

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tattersal Property

other names _____

2. Location

street & number Union Street

☐ not for publication

city or town Bolivar

☐ vicinity

state WV

code WV

county Jefferson

code 037

zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 officer/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 certifying officer/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. State/Federal Agency 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 _____

Tattersal Property
Name of Property

Jefferson County
County and State

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	
	2	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
1	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Historic Properties of Harpers Ferry National Historical
Park

**Number of contributing resources previously
Listed in the National Register**

1

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/Natural Feature (cliff, hilltop)

Recreation and Culture/outdoor recreation

Agriculture Subsistence/agricultural field

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Concrete block

Walls Aluminum siding

Vinyl siding

Roof Metal

Other

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Tattersal Property

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

Physical Description:

The Tattersal property is located on a flat-topped hill at the intersection of Union Street and US Route 340, overlooking the Shenandoah River to the south. The southern boundary of the property is a cliff of rock and wild vegetation. The house and associated buildings are located on about one acre of cleared land at the top of the hill on a two-acre parcel. A mixture of mostly deciduous trees surrounds the clearing. The yard is grassy and a great number of flower garden beds are established around the house.

The Tattersall house is a one-story frame dwelling constructed over several years, beginning in 1946. The house sits on a cement block foundation, the front (south), four bay, elevation appears to be an enclosed porch with a low pitched shed roof, one bay deep, with a two pane, sliding window on the west elevation. The front bays consist of two, three-part windows with a fixed large center pane, and smaller one over one sash windows on either side. A front door with storm screen door is placed between the two window sets. A fourth front bay, on the southeast corner is a smaller one over one sash window. This section of the house probably sits on block piers, these are masked with a formed concrete pad and step on the front, and wood paneling on the sides. The middle section of the house is one story with a small square, single pane attic window in the gable ends. The first story is two bays deep with one single and one paired, one over one sash window. A stuccoed chimney is located centrally in the peak of the roof. The rear section of the house sits on the same block foundation as the middle section, it is one bay deep with a low pitched shed roof. The window has one over one sash. The siding over all of the above sections of the house is aluminum, the roof is standing seam metal. Attached to the rear of the back section is a one bay, frame addition with flat roof. The rear (north) elevation is three bays, two paired one over one sash windows and a central door. The addition sits on a poured (or formed) concrete pad. The siding on the addition is vinyl, the roof is channeled metal.

The complex of outbuildings, located north of the dwelling house, is a series of garage, carport, workshop, and sheds. All appear to be connected in some way, and were built over a long period of time. Construction materials include: a steel framed carport with some wood panel siding, wood frame garage, workshop and sheds, with both wood German siding, wood clapboard siding, and asbestos shingles. Roofing materials appear to be channeled metal over all. Three small sheds indicated on the 1995 NPS Survey of the Tattersall tract were not observed.

Tattersal Property
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV
County and State

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 pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property 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 as yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1848-1944

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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 files (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:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Tattersall Property
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV
County and State

Section 8 Page 2

Statement of Significance:

The Tattersall Property is significant under National Register Criterion A as a contributing element to the whole landscape of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The 2.06 acre lot, although referred to in earlier deeds as slightly over 3 acres, appears to have retained its essential boundaries since at least 1848. Traditionally a cleared but vacant lot, the "Circus Hill Lot" has played a variety of roles in the community landscape of the Harpers Ferry/Bolivar area. It is part of the Multiple Property Documentation entitled "Historic Properties of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park," within the contexts, "Patterns of Development in the Post Civil War Harpers Ferry Areas, 1865-1955," "Harpers Ferry in the Civil War," and "Black Education in the Harpers Ferry/Bolivar Area from 1864-1955." The property type is a community resource.

The Tattersall tract is located on the southwestern boundary of the town of Harpers Ferry, atop a promontory between Camp Hill and Bolivar Heights. Bounded on the west by Union Street, and on the south by cliffs along the Route 340 corridor (formerly Shenandoah Street), the lot overlooks the Shenandoah River to the south, just at the western tip of Virginus Island. While there is a house currently located on the lot, constructed in 1946, it appears the tract remained undeveloped for most of its history.

Resource History

Sometime prior to 1848, Lewis Wernwag, a well-known local bridge builder who lived on Virginus Island, purchased the Union Street lot from George Rowles. No deed was recorded for this transaction unfortunately, and in 1848, both men having passed away, a special commissioner was appointed by the Chancery Court to settle the ownership dispute between the heirs of George Rowles and Lewis Wernwag. The settlement placed the lot in the hands of Wernwag's heirs, which they retained for 68 years. At some point during this time the lot became known as the "Circus Hill Lot." A reference to this name is found in the 1914 deed from Julia Ann Wernwag Johnson to S. W. Lightner. The locally produced Woman's Club newsletter, The Mountain Echo, dated August, 1919, described the origin of the name: "This hill . . . received its name from the fact that, in ante-war days, John Robinson's famous circus annually pitched its tents on the flat top of the hill, not far from the point overlooking the river, and attracted large crowds from the surrounding country."¹

¹The Mountain Echo, Vol. 1, No. 2, August 1919, Henry T. McDonald Papers, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Tattersall Property

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

The apparent use of the hill lot, before the Civil War, for a circus location, indicates the lot was probably maintained as a cleared field or meadow. The same newsletter article notes that Civil War soldiers were thought to have been buried on the north end of the lot. The bodies were later removed, according to the article, leaving depressions in the ground.² While the possibility exists that this anecdote is true, further research would be necessary to document the validity of the newsletter account.

The 1914 purchase of the "Circus Hill Lot" by Scott W. Lightner, a Trustee of the nearby Storer College, began a new association for the hill parcel. In 1916, Lightner sold the property to Storer College. The 1919 Mountain Echo article described the lot as "now under cultivation as the property of Storer College."³ Immediately east of the hill lot, across a ravine, was the western boundary of the Storer College campus, occupied by the college barn and gardens used in the Husbandry and Gardening courses at the college. A photo from the 1913-14 college catalogue shows this view, probably taken from the "Circus Hill Lot" location.⁴ Until 1942, Storer College had been operating as a two-year college, with emphasis not only on Education Certification, but also instruction in Industrial Arts and Agriculture. In 1942, Storer College began offering four-year degrees in Education, Science, and Home Economics.⁵ With a waning emphasis on agricultural education, the college perhaps no longer needed the extra acreage of the "Circus Hill Lot." In 1944 the Trustees of Storer College sold the lot to Edward Tattersall.

Edward Tattersall began building his modest home on the summit of the "Circus Hill Lot" in 1946. Unfortunately, Edward died the same year, unable to complete construction of the building. The lot then passed to Edward's children, including Melvin Tattersall, who continued construction of the house over the next twenty years.⁶ In 1952 Melvin and his wife Dorothy acquired sole ownership of the property. The Tattersalls sold the lot to the National Park Service in 1995, but retained a "Life Estate." The property is currently vacant.

Resource Evaluation

The Tattersall Property, historically known as the "Circus Hill Lot," is part of the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "Historic Properties of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park." The tract of land is significant as a contributing element to the overall natural and cultural landscape of the Harpers Ferry/Bolivar area. In the years before the Civil

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Storer College Catalogue, 1913-1914, Storer College Collection, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

⁵Storer College Catalogue, 1942-1943.

⁶Personal communication from Dorothy Tattersall, May 1999.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Tattersal Property

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

War, its use was as the site of circus entertainment. During the war the site was possibly used for observation and burials. In the years of re-development following the war, the property was a cultivated field for the education of African American students at Storer College. All of these incarnations of the "Circus Hill Lot" have made it an integral part of the Harpers Ferry cultural landscape. The buildings currently on the property are considered to be non-contributing to this history.

The historic integrity of the Tattersall Property remains good, despite the presence of the Tattersall house and associated buildings on the lot. The surrounding setting remains much the same. Union Street has seen very little modern development, the backlots bordering the ravine to the east are still wooded, as is the ravine (as seen in the 1913 Storer College Catalogue photo). The subject lot remains cleared of trees on the summit, because of the dwelling complex, and a large number of flower gardens have been established. Despite the fact that the former Shenandoah Street below the lot is now Route 340, the change does not intrude on the integrity of the lot due to the tremendous height of the cliff on which the lot sits. Because of this height, the view shed of the Shenandoah River and the Loudoun Heights beyond has remained essentially unchanged by development below.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Tattersal Property

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Section 9 Page 2

Major Bibliographical References:

Brown, S. Howell, Map of Harper Ferry, 1869, Jefferson Co. Court House, Charles Town, WV.

Bushong, Millard K., Historic Jefferson County, Boyce, VA: Carr Publishing Co., Inc., 1972.

Henry T. McDonald Papers, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

Jefferson County Land Records, Jefferson Co. Court House, Charles Town, WV.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1907, 1922, 1933, West Virginia University Archives, Morgantown, WV.

Storer College Catalogues, Storer College Collection, Harpers Ferry NHP Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

Jefferson County, WV
County and State

Acreage of Property 2.06

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Figure 1 consists of four diagrams, labeled 1 through 4, each showing a grid of points. The diagrams are arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each diagram has a horizontal axis labeled 'Zone' and a vertical axis labeled 'Northing'. The horizontal axis is divided into segments, and the vertical axis is divided into segments. The labels 'Zone', 'East', and 'Northing' are placed below the horizontal axis, and 'Northing' is placed to the left of the vertical axis. The diagrams show different grid types: 1. A standard grid with Zone, East, and Northing labels. 2. A grid with Zone, East, and Northing labels. 3. A grid with Zone, East, and Northing labels. 4. A grid with Zone, East, and Northing labels.

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

name/title	Edith B. Wallace, Research Associate		
organization	Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc.	date	6/99, rev. 12/00
street & number	105 N. Potomac Street	telephone	301-739-2070
city or town	Hagerstown	State	Maryland
		zip code	21740

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps

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

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

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

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

Name Harpers Ferry NHP
street & number P.O. Box 65 telephone 304-535-6298
city or town Harpers Ferry state WV zip code 25425

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Tattersal Property

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Section 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries are those shown and described on the attached survey plat for NPS tract 103-41. The property is also verbally described in Jefferson County Deed Book 186, page 407, and contains 2.06 acres.

Boundary Justification:

This is the entire property, as surveyed and deeded in 1944. These appear to be the historic boundaries for the property.

NOTES:

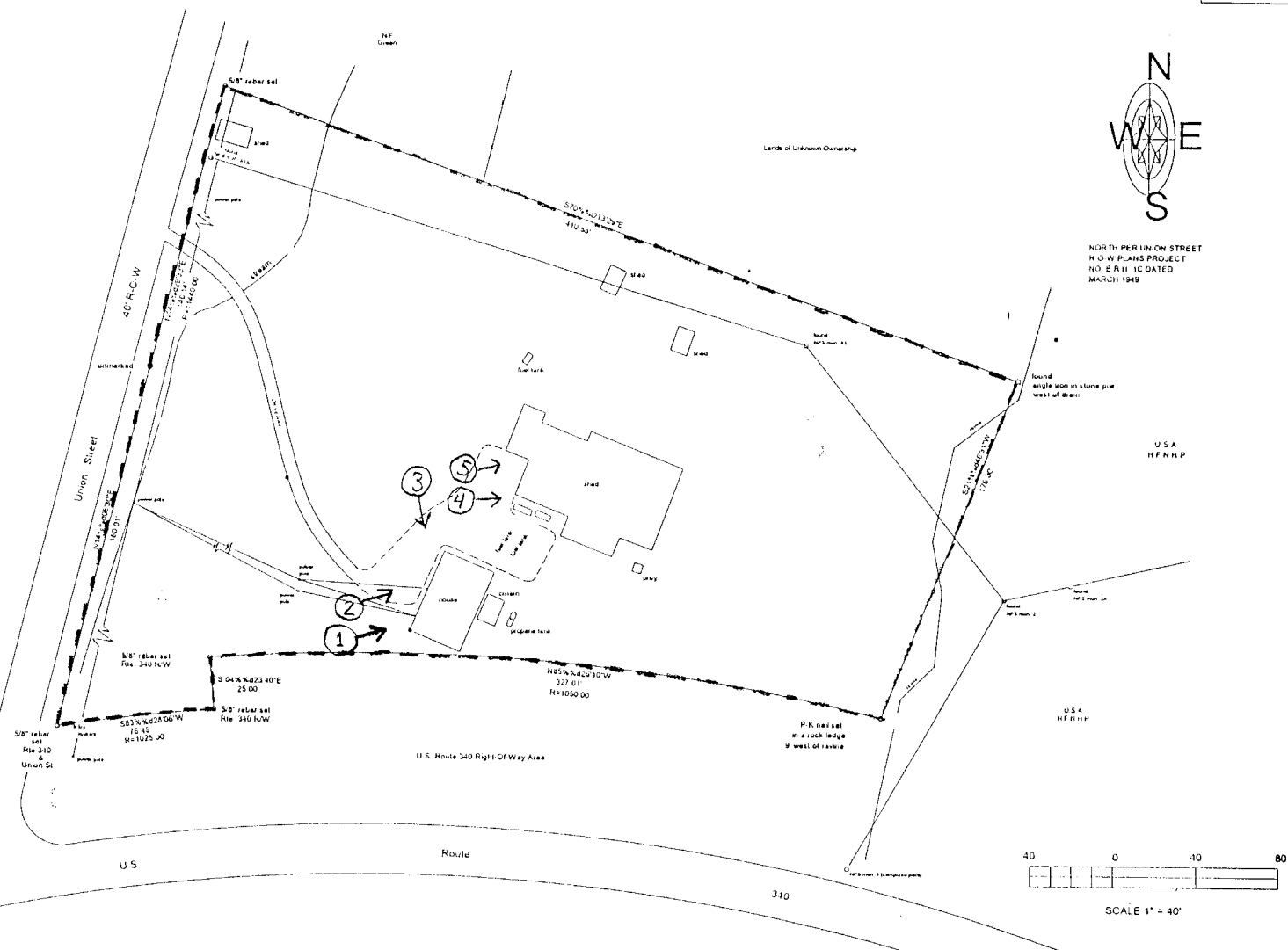
1) N P S. MONUMENTS PER SURVEY
BY BRAND ENGINEERING COMPANY, MARTINSBURG, WV,
DATED JUNE 1952, AND J. B. FERGUSON & COMPANY, INC.,
HAGERSTOWN, MD., DATED JANUARY 1965

2) REFERENCE IS MADE TO STATE ROAD PLANS ENTITLED
"PLAN AND PROFILE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE ROAD,
ROUTE NO. U.S. 340, PROJECT NO. E.R.H. 1-(1) AND
F 278(1) BOLIVAR - VIRGINIA STATE LINE",
DATE OCTOBER 1945, REVISED SEPTEMBER 1947, AND,
"PLAN AND PROFILE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE ROAD,
PROJECT NO. STATE E.R.H. 1C, UNION STREET,
HARPERS FERRY", DATED MARCH 1949
BOTH DOCUMENTS ARE OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S
OFFICE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

3) FURTHER REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE FOLLOWING
DEED BOOKS AND PAGES
DB 180, PG 177
DB 166, PG 490
DB 160, PG 147
DB 113, PG 393
DB 111, PG 59
DB 83, PG 52

HARPERSFERRY NHP TATTERSALL PROPERTY PHOTO KEY

① → - PHOTO # + DIRECTION
--- - PROPERTY/BOUNDARY



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HARPERS FERRY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

SURVEY OF TRACT 103-41

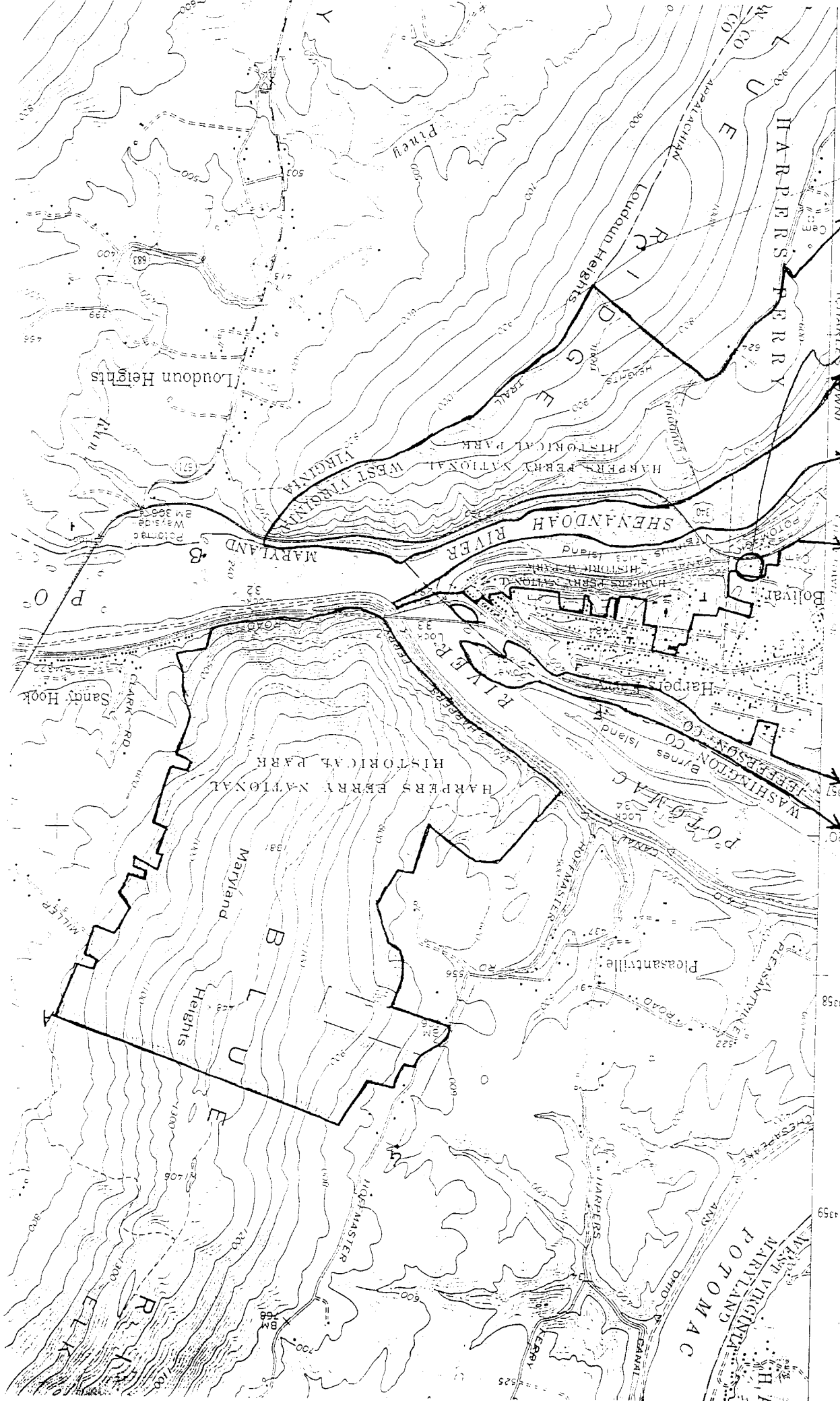
MELVIN TATTERSALL, et ux.,

DB: 186, PG. 407

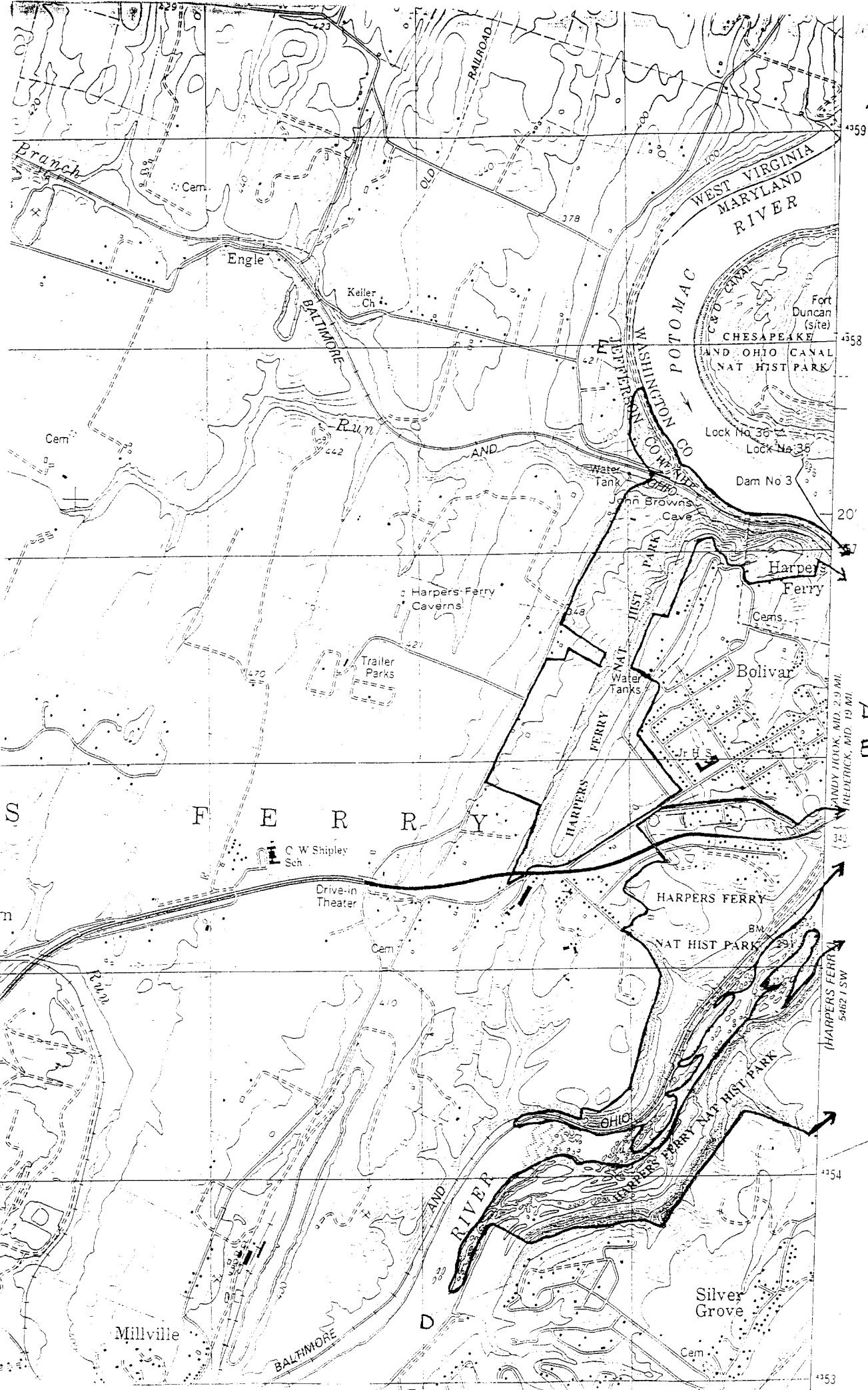
AREA: 2.06 ACRES



SURVEYED BY: CHARLES K. SAGER
DRAWN BY: C. BLAUSER & J. M. CYHANICK
APPROVED BY: C. K. SAGER & C. BLAUSER
DATE: APRIL 17, 1995
APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL
LAND ACQUISITION FIELD OFFICE
PO BOX 908
MARTINSBURG, WV 25401



- HARPERS FERRY MHP
UTM REFERENCES:
- A 18/26590/4357980
 - B 18/26540/435790
 - C 18/26300/4354380
 - F 18/26390/4356560
 - G 18/264780/4358600
 - H 18/269780/4356000
 - I 18/26690/4353110
 - J 18/26670/4353600
 - K 18/267610/4355360
 - L 18/269180/4356100
- TATTERSAL PROPERTY



HARPERS FERRY NH
UTM REFERENCES
D 18/261030/4353380
E 18/261880/4357926



