

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

1. Name of Property NICKELL HOMESTEAD AND MILL

historic name: Nickell Homestead and Mill
other name/site number: "Mont Glenn Farm"

2. Location

street & number: McClung Road not for publication: N/A
city/town: Ronceverte vicinity: X
state: WV county: Monroe code: 063 zip code: 24970

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.

Susan M. Pierce 10/8/98
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 Date

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of 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): _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

(Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	TOTAL

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:
 Agricultural Fields
 Agricultural Outbuildings
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING: Mill

Current Functions

Vacant
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:
 Agricultural Fields
 Agricultural Outbuildings •
Vacant Mill

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY
 Colonial Revivals

Materials

Foundation: Stone
Walls: Brick, frame
Roof: Metal
Other:

Narrative Description

(See continuation sheets.)

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.

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County and State

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

Agriculture

Industry

Architecture

Period of Significance

~~1820~~-1948

14 See SLR

Significant Dates

1814

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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: Mr. Jamie Nickell, Fairlea, WV

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 72 acres

UTM References

RONCEVERTE and FORT SPRING Quad Map

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County and State

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

Name/Title: Mr. Jamie Lee Nickell, with Katherine M. Jourdan

Organization: WV SHPO

Date: July 14, 1998

Street & Number: The Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd East Phone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston

State: WV

Zip: 25305-0300

=====
Property Owners
=====

House and Farm:

Mary Nickell Fawcett
110 E. Anderson Street
Fairlea, WV 24902

Linda N. Copeland
PO Box 353
Union, WV 24983

John Nickell
Rt 2, Box 231 B
Caldwell, WV 25271

Mill:

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Merical
SR 3, Box 187
Ripley, WV 25271

=====

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County/State

Section number 7

Page 1

Located in rural Monroe County along the border of Greenbrier County, is the Nickell Farm with the c. 1820 homestead and the 1814 mill. The home is located off McClung Road on a hillside, with the farm fields and outbuildings behind it. The house faces the mill which is located at the bottom of the hillside along Second Creek.

Main House c. 1820/1858/c. 1900 Contributing

The home is 2 ½ stories, with the original section being 3 bays, and the 1858 section also having 3 bays for a total of six front bays. Flemish bond brick is present on the oldest section, with a rounded molded brick on the entablature at the cornice line. S-shaped tie rods are inserted through the building, and the house sits on a stone foundation. The front brick corner has a large crack from lightening in the 1930s. Stone piers support the 55 foot long hipped porch, cement steps. Windows are 6/9 double-hung sash in the old section with panel doors having paneled reveals.

The 1858 section is frame in the front and brick in the rear from the c. 1820 kitchen wing. This older brick portion is gabled with a brick chimney. The original shape is clearly visible. A wooden slave kitchen had been attached also, but was removed due to deterioration in 1980. The second floor of this section had living quarters, and a rear shed porch with door and window.

The long rear ell is c. 1900 with clapboard siding, a porch on the west side has been filled-in but the rear portion is a small room. On the east side is a long curved L-shaped hipped porch with 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The porch has Doric columns and a wood deck. There are eight openings with three doors, one leading to each room. The front c. 1820 section has 20th century casement windows to each side of the end chimney. Small windows in the attic flank the center chimney. The door onto the rear porch has a panel door with paneled reveals.

The interior of the c. 1820 section has wainscoting with panels along the hall and parlor walls. The second floor has incised lines along the wainscoting. The fireplace mantels have hand carved curves and dentils under the high mantel ledge. The stair trim has hand carved curves under the rail on the outside of the risers.

The rear c. 1900 ell has a higher wainscoting with pocket doors, and a center sitting room with heating stove. A butlers pantry has built-in drawers and shelves. The rear first floor bedroom also has a fireplace with mantel and tile. The back stairs depicts Queen Anne details and a central hall between the rear c. 1900 ell and the front section of the house. The stair trim has a spider web design, and curved steps from the landing. A Queen Anne window is on the landing. The doors have roundels on the corner blocks of the moulding.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County/State

Section number 7

Page 2

Mill 1814 Contributing

Horizontal wood siding, stone foundation, seamed metal gabled roof. Two stories with third center floor. Post and beam construction with pegging, whitewashed interior. Some wooden hoppers, and chutes visible. Single burr stone probably used but stone is missing. Lower level with some metal wheels and gears, drive shaft across length of mill. Second floor with beams, general open plan but some wooden walls divide off sections. Windows are 6/6 double-hung, with some sashes still visible. There are a variety of vertical plank doors and windows throughout the building.

Barn c. 1940s Contributing

1 story, wood siding, metal gable roof

Machine Shed c. 1920s Contributing

1 story, wood siding, metal gable roof

Hog Shed c. 1900 Contributing

1 story, wood siding, metal gable roof

Garage c. 1920 Contributing

1 story, clapboard, metal gable roof

House by Mill c. 1920 Contributing

1 story, wood siding, metal roof, rear addition. Originally only having three rooms, the house has been extended.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Nickell Homestead and Mill

Monroe County, WV

Name of Property

County/State

Section number 8

Page 1

The Nickell property is significant under Criteria A for Agriculture and Industry, and Criteria C for Architecture. The period of significance begins with the original c. 1820 home and its later additions, and the history of the Nickell mill until it closed in 1949. The property is closely associated with the Nickell family who were early settlers in Monroe County.

Thomas Nickell first settled in Monroe County in 1769, living in a log cabin on the property. Although family legend states that the brick house was built in 1794, no written evidence documents its presence. The design of the home and its interior is similar to several residences in Lewisburg which were built by John Dunn and Conrad Burgess during the 1820s. The farm at this time consisted of 550 acres, devoted to raising cattle, hogs, chickens, horses and crops of wheat and corn for feed. The Nickell's home is one of the oldest in Monroe County, with the county boundary bordering on Greenbrier County encircling a portion of the property. Thomas died in 1807 and his son, James Albert Nickell inherited the property.

James Albert Nickell continued farming the property. He also constructed the mill in 1814 along Second Creek below the farmhouse. The mill was one of several eventually built along the stream. A court order allowing the construction of a dam across the creek was secured by Nickell. Slave labor was used on the farm and probably in the operation of the mill.

The farm passed again to son James Madison Nickell in 1848, who continued the farm and milling operations, adding another mill on the upper end of the farm. James Madison is considered by the family as the most prominent member of the family. Considered as a kind slave owner, James tried to keep the families together, purchasing whole families and refusing to divide and sell. He also hired teachers to instruct both his children and slave children. A log building formerly next to the mill is depicted as the first school house in Monroe County in the Hardesty Encyclopedia. The building stood until sometime after 1910.

James Madison and his descendants were very active in the county holding public office, and serving in the military. Eventually, a small settlement developed close to the Nickell property with two general stores, carding shop, blacksmith, shoe shop, tannery, saw mill, cigar factory and post office. The Nickell's mill provided flour and corn mill for this portion of Monroe County as well as nearby Greenbrier. James Madison Nickell was an elected Justice of the Peace in 1856, and again in 1860. He served in the Confederate Army as a captain in the Monroe Home Guard. The mill may have helped supply the Confederate Army as guards were posted during the war to prevent burning or destruction. Union forces still managed to burn the nearby original log home, tannery, and woolen mill.

The fourth generation to inherit the farm was son Charles Cora Nickell in 1886. Charles continued the operation of the farm and mill. He sold the upper mill in 1900, and deeded the present mill to Lyle Lacy Lee who was a child of Sarah Nickell and Joseph Lee. Although owned by Lee, the mill was still called Nickell's Mill and worked by the Nickell family. Sarah was a sister of Charles Cora Nickell. The mill later closed in 1949. The farm, which then consisted of 500 acres, was left to Charles's son, John Hinchman Nickell, in 1937. John owned and operated the farm until

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County/State

Section number 8

Page 2

his death in 1964. He sold roughly 290 acres in 1955, and after his death another 65 acres were sold. The farm continued to be operated by his wife, Margaret, until her death in 1983. Currently members of the sixth generation are owners of the farm. The mill is now owned by the Mercial family.

The architecture of the house is a classic early Federal with a central hall plan. The brick walls are 19" thick with molded brick used at the cornice line. A kitchen wing was attached to the side, with a frame section tacked on that was used by slaves for cooking and had living quarters above. A small rear porch allowed access from the brick kitchen to the wooden kitchen. This odd plan allowed a front room to be built across the kitchen wing to form a rectangular plan in 1858. This created two front entrances along the new long front porch.

The rear c. 1900 ell has Queen Anne details near the back porch entrance to the hall. The wing also has Colonial Revival details which mirror the earlier Federal period with roundels in the door corner blocks. The porch has Doric columns and a curved L-shape plan. The fireplace mantel and tile in the rear bedroom are common in well appointed West Virginia turn of the century homes. The interior of the Federal section has handcrafted details like the wainscoting, stairway, and fireplace mantels. The curved details do not match attesting to hand vs machine tooling.

The mill is also well crafted and was probably constructed by the family and farm workers. The stone foundation on the creek side is approximately 15 feet in height. The interior has hand hewn beams with mortise and tendon joints and pegging. A variety of chutes are still present and many of the metal gears. A small house was constructed c. 1920 for family and farm hands who helped work at the mill and on the farm. After the mill closed in 1949, it was sold and used as a summer cabin or camp.

Farming was the mainstay of the family, with fields laid in crops of grain, and used as pastures for stock. The current standing outbuildings are primarily early 20th century, with the barn, and machine shed holding farm equipment. The garage falls within the period of significance.

The homestead and mill are closely associated with the Nickell family, owners of the farm for over 200 years. The farm is a continuing operation in Monroe County. The mill served the small community along Second Creek and this section of Monroe and nearby Greenbrier County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County/State

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Monroe County Historical Society, Genealogy Section, Archives Section, Monroe County Cemetery Records.

Monroe County Library, Genealogy Section.

Monroe County Courthouse, Land Deeds, Will Records, Death Records, Birth Records, etc.

Morton, Oren F. Monroe County History, 1916.

Nickell, Joseph Donald. "Chronological Genealogy of the John Nickell Line." Self published, Sante Fe, NM

Family Interviews by Jamie Nickell

- Mrs. Margie Nickell (grandmother), 1970s-83.
- Mrs. Mary Nickell Fawcett (aunt), 1970s -1998.
- Mrs. Linda Nickell Copeland (aunt), 1970s - 1998.
- Mrs. Frances Nickell Ballard (aunt), 1970s - 1998.
- Mrs. Virginia Nickell Blankenship (aunt), 1970s - 1998.
- Mrs. Joan Nickell Thompson (aunt), 1970s - 1998.
- Mrs. Belford Nickell DeWitt (mother) 1970s - 1998.
- Mr. John Leon Nickell (uncle), 1970s - 1998
- Mrs. Ethel Rowan Anderson (cousin), 1997.
- Mrs. Linda Anderson Weiss (cousin), 1997.
- Mr. Tom Nickell (cousin), 1998.
- Mr. Roy Burl (family friend and neighbor), 1998.
- Assorted other family members and friends.

Monroe Watchman Newspaper Records, 1870s - 1930s.

HARDESTY'S HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA, 1883.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County/State

Section number 10

Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Farm: Beginning at an elm on the bank of the Mill Race opposite the corner of the saw mill, corner to mill lot; thence S 79 1/4 E 4 poles 16 links to a post of a plank fence, with the fence S 7 1/2 W 13 poles to a white oak above a drain corner to same and the Purgatory Hollow tract and with the latter S 30 1/4 E 8 poles to a trun in said fence below the road S 43 1/4 E 18 poles, 5 links to a stone aove the head of a spring, N 43 1/4 E 11 poles, 15 links recrossing the road to a fence post, N 75 1/2 E 13 poles 19 links to a gate post below a stable, S 57 3/4 E 8 poles to a fence post, S 46 E 15 poles to an elm inside the fence, S 69 1/4 E 5 poles 5 links to a turn in the fence, N 73 3/4 E 54 1/2 poles to the end of said plank fence; thence with the worm fence N 83 E 8 poles, 9 links, N 56 3/4 E 19 poles 15 links, S 85 E 6 poles to a small sugar on top of the cliff, N 45 E 14 poles to two small elms on the bank of the mill dam; thence down the edge of same N 32 1/2 W 31 poles 15 links, to a lynn on the east side of the race at the corner of the forebay; thence down the left side of the race; N 60 W 23 poles and 5 links to a sugar, N 14 1/2 W 7 poles and 8 links to a buckeye, N 60 W 22 poles, 16 links to a double sugar, West 14 1/2 poles to a wild cherry, N 80 W 38 poles to sycamore and elm, N 87 1/2 W 12 poles and 20 links to a stake S 68 1/2 W 22 poles, to a stake, S 40 1/2 W 6 poles and 20 links to a small elm, S 20 W 10 poles to a small elm, S 15 1/2 W 14 poles and 20 links to an elm, S 2 W 23 poles and 18 links to the BEGINNING, containing 64 3/4 acres more or less. Recorded in Deed Book 157, pp 791-792.

Mill: All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Monroe County, known as Nickell's Mill, and all appurtenances thereto including the race and all water rights... also the following tract of land: Beginning at an elm south forebay S 65 1/2 E 94 ft to a post S 15-1/4 W 110 feet to a point corner, garage, S 74 W 70 ft to center of road S 2-1/2 W 123 ft with road, thence S 14-1/4 w 212 ft to center of road near a cedar, S 27-1/4 W 137 ft, S 58-1/4 W 198 ft, S 83-1/2 W 231 ft, N 57 W 297 ft to center of road near a small red oak (marked), corner to R.T. Patton, thence with Patton, and leaving the road N 32-1/2 E 198 ft to the center of creek, thence up the creek S 69 E 307 ft, thence leaving the creek, N 44 E 96 ft to a point in creek, N 2 1/2 - 333 ft, N 13-1/4 E 330 ft, thence leaving the creek S 57 E 313 ft, more or less, and containing 7.45 acres. Same as recorded in Deed Book 198, p 524.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the mill, house and farm outbuildings. Legally recorded at the Monroe County Courthouse, Union, WV.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County/State

Section number 10

Page 2

UTM Coordinates

A 17	544740	4171600	Ronceverte Quad
Zone	Easting	Northing	
B 17	544645	4171458	Ronceverte Quad
Zone	Easting	Northing	
C 17	544800	4171340	Ronceverte Quad
Zone	Easting	Northing	
D 17	543500	4171340	Fort Spring Quad
Zone	Easting	Northing	
E 17	543580	4171198	Fort Spring Quad
Zone	Easting	Northing	
F 17	543625	4171240	Fort Spring Quad
Zone	Easting	Northing	
G 17	543615	4171340	Fort Spring Quad
Zone	Easting	Northing	
H 17	543510	4171260	Fort Spring Quad
Zone	Easting	Northing	
I 17	543495	4171540	Fort Spring Quad
Zone	Easting	Northing	
J 17	543290	4171715	Fort Spring Quad
Zone	Easting	Northing	
K 17	543290	4171715	Ronceverte Quad
Zone	Easting	Northing	

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County/State

Section number Photo

Page 1

Name Nickell Homestead & Mill
Address McClung Road
Town Ronceverte Vicinity
County Monroe County

Photographer: James Nickell; and Nancy Merical

Date: June 1998

Negatives: James Nickell, and Nancy Merical

Photo 1 Front Facade, West Elevation
Camera facing East

Photo 2 South Elevation
Camera facing NE

Photo 3 South Elevation, rear wing
Camera facing NW

Photo 4 South Elevation, rear wing
Camera facing N

Photo 5 North Elevation, Rear wing
Camera facing SW

Photo 6 Kitchen wing
Camera facing SW

Photo 7 Kitchen wing and front end
Camera facing S

Photo 8 Front facade, west elevation and north end
Camera facing S

Photo 9 Front facade, west elevation and south end
Camera facing N

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County/State

Section number Photo Page 2

- Photo 10 South end of original house
Camera facing N
- Photo 11 Porch door to original house
Camera facing W
- Photo 12 Interior, Original stairs
Camera facing South
- Photo 13 Interior, front parlor fireplace mantel
Camera facing South
- Photo 14 Interior, second floor fireplace
Camera facing South
- Photo 15 Barn
Camera facing E
- Photo 16 Hog Shed
Camera facing NE
- Photo 17 Machine Shed
Camera facing NE
- Photo 18 Garage
Camera facing E
- Photo 19 Mill, East elevation
Camera facing W
- Photo 20 Mill, North elevation (Merical)
Camera facing S
- Photo 21 Mill, interior of first floor
Camera facing W

(NPS Form 10-900)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Nickell Homestead and Mill
Name of Property

Monroe County, WV
County/State

Section number Photo

Page 3

Photo 22 Mill, interior (Merical)

Photo 23 Mill, interior, gears (Merical)

Photo 24 Mill, interior, gears (Merical)

NICKEL'S
HOME STRAD + MILL

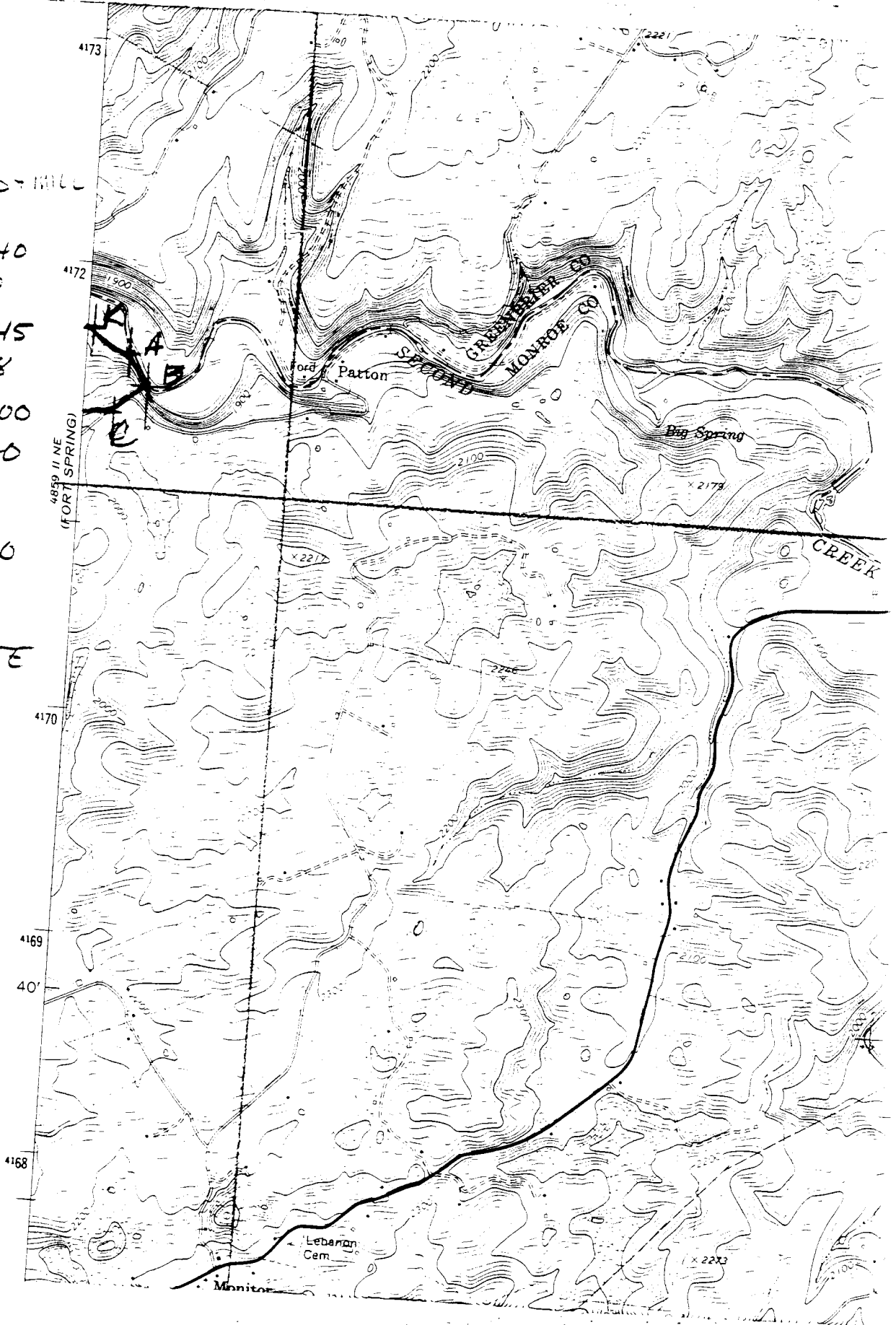
A 17 544740
4171600

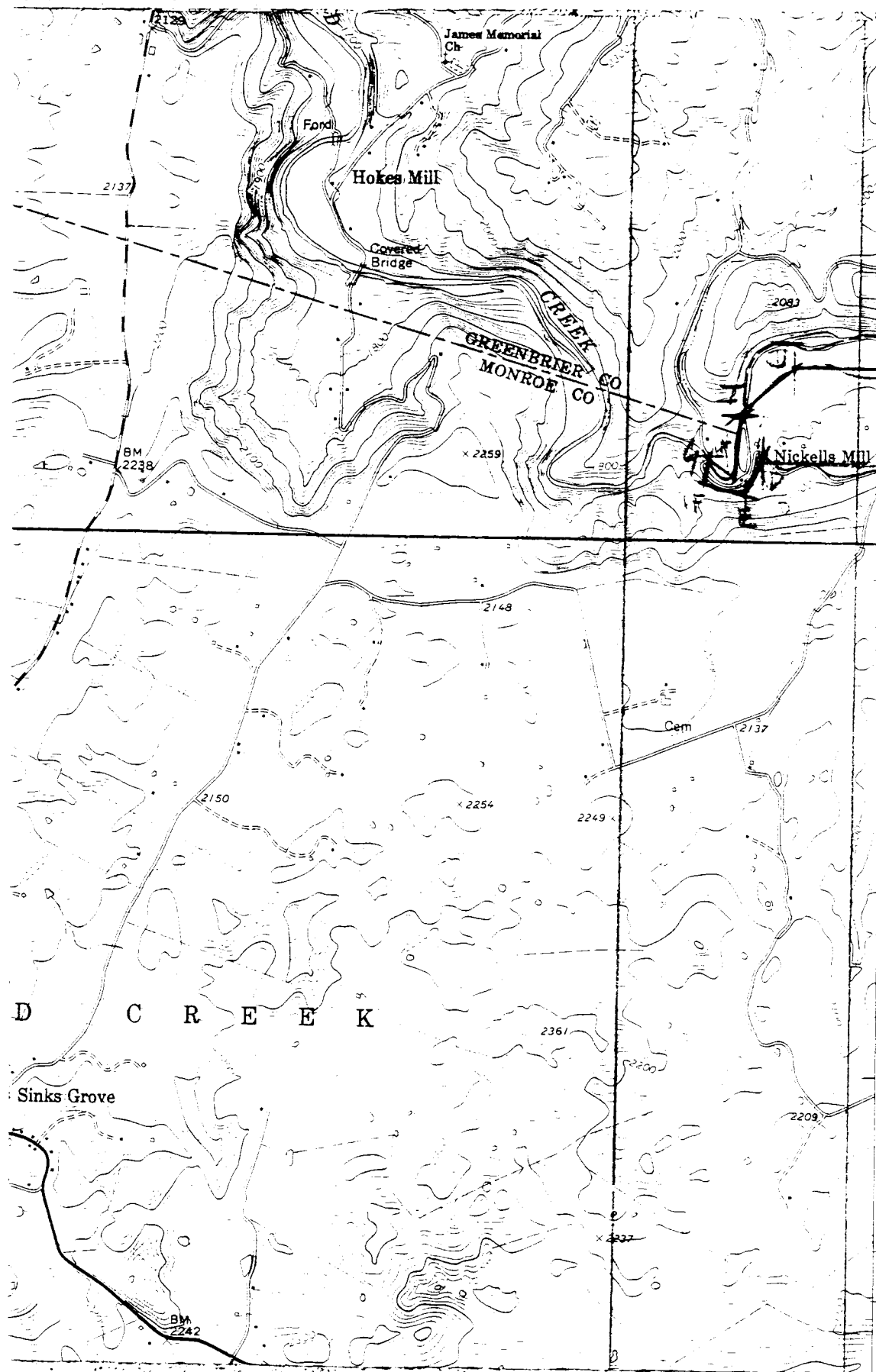
B 17 544645
4171458

C 17 544800
4171340

K 17 544900
4171715

RONCEVEILTE
QUAD





NICKELLS
 4173 HOMESTEAD +
 MILL
 D 17 543500
 4171 340
 E 17 543580
 4171 198
 4172 F 17 543625
 4171 240
 G 17 543615
 4171 340
 H 17 543510
 4171 260
 I 17 543 495
 4171 540
 J 17 543290
 4171 715
 4170
 FORT SPRING
 QUAD

IRON VEERTE
 4939 III NW



