

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: WASHINGTON BOTTOM FARM
other name/site number: Ridgedale

2. Location

street & number: Off State Route 28 not for publication: N/A
city/town: Springfield vicinity: N/A
state: WV county: Hampshire code: 027 zip code: 26763

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 CAR 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.)

Susan M. Pierce October 10, 2001
Signature of Certifying Official 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/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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	
<u>7</u>		buildings
		sites
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
		objects
<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	TOTAL

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURAL: Outbuildings
Agricultural fields

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURAL: Outbuildings
Agricultural fields

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

MID-19th CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials

Foundation	<u>Brick</u>
Walls	<u>Brick</u>
Roof	<u>Asphalt Shingle</u>
Other	<u>Frame; Metal Roofs</u>

Narrative Description

(See continuation on 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.

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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.

Areas of Significance

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

1832-1951

Significant Dates

1835; 1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

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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 CAR 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 251.6 acres

UTM References: (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Quad Map Name: Springfield

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Loretta Brinker with Katherine Jourdan

Organization: WV SHPO

Date: July 2001

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East

Telephone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston

State: WV Zip: 25305

Property Owner

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

Name: Robert and Loretta Brinker

Street & Number: PO Box 207 Telephone: 304/822-7011

City or Town: Springfield State: WV Zip: 26763

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The Washington Bottom Farm is outside of Romney, on a plateau overlooking a large river bottom of the South Branch of the Potomac River which surrounds the property on three sides. The property is five miles north of Romney, below the roadway of State Route 28. Although the farm once had 700 acres, it now has a total of 251.6 acres associated with the early residence and farm buildings.

The house sits on a wide flat lawn with a decorative garden finial on post as a feature near the drive. Nearby is a large flat rock used as a stepping stone into a buggy. A small mound, possibly an Indian mound, is to the east of the house. To the rear of the house is a small outbuilding but the remaining farm outbuildings are to the south and west of the house. The vegetation immediately surrounding the house has been cleared, but there are trees closer to the river. The farm fields are mainly to the west and north.

MAIN HOUSE

c. 1835

Contributing Building

The farmhouse is a high styled Greek Revival residence constructed in 1835 for gentleman farmer, George W. Washington. The three-story brick house stands on a brick foundation and has an L-shaped plan. The house has a hip roof with a center square cupola and widows walk. The cupola has a window on each side with a 4/4 double-hung sash, and brackets under the roof edge. On the roof are four chimneys, one at each corner with a slightly flared edge of corbeling at the top, and a recessed panel in the center face.

The front, or south elevation, has a center hipped wooden porch with steps. The porch has a spindled rail, wooden posts and deck, and small brackets under the eave. The main doorway is centered with a single transom and has a Greek Revival feature of a wide trim piece over the doorway. The house has five bays on each floor. The windows on the house are all double-hung sash except for the third floor which has small lozenge windows of three vertical lights in the frieze area. With stone sills and brick lintels. The first floor windows are 6/9 sash and reach to the floor in the front two rooms. The second floor windows are 6/6 sash. There is damage to the brick at the southwest corner of the home around the front window.

The west side is divided into two sections with the front portion of the house and the rear ell. Each section has three bays on each floor with 6/6 sash windows on the first and second floor and lozenge windows on third floor of the front section. The rear ell is slightly set back from the facade and has a shed orch on the first floor with wooden posts. A lower level door leads into a basement room, and the first floor door leads into the kitchen. Basement windows are covered at this time with plywood.

The north side of the ell is a blank brick wall with a single lower level entrance that is presently covered. The north side of the house has two 6/6 sash windows.

The east facade of the house has the front portion to the left with a small center porch which matches the details on the front porch with wooden posts and a spindled rail. There are small brackets under the eave and lattice partially covers the area under the porch. The porch is accessed from the two

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6/9 sash windows form the front room, which reach to the floor. Above these openings are two 6/9 sash windows and lozenge windows at the third floor or attic level. The right side of the house is recessed back for the rear ell which has a two-story porch. The porch was enclosed in the 1940s with glass windows. The wooden floor and orch stairs remain in their original condition.

The interior of the home has good integrity with original wooden floors, wooden trim, a wide center hall with curved stairs, high ceilings, and six panel doors, some of which have graining. The trim on the second floor is simpler with narrow closets in the bedrooms having been added after 1939. The doorways on this floor have transoms opening into the hallway. A bathroom has been added to the end of the porch and over the front hallway. The attic area has lower ceilings which angle and the low lozenge windows and rough wood floor. A narrow dog-leg stairway leads to the cupola and a door opens out to the widows walk. A dog-leg stairway also connects to two floors of the rear porch and has been blocked to the lower level.

Summer Kitchen/Slave Quarters c. 1835 Contributing building

Two-story brick building with low door and 6/6 double-hung sash windows with voussoirs. Gable roof with standing seam metal. Attached to the west side is a poured concrete addition for gas carbide.

Land Banked Barn c. 1875/1908 Contributing building/and structure (silo)

Two stories with vertical wooden siding, stone foundation and some concrete, metal gable roof. Post and beam construction with hewn beams. Entrances on two levels with hay mow on upper level and livestock on lower level. On the roof are four metal ventilators with globed lighting rods. The barn was damaged by fire on Dec 25, 1907. The second floor was rebuilt and a new silo attached in 1908.

Machine Barn c. 1930 Contributing building

One and a half story barn with vertical wooden siding, with wide gable end having center opening of over 20 feet. Wide door under south side and narrow door to north side. Three hay mow doors in the gable end. Wood post foundation and metal gable roof.

Barn & Silos c. 1850 Contributing building/2 Structures

Two-story barn with shed extension, metal siding, metal roof, concrete foundation. Some recessed areas on barn have 6/6 double-hung windows or 8 light openings. The interior has been reconfigured (c. 2001) to update the barn for use with dairy cattle and a modern milking parlor. A long rear loafing area with shed roof has been attached to the rear. Two tile silos dating to c. 1910 are nearby.

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Metal silo c. 1953
Modern metal sided silo, freestanding

Noncontributing structure

Log Cabin c. 1832
Two-story single pen log house covered with wood siding, gable metal roof. Three bays on the front facade. Washington's original home on Ridgedale.

Contributing building

Buggy Shed c. 1870
One and a half story, constructed of wood with two bays for buggys. Interior stairway in the rear provides access to upper floor with two storage rooms.

Contributing building

Summary:

The earliest structure is the log cabin which dates to the settlement by the Washington family. The main house and outbuildings date either to the establishment and growth of the farm by the Washington family or the later ownership by the Brinker family. The outbuildings are fairly typical of this region of the state. The main house is exceptional with its brick work and tower. At this time no known cemetery or graves have been located on the property.

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Washington Bottom Farm is being nominated for Criterion A for Agriculture and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance is 1832 to 1951.

History of the Property

The land of the Washington farm can be traced back to Lord Fairfax, as can many of the large tracts in this area of the state. It was surveyed around 1749 by George Washington, who later went on to become an Army general and US president. The farm was first settled in 1725 by Peter Peters. On the parcel was located Fort Williams, established as a settler's fort in 1756 by Richard Williams. Williams and his family were living on the plantation of his father-in-law Peter Peters on the South Branch River in 1755 at the time of an Indian attack. Williams built his fort, Fort Williams, after he arrived home from Indian captivity, in the spring of 1756. From documentation, it appears to have been a settlers fort, although militia were stationed there at times during the course of the French and Indian War. In the spring of 1758, troops were temporarily stationed at the fort, probably under the order of Capt. Thomas Wagoner, of the Virginia Regiment who was authorized by General George Washington to man any settler forts which were in need of support. No archaeological evidence has been discovered for the fort which is documented by deeds. (Northern Neck Grants G. p. 264)

George W. Washington (1809-1876) was the son of Edward Washington, a descendant of a brother of former President George Washington, and was born near Pohick Church, Fairfax County, Virginia. He was well educated and highly respected. He married Sarah (Sally) Wright (1811-1886) on February 19, 1830. She was the daughter of John Wright and his wife Rebecca Lockhart of Loudon County, Virginia and the granddaughter of Major Robert Lockhart, a native of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where he served on the Committee of Public Safety in the Revolution and was also a major in the county militia. Sarah Wright was born at "Wheatland," near Leesburg, Loudon County, Virginia on April 22, 1811. She was educated at the Moravian School in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Major Robert Lockhart, her grandfather, devised Ridgedale and 700 acres to Sarah, her brother and sister in 1817. This land came into the ownership of George and Sarah after their marriage.

The couple moved to the farm and constructed the single pen log cabin c. 1832 where they lived until the main house was completed. As their family and resources grew, they added to the farm and constructed the main house in 1835. They had a number of children: Edward, Rebecca, Ettie, George, Robert, Sallie, John W., Betty and John. Son John W. died when less than 2 years old, and the second John died in the Civil War, as did brother Edward.

George W. Washington's agricultural practices included raising beef cattle, sheep and pigs. He owned many horses, including two registered Percheron mares. Most of his horses were purchased in England and brought to the farm. He grew corn, hay, soybeans, oats, wheat and flax. He sold cured and fresh pork, along with corn, wool and vegetables for farm income. The

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earliest standing farm outbuilding is estimated at c. 1850, if earlier log barns existed, their site is unknown. A newspaper account from 1907 tells of the loss by fire of an "immense basement barn." It is the following year that new silos were added to two other existing barns.

Washington kept a daily journal which provides a few glimpses into life on the farm. He owned approximately 300 sheep, often bought and sold cattle and horses, and owned a team of oxen and mules. He tells of chopping ice from the river in January of 1868 and storing it in the icehouse. The bottom land behind the house, which totaled over 200 acres, was planted in hay and corn. While the field in front of the house was called "the little meadow." Corn is still grown today in the bottom land, and timothy hay still is grown and harvested in the meadow.

Washington speaks of the ridge, known as Middle Ridge, which was used to pasture his cattle and sheep. This section is no longer part of the farm. Corn was also grown and harvested from a high water island in the river known simply as "the island." It totals about 30 acres, and although still reachable by equipment, it is no longer farmed. Washington also kept bulls on a feed lot, near the barn area. This lot was used for feeding the dairy cattle into the 1950s by the Brinkers.

Washington was an early supporter of the Southern Methodists in Hampshire County of which he alludes to in his 1868 journal. He states that they have not been able to attend the Springfield Methodist Church while it is in the process of being repaired after the Civil War. There was some activity from the Civil War near the farm with companies of calvary camped in the yard, which they dubbed Camp Washington. They did hide Confederate soldiers in the house. Soldier Richard Ashby was wounded June 28, 1861, at the battle at Kelley's Island and was taken to Ridgedale where he was placed in a room associated with the ballroom. He was cared for until he died on July 3. At his request he was supposedly buried under an oak tree at the Indian Mound Cemetery in Romney. After the war, he was moved along with a brother to the Stonewall Cemetery in Winchester, Virginia in 1866. Their grave is marked, "The Brothers Ashby."

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad built a line near the farm in 1883. This line served the towns of Greenspirng to Romney, WV. The railroad had a siding on the farm to drop supplies as needed, such as fencing and other materials. This was in place until in 1930.

George W. Washington passed away in 1876, and his wife in 1886. They are buried in the Indian Mound Cemetery in Lot 78, in nearby Romney. The farm continued in son Robert's hands when he purchased it in 1879, until his death in 1930. Approximately 500 acres of the farm was sold in 1936 by the heirs to the Brinker brothers of Cumberland, Maryland. Brothers Fred, George and Joseph had owned a machinery dealership in Cumberland. They converted the horse barn into a dairy barn and began to operate a dairy business in 1940. In 1943, Fred's son Charles W. and wife Dorothy and two children moved from Baltimore to Springfield to help operate the dairy farm. In 1950 they purchased a half interest, and after the farm accident related death of Fred Brinker, they acquired the remaining interest in the farm from family members. Charles and Dorothy Brinker lived at the farm for fifty years and operated the dairy with the help of their four

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children, Fred, Maryann, Robert and Terry. The farm is now owned by Robert C. Brinker and his wife, Loretta. With their sons, Matthew and Michael, the farm will expand in the fall of 2001, with the dairy going back into operation. A milking parlour is being installed in the original horse barn to handle 400 head of Holstein cattle. The main crops which will be harvested will be corn and hay to support the herd.

Architecture

The Washington home is an exceptional Greek Revival brick home for Hampshire County. The scale of the house is quite large with three full floors topped by a cupola and widows walk. The brick walls are approximately three courses thick. The first floor is elevated, and there are multiple rooms on the basement level. Without a structural analysis, it is unclear at this time if the house was constructed to stand by way of spaced brick piers supporting the structure, with the basement walls providing a minimum of support. Or, if the outside walls, which appear to have a low or non-existing foundation, are its entire support. There has been some structural failure of the brick at the corners of the house, near a front window and the sides of the house near the foundation.

The interior of the home is large and spacious with a generously wide hall and stairs. The parlors are long with the east side opening onto its own veranda or porch. Although there were some changes to the house after 1930 by the Brinkers, it was mainly to update the former kitchen area and new baths, and to enclose the exposed porches on the east side. The wood floors and woodwork remain in the home representing the mid-nineteenth century period.

The farm buildings are typical of the period of construction, with the large barns having post and beam construction. A fire did cause the large barn to have the second floor reconstructed in 1908. The log house is the earliest structure on the property and has been covered with siding at an early point to protect the logs.

Summary:

The farm represents the long term settlement by the Washington's, and the development by the two farming families, with current agricultural practices continuing by the Brinker family. The log house and farm outbuildings represent the mid-to-late nineteenth century building practices in Hampshire County while the main house is an exceptional brick Greek Revival home in the area.

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Bibliography

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Smith, James Henderson. Manuscript:: "*Life of Turner Ashby.*"

Thomas, Clarence. *General Turner Ashby, The Centaur of the South* .

Wayland, John W. *The Washington's and Their Homes*. McClure Printing, 1944.

Unknown author. *Ashby's Calvary, A History of the Laurel Brigade*. Pp. 22-24

Northern Neck Land Grants, pp. 264

"Fire At R. M. Washington's." *Hampshire County Review*, December 25, 1907. Reprinted 2000.

"Dead Man was Descendant of a Brother of General George Washington." *Hampshire County Review*. October, 1930. Reprinted 2000.

The Hampshire County Washington's. No other information available.

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UTM Coordinates

			Map Name
A	17 695765	4365040	Springfield
B	17 695280	4364360	"
C	17 694920	4364665	"
D	17 694560	4364390	"
E	17 693100	4365400	Headsville
F	17 693520	4365630	"
G	17 694255	4365640	Springfield
H	17 694880	4365245	"
I	17 695270	4365250	"
J	17 695430	4365140	"
K	17 695315	4365030	"
L	17 695390	4364960	"
M	17 695460	4365025	"
N	17 695560	4365940	"

Verbal Boundary Description

The accompanying tax maps are used as the verbal boundary description. This outlines the current property of the owners and includes land which was part of the original section of the Washingtons.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries outline the current farm property associated with the main house, farm outbuildings and nearby farm acreage. The boundaries are recorded in deeds at the Hampshire County Courthouse in Romney, WV.

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Name of Property: Washington Bottom Farm
Address Off State Road 28
Town Springfield, WV
County Hampshire County

Photographer: Loretta Brinker

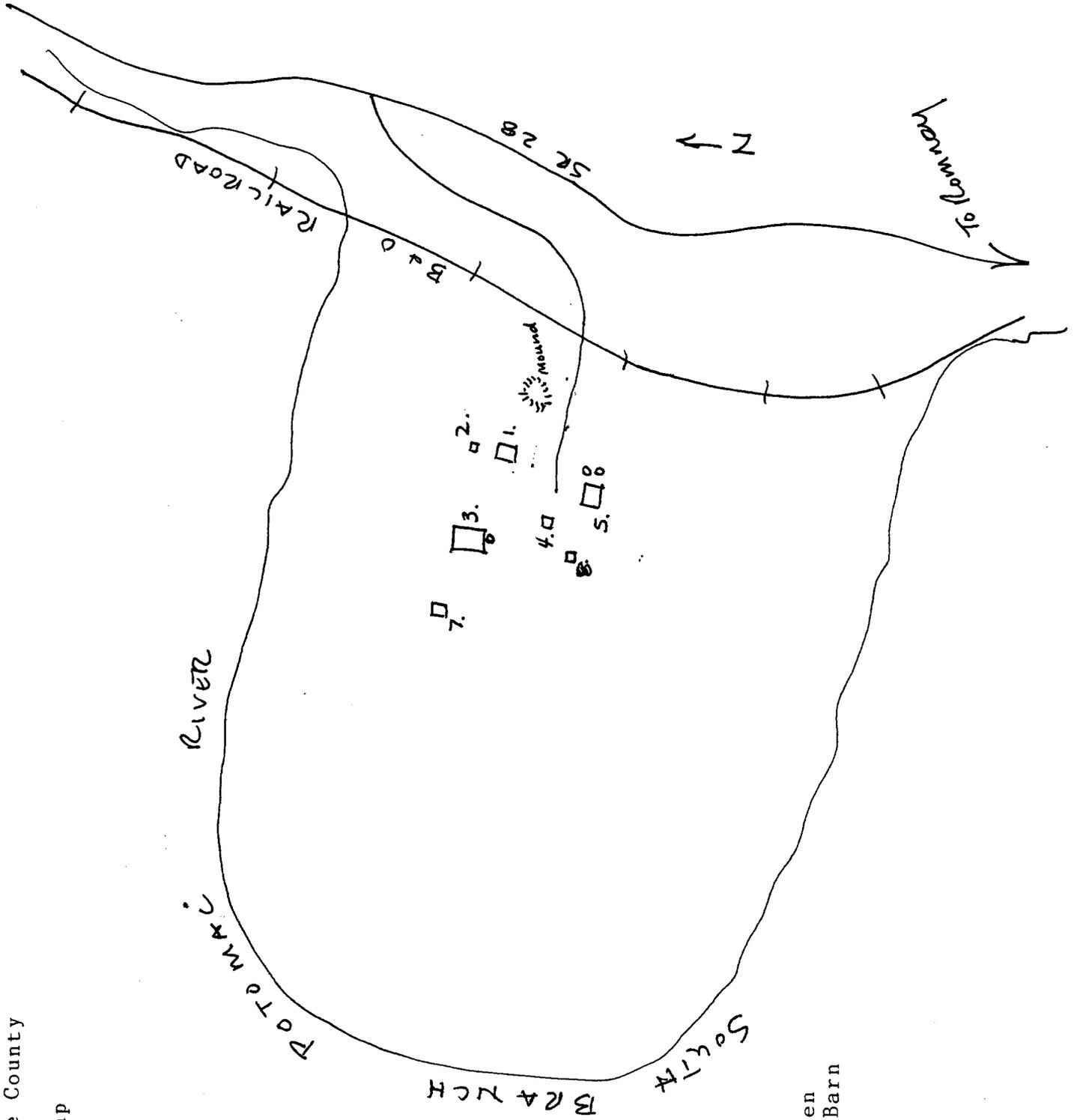
Date: July 2001

Negatives: Loretta Brinker, Springfield, WV

Photo 1 of 21 Front or South facade, camera facing N
Photo 2 of 21 Cupola, south side, camera facing N
Photo 3 of 21 West and south facades, camera facing NE
Photo 4 of 21 East and south facades, camera facing W
Photo 5 of 21 East facade (R) and rear of main house (L), camera facing S
Photo 6 of 21 West facade of house, camera facing E
Photo 7 of 21 Front porch and part of Land Banked Barn, camera facing W
Photo 8 of 21 East room, camera facing E
Photo 9 of 21 Dining room, camera facing SW
Photo 10 of 21 Second Floor, middle bedroom, camera facing W
Photo 11 of 21 Second Floor, rear bedroom, camera facing N
Photo 12 of 21 Second Floor, rear room, camera facing N
Photo 13 of 21 Third Floor, camera facing S
Photo 14 of 21 Third Floor room
Photo 15 of 21 First floor, rear room, camera facing S
Photo 16 of 21 Basement room
Photo 17 of 21 Stairs, looking down from landing to first floor
Photo 18 of 21 Stairs, looking up from first floor
Photo 19 of 21 Summer kitchen front facade, camera looking N
Photo 20 of 21 Land Banked Barn east facade, camera facing W
Photo 21 of 21 Barn and two silos, north facade, camera facing SW

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Sketch Map



1. Main House
2. Summer Kitchen
3. Land Banked Barn
4. Machine Barn
5. Barn (Dairy)
6. Metal Silo
7. Log Cabin
8. Ruggy Shed



WASHINGTON BOTTOM FARM
 Springfield Vicinity
 Hampshire County

Tax Map Boundaries