

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Scrabble Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Scrabble Road and Dam No. 4 Road not for publication N/A

city or town Scrabble vicinity N/A

state West Virginia code WV county Berkeley; Jefferson code 003; 037 zip code 25443

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 the 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.)

Susan Pierce
Signature of certifying official/Title

2/7/06
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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 and bureau

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 of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
25	3	buildings
1		sites
	1	structures
		objects
26	4	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
four

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

RELIGION/religious facility

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

FUNERARY/cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

RELIGION/religious facility

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

FUNERARY/cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/limestone

walls WOOD/weatherboard; BRICK; ASBESTOS

roof ASPHALT; METAL

other WOOD

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

Refer to 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
c. 1811- c. 1950

Significant Dates
N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

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 a 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

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
 - 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:

Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission

Scrabble Historic District
Name of Property

Berkeley & Jefferson Counties, WV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 62 acres

U. S. G. S. Quad map: Shepherdstown, West Virginia

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	256868	4374943	3	18	256413	4374026
2	18	255632	4374206	4	18	256640	4374292

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(See Continuation Sheet)

Boundary Justification

(See Continuation Sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Taylor, Principal

organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. date July, 2005

street & number 9 Walnut Street telephone 814-849-4900

city or town Brookville state PA zip code 15825

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple owners

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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**Scrabble Historic District
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7. Description

The Scrabble Historic District (Photos 1-11; Figs. 1, 2) is a rural, primarily-residential historic district of 62 acres containing a concentration of historic houses and immediately adjacent associated agricultural fields clustered around the intersection of two secondary roadways in the unincorporated village of Scrabble, West Virginia. Scrabble is located in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, northeast of the county seat of Martinsburg and less than one-half mile south of the Potomac River which separates eastern West Virginia from western Maryland. Fifty-five acres of the district lie in the Opequon District of Berkeley County and seven acres lie east of Rockymarsh Run (known earlier both as Jones Mill Run and Scrabble Run), in the Shepherdstown District of neighboring Jefferson County. The Scrabble Historic District contains a total of 34 properties; except for a cemetery and a modern county-owned bridge spanning Rockymarsh Run (Resource No. 11; Photo No. 7) and the Mt. Wesley Cemetery (Resource No. 2; Photo 2), all are buildings; the cemetery is a contributing site and the bridge is a non-contributing structure. Buildings include early nineteenth-century brick I-houses, an 1890s broom-maker's vernacular house, the 1920 Mt. Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, and the 1882 Scrabble School, along with associated dependencies of varying age and scale. A historic store building was razed years ago and one property, the George Washington Hollida House (Resource No. 29), was previously listed in the National Register along with its dependencies (NR 2/11/04). The Hollida House and its dependencies (three of which contribute to its character and two are non-contributing) appear in the Resource Inventory but are not included in the resource count which appears in Section 5. Of the district's twenty-eight unlisted resources, twenty-four (86%) contribute to the character of the district and 4 (14%) are non-contributing. Contributing properties are those erected within the period of significance which retain the essential form and appearance which they possessed during the period of significance; non-contributing properties date from after the period of significance and/or have undergone major alterations which have compromised their integrity. The presence of such a small number of non-contributing properties fails to diminish the otherwise high degree of integrity possessed by the district as a whole.

The Scrabble Historic District lies along portions of three asphalt-paved rural county roads, Scrabble Road (Berkeley County Highway 5) and Dam No. 4 Road (County Highway 5/1), and Silver Spring Road, which is located in Jefferson County and forms a portion of the district's eastern boundary. Scrabble Road runs in an east-west direction and is intersected by Dam No. 4 Road in the heart of the district. Dam No. 4 Road extends northward from Scrabble Road and after exiting the district terminates at the dam bearing its name along the Potomac River. Silver Spring Road extends northward and westward and intersects with Dam No. 4 Road. The topography of the district slopes down-

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ward from the Mt. Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church (Resource No. 1; Photo Nos. 1, 2) at the western terminus of the district to Rockymarsh Run which marks the Berkeley-Jefferson County line. The district contains no alleys, sidewalks, streetlights, or traffic signals. Two properties, the Elisha Snyder House and the Snyder Store and Post Office (Resource Nos. 12 and 18; Photo Nos. 4 and 6, respectively) lie east of Rockymarsh Run in Jefferson County. Scrabble was never formally platted and lot sizes vary widely. All houses have front, side, and rear lawns, and mature shade trees are found throughout. Dependencies include small sheds, barns, and garages, generally of wood construction; all but one of these contribute to the character of the district.

Four of the houses in the district are of brick, two are of wood frame and one is partly of log construction. One property (Resource No. 22) was covered with a brick veneer in the course of a major 1960s remodeling and as a result is a noncontributing feature. The former single-story Scrabble School (Resource No. 19; Photo No.8) is of brick; it has been converted to residential use but retains its overall exterior historic appearance. All of the buildings in the district rest on foundations of native limestone, generally laid in a coursed rubble pattern. All buildings are gable-roofed; some roofs retain historic standing-seam finishes while others have been clad in asphalt shingles. Except for lancet- and segmental-arched windows in the Mt. Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, all fenestration in the district is flat-topped. Some houses retain multi-light sash, while others have one-over-one or two-over-two sash. Porches and verandas appear on the facades of nearly all of the residential properties in the district and are comparatively elaborate considering the rural setting of the district, employing both sawn and turned detailing. Many of the buildings have dependencies at the rear of their lots, ranging from the previously-listed bank barn (Resource No. 34) associated with the George Washington Hollida House to small barns and undistinguished sheds. Some of the dependencies are finished in board-and-batten. The district's single structure, a bridge spanning Rockymarsh Run, is a single-span deck truss deck bridge with metal guide rails; it appears to date from the 1970s and is a noncontributing element in the context of the district. The Mt. Wesley Cemetery (Resource No. 2; Photo No. 2) dates from 1839 and is the district's single contributing site. The cemetery is adjacent to Mt. Wesley Church and contains the graves of dozens of Scrabble citizens, marked by both traditionally-crafted and production gravestones. Included in the cemetery are blocks, tablets, obelisks, and cross-vault obelisks¹ as well as some adorned with allegorical figures.

¹These descriptive names follow the typology established by cultural geographer Richard Francaviglia in "The Cemetery as an Evolving Cultural Landscape," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 61 (1971), 501-509.

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The architecture of the Scrabble Historic District includes buildings primarily vernacular² in character along with examples of modest Greek Revival-style massing and detail and Eastlake-style trim. The district's most pretentious houses include the John W. Hollida House (Photo No.3), the McQuilkin-Myers House, and the previously-listed G. W. Hollida House, (Resource Nos.5, 6, and 29, respectively) which are essentially I-houses³ but because of their scale, massing, and location, appear more substantial than most of their neighbors.

As noted in the introductory paragraph, the Scrabble Historic District retains architectural integrity. The district is a quintessential Eastern Panhandle crossroads village whose overall rural nineteenth-century character is intact and represents the development of this settlement throughout its approximately one hundred forty- year-long period of significance. The aforementioned demolition of a small store building was the most significant loss to the settlement and the construction of a 1970s Cape Cod house and the brick veneering of another property account for the most serious alterations to the community's minimally-impaired cultural landscape.

The following properties lie within the Scrabble Historic District. The numbering corresponds to the district map submitted with the nomination documents. Most dates of construction are approximate and are estimated to the nearest decade.

1. **Mt. Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church**, 4622 Scrabble Road (Photo No. 1), religious
Description: This modest Late Gothic Revival vernacular building replaced an 1839 brick church destroyed by a tornado. It is built of red brick and is generally cruciform in plan, with an intersecting gable roof clad in asphalt. Fenestration is both flat-topped and lancet-arched, with modestly-detailed religious art glass. A small vestibule addition has been made on the northeast corner and a handicapped ramp of wood is on the southwest elevation.

Date: 1918

1 contributing building

²The term, "vernacular," as applied here, follows the definition found on page 512 of Ward Bucher's *Dictionary of Building Preservation* (New York: John Wiley, 1996) and refers to "a building built without being designed by an architect or someone with similar formal training,"

³The ubiquitous I-house, two stores in height, two rooms wide, and one room deep, was first identified by cultural geographer Fred Kniffen and discussed in his article, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 55:4 (December, 1965), 549-577.

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2. **Mt. Wesley Cemetery** (Photo No. 2), south side Scrabble Road, east, west, and south of Mt. Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, funerary
Description: Graveyard associated with the adjacent church, containing a variety of monuments including tablets, blocks, obelisks, cross-vault obelisks, and some capped with three-dimensional religious allegorical figures. The cemetery was part of a tract conveyed in 1839 to the local M. E. congregation and has been used continuously since that time.
Date: 1839 and after
1 contributing site
3. **rear, 4810 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: 1-story residential dependency of wood construction, consisting of several interconnected units, finished in board-and batten and gable-roofed
Date: c. 1880 and after
1 contributing building
4. **side, 4810 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: 2-story wood dependency with board-and-batten finish and gable roof
Date: c. 1870
1 contributing building
5. **John W. Hollida House** (Photo No.3), 4810 Scrabble Road, residential
Description: 5-bay I-house of brick, built around an the 1811 John Grove stone house, which is visible as part of the western elevation of the present house. Grove was John W. Hollida's brother-in-law. By 1850 Hollida had erected a 1-story brick house around the early stone house, and the shingled upper story was added c. 1890. A spacious Eastlake-style raised veranda extends across entire facade. Hollida (d. 1869) had been the village blacksmith but he and his brother George (see Resource No. 29) had gone on to be prosperous landowners in the area. The house eventually passed to John Hollida's son, John W. Hollida, who had been in the 1st Virginia Calvary and served as a magistrate from 1874 to 1880. He likely added the shingled second story. The property remains in the hands of his descendants.
Date: 1811 and after
1 contributing building
6. **McQuilkin-Myers House**, 4858 Scrabble Road, residential

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Description: 2-story brick and wood house which began c. 1854 as a single-story brick cottage built by storekeeper Abraham McQuilkin, whose store (not extant) stood immediately east of the house. McQuilkin sold the house and store to David Myers who lived here and operated the store until his death in 1878. The house was later sold to Raleigh Williams who c. 1890 added the shingle-finished second story. The building is a 5-bay I-house with laterally-oriented gable roof and a 1-story square bay projecting diagonally from the northwest corner. Shed-roofed veranda with Eastlake-style trim. Exterior gable-end brick chimneys. A 2-story addition at the rear was under construction at the time of preparation of the nomination.

Date: c. 1849; c. 1890

1 contributing building

7. **rear 4858 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: 1-story wood dependency with laterally-oriented gable roof and interior gable-end brick chimney; appears to have been a smokehouse
Date: c. 1850
 1 contributing building
8. **rear, 4858 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: 1-story gable-end-oriented garage of wood construction, with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal roof. Original outward-swinging hinged garage doors.
Date: c. 1920
 1 contributing building
9. **rear 4858 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: 1-story wood dependency of wood with laterally-oriented standing-seam metal roof. Board door with strap hinges; no notable ornament
Date: c. 1890
 1 contributing building
10. **4891 Scrabble Road**, residential
Description: 1½-story Cape Cod-style house of wood, built outside the period of significance of the district
Date: c. 1980
 1 non-contributing building

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11. **Scrabble Road Bridge** (Photo No. 7), spanning Rockymarsh Run, transportation-related
Description: single-span deck truss brick with guide rails, built outside the period of significance of the district
Date: c. 1980
1 non-contributing structure

12. **Elisha Snyder House** (Photo No. 4), 4949 Scrabble Road, residential
Description: 2-story 3-bay vernacular central-passage brick I-house with Flemish bond facade and shed-roofed porch centered thereon. Fenestration flat-topped with 6/6 and 2/2 sash. Snyder operated the mill and store just west of the house. After his death in 1887, his widow, Williaminer Hollida Snyder remained her until her own death in 1900, leaving, among other things, the "Brick Mansion House."
Date: 1871
1 contributing building

13. **rear, 4949 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: 1-story corrugated metal-clad dependency with rearward-sloping shed roof
Date: c. 1920
1 contributing building

14. **rear, 4949 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: wood dependency with rearward-sloping shed roof, vertical board side walls
Date: c. 1900
1 contributing building

15. **rear, 4949 Scrabble Road**, agricultural dependency
Description: gable roofed timber-frame barn with laterally-oriented gable roof of standing-seam meta and vertical board sides
Date: c. 1890
1 contributing building

16. **rear, 4949 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: central-aisle shed with gable roof and gable end-orientation, in deteriorated condition

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Date: c. 1900

1 contributing building

17. **rear, 4915 Scrabble Road**, residential
modern 2-story gable-end oriented garage, built outside the period of significance of the district
Date: c. 1970
1 non-contributing building
18. **Snyder Store and Post Office** (Photo No. 6), 4915 Scrabble Road, residential
Description: 5-bay L-shaped building, part of which is of log construction, clad in non-historic siding, with some alteration to fenestration. 1-story hipped-roof porch centered on facade and another in the angle of the ell on the rear. This served as the village post office and a store operated by Elisha Snyder, who lived next door (Resource No. 16). Snyder acquired the property in 1855 and at the time of his death in 1887, it was referred to as a house and store. In 1900, after the death of Snyder's widow, the property was sold to A. Dyson Kemp, the village blacksmith. His shop (not extant) stood east of the house; there he shod horses, repaired wagons, and did general repairs to metal farm implements.
Date: 1830
1 contributing building
19. **Scrabble School**, 4893 Scrabble Road, educational, now residential
Description: single-story vernacular schoolhouse of brick, with gable roof and gable-end orientation, with partial returns of the cornice on the gable ends. 3-bay facade with centered entrance and hipped-roofed porch. Most fenestration is flat-topped, but a round window is centered in the pediment of the gable on the facade. Interior converted for residential use and shed-roofed addition (or enclosed porch) on rear elevation. In ground swimming pool. Served as village school until 1937.
Date: 1882
1 contributing building
20. **rear, 4849 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: 1-story concrete block dependency with gable roof
Date: c. 1950
1 contributing building

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21. **rear, 4849 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: one-story, single-stall privy of wood finished in board-and-batten, with rearward-sloping shed roof
Date: c. 1940
1 contributing building
22. **4949 Scrabble Road**, residential
Description: 2-story vernacular house with began as a wood frame house but which in the 1970s underwent major remodeling, including the construction of a garage on the rear and the entire cladding of the house in non-historic brick, with a resultant loss of integrity
Date: c. 1900; 1970s
1 non-contributing building
23. **rear, 4949 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: 1-story wood dependency of indeterminate use, with gable roof and gable-end orientation, finished in vertical wood boards
Date: c. 1900
1 contributing building
24. **Kinsell House & Broom Shop** (Photo No. 10), 4835 Scrabble Road, residential
Description: 2-story L-shaped gabled ell residence of wood, clad in asbestos shingles, with a two-story bay window on the forward-projecting gable end and an Eastlake -style porch in the angle of the ell; the porch incorporates sawn brackets and a turned spindle balustrade; and the yard is enclosed by wire fence.
Date: c. 1890
1 contributing building
25. **rear, 4835 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: 1-story gable-end-oriented dependency of wood with board-and-batten finish
Date: c. 1890
1 contributing building
26. **side, 4835 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: 1-story gable-end-oriented dependency of wood with board-and-batten finish and standing-seam metal roof

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Date: c. 1890

1 contributing building

27. **side, 4835 Scrabble Road** (Photo No. 11), residential dependency
Description: 1-story gable-end-oriented dependency of wood with board-and-batten finish and standing-seam metal roof; fenestration incorporates 6/6 sash; interior gable end brick chimney on west gable end; shed-roofed addition with vertical board finish on west gable end
Date: c. 1890
1 contributing building
28. **side, 4835 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: 1-story dependency of wood with shed roof and weatherboard finish
Date: c. 1890
1 contributing building
29. **George Washington Hollida House**, 4781 Scrabble Road, residential
Description: 2-story Greek Revival I-house of brick with 5-bay facade, front veranda, and rearward-extending ell; flat-topped fenestration, 6/6 and interior gable-end brick chimneys. The house was erected about 1842 for G. W. Hollida (1800-1861). In 1830, with his brother John (see Resource No. 5), George Washington Hollida had acquired several tracts of land lying in portions of Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, in the Scrabble area. Hollida was a farmer who was thrice married and lived in this house until his death two months after the start of the Civil War. Although the subject of several internecine court cases, in the years following his death and the remarriage of his widow, Susan, the house remained in the Hollida family. In 1919, John Henry Hollida and his wife, Irene, sold the house and 103 acres to George F. Turner. Over the years, the farm has been subdivided; the nominated area contains five acres including the house and the aforementioned immediate dependencies.
Date: c. 1842
1 previously-listed building
30. **rear, 4781 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: gable-roofed drive-through shed of wood construction
Date: c. 1900
1 previously-listed building

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31. **rear, 4781 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: brick smokehouse clad in stucco
Date: c. 1900
1 previously-listed building
32. **rear, 4781 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: rectangular concrete block well house, built outside the period of significance
Date: 1960s
1 non-contributing building
33. **rear, 4781 Scrabble Road**, residential dependency
Description: modern dependency built on the foundation of a previous dependency
Date: 2002
1 non-contributing building
34. **rear, 4781 Scrabble Road**, agricultural dependency
Description: timber frame bank barn with gable roof and vertical board cladding
Date: 1945
1 previously-listed building

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8. Significance

The Scrabble Historic District meets National Register Criterion C for *architecture*. Evaluating the fabric of the nominated area under this Criterion, the district--small though it is--clearly represents vernacular architecture in rural eastern West Virginia characteristic of the period of significance, which extends from c. 1811 to c. 1950. The period of significance begins with the date of construction of the earliest portion of the John Hollida House (Resource No. 5) at 4810 Scrabble Road, and ends with the approximate date of construction of the latest of the district's historic resources (a concrete block dependency [Resource No. 20] associated with the house at 4849 Scrabble Road).

Scrabble is the site of the first documented mill in West Virginia which dates from 1734 when Josiah Jones, Richard Poulson, and Joseph Mounts received a King's patent from Virginia Lt. Gov. Gooch. Their patent covered 634 acres, including an area along a stream where Jones had previously erected a mill. This stream, known originally as Jones Mill Run, now carries the name Rockymarsh Run and marks the boundary between present-day Berkeley County and Jefferson County. The run flows through the eastern reaches of the Scrabble Historic District. The settlement was first known as Hard Scrabble; an 1812 reference in the Martinsburg *Gazette* referred to the village as Clarksville (presumably after settler Joseph Clark); that same reference indicated that Clarksville had previously been known as Hard Scrabble.⁴ That fact notwithstanding, the name, Clarksville, apparently never came into continuing use and the S. Howell Brown map of Jefferson County published in 1852 identifies the settlement as Hard Scrabble; the "Hard" was eventually dropped, and the community has been known for generations as Scrabble.

Among the earliest settlers was Thomas Swearingen, III, who laid out a rudimentary village, but references to the sale of only three lots have been found. Mary Hollida acquired a half-acre tract from Swearingen in 1803 and built a log house (not extant). Her two sons, John Wesley and George Washington Hollida, would become leading landowners of the hamlet, both building substantial homes in Scrabble to anchor their farming operations. John W. Hollida's house (Resource No. 5) began as a small stone dwelling which was eventually enveloped by his brick farmhouse. The home of George W. Hollida (Resource No. 29; NR 2002) dates from c. 1842.

⁴Martinsburg *Gazette*, September 25, 1812.

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Scrabble never developed beyond a rural hamlet containing a hand-full of buildings. The earliest houses were likely of log construction; only a portion of the Snyder Store and Post Office (Resource No. 18) remains of era of log construction. In 1831 John W. Hollida sold a quarter-acre tract to Resin Gwilliams, William Werner, John Williams, William Green, Edmund Randall, acting as trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Congregation at Hard Scrabble. It is not known whether a church was built on this tract, but in 1839 brothers George and John Hollida sold another tract to the congregation. The deed specified, "that they shall erect and build or cause to be erected and built thereon, a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America."⁵ The 1839 church was destroyed by a tornado in August, 1918; a new church, dedicated in 1920 (Resource No. 1), and the original graveyard (Resource No. 2) lie at the western edge of the district.

In 1849 Alexander McQuilkin built a 1-story store (not extant; demolished c. 1940) and by 1854 had erected a 1-story brick house (Resource No. 6) adjacent to the store. Elisha Snyder acquired the old Forman Mill (not extant) on the banks of Rockymarsh Run and from it continued the milling operation begun earlier on the same site. Snyder also operated store (Resource No. 18) with a blacksmith shop (not extant) adjacent to the store, and in 1871 built a 3-bay brick I-house (Resource No. 12) east of the store and blacksmith shop, where he lived until his death in 1887.

The education of youngsters from the area was formalized in 1882 when Thomas H. Byers, G. W. Hollida, and P. H. Welshans, acting as trustees of the Board of Education of the Opequon District, acquired a one-eighth-acre tract from John W. Hollida on the west side of Rockymarsh Run. The conveyance noted that if the tract ceased to be used for educational purposes "because of a deficient number of scholars," that upon John Hollida's payment of \$50.00 to the school district, the property would revert to the original ownership. A 1-story brick schoolhouse (Resource No. 19) was erected to serve the educational needs of the village. It remained in use until 1937 when the Board of Education abandoned the building and it was sold to Roland and Lena Myers; it has been converted to residential use.

Viewing the Scrabble Historic District in the context of other similar resources in Berkeley County, this is among the smallest districts in the county. Only the Spring Mill Historic District, west

⁵Berkeley County Deed Book No. 44, Page 55.

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of Scrabble, is smaller, with only seven resources. The several Martinsburg historic districts--including the Downtown Martinsburg Historic District--are considerably larger than is the Scrabble district and exhibit a significantly larger concentration of formally-designed architecture, commercial, industrial, and domestic alike. The Harlan Spring Historic District, also west of Scrabble, is a rural district focused upon a historic family farmstead. The Hedgesville Historic District, located several miles west of Scrabble, dates from the 1830s and is a compact village containing a number of log homes, a lodge hall, some commercial architecture, and two churches. The Scrabble Historic District, conversely, is a tiny unincorporated rural crossroads hamlet dating primarily from the early decades of the nineteenth century and including only a few homes, their dependencies, a church and its associated cemetery, and a former school.

Summarizing, the Scrabble Historic District is a locally-significant eastern West Virginia rural crossroads historic district containing vernacular domestic and institutional architecture, one funerary site, and one non-contributing bridge. The district retains integrity and contains locally-distinctive examples of the vernacular building types were popular during its c.1811-c. 1950 period of significance.

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Scrabble Historic District
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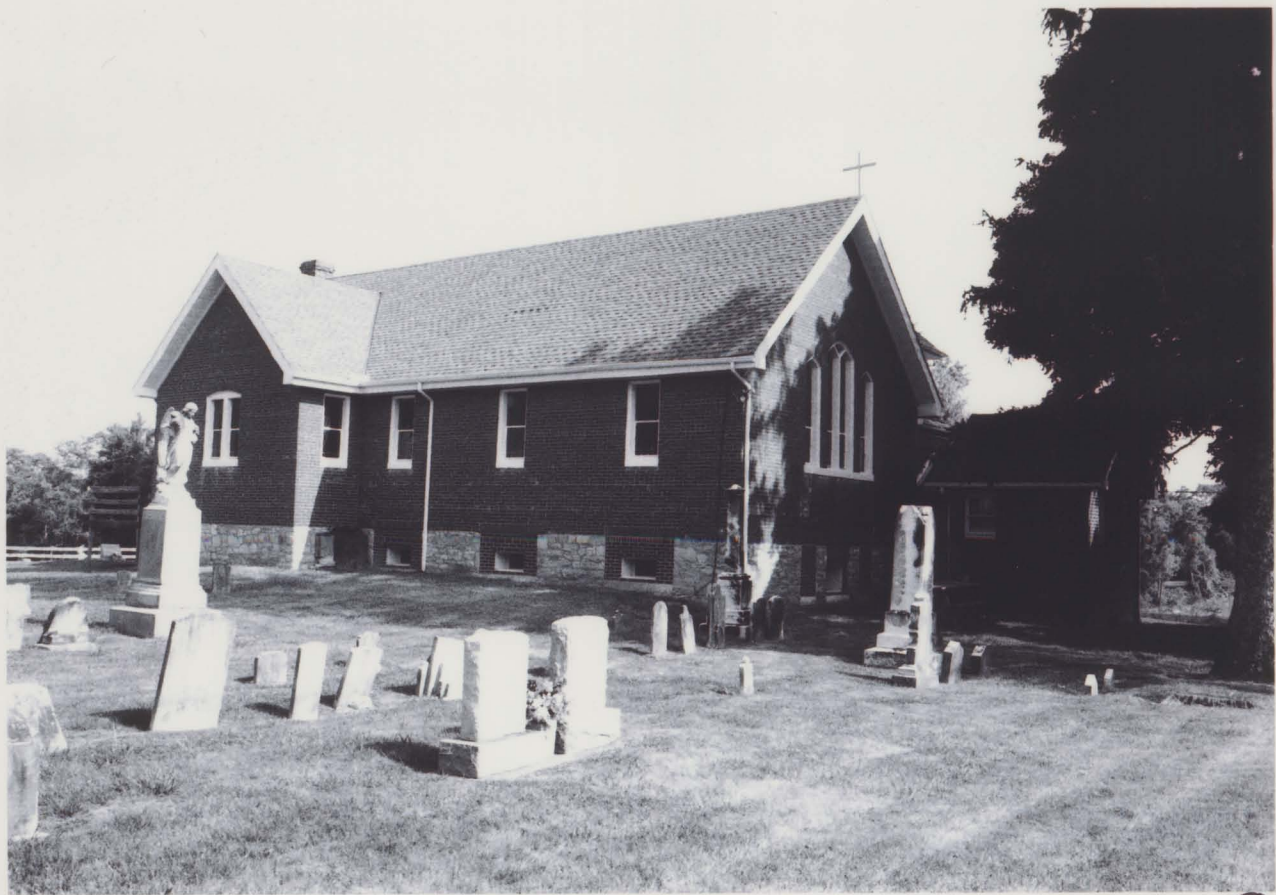
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SCRABBLE H. D., Berkeley Co., WV

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SCRABBLE H. D., Berkeley Co., WV



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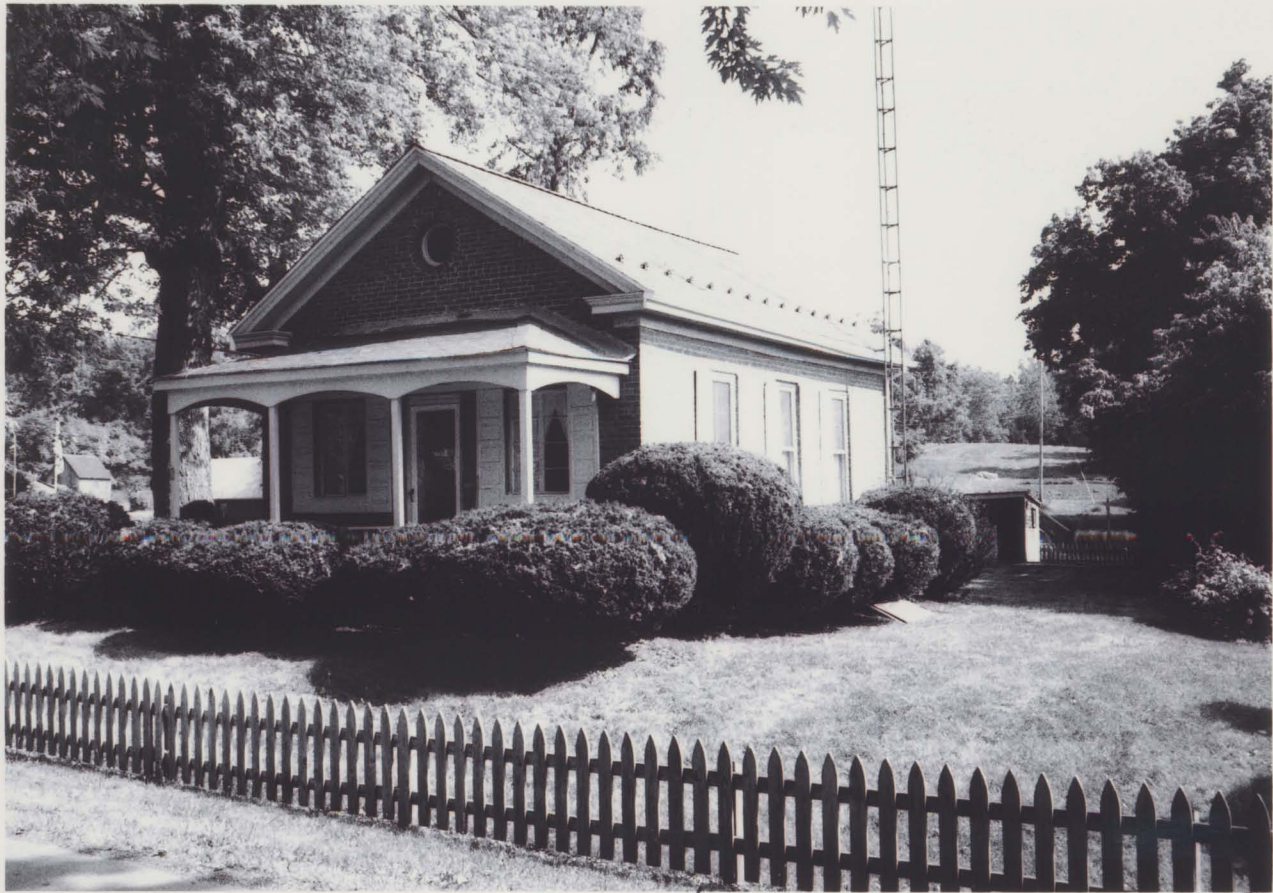
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SCRABBLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Berkeley County, West Virginia
2005

DISTRICT MAP

Numbers refer to the Resource Inventory prepared in conjunction with the National Register documents

- · — · — DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES
- NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES
- △ PREVIOUSLY-LISTED RESOURCES

