

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Strode-Morrison-Tabler House and Farm

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1270 Jacobs Road not for publication N/A

city or town Hedgesville vicinity ☒

state West Virginia code WV county Berkeley code 003 zip code 25427

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

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:

Signature of the 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): _____

Name of Property

County and State

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

(Do not include previously-listed resources in the count)

7

buildings

1

sites

1

struc

structures

1

objects

7

Total

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

N/A

none

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER /hall-and-parlor

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/limestone

walls STONE/limestone; BRICK; ASBESTOS

roof METAL

other STONE /limestone; WOOD; BRICK

(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)

ARCHITECTUREAGRICULTUREEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT**Period of Significance**c. 1752 -c. 1950**Significant Dates**c. 1752; c. 1830**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 AffiliationN/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

Strode-Morrison-Tabler House and Farm

Name of Property

Berkeley County, WV

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 125 acres

U. S. G. S. Quad map: Hedgesville, West Virginia
and Williamsport, MD-WV

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	252535	4377842	3	18	253048	4376811
2	18	253216	4377507	4	18	252164	4377162

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 Bobby & Phyllis Sperow

street & number 1270 Jacobs Road telephone _____

city or town Hedgesville state WV zip code 25427

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County/State

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Location and Setting

The Strode-Morrison-Tabler House and Farm (Photos 1-18; Figs. 1-3) lies on a 125-acre tract in the Opequon District of Berkeley County, in West Virginia's rural Eastern Panhandle, approximately two miles northeast of the county seat of Martinsburg and one mile east of the unincorporated village of Bedington, northwest of the unincorporated village of Hedgesville and approximately one mile south of the Potomac River. The property stands at the end of Jacobs Road which runs eastward from Little Georgetown Road. The nominated property consists of a farmhouse, six adjacent contributing agricultural dependencies, and the contributing agricultural fields associated with the property at the close of the period of significance.

Description

Strode-Morrison-Tabler House

c. 1752 and after

1 contributing building

The Strode-Morrison-Tabler House is a farmhouse of brick, limestone, and wood construction. (Photos 1-11). It is a vernacular¹ building which began as a modest c. 1752 single-story, side-gable, two-bay cottage of rubble limestone (Photo 4) and underwent several additions, all within the period of significance. Judging from its appearance, a brick upper story was first added to the original house, soon to be joined by a three-bay c. 1830 limestone addition constructed against the north gable end of the stone and brick house. This limestone addition became the principal section of the house as it presently exists. Later still, likely in the late nineteenth century, a wood frame addition was built along the rear of the house (Photos 1-4), finished in German siding and including a basement, two full stories above and a double-gallery porch. It appears that the roof was raised in conjunction with this latest addition. But for the cladding of the German siding with asbestos shingles (likely dating to the 1930s), all of this construction occurred in the nineteenth century; by the late nineteenth century, the property assumed the overall appearance which it retains.

The Strode-Morrison-Tabler House is modestly detailed and lacks any formally-derived architectural ornament. The main entrance to the house is centered on the west elevation of the c.

¹The 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."

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1830 3-bay two-story stone section, incorporating a single wood door (Photo 1; Fig. 1). A historic photo (Fig. 1) shows the “ghost” of a front porch which once extended across this stone section; it is not extant. The corners of the three-bay stone section are trimmed with quoin-like stones considerably larger than the rubble used elsewhere in the construction of the house. The gable ends of the house exhibit partial returns of the cornice, somewhat derivative of the Greek Revival style, but more likely merely the result of vernacular building traditions in Berkeley County. Fenestration is flat-topped, with historic wood sash, generally two-over-two but with some six-over-six windows retained. A brick chimney serving the fireplace in the livingroom penetrates the front slope of the gable roof on the north elevation; the aforementioned historic view shows two other chimneys which were removed in the course of re-roofing the house. The east (rear) elevation includes a double-gallery porch, presently screened-in, and a modern wood deck projects outward away from the back porch (Photos 2, 3).

Interior

The interior of the house (Photos 5-11) is simple in its detailing. The earliest sections of the house--encompassing the original eighteenth-century limestone cottage and the brick upper stories--contain two rooms on each floor, while the larger c. 1830 limestone addition includes a room used as a livingroom/diningroom combination on the first story, with a large stone fireplace, and bedrooms above. The wood addition includes a sitting room and the kitchen on the first story and a bedroom and bathroom above, along with the double-gallery porch. The second story is accessed by an enclosed stair in the wood addition, suggesting that the earlier stair in the stone section was removed when the wood section was added. Walls are finished in plaster, except for portions of the sitting room and the second-floor hallway which retain exposed stone finishes. Floors are of wood, some clad in sheet vinyl and others exposed. Window trim and baseboards have simply-molded profiles, doors are of a conventional paneled form (Photo 10), and the window reveals on the stone section are considerably deeper than those on the wood addition. Woodwork finishes vary: some are painted, others are varnished and some are grained. The basement is unfinished throughout.

The following additional properties are associated with the Strode-Morrison-Tabler House and Farm, with numbers keyed to the site plan accompanying the nomination documents:

2. Shed

c. 1950

1 contributing building

Tile and concrete block open-sided one-story garage/storage building, long and narrow in form, with

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a gable roof. It is located immediately north of the house.

3. Central aisle shed **c. 1920** **1 contributing building**

Two-story gable-roofed central-aisle shed of wood construction

4. Barn complex **c. 1752 and after** **1 contributing building**

Interconnected agricultural complex which includes a substantial timber frame-and-limestone bank barn set on a limestone foundation. The barn began as a considerably smaller limestone outbuilding, and portions of the limestone walls and gable end remain exposed. The barn was increased in size with a substantial timber frame addition. Appended to the barn are silos and a series of wood and concrete block additions, creating an irregular interconnected "footprint."

5. Garage **c. 1930** **1 contributing building**

Gable-end-oriented one-story wood garage located about fifty feet west of the house

6. Outbuilding **c. 1920** **1 contributing building**

Laterally-oriented gable-roofed shed

7. Outbuilding **c. 1920** **1 contributing building**

Wooden shed located approximately two hundred feet west of the house of indeterminate age and usage.

Agricultural fields **c. 1752 and after** **1 contributing site**

Agricultural fields, both fallow and in active production, which were historically associated with the subject property; also includes several stands of mature trees

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8. Significance

The Strode-Morrison-Tabler House and Farm is significant under National Register Criterion A for its reflection of *exploration/settlement* and early *agricultural* patterns in Berkeley County, West Virginia, and under Criterion C for *architecture*, as a mid-seventeenth-century Berkeley County vernacular stone farm house which was increased in size over many decades, with immediately adjacent agricultural dependencies. The period of significance of the property begins c. 1752 when it appears that the first part of the house was erected by Edward Strode, and ends c. 1950, the approximate date of the most recently-constructed historic building erected on the farm. The property retains integrity and mirrors the advance of the agricultural industry in the county and the physical expansion both of the house and of its associated dependencies.

The lands associated with the Strode-Morrison-Tabler House and Farm lay in the British colony of Virginia and first passed from royal ownership in 1734 when 360 acres were conveyed by King George to Morgan Bryan. Ten years later, Joseph Bryan acquired the property and later sold it to Edward Strode. It is thought that Edward Strode erected the first section of the house shortly after acquiring the land. In 1773 Edward Strode sold the property to Jeremiah Strode for £100. Jeremiah Strode amassed approximately 1,200 acres before his death c. 1785. In his will he conveyed the property to his children, along with cattle, equipment, and one slave.² Lot 3 of his holdings included the nominated tract and contained 227¼ acres; it was bequeathed to his son and namesake. In 1801, William Morrison paid Jeremiah and Elizabeth Strode £1,030 for the 227-acre tract which they had inherited from the elder Jeremiah Strode.

William Morrison likely built the brick upper story onto the earliest part of the house—the small stone cottage—shortly after acquiring the property in 1801, and during his ownership also added the larger three-bay stone addition, along with the original stone barn. Morrison farmed the tract for more than thirty years. He died c. 1836 and in his will left his lands to his widow, to his sons Daniel B. and William, and daughter Hannah Chifley Morrison. Daniel Morrison remained on the home farm and in 1867, following his death, his executors, Thomas T. V. Quigley and A. F. Cramer, were charged with the disposal of his estate. For \$15,000 they sold “a certain tract of land, being the portion of the stone

²Berkeley County Will Book 1, page 377.

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house farm lying south of the Scrabble and Lick Road containing 295 acres.”³ The buyer was Levi Tabler, in whose family the property would remain until 1920.

Levi and Ruth Tabler reared their family in the house and likely added the wood section and double-gallery porch as their family grew. They became parents of sons George W., J. Calvin, and Elijah Tabler and daughter Ann, who eventually wed George Lemaster. Elijah Tabler acquired his siblings’ interest in the stone house and farm; his widowed mother was permitted to live in the brick portion of the house, described as containing four rooms and a kitchen.⁴

In 1920, the farm passed out of the Tabler family when it was acquired first by John W. Jacobs (for whom Jacobs Road is named) and shortly thereafter by H. H. Emmert. Emmert lost the farm during the Depression and in 1944 it was acquired by Howard Sperow, whose son owned the property at the time of preparation of the nomination materials.

With respect to Criterion A, the Strode-Morrison-Tabler House and Farm is significant as the reflection of the exploration and initial settlement of this portion of Berkeley County, Virginia, as the massive holdings of Lord Fairfax were being partitioned and sold off. The property also represents the agricultural patterns in Berkeley County beginning with the middle decades of the eighteenth century and continuing for two centuries thereafter. The farm was apparently run as a subsistence farm, supplying the needs of the immediate family. The farm produced crops--fodder for animals as well as food for the family--and also served as grazing lands for the farm animals upon which the families depended both for sustenance and as beasts of burden. The house, growing as it did from a modest cottage to a far more substantial farmhouse, illustrates the growth of prosperity of a series of Berkeley County farming families. This growth is also apparent in the main barn, which began as a relatively small limestone dependency and underwent several major additions as the agricultural economy matured.

The property’s Criterion C significance is supported by its presence as a mid-eighteenth-century stone dwelling, characteristic of the earliest vernacular building traditions of the Berkeley County section of West Virginia’s eastern Panhandle. In addition, the barn, as it originally existed, typified the

³Berkeley County Deed Book 63, Page 538.

⁴Berkeley County Deed Book 78, Page 281.

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small-scale agricultural dependencies which were erected by Berkeley County pioneer farmers. As it presently exists, is characteristic of the type of bank barns which were being erected throughout the county during the nineteenth century.

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Strode-Morrison-Tabler House and Farm
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9. Major Bibliographical References

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Berkeley County Public Records, Berkeley County Court House, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Kearfott, J. Baker. "Berkeley County, West Virginia." [map] Martinsburg, 1894.

Kearfott, Jonathan P. "Map of Berkeley County, Virginia." [Martinsburg], 1847.

McMurtry, David C., D. Ed., *et al.* "In Search of the Strode Orphans."

Varle, Charles. "Map of Frederick, Berkeley, & Jefferson Counties Situated in the State of Virginia."
Philadelphia: Benjamin Jones, 1809.

West Virginia Historic Property Inventory Forms, 1973-2001. Collection of the Berkeley County
Historical Society, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Wood, Don C. "William Morrison House," unpublished manuscript in the collection of the Berkeley
County Historical Society, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

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Strode-Morrison-Tabler House and Farm
Berkeley County, WV

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10. Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being that 125.12-acre tract depicted as Parcel Number 12 on Opequon District Map 4 of the Tax Assessment Maps for Berkeley County, West Virginia, as filed at the Berkeley County Court House, Martinsburg, West Virginia. This tract is described in Berkeley County Deed Book 528, Pages 23-25.

JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of this nomination consist of the Strode-Morrison-Tabler house, its associated agricultural and domestic dependencies, and the agricultural fields associated with the property at the close of the period of significance.

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

All Photographs:

Strode-Morrison-Tabler House and Farm

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Photographer: David L. Taylor

Date: 2005

Negatives filed at: West Virginia SHPO
 Charleston, West Virginia

1. NW perspective of house, looking SE, showing c. 1830 stone section as well as late nineteenth-century wood addition, fenestration, roof form, etc.
2. NE perspective, looking SW and showing rear addition and deck
3. E elevation, showing wood addition, double-gallery porch, and deck
4. SW perspective, looking NE,. Showing original c. 1752 stone section, brick and wood additions, fenestration, etc.
5. Interior, livingroom, looking N toward fireplace and showing overall character, finishes, volume, etc.
6. Interior, livingroom, looking S with main door on right
7. Interior, wood addition, looking S and showing enclosed stair to second story, typical finishes, doors, etc.
8. Interior, wood addition, looking N from stair, showing exposed stone wall on left and door into kitchen in background
9. Interior, second story, hall, looking N and showing exposed stone wall on left and door to bathroom on right, bedroom in background

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10. Interior, detail of door on second story, showing characteristic form and finishes
11. Interior, second story, bedroom in brick addition, typical view
12. View of barns and their relationship to house, looking S across agricultural fields
13. View of large barn and silos, looking N and showing central-aisle shed on the left
14. View of large barn, looking S, with original limestone section at left end of barn
15. Open-sided garage, looking NE
16. View of garage and concrete block storage building E of house, looking SE
17. Concrete block storage building E of house, looking E
18. Open-sided frame shed E of house, looking E

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Fig. 1 This undated photo shows the facade (W elevation) of the house associated with the nominated property, with the “ghost” of the front porch clearly visible.

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Fig. 2 This undated photo illustrates the SW perspective of the subject property. The pedimental windows of the original stone house appear mid-way up the gable end.

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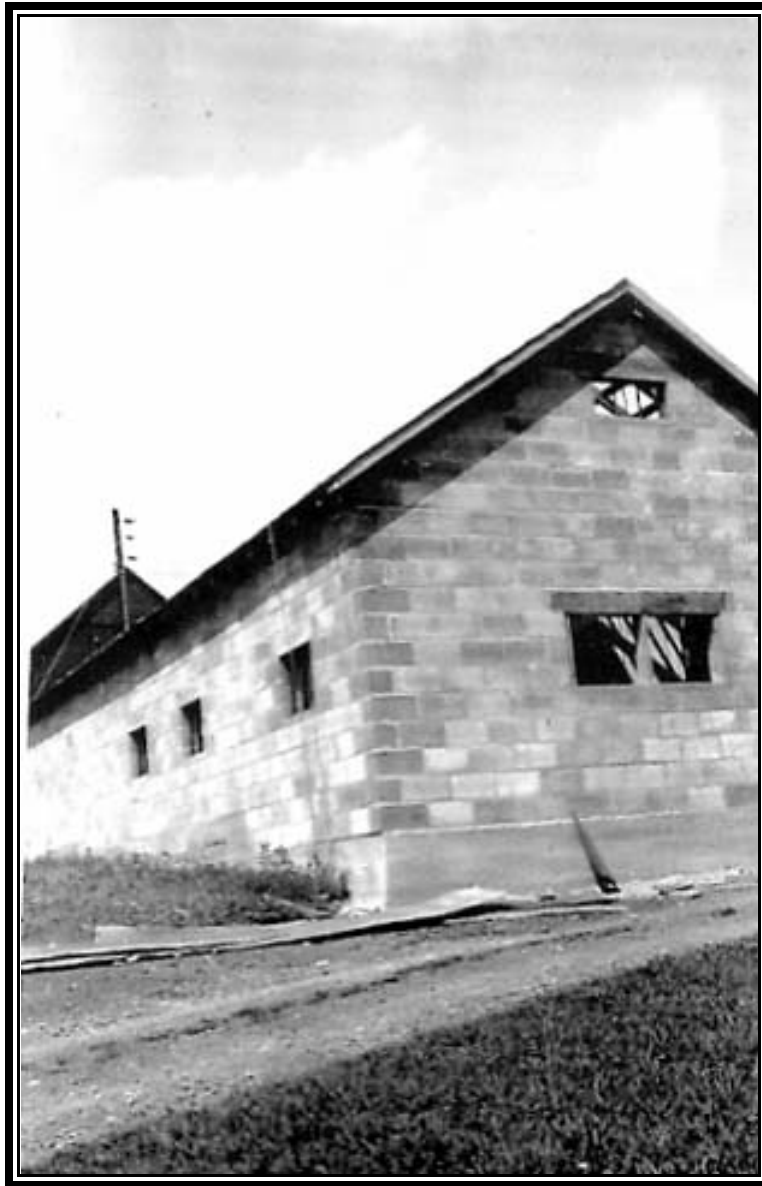


Fig. 3 This c. 1950 photo shows the concrete block open-sided shed) apparently under construction, judging from the sky visible through the window in the pediment of the gable.

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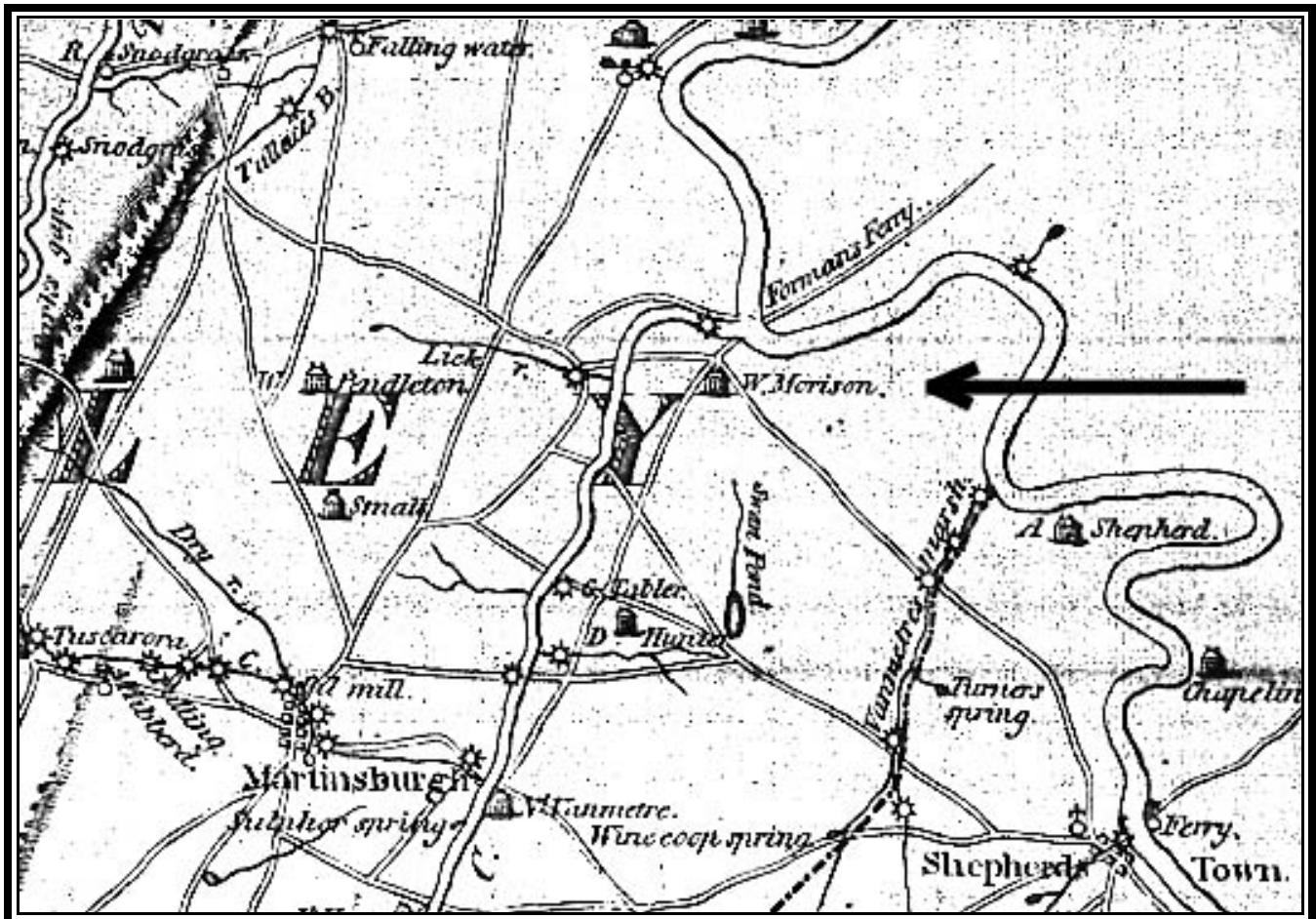


Fig. 4 Charles Varle's 1809 3-county map shows the subject property, indicated by the superimposed arrow, as being under the ownership of William Morrison..

Fig. 5 By 1847, when Jonathan Kearfott produced a new map of Berkeley County, the subject property, sown by the superimposed arrow, was in the ownership of the Tabler family.

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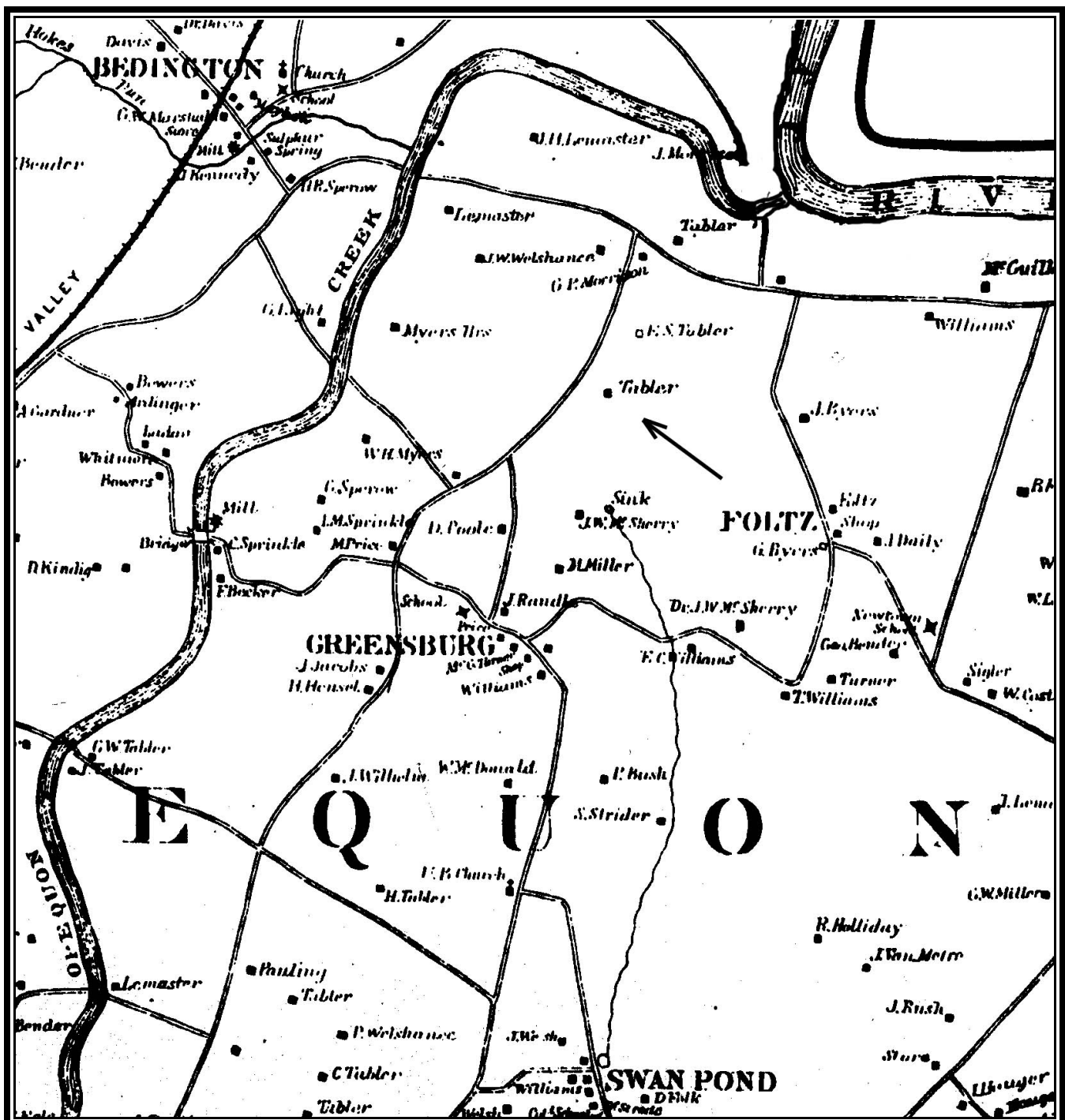
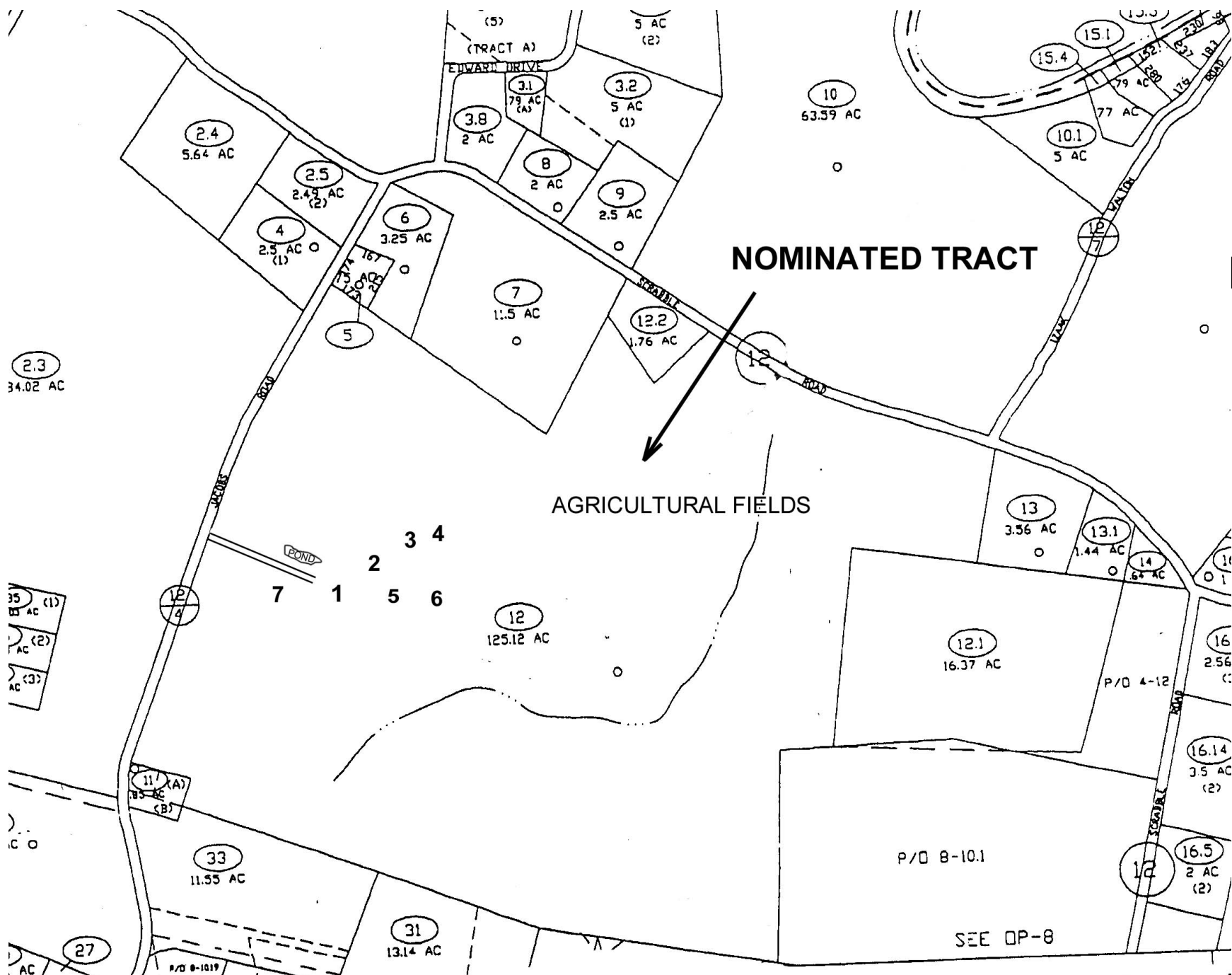


Fig. 6 The 1894 map of Berkeley County by J. Baker Kearfott, shows the property still in the hands of the Tabler family.

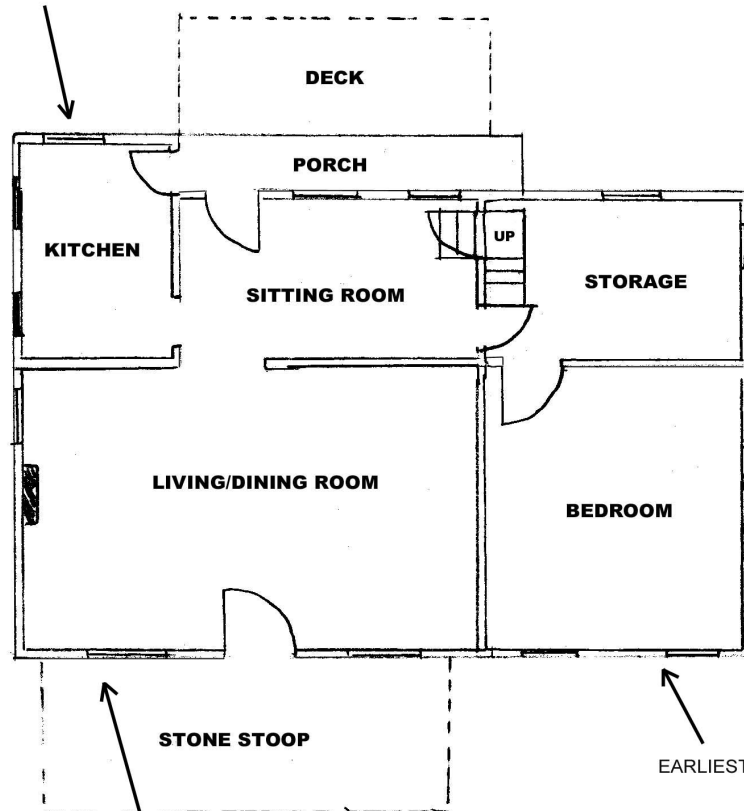


STRODE-MORRISON-TABLER HOUSE & FARM
Berkeley County, West Virginia

Scale: 1" = c. 10'

FLOOR PLAN OF HOUSE

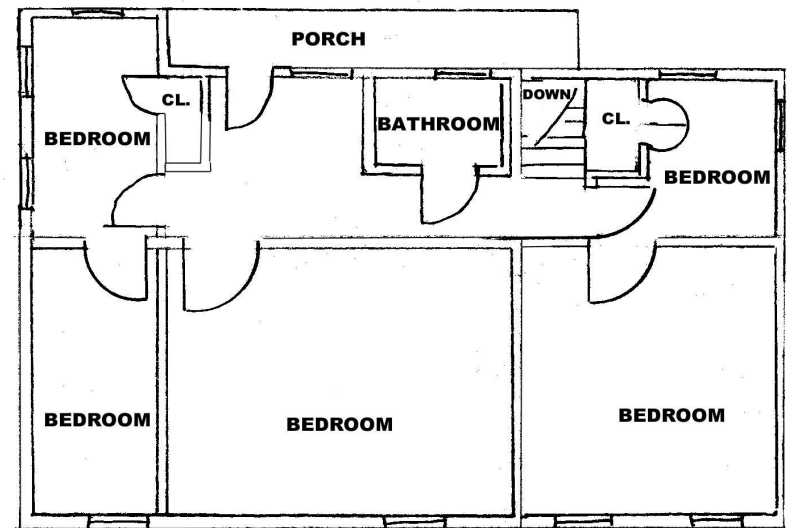
19th c. WOOD ADDITION



c. 1830 STONE SECTION

FIRST STORY

EARLIEST SECTION



SECOND STORY

STRODE-MORRISON-TABLER HOUSE & FARM

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Tract Sketch Plan

Legend:

- 1 house
- 2 tile shed
- 3 central-aisle shed
- 4 barn complex
- 5 garage
- 6 outbuilding
- 7 outbuilding
- agricultural fields



STRODE - MORRISON - TABLER HSE., Berkeley Co., WV

①



STRODE-MORRISON-TABLER HSE., Berkeley Co., WV



STRODE-MORRISON-TABLER HSE., BERKELEY CO., WV

③



STRODE - MORRISON - TABLER HSE., Berkeley Co., WV



STRODE-MORRISON-TABLER, HSE., Berkeley Co., WV



STRODE - MORRISON - TABLER HSE., Berkeley Co., WV

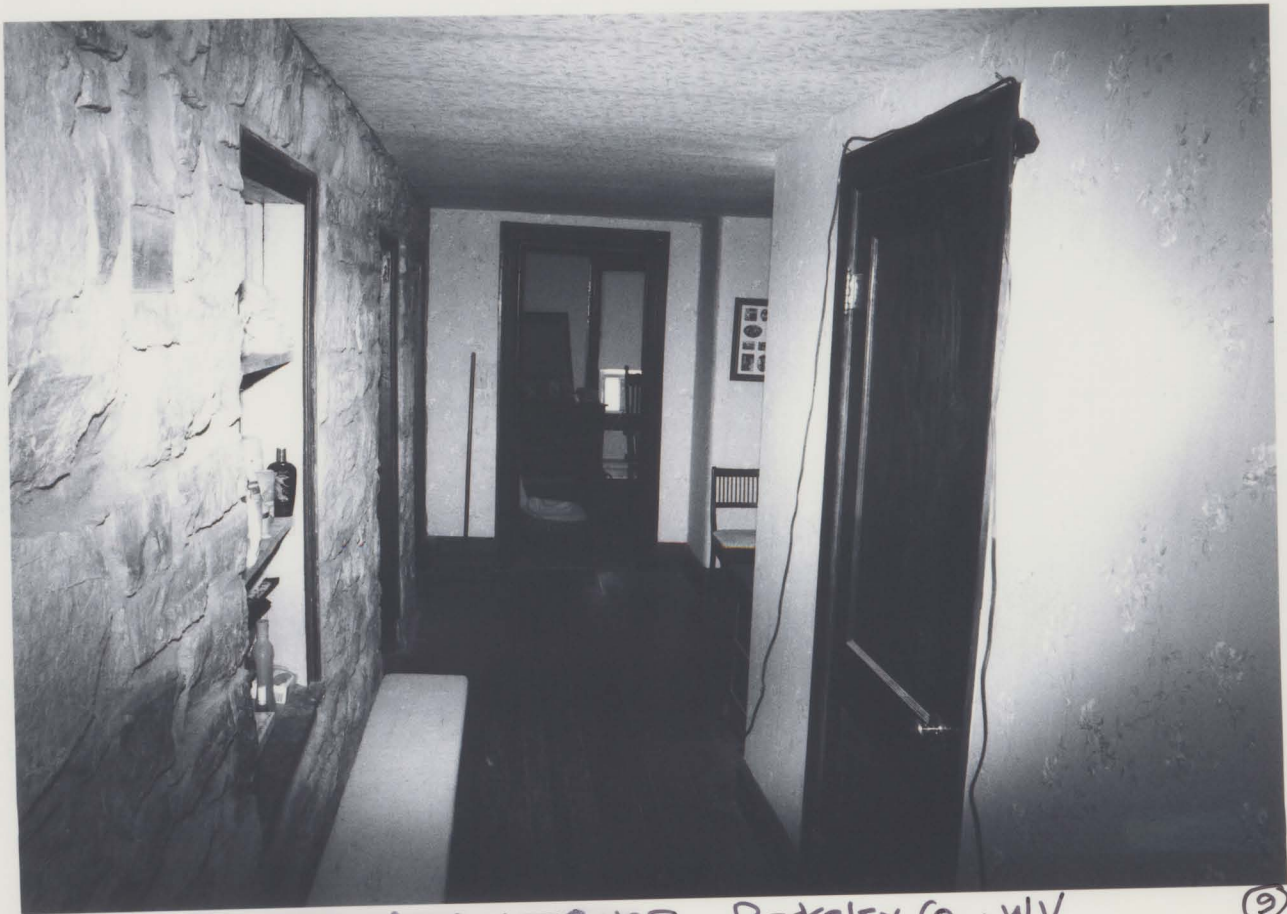


STRODE - MORRISON - TABLER HSE., Berkeley Co., WV

(7)



STRODE-MORRISON-TABLER HSE., Berkeley Co., WV



STRODE-MORRISON-TABLER HSE., Berkeley Co., WV



STRODE-HOCHISON-TABLER HSE. 11 BOKSLEY CO. - WV (10)



STRODE-MORRISON-TABLER HSE., Berkeley Co., WV

(11)



STRODE-MORRISON-TABLER HSE., Berkeley Co., WV

(12)



STRODE-MORRISON-TABLER HSE., BERKELEY CO., WV

(13)



STRODE-MORRISON-FABLER HSE., Berkeley Co., WV



STRODE-MORRISON-TABLER HSE., Berkeley Co., WY



STRODE-MORRISON-TABLER HSE. , BERKELEY CO., WV

(16)



STRODE - MORRISON - TABLER HSE., Berkeley Co., WV

(17)