

USE TO COPY

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

1. Name of Property

historic name: SMITHLAND FARM  
other name/site number: McCausland, General John, Memorial Farm

2. Location

street & number: US 35 between Lower Nine Mile Rd. & Lower Five Mile Rd.  
not for publication: N/A  
city/town: Henderson vicinity: X  
state: West Virginia code: WV county: Mason code: 053 zip code: 25802

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Susan M Pierce 8/19/03  
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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I, hereby certify that this property is:                      Signature of Keeper                      Date of Action

_____ 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): _____	_____	_____
_____		
_____		

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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	
<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	TOTAL

**Name of related multiple property listing N/A**

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0**

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Agriculture/Agricultural Outbuilding

Agriculture/Animal Facility

Agriculture/Storage

Agriculture/Agricultural Field

Education/School

Funerary/Cemetery

Current Functions

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Agriculture/Agricultural Outbuilding

Agriculture/Animal Facility

Agriculture/Storage

Agriculture/Agricultural Field

Vacant/Not In Use

Funerary/Cemetery

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification:**

**MID-19TH CENTURY:**

Greek Revival

**LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:**

Colonial Revival

**OTHER:**

Pole Barn

Corn Crib

Front-gabled Schoolhouse

**Materials**

Foundation: Sandstone

Roof: Asphalt

Walls: Weatherboard

Other: Brick, concrete

**Narrative Description**

(See continuation on sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

X  **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X  **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

\_\_\_\_\_ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_ **B** removed from its original location.

\_\_\_\_\_ **C** a birthplace or grave.

\_\_\_\_\_ **D** a cemetery.

\_\_\_\_\_ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

\_\_\_\_\_ **F** a commemorative property.

\_\_\_\_\_ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

**Agriculture**

**Architecture**

**Education**

**Period of Significance**

**1869-1953**

**Significant Dates**

**1869**

**1892**

**1927**

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**N/A**

**Cultural Affiliation**

**N/A**

**Architect/Builder**

**Unknown**

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(See continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

\_\_\_\_\_ 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:**

  X   State Historic Preservation Office  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other State agency  
\_\_\_\_\_ Federal agency  
\_\_\_\_\_ Local government  
\_\_\_\_\_ University  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name of Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: Approximately 800

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Quad Map Name: Beech Hill

1 17 409440 4294625  
Zone Easting Northing  
3 17 408860 4291650  
Zone Easting Northing

2 17 410280 4293820  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 17 407540 4292580  
Zone Easting Northing

  X   see continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(See continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(See continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

=====

Name/Title: Michael J. Pulice, Architectural Historian

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: February 25, 2003

Street & Number: 60 Hickory Drive Telephone: 540-857-7586

City or Town: Christiansburg State: VA ZIP: 24073

=====

**Property Owner**

=====

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

**Tract One:**

Name: West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East Telephone: 304-558-3200

City or Town: Charleston State: WV Zip: 25305-0170

**Tract Two:**

Name: Mr. Bright McCausland

Street & Number: General Delivery

City or Town: Henderson State: WV Zip: 25106

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**Summary Description:**

The McCausland Memorial Farm is so-named because it was for many years part of a larger farm owned by Confederate General John McCausland. Formerly known as Smithland Farm, it is today partly a working farm operated by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, and also part of a working farm owned by Bright McCausland, a descendant of the General. The farm is located in Mason County, on the south bank of the Kanawha River, approximately nine miles upstream from the Kanawha's terminus at the town of Point Pleasant, on the Ohio River. The original farm house, a stately two-story frame structure constructed in 1869, is situated on the south (or west) side of US Highway 35 near a community known as Couch, and is surrounded by agricultural buildings and rolling pasture land. On the north (east) side of Highway 35, across from the house, is the broad, fertile, low-lying Kanawha flood plain that has produced abundant crops of hay, wheat, corn and other grains since General McCausland tilled the land rendering it suitable for cultivation, in the late 19th century. The nominated parcel includes the house and farm buildings, acres of rolling pastureland, and many acres of floodplain on the south (west) bank of the Kanawha River.

**Narrative Description:**

The nucleus of the farm is the spacious farmhouse, built for the Redmond family in 1869. It consists of a side-gabled, two-story, weatherboarded frame structure with a two-story frame wing. The entire house is supported by a roughly-cut sandstone foundation. A deep, almost-full-length porch constructed of brick shelters the first story of the house's five-bay façade, which faces north-northwest. Average size apertures with 1920s six-over-six double-hung sash windows (the original sash were two-over-two) flank the front entrance in symmetrical fashion- two to each side, with five similar second-story windows aligned with the wall openings below. The east side elevation has two identical, symmetrically arranged windows on each the first and second floors. The west side elevation seems to have had windows in the same locations, but the first-floor room to the rear now has two windows, side by side. Two interior chimneys and three front-facing roof dormers pierce the asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. Eaves extend two feet outward on all sides. The three narrow, symmetrically-aligned dormers feature wide, heavy-looking rake fascias that return on themselves to form pediments, and miniature six-over-six-pane sash that match the windows below. The rear kitchen wing is centered on the rear elevation and has one-story concrete porches on each long side and a gable roof. The windows in the wing, including the two in the rear wall, retain their original two-over-two sash.

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The spacious interior of the house is divided by a functional, double-pile, center passage-plan. Exceptionally wide halls on both levels provide access to rooms on each side and to the rear wing. A single flight of closed-stringer stairs leads up to the second floor. The original interior doors with four raised panels and original hardware survive. Each door has an operable transom window, hinged at the top. Original wide, tongue-and-groove pine floorboards have been retained throughout the house as well. Warming hearths in each room are fitted with presumably original cast-iron covers, and are surrounded by classically inspired yet folky, modestly-carved mantles. Each room has plaster walls and plain unmolded baseboards and window and door trim. A unique door between the hall and rear wing, on the second floor, has a large window in the top section and two horizontal raised panels in the lower section. Just below the window is a carved floral relief that is among the most decorative elements in the house. The kitchen in the rear wing has a built-in pantry with attractive, well-made wooden doors, each with four narrow, vertical, raised panels, and four drawers below. The attic, though lighted by added gable windows and dormers, can be accessed only through a small hatch in the main hall.

**Modifications- 1920s and Later:**

The house was first remodeled in 1927 by John McCausland, Jr., with money he inherited upon his father's death, and additional modifications were made by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture after they acquired the farm in 1981. An early photograph of the house, perhaps taken around the turn of the twentieth century, shows that the front façade was originally only three bays, but the windows were later moved to accommodate two new windows on each level, creating a five-bay facade. All of the windows originally had two-over-two sash that were later replaced on the front and sides with six-over-six-pane configurations. All of the windows once had typical louvered shutters that are no longer extant. The roof of the house was rebuilt with a steeper pitch than the original roof had, corner rake returns at each gable end where none had been originally, and the three dormers were added, as well as small windows near the top of each side gable. Originally, wooden modillions were present beneath the eaves of the house and dormers. The modillions were removed two years ago by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture when aluminum soffits were installed. Both brick chimneys appear to have been rebuilt. The original thin weatherboards were replaced with more-modern-looking wide boards, and all three porches were replaced. The original front porch was set on intermittent stone piers, had wood posts supporting a pitched shed roof, and was accessed by wood stairs on the east end. The new front porch is set on a continuous brick foundation that was extended high enough to form a wall around the porch where a railing might have been. Square brick columns, now supporting the roof, are built into the wall below. The brick masonry has been covered with bright red paint in recent years, with the concrete coping painted white. The porch roof is now flat with a pediment over the central porch bay, which is accessed by concrete stairs that replaced the wood stairs originally



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located at the east end of the porch. The house's sandstone foundation has recently been painted bright yellow. The east elevation of the rear wing once had a two-story wooden porch that has been replaced with a brick and concrete, one-story porch. The interior of the house appears to have stayed essentially the same over the years; however, a detailed investigation of the interior could reveal past alterations that are not obvious today.

**Architectural Analysis:**

The farmhouse is a simple, vernacular form consisting of a central passage, four-over-four "Georgian" plan with a rear two-story kitchen wing. The front entrance, flanked by columns of paired sidelights and Doric pilasters supporting a simplified entablature, is essentially Greek Revival in style, yet because of the pedimented porch and dormers added in the 1920s, the house is now best described as Colonial Revival in style. Overall the house is generally lacking of stylish architectural elements. On the interior, windows and doors are surrounded by un-molded trim, and the mantles are very modest. Instead of portraying the trappings of sophistication and wealth, the house stands as an increasingly rare well-preserved post-bellum example of a successful, yet unpretentious farmer's residence. Most of the barns and other agricultural buildings on the property, although still in use, are remnants of the past that are crucial parts of the story, and are therefore vital to the historic integrity of the farm.

**Architectural Inventory (see corresponding site plan):**

- 1) Corncrib. Round metal frame with wire mesh. Early 1950s. Contributing Structure.
- 2) Silo, north side of Highway 35. ca. 1930s. Concrete staves made in Marietta, Ohio. Contributing Structure.
- 3) Pole barn, north side of Highway 35. Roughly square in plan, 3 bays wide. Late 1930s. Contributing Building.
- 4) Pole barn, north side of Highway 35. Linear plan, one bay wide. Late 1930s. Contributing Building.
- 5) Barn, west of house, one-story with loft, board and batten sheathing, metal-covered gable roof. Early 1900s. Contributing Building.
- 6) Main House, frame, two-stories, with rear wing. Main block measures 40 by 43 feet, rear wing 30 x 15. Constructed in 1869. Contributing Building.

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7) Scale house, frame. Early 1970s. Noncontributing Building.

8) Corncrib. frame. Early 1970s. Noncontributing Building .

9) Machine Shed. corrugated sheet metal. Linear plan with multiple bays. 1970s. Noncontributing Building.

10) Machine Shed. corrugated sheet metal. Linear plan with multiple bays. 1970s. Noncontributing Building.

11) Main Barn, east of house. Formerly dairy barn, now houses beef cattle. Large, light frame structure. Original section constructed in early 1900s, addition in 1960s. Contributing Building.

12) Silo, east of house, adjacent to main barn. 1970s. Concrete stave construction- replaced early wood silo. Non-contributing Structure.

13) Poffenbarger Cemetery, located on map SW of house, no visible markers. Late 1900s. Contributing Site.

14) Block School, front gabled, one-story, one room, approximately 25 feet by 30 feet; single entrance on south elevation. Buff-colored, coarse aggregate, rock-faced concrete block construction; plastered interior walls, concrete floor. ca. 1915-1920. Contributing Building.

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**Statement of Significance:**

McCausland Memorial Farm is eligible under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture for its representation of a highly successful farming operation dating from the post-Civil War period through 1953, and for its successful reliance on agricultural tiling, an advanced technology for the post-bellum period. The significance of the property is further heightened by its association with Confederate General John McCausland, an engineer and innovative farmer who acquired and cultivated the land for a time and then bequeathed it to his descendants. The property is also eligible under Criterion A in the area of Education for the Block School's representation of a typically unassuming facility in which students in small, rural communities acquired a basic education during the early to mid-twentieth century. The farm is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its well-preserved vernacular farmhouse and intact collection of associated late-nineteenth and twentieth-century farm structures, as well as the schoolhouse. The farm is an integral part its bucolic setting, which includes numerous designated and undesignated historic resources on neighboring parcels. Collectively the surviving historic farms along Highway 35 southeast of Point Pleasant remain vividly illustrative of the agrarian landscape that existed along the Ohio River and its major tributaries in the latter half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**Historical Background:**

The land encompassing the McCausland Memorial Farm was reportedly first owned by George Washington, who received it from King George III as compensation for surveying the area with the Virginia Militia after the French and Indian War. Washington's tract is said to have been 10,000 acres. The southwestern boundary of Washington's tract is known as the "Military Line," and is denoted on maps, including present-day USGS quad maps, as an intermittent dashed line running generally southeast to northwest. This line, which transverses the nominated parcel, approximately follows the geographical transition between the rolling hills suited to pasturing livestock and the steep wooded hills to the rear of the parcel historically used for timbering.

The Redmond family, about which little is known, owned the 864 acres encompassing the nominated house and farm complex at the time the existing house was constructed, in the late 1860s. The Redmonds experienced misfortune and lost the farm; thus James W. Smith, who had a second mortgage on the property, acquired it on April 4, 1892, for \$11,025. Smith, a first cousin of General John McCausland, operated a small brick and tile factory at the nearby town of Henderson; and it was he who had provided the General with the agricultural tiles used to drain his bottomlands, a few miles up the Kanawha River toward Charleston. Smith died and left the farm he called Smithland to the General in his last will and testament, dated September 15, 1892 [Will Book 2, pp. 361-63].

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The flat bottomland along the river was "tiled" by the General soon after he acquired it in 1892 to improve drainage so it could be tilled and planted. The farm was one of three tiled and made profitable by the general in the 1890s- the others being the General's own farm "Grape Hill," and the Sebrell Farm, called "Maplewood," which he acquired in 1890. These farms are reportedly the first in West Virginia to have been tiled. The cylindrical tiles, made at a factory operated by James Smith in the nearby community of Henderson, were about 18 inches long and ranged from two inches to twenty-four inches in diameter. They were laid in graduated diameters, butted end-to-end somewhat loosely in the dense clay substrate, with just enough grade to induce positive flow of water towards a ditch or reservoir- about one inch for every fifty feet of tile. It is not clear if the General developed this technology, but he must have used the engineering skills he acquired at the Virginia Military Institute to lay the tiles in such a manner. At any rate, he was able to use the system very effectively. Once the land was tiled and drained it produced abundant hay, barley, wheat, corn and other crops. The tile factory at Henderson is long gone, but the tiles set in place by the General are still functional to this day. Tiling became a fairly common practice in the Midwest during the early twentieth century, but it was later prohibited for conservation reasons by the Federal Wetlands Protection Act.

The General and his son, John Jr., acquired numerous neighboring parcels that would be incorporated into the former Smithland Farm over the next several decades, and built many of the farm buildings and structures that survive today. The rolling land and steep hillsides to the south of the valley road (now Highway 35) were used for pasturing herds of livestock, for hunting, and for providing timber. Besides the many crops grown on the farm, John McCausland, Jr. ran one of the largest dairy operations in Mason County on the premises, with Holstein cattle the primary breed of livestock. Two families of tenant farmers, the Poffenbargers and later the Bechtles, worked the land all their lives, under the previous owners and the McCauslands, respectively. The Poffenbarger cemetery is difficult to find because of buried or missing markers but was located by Kyle McCausland and is identified on the quad and sketch maps included with this nomination.

Named for its buff-colored, coarse aggregate, rock-faced concrete block construction, the Block School is a one-room schoolhouse that served community children including members of the McCausland family, grades one through eight, from the time of its construction (ca. 1915-1920) through the mid-twentieth century. It was also used as a voting precinct throughout its lifetime until 1960s. The schoolhouse is rather typical of many built throughout the area around the same time, but is one of a decreasing number left standing.

In the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries the Kanawha River was the main avenue for transportation in the region. At the riverbank of the farm was a kerosene light hung on a pole, to help guide traffic along the river. Use of the valley road gradually increased after it was paved and further improved over time.

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The ownership of the farm passed to brothers Alexander McCausland and Bright McCausland in 1960. Alexander had grown up on the farm, but left in 1931 to attend the University of Virginia College of Medicine. He graduated in 1937, and after serving in the Navy Medical Corps became a noted physician, taking up practice in Roanoke, Virginia. Dr. McCausland donated his share of the nominated parcel, including the farmhouse and environs, as a historic, commemorative property and viable farm to the West Virginia Department of Agriculture in 1981. They have retained ownership since. Bright McCausland retains his share of the nominated parcel to this day.

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**Bibliography:**

Mason County Will Book 2, pp. 361-63.

Mason County Tax Maps, Arbuckle District, sheets 344 and 364. Mason County Assessor's Office, current February, 2003.

Personal Interview with Dr. Alexander McCausland, in Roanoke, Virginia, December 2002.

Personal Interview with Smith McCausland, February 23, 2003.

Personal Interviews with Dr. Kyle McCausland, December 2002 - February 2003.

McCausland, Alexander. I Rode with the Man Who Rode With Stonewall. Privately printed. n. d.

McCausland, George and Katherine Jourdan. "National Register of Historic Places nomination for Maplewood, aka. Sebrell-McCausland House, Mason County, West Virginia." West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Charleston, WV. 2000.

Pauley, Michael J. "National Register of Historic Places nomination for Grape Hill, aka. The General John McCausland House, Mason County, West Virginia." West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Charleston, WV. 1980.

Unreconstructed Rebel: the Life of General John McCausland, C.S.A. Charleston, W.V.: Pictorial Histories, 1993.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at the northwest corner of tax parcel 14, at the bank of the Kanawha River, proceed southeast along riverbank to the Goshorn Big Ditch, thence south-southwest along said ditch, across US Highway 35 to a point .88 miles from said highway, at the west edge of Lower Ninemile Road and the southern terminus of small bridge over Lower Ninemile Creek; thence west-northwest to a point .9 miles southwest of US Highway 35, at the east edge of Jim Hill Road, immediately south of a small bridge over Lower Fivemile Creek, the bridge being immediately south of a 3-way intersection on Jim Hill Road; thence north-northeast along the east edge of Jim Hill road to its intersection with the west edge of tax parcel 4; thence south-southwest along tax parcel 4 property line, turning southeast at southwest corner of parcel 4 and proceeding along property line to the southeast corner of tax parcel 5, then turning north-northeast along parcel 5 property line to US Highway 35, proceeding across said highway to beginning point at the Kanawha River.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated parcel includes the original Smithland Farm parcel and those parts of the farm acquired by General McCausland and John McCausland Jr. that are now under the ownership of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture or privately held by Bright McCausland. The rear (southern) boundary of the nominated parcel was drawn to respect the original boundaries of the farm as owned by General McCausland and his son, John Jr.

**Additional UTM references, continued:**

<b>5</b>	<b><u>17</u></b>	<b><u>407705</u></b>	<b><u>429010</u></b>	<b>6</b>	<b><u>17</u></b>	<b><u>408280</u></b>	<b><u>4292480</u></b>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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Date: January 2003

Photographer: Michael J. Pulice

Location of negatives: West Virginia Division of Culture and History

1. VIEW OF: farmhouse  
North (front) façade  
Photo 1 of 14
2. VIEW OF: farmhouse  
North (front) façade, alternate angle  
Photo 2 of 14
3. VIEW OF: farmhouse,  
oblique view of south (rear)  
and west elevations  
Photo 3 of 14
4. VIEW OF: farmhouse and context,  
Facing northeast  
Photo 4 of 14
5. VIEW OF: farmhouse,  
central hall, first floor  
Photo 5 of 14
6. VIEW OF: farmhouse,  
central hall, second floor  
Photo 6 of 7
7. VIEW OF: farmhouse hearth/  
mantle, second floor, SE bedroom  
Photo 7 of 14



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8.      VIEW OF: farmhouse,  
kitchen cabinets and flanking doors  
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9.      VIEW OF: left to right: corncrib, main barn, machine shed to east of farm house  
Facing east  
Photo 9 of 14

10.     VIEW OF: corncrib, silo, pole barns  
Facing north  
Photo 10 of 14

11.     VIEW OF: south parcel boundary  
Facing southwest  
Photo 11 of 14

12.     VIEW OF: board-and-batten barn  
Facing west  
Photo 12 of 14

13.     VIEW OF: old block school  
Facing north  
Photo 13 of 14

14.     VIEW OF: farmhouse, farm buildings  
and context, facing northwest  
Photo 14 of 14





