

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rock Spring

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2000 Ridge Road not for publication

city or town Shepherdstown vicinity

state WEST VIRGINIA code WV county Jefferson code 037 zip code 25443

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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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	
4		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
4		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
In the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone

walls BRICK

roof METAL/Tin

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

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1795-1900

Significant Dates

1790s-1810, c.1830-1860

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
designed 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:

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	2 5 5 0 4 0	4 3 6 3 0 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 8	2 5 5 3 0 0	4 3 6 2 9 0 0

3	1 8	2 5 5 1 8 0	4 3 6 2 6 7 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 8	2 5 4 9 7 0	4 3 6 2 7 5 5

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula S. Reed, Ph. D., Architectural Historian; Edie Wallace, Historian; Paige Phifer

organization Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc. date April, 2007

street & number 1 W. Franklin St., Suite 300 telephone 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown state Maryland zip code 21740

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Stephen Skinner and Sinclair Dunlop

street & number P.O. Box 315 telephone 304-876-9387

city or town Charles Town state WV zip code 25414

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

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Summary and Setting:

The 12.25-acre Rock Spring Farmstead, with its brick house, stone outbuilding, shed, and wagon shed/corn crib, is located on the east side of Ridge Road near the head of Rattlesnake (Lucas) Run in Jefferson County. The 12-acre property is an L-shaped parcel that fronts on Ridge Road for its west boundary and on WV Secondary Route 16/3 for its north boundary. A corner parcel at the junction of the two roads is a separately owned 1 1/2-acre property. The property is on high ground, open to the east. It was formerly farm land, but now consists mostly of meadow and young trees. The buildings are situated along Ridge Road and include a brick house, a stone spring house and attached bake oven, a frame shed/stable, and a frame combination wagon shed/corn crib in poor condition.

Rock Spring was historically part of a 360-acre Fairfax grant to Samuel Darke, which by 1762 was owned by James Hendricks. Hendricks subdivided the large tract into three farms for his children in his 1795 will. James Hendricks, Jr. remained on his portion of the division, now known as Rock Spring Farm, until 1831 when he sold it to John Snyder (Snider) Sr. Snyder already owned the eastern half of the Samuel Darke grant land, and thus recombined much of the grant acreage. It was Snyder's son, John Snyder, Jr. in the 1830s-1850s, who added to the main buildings on the Rock Spring Farm, giving them their appearance today.

Resources Description:

Main House: Ca 1800 with expansion/addition Ca 1850, 1 Contributing Building.

Exterior:

Rock Spring, a two-story, three bay brick house sits on the east side of Ridge Road, southwest of Shepherdstown in Jefferson County. It is situated with its west gable facing the road and its principal entrance in the south façade. North of the house is a stone outbuilding, a combined springhouse, bake house and kitchen. To the south and east are barns and agricultural buildings, two of which are included in the nominated property. The house appears to have taken on its present appearance about 1850 with the addition of a second story and two rooms across the north side. The original core, a one and a half story three bay brick dwelling with two rooms and a central passage, appears to date from the late 1790s to about 1810. The house seems to have been oriented originally to face north toward an east-west road that today connects Ridge Road with Flowing Springs Road (WV Route 16/3), or some other dominating presence to the north or east.

The house sits on limestone foundations with brick walls, extended to the north to form the present north elevation over a story-high raised basement. The south section of the west wall at the main level has brick laid in common bond with a 3:1 stretcher course to header course ratio, typical of the 18th century and the early years of the 19th century. The south wall at the main level likewise has a 3:1 ratio common bond pattern. The north elevation, part of a mid 19th century addition has common bonding with a 4:1 and 5:1 row ratio. The east gable wall is laid in Flemish bond, a

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pattern reserved for principal elevations. The original north wall of the house prior to the north addition is now an interior partition and covered with plaster and finishes and thus not observable, but appears to have been the original front elevation, and thus may have been constructed with Flemish bonding.

Seams appear in the exterior brickwork where the north rank of rooms was added, although the stone foundation does not show an obvious seam. Brick jack arches top the windows and doors. The current front door in the center bay of the south elevation has been altered, since the entrance is wider than the brick header above it. The north slope of the roof is longer than the south slope to accommodate the north extension. Two brick chimneys are located inside each gable end. One pair of chimneys is located at the gable peak. These served the east and west rooms of the original structure. The second set of chimneys is located on the north slope of the roof serving the added rooms along the north side of the house. A brick dentiled cornice finishes the top of the north and south walls. A shed-roofed enclosed porch addition is attached to the east gable end. A gable roofed one-bay-wide porch shelters the south entrance. A similar gabled entrance porch shelters the door to the cellar in the north elevation. The house is roofed with standing seam sheet metal over an older wood shingle roof.

At the south elevation two full stories are exposed, while at the north elevation there is the raised cellar level, full windows at the main level and a pair of gabled dormer windows at the upper level. Windows at the main level have nine over six light sash within frames with a bead at the inside edge. All openings at the main story level have spacers added at the tops of the frames. The dormer windows, second story windows and some cellar windows have six over six light sash. Other cellar windows are of various sizes. The front door as currently configured is in the center bay of the south elevation. It has four panels, and is short, because it has to fit beneath the stair landing. The doorway has no transom over the door, due to the height issues, but there are four pane sidelights on either side. There are also entrances in the east gable end, opening onto the now enclosed side porch, and in the ground level south, west and north walls. The east entrance retains a transom.

At the east end wall, there is a gabled entrance porch over the door in that elevation. At some point, probably in the late 19th or early 20th century, the porch was extended with a shed roof to the north along the east end wall. Later, but also in the early 20th century a shed-roofed extension was added to the east elevation abutting the south side of the east entrance porch. This addition is covered with wooden German siding. Still later, the side porch was enclosed with German siding. The entire group of extensions to the east elevation is covered with standing seam roofing. The most recent alteration was the installation of sliding glass doors to the enclosed porch area, a change which appears to date from the 1980s.

Interior:

The interior of the house is divided by a central stair and entrance hall. The south entrance opens into the rear of the hall beneath the stair landing. The stairway rises from the north end of the space and a doorway in the north wall of the stair hall now opens into the north rooms added in the mid 19th century. This doorway is topped with an eight light transom, and appears to have been the original front door for the house. To the east and to the west of the hallway are rooms, and at the cellar level there is a similar configuration of rooms. The staircase rises with a fairly steep run of steps against the west wall of the hallway. The newel post is turned and narrow with molded bands at the base. The hand rail is of a type common in the 18th century with a flattened grip rail top (as opposed to more fully rounded hand rails popular in the 19th century). Balusters are square, but set on the diagonal, two per step. Door trim and chair rail have a small ogee molding with an astragal with a double field and a bead at the inside edge. The south door has a Carpenter-type lock, typical of the 1830s. Beneath the staircase a set of stairs with closed stringers and very well-worn steps set into the stringers descends to the cellar.

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To the west of the hallway is a formal room, most recently and perhaps originally used as a dining room. The room has a fireplace in its west wall, with a window to its north and a cupboard to the south. There is also a window in the south wall. In the east wall is a doorway to the hallway and a second doorway, possibly an added feature because of mismatched molding, leading directly to the cellar stairs. In the north wall a doorway leads into the north addition, west room, which is now a kitchen. Doors have six raised panels. Chair rail has an astragal bead, but the chair rail does not align with the window sills which is an unusual feature. Window and door trim has small ogee molding. An unusual survival in the west window is a pair of porcelain knobs used to loop and secure cords for a window shade or curtain. The fireplace mantel has an architrave around the firebox opening, a feature usually found on 18th century fireplaces, trimmed with ogee molding. Above this is a tall frieze panel with plain pilasters at each end and topping all is a mantel shelf. The mantel shelf and pilasters are early 19th century features. To the south of the fireplace is a cupboard. The upper section has doors with each leaf having three recessed panels. Below the chair rail the lower doors each have one panel. The cupboard doors appear to be later than the raised panel doors leading into the room.

To the east of the hallway is another formal room, this one fancier than the west room. This room has a fireplace in its east wall, but no cupboard set into the recess. Also in the east wall is a door to the exterior (now into the enclosed porch addition). This door has four panels. A transom above has two panes. In the south wall is a window and in the west wall the door to the hallway. Chair rail in this room is late 20th century replacement material with a heavy half-round profile. Original door and window trim is double fielded with a small ogee molding at the outer edge, a bead at the inner edge and a small molding separating the fields. The door to the hallway has six raised panels with the backs of the panels molded with an ogee profile. The lock is Carpenter and Company, an English import dating from the 1830s. The most prominent feature in the room is the fireplace with its embellished mantelpiece. Early 19th century in character, it has reeded pilasters, a tall frieze panel and a central rectangular tablet with reeding. Bordering the projecting mantel shelf is a band of punch and gouge work creating hollow dentils, with cavetto molding above and below. The mantel's sides wrap around the chimney wall, an unusual feature, decorated with two flush beaded panels.

The hallway, and the east and west rooms constitute the main story of the original house. Added to that core dwelling are the two north rooms, and the full second story, as well as two cellar rooms beneath the north addition. The rooms of the north addition at the first story are quite different in character from the original construction. The north addition consists of two rooms end to end, each with a fireplace in the end wall. The west room is now the kitchen for the house. Window and door trim for both north rooms consists of symmetrically molded angular architraves, rabbeted with plain corner blocks. This type of trim is associated with the Greek Revival style and the ca. 1850 period. The mantelpieces are also Greek Revival inspired with plain pilasters, a tall frieze band and simple shelf. Mantelpieces in the added north rooms and second floor are marbled. Windows have nine over six lights like those in the other rooms. The west room has a cupboard adjacent to the fireplace, while the east room does not. The cupboard has single doors, top and bottom, each with two elongated panels.

At the second story, evidence remains of the adjustment in height of the building. In the landing, a window was added or extended to light the stair well and the staircase was extended to the attic with similar, but not identical millwork. The hand rail is rounded and the newel posts, while similar have different moldings and tops. In addition, the baseboard was extended. Mantelpieces are like those on the first level in the north addition with plain pilasters and frieze and simple shelf.

The cellar has approximately the same floor plan as the main level of the house. An exception is that instead of a central hallway, there is a run of stairs under the main staircase, and the rest of the space beneath that which is occupied with hallway above is divided in the cellar into a small storage room and a vestibule with doors opening into

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the east, west and north rooms as well as accessing the stairway and the storage room. The ground floor is clearly service area, although all rooms are finished with plaster and molded trim around openings. The moldings are much older in stylistic influence in the lower level of the house than at the main level, featuring ovolo trim on door casing and architraves throughout the space.

The stair leading to the main floor is unusual and noteworthy. It has massive stringers that are not cut out to receive the treads. Instead the stringers are closed with the treads set into the stringers on each side. The risers are set at an angle following the slant of the stair. The treads are very worn from generations of foot traffic passing from the cellar service rooms to the main living area above. The east wall of the stairs is a vertical tongue and groove board partition. On the opposite side of it is the small storage room. The room has plastered walls and ceilings. The east wall is brick, plastered, which seems to have been placed to provide structural support. A late 19th or early 20th century board and batten door opens into this room. The door casing, however, is ovolo trimmed, with quirks and fillets, indicative of the late 18th or very early 19th century. On either side of the stair area beams run north-south, resting on masonry walls.

The west room is finished and received some degree of refinement. There is a fireplace in the west wall, along with a window and a door. Additionally there is a large door in the south wall, leading to the south yard. The door in the west wall dates from the 20th century as well as its trim. It could have replaced an older door or a window. The south door is older with an elbow lock and has casing with ovolo molding like other trim in the cellar. The east wall contains the doorway to the stair area and also carries chair rail. Chair rail also spans the north wall which has no openings. A large window in the west wall south of the fireplace is an early 20th century feature. It has a multipaned transom with a diamond pane border over a large single plate glass. The fireplace is not large although the mantelpiece is big enough to accommodate a service fireplace. The current firebox is small with an unfinished edge on its south jamb. It is fully plastered, typical of 18th and 19th century fireboxes. If this fireplace ever served a kitchen for the house, it was reduced in size to its present dimension. The mantelpiece has an ovolo-trimmed architrave. Above it is a flat frieze panel with wood strips suggesting pilasters on either side and several courses of cornice molding featuring ovolo forms. A full top shelf may be a later addition.

The east room appears always to have been a work or storage room. It has no fireplace, just a pier to support the chimney. The space within the chimney pier is filled with shelving for storage. Nevertheless, the room is fully plastered. A shelf structure hanging from the ceiling in this room consists of two pair of flanges with a bar running between each pair. The rounded ends of the bar fit loosely in the holes in the flanges potentially allowing the bars to turn.

The two north rooms of the cellar are utility spaces. The west room has a large service fireplace in its west wall and a window. The fireplace has a molded shallow mantel shelf resting on wooden pins set into the stone chimney wall. In the north wall are a door and a window. A smaller northeast room has a window in the north wall and no fireplace.

Support Buildings:

Bake house/spring house/wash house/summer kitchen, 1830s-1840s, 1 Contributing Building

North of the house stands a stone domestic outbuilding, which appears to date from the second quarter of the 19th century. One source assigns a date of 1830 to the building, but there is no indication of the basis for the date. The building combines the functions of bake house, spring house, wash house, summer kitchen and possibly butchering house as well. The building is constructed of roughly coursed limestone, fairly large stones, with a window in each

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elevation and the chimney and the entrance in the south gable end facing toward the main house. There is no particularly distinctive masonry associated with the doors and windows, such as jack arches, suggesting a fairly late date for stone construction, such as the 1830s-1840s. Brick diamond-shaped ventilators pierce the upper levels of the east and west walls.

Across part of the south wall is a stone-walled shed roofed extension that shelters a squirrel-tailed bake oven. This is a rare survival of a once common household structure. The domed bake oven sits on a stone base. It is constructed of bricks, which line the cavity. At the back of the oven is a vent which extends in a flue along the top of the oven and exits into the chimney. This vent structure gives the oven its distinctive "squirrel-tail" feature. The oven access is through an opening in the back wall of the fireplace. Across the opposite end of the building is a channel for the spring to flow through and exit on the east side of the building. The building's floor is paved with brick. Along the east wall is an enclosed staircase leading to an upper half story/attic. The attic floor is supported by closely spaced joists running north-south. The upper level is whitewashed over the stone walls and exposed roof framing.

Wagon Shed/Corn Crib: ca. 1850, 1 contributing building.

Situated to the southeast of the house is a frame combination wagon shed and corn crib with stone foundations. It has an uneven gable roofline with an extended roof sloping to the north on a raised stone foundation, possibly a granary. The east and west end walls have a large opening for drive-through convenience for parking and unloading wagons. The building is covered with vertical board siding and a metal roof.

Frame stable: ca 1900, 1 contributing building.

At the southeast edge of the property, oriented to face both the main house and the pasture, is a small frame stable with vertical board siding. Square stall windows have crossed board and batten single-leaf shutters. Doors are also board and batten construction. The building measures approximately 15'X20' and is covered with a sheet metal roof.

Barns and other agricultural buildings are located to the south and east of the house. These other barns were once part of the farmstead group but became part of a separate parcel when the property was divided.

Evaluation:

The Rock Spring House and stone outbuilding retain a high degree of visual integrity to the period of significance, the late 18th through the 19th centuries. Although the main house was altered and expanded in the mid 19th century, the alterations reflect the evolution of the property and the influence of the Snyder family. In the early 20th century, the additions to the east side were constructed and later a porch was enclosed. While some of these additions may have occurred within the period of significance, some were later, but this side of the house is largely hidden from view and no longer constitutes a prominent façade of the house. Therefore, the east frame additions do not adversely impact the integrity of the house. The alterations to the house provide architectural distinction, showing clearly the influence of two distinct periods and styles. The multi-use stone outbuilding is a rare survival of such buildings and thus an important example of early-mid 19th century domestic support buildings. The frame stable and the wagon shed/corn crib, although in deteriorating condition, are important remnants of the farmstead's agricultural building complex and lend integrity of setting and association to the group as a whole.

From physical information available at present, it appears that the original house was a one and a half story, three bay dwelling which faced north. The east gable end was also a principal façade as evidenced by the use of Flemish bond

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brickwork there. Although the original north façade of the building is covered by the addition of the north rooms, there is still evidence that this elevation was the intended front of the house. First, the south elevation is not formal or symmetrical. The windows are spaced unevenly and the south entrance is crowded into a small, short space behind the staircase. This is an unlikely principal elevation façade arrangement. Common bonding is used at the south and west elevations. Common bonding was typical on lesser facades, while the more decorative and costly Flemish bonding was used on the front and other principal facades. On the interior, the stairway rises up from north to south, presenting to the front door as typically laid out. The original “front doorway” is still in place, complete with transom, in the north wall of the stair hall.

The construction date for the original buildings appears to be somewhere around 1800 in a range from the very late 1790s to about 1810. The date assessment is based on physical evidence, and the “transitional” style of interior moldings and trim. On the exterior the common bond brickwork on the oldest parts of the building (main level south wall and south portion of the west wall) is laid at a ratio of three stretcher rows to one header row. That ratio is typical of 18th century brick masonry work. The other walls where there were additions show ratios of 4:1 and 5:1. A ratio of 4:1 is typical of the early 19th century and appears to predate the time of the brick additions to the house, one of several unanswered puzzles. On the interior, the trim which uses small ogee molding combined with double fielded architraves suggests very early 19th century construction. The use of reeded trim and mantelpieces with pilasters and fully articulated shelves are also early 19th century developments. In the work areas of the house which were more conservative in treatment the older style ovolo trim prevailed.

Later in the 19th century, the orientation of the house was changed from the north elevation to the south elevation. The height was raised to two full stories and rooms were added to the north elevation, more than doubling the size of the house. This expansion work may have occurred in more than one construction campaign, but the majority of the added material has design features which associate it with the ca. 1850 period. The simple Greek Revival stylistic characteristics are present in the mantelpieces of the north rooms and the added second floor over the main part of the house. The symmetrically molded trim and plain corner blocks, without deeply cut and compound moldings is indicative of the later phases of the Greek Revival style. It is not clear from information presently available why the orientation of the house was to the north and east originally and why it was changed to the opposite direction.

There may have been an earlier period of alteration before the ca. 1850 work. The use of 4:1 ratio common bonding, the use of 9/6 sash windows, the cupboard in the west room with recessed panels and the alteration to or creation of the door to the back hall in that room, as well as the use of Carpenter locks are all characteristic of the 1830s, and may reflect work done at that time.

Resource Count:

Main House – 1 contributing building
Stone Bake House/Spring House/Wash House/Summer kitchen – 1 contributing building
Wagon Shed/Corn Crib – 1 contributing building
Frame stable – 1 contributing building

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Statement of Significance

Rock Spring is locally significant under National Register Criterion C as an example of an Early Republic/Federal style influenced brick dwelling construction with significant mid-19th century changes reflecting the Greek Revival style. The Rock Spring house has several distinctive features, such as its staircase, mantelpieces, hardware and floor plan. A pair of porcelain knobs used to loop and secure cords for a window shade or curtain is another rarity. Those particular features, along with the unique physical record of the evolution of the house over time makes it distinctive among local examples, as a modest, but stylistically aware farmhouse. The ca.1830s stone outbuilding which served as a spring house, bake house, kitchen and wash house is a rare surviving example of such multipurpose domestic outbuildings, and is particularly significant for its fully intact bake oven. These are excellent examples of regional vernacular domestic architecture, capturing the evolving nature of farmstead complexes over time. Stylistic and structural elements of these buildings embody the time period of late 18th- early 19th century (ca. 1790s-1810) with mid-19th century renovations. In addition to the main house and associated stone domestic outbuilding the farmstead includes two agricultural buildings, forming a complex of buildings representative of the changes in the cultural landscape of the region throughout the period of significance. The period of significance begins with the initial construction of the main house ca.1795 and continues through the ca.1830 construction of the stone outbuilding, the 1850s-1860s renovations to the house and addition of the combination wagon shed/corn crib, through the ca.1900 construction of the frame stable.

The Rock Spring house and outbuildings, with the remaining 12.25 acres as setting, are an architectural representation of the cultural landscape's development Jefferson County through the 19th century. The region today (2007) is under significant residential development pressure with large historic farms and their associated buildings quickly disappearing.

Architectural Context

Samuel Kercheval, writing in 1833 about the lower Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, described the "Mode of Living of The Primitive Settlers" in the valley, first in their dwelling construction: The first houses erected by the primitive settlers were log cabins, with covers of split clapboards, and weight poles to keep them in place. They were frequently seen with earthen floors; or if wood floors were used, they were made of split puncheons, a little smoothed with the broad-axe. These houses were pretty generally in use since the author's recollection. There were, however, a few framed and stone buildings erected previous to the war of the Revolution. As the country improved in population and wealth, there was a corresponding improvement in the erection of buildings.¹

¹ Samuel Kercheval, A History of the Valley of Virginia, 1833, (Harrisonburg, VA: C.J. Carrier Co., 1981, 6th Edition), p. 151.

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Kercheval described the German houses with central chimney and a “large cellar beneath.” However, he noted that, “their dwelling-houses were seldom raised more than a single story in height.”

Germanic settlers, from Pennsylvania and beyond, were common in the lower Shenandoah Valley. Many arrived through the efforts of speculators Jost Hite and the Van Meter brothers. But many early settlers were English Quakers from Pennsylvania as well. Much of the land purchased by the Van Meters and sold to Hite was claimed by Thomas Lord Fairfax, a five million-acre proprietary grant known as the “Northern Neck.” The disputed land was surveyed in 1786 as part of an ongoing lawsuit between Hite and Fairfax, which resulted in a detailed description of the land and improvements in that part of northwestern Virginia. The buildings surveyed along the Lick (Elk) Branch were log or timber-framed construction, many described as “old” or “very old.” The most prevalent construction material found in the Jonathan Clark survey was “round log.” Dimensions from house to house were similar as well, as was the common roof covering of “clap boards.” Stone or brick chimneys are common, although in other areas surveyed the “cat & clay” (wattle and daub) chimney was more often described.

During the century from 1763-1860, this first period architecture was gradually replaced or enlarged into more substantial and permanent form. Small log houses were improved with siding and additions, or replaced with stone, brick or larger log or timber frame dwellings. The large “Swisser” barns with cantilevered forebays and a ramp or bank at the back, hallmarks of the non-tidewater mid-Atlantic region, replaced small log-crib stables and shelters for livestock and crops.²

The people built according to the materials that were available to them, sometimes drawing upon long-established traditions based upon European and British patterns and upon their own interpretations of current styles and construction techniques, adapted to local conditions. Elements of fashionable styles were incorporated into the region’s buildings along with traditional features. With the exception of exterior applications of stylistic door treatments and symmetrical fenestration, typically, the more fashionable architectural elements were found on the interior in the form of moldings, mantels, and stairs. Although there are pure stylistic examples, particularly dating from the later 19th century, the vast majority of the region’s buildings are vernacular structures.

Farmhouses: Farmhouses from the 18th through the mid 20th century exhibit great variety, yet all are readily identifiable to the region. Little housing remains from the settlement period. Dwellings that do survive represent the more durable buildings and not the general population of houses. Log was the preferred building material, although probably a disproportionate number of early period survivors are of stone construction. These early stone houses use the type of stone found in the nearby landscape, often limestone in the Shenandoah Valley region. Later farmhouse builders introduced brick and lightweight framing systems with various milled sidings or shingles.³

Farmhouse form followed several traditional paths. Among the earliest buildings were Germanic central chimney dwellings with one or two stories and three or four rooms clustered around a massive group of fireplaces. British settlers more frequently constructed one or one and a half story buildings with a hall and parlor plan, one-room deep with inside or exterior end fireplaces. Generally farmhouses spanned three to five

² Paula S. Reed & Assoc., “Mid Maryland: An Agricultural History and Historic Context.” (Frederick, MD: The Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, 2003), p. 26.

³ Reed & Assoc., p. 113.

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bays, sat on cellars and had side gables. By the second quarter of the 19th century porches begin to appear with frequency, either across the entire front or recessed in an inset containing two or three bays along the front elevation at the kitchen wall. Another variation is an L-extension to the rear of the main part of the house, almost always with a recessed double porch along one side. This L configuration accommodates a kitchen wing, and these rear wings were consistently referenced in 18th and 19th century records as “back buildings,” even though they were attached to the main part of the dwelling.⁴

Typical floor plans consisted of center passages with one or two rooms on either side, or a two or four room plan where the main entrance opened directly into a room. A common arrangement attributed to Germanic traditions exhibits two central front doors, side by side, which open directly into two front rooms. Houses were almost universally roofed with wooden shingles, often long and double-lapped, top to bottom and side to side. This shingle type seems to be associated with German traditions. Otherwise, top-lapped thin wooden shingles prevailed with staggered joints and there is evidence that thatch was used, along with “cabbins” or clapboard roofs. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries roofs of slate or standing seam metal appear.⁵

Other farmhouses from the same time period as the Rock Spring farmhouse include Elmwood, York Hill, Glen Burnie (all listed in the National Register) two of which (York Hill and Glen Burnie) are on the same road as the Rock Spring. The Quinn house, a dated 1794 1½ story brick dwelling, built by William Hendricks, first cousin of James Hendricks who built Rock Spring, is quite similar in appearance and in period of construction.

Summer kitchens/out kitchens/butchering sheds/wash houses: These four types are grouped together because their functions and names are and were often used interchangeably. In the mid-Atlantic region, kitchens were usually integrated into the main house, unlike some houses in the South where the kitchen was a fully separated building. Yet, the region’s farms had separate kitchen structures for use in hot weather or for the more messy tasks like washing clothing, canning, and butchering. Usually these secondary kitchens were located a few steps from the back door of the house, with the area between paved with brick or flat stones. They always contained a large service fireplace and were convenient to other outbuildings like the smokehouse, bake oven and a water source, either the springhouse or a well and pump. Generally these out kitchens were gable roofed. They could have one or two stories and often combined functions, including the springhouse within its walls, or serving as quarters for slaves or servants, bake houses, and laundry drying or food storage space.

Bake houses: Bake houses or bake ovens may be attached to the kitchen chimney of the main house or summer kitchen, or they might be separate free-standing structures. Most are of the beehive variety, resting on a stone or brick base with a domed brick top protected with a gabled roof. A small cast-iron door on the front of the oven opens into the domed cavity. The door could be in the back corner of the kitchen firebox, or at the front of the external bake oven structure. Using a long handled shovel or spatula, the attendant placed hot coals in the oven and closed the door allowing the cavity to become hot. Then the coals were removed or put aside and the goods to be baked inserted. Bake ovens were usually about waist high for ease of loading and unloading. The space beneath often contained storage area for wood. Free standing bake ovens had an enclosed porch in front of the oven door, usually with shelving along the sides and a board or work surface.

Wagon sheds (with or without corncribs): Certainly from the mid 19th century forward, and perhaps earlier, most farms had wagon sheds, usually with corncribs forming the side walls. The slatted corncribs allowed plenty of air to

⁴ Reed & Assoc., p. 113.

⁵ Ibid.

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pass through the corn to dry and preserve it for winter feed for livestock. The front and rear walls were left open so that wagons could be driven through the building. These are gable roofed framed buildings, although a variation is to have the wagon shed/corn crib attached to one end of the barn, in which case it has a shed roof. Wagon sheds frequently had a winch and pulley in the roof truss system to allow wagons to be unloaded of their corn, which was then dropped into the cribs on either side through hinged hopper doors. The winch also provided the leverage to change the bed of the wagon by lifting it off its gear and storing the unused bed under the roof trusses.

Horse stables: Often horse stables were included within the main barn space. However, occasionally horses resided in separate buildings adjacent to the main barn. Whether in the main barn or in a separate building, horse stables are easily distinguishable from cattle stalls. Horses required more stabling space, often a nearly square space with a hay rack and feed box at one side. Later (early 20th century) horse barns could be gambrel-roofed. Commercial horse farms had much larger structures, long rectangular buildings with a broad central aisle.

Resource History

The 12.25 -acre Rock Spring Farmstead, with its brick house, stone outbuilding, corn crib/wagon shed and stable (the large bank barn, once part of the complex is not with this boundary) is located on the east side of Ridge Road near the head of Rattlesnake (Lucas) Run in Jefferson County. It was historically part of a 360-acre Fairfax grant to Samuel Darke, which by 1762 was owned by James Hendricks. Hendricks subdivided the large tract into three farms for his children in his 1795 will. James Hendricks, Jr. remained on his portion of the division, now known as Rock Spring Farm, until 1831 when he sold it to John Snyder (Snider) Sr. Snyder, who already owned the eastern half of the Samuel Darke grant land, thus recombined much of the grant acreage. It was Snyder's son, John Snyder, Jr. in the 1830s-1850s, who added to the main buildings on the Rock Spring Farm, giving them their present appearances.

Throughout its history, the Rock Spring Farm was associated with relatively prominent families of Jefferson County. On November 4, 1754 Samuel Darke was granted "360 Acres of Land in Frederick County" by Thomas Lord Fairfax, described as "...a tract of waste and ungranted Land in the said County Joining to James Glenn..." (Northern Neck Grants, Book H, p. 539). Darke probably occupied his tract for some time prior to the Fairfax grant; Frederick County (VA) records include exchange accounts between Samuel Dark (Darke) and Thomas Hart for "subsistence items such as beef, bacon, flax seed, and gunpowder, or services such as hiring a wagon, gelding a horse, or 'taking a Calf from a Cow'." (Hofstra, p. 232) On September 1, 1756, John Wright purchased the tract of 360 acres from Samuel Dark (Frederick County Deed Book 4, page 165).

John Wright was the immediate neighbor of James Glenn. Wright married Hannah Glenn, widow of James Glenn, after Glenn's death in 1755. With this purchase, Wright owned all or part of the three adjoining Fairfax grants: his own of 231 acres, one third interest in Glenn's 231 acres by his wife's dower, and Darke's 360 acres for a total of 822 acres.

On August 3, 1762 James Hendricks purchased from John Wright the 360 acres for 5 shillings (FC, Deed Book 7, p. 210). The deed was "in Consideration of the sum of £370..." (FC Deed Book 7, p. 211) James and Priscilla (Pettit) Hendricks came from York Co., Pennsylvania. Their oldest son Daniel was born in York Co. in 1744/45. Daniel married Jane Buckles in Virginia around 1763 and it appears that his father James set Daniel and Jane up on the west third of the 360-acre tract (<http://members.aol.com/GFSBrenda/Hendricks.html>).

In a 1786 Berkeley County Personal Property tax record, James Hendricks, Sr. had two white tithable males (sons John and James, Jr.), two slaves over 16 years, eight horses, and 14 cattle. By comparison with his neighbors: Edward

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Lucas (III) had one slave, nine horses, and 18 cattle; William Lucas had one slave, seven horses, and 10 cattle; Col. William Morgan had two slaves, 10 horses, and 17 cattle. These men all had significantly more horses and cattle than the majority of their neighbors (Berkeley County Historical Society).

James Hendricks, Sr. wrote his will in January 1795 and died shortly after. In his will he gave to his sons James and John "the remainder of my land to be equally divided between them by a line run straight through giving to each a like number of acres James share to be on the side he now lives on and John's share to be on the side his dwelling is now on..." Judging by the description of daughter Jane's parcel, "along James Glenns line," which was on the northern boundary of the whole tract, and "to the corner of...James' orchard," then James Hendricks, Jr. must have been living on the northeast section of the 360-acre tract and John then on the southeast.

In November of 1795 James Hendricks (Jr.) purchased 42 acres of his brother John's inheritance. This narrow strip of land appears to have been along the division line between their two inherited farms. A 1798 House and Slave Tax assessment for Berkeley County (transcribed by Berkeley County Historical Society) listed James "Hendrix" (Hendricks) with a house in the "country" valued at \$630. His nephew William Hendrix (oldest son of Daniel and Jane Buckles Hendricks) was also assessed for a house in the "country" at \$840; the William Hendricks house is a 1½ story brick house still standing, built in 1794.

The 1810 U.S. Population Census for Jefferson County, listed James Hendricks was listed immediately before neighbor John Snider, indicating Hendricks was still living on his inheritance farm. John Snider (Snyder) was living on the adjoining farm he purchased from his father Jacob Snider (the John Hendricks farm). Snider was 40 years old in 1810, born in 1770 in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania (<http://home.cfl.rr.com/budinfl/snyder/d3518.htm>). In 1820, James Hendricks was still listed beside John Snider. Hendricks' household included himself and his wife, two adult males, three adult females, and one boy; there were eight slaves listed in the household.

John Snyder, Sr. purchased the James Hendricks farm of 117 acres for \$5,200 in 1831 (Jefferson County Deed Book 17, p. 124). In 1849 John Snyder, Sr. sold the 117-acre James Hendricks farm (Rock Spring) to his son John, Jr. for \$100 (JC Deed Book 30, p. 298). One year after his first wife's death, John Snyder, Jr. married Elizabeth Jane Snyder, the daughter of his father's brother Abraham (A.H. Snyder). Abraham Snyder owned a farm called "Pleasant Valley" bordering the John Snyder farm on the east, and north of Duffields. (See 1852 Brown map) John (Jr.) and Elizabeth Jane Snyder had three children, the oldest being Nelson Taylor Snyder, born in 1851.

By the time that S. Howell Brown drew his very detailed map of Jefferson County in 1852, John Snyder, Sr. had divided much of his property between his three sons John, Jr., Henry, and Abraham. John Snyder, Sr. was still located on the former John Hendricks inheritance farm and the James Hendricks, Jr. inheritance farm (Rock Spring) was occupied by John Snyder, Jr. On the west side of the road across from his main house, John, Jr. had a "shop," or possibly three shops.

John Snyder, Sr. wrote his will in 1849 and died nine years later in 1858. His personal estate inventory at the time of his death revealed a successful farmer and apple orchardist who lived well and was educated. His house was filled with fine furniture, carpet, curtains, linen sheets, mirrors, and books. He even owned the latest map of Jefferson County, published in 1852. The items purchased by John, Jr. at his father's estate sale would likely have entered the house on the Rock Spring farm. In addition to a few agricultural tools and animal stock, John, Jr. purchased a 2-horse sleigh, a "Sick chair" and a "Split chair," one large iron kettle, 15 yards of striped carpet, several "waiters" (serving trays), "Dutch books" (probably German), "1 lot Testament &c [books]," a trumpet and box, a quilt, 3 yards of Linen,

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3 pair of brass andirons, feathers ("Tick"), "1 lot Tumblers &c," a pair of wine glasses, a secretary, one large chair, and 2,000 ("2 M") oak shingles (JC Will Book 17, pp. 85-90).

It was perhaps during the decade leading up to the death of his father that John Jr. began in earnest his renovations of the old farmhouse. Adding the second story and updating the interior details, the "new" house would have been more in line with popular architecture and interior wood details of the day. Snyder continued adding or upgrading farm buildings according to the standards of the time, reflecting "modern" ideas of agricultural practice heralded in the agricultural journals of the period. Problems with fluctuating wheat prices through the first half of the 19th century drove farmers in the region to expand their corn, rye, and hay production. Animal husbandry was improving, with a growing emphasis on milk and butter production, although farmers were still limited by the number of cows they could milk by hand.

By the time the 1860 U.S. Population Census was recorded John Snyder's (Jr.) farm was valued at \$26,500. Snyder was listed at 60 years of age and his wife Elizabeth, age 39. Living in the household was his son from his first marriage, Henry M., age 24. Although son Nelson T. Snyder was reportedly born in 1851, he was not listed in the 1860 household, and was possibly away at school. But soon the quiet of the Snyder family and farm would be interrupted by war.

Jefferson County was crossed and re-crossed by both the Confederate and Union armies during the American Civil War. Snyder family lore states that in 1861 General Robert E. Lee stopped at the Rock Spring farm and drank from the well.

While there, General Lee entered the house to sign a paper. He also wrote a message to Belle Boyd, Confederate Spy, who was in hiding at Glen Burnie Farm [James Glenn farm] about one half mile away, and dispatched it by ten year old Nelson T. Snyder.

In the front hall, a blood stain is said to be still visible where John Snyder, Jr.'s son, Henry, a Confederate Soldier home on sick leave, was killed by the Carpet Baggers (shot Nov. 9, 1864, died Nov. 11, 1864). (from "Rock Spring Farm," manuscript, Oct. 1, 1976, no author cited).

Henry M. Snyder was a private in Co. H, 2nd Regiment, Virginia Infantry. (Soldiers and Sailors Database, www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/) Known as the Letcher Riflemen, the company "was organized at Duffields, shortly after the Brown Raid [1859]..." (Charles S. Adams, "Military Operations in Jefferson Co.," p. 13). They fought at 1st Manassas, Kernstown, Cross keys, and Port Republic, Gaines' Mill and 2nd Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. From Co. H, "of the original sixty-five who went out with it, only the following returned: Captain Jenkins, Lieutenant John Foley, Captain J.S. Melvin, Commissary of the Regiment, Privates Eskridge, Joseph McWilliams (Marylander) and Wid Shepherd." (Adams, pp. 13-14)

John Snyder (Jr.), was shown in the 1870 U. S. Population Census at the age of 70, his real estate now de-valued by \$500 to \$26,000. His wife Elizabeth was 50 years old and their son Nelson T. was listed as aged 18, a "Farm Laborer." Also living within the Snyder household was a black family by the name of Jackson. David Jackson, age 60, was occupied as a Blacksmith; his wife Priscilla, age 55, was listed as a "Domestic Servant;" 14-year old Martha could not read or write, but 9-year old Jenetta apparently could.

John Snyder, Jr. wrote his will on July 30, 1873 and died a few weeks later on August 18. He devised his farm to his wife Elizabeth "for life," then to their son Nelson T. Snyder (JC Will Book A, p. 20). Nelson T. Snyder, executor of his father's will, made the bequest official in 1878 by recording a deed to his widowed mother, Elizabeth J. Snyder,

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for a “life estate” in the 160-acre farm, said to adjoin John Hendricks and Jacob Snyder (JC Deed Book F, p. 238). This was likely done in preparation for the sale of a right-of-way through the farm to the Shenandoah Valley Railroad Company (JC Deed Book H, p. 33). In 1881, S. Howell Brown was commissioned to draw a plat of the Elizabeth J. Snyder farm, by then down to 151 ¼ acres (see attached).

Elizabeth J. Snyder wrote her will in 1884 and died in 1907. She left the farm to son Nelson T. Snyder (now Sr.), but it appears to have been as a “life estate.” She also left a life estate to Nelson’s wife Emma R. Snyder, “to be held in trust for the sole and exclusive use and benefit of Emma R. Snyder and the children of the Nelson T. Snyder, issue of the marriage of the said Nelson...and Emma R. Snyder.” (JC Will Book C, p. 229) By 1884 there were four children born to Nelson and Emma Snyder according to the 1900 census record: Daisy (b.1879), Olive (b.1880), Sarah (b.1882), and Nannie (b.1884). Seven more would follow in the years to come.

According to a later biography of Nelson T. Snyder, Jr., who was born in 1892 on the Snyder farm, Nelson (Sr.) and Emma Snyder were “farmers and apple growers during the earlier part of their lives” (www.wileygenealogy.com). With the nearby railroad depot at Shenandoah Junction the farm was well-situated for shipping orchard products to the city markets, a growing trend in West Virginia. By 1928, they had retired. Elizabeth J. Snyder died in 1907 and Nelson T. Snyder Sr. died in 1932. In 1944, following the death of Emma Snyder, the farm passed to the ten surviving children the heirs of Nelson T. Snyder, Sr. The farm was described as 151 ¼ acres “on the Sandy Ridge road,” part of the property “formerly (and now) known as the ‘Rock Spring’ farm.” This deed included the 1881 plat of the farm showing the boundaries still intact more than 60 years later. (JC Deed Book 161, p. 95)

Katherine (Snyder) Kane, wife of Robert L. Kane a partner in her brother’s firm Snyder-Kane-Boothe Corporation, and her siblings, J. McGarry and Mary, owned the Rock Spring farm until 1971 when they sold it in two tracts, 138 acres and 13 ½ acres, to their nephew Henry M. Snyder, Jr. (JC Deed Book 333, pp. 660 and 666) It was the smaller tract, itself subdivided into two parcels of 11.31 acres and 2.17 acres, that contained the house and springhouse on the 2.17-acre parcel. (see attached plat) In 1993, Henry M. Snyder, Jr. sold the Rock Spring house parcel and a second adjoining parcel of just over ten acres to Roger and Patricia Perez. (JC Deed Book 741, p. 578 and Book 746, p. 585)

The now 12.25-acre property was recently conveyed by Patricia Perez to Stephen Skinner and Sinclair Dunlop.

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Verbal Boundary Description

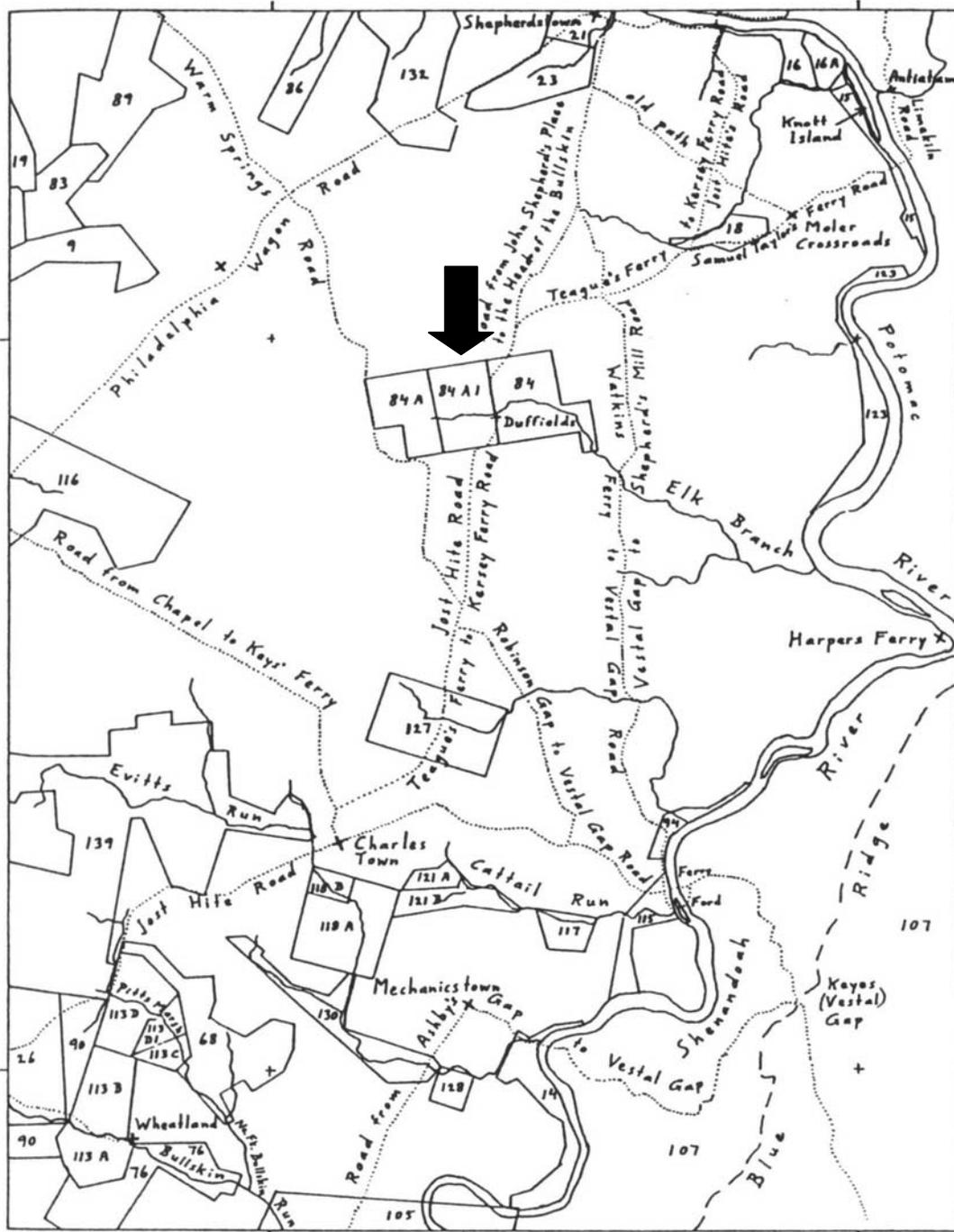
The present Rock Spring Farm boundary includes 12.25 acres of the historic farm. The boundary maintains a significant historic rural landscape centered on Ridge Road and the nearby spring, the historic dwelling and a substantial outbuilding. The adjoining parcels are subdivided for residential development. The boundary of the nominated farm encompasses two parcels depicted on the attached plat map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundary encompasses the remaining 12.25 acres of Rock Spring Farm including the historic brick farm house; a stone outbuilding which was used as a springhouse, bakehouse, and a kitchen; a wagon shed/corncrib and a frame shed.

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Map 3
Charles Town Area to Moler Crossroads Area

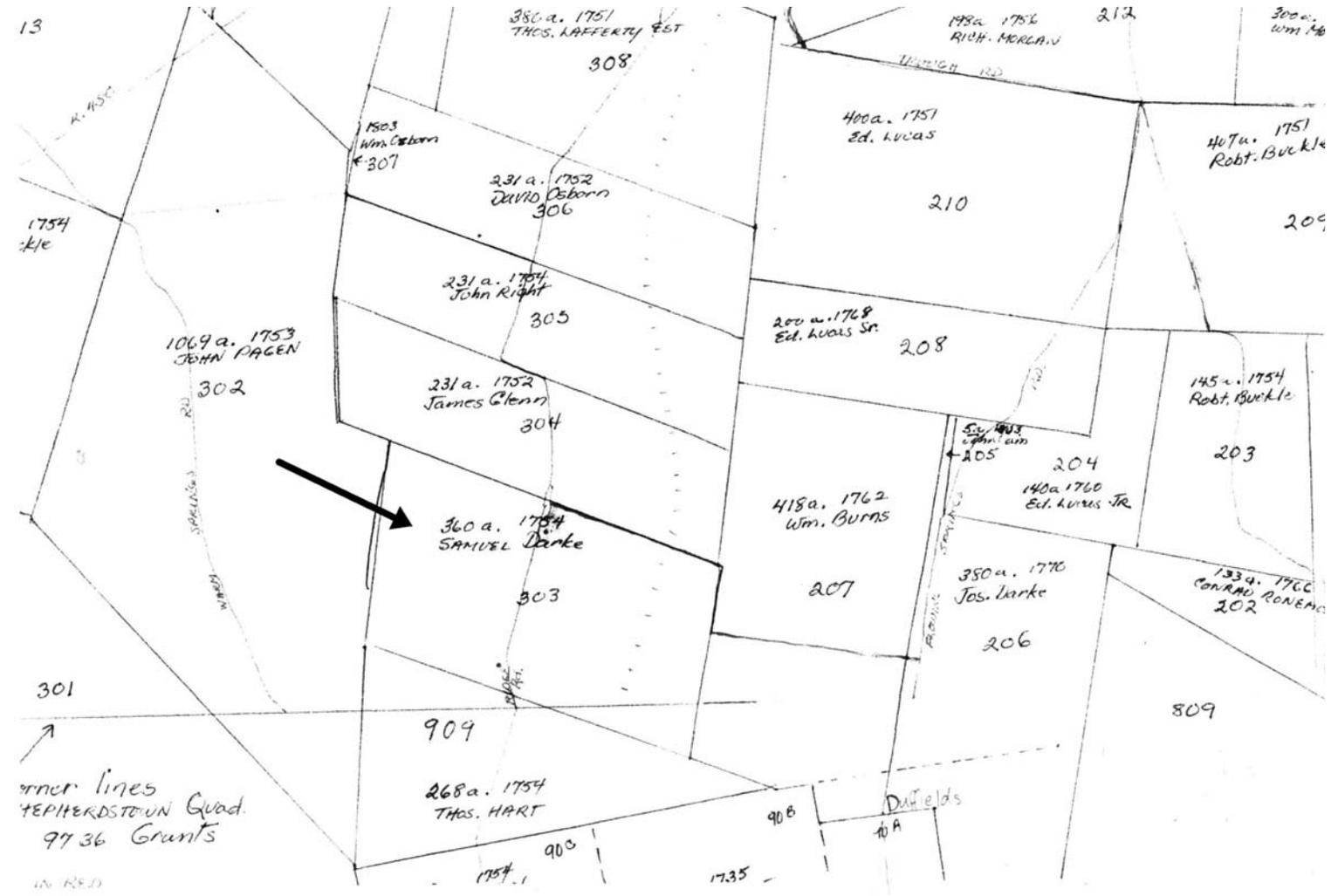
1 From Cecil O'Dell, Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia

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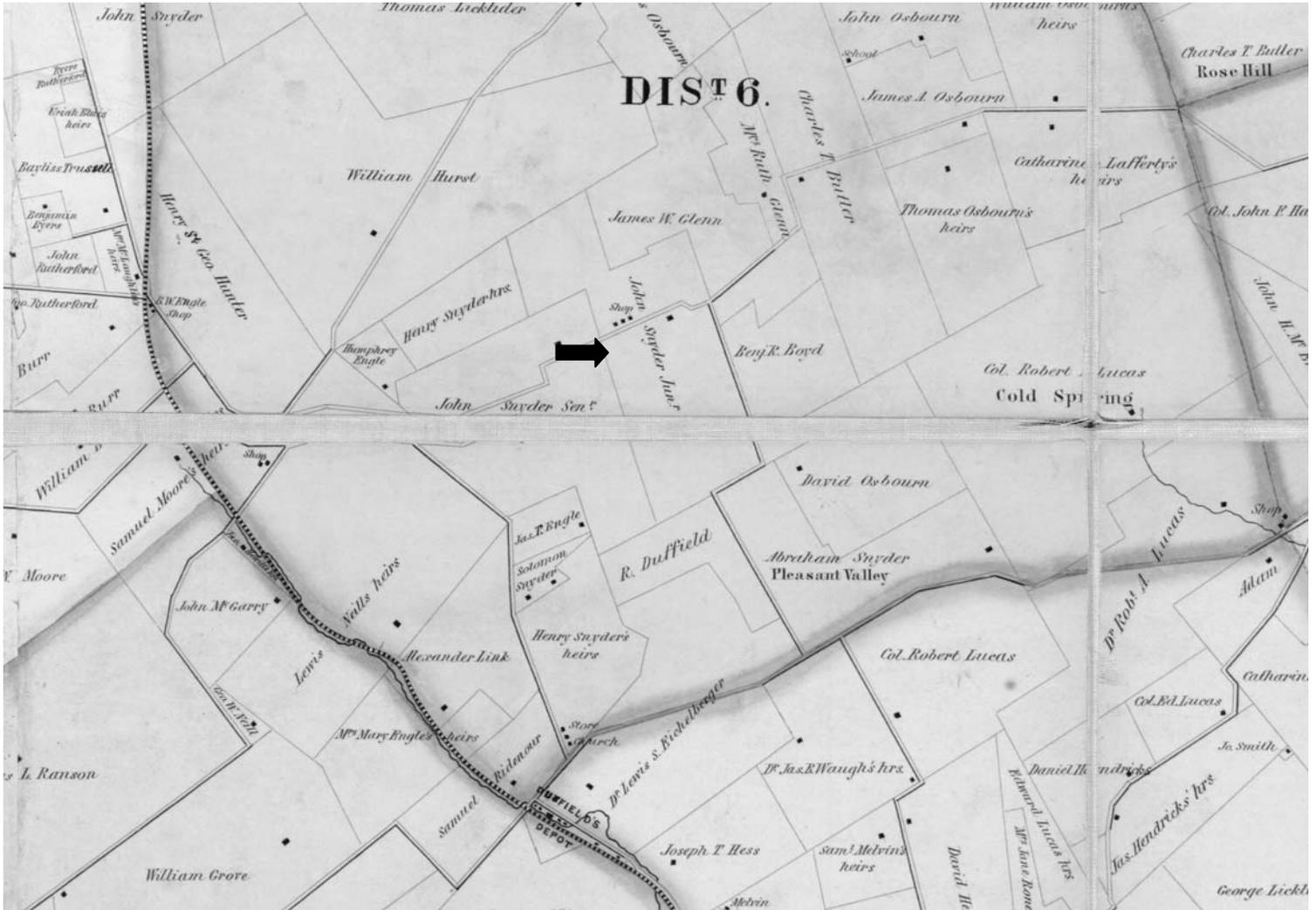
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2 Geertsema Plot Map of Fairfax Grant lands

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3 1852 S. Howell Brown Map

Rock Spring
Name of Property

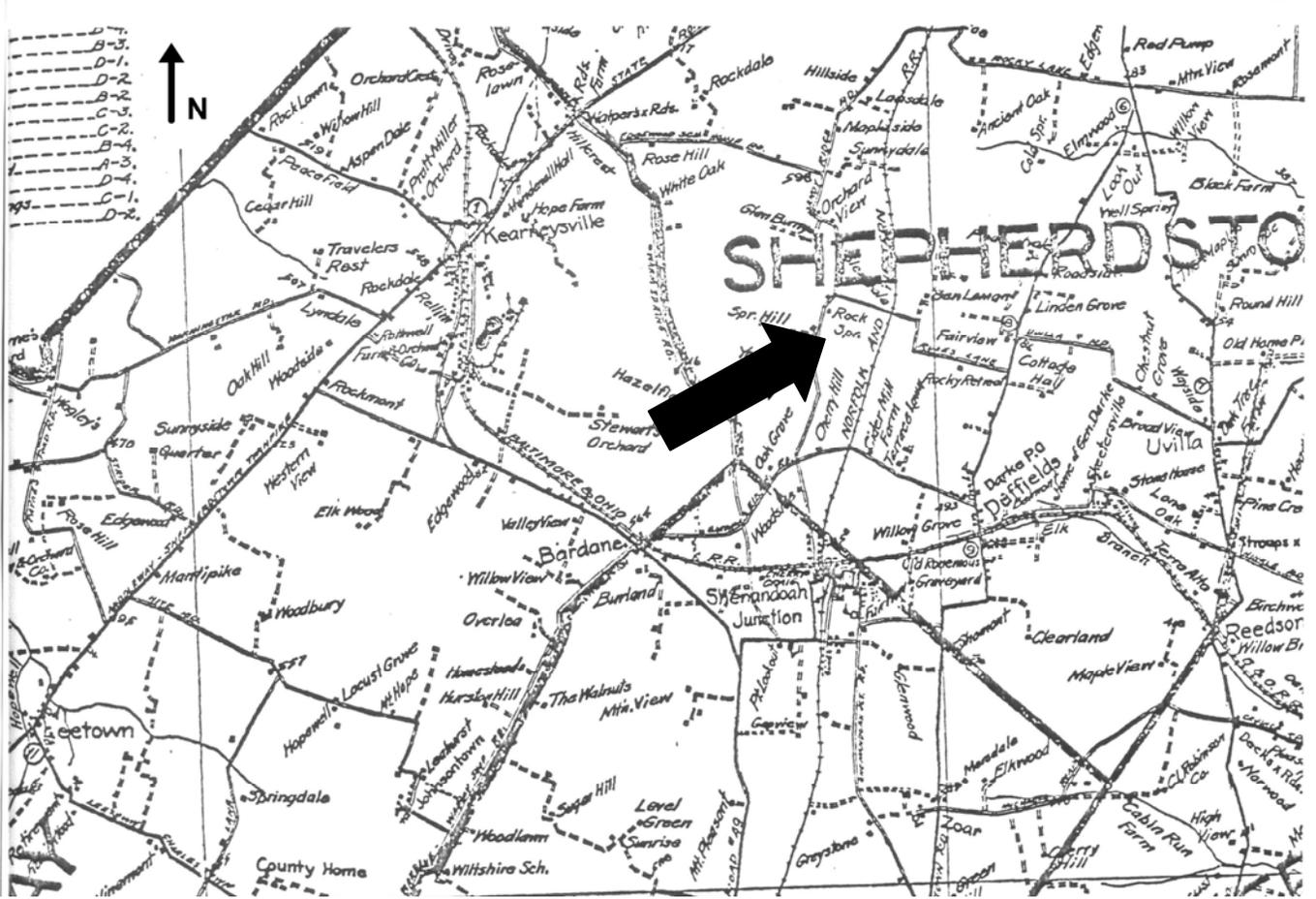
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4 1883 Brown Map of Jefferson County

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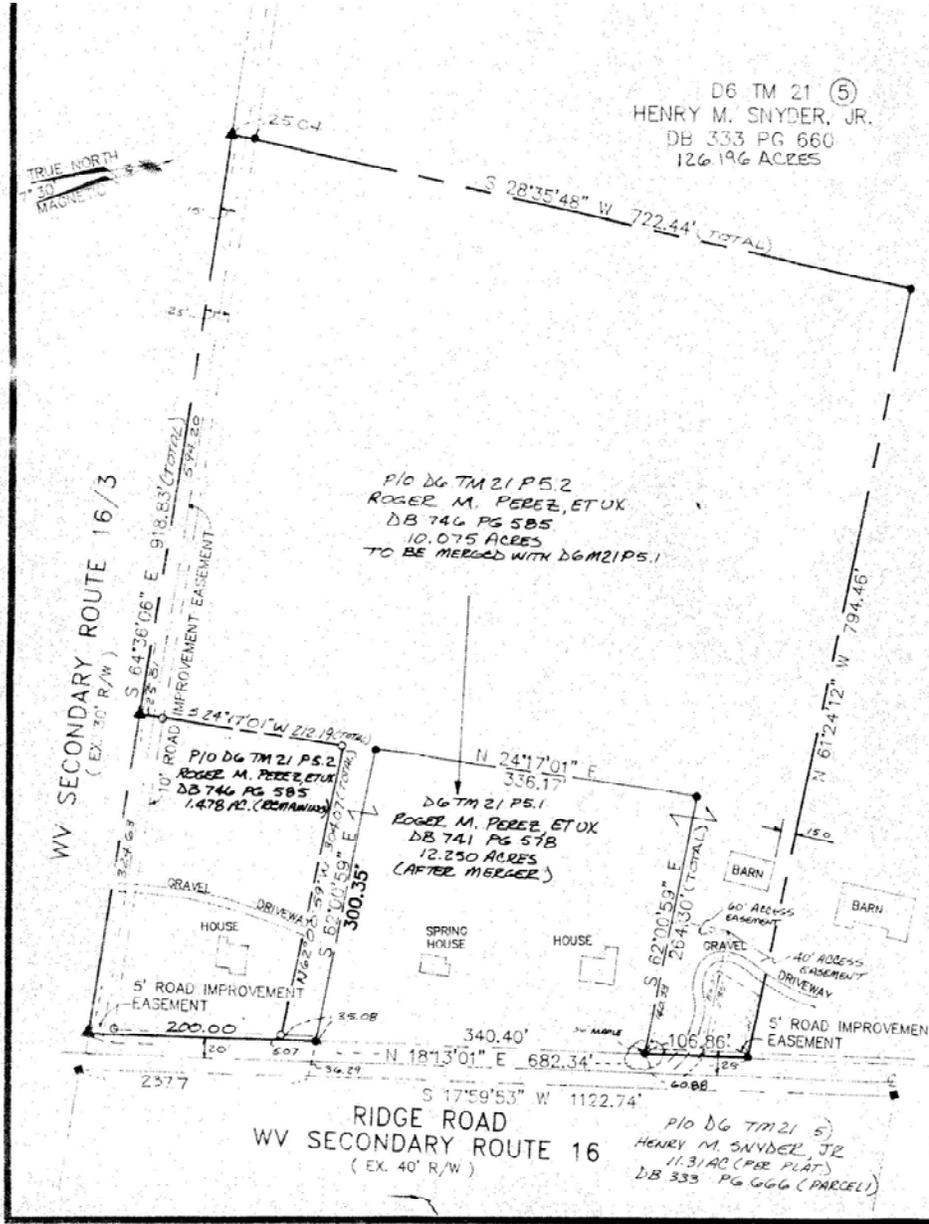
Jefferson County, WV
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5 1925 Map of Jefferson County

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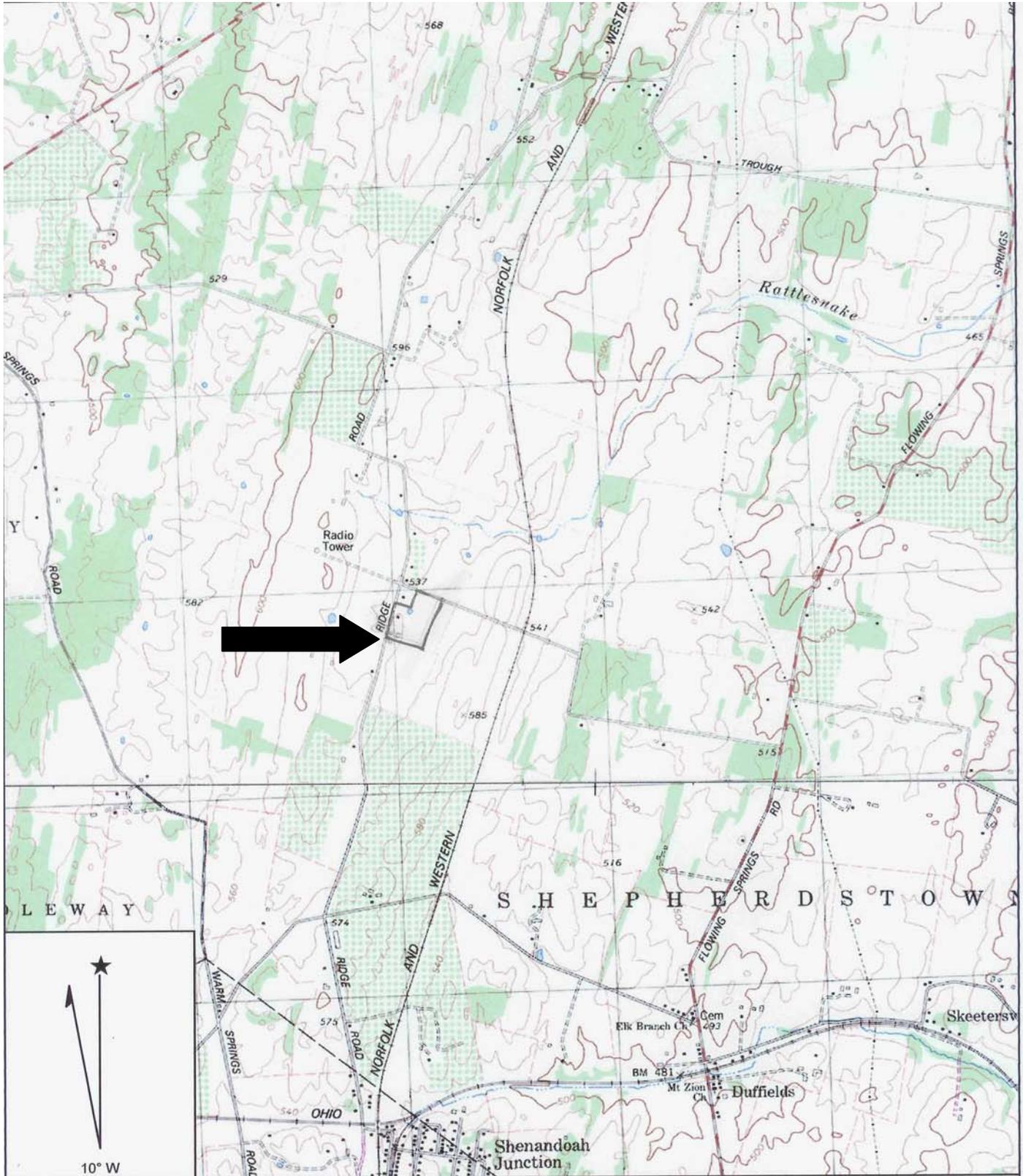
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6 Plat of Nominated area of Rock Spring

Rock Spring
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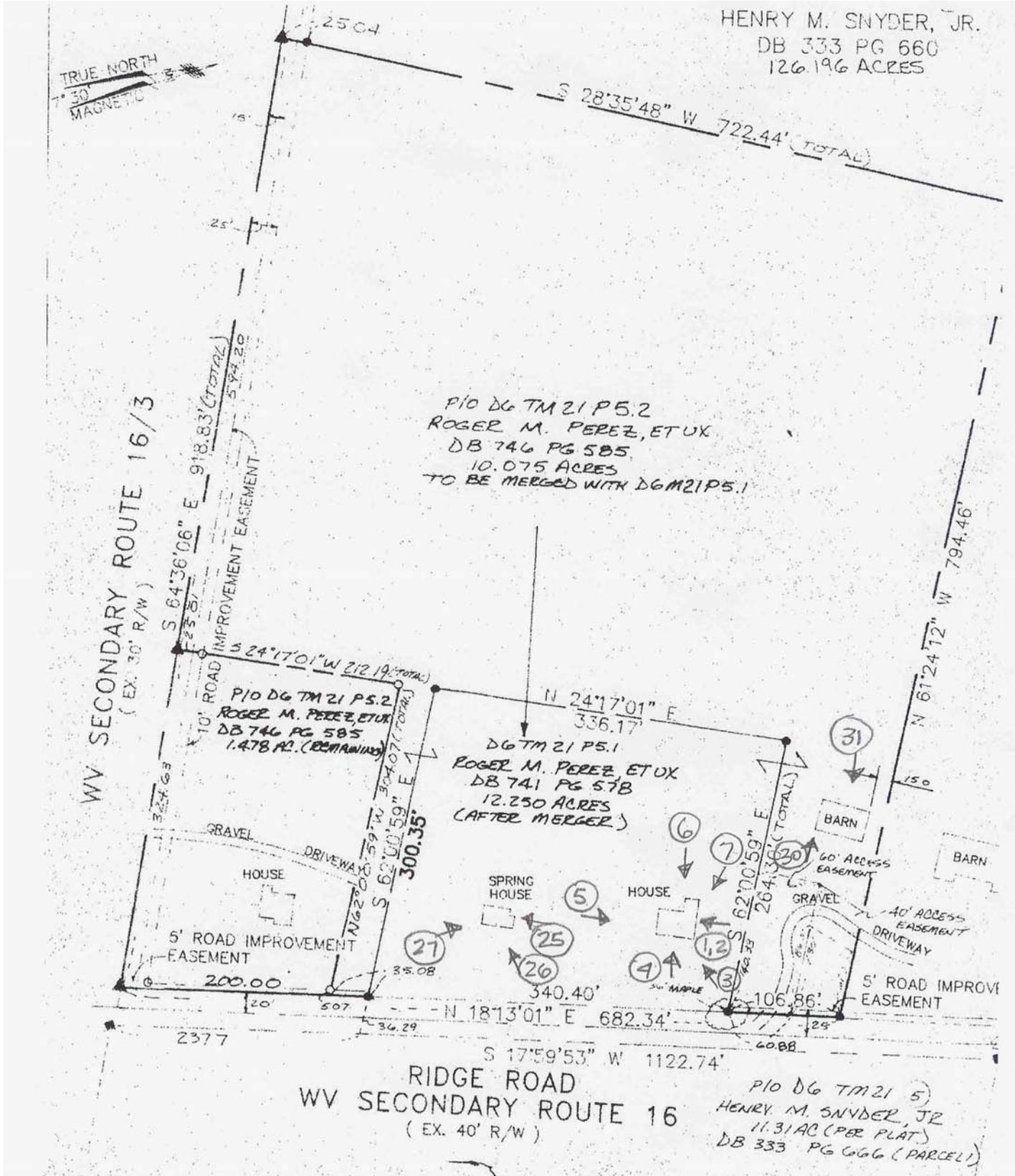
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7 Shepherdstown Quad

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8 Exterior photo view and number

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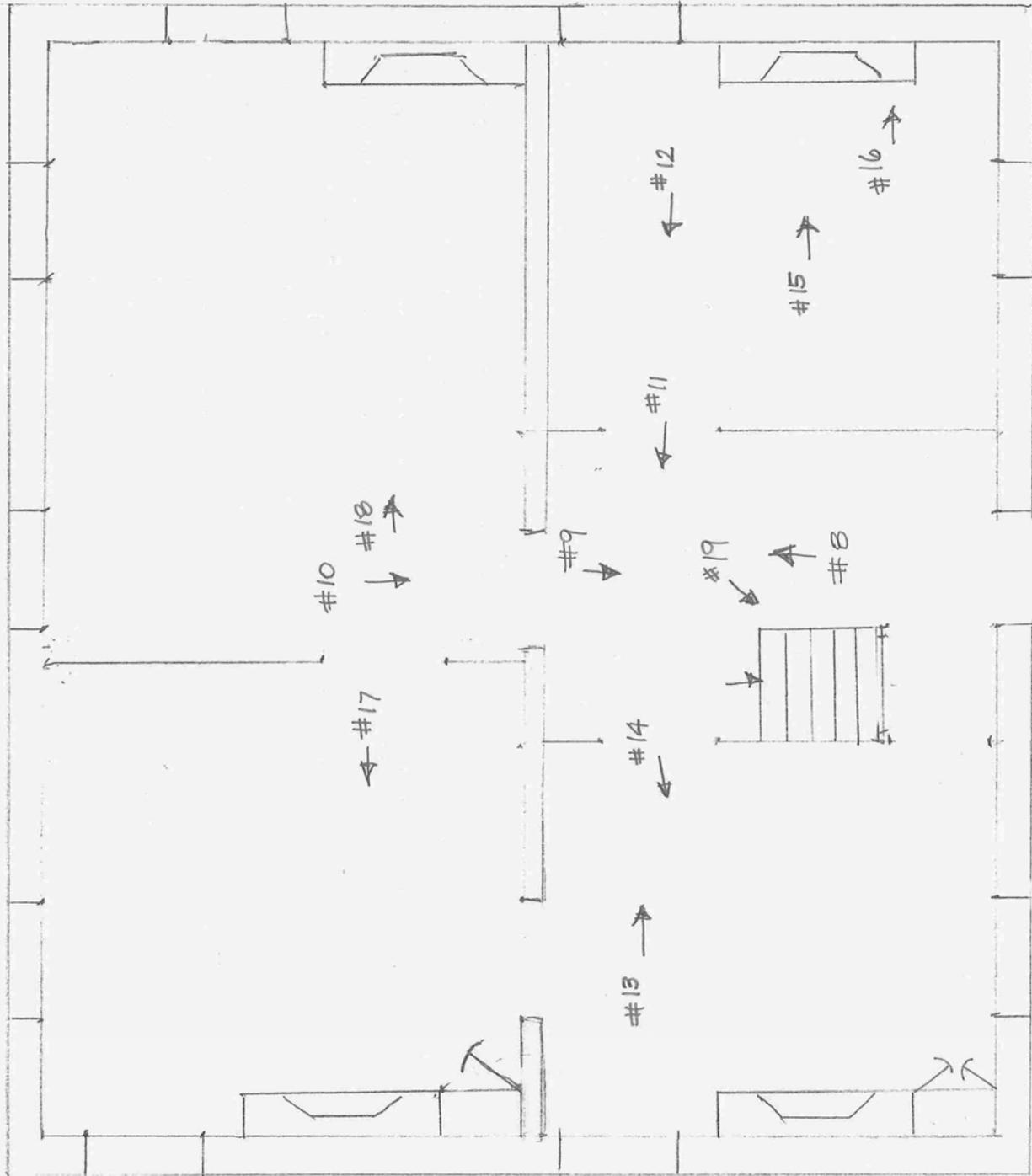
Rock Spring
2000 Ridge Road
Shepherdstown
Jefferson Co. MI

Sketch plan
First Floor

NOT TO SCALE



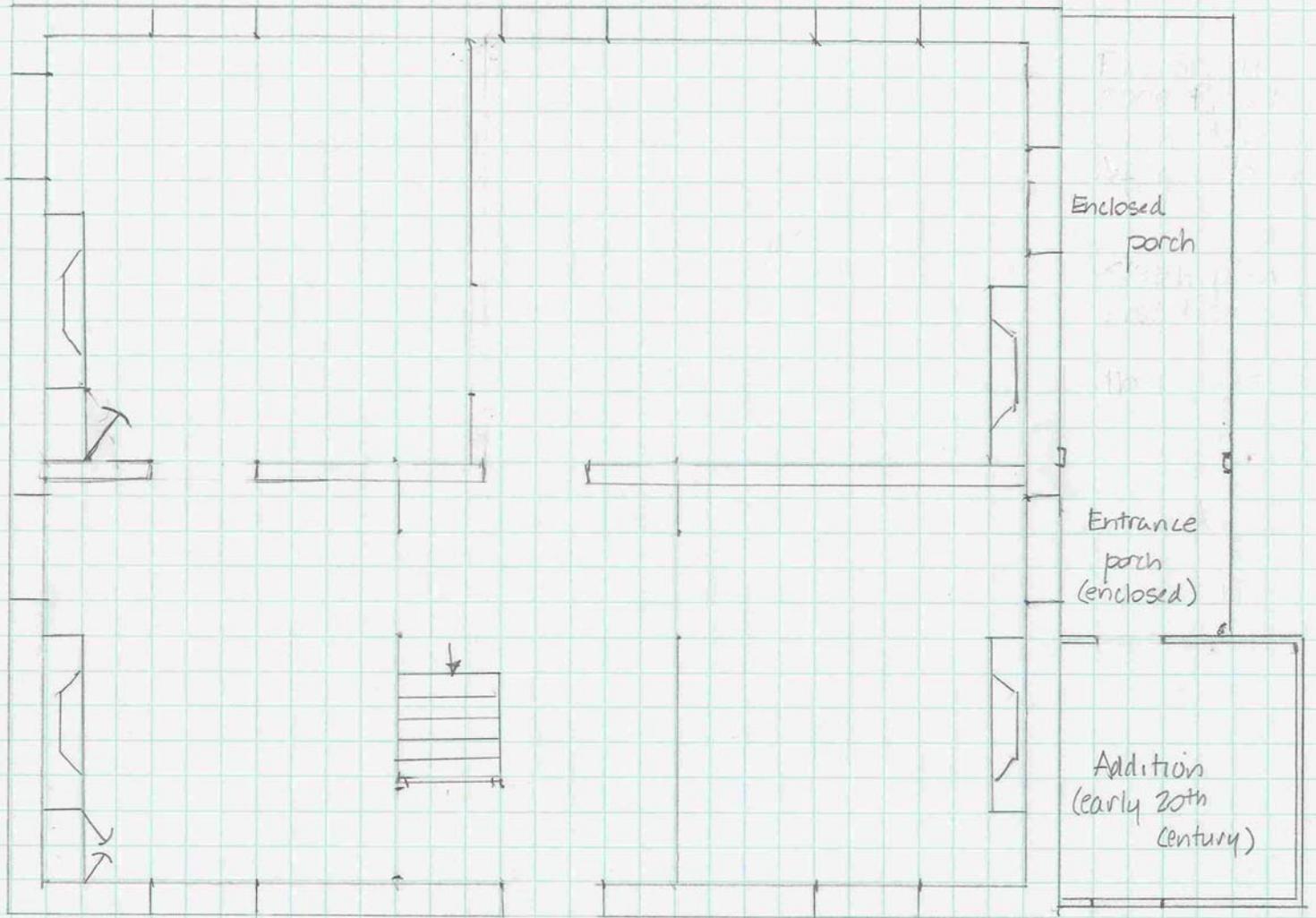
Photo view and
number



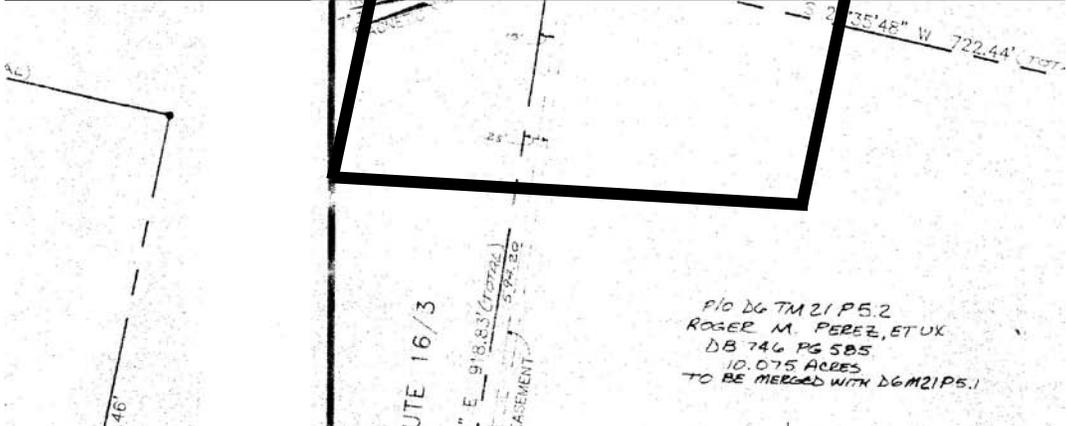
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Rock Spring, 2000 Ridge Road, Shepherdstown, Jefferson Co, WV



Sketch plan, first floor, Not to scale.



1 Plat of Nominated area of Rock Spring (in bold line)





