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NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property: Smoketown School

historic name: Smoketown School

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: County Route 45/4 not for publication: N/A

city/town: Martinsburg vicinity: X

State: WV code: WV county: Berkeley code: 003 zip code: 25401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William C. ...
Signature of Certifying Official

10/17/94
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

=====
Signature of the Keeper

Date

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

Ownership of Property:

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITH PROPERTY:

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

buildings
sites
structures
objects
TOTAL

1

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

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

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6. Function or Use

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HISTORIC FUNCTIONS	CURRENT FUNCTIONS
Education/school	Museum Work in progress

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7. Description

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ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:
Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival

MATERIALS:

Foundation: Stone

Walls: Painted brick

Roof: Metal

Other: N/A

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

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

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

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:

Property is:

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

N/A B removed from its original location.

N/A C a birthplace or grave.

N/A D a cemetery.

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

N/A F a commemorative property.

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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Education

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1869 - 1940

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1869; 1940.

SIGNIFICANT PERSONS: 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.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
N/A previously listed in the National Register
N/A previously determined eligible by the National Register
N/A designated a National Historic Landmark
N/A recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
N/A recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

Name of Repository:

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

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately .5 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
 18. 250004. 4371520.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

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

Organization: N/A

Date: June 1, 1994

Street & Number: 612 Main Street
 126 E. Race St.

Telephone: (304) 765-5716
 (304) 267-4713

City or Town: Sutton
 Martinsburg

State: WV
 WV

ZIP: 26601
 25401

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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHS

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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PROPERTY OWNER

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

Name: Greensburg United Methodist Church

Street & Number: Route 3, Box 86 Telephone: (304) 263-1883

City or Town: Martinsburg State: WV ZIP: 25401

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Smoketown School
Berkeley County, WV

The Smoketown School is located in Berkeley County, West Virginia. It is located approximately three miles to the west of Martinsburg. It is situated on State Route 45 at the intersection of County Route 45/4. The nomination contains one resource, the Smoketown School, a contributing resource. The nominated property lies in the north-west corner of the intersection of the two roads. On the east, the county road forms a natural boundary. On the west the ground slopes away sharply and forms a natural boundary. On the south the ground is the same and slopes sharply to State Route 45. This forms the boundary for this side. On the north there is a fence between the school and cemetery property and recent residential development. The school is located in the eastern side of the property and the entire site gently slopes to the west, to the rear portion of the cemetery. The entire nominated area is approximately 1/2 acre large.

The Smoketown School is a one-story, end gable, brick, one room schoolhouse. It is a simple architectural structure, most closely associated with the Greek Revival Style of architecture. The brick is painted, and appears to have always been so. The brick is common bond. The roof was originally slate but is now metal. The original chimney was an exposed end chimney but at some point this was removed and a central, interior chimney was put in. Original windows were wood sash, 6/6. Approximately half of these are extant, but there are also 6/1, wood sash windows with narrow muntins and new stops. The foundation is stone.

There was a small shed in the rear which was used for the teacher's horse and buggy. All that remains of it now are the foundation stones. There is a recent (ca. 1965) rear, concrete block addition with a shed, metal roof. This is connected to the school house but the buggy shed was not.

There is very little ornamentation on the exterior. The entrance door is five panel with a transom. Over the door is a shed roof supported by three large simple brackets. The shed roof appears in early historical photographs and is considered original.

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Section 7 Page 2

Smoketown School
Berkeley County, WV

There is a simple header course of bricks over each window.

The interior plan is one open room. In the attic are whipsawn rafters. There is circular sawn wood lath and plaster on the ceiling. The walls are plaster over brick. There was wainscoting on the walls originally but it is no longer extant. The trim is a simple mitered flat trim 4 3/4" wide. The floor was originally wood but concrete has been poured over it.

The school is surrounded by 5 massive oak trees which predate the school. The hand pump and well sit to the east of the school. The pump is functioning but is a replacement of the original. Two outhouses sat to the west but they are no longer extant.

The entire area has trees disbursed through it giving the site a pastoral setting. There is a cemetery located to the north west of the school. It is all that remains of the United Brethren Church congregation.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Smoketown School
Berkeley County, WV

The Smoketown School is significant under Criterion A for its contribution to the development of the education system in Berkeley County and West Virginia.

The Smoketown School is significant under Criterion A for the role it played in the development of the free school system in Berkeley County and West Virginia. Berkeley County has a history of education from its early settlement period. Prior to 1810 there were a number of schools in the area, privately funded. In 1810 the Literary Friends was established and acts that year and in 1818 provided for the education of the poor in the state (Virginia). In 1819 there were 19 occupied and 14 vacant schoolhouses in the county. By 1829 there were 40 schools with 211 students and by 1849 there were forty nine schools with 411 students. These numbers reflect the interest that the citizens of the county had in educating their children and those of the poorer classes.

The state of Virginia passed legislation in 1846 allowing for counties to establish free schools. When the new state of West Virginia was formed, the first constitutional convention established a free school system supported by interest from an investment fund and personal and property taxes. In 1864 there were fifty counties in the new state and twenty two had school systems, with eleven in progress.

Following the Civil War, a free school system was put into place in Berkeley County under township districts. Smoketown School lay in the "Opequon Township District." At an election held at Greensburg, WV on December 30, 1865, Jacob Miller, Harrison Tabler, and David Thompson were elected the free school commissioners of Opequon Township. When the new commission met on March 6, 1866 they passed several resolutions. They agreed to purchase the present Buttstown, Smoketown, and Liberty Grove schoolhouses and to purchase land from David L. Hensell's heirs at Greensburg and build a school house. They also agreed to build on the Jona-

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 8 Page 2

Smoketown School
Berkeley County, WV

than Strine farm (known as the Ridenour School), and to purchase the Myers schoolhouse on the Pike. It was resolved "that we take a vote upon levying a tax so that the schools may be carried on for six months." This was because at that time there were only funds for two months.

Boundary lines for each district were laid out." Smoketown School District No. 4 commencing at Christian Tabler's Ford, thence following the creek to Opequon Bridge, thence down to Hugh McKee, thence through McLeary farm to the Shepherdstown road, thence following the road between Jacob Williamson and Richard Williams, thence following the line between Williams and Welsh known as the Conades field, thence to the Martinsburg road, thence south to Swanpond, thence to the cornerstone of W.E. Sprenkle, thence direct south to Tabler's Ford."

Classes were originally held in the existing school house at Smoketown. In 1866 there were 170 white and 17 colored students in the district ranging in age from six to twenty-one. The existing school building was constructed in 1869, providing a permanent and substantial building for the education of the region's white children.

On January 14, 1869, Jacob Miller and wife, Eliza, sold a lot from their farm containing 64 poles with a 10 foot right-of-way for \$30.00 to Harrison Tabler, Jacob Miller, Henry C. Welshance, and John L. Oliver who constituted the Board of Education of Opequon Township. This lot adjoined the Smoketown Cemetery which had been deeded by Jacob Miller and his wife in 1859 to Harrison P. Tabler, Henry F. VanMetre, and George F. Rutherford, trustees of the Smoketown Church. The interesting connection is that Tabler was connected with both institutions, being on the board of education and on the trustees of the church. The church had been destroyed during the Civil War, and since this was no longer a place of worship, it was a perfect spot for the new school.

Numerous local persons contributed to the success of the school including the VanMetre family, a prominent local family. Notably, Thomas VanMetre was school master in the beginning of the

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Section 8 Page 3

Smoketown School
Berkeley County, WV

twentieth century. The education of rural schoolchildren continued to be a concern of the state which provided supplementary funds to allow rural districts to continue a six month term and secure adequate professional instructors. This fund was established in 1908 by the legislature and increased through the years. There also was appointed in 1910 a Rural School supervisor. All of these efforts to recognize the importance of rural education and continue the small one room schoolhouses throughout the state are reflected in the continued use of the Smoketown School. The school provided a valuable service to the local farm children educating them to compete with the state's more urban residents.

Smoketown School operated up until 1940. Children attending at that time were transferred to the Blairton School. The last one room school to operate was the Fairview Opequon School in Opequon District which was closed in May of 1960. Mrs. Mary Byers was the teacher. The Smoketown School was eventually sold to the United Methodist Church.

On September 11, 1943, the Board of Education of Berkeley County sold to Samuel M. Miller, a direct descendant of Jacob and Eliza Miller, the Smoketown School House and lot. On the same day Samuel Miller and his wife, Anna, sold the school house and lot for \$105.00 to John Gano, Ira Tabler, John Welsh, and Clarence Myers, trustees of the Smoketown United Brethren Cemetery, and their survivors.

In summary, the Smoketown School is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the free school educational system in the county and as the only extant one room school house in the county.

"A" was marked in the "Criteria Considerations" section as the school is currently owned and operated by the Greensburg United Methodist Church.

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Section 9 Page 1

Smoketown School
Berkeley County, WV

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Callahan, James Morton Semi-Centennial History of West Virginia
Semi-Centennial Commission of West Virginia 1913.

Wood, Don C. Smoketown Church and Cemetery Unpublished manu-
script.

Wood, Don C. Smoketown School Unpublished manuscript.

Berkeley County HLC archives

Smoketown School House Class Reunion pamphlet, Sept. 9, 1993.

Smoketown School Monthly Reports 1936, 1937

The Berkeley Journal Issue 14, 1990.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

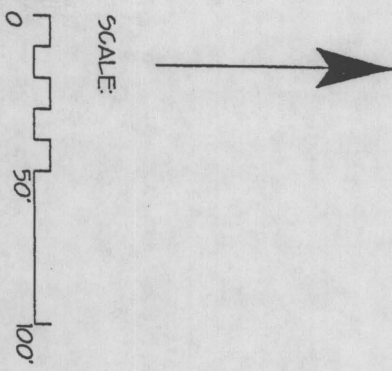
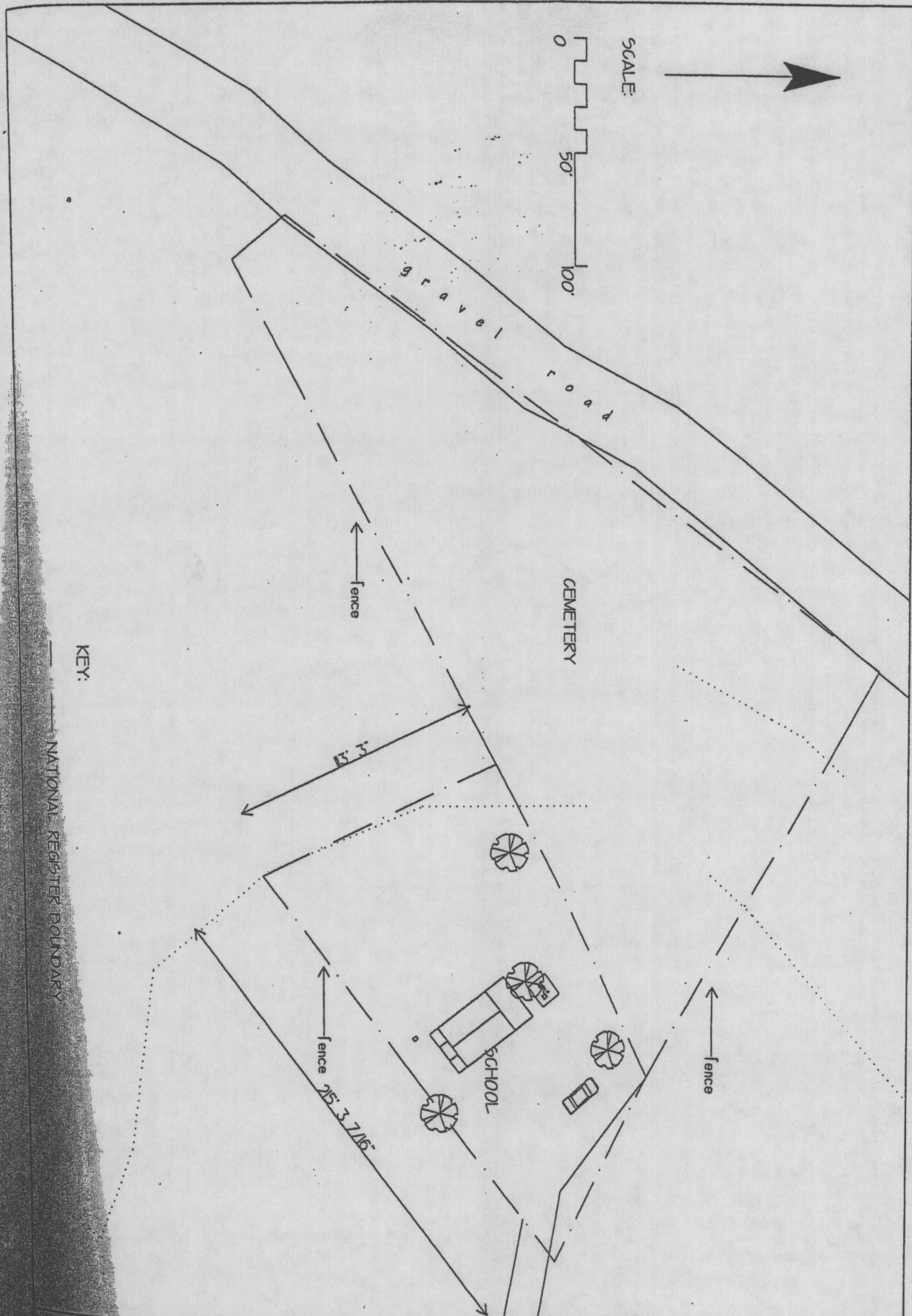
Smoketown School
Berkeley County, WV

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Smoketown School National Register nomination is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map titled "SMOKETOWN SCHOOL BERKELEY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA" dated March, 1994.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries encompass the original boundaries of the property as originally acquired for the school. On the north, the lot line for the school forms the boundary; on the south, a fence separating the site from a vacant field forms the boundary; on the east, the fence separates the site from a vacant field and the road; on the west, a fence separating the school lot from a hillside forms the boundary.



KEY:

— NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY

**SITE PLAN
SMOKETOWN SCHOOL
BERKELEY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

MICHAEL GIOULIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
CONSULTANT
612 MAIN STREET
SUTTON, WV 26001
304 765-6716

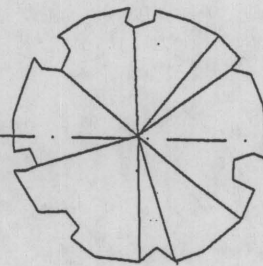
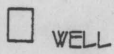
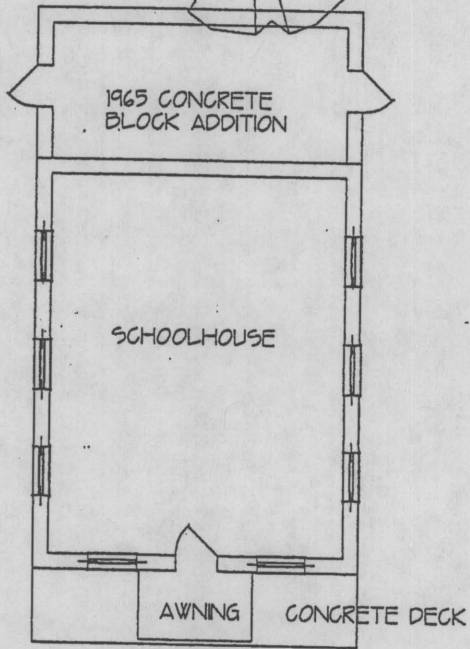
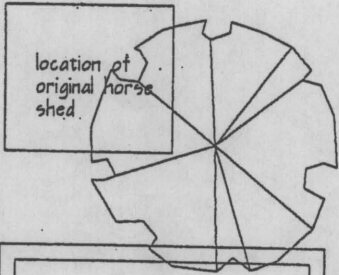
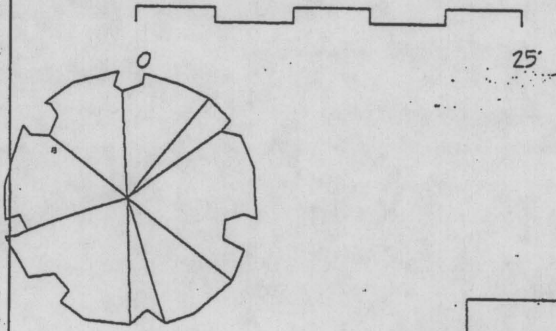
REV.

DATE

MAR. 1994

DWG.
NO.

SCALE



DWG.
NO.
2 of 2

FLOOR PLAN
SMOKETOWN SCHOOL
BERKELEY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

MICHAEL GIOULIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
CONSULTANT
612 MAIN STREET
SUTTON, WV 26601
304 765-5715

REV.

DATE

MAR. 1994



SMOKETOWN SCHOOL
HISTORIC DISTRICT.
BERKELEY
COUNTY, NY

UTM REFERENCE:
18|250004|4371520.

MARTINSBURG ROAD
27°30'

SHEPHERDSTOWN 4 MI.

4374
360 000
FEET
4373
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