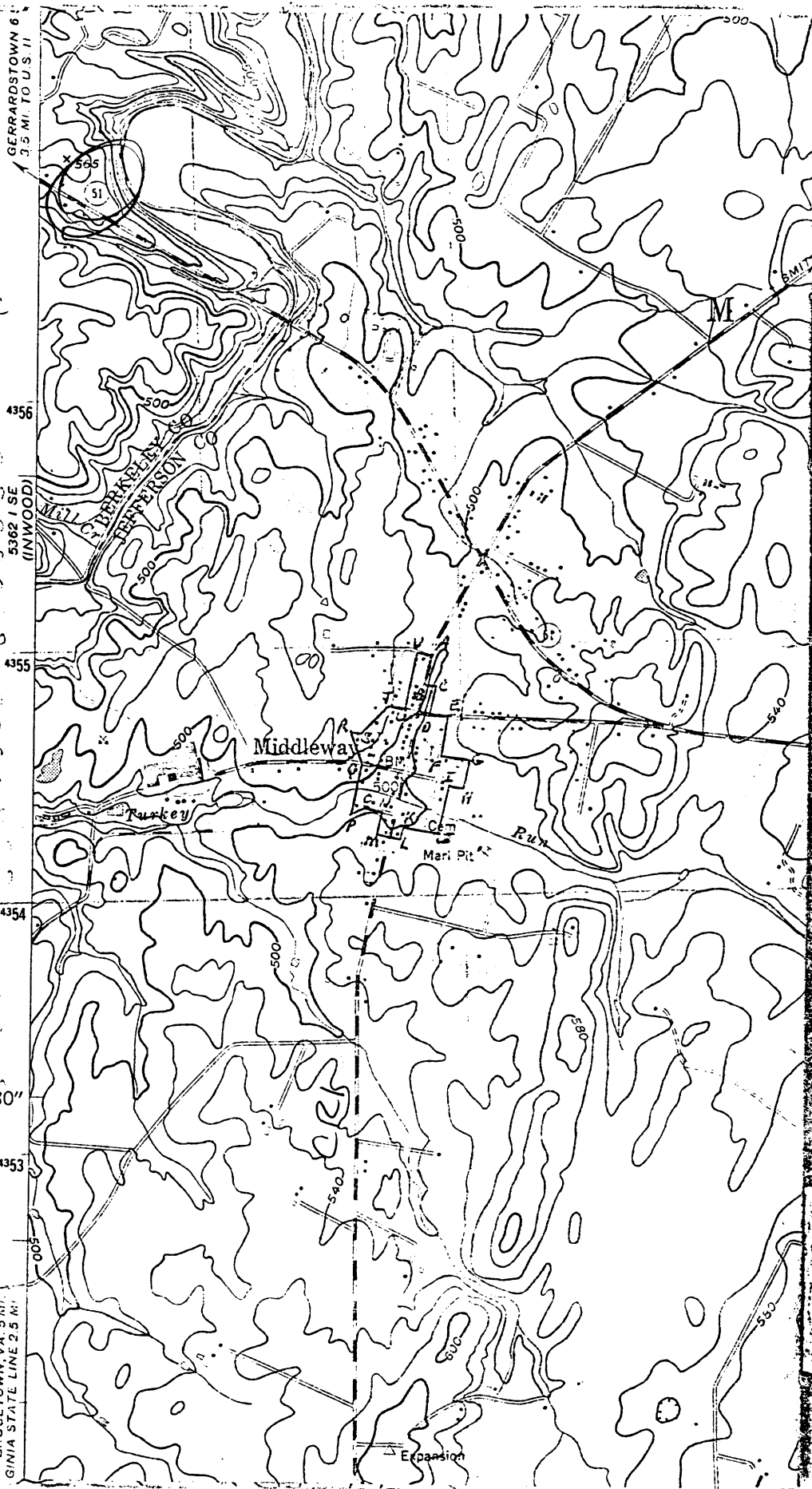
MIDDLEWAY HISTORIC DISTRICT,  
JEFFERSON COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA



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# MIDDLEWAY HISTORIC DISTRICT, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA OLD REFERENCES

- A- 18/241000/4554200
- B- 18/241200/4554200
- C- 18/242200/4554200
- D- 18/242200/4554200
- E- 18/242200/4554200
- F- 18/242200/4554200
- G- 18/242200/4554200
- H- 18/242200/4554200
- I- 18/242200/4554200
- J- 18/242200/4554200
- K- 18/242200/4554200
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- M- 18/242200/4554200
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- O- 18/242200/4554200
- P- 18/242200/4554200
- Q- 18/242200/4554200
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- S- 18/242200/4554200
- T- 18/242200/4554200
- U- 18/242200/4554200
- V- 18/242200/4554200
- W- 18/242200/4554200
- X- 18/242200/4554200
- Y- 18/242200/4554200
- Z- 18/242200/4554200







CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY  
RECTOR: REV. J. H. BROWN  
CLERGY: REV. J. H. BROWN  
CLERGY: REV. J. H. BROWN  
CLERGY: REV. J. H. BROWN



