

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Spring Valley Farm, NE of Union on U.S. Rt. 219
Monroe County, W.V.
Spring Valley Farm Boundary Increase
National Register Listing Date: 12/30/74. # 74002017

BOUNDARY INCREASE

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Property Description

Spring Valley Farm, listed on the National Register of Historic Places December 30, 1974, is enlarged to include all farm buildings and the dependencies of the house as well as the traditional site of the 1780 Second Creek Fort and site of the 1793 Knox House. These buildings, ranging from late eighteenth century log structures to the imposing early 20th century barns, are described as follows:

1. Shop and Root Cellar. (see photograph #1) This is a one-story with loft building placed upon a stone foundation forming a root cellar opening out to the eastern exposure. Around this sub-story entrance is constructed a lean-to extension with lattice walls that served as a work area. Built in 1840, the building is sided with sawn clapboard that is weathered. The roof is tin and the floor of the shop is rough board two inches thick. The loft floor is constructed of rough sawn boards that are not edged. The shop now contains a museum collection of early home and farm tools. The root cellar now contains a water system for the main house and an old Delco Plant. This building is approximately twelve by eighteen feet. Contributing Building.

2. 1834 Well. This well, located just north of the shop-root cellar, was dug by hand and lined with stone. It is sixteen feet deep and is surmounted by a concrete platform with a cast iron hand pump. (see photograph #1) Contributing Structure.

3. Smoke House or Meat House. (see photograph #2) This is a one-and-one-half-story building resting upon a cut stone pier foundation. Built in 1840, it features vertical studs that are five inches apart to prevent unwanted intrusion, sawn weathered clapboard and tin roof. The original iron hooks used for hanging meat for smoking and storage are still located on rafters blackened from many years of smoke. This building is approximately twelve by eighteen feet. Contributing Building.

The two buildings previously mentioned (smoke house and shop) are within the yard of the house and about the foundations of both are planted an herb garden using plants typical of the 19th century. These two buildings are reached from the house by a rough flagstone path.

4. Garage. Just outside the yard fence is a red brick one-story with loft and basement garage built in 1989. It features a belfry using the bell from the old Second Creek Woolen Manufactory, ca. 1870. Noncontributing Building.

5. Granary. (see photograph #3) Also just outside the yard is a granary building, ca. 1870, which is approximately fifteen by twenty feet. It has flat vertical weathered board siding and a tin roof. Ventilator openings appear along the eaves of the building. It stands upon a concrete block pier foundation. The north gable end is extended with oblique braces to form a covered entrance. Contributing Building.

6. Old Stable. (see photograph #4) Just to the south of this cluster of buildings is the log stable. The stable, built of hand-hewn V-notched logs and tin roof, originally stood over the well for the Second Creek Fort. This building, ca. 1780, was moved to the present site approximately 150 years ago. One of the original large hand wrought iron hinges still remains from the entrance as is the door itself which is placed within the building. Contributing Building.

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7. Cattle Barn. (see photograph #5) In a field much further south is the cattle barn. This building, built ca. 1905, is of braced frame construction. It has a plain plank floor, vertical flat-board siding and tin roof. It is painted red and has white trim. The ridge of the roof features a long monitor. There are ventilator openings along the eaves of the gable ends. A lean-to two-story shed-like extension was added in 1940 on the eastern exposure. Contributing Building.

8. Second Creek Fort Well. In the northwest corner of the yard is a well dug by hand ca. 1780. It is 24 feet deep and is lined with stone. The well is covered by a wooden platform. This well was the source of water for the Second Creek Fort (a fortified house) which stood just southeast of the well and the 1793 Knox House which was somewhat south of the fort site. (see sketch map, C & B) Contributing Structure.

9. Horse Barn. (see photograph #6) Across U. S. Rt. 219 and in alignment north of the house is a bank barn. The bank barn, of exceptional architectural merit, was built in 1905 from material taken from the old Second Creek Woolen Manufactory built in 1870. Examples of the earlier building style using mortise and tendon with wooden pegs can be found in the supporting structure of the barn. These examples are open and easily examined. The barn, approximately sixty by forty feet in size, is of sawn clapboard with a tin roof. Braced frame construction was used allowing a great open space for the interior. (see photograph #7) The bank portion of the barn is the west exposure and it is constructed of cut native limestone as is the foundation of the ramp to the main floor. The main floor is constructed of oak tongue and groove boards. The barn features segmented fan lights in the gable ends which are now protected with a wooden cover. Twenty 6/9 double-hung sash windows are featured on the exposures of the main floor. Twelve 6/wooden panel sash windows are featured on the exposures of the sub-story. Lean-to extensions built as part of the barn are presented on the gable ends. The barn is painted red with white trim. Contributing Building.

10. Old Garage. The old garage, built in 1930 for a model A Ford Car and Truck, is a shed-like building of vertical flat board and tin roof. It is painted red with white trim. Contributing Building.

11. Machine Shed. A long shed-like building of flat board and tin roof built in 1955. It is painted red with white trim. Noncontributing Building.

12. Machine Shed. A long four bay gable-end building with a lean-to extension on the eastern gable end. The building, built in 1915, has weathered vertical board siding and a tin roof. Contributing Building.

13. Concrete Block Building. This building of concrete block is approximately twelve by forty feet in size. It was built in 1948 and was used as a turkey processing plant. Noncontributing Building.

14. Old Log Building. This building, ca. 1800, of large V-notched hand-hewn logs and tin roof has two peculiar longitudinal openings one log thick cut into the gable sides at shoulder height. The original use of this building is not known. (see photograph #8) Contributing Building.

The cluster of farm buildings and house dependencies surrounding Spring Valley Farm House are well preserved and beautifully presented against the wooded hillsides and the

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waters of Second Creek. All exposures are easily viewed from U. S. Rt. 219 as it traverses the cultivated and pasture lands of one of Monroe County's most cherished farms.

	Resource Count Contributing	Noncontributing
Structures	2	0
Buildings	9	3
Total	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>

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Significance

The farm buildings and house dependencies that are clustered about Spring Valley Farm House present one of the most significant collections of late eighteenth to early twentieth century buildings in Monroe County and the greater Greenbrier Valley. Here are represented some of the valley's best preserved examples of pioneer building, ranging from hand-hewn logs to the sophisticated braced frame constructed barns of the early twentieth century. Spring Valley Farm boundary increase exhibits approximately one hundred fifty years of building examples (1780-1930) that can be considered contributing. The clustered farm buildings are typical of those built in Monroe County and the Greenbrier Valley. The sophisticated and beautifully appointed barn built in 1905 is also typical of those of the more progressive and profitable farms of the period.

Spring Valley Farm, so named after a bold and large spring located on the farm property, lies on the western banks of Second Creek, so named because it was the second creek encountered by the early pioneers in the late 18th century after crossing the Allegheny Mountains. Second Creek, a swift and rather rapidly descending creek, flows to the Greenbrier River over a course of approximately twenty miles. By the late nineteenth century there were approximately twenty-two grist mills, various saw mills and powder mills on its banks. There were also four woolen mills. The Dickson Family were members of the Grange which built in 1870 near the Big Spring on Second Creek the Second Creek Woolen Manufactory. It operated for about 25-30 years and it was from this building's material that in 1905 the horse barn near the house was constructed. Wool and its production has figured quite prominently in the farm operation. A large and quite handsome flock of grade Suffolk Sheep still graze the pastures of the farm. The horse barn has been in past years the site of a wool buying business. Wool bought from farms in Monroe and Greenbrier Counties is collected here and exported out of the county.

Spring Valley Farm has been farmed by members of the Dickson Family since 1835. They have always been the first to use new and improved farming methods and therefore Spring Valley Farm is considered a model for other farms in Monroe County.

The museum of farm tools and household implements was begun by Edgar and Wm. Dickson about forty years ago and has been added to and cared for by Wm. Dickson and his wife, Page. The museum, now housed in the 1840 shop building, exhibits significant examples of 19th century craftsmanship and ingenuity.

A recent work, An Archaeological Survey of Frontier Forts in the Greenbrier and Middle New River Valleys, describes Spring Valley Farm as the probable site of the Second Creek Fort (a fortified house). McBride and McBride, authors of the work, consider the integrity of Second Creek Fort site one of the best in the Greenbrier Valley and indicate that more profound sampling would result in a 1780 date for this fort site. Oral history also indicates that this is the site of the fort. Since the limited archaeological sampling does not verify a 1780 date, these unevaluated sites of the fort and the Knox House are not included in the resource count. The archeological sampling does, however, date to 1790. Oral history also places the nominated area as a cross-roads of Indian Trails. U. S. Rt. 219 is the traditional Seneca Trail and another Indian Trail may have followed the western banks of Second Creek.

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A photograph of Spring Valley Farm taken from the west is featured in the History of Monroe County written by Oren Morton and published in 1915, (exhibited opposite page 312). A similar view taken in December 1991 (see photograph #9) shows that Spring Valley Farm has changed little since the early 20th century.

The Spring Valley Farm boundary increase, remaining in its pristine condition, exhibits under Criterion C one of the best preserved and widely ranging of building periods and styles in Monroe County. It is significant under Criterion A in that its farming operation has been one of great industry and a model for the entire area. Its clustered buildings and building styles are typical of the farming industry of the region. Spring Valley Farm has become a source of pride throughout the Greenbrier Valley.

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Major Bibliographical References

W. Stephen McBride and Kim A. McBride. An Archaeological Survey of Frontier Forts in the Greenbrier and Middle New River Valleys of WV.

Pages 34-37

Report submitted to:

WV Division of Culture and History, Charleston, WV

Summers Co. Hist. Landmark Commission, Hinton, WV

by Program for Cultural Resource Assessment

University of Kentucky

Lexington, Kentucky

27 June 1991

Conversations with William Dickson, Oral History of the Dickson Family
December 1991

Morton, Oren F. A History of Monroe County, West Virginia
Reprint of 1915 edition, Regional Publishing Comp., Balt., MD. 1980
Opposite page 312

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary increase for Spring Valley Farm is roughly a rectangle containing 14.74 acres. The long sides of the rectangle face approximately east and west and the short ends are the north and south boundaries. The southeastern boundary is County Road 219/1 and the northeastern boundary is the waters of Second Creek. U. S. Rt. 219 traverses the nominated property in its east-west direction dividing it into a north one-quarter portion and a south three-quarter portion. The northeast and south-east corners are rounded by Second Creek as it flows to the Greenbrier River. (see sketch map for Spring Valley Farm boundary increase.)

Boundary Justification

The enlarged property nomination for Spring Valley Farm is extended to include all dependencies of the house and all the farm buildings. (These resources were not described in the original nomination.) It is also extended to provide the historical setting for the Second Creek Fort Site and the farm complex that followed.

UTM References

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UTM

Spring Valley Farm
U.S. Rt. 219 at Second Creek
Monroe County, W.V.

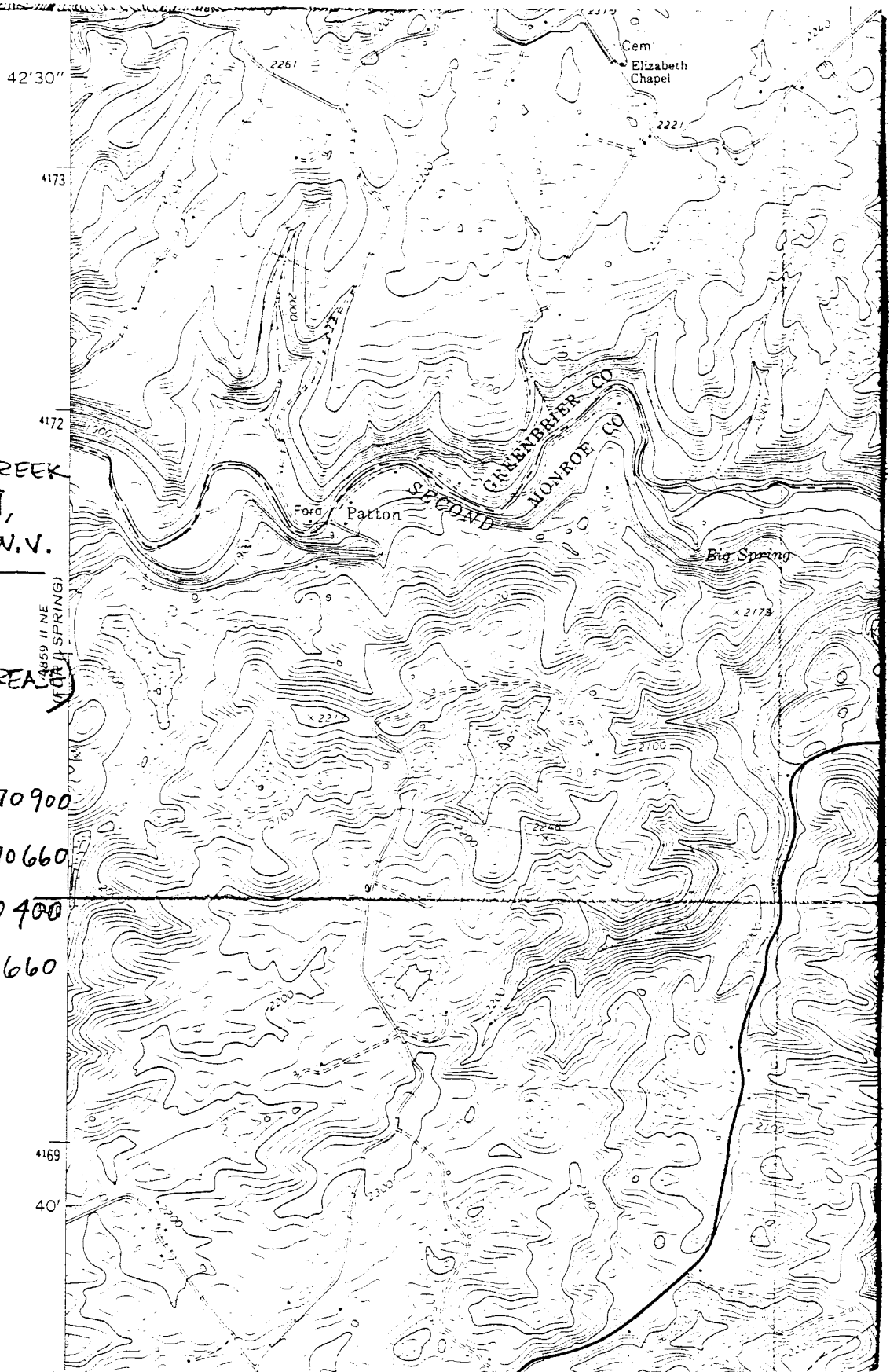
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3. 17/547940/4170400
4. 17/547600/4170660

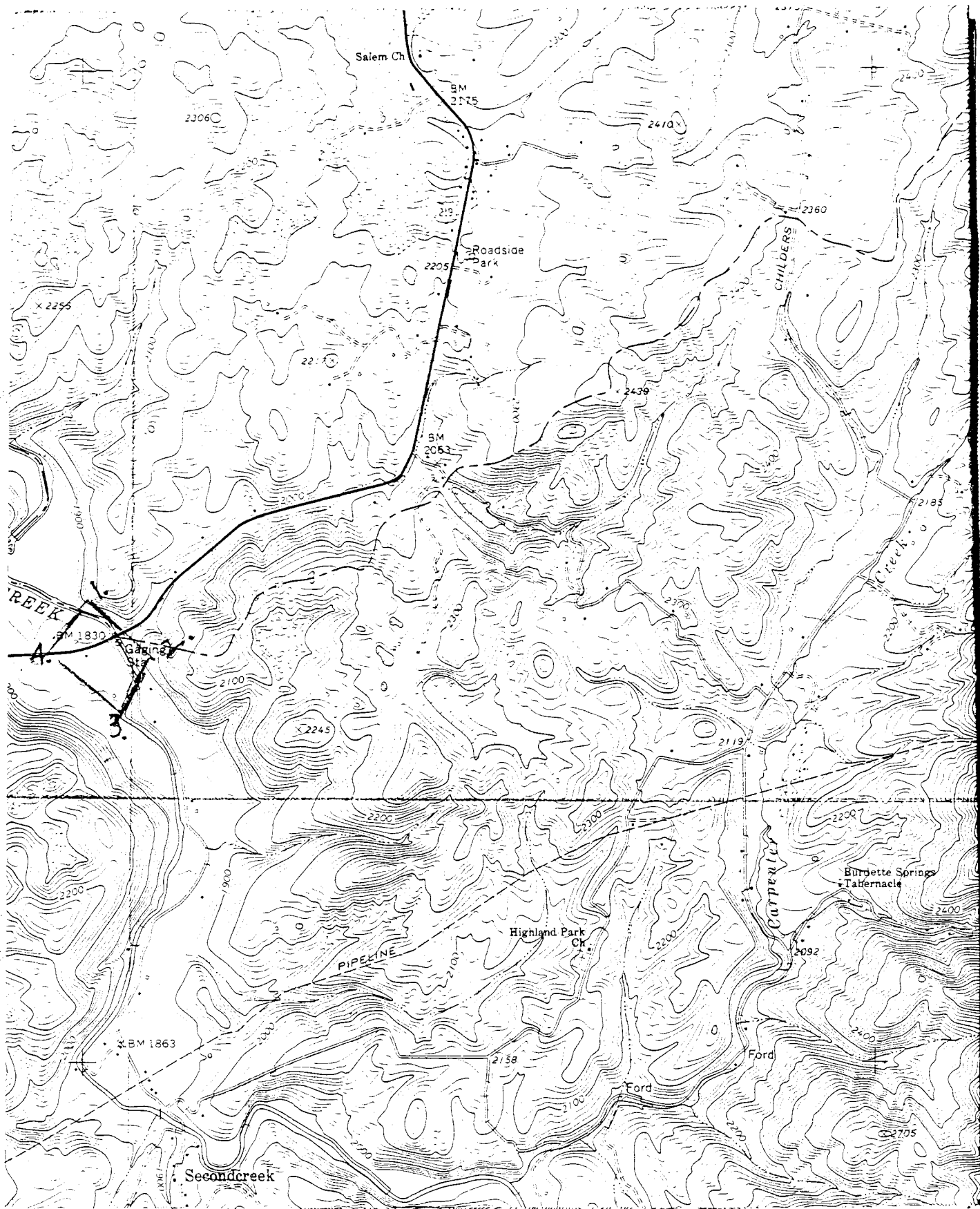
AT SECOND CREEK
AND U.S. 219,
MONROE CO., W.V.

SPRING VALLEY
FARM
(BOUNDARY INCREASE FOR SPRING)

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2. 17/548080/4170660
3. 17/547940/4170400
4. 17/547600/4170660





Spring Valley Farm

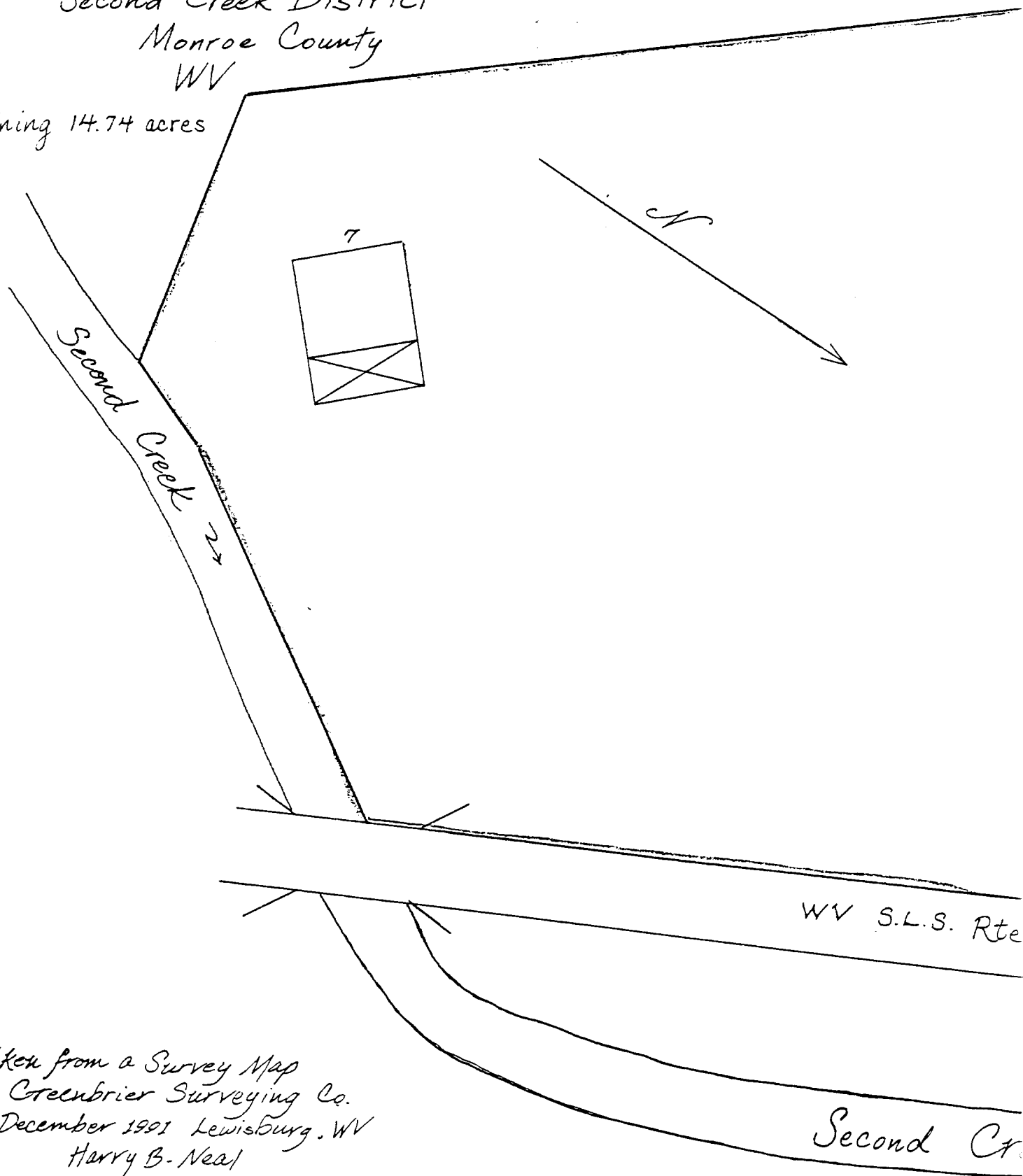
Boundary Increase Sketch Map

Second Creek District

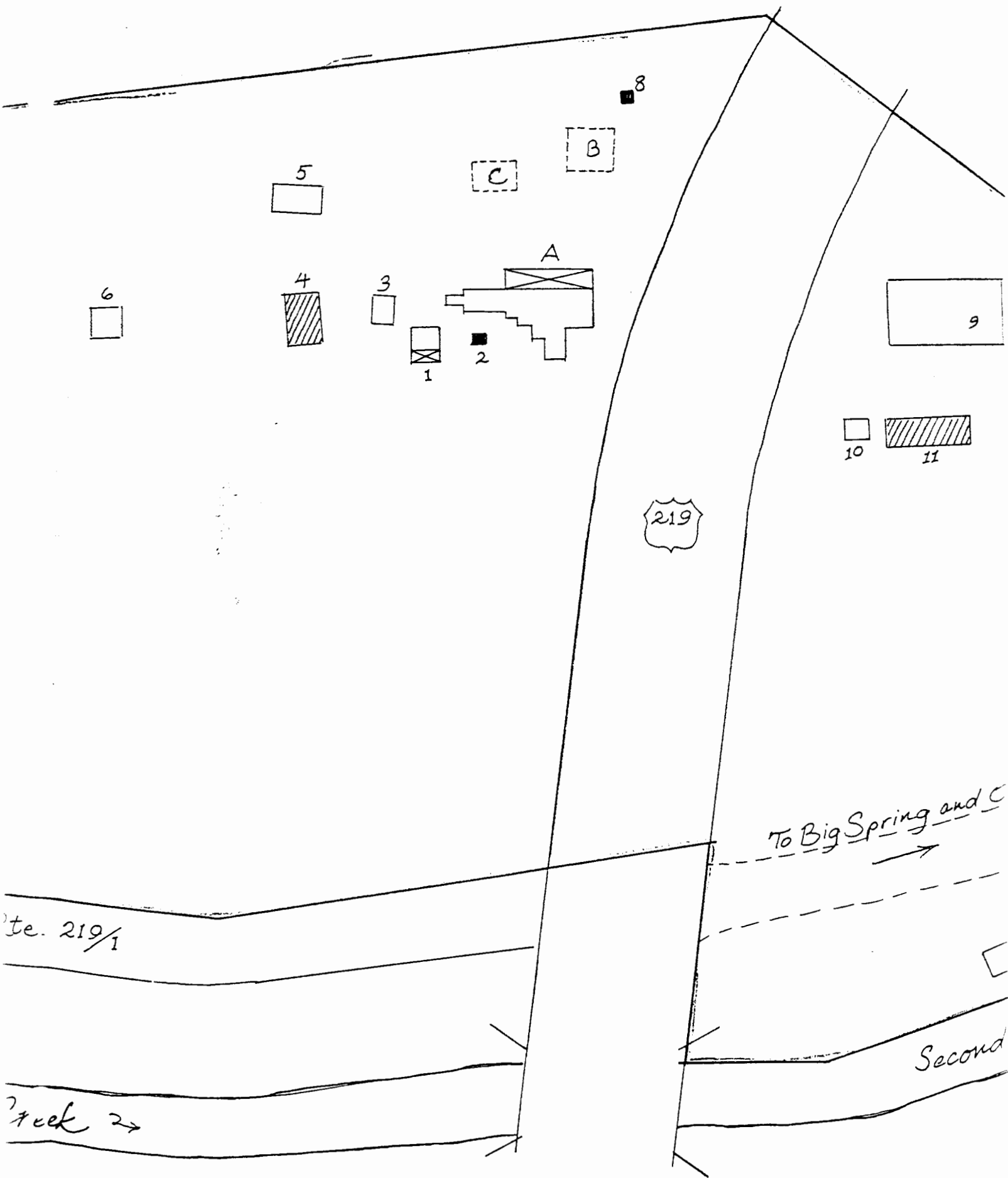
Monroe County

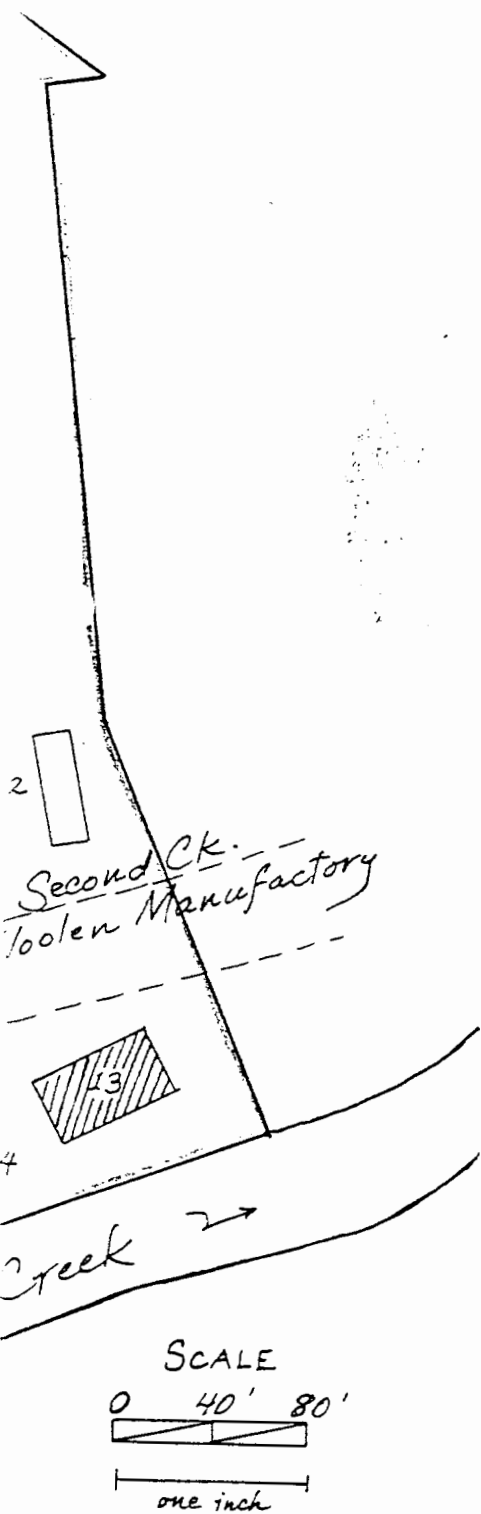
WV

containing 14.74 acres



Taken from a Survey Map
by Greenbrier Surveying Co.
December 1901 Lewisburg, WV
Harry B. Neal





A Spring Valley Farmhouse

B Second Creek Fort site

C Knox House site

1. Shop ~ Root Cellar
2. 1834 well
3. Smoke House - Meat House
4. Garage
5. Granary
6. Old Stable
7. Cattle Barn
8. Second Creek Fort well
9. Horse Barn
10. Old Garage
11. Machine Shed
12. Machine Shed
13. Concrete Block Building
14. Old Log Building

- Contributing Structure
- Contributing Building
- ▨ Non-contributing Building

— BOUNDARY LINE

RL Mitchell '92

