

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property: Tomahawk Spring

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historic name: Tomahawk Spring

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: County Route 7/2 not for publication: N/A

city/town: Tomahawk

Vicinity:

State:WV code:WV county:Berkeley code:003 zip code:25427

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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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 locally X .

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William C. Lauer
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

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4. National Park Service Certification

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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

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Category of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITH PROPERTY:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	TOTAL

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:
Domestic/secondary site

CURRENT FUNCTIONS:
Domestic/secondary site

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7. Description

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ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:
N/A

MATERIALS:

Foundation: Stone

Walls: German siding

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.

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.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS

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

Property is:

N/A 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:

Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:

1860.

SIGNIFICANT DATES:

1860.

SIGNIFICANT PERSON:

N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: N/A

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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Acreeage of Property: 7/10 acre.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
 17. 752920. 4379650.

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 Street

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: Judith Rooney Erskine

Street & Number: 1 Tomahawk Run Place Telephone: (304) 754-7350

City or Town: Hedgesville State: WV ZIP: 25427

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Tomahawk Spring
Berkeley County, WV

Tomahawk Spring is located in Berkeley County, West Virginia. It is located approximately six miles to the west of Martinsburg. It is situated near the village of Tomahawk on County Route 7/2. The spring is located behind the current farmhouse on the property adjacent to the creek. The terrain is flat with stone outcroppings in the fields surrounding the spring. Included in the nominated area is the spring house. It is considered contributing. The extant spring is, of course, a natural feature and the spring house over it dates from ca. 1860. The spring house is not the original building over the spring, but is a replacement constructed over the original stone foundation. There is a foundation site from the original settlement period house but it is considered an unevaluated archaeological site. The foundation is partially exposed and the shape and outline of the foundation are visible, though the foundation is not fully exposed. There has been no formal archaeological investigations on the site and the site is protected by virtue of being unexcavated. The current farmhouse is considered a non-contributing building within the nominated area. It is a two-story, side gable residence built ca. 1890 by the Rooney family but was completely remodeled as a bed and breakfast in 1992.

The spring house lies in a north-south direction and the spring flows to the south. The house sits directly below a shelf in the terrain. At the base of this shelf is a stone outcropping from which the spring emanates.

The spring house is a one-story, gable structure divided into two sections. The first, where the head of the spring is located, is approximately sixteen feet by twelve feet. The second chamber, where the pool is located, is thirteen feet by twelve feet. The spring chamber consists of a stone foundation and water table approximately three feet tall supporting a wood lattice enclosure. The stone walls are coursed rubble. The structure for the enclosure has a six by seven inch timber sill on the top of the stone wall with full two by four stud framing supporting the lattice. The second chamber is the same construction except that the exterior siding is German wood siding. The gable ends of the

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Section 7 Page 2

Tomahawk Spring
Berkeley County, WV

sided section have small ventilation windows at the tops. These have hand carved, square, horizontal bars mortised into the frames. These are original to the construction of the spring house. The roof is non-original metal roofing. There is another window in the side wall of the sided chamber constructed in the same way. The door in the lattice section is lattice and the one in the other section is a batten with vertical boards.

The roof and its structure do not appear to be original to the building. The other elements appear to be from the original construction period.

The spring, which is the main feature, is an interesting natural formation. It get its name from the unusual shape of the rock itself. When viewed from above, the spring looks like a tomahawk. The handle section is the head of the spring, and this widens to a hammer head section at the base. At this point the spring house dividing wall is located. The water travels between the chambers through an opening in the stone wall. In the second chamber, there is a narrow channel in the stone in which the water flows. It exits the rear wall through another opening. On the exterior, the water collects in a small pool, then flows to the creek.

The spring house sits in a small depression formed by the watershed of the creek and spring.

To the north of the spring, on the shelf, is the remains of the foundation of the original house. There is a rectangular outline of the foundation in the ground. The dimensions of the outline indicate a size of approximately thirteen by twenty two feet. The house site is approximately forty-two feet distant from the spring. The tops of the stones are exposed. They are level with the adjacent soil. There is earth fill between the stones and the area surrounding them is grassed. No formal archaeological investigation has been accomplished and the feature is in stable condition.

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Section 7 Page 3

Tomahawk Spring
Berkeley County, WV

The current farmhouse is located about two hundred (200) feet to the north west of the spring house. It is considered non-contributing as it falls outside of the period of significance and has been modified.

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Section 8 Page 1

Tomahawk Spring
Berkeley County, WV

Tomahawk Spring is significant under Criterion C for its unique design and as a model for other spring houses in the area.

The spring house is an interesting design consisting of two pens or chambers. The first contains the head of the spring as it exits from the rock hillside. This then flows through an opening in the wall to the second pen, which consists of a large rectangular room with an inlet in the uphill wall and an outlet in the downhill side. The walls are stone knee walls with frame construction above.

The unusual aspect of this design is that most springs houses usually contain only one room, the one with the actual spring in it. This is where water was drawn and perishable goods were stored. The Tomahawk Spring house appears to have been designed to provide a separate location for water access and one for cold storage. The water access room has lattice walls, which allowed for air infiltration and exchange. It also allowed for a fair amount of natural lighting into the operation that requires the most. The second room, presumably for storage of goods, has solid walls with only three windows. Two of these are in the gable ends at the top. This arrangement allowed for a fairly tight room that provided some cold retention, even though the walls are not insulated.

The usual situation, when a spring house is used for cold storage is to have one room with the spring in it used for storage as well. The second most common application is to have a room above the spring room, used for storage, though this is not usually a cold storage room. The Tomahawk Spring house is therefore an uncommon though functional design form. This spring also apparently served as a model for other springs in the vicinity. It is the best surviving example that was observed in the region during the research for this nomination. The closest spring house is located at Tomahawk, about a mile distant. It is the same construction of two chambers with lattice on one and German siding on the other. The roofing is standing seam metal. This example though, is in severely deteriorated condition. These are the only known extant examples.

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Section 8 Page 2

Tomahawk Spring
Berkeley County, WV

The spring house exhibits interesting construction techniques as well. The stone lower walls are well suited to protection from the moisture and spring. The stone wall also provides a deep shelf for installation of the wood frame external walls with an interior shelf suitable for storage and installation of additional shelving of planking for storage. The hand carved wood "bars" on the windows are a good extant example of utilitarian window construction commonly used for agricultural outbuildings and basement construction. This is also true of the mortise and tenon construction of the window frames.

An interesting thing about the spring is that it is shaped like a tomahawk, and gets its name from that. The entire run is named after the spring.

Tomahawk Spring is also the location of early settlement in the county. Virginia survey records indicate that the land was surveyed for Israel Robinson in 1749 and he received a patent from Lord Fairfax for it. He proceeded to settle on the property. The location was selected due to the proximity of water and relatively level agricultural land. The map accompanying the grant includes the location of the spring.

Israel Robinson is reported to have emigrated from Ireland and was involved in the establishment of the first Presbyterian Congregation in the Back Creek Valley. He also assisted in constructing the first Presbyterian Church in the Valley. Robinson was also influential in the politics and development of the region. He was a member of the Virginia legislature. By the time that Berkeley County was formed from Frederick County in 1772, Israel had passed away and his holdings went to his son, Edward, who divided them with his brothers, Thomas and James.

Thomas was the recipient of the spring property and the home site of Israel. Thomas was influential in regional development and politics, as was his father. He served as Justice of the Peace and was commissioned by Lord Dunmore in 1772. Thomas sold the property to Robert and Martha Stewart in 1772 and they resided there until 1786 when they sold it to Ellen (Elon?) Miller and

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Tomahawk Spring
Berkeley County, WV

his wife, Christine. The property was sold in 1828 to James Robinson, then to James William Robinson after the death of James, Sr. James W. Robinson was the grandson of the original settler. Once again the homestead was in control of the settlement family.

James W. Robinson was also significant in the development of the young county. He married in 1860 and acquired the property at that time. He served for two years as the first recorder for Berkeley County; as deputy collector of internal revenue for Berkeley, Morgan, and Jefferson Counties in 1867 and 1868; as county justice; as county surveyor in 1882; and as mayor of Martinsburg in 1868 and 1869. He also was one of the founders of the Berkeley Union and the Valley Star. The Berkeley Union continues today as the Independent, a weekly paper in Martinsburg, and the Valley Star is now the Statesman, another Martinsburg paper.

James' sister, Hester Elizabeth, married Albert Rooney and they took up residence at the farm site in 1864. She died in 1912 and Albert in 1898. Both are buried in the Tomahawk Presbyterian Cemetery. The home farm was left to their children and it still remains in the Rooney family.

In summary, Tomahawk Spring is significant under Criterion C for its unique design as an unusual example of a spring house and for serving as a prototype of a style of spring house in the area. It is the most intact extant example of this type. It also exhibits construction characteristics of the period, such as the pegged wood window bars, and construction techniques well suited to take advantage of the required function of the building, such as the stone wall in contact with the spring water and the shelf spaces provided by the stone walls. The original unique natural shape of the spring is an interesting occurrence.

The period of significance, 1860, relates to the construction date of the spring house.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Tomahawk Spring
Berkeley County, WV

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Comstock, Jim West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia Richwood,
West Virginia, 1976.

Wood, Don C. History of Tomahawk Spring Unpublished manuscript.

Berkeley County Courthouse
Deeds,
Records, etc.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

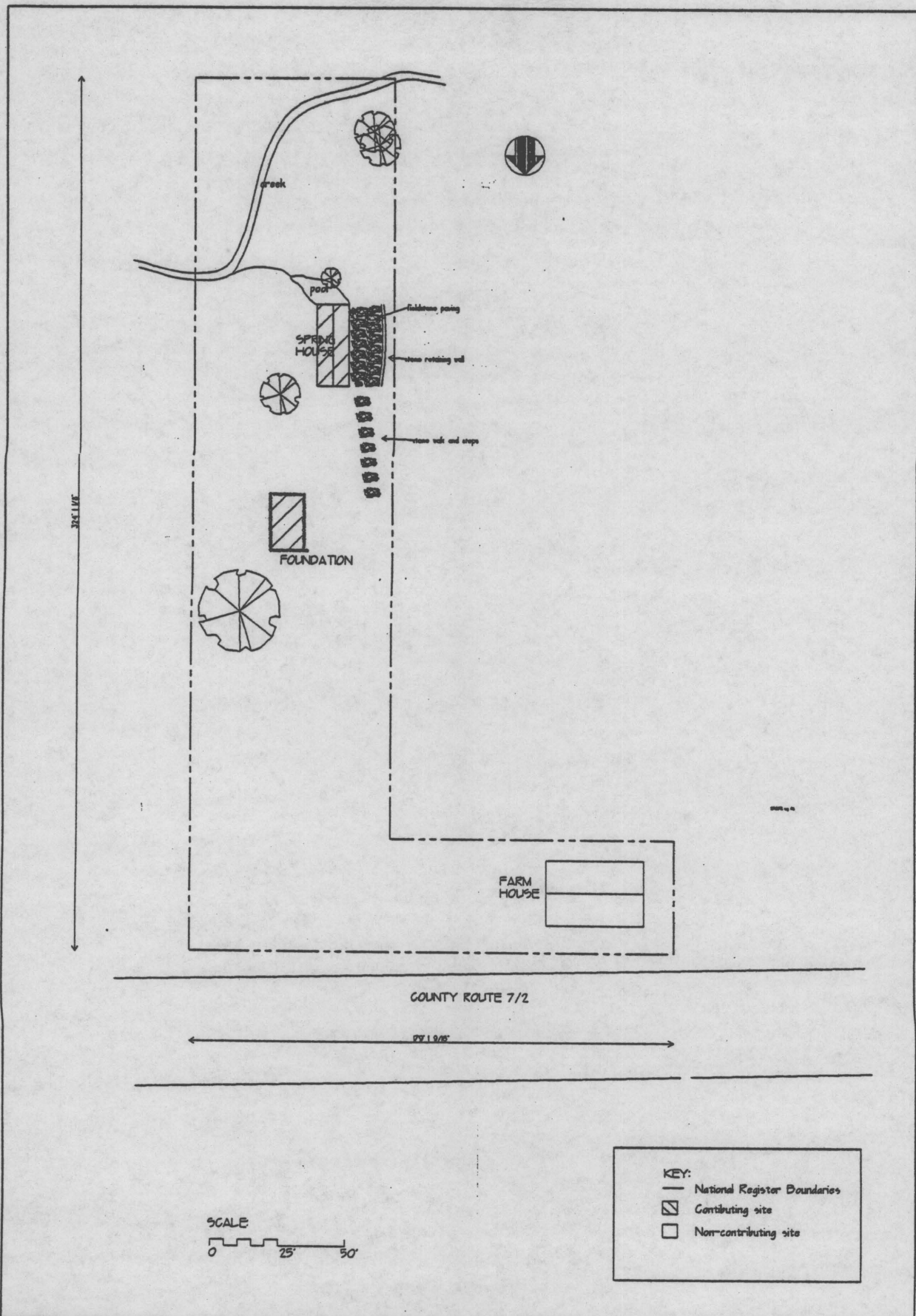
Tomahawk Spring
Berkeley County, WV

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Tomahawk Spring National Register nomination is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying sketch map titled "SITE PLAN TOMAHAWK SPRING BERKELEY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA" dated March, 1994.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries encompass the spring itself, the unevaluated foundation of a residence, and the current farm house. This was selected to include all resources associated with the farm property.



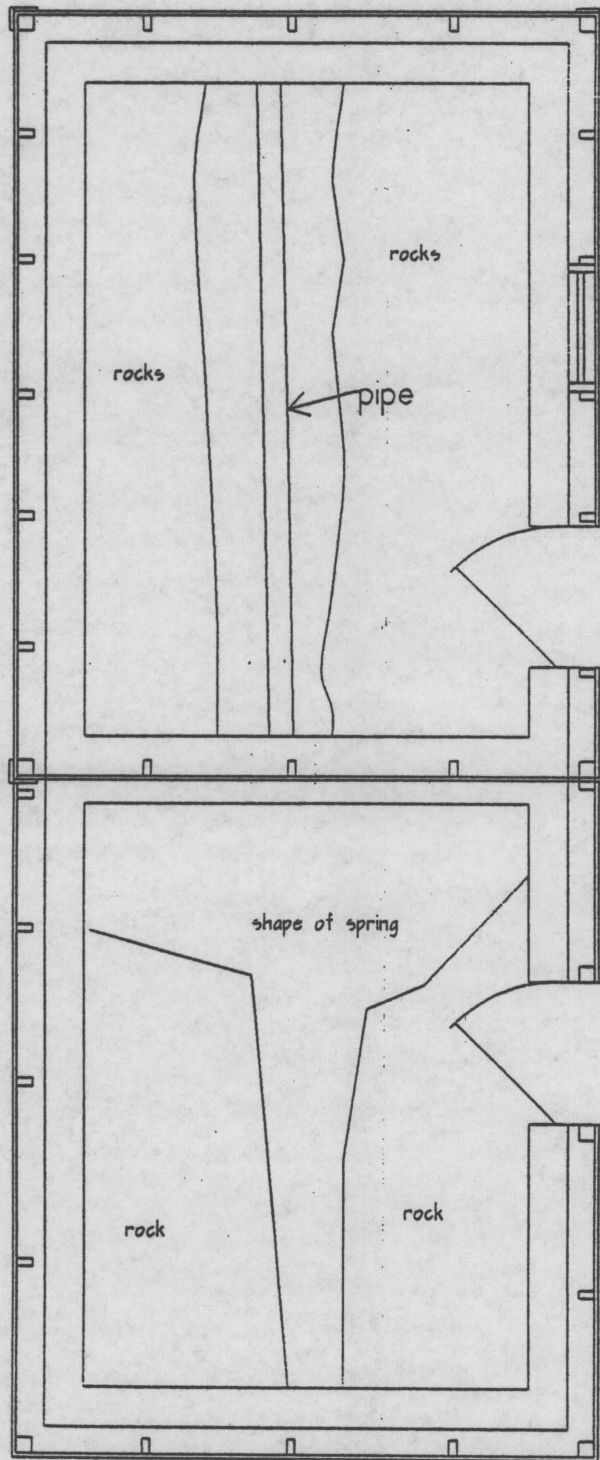
DWG.
NO.
1 of 2

SITE PLAN
TOMAHAWK SPRING
BERKELEY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

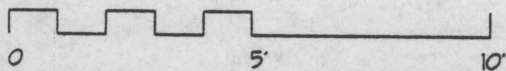
MICHAEL GIOULIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
CONSULTANT
612 MAIN STREET
SUTTON, WV 26001
304 766-6716

REV.

DATE
MAR. 1994

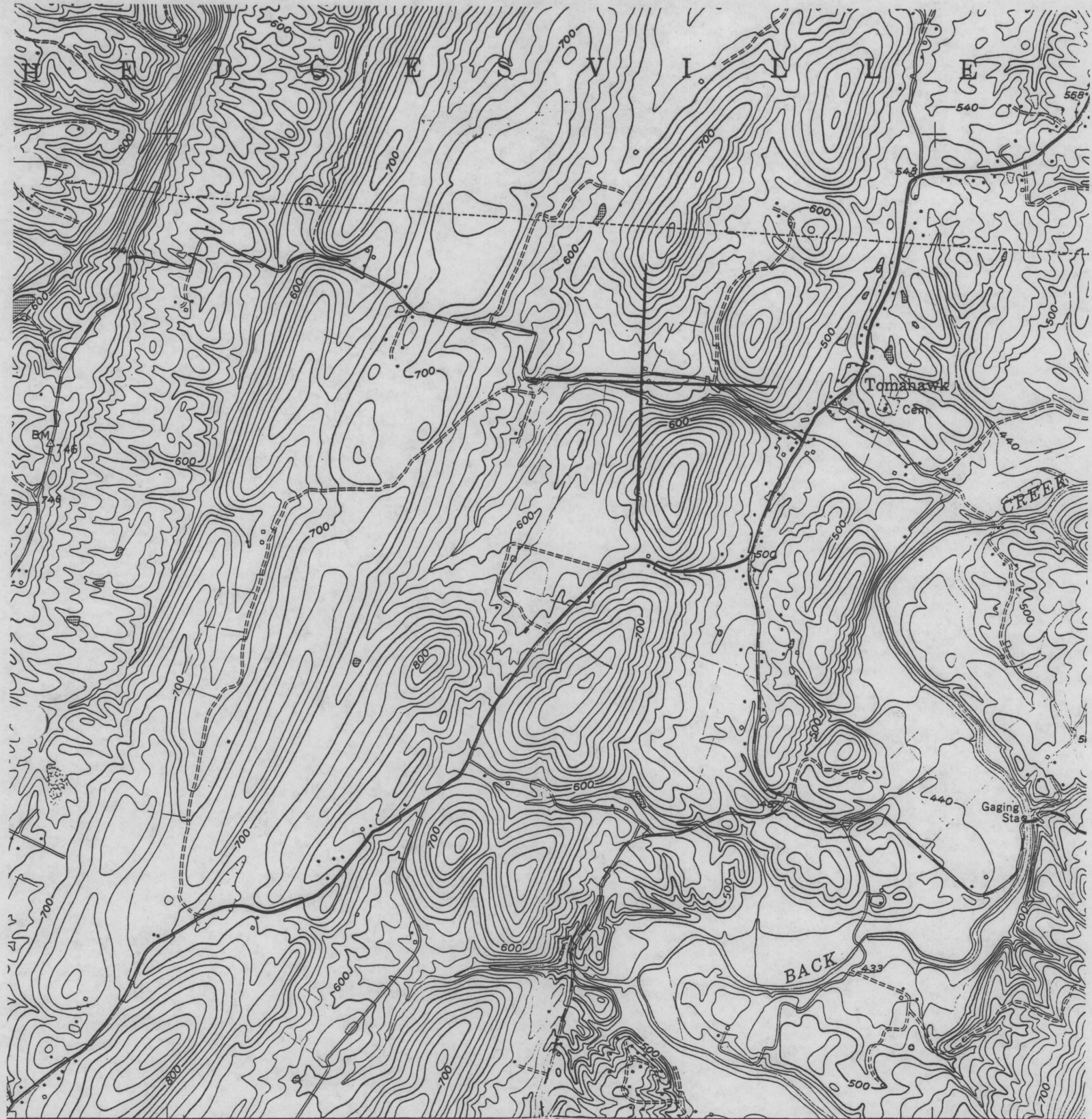


SCALE:



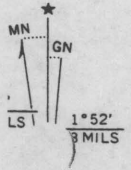
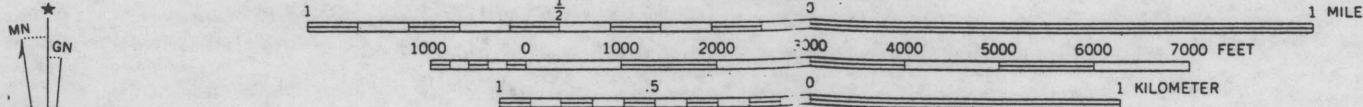
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DWG. NO. 2 of 2	PLAN OF SPRINGHOUSE TOMAHAWK SPRING BERKELEY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA	MICHAEL GIOULIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTANT 612 MAIN STREET SUTTON, WY 82801 304 765-5715	REV. DATE MAR. 1994
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ONES SPRINGS 0.5 MI. 51 751 (TABLERS STATION) 753 754 2'30" 510
 .6 MI. TO W. VA. 45 5362 1 NE

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

1981 MAGNETIC NORTH AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple cooperation with State of

QUADRA



4383
HEDGESVILLE 0.4 MI.
MARTINSBURG 7.9 MI.
4382
32'30"
HEDGESVILLE 1.7 MI.
4380
4379

Big Pool Quad

TOMAHAWK SPRINGS
BERKELEY COUNTY,
WV

UTM REFERENCE:
17.752920/4379650.

