

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property: VanMetre, Nathan, House

historic name: VanMetre, Nathan, House

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: Dry Run Road
County Route 13

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Martinsburg

vicinity: Dry Run

State: WV code: WV county: Berkeley code: 003

zip code: 25401

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 for additional comments.)

William C. Grier
Signature of Certifying Official

10/3/94
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 Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification
 =====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- 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):

=====
 Signature of the Keeper Date

=====
5. Classification
 =====

Ownership of Property: (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITH PROPERTY:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	2	buildings
		sites
2		structures
		objects
7	2	TOTAL

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: N/A

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6. Function or Use

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HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:

Domestic/single dwelling
Domestic/secondary structure
Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding

CURRENT FUNCTIONS:

Domestic/single dwelling
Domestic/secondary structure
Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding

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7. Description

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ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:
Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival

MATERIALS:

Foundation: Stone

Walls: Painted brick

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Other:

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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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.

X 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:

N/A A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

N/A B removed from its original location.

N/A C a birthplace or grave.

N/A D a cemetery.

N/A E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

N/A F a commemorative property.

N/A G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:

1872 - 1920.

SIGNIFICANT DATES:

1872; 1920.

SIGNIFICANT PERSON

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:
VanMetre, Nathan Rush

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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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):

N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

N/A previously listed in the National Register

N/A previously determined eligible by the National Register

N/A designated a National Historic Landmark

N/A recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

N/A recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

X Other

Name of Repository:

Berkeley County Historic Landmark Commission
126 East Race Street
Martinsburg, WV 25401

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreeage of Property: 1.75 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
17. 243040. 4374740.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant
Don C. Wood, Genealogist & Historian

Organization: N/A

Date: June 1, 1994

Street & Number: 612 Main Street Telephone: (304) 765-5716
126 E. Race Street (304) 267-4713

City or Town: Sutton State: WV ZIP: 26601
Martinsburg WV 25401

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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

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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)

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PROPERTY OWNER

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

Name: John A. Carolyn F. Draper

Street & Number: 109 N. Red Hill Rd. Telephone: (304) 263-6728

City or Town: Martinsburg State: WV ZIP: 25401

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Nathan VanMetre House
Berkeley County, WV

The Nathan VanMetre House is located on Dry Run Road three miles north-west of Martinsburg. The land is flat and the house is surrounded by pasture. The house and farm are visible from the road, County Route 13, and the house is parallel to the road.

The Nathan VanMetre House is a good example of transitional architecture. In this case, classic late Greek Revival Style to Victorian. It exhibits several strong features of both styles. The proportions of the house are Greek Revival, as are the three pairs of "H" chimneys, the six over six double hung sash windows, the square chamfered slender porch posts and pilasters, the corbeled brick cornice, the four light flat-headed transoms, and the main entrance with a brick jack arch, seven light transom over paneled sidelights with small chamfered pilasters flanking a heavily paneled door and paneled surround. Victorian features include the arched window openings, the scroll work balustrades on the two-story recessed porch, four panel entrance doors, and the seven row common bond brick pattern. The exterior exhibits stronger characteristics of the Greek Revival Style while the interior exhibits stronger Victorian features.

The house is rectangular, eight bays wide, a full two stories tall with a steep gable roof. There are enclosed, end, "H" chimneys and an enclosed central "H" chimney. There is a high coursed rubble stone foundation. The main portion of the house is five bays wide and two-stories tall. The other three bays consist of a two bay, two-story, recessed porch with windowed pantries. The house is painted white.

The rear facade is only seven bays wide. A small, one-story, one bay, enclosed, shed roof porch is the main rear entrance. The other rear porch has been removed as was the original, three bay, one-story, front porch. No other major architectural elements have been altered.

The floor plan of the main five bay portion is double pile, a central hall with two rooms on each side. Those on the east side form a double parlor. On the west side is a large dining room and a smaller rear room. The dining room connects with the three bay

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Section 7 Page 2

Nathan VanMetre House
Berkeley County, WV

kitchen.

The main entrance opens into a hallway. Ceilings are at ten feet. The entrance hall has an open string stairway of four flights up to the attic. Two turned spindles are on each step. The single starting newel is a battered octagon with the handrail mitred into a molded circle of itself as the cap. On the landings between the floors the handrail curves all in one piece.

Both rooms of the double parlor have identical mantels. These have a heavy shelf over bed moldings. The frieze has chamfered edges as do the pilasters. The lower edge of the frieze panel is on a plain backboard and is peaked toward the center becoming a wide three section arch. Decorative appliques are in both spandrel sections. Two other mantels on the first floor have a decorative ogee frieze. On the second floor, two mantels are plain and two have a simple ogee.

Trim throughout the house has molded facings with an architrave backband molding. Window jambs are battered. Doors are four panel with small box locks and tortoiseshell knobs.

Finishes consist of tongue and groove wood floors, painted or wallpapered walls, and painted ceilings. Much of the woodwork and doors is grain painted. Others are painted. The kitchen and baths have vinyl flooring.

Close to the rear of the house, to the north west, sits a small brick smokehouse with the same architectural features as the house. It is one-story, the brick construction is five row bond, and has a corbeled brick cornice. The roof is a steep gable and there are decorative brick vents arranged in a diamond pattern in the gable ends. Roofing material is standing seam and corrugated metal. Built in 1872. It is contributing.

There is a large banked barn to the north west of the house. Built in 1872. It sits on a high stone foundation and is sided with vertical weatherboard. There are louvered windows. It is contributing.

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Section 7 Page 3

Nathan VanMetre House
Berkeley County, WV

The garage is a one bay, one-story, gable building with vertical board siding, metal roof, and concrete foundation. It is ca. 1920 and is considered contributing.

There is a storage building associated with the milking barn. It is a small, one-story, end gable building with a metal roof and concrete block walls. It is ca. 1935 and considered non-contributing.

The milking barn is also a concrete block building. Ca. 1935. It is non-contributing.

The chicken house is a one-story, shed roof building with clapboard siding and a concrete foundation. It is ca. 1920 and a contributing building.

There are two silos. One is ceramic tile, ca. 1915, and is contributing. The other is ca. 1920 and is contributing.

In all, there are nine resources within the nominated area. Two are non-contributing, and seven are contributing.

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Section 8 Page 1

Nathan VanMetre House
Berkeley County, WV

The Nathan VanMetre House is significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of Greek Revival Style architecture and as a good example of transitional architecture.

The 160 acre farm was purchased by Nathan VanMetre from the heirs of Anthony Rosenberger in 1855. The land was part of a larger tract of land containing 360 acres which had been the plantation of Anthony Rosenberger. When Nathan bought the farm in 1855, it contained a house valued at \$500.00. When Nathan built the present brick home in 1872, he demolished the Rosenberg home.

Nathan VanMetre was born November 13, 1820 in Berkeley County. He was the son of Thomas and Isabella Rush VanMetre. Thomas VanMetre was a very prosperous local farmer. When he died in 1874 he owned seven farms which he divided amongst his wife and children. To son, Nathan, he left the "Walters Farm" on Dry Run which contained 188 acres and the "Billmyer" land which contained 81 acres. Both of these parcels were to be shared with Nathan's brother, Newton. The VanMetres' are an old family of early settlers in the region. John and Isaac, two brothers from New York and New Jersey, were originally patented 40,000 acres in 1730 by the government in Williamsburg. They subsequently sold it in 1731 and Joist Hite brought in settlers in 1732, including John VanMetre.

Nathan VanMetre was married twice. First to Harriet C. Carper on October 9, 1851 and then to Harriet Williams. Harriet Carper died in 1863. She and Nathan had six children, only two daughters lived to adulthood. Nathan and his second wife had one son, Moses G., who was born in 1866 and who died five months later.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 8 Page 2

Nathan VanMetre House
Berkeley County, WV

Nathan Rush VanMetre died January 31, 1905. He left the brick home and 166 acres to his daughter, Lillie F. Ramsburg, who was living there at the time. Lillie died in 1922 and left the home place to her heirs.

Nathan VanMetre's brother served in the Confederate Army. He and his family were supporters of the Confederate's cause.

The Nathan VanMetre House is significant under Criterion C as a good example of the transition phases of architecture, from Greek Revival to later Victorian era architecture and as a good example of the Greek Revival Style of architecture. As a Greek Revival house it contains many of the characteristics of that style. The roof is relatively shallow and there is a small corbeled brick cornice that partially returns. The interior "H" chimneys are also characteristic. The overall massing of the house, with a raised foundation/basement level and the smaller entrance porticoes fit into the Greek Revival Style, as well as the main entrance with a flat-headed jack arch and transom with pilastered sidelights. The symmetrical three bay arrangement of the main block of the house with a center entrance is also Greek Revival in nature. The six over six windows also contribute to the stylistic interpretation.

As an example of transitional architecture though, the Nathan VanMetre house is more significant than as an example of any one particular style. The combination of the Greek Revival with the later Victorian stylistic treatments is well accomplished. The house can truly be characterized as a Greek Revival/Italianate Style building. The treatment of the brick coursing on the exterior, the shallow arches of the windows, the recessed porch on the front elevation, and off-set massing, all contribute to the application of Victorian elements to the classical architectural treatment. The porches also contain sawn decorative wood balustrades influenced by Italianate architecture. On the interior, the later influences are more pronounced. Though the basic massing and plan of the main block is very classical in style, the details and finishes are very Victorian. Many of the interior finishes consist of grain painted wood, which was a very popular

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Nathan VanMetre House
Berkeley County, WV

latter nineteenth century treatment. The four panel doors are grained as well as the trim and the stairs. The trim itself is Victorian with complex stepped and molded architraves. The base molding is a composite three piece molding with a cimareversa shape. The battered octagonal large newel post, turned "heavy" ballisters, and continuous handrail of the stairs are also Victorian elements. The stairs also contain grain painted boards beneath the treads and a grain painted continuous stringer on the exterior face. The mantels of all of the fireplaces are carved with scroll work and stepped massive elements.

In all, the house exhibits an interesting melding of the two styles of architecture. The smoke house is similar to the main house in that it exhibits strong Greek Revival influence through its massing, brick work, and corbeled cornice. The diamond pattern ventilation openings are, however, Victorian in nature.

In summary, the Nathan VanMetre House is significant under Criterion C as a good example of the transition of two architectural styles in one house, the Greek Revival to Italianate. The period of significance, 1872 to 1920, reflects the beginning of the period with the construction of the house by Nathan VanMetre to the construction of several of the outbuildings associated with the function of the farm.

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Nathan VanMetre House
Berkeley County, WV

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Wood, Don C. History of Nathan Rush VanMetre Unpublished manu-
script.

The Berkeley Journal Berkeley County Historical Society, Issue
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Berkeley County Courthouse -
Deeds,
Records, etc.

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Section 10 Page 1

Nathan VanMetre House
Berkeley County, WV

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary for the Nathan VanMetre House National Register nomination is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying sketch map titled "SITE PLAN VANMETRE HOUSE BERKELEY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA" dated March, 1994.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

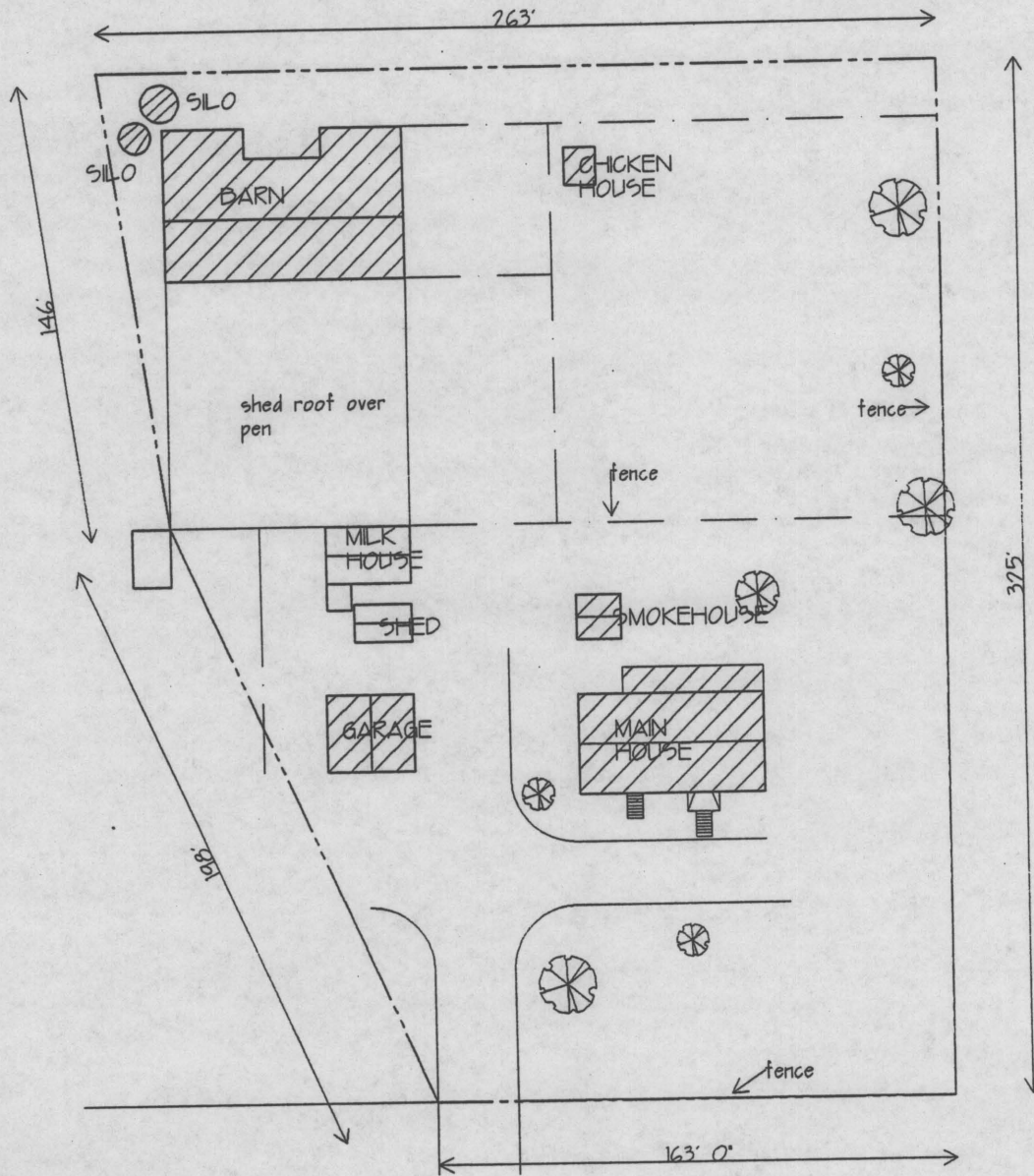
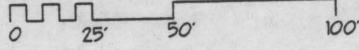
The boundary encompasses the original house and secondary buildings of the farm associated with the period of significance.

KEY:

- National Register Boundaries
- ▨ Contributing site
- Non-contributing site



SCALE:



73217 SF

VANMETRE600

1 of 2

DWG. NO.

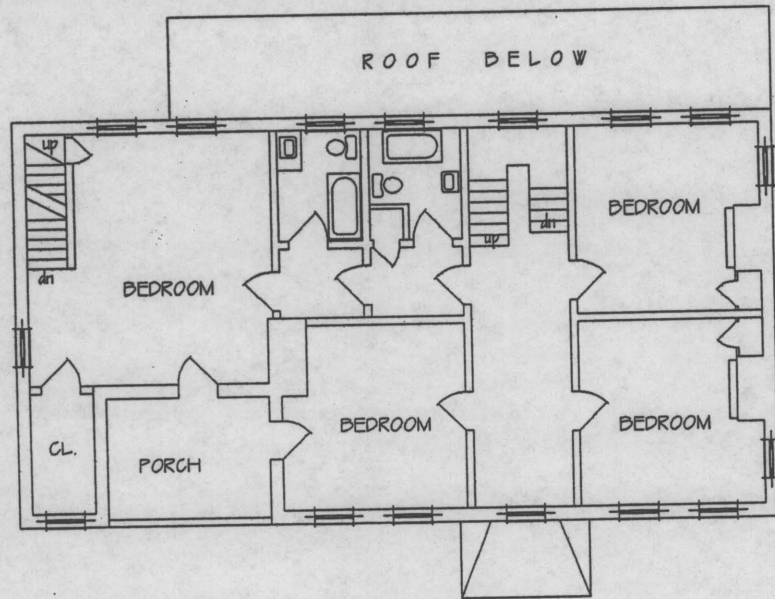
SITE PLAN
 VANMETRE HOUSE
 BERKELEY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

MICHAEL GIOULIS
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 CONSULTANT
 612 MAIN STREET
 SUTTON, WV 26001
 304 765-0716

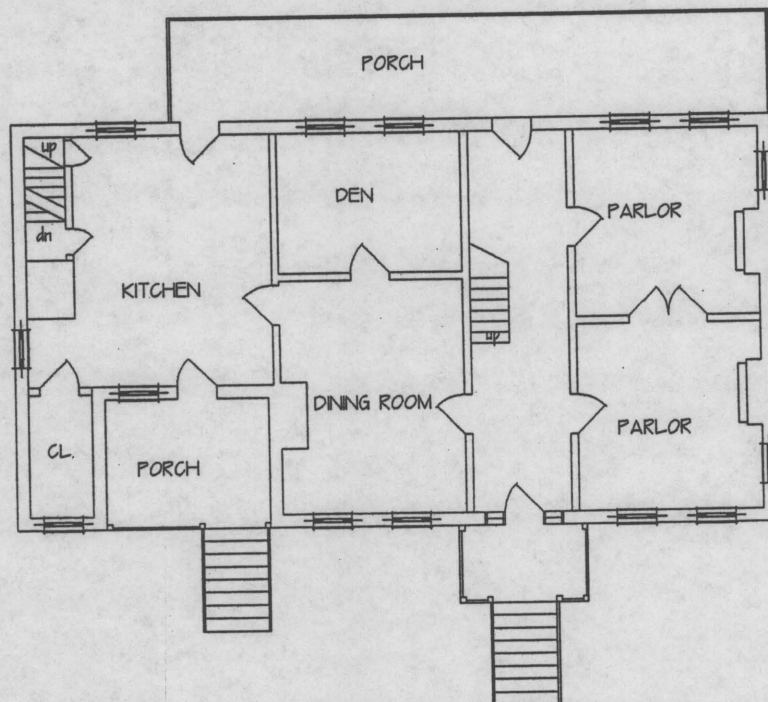
REV.

DATE

MAR. 1994

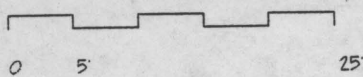


SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

SCALE



VANMETPL-5CD

2 of 2	DWG. NO.	FLOOR PLANS VANMETRE HOUSE BERKELEY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA		MICHAEL GIOULIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTANT 612 MAIN STREET SUTTON, WV 26601 304 765-8718	REV.	DATE
						MAR. 1994

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

3983 II SE
181G POOL

78°00' 2430000E 244 BERKELEY SPRS. 18 MI. 57°30'
39°30' HEDGESVILLE 2.8 MI.



NATHAN VANMETRE
HOUSE
BERKELEY
COUNTY, WV.
M REFERENCE
17-243040-4374740

