

**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 York Hill

other names/site number Snyder Farm; Twin Ridge Orchards; York Hill Orchard & Farm

2. Location

street & number 1583 Ridge Road not for publication

city or town Shenandoah Junction vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Jefferson code 037 zip code 25442

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 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 or Tribal government

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 or bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the 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:) _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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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	
4	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
5	1	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
In the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding/barn
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural field/orchard

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding/barn
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural field/orchard

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Other: log and stone telescoping with Federal influence
- Other: stone Pennsylvania barn

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Stone
- walls Wood/weatherboard
Stone
- roof Metal
- other Wood; brick

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

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] 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:

- [] 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

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

Ca.1762 - 1956

Significant Dates

1812 (barn); 1861-1865; ca.1900 (orchard); ca.1951 (cold storage)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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.)

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
[] designed a National Historic Landmark
[] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 138 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	1 8	2 5 5	4 0 6	4 3	6 2	1 8 5
	Zone	Easting		Northing		
B	1 8	2 5 5	2 3 3	4 3	6 1	7 0 4

C	1 8	2 5 4	7 5 5	4 3	6 1	8 0 4
	Zone	Easting		Northing		
D	1 8	2 5 4	6 8 9	4 3	6 1	6 2 6

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edie Wallace, historian; Paula S. Reed, Ph.D., architectural historian

organization Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc. date March 2006

street & number 1 W. Franklin St., Suite 300 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown state Maryland zip code 21740

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Mary Frances Hockman; Margaret Ann Saunders

street & number 1583 Ridge Rd. telephone _____

city or town Shenandoah Junction state West Virginia zip code 25442

Paperwork Reduction Act 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.*). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

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 Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

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Physical Description

York Hill, a 138-acre orchard and “pick-your-own” farm, along with its historic building complex consisting of the log and stone main house, stone smokehouse, stone springhouse, and large stone bank barn, is located along the west and east sides of Ridge Road (also called Sandy Ridge Road) in the Shepherdstown District of Jefferson County, West Virginia. The rolling landscape and fertile soil is particularly suited to agricultural production, and the open fields surrounding the farmstead are generously planted with several varieties of apple, as well as table grapes, berries, and pumpkins. The building complex of York Hill fronts closely on the west side of Ridge Road (State Rt. 16), the buildings sited in a linear pattern. While the telescoping sections of the main house present an impressive front, the large stone Pennsylvania bank barn dominates the landscape. Surrounded by orchard, the bank barn, constructed in 1812 during the height of grain culture in the region, and the main house constructed beginning in the 18th century in telescoping phases of various materials, are representative of the process of change – from settlement house to established farmstead and of agricultural evolution – in the mid-Atlantic region.

York Hill includes four contributing buildings: the main house, stone bank barn, stone springhouse, and stone smoke house; and one contributing site, the historic Hendricks/Snyder family cemetery located within the boundaries of the York Hill farm. A modern frame garage is considered non-contributing to the significance of York Hill.

Main House:

The main house sits on a rise of ground overlooking Ridge Road and the adjacent orchard land, facing east. It consists of several sections with a log core dwelling which appears to date from the late 18th century, a stone addition from the early 19th century forming the north wing, a log addition one room, on the south end, also probably dating from the early 19th century, and a frame addition attached to the southwest corner, constructed in the 1970s. The frame and log sections of the house are covered with German siding. The stone section is constructed of limestone, utilizing fairly large coursed blocks. Much original pointing remains in place. Typical of the early 19th century, there are large flat stones over the windows, and occasionally a small central “keystone.” A large two story portico with balustrade at the top extends across the central four bays of the front and dates from the mid 20th century. At the rear (west) elevation, a bi-level work porch was enclosed and covered with siding, bringing the west wall of the stone and log sections to a unified plane. Despite these exterior alterations, the house retains visual integrity to its period of construction, as well as illustrating evolution over time.

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The front (east) elevation has six bays, three belonging to the central log section, two to the stone addition and one to the south log section. All first story windows except for those associated with the mid and late 20th century components of the house have nine over six light sash, and second story windows are six over six. The sash are housed in wide mortised and tenoned frames with pegged joints and ovolo back band trim. Pairs of louvered shutters hang from the window frames. The front door is in the fourth bay from the south end of the house, in the central log section. The door hangs beneath a three light transom and is a mid-late 20th century replacement. The exterior surround is a Colonial Revival broken pediment application, also from the mid-late 20th century.

The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal. A large brick chimney with a corbelled top extends from inside the north gable end of the stone section. A small single flue chimney is located at the wall dividing the two log sections. A brick exterior chimney dating from 1970 is located against the north gable end of the frame addition.

The front door opens into a single first story room encompassing all of the central log core. Parts of this room were damaged in a fire, necessitating replacement of flooring and the staircase, but other trim such as chair rail and baseboard and window and door trim survives intact. The room has two east facing windows, a stair in the northwest corner and doors in the north and west walls. The west door was originally to the exterior. The log sections are one room deep and the stone section is two rooms deep, extending beyond the log section on the west side. Within the corner made by the stone section and the back wall of the log dwelling was a bi-level work porch, which has since been enclosed to form a passageway along the back of the house. The south log section has its own enclosed winder stair in the southwest corner. The stair enclosure has a six panel door with raised panels and a cast Norfolk latch. The central core log section's corner staircase is a replacement of the original one, but it appears to follow a similar configuration, being a winder stair with a floor to ceiling post supporting the run of steps.

There are two fireplaces on the first floor, one in the north wall of the stone section and one near the northeast corner of the south log section. The stone section fireplace is modern due to reconstruction after a fire in the 1980s. It simply consists of a firebox opening in the exposed stone chimney wall. The other fireplace, in the south log section appears to be in near original condition and has unusual placement near the corner of the room opposite the enclosed staircase. To make the fireplace functional in the room, it is canted outward slightly from its west side, presumably to project heat farther into the room. Thus the fireplace, stairway and a rear entrance are crowded into the west end of the already narrow room. The mantelpiece for this fireplace consists of an architrave around the plastered firebox, a frieze with beaded pilasters and a central panel, beneath a molded cornice expanding to the mantel shelf. Cavetto molding trims the architrave. A similar, but fancier mantelpiece is located at the fireplace on the second floor of the stone section. This second floor fireplace mantel has reeded pilasters extending to the floor and reeding on the central tablet in the frieze.

Most woodwork appears to date from the very early 19th century, and is generally consistent, although not identical through the house. Chairrail in the central log section consists of astragal trim on the top rail and a double field and large bead on the bottom rail. In the south log section, the top rail is trimmed with ovolo molding. Both of these chairrail molding types can date from the late 18th century into the early 19th century. Doors have six raised panels with small ogee trim. Door and

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window architraves also have small ogee trim, or in the alternative ovolo. Floors are random width tongue and groove pine.

Stone Bank Barn:

The stone end Swisser-type (Pennsylvania) bank barn at York Hill is located to the southwest of the house. Dated 1812, it has stone end walls which wrap along the back side to the threshing floor doors. There is a framed overhanging forebay and a gabled wall dormer overlooking the barnyard. As indicated by the name, the barn is built into a slight slope or bank with a ramp at the back giving access to the upper level threshing floor. The end walls are pierced with vertical ventilation slits and round openings, also for ventilation in the gable peaks at each end. The north gable wall includes an arch-topped date tablet. Under the forebay, the doors into the stable areas are marked with carved initials, doodles and dates. At the rear elevation a framed granary outshot is constructed at the north end. An unusual feature of the barn is its adaptation from a grain and livestock barn, as constructed, to a cold storage facility to accommodate the 20th century orchard use of the property. The barn continues to retain its exterior appearance as an early 19th century grain and livestock facility, but its interior has been lined with concrete blocks to create a fruit storage building. The lower level was converted to cold storage, and the upper level for storage of orchard machinery and equipment. Thus the barn reflects the changing agricultural use of the property while retaining most of its original character-defining features.

Stone Springhouse:

Located southeast of the house is a small gable-roofed springhouse. It is constructed of coursed limestone and appears to be contemporary with the other stone buildings on the property. The entrance is on the west side of the building, with the spring drainage to the south. The spring seems to be no longer active. On the east side, centered in the wall is a small vent window, and another is located on the north side. The wood shingled gable roof has a deep overhang on the west side sheltering the door. Although the roof structure is replaced it appears to replicate the previous roof.

Smokehouse:

To the northwest of the house, convenient to the stone section is a stone smokehouse. It is a square, gable roofed building with no windows and an entrance with a tongue and groove batten door in the south wall. A circular vent opening is located in the south gable. Joists spanning the walls east to west, provided hanging space for meats.

Cemetery:

Situated on a rise to the west of the barn is the Hendricks-Snyder family cemetery. Most of the limestone markers date from the 19th century, but the most recent burial was made in 1937.

The above listed components of the property contribute to its historic character. In addition to these is a modern concrete block and frame garage located between the house and barn. It is a non-contributing building.

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Overall, the farmstead retains its historic character from the early 19th century, with possibly older remnants incorporated. Despite alterations made in the late 20th century, the property still reflects and illustrates its history, and the agricultural heritage captured in the orchard landscape. The adaptation of the barn from its original use for grain storage and processing and housing livestock to a storage facility for apples and other orchard products is also well exemplified by the complex.

There were other outbuildings as well including a summer kitchen which was destroyed by a fire in 1936, and an ice house and a turkey house. However, the current collection retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to the evolving nature of agriculture in Jefferson County.

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Statement of Significance

York Hill is significant under National Register Criterion A for is historic, and continuing, contribution to agricultural history in the mid-Atlantic region. York Hill is significant under National Register Criterion C as a good representative example of early 19th century farmstead buildings adapted to changing agricultural practice and changing architectural custom. The telescoping house constructed of both log and stone is a common regional adaptation of dwelling space through the first half of the 19th century. The stone barn, constructed ca.1812 as a Pennsylvania-style bank barn used for grain storage and livestock housing, was converted to orchard product storage in the 20th century. The barn demonstrates the adaptation of historic barn technology to “modern” agricultural practice. York Hill was established as a settlement-era farm ca.1750 by Samuel Darke, who produced subsistence goods and perhaps tobacco, the farm passed into the ownership of Col. James Hendricks in 1762. Hendricks, who in the Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War, occupied the farm for more than 30 years until his death in 1795. In 1798, the farm was sold into the extended ownership of the Snyder family, who by 1910 had converted at least part of the York Hill farm to commercial orcharding. The Snyder family operated the orchard/farm until 1939. The Hockensmith family, initially in partnership with Milton Burr, fully developed the commercial potential of the York Hill orchard, adding significant amounts of acreage as well as an apple evaporator and packing house located immediately adjoining the B&O Railroad at Bardane, southwest of the York Hill farm. Passed to Jerry Hockman by his marriage to Mary Frances Hockensmith, Hockman’s orchard, known first as Twin Ridge Orchards, and today (2006) as York Hill Orchard & Farm, continues under the management of their son Gordon Hockman.

In addition to retaining much of the land still planted in orchards, the farmstead is dominated by the ca.1812 stone Pennsylvania bank barn, converted from its original use for grain storage and livestock stalls to cold storage for orchard produce. The house too demonstrates the evolution of the farm with its two log sections and stone section dating from several building periods. The stone springhouse and stone smokehouse also remain in place, although a number of other associated outbuildings are now gone. The family graveyard, dating back to the Hendricks ownership, still anchors the historic York Hill farm.

The period of significance covers the period of documented occupation and cultivation of the land beginning with the Hendricks family’s 36-year ownership, through the Snyder family’s 41-years of occupation, and ending in the continued ownership of the Hockensmith/Hockman family who fully developed the commercial orchard and converted the barn ca.1950.

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Historic Context

As 18th century settlers ventured westward beyond the tidewater regions of Maryland and Virginia and into the uplands and the mountain and valley region, agricultural production, while maintaining its tidewater roots, quickly adjusted to more general production and a focus on wheat, rather than tobacco, as the primary cash crop.

Such a conversion was probably not as radical as it might appear. Tidewater plantation owners grew a variety of grain and fruit crops in addition to tobacco. Early land leases, which often required at least 100 apple trees be planted in addition to the construction of houses, tobacco barns, and fencing, reveal the importance attached to the cultivation of apple and other fruit trees. In 1749, Landon Carter recorded a lease with Joseph Wilkinson for 157 acres in Frederick County, Virginia, “on the branches of the river Opechon [Opequon Creek],” part of the 8,000-acre *Shenandoah Tract*.¹ The lease required the construction of “a good dwelling house twenty feet by sixteen and a tobacco house thirty two feet by twenty after the manner of Virginia building.”² In addition to the standard 100 apples trees to be planted, Carter required another 200 “fruit trees,” apparently a variety of the tenants choosing. The Denny Fairfax lease of 1786 for Lot 6 in the Mannor of Leed (Northern Neck, Frederick County, VA), also required a 20x16 foot house, “with a brick or stone chimney;” the requisite 100 apple trees to be planted “at least 30 feet asunder...trimd [sic] and fenced.”³

Through the 1750s and 1760s, George Washington (with plantations in Fairfax County on the Potomac River and elsewhere, as well as in Frederick County on Bullskin Run) left detailed accounts of his various crops, preferring corn in particular to feed his slave labor force.⁴ Although throughout the year of 1760 Washington recorded deliveries of “Mountain Tobacco” from his Bullskin plantation, by 1766 and 1768, he claimed “that he raised no tobacco at all except at his dower plantations on the York River...”⁵ In 1785, Washington listed among his crops “barley, clover, corn, carrots, cabbage, flax, millet, oats, orchard grass, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, rye, spelt, turnips, timothy, and wheat.”⁶ Landon Carter, writing in his diary in 1766-1767 on his Richmond County plantation (Sabine Hall), recorded planting flax, hemp, and corn, as well as his primary crop, tobacco.⁷

On Maryland’s Eastern Shore, where the thin soils were depleted earlier, planters not only diversified production, they began conversion to wheat as a cash crop by the middle of the 18th century. Gregory Stiverson cites 18th century Queen Anne’s County planter, John Beale Bordley, who claimed that tobacco production declined as the “culture of wheat...traveled southward [from Pennsylvania], from county to county through Maryland.”⁸ Thomas Jefferson, in his “Notes on the State of Virginia” speculated that climate change and soil depletion were the catalysts for the decline of tobacco in Virginia and Maryland:

In the year 1758 we exported seventy thousand hogsheads of tobacco, which was the greatest quantity ever produced in this country in one year. But its culture was fast declining at the commencement of this war [American Revolution] and that of wheat

¹ Fairfax Proprietary Papers, Series D, Box 1, Folder 40, Virginia State Library, Richmond, VA.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ “The Diaries of George Washington,” Donald Jackson, ed., (The Papers of George Washington, Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1976), transcription online at: <http://memory.loc.gov>.

⁵ Ibid; “Introduction to the Diaries of George Washington,” Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, eds., <http://memory.loc.gov>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Landon Carter Diaries, Mss 10: no. 133, manuscripts, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA.

⁸ Gregory A. Stiverson, *Poverty in a Land of Plenty*, (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981), p. 87.

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taking its place: and it must continue to decline on the return of peace. I suspect that the change in the temperature of our climate has become sensible to that plant, which, to be good, requires an extraordinary degree of heat. But it requires still more indispensably an uncommon fertility of soil: and the price which it commands at market will not enable the planter to produce this by manure...But the western country on the Missisipi [sic], and the midlands of Georgia, having fresh and fertile lands in abundance, and a hotter sun, will be able to undersell these two states [Virginia and Maryland], and will oblige them to abandon the raising tobacco altogether.⁹

Increased demand for wheat in Europe and the West Indies, dramatic fluctuations in tobacco prices, soil depletion from the demands of the tobacco plant (requiring large tracts of land for continuous rotation), difficulties in transportation of the bulky leaf product, as well as the influence of Pennsylvania German farmers all played into the development of grain, primarily wheat, as the cash crop of choice for western settlement farmers. However, throughout the second half of the 18th century, tobacco continued to be central to the Virginia economy, and was grown from the eastern shore to the western mountains.

Certainly, as early as 1744, Virginia fees and taxes were assessed and recorded in the form of tobacco weights.¹⁰ Such assessments, however, do not confirm that individual planter/farmers were actually growing tobacco. Farmers who did not grow tobacco could have bartered for the necessary tobacco, and, after a 1779 act of the Virginia General Assembly, taxes could be paid in the form of “corn, rye, barley, oats, hemp, or tobacco.”¹¹ Other documents do indicate that tobacco was grown in the lower Shenandoah Valley, part of the Fairfax Northern Neck proprietary, throughout the second half of the 18th century. During a surveying trip through Frederick County, Virginia in 1747-1748, under the employ of Thomas Lord Fairfax, a young George Washington recorded in his journal:

Mar. 14. We sent our Baggage to Capt. [Jost] Hites (near Frederick Town [Winchester]) went ourselves down the River [Shenandoah] about 16 miles to Capt. Isaac Penningtons (the Land exceeding Rich & Fertile all the way produces abundance of Grain Hemp Tobacco etc.) in order to Lay of [sic] some Lands on Cats Marsh & Long Marsh.¹²

In 1755, passing through the area again, Col. George Washington wrote to his brother John Augustine Washington: “The Drought in this County, if possible, exceeds, what we see below, so that it is very reasonably conjectur’d they won’t make Corn to supply the Inhats [inhabitants]; and as for Tobacco, they have given any hope of making any.”¹³ Both George and John A. Washington owned plantations on Bullskin Run in Frederick County (later Berkeley, then Jefferson County) by this time, and despite the drought of 1755, George Washington continued to produce some tobacco on his Bullskin plantation, recording shipments of “Mountain Tobacco” throughout 1760 (see above) and noting in his February 1762 journal: “Sowed a good deal of Tobo. Seed at all my Quarters.”¹⁴

⁹ Thomas Jefferson, “Notes on the Sate of Virginia,” Chapter 20, <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/JEFFERSON/ch20.html>.

¹⁰ James Wood, 1744 Fee Book, Handley Library, Winchester, VA.

¹¹ From description notes, “Commissioners of specific taxes returns, 1783-1784,” Entry 652, box 116, Virginia State Library, Richmond, VA.

¹² “The George Washington Diaries,” p. 7, <http://memory.loc.gov>.

¹³ from letter dated May 28, 1755, cited on www.lib.shepherdstown.wv.us/huntfield/documents2.html.

¹⁴ “The George Washington Diaries,” page 293, Feb. 20, 1762, <http://memory.loc.gov>. The Bullskin Run plantations were then in Frederick County, Virginia, later part of Berkeley County, then Jefferson County, now part of West Virginia.

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Following the interruptions of the French and Indian War, westward settlement and tobacco production continued on the farms of the upper Potomac and lower Shenandoah Rivers. In 1765, the proposal for a ferry to “be established and constantly kept from the land of Thomas Shepherd, in the town of Mecklenburg [Shepherdstown], in the county of Frederick, over the Potowmack river...” included the price of three pence “for every hogshead of tobacco” transported.¹⁵ Scottish merchant Alexander Hamilton, representing the Glasgow-based tobacco and merchandising company James Brown & Co., reported in 1784 that the “Country to the Westward of the Blue Mountains in Virginia, say from 70 to 90 miles from Navigation... will produce as much if not more Tobacco this year than it has done since it was settled.”¹⁶ Maryland documents dated 1786 described three upper Potomac River sites vying for permission to “erect a Tobacco inspection Warehouse,” in this case in Washington County, Maryland. Benona Swearingen applied for a warehouse at his “Ferry on the River Potomack” – where Thomas Shepherd had hoped to operate his ferry back in 1765. Across the Potomac from Shepherdstown, Joseph Chapline Esq. and David Harvey proposed erecting a warehouse in the town of Sharpsburg, and Gen. Otho Holland Williams applied for a warehouse “at the mouth of Conococheague Creek” up-river from Shepherdstown. Williams won the right, and in 1787 established the town of Williamsport, which was already an important western river port and crossing.¹⁷

Even with the Williamsport warehouse nearby in Maryland, production of tobacco in the lower Shenandoah Valley was significant enough that in 1788 the Virginia General Assembly approved the proposal of Abraham Shepherd to establish a tobacco inspection warehouse, known as the Mecklenburg Warehouse, at Shepherdstown. With an eye to the taxation potential, the Assembly noted that such a warehouse “would be of utility,” but added the caveat, “... Provided that if the quantity of tobacco inspected at said warehouse shall not be sufficient to pay the usual charges and the inspector’s salary, the deficiency shall not be paid by the public.”¹⁸ The implication that the amount of tobacco produced in the area might not be enough to support the cost of its inspection was clear, and in fact, Mecklenburg (established in 1763, later called Shepherdstown) already had a thriving grain-based economy centered on Abraham Shepherd’s mill and distillery.

Wheat and corn, and to a lesser extent rye and oats, were processed into flour and meal, or distilled into whiskey. By the last decade of the 18th century, the region was active with grist and flour mills along nearly every water way and stills on most farms. Frederick County, Maryland, located east of Berkeley County, Virginia, was representative of the region with as many as 80 gristmills and 300-400 stills reported.¹⁹ By 1810, Jefferson County, Virginia, a much smaller county carved from Berkeley County in 1801, numbered 31 mills along its water ways according to the map drawn by Charles Varlè. These industries show the dominance of grain production through the high number of mills and stills and the degree to which the area had developed marketable finished goods. By 1810, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland led the nation in flour production.²⁰

¹⁵ As cited in Mabel Henshaw Gardiner and Ann Henshaw Gardiner, Chronicles of Old Berkeley, (Durham, NC: The Seeman Press, 1938), pp. 57-58.

¹⁶ David C. Skaggs and Richard K. MacMaster, eds., “Post-Revolutionary Letters of Alexander Hamilton, Piscataway Merchant, Part I, January-June 1784,” Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol. 63, No. 1, Dec. 1968, p. 42.

¹⁷ Scharf Collection, Box 115, Folder 51-60, Maryland Archives, Annapolis, MD.

¹⁸ Gardiner and Gardiner, p. 59.

¹⁹ T. J. C. Williams, History of Frederick County, Maryland, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., (1967, reprint of the original 1910 edition), p. 267.

²⁰ Susan Winter Frye, Mill Settlement Patterns Along the Antietam Creek Drainage, Washington County, Maryland. Bound thesis, College of William and Mary, 1984, p. 45.

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These commodities were shipped to markets in Alexandria, Virginia, Annapolis and Baltimore in Maryland, and to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Shipping from the Shenandoah Valley and the grain growing regions of west-central Maryland and Pennsylvania was a problem, and hindered the growth and prosperity associated with grain production. There was no inland water route to the farming areas, although navigation of the Potomac and Susquehanna Rivers was proposed. Consequently, reducing the bulk of unprocessed grain by refining it into flour or whiskey provided some relief to farmers forced to transport their products in wagons over roads described in Maryland as “the worst in the nation.”²¹

Transportation improvements for western settlements began as early as 1739, when a petition was initiated by settlers in the Monocacy River valley (Frederick County, Maryland) and “several Inhabitants on the West side of Patowmeck [sic] River on the back Parts of Virginia praying that a good Waggon Road might be made at the Publick [sic] Charge from the several Places aforementioned to the City of Annapolis...for the more Easy Carrige [sic] of their Grain, Provisions and other Commoditys [sic]” was presented to the Maryland General Assembly.²² But as the century and settlement progressed, although wagon roads, fords and ferries remained the standard, river transport – the traditional form on which transportation in the tidewater counties of both Maryland and Virginia was based – was seen as essential for economic advancement. George Washington, whose western Virginia land would certainly have benefited from such improvements, sought advice and suggestions from colleagues, prominent landholders, and iron furnace operators along the Potomac River. As early as 1769, Washington and his western Virginia neighbor John Semple (Keep Triste Iron Furnace) discussed proposals for the improvement of the Potomac River, Semple noting, “The vast bodies of land now ceded to us by the Indians must open a new and extensive field of commerce, of which the River Potomac must necessarily be the principall [sic] channel [sic]....”²³ The Virginia Assembly heard a Bill presented in 1769, in which it was stated, “Whereas extending the Navigation of Potowmack River from the Great Falls of the said River up to Fort Cumberland will be of great benefit and advantage as well to the Inhabitants of the interior parts of the Colony...,” although it was apparently never acted upon.²⁴

According to Thomas Johnson, in a subscription paper enclosed with his June 1770 letter to Washington, Potomac River transportation was the key to convincing western farmers that wheat was the better cash crop:

If an Increase of the Quantity of Wheat is desirable rather than an Increase of the Quantity of Tobacco the only Method to induce the Back-people to cultivate Wheat for which their Land generally is the most suitable rather than Tobacco is to reduce as much as maybe the Expence of Carriage. 2 Hhds [hogsheads] of Tobacco weigh say one Ton or 20 gross Hundred and will sell for 12 Sterl equal to 20 Curr’y. 30 Bushels of Wheat is about the same weight and sells say at 6/PB [per bushel]. A Ton of wheat produces 10.8. on any given price of Carra [carriage]. The Difference of the Value of the Produce is nearly as two to one in favr. [favor] of bringing Tobacco to Market rather than Wheat. The higher the

²¹ Brugger, Robert J. *Maryland a Middle Temperament*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 1985, p. 153.

²² *Archives of Maryland*, Vol. 40, page 307, www.mdarchives.state.md.us.

²³ Grace L. Nute, ed., “Washington and the Potomac Manuscripts of the Minnesota Historical Society, [1754] 1769-1796,” reprinted from the *American Historical Review*, Vol. XXVIII, no. 3, April 1923, p. 500.

²⁴ Nute, p. 503.

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price of Carriage the greater the Difference of nett value after deducting the Expence of Carriage.²⁵

The Revolutionary War severely slowed the transportation improvement progress, but by the 1780s the shift from “Waggon roads” to the Potomac River as a primary artery was in full swing, and the Potomack Navigation Company was officially incorporated in 1785. In 1796, the President of the Company Tobias Lear reported, “About 30 boats ply upon the River and such was the demand for them when I was last up (in feb’y) that one hundred could have found full employment,” noting that “it costs but one half to bring flour to market in this way for the distance of 60 or 70 miles of what it does by Waggons.” Lear’s report continued, the boats “ply constantly between Cumberland and Williams port on the Connigochegue [sic], each carrying from 100 to 120 bbls [barrels] flour, they come down in 1 ½ days deposit their Cargoes and return home in five days – from Williams Port, Shepperds town [sic] and the juncture of the Potomac and Shananoah [sic] they bring their flour etc.”²⁶ In addition to an estimated 200,000 barrels of “Flour and Wheat, Indian Corn Rye, Oates, Beans, Pease etc.” delivered “from such parts of the Country as will naturally send its produce down the River,” Lear also reported 1,500 hogsheads of Tobacco transported in the year 1795.²⁷

Despite continued tobacco production by some landowners through the end of the 18th century, by the middle of the 1770s grain production in the lower Shenandoah Valley was clearly growing in dominance. In April 1777, British traveler Thomas Creswell recorded a detailed assessment of farm production in Berkeley County, Virginia, in which tobacco was not even mentioned:

...Their method is to clear a piece of land from the woods, generally put it in wheat the first year, Indian corn the next, and so alternately for six or seven years together. By that time the strength of the land is gone and they say it is worn out, throw it out to the Woods again, and set about clearing another piece. In a few years it will recover its fertility sufficient to bring Indian corn, which is of great use amongst them, both for their negros, horses and all sorts of cattle. It makes very indifferent bread and I look upon it as a troublesome and expensive thing to cultivate. It is planted in hills, about 1600 of them in an acre, in the month of April, ploughed or rather hoed every fortnight till the month of August. By that time it is fixed in the ear, they take no further pains with it till November, when they pluck the blades of the stalk for fodder for the cattle in Winter. The ear remains on the stalk till near Christmas to harden and dry. Indeed, it would keep there all winter without taking the least damage. The plant grows from 4 feet to 12 feet high and produces from 12 to 30 Bushels to the acre, according to the richness of the land and the attendance. They seldom plant more than two grains in one hill, if any extra ones shoot from the roots of these they are broken off before the ear is formed. Sometimes they sow wheat amongst the corn and get a crop extraordinary. Wheat is sown in the month of September, they are obliged to sow it early or the severe frosts in winter would kill it. Generally a bushel to the acre. Rye, Barley, Oats, Peas, Beans, Hemp and Flax grows very well here, and would produce excellent crops if they would take considerable pains in tilling the land and making it fit to receive the seed. It is really astonishing that it produces any thing but weeds, as

²⁵ Nute, p. 509.

²⁶ Grace L. Nute, ed., “Washington and the Potomac Manuscripts of the Minnesota Historical Society, [1754] 1769-1796,” reprinted from the *American Historical Review*, Vol. XXVIII, no. 4, July 1923, p. 722.

²⁷ Nute, p. 719. The ports were Georgetown and Alexandria. Potomac River navigation was never fully successful due to its seasonal floods and droughts, making it relatively unreliable. The C&O Canal eventually (1830s) replaced the direct use of the river.

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they seldom plough more than two inches deep and leave one third of the land undisturbed. I have seen Hemp 14 feet high. I am not a judge of this article, but I have been told by the people that are, it is equal in goodness to the Riga Hemp...²⁸

Estate inventories also provide a glimpse into agricultural production by individual farmers. The estate of William Green, owner of nearly 300 acres on the west bank of the Potomac River just north of Shepherdstown, was recorded in April 1780. In addition to household furniture and farm equipment, the appraisal listed “Rye and Oats” valued at £60, “Wheat in the Ground” also valued at £60, and “Corn & Bacon” valued at £100. Although Green apparently also grew a crop of tobacco, it was listed along with “Wool and Earthenware,” the combined lot of three items valued at £60. William Green’s most valuable possessions were his livestock: “A Gray Horse” worth £210; “Eight Cattle” worth £600; “11 head Sheep” worth £150; “5 hogs” valued at £39; and “2 hives Bees” worth £15.²⁹ While sheep provided wool for sale, farmers kept cattle and hogs primarily as a source of meat for their families. However, as indicated by George Washington in his diaries, meat was also used as payment for overseers or sold for cash.³⁰ Writing in the 1790s on his Berkeley County farm, Christopher Collins reported giving beef to his “people” (slaves), to pay the Joiner (carpenter), and to supply the nearby “Female Academy” with which he was associated.³¹

The trend toward more wheat production by 18th century farmers in the Shenandoah Valley was justified by greater profits. The American Revolution drastically reduced the export of Virginia tobacco to its primarily British markets. At the same time, foreign markets for wheat were growing. By the 1790s, land sale advertisements in the region rarely mentioned tobacco, but often included references such as, “a good mill seat,” or “particularly adapted to raising heavy grain.”³² The dominance of grain continued in the Shenandoah Valley into the 19th century, ultimately resulting in its designation during the Civil War as “the Granary of the Confederacy.”³³

In 1864, the Shenandoah Valley was devastated by Union General Philip Sheridan’s “Valley Campaign.” In October of that year, Sheridan reported to General Grant, “I have destroyed over 2,000 barns filled with wheat; have driven in front of the army over 4,000 head of stock, and have killed and issued to the troops not less than 3,000 sheep.”³⁴ Less than a year later, the Civil War was over, but difficulty recovering the region’s grain culture dominance lingered. Throughout the 1860s and into the 1870s the railroads, once the savior of mid-Atlantic farmers, spread across the prime farming regions to the west. Soon these same railroads were bringing grain from the west to the eastern markets and lowering grain prices.

It was this competition that encouraged experimentation with alternative commercial agricultural production. In the west-central counties of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and in the panhandle counties of West Virginia, the combination of the soils, water, and climate were long

²⁸ Thomas Creswell Diary, April 13, 1777, as cited in Dan Everson, “A History of the National Conservation Training Center Property and Surrounding Area,” (self-published, n.d.) p. 72-73 (citing Wm. Couper, A History of the Shenandoah Valley, Vol. 1, Lewis Historical Pub. Co., Inc., 1952, p. 577-579).

²⁹ “Appraisal of Personal Estate of William Green,” Jefferson Co. Will Book 1, page 216.

³⁰ “The George Washington Diaries,” p. 308, <http://memory.loc.gov>.

³¹ “Memorandum Book (1796-1803) of Christopher Collins of Berkeley County, Virginia,” transcription, Mss 2 H 1858b, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA.

³² *The Potomac Guardian, and Berkeley Advertiser*, 1791-1799, microfilm collection, Martinsburg & Berkeley Public Library, Martinsburg, WV.

³³ “The WPA Guide to the Old Dominion,” WPA writer’s project, c.1936, <http://xroads.virginia.edu>

³⁴ As cited in “History of Jefferson County Agriculture,” www.preservehistory.org/history_of_jefferson_county_agri.htm.

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known to be conducive to orchard growth. Experimentation with commercial orchard production in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties began prior to the Civil War with William S. Miller's farm near Gerrardstown.³⁵ Apples in particular, but also peaches, pears, plums, cherries, and grapes were planted, their produce shipped by railroad to the burgeoning urban markets. In Jefferson County, Dr. Daniel W. Border planted his commercial orchard in 1876 following a visit to Miller's Berkeley operation. By the end of the 19th century, there were five commercial orchards located in Jefferson County.³⁶ Writing to the *Farm and Orchard* journal in 1910, Dr. D.W. Border of Kearneysville, West Virginia noted:

As one of the pioneer growers of commercial apples in this county of Jefferson, having planted largely in 1876, and added since in acreage to 100 acres or more, and given the best years of my life to the culture of this important and increasing industry...Thirty-five years ago, when I planted my first 40 acres in this county, my neighbors said I was a crank and would never get rid of the crop, etc. Today they are all planting largely and say they were cranks in not doing as I did. Thousands of trees are now being set...³⁷

Initially, West Virginia was known particularly for its indigenous apple varieties, the Grimes Golden and Golden Delicious. As the commercial orchards grew over the first 50 years of production a large number of varieties appeared:

The diversity in apple production, evidenced by the more than 100 apple varieties at a 1909 trade show in Martinsburg, has been attributed to the large number of outlets to which panhandle growers shipped and the unstandardized nature of a young industry. Certain apples, such as the Gano, were quickly recognized as being particularly well-suited to the eastern panhandle's soil. York apples were favored for processing, and eventually accounted for more than half of the apples grown in Berkeley County.³⁸

As the orchard industry moved into the 20th century the processing of fruit also evolved. From "home baking and canning and the operations of small facilities that produced vinegar, cider, juices and dried apples," processing shifted to industrial canning, freezing, and bottling many of the same products.³⁹ Companies like Musselman Apple Products (1920) became synonymous with Berkeley County and employed large numbers of people. At the same time, other technological advances improved production in the field, particularly pesticides and fungicides, outdoor heating equipment, harvesting machinery, and improved refrigeration for cold storage facilities.⁴⁰

Like any agricultural product, sales of fruit and fruit products were subject to the whims of the market. Both WWI and WWII created increased demands followed by significant declines as European countries, a primary market for the region's orchards, struggled to recover. The Great Depression of the 1930s in the United States produced additional hardship for some growers. But agricultural census data compiled between 1890 and 1997 showed apple yields increasing through the 20th century, apparently peaking in 1931 at more than 12 million bushels for the whole state of West

³⁵ Carl E. Feather, "Apple Royalty, Berkeley County's Miller Family," www.wvculture.org/goldenseal/millerfamily.html.

³⁶ "The Orchard Industry in Jefferson and Berkeley Counties," (draft), West Virginia Route 9 Project, WV Div. of Culture and History, March 2004, p. 3.

³⁷ *Farm and Orchard*, July 1910, Ruth Scarborough Library, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV.

³⁸ "The Orchard Industry..." p. 4.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 13.

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Virginia. By 1939, Berkeley and Jefferson Counties were ranked 1st and 2nd in the state's orchard production statistics, and continued that ranking through 1964.⁴¹

Although orchard production throughout the region diminished significantly through the second half of the 20th century, the eastern panhandle counties of West Virginia continue to rank among the highest producers of apples and peaches in the state. "Today [2004], West Virginia ranks 9th or 10th in apple production and 13th or 14th in peach production in the U.S., with a combined crop value that has averaged almost 15 million dollars over the past 10 years."⁴²

Architectural Context

Samuel Kercheval, writing in 1833 about the lower Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, described the "Mode of Living of The Primitive Settlers" in the valley, first in their dwelling construction:

The first houses erected by the primitive settlers were log cabins, with covers of split clapboards, and weight poles to keep them in place. They were frequently seen with earthen floors; or if wood floors were used, they were made of split puncheons, a little smoothed with the broad-axe. These houses were pretty generally in use since the author's recollection. There were, however, a few framed and stone buildings erected previous to the war of the Revolution. As the country improved in population and wealth, there was a corresponding improvement in the erection of buildings.⁴³

Kercheval described the German houses with central chimney and a "large cellar beneath." However, he noted that, "their dwelling-houses were seldom raised more than a single story in height."

Germanic settlers, emigrants from Pennsylvania and beyond, were common in the lower Shenandoah Valley; many initiated by the speculators Jost Hite and the Van Meter brothers. But many early settlers were English Quakers from Pennsylvania as well. Much of the land purchased by the Van Meters and sold to Hite was claimed by Thomas Lord Fairfax, a five million-acre proprietary grant known as the "Northern Neck." The disputed land was surveyed in 1786 as part of an ongoing lawsuit between Hite and Fairfax, which resulted in a detailed description of the land and improvements in that part of northwestern Virginia. All of the buildings listed in the Lick (Elk) Branch area still claimed by Hite were log or timber-framed construction, many described as "old" or "very old":

Lewis Neale – Buildings: one fraim'd dwelling house finish'd with dutch roof, two inside stone chimneys.

Lafferty tenant to John Neale – Buildings: the hull of a round log house, 1 ½ story 26 by 20; one old cabbn; half worn round log barn 48 by 20, no doors; 40 a. cultivated high land, 35 a. meadow, good order.

Giles Cook – Buildings: one log dwelling house 20 by 20 with and addition of 12 foot fraimed, the whole house cased with clap boards, with an inside wood chimney and a log shed 12 foot wide the length of the house with a stone chimney and two fire places, the house half worn and the shed built about 5 or 6 years, the stone chimney about 14 foot high; one very old round log kitchen 24 by 20 with wood chimney; one old round log corn

⁴¹ Ibid., pp. 9-10, Table 1, "Apple production in eastern panhandle counties..." (Census 1890-1997); Henry W. Hogmire, "West Virginia Fruit Facts," 2004, West Virginia University, www.caf.wva.edu/Kearneysville/wvfruitfacts.html.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Samuel Kercheval, A History of the Valley of Virginia, 1833, (Harrisonburg, VA: C.J. Carrier Co., 1981, 6th Edition), p. 151.

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house 20 by 12 covered with clap boards; one round log cow [corn?] house 18 by 12, old logs and new clap board roof; one round log turkey house, old logs and new clap board cover; log meat house 16 by 12 covered with clap boards; one necessary 8 by 4 cased & covered with clap boards; two very old round log negro houses 16 by 12, wood chimneys; one log spring house half worn 12 by 8 covered with clap boards; garden 188 by 60, built of split pailing 15 years; land in pretty good order 100 a high land and 40 a. of reclaim'd marsh, 13 a. of which is in grass, the other part in but indifferent order; 75 young apple trees, 500 peach trees, 80 cherry trees.

Michael Ingle – Building: one log cabin; land in cultivation and in pretty good order, 55 a. high ground.

William Dark – Buildings: one old round log dwelling house about 26 by 20 with stone chimney, a shed one end the width of the house 12 foot wide and [?] shed [?]; a good new log barn 60 by 20 with a shed on one side the length of the barn 12 foot wide and a shed on the other side 20 foot long and 12 foot wide; one round log house 16 by 12 covered with clap boards; one very old log house; land in cultivation and in good order 70 a. high land.

Jacob Miller – Buildings: one half worn 1 ½ story log dwelling house 28 by 24 with inside stone chimney; one old scalp'd log barn 48 by 22 covered with straw, no doors; land in cultivation and in pretty good order 50 a. high land; 10 a. meadow; 140 apple trees.

Philip Ingle – one new unfinished log dwelling house 30 by 22 with two inside double brick chimneys, one not carried above the roof and a stone cellar the size the house; one half worn round log barn 44 by 20 covered with straw, no doors; land in cultivation and in pretty good order 60 a. high land, 9 a. meadow.⁴⁴

The most prevalent construction material found in the Jonathan Clark survey was “round log.” Dimensions from house to house were similar as well, as was the common roof covering of “clap boards.” Stone or brick chimneys are common, although in other areas surveyed the “cat & clay” (wattle and daub) chimney was more often described.

During the century from 1763-1860, this first period architecture was gradually replaced or enlarged into more substantial and permanent form. The large “Swisser” barns with cantilevered forebays and a ramp or bank at the back, hallmarks of the non-tidewater mid-Atlantic region, replaced small log-crib stables and shelters for livestock and crops. Small log houses were improved with siding and additions, or replaced with stone, brick or larger log or timber frame dwellings.⁴⁵

The people built according to the materials that were available to them, sometimes drawing upon long-established traditions based upon European and British patterns and upon their own interpretations of current styles and construction techniques, adapted to local conditions. Elements of fashionable styles were incorporated into the region's buildings along with traditional features. With the exception of exterior applications of stylistic door treatments and symmetrical fenestration, typically, the more fashionable architectural elements were found on the interior in the form of moldings, mantels, and stairs. Although there are pure stylistic examples, particularly dating from the later 19th century, the vast majority of the region's buildings are vernacular structures.

⁴⁴ “The Jonathon Clark Notebook, 1786 (Improvements in the Northern Neck),” as transcribed in Peggy S. Joyner, Northern Neck Warrants and Surveys, Vol. 4, pp. 167 and 172-173.

⁴⁵ Paula S. Reed & Assoc., “Mid Maryland: An Agricultural History and Historic Context.” (Frederick, MD: The Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, 2003), p. 26.

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Farmhouses: Farmhouses from the 18th through the mid 20th century exhibit great variety, yet all are readily identifiable to the region. Little housing remains from the settlement period. Dwellings that do survive represent the more durable buildings and not the general population of houses. Log was the preferred building material, although probably a disproportionate number of early period survivors are of stone construction. These very early stone houses use the type of stone found in the nearby landscape, often limestone in the Cumberland Valley/Shenandoah Valley region. Later farmhouse builders introduced brick and lightweight framing systems with various milled sidings or shingles. Brick houses were much less common in the 18th century than they were in “urbanized” areas like Shepherdstown, Charles Town, or Winchester. When 18th century brick farmhouses do occur they are distinguished by the presence of water tables, Flemish bond facades and common bond secondary walls with three or four courses of stretcher rows to each header row. Much more common among brick farmhouses are those from the 1820-1900 period. Those constructed before approximately 1850 display Flemish bond facades and thereafter, common bond or all-stretcher facades.⁴⁶

Farmhouse form followed several traditional paths. Among the earliest buildings were Germanic central chimney dwellings with one or two stories and three or four rooms clustered around a massive group of fireplaces. British settlers more frequently constructed one or one and a half story buildings with a hall and parlor plan, one-room deep with inside or exterior end fireplaces. Generally farmhouses spanned three to five bays, sat on cellars and had side gables. By the second quarter of the 19th century porches begin to appear with frequency, either across the entire front or recessed in an inset containing two or three bays along the front elevation at the kitchen wall. Another variation is an L-extension to the rear of the main part of the house, almost always with a recessed double porch along one side. This L configuration accommodates a kitchen wing, and these rear wings were consistently referenced in 18th and 19th century records as “back buildings,” even though they were attached to the main part of the dwelling.⁴⁷

Typical floor plans consisted of center passages with one or two rooms on either side, or a two or four room plan where the main entrance opened directly into a room. A common arrangement attributed to Germanic traditions exhibits two central front doors, side by side, which open directly into two front rooms. Houses were almost universally roofed with wooden shingles, often long and double-lapped, top to bottom and side to side. This shingle type seems to be associated with German traditions. Otherwise, top-lapped thin wooden shingles prevailed with staggered joints and there is evidence that thatch was used, along with “cabbin” or clapboard roofs. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries roofs of slate or standing seam metal appear.⁴⁸

Barns: Mid-Atlantic barns originated in Pennsylvania, springing from German and English precedents. The region’s first barns were the small log structures, described in the 1786 Jonathon Clark survey and other 18th century documents.⁴⁹ By the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the barns familiar to us as hallmarks of the region appeared. These bank barns, built of log, stone, brick, or frame covered with vertical siding typically, have a ramp at the back providing access to the upper threshing floor and an overhanging forebay at the front. Animals stayed in the lower level in stalls arranged in rows perpendicular to the front and rear walls. Designed for grain farming, bank barns accommodated

⁴⁶ Reed & Assoc., p. 113.

⁴⁷ Reed & Assoc., p. 113.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ “The Jonathon Clark Notebook, 1786 (Improvements in the Northern Neck),” as transcribed in Peggy S. Joyner, Northern Neck Warrants and Surveys, Vol. 4

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threshing and grain processing as their primary function. In a large area of the central upper floor, farmers threshed grain with flails or later with horse or steam powered threshing machines. “Flailing walls” or boards nailed about four feet high, to interior bents bordering the threshing floor kept loose grain and chaff from drifting uncontrolled across the barn floor. Heavy tongue and groove planks floored the threshing area, often double layered battened at the joints to prevent grain and dust from sifting through the floor during threshing as well as to support the vibration and weight of the threshing activity.⁵⁰

The gable-end profile of barns varies among subtypes. Symmetrical gables and closed-end forebays tend to be a bit later than extended forebays. Log barns and stone barns tend to be earlier than brick barns. Bents linked by double top plates tend to date from the 18th century. Stone barns fall into a particular date range, principally 1790-1850. Brick barns, always embellished with geometric patterned open-work ventilation holes generally date from 1830-1870s. Frame barns abounded throughout the period, although few retain their original exterior siding; many are found with elaborate decorative additions from updates done in the late 19th century or the stylized painted windows and doors done in the early 20th century. Most historic barns that were still in use through much of the 20th century were altered to accommodate a hay track, used to transport hay bales through the barn. Other datable features include the style of date tablets. Even if illegible, those with arched tops are from the 18th and early 19th centuries, while rectangular ones are later, after 1810. Barns usually have built-in or attached granaries, box-like rooms for grain storage located on either side of the threshing floor or in outshots extending back from the rear wall.⁵¹ In advertisements and other descriptions from the 19th century, bank barns appear to be referred to universally as “Swisser” barns regardless of whether or not their forebays are extended or integral, enclosed or open. The term “Swisser” leaves little doubt as to the origin of these large farm buildings.⁵²

Resource History

In April 1750, Samuel Dark (Darke) received a warrant for the survey of 360 acres in then Frederick County Virginia from the Northern Neck Proprietor, Thomas Lord Fairfax.⁵³ He was officially granted the surveyed tract in 1754, but Samuel Darke probably occupied his land for sometime prior to his 1750 survey that described the land, “where he lives near the main Road.”⁵⁴ The men carrying the chains for Samuel Darke’s survey were nearby neighbors Thomas Hart and James Loyd [sic]. Frederick County (VA) records from the 1740s include exchange accounts between Samuel Dark (Darke) and Thomas Hart for “subsistence items such as beef, bacon, flax seed, and gunpowder, or services such as hiring a wagon, gelding a horse, or ‘taking a Calf from a Cow’.”⁵⁵

Thomas Hart, a Quaker who emigrated from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, purchased over 1,000 acres on Elk Branch, along the “Waggon Road from Potomac to Opeckon,” from Jost Hite in 1735.⁵⁶ Several of Hart’s parcels were then assigned (sold) to Lewis Neill and Melger Ingle (Engle),

⁵⁰ Reed & Assoc., p. 117-118.

⁵¹ Robert F. Ensminger, *The Pennsylvania Barn*, (Baltimore, MD: The John Hopkins University Press, 1992).

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Northern Neck (N.N.) Grants, Book H, p. 539, Berkeley Co. Historical Society, Martinsburg, WV.

⁵⁴ N.N. Grants, Book H, p. 539.

⁵⁵ Warren Hofstra, *The Planting of New Virginia*, (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2004), p. 232, citing the account of Samuel Dark with Thomas Hart, Dec. 11, 1747-Apr. 30, 1751.

⁵⁶ Cecil O’Dell, *Pioneer of Old Frederick Co., Virginia*, (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Pub. Co., 1995), p. 115, citing Hite/Fairfax Lawsuit, British Copy, pp. 119-125; Hofstra, p. 231.

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who recorded their Fairfax grants for the tracts in January 1754.⁵⁷ Lewis Neill was in the area as early as 1744 when he was listed in the clerk's Fee Book for Frederick County, assessed 104 lbs of tobacco.

The survey of Darke's land by Guy Broadwater in 1750 noted that the tract was "Joining to James Glenn," who received his adjoining Fairfax grant in 1752 for 231 acres "joining to John Right [Wright]..."⁵⁸ Glenn was also in the area as early as 1744, assessed 197 lbs of tobacco for county clerk's fees.⁵⁹ Samuel Darke, James Glenn, Lewis Neill, Melger Ingle, and many other early settlers in the Northern Neck, obtained grants from Thomas Lord Fairfax after 1749 to clear their title to the land, which for many years was embroiled in a dispute between Fairfax and Hite. (see attached plats of grant lands drawn by Galtjo Geertsema)

On September 1, 1756, John Wright purchased the tract of 360 acres from Samuel Darke by Lease and Release. The conveyance was witnessed by Richard Morgan, Thomas Swearingen, Charles Burckam [?], and Thomas Hart.⁶⁰ John Wright was the immediate neighbor of James Glenn and married Hannah Glenn, Glenn's widow, after his death in 1755. With his purchase of the Darke tract, Wright owned all or part of the three adjoining Fairfax grants: his own of 231 acres, one third interest in Glenn's 231 acres by his wife's dower, and Darke's 360 acres for a total of 822 acres.

Wright's ownership of the Darke grant land lasted only four years. In August 1762 James Hendricks purchased the 360 acres from John Wright for £370, "Beginning at a stake standing in a poison field and the line of James Glen [sic]..."⁶¹ James and Priscilla (Pettit) Hendricks were emigrants from York Co., Pennsylvania. Their oldest son Daniel was born in York Co. in 1745. Daniel married Jane Buckles in Virginia around 1763 so it is likely that the Hendricks family occupied the former Darke farm immediately, or possibly before their purchase of the land in 1762.⁶² James Hendricks' 1795 Last Will and Testament (see below) indicates that Daniel and Jane Hendricks occupied the northwest third of his father's 360-acre tract.

By 1772, settlement along the Opeckon (Opequon) Creek in Frederick County Virginia had progressed enough to justify carving a new county, called Berkeley County. The 1783 Berkeley County Personal Property tax record listed James Hendricks, Sr. with two white males over the age of 16 (himself and James Jr.), two slaves over 16 years, eight horses, and 14 cattle. Sons Daniel and John were listed separately, each with five cattle, Daniel with two horses, and John with three horses. Several of Hendricks' neighbors showed similar numbers of slaves, horses, and cattle: Edward Lucas (III) had one slave, nine horses, and 18 cattle; William Lucas had one slave, seven horses, and 10 cattle; Col. William Morgan had two slaves, 10 horses, and 17 cattle. All of these men had significantly more horses and cattle than the majority of the farmers in the area, indicating that Hendricks, Lucas, and Morgan were among the more prosperous farmers of Berkeley County.⁶³ With the relatively large number of livestock, it is likely that their production focused on feed grains and the developing cash crop – wheat, as well as possibly continuing to cultivate some tobacco.

Many of these same men served in the revolutionary cause, beginning in 1776. Col. James Hendricks served in Capt. William Morgan's Company of the Virginia militia, along with 2nd

⁵⁷ O'Dell, p. 116, citing N.N. Grants, Book H, p. 412 and 414; see Geertsema map from O'Dell, p. 95, parcels 84A and 84A1; parcel 84 was later part of the Gen. William Darke farm at Duffields).

⁵⁸ N.N. Grants, Book H, p. 96

⁵⁹ 1744 Fee Book, James Wood Papers, Handley Library, Winchester, VA.

⁶⁰ Frederick Co. (FC), Virginia, Deed Book 4, page 165.

⁶¹ FC, Deed Book 7, pp. 210-211

⁶² <http://members.aol.com/GFSBrenda/Hendricks.html>; the location of the first Hendricks house is unknown and could be at either the Rock Spring or York Hill house sites.

⁶³ Berkeley Co. Historical Society, Martinsburg, WVA

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Lieutenant Edward Lucas, 1st Lt. William Lucas, Robert Buckles Jr., and Capt. James Glenn (Jr.), who reportedly joined the Continental army when he was 14 years old and served under Gen. William Darke.⁶⁴ There is also a record of John Hendricks, Esq., who served in “1777 under Capt. Nicewanger in Frederick County state of Virginia,” although he applied for his soldier’s pension in Carter County, Tennessee.⁶⁵ This may be, however, the son of James Hendricks (Sr.) who by 1783 was probably over the age of 21 (individually tithable) according to the tax record of that year (see above). John Hendricks moved out of Berkeley County in 1796 (see below), perhaps to Tennessee.

James Hendricks, Sr. wrote his will in January of 1795 and died shortly after. In his will he gave to his wife Priscilla “her choice of one horse and two cows out of my horses & cows and one breeding sow and what shoats I now have and also all my household furniture...I will the negroe wench Mimie to be my wifes during her life and at my wifes death sd [said] Negroe to live with whom she pleases and when past her labor my son James is to Maintain her during her life...” Hendricks also divided his 360-acre tract among his children, providing a glimpse of the landscape in the description of the division:

...to my two grandsons Tobias and Daniel Hendricks to be equally divided between them...the western side of my Plantation and along James Glenns line to the stones which William and David Osborn and Thomas Lafferty set up from one of them stones at the corner of my son James’ orchard before Jane Hendricks [widow of son Daniel Hendricks] door thence down along said orchard unto they go one Rod below the spring in Jane Hendricks orchard thence straight along the bottom of Jane Hendricks orchard keeping a rod below sd [said] spring to the other side and thence up said side to the said stones before mentioned...the use of the above mentioned land to my daughter in law Jane Hendricks during her life but if she marry again only she is to have one third thereof during her life...unto my beloved sons James & John Hendricks...the remainder of my land to be equally divided between them by a line run straight through giving to each a like number of acres James share to be on the side he now lives on and John’s share to be on the side his dwelling is now on...to my daughter Elizabeth Blue my House after my wifes death for her during sd [said] daughters widowhood for her self to occupy...⁶⁶

The will required that the sons and grandsons provide for Priscilla with wheat, Indian corn, and firewood, Elizabeth Blue to “have all last years flax for her use,” and five other daughters to divide “the remainder of my movable estate.” Son-in-law John Vanmetre and son James Hendricks were appointed executors.⁶⁷

Judging by the description of Jane’s western parcel “along James Glenns line,” which was on the northern boundary of the whole tract (see Geertsema plat), and “to the corner of...James’ orchard,” then James Hendricks Jr. must have been living on the northeast section (Rock Spring) of the 360-acre tract and John then on the southeast (York Hill). This division of the whole tract into four households on what appears to be three farms occurred as early as 1791 when the tax record for Berkeley County showed James Hendricks, Sr. taxed for a “Hireling,” one slave and three horses (cattle weren’t listed that year); James Hendricks, Jr. with “George Wright” (a laborer?) one slave and three horses; Jane Hendricks with three horses; and John Hendricks with a “Hireling” and four horses.

⁶⁴ Bushong, p. 501

⁶⁵ www.HeritageQuestion.com, Revolutionary War Soldiers records.

⁶⁶ Berkeley Co. Will Book 2, p. 287.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

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But in July 1795, shortly after his father's death, John Hendricks, who inherited the southeast third of the 360-acre tract, advertised his farm for sale:

A Valuable Plantation...lying about 3 miles from Shepherd's Town...well fenced, a good dwelling house, barn, apple orchard, meadow, good water...⁶⁸

In November 1795, John Hendricks and his wife Elizabeth sold 42 acres of John's inheritance to his brother James Hendricks (Jr.).⁶⁹ This narrow strip of land appears to have been along the division line between their two inherited farms. Then in March 1796, John Hendricks sold the remaining 98 acres of his inheritance to Martin Myers and apparently left the county.⁷⁰

By combining the descriptions from the John Hendricks deed for 42 acres and the later deeds for the 98 acres, a description of John Hendricks' inheritance farm can be formulated. The farm inherited by John Hendricks was 3,960 feet or 240 poles wide from east to west, and 1,551 feet or 94 (29 plus 65) poles north to south. The original total acreage was apparently 140 acres (42 plus 98). The boundary descriptions of the two deeds for John Hendricks' land indicate that the farm inherited by John Hendricks was the southeast third of the 360-acre Samuel Darke Fairfax grant land (now York Hill).

Martin Myers lived in nearby Washington County, Maryland and just one year later sold the John Hendricks inheritance farm remnant (98 acres) to Jacob Snyder, also "of Washington County," for £800.⁷¹ It appears that Jacob Snyder purchased the farm for his son John Snyder (Snider), who was listed in the 1798 tax assessment for Berkeley County, Virginia while Jacob was not. The 1798 assessment, called the House and Slave Tax, listed John Snider (Snyder) with a house in the country valued at \$315. He was not assessed for any slaves.⁷²

For comparison: Giles Cook, Sr. of District 1 had a house in the country valued at \$315. His house was described in the 1786 Jonathon Clark survey as a log house, 20x20 with an inside stone chimney and a framed 12 ft. addition. Peter Smurr had a house in Shepherdstown valued at \$315 and described in his 1798 Mutual Assurance Society (MAS) insurance record as a "wood house," 30x25, one story. Jacob Smurr's house in Shepherdstown was also valued at \$315 and described on his 1798 MAS insurance as a two-story "frame house," 17x26. Richard Barnhouse had a house in Smithfield (Dist. 1) valued at \$315 that was described in 1786 as a "new log house," 24x20, 1 ½ stories with an inside stone chimney.⁷³

Jefferson County was carved from Berkeley County in 1801. A year later, in 1802, "Jacob Snider and Ann his wife of Washington County," sold the 98-acre farm he purchased from John Hendricks in 1797 to "John Snider, son of the said Jacob Snider, of Jefferson County" for £100.⁷⁴ The Third U.S. Population Census for Jefferson County, completed in 1810 (Virginia's First and Second census', 1790 and 1800, were lost in a fire), listed John Snider (Snyder) immediately following James Hendricks, indicating Hendricks was still living on his inheritance farm and Snider on the farm he purchased from his father Jacob Snyder (the John Hendricks farm). John Snyder was between the ages

⁶⁸ *The Potomak Guardian and Berkeley Advertiser*, July 25, 1795.

⁶⁹ Berkeley Co. (BC) Deed Book 12, p. 373.

⁷⁰ This deed could not be found but is referenced in later deeds, Berkeley Co. Deed Book 13, p. 437 in 1797 and Jefferson Co. Deed Book 1, p. 215 in 1802.

⁷¹ BC, Deed Book 13, p. 437.

⁷² "1798 House and Slave Tax Assessment for Berkeley County, Virginia," as transcribed by the Berkeley County Historical Society.

⁷³ "1786 Jonathon Clark Survey Notebook," as transcribed by Joyner; Mutual Assurance Company records, Virginia State Library, Richmond, VA.

⁷⁴ Jefferson Co. (JC), Deed Book 1, p. 215.

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26-44, as was his wife. He had two males under 9 years, two males 10-15, two females 10-15, and one female 16-25. John Snyder owned no slaves. According to a genealogy, John Snyder was born in December 1770 in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania, making him 40 years old in 1810. He was married to Christeann (Christina) Nicodemus.⁷⁵ If John Snyder was 20 years old in 1790, it is likely he was married ca. 1790, around the time that his father (Jacob Snyder), who lived in Washington County, Maryland, bought the 98-acre Hendricks farm. He was about 32 when his father finally conveyed the farm to him in 1802.

From 1802 to 1815, the John Snyder farm as listed in the Jefferson Co. Land Tax remained at 100 acres, presumably the same acreage as the 98 acres – formerly the John Hendricks inheritance – that Snyder purchased from his father Jacob in 1802. But in 1816, John Snyder, “Farmer,” was assessed for his 100 acres “Joins J. [James] Hendrick” and an additional 91 acres “do [joins] Same land.”⁷⁶ Then in August 1816, Snyder purchased 76 acres along his home farm’s southern boundary, adjoining Abraham Naille (Naille, Neill; descendant of Lewis Neill), from the heirs of Moses Hunter. The parcel began at the “line of John Snyder corner to Philip Engle,” and touching on the properties of Abraham Naille and James Hendricks.⁷⁷

John Snyder’s (Snyder) census listing for 1820 indicated that his household was growing along with his acreage. Described as “farmer,” Snyder was now over the age of 45 with a wife of similar age. His household included one male 26-44 (possibly a laborer), two males 18-25 (sons Jacob, age 22 and John Jr., age 20), and one male 10-15 (Henry, age 13) and two females 16-25 (Mary, age 18 and Nancy, age 16). John Snyder also had two slaves, and five of the household members were “engaged in agriculture.” The 1820 Jefferson Co. Land Tax listed John Snyder with 191 acres (the previously listed 100 and 91 acres now combined) adjoining “James Hendricks,” and the 76 acres adjoining “Lewis Neil.” This was the first year buildings were separately valued, with \$1,000 worth on the Snyder properties, although it is not clear on which property the buildings were located.

By the 1830s, John Snyder (Sr.) had acquired enough property to begin dividing it among his sons. While John Sr. remained in his “mansion house” on the 191-acre home farm (York Hill), in 1836 he sold 107 acres near Duffields Depot to his son Henry Snyder.⁷⁸ Then in 1849 he sold the 117-acre James Hendricks farm (Rock Spring) he purchased in 1831 to his son John Jr.⁷⁹ John Snyder, Jr. (age 28) married Nancy Snyder Miller (daughter of his father’s sister Susannah Snyder Miller) in 1828. John Jr.’s older brother Jacob (age 30) died this year as well. John (Jr.) and Nancy Snyder had eleven children between the years 1829 and 1848. Only three, Jacob, Henry and Catherine were still living by 1850. Nancy (Miller) Snyder died within 20 days of the birth of her last son (January 1849).⁸⁰

The U.S. Population Census record for Jefferson County in 1850 listed John Snyder, Sr. at the age of 80 sharing his home farm with Hester Snyder, the widow of his son Henry, and her six children: Mary A. (20), Elizabeth (18), John (16), Catherine (14), Susan (12), and William (10). Also sharing the household was Jacob Melvin (21) and Elizabeth Melvin (15), and a blacksmith named Joseph Engle (40). The real estate value was \$24,500. John Snyder Jr., age 50, was living on his adjoining farm (Rock Spring) with his two sons Jacob (19) and Henry (13) and daughter Catherine (16). The 1852 S. Howell Brown map of Jefferson County (see attached), illustrated the arrangement of the Snyder farms by the 1850s. The “shop” shown on the map was likely the Joseph Engle blacksmith shop.

⁷⁵ <http://home.cfl.rr.com/budinfl/snyder/d3518.htm>.

⁷⁶ Land tax records on microfilm at the Berkeley Co. Historical Society, Martinsburg, WV.

⁷⁷ JC, Deed Book 9, p. 526.

⁷⁸ JC, Deed Book 21, page 393.

⁷⁹ JC, Deed Book 17, page 124 (Hendricks to John Sr.) and JC, Deed Book 30, page 298 (John Sr. to John Jr.).

⁸⁰ <http://home.cfl.rr.com/budinfl/snyder/d3518.htm>.

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In 1858, at the age of 88, John Snyder Sr. died. His will, written in 1849 and probated August 18, 1858 following his death, devised the home farm (York Hill) to his son John Snyder, Jr.:

[he] shall have my mansion-house and the land attached thereto, (being about 183 acres) at the price of 50 dollars per acre, [also]...my old clock & stove in the mansion house...I give to my grand daughter Jane Elizabeth Melvin, the bedstead, bed & bedding in the Yellow room, the bureau which formerly belonged to her mother [Nancy (Snyder) Melvin, deceased].⁸¹

The children of John Snyder, Sr. noted in the will included only two surviving, John Jr. and Polly (Wright), and three already deceased including Betsy (Wright), Nancy (Melvin), and Henry. John Snyder Sr.'s personal estate inventory at the time of his death revealed a successful grain farmer who, like most of the region's farmers, also produced apples. He lived a comfortable life and was educated. His house was filled with fine furniture, carpet, curtains, linen sheets, mirrors, and books. He even owned the latest map of Jefferson County, published in 1852.⁸² (see attached section of 1852 map)

John Snyder, Jr. (age 58) was already living on his own farm (Rock Spring), which he purchased from his father in 1849 (see above). It therefore appears likely that his oldest son Jacob, by then aged 27, moved onto the John Sr. farm (York Hill), which he later purchased in 1872. In 1860 the U.S. Population Census listed John Snyder (Jr.), age 60 and his wife Elizabeth, age 39, on their farm valued at \$26,500. John Jr. remarried one year after his first wife's death to Elizabeth Jane Snyder, the daughter of his father's brother Abraham (A.H. Snyder). While son Henry, age 24, still lived in his father's household, oldest son Jacob Snyder, age 30, was listed separately, probably living on his grandfather's farm (York Hill), although he did not yet own it. Still living on that farm was blacksmith Joseph Engle, age 61. A 17-year old farm laborer named Richard Colbert was also listed. Jacob Snyder's wife Susan C. (25) and their children Susan A. (4) and Charles N. (3) were listed in the household, as were two children of John Jr. and his new wife Elizabeth, Nelson T. (10) and new baby Rosalie (5 months). Considering the age of the baby, they were likely at their Uncle Jacob's while their mother Elizabeth recovered from an illness.

Beginning in 1861, and throughout the American Civil War, citizens of Jefferson County saw near-constant occupation, movement, and action by both the Confederate and Union armies. Crossed by the B&O Railroad, an important Union supply route, and site of a Potomac River crossing at the Packhorse or Boteler's Ford, Jefferson County was considered pivotal to both armies. But the hearts of the citizens, despite the county's inclusion in the newly-formed Union state of West Virginia in 1863, lay with the Confederacy.

...Jefferson County furnished to the Confederacy five infantry companies, viz – A, B, G, H, and K, to the Second Virginia Infantry; four cavalry companies, viz – A, B, and D, to the Twelfth, and Company "F" to the First Virginia Cavalry; and Chew's battery. Many joined other commands. The county was about depopulated of young men.⁸³

Henry M. Snyder was a private in Co. H, 2nd Regiment, Virginia Infantry. Known as the Letcher Riflemen, the company "was organized at Duffields, shortly after the Brown Raid [1859]..."⁸⁴ Snyder family lore states that General Robert E. Lee stopped at the Rock Spring farm, home of Henry's father, John Snyder, Jr., and drank from the well:

⁸¹ JC, Will Book 15, p. 498.

⁸² JC, Will Book 17, pp. 85-90.

⁸³ Charles S. Adams, "Military Operations in Jefferson Co.," pp. 22-23.

⁸⁴ Adams, "Military Operations in Jefferson Co.," p. 13; Soldiers and Sailors Database, www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/.

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While there, General Lee entered the house to sign a paper. He also wrote a message to Belle Boyd, Confederate Spy, who was in hiding at Glen Burnie Farm [James Glenn farm] about one half mile away, and dispatched it by ten year old Nelson T. Snyder.

In the front hall, a blood stain is still visible where John Snyder, Jr.'s son, Henry, a Confederate Soldier home on sick leave, was killed by the Carpet Baggers (shot Nov. 9, 1864, died Nov. 11, 1864).⁸⁵

Despite several skirmishes around nearby Duffield's Depot, no direct action occurred on the Jacob Snyder farm during the long four years of the Civil War.

In 1870, Jacob Snyder was 39 years old and listed in the census for that year as a farmer. His real estate was valued at \$25,000, with a personal property value of \$2,500. His wife Susan was 35 years old and by this time they had seven children: Susan A. (14), Charles N. (13), Henry C. (11), Jane M (6), Jacob R. (4), Nannie M. (2), and John just one month old. Also listed in the household were Daniel and Hannah Bowers, a newly married black couple working for the Snyder family as farm laborer and domestic servant. Joseph Engle the blacksmith, now in his 70s, was listed in the next household, that of neighbor Humphrey Engle. Humphrey Engle appeared on the 1852 S. Howell Brown map on a small parcel adjoining the southwest corner of the Snyder family property (see 1852 map).

Although the 1870 census-taker indicated that Jacob Snyder owned his farm at that time, it was not until 1872 that John Snyder, Jr. actually conveyed the former John Snyder Sr. farm (York Hill) to his son Jacob, "in consideration of the natural love and affection which the said Parties...bear to the said Jacob Snyder." The farm of 158 acres "adjoining the Lands of the said John Snyder, Humphrey Engle, Lewis Neill heirs and others" was described:

Beginning at a stone at the Grave Yard, corner to Land this day conveyed by the said John and Elizabeth J Snyder to John W. Hendricks & wife; running thence with their line N 17° 30' E 71.08 poles to a stone, their corner; thence again with the same and the line of John Snyder, being the centre of the present fence S 64° 15' E at 46.85 poles to a stone on the East side of the Sandy Ridge Road, corner to sd Hendricks & wife and John Snyder, continuing in all 164.05 poles to a stone at the western limit of the Shenandoah Valley Rail-Road; thence with said Road S 20° 22 ½' W 85.8 poles to a stone, corner to Jacob Snyder; thence with his lines N 65° 45' W 72.7 poles to a stone; thence S 12° 33' W 118 poles to a stone, Jacob Snyder's corner, in the line of Lewis Neill's heirs, on the North side of the Duffield's Depot road; thence with Lewis Neill's heirs S 81° 30' W 85.8 poles to a stone, corner to Humphrey Engle; thence with his line N 46° W 20.2 poles to a stone at the intersection of the fences, his corner; thence again with his line N 12° 45' E 159.35 poles, to a stone, his corner in the line of the Land before mentioned as this day conveyed by John Snyder & wife to John W. Hendricks & wife; and thence with said line S 65° 24' E 11.8 poles to the Beginning.⁸⁶

When John Snyder Jr. died in August 1873, having already sold his father's home farm to his son Jacob the year before, he devised his farm (Rock Spring) to his wife Elizabeth "for life," then to their son

⁸⁵ "Rock Spring Farm," family manuscript, Oct. 1, 1976, no author cited.

⁸⁶ JC, Deed Book A, p. 4.

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Nelson T. Snyder.⁸⁷ The 1883 S. Howell Brown map of Jefferson County showed Jacob Snyder's farm bordered by Elizabeth J. Snyder, John Hendricks, and Humphrey Engle among others (see attached).

It was in the 1880s that Jefferson County farmers began to join a growing trend in the region of planting more orchard trees for the purpose of a cash crop. Moving away from their dependence on wheat, which was quickly losing ground in the region to the mid-Western wheat growers, over the next several decades more and more acreage was converted to orchard. In 1913, Jefferson County agricultural records indicated that 4,385 acres were planted in orchards compared to only 40 acres in 1876.⁸⁸ Nelson T. Snyder, the only surviving brother of Jacob Snyder, was described in 1928 – by then aged 78 – as an “apple grower” in his younger days, indicating that orchards were being developed on at least one of the Snyder farms on Sandy Ridge Road in the late 19th century.⁸⁹ Jacob Snyder made the change on at least part of his farm (York Hill) by 1910. The U.S. Population census for that year recorded Jacob as a “Fruit man” and “Fruit Grower.” His oldest son Charles N. (Newton) Snyder (33) was living on the adjoining farm, parceled out of the southeast corner of his father's acreage in 1895.⁹⁰ Charles was described on the 1910 census as a “General Farmer.”

Nothing in Jacob Snyder's estate records, or those of his wife Lizzie, provides any clues to the operation of their farm and orchard. In 1901 Jacob Snyder wrote his will in which he recorded his intention to leave everything “to my beloved wife Lizzie N. Snyder...” He died in February 1915.⁹¹ Several months after her husband Jacob's death, Lizzie Snyder wrote her will. She singled out two of her children for special devises: Maria M. Snyder got \$2,000 extra “for attension [sic] & nursing her Father & mother in there [sic] sickness,” and “to my youngest Son Ferd H. Snyder for nursing & doing for his Father in his afflictions” she left “all my share of stock.” Finally, she indicated her will to “give my children first write [sic] to buy the Farm.”⁹² Lizzie Snyder passed away in 1919. The 1920 appraisal of the estate of Lizzie Snyder listed the items by room, as did her husband's appraisal in 1915. The two appraisals combined provide a good picture of the house as it was arranged in the early 20th century:

Sitting room – “Furniture, Grand Father Clock” (Jacob 1915); stove, desk, and clock (Lizzie 1920)

Room next to sitting room – “Bed Room Furniture down stairs” (Jacob 1915); rocking chair, stand, carpet, bureau, washstand, bedstead, wardrobe, bedding, rugs & matting, sheets and pillow cases, table cloth (Lizzie 1920)

“Bed room Furniture No. 1.” (Jacob 1915); Room over parlor [over dining room?] – furniture, lamp, stove, blankets and bedding, toilet set (Lizzie 1920)

“Bed room Furniture No. 2.” (Jacob 1915); Room over sitting room – bedstead and bedding, carpet (Lizzie 1920)

“Small small room” – chest, cot, &c. (Lizzie 1920)

Dining room – “Walnut Extension table, stove Lounge & chairs, Table Furniture, Table organ” (Jacob 1915); furniture & stove, linoleum square (Lizzie 1920)

⁸⁷ JC, Will Book A, p. 20.

⁸⁸ As cited in “History of Jefferson County Agriculture,” www.preservehistory.org.

⁸⁹ History of Virginia, Vo. IV, Lewis Publishing Co., NY, 1928, pp. 186-187.

⁹⁰ JC, Deed Book 80, p. 123.

⁹¹ JC, Will Book D, p. 196.

⁹² JC, Will Book D, p. 435.

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Porch room – furniture (Lizzie 1920)

Kitchen – “Furniture including Cook stove” (Jacob 1915); cooking stove, lard press & sausage grind & stuffer, two iron kettles, bacon (Lizzie 1920)

Livestock – “one cow, eight Shoats & Sow” (Jacob 1915); 75 chickens, sow and six pigs, cow, horse (Lizzie 1920)

“Real Estate, \$12,000” (Jacob 1915); Farm 140 acres more or less, @ \$125 per acre or \$17,500 (Lizzie 1920)⁹³

In 1921 the heirs of Lizzie Snyder, including John S. Snyder, J. Rush Snyder, George T. Snyder, Ferd H. Snyder, and Maria M. Snyder, came to an agreement in which the farm (York Hill) was sold to Ferd (Ferdinand; three-fifths interest) and Maria (two-fifths interest). The conveyance was made on March 25, 1921. The farm was by this time reduced to 145 acres and comprised of several tracts purchased by Jacob Snyder over the years. But the bulk of the acreage came from the 158-acre conveyance from his father John Snyder, Jr. in 1872, which was part of the 183-acre conveyance from his father John Snyder, Sr. in his will of 1858 (see above).

Previously simply referred to as the “Snyder farm,” the farm was known as “York Hill” by 1925 (see attached 1925 map of Jefferson County), perhaps a reference to York apples growing on the farm. The adjoining farm, occupied by oldest son Charles Newton Snyder since 1895, was called “Cherry Hill.” Whether “Ferd” and Maria Snyder continued to produce apples is not clear in the records, although if the trees were already planted it seems likely they did.

The coming decade of the 1930s, however, proved challenging for many farmers and by 1938, Ferdinand and Maria Snyder were in trouble. In March 1938 they entered into a Deed of Trust agreement with Garland H. Moore, conveying to him their one-half interest in “35 acres of growing wheat, being the landlord’s share of said wheat,” in exchange for a promissory note of \$350.⁹⁴ Again, in September 1938, the Snyders conveyed their share of “twelve acres...of growing corn” for \$290. Apparently unable to repay their debts, in 1939 the Snyders were forced to declare bankruptcy. Forced to sell the farm by the court, it was sold to Nan Wilson for \$8,760.⁹⁵ Five years later, in 1944, Nan Wilson sold the now 135-acre farm to Milton Burr (1/2 interest), Samuel J. Hockensmith (1/4 interest), and Robert A. Hockensmith (1/4 interest).⁹⁶

According to the current (2006) owner Mary Frances (Hockensmith) Hockman, her grandfather Samuel Johnson Hockensmith and Milton Burr were partners in the orchard business while “Daddy,” Robert Hockensmith was the business manager.⁹⁷ Eventually, in 1951, Robert Hockensmith purchased Burr’s half interest in the farm along with two additional parcels totaling 174 acres. In the same conveyance, Burr sold his “undivided half interest...in and to all of the machinery, implements, trucks, equipment, livestock and other tangible personal property (except severed crops) now on the real estate described...[the] parcel of land with orchard thereon, containing 46 acres...” and a 1-acre tract “with packing house and other improvements thereon, situate in Bardane in said county, bounded on the northeast by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and on the southwest by Route 9.” The 1-acre parcel included the machinery and equipment in the packing house but not the “field crates, boxes and

⁹³ JC, Accounts of Fiduciaries Book O, p. 40 (Jacob Snyder) and Book O, p. 509 (Lizzie N. Snyder).

⁹⁴ JC, Deed Book 147, p. 307.

⁹⁵ JC, Deed Book 149, p. 367.

⁹⁶ JC, Deed Book 160, p. 119. Ten acres out of the northwest corner of the farm were sold to Ernest Hendricks.

⁹⁷ Mary Frances Hockman, personal communication, February 2006.

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baskets.”⁹⁸ The machinery mentioned was the apple evaporator (for cutting and drying apples), still located today (2006) at the York Hill road-side market at Bardane. Significantly, the 1-acre parcel at Bardane provided direct access to the east-bound B&O Railroad. Clearly, by the 1950s, the York Hill commercial orchard business was fully developed.

In 1953, Robert Hockensmith’s wife Pauline purchased Samuel Hockensmith’s one-fourth interest in the property, thereby establishing themselves as the sole owners of the land, equipment, and buildings of the York Hill orchard and farm.⁹⁹ It was about this time that the Hockensmiths converted the old stone bank barn to orchard use by lining and enclosing the animal stalls in the lower level for cold storage. The upper level of the barn was reinforced with concrete floors and steel I-beam joists to accommodate the weight of the large field crates filled with apples.¹⁰⁰

Mary Frances Hockensmith, daughter of Robert and Pauline, married Jerry Hockman in 1958 and two years later, in 1960, her parents gave Mary Frances the 7 ¾-acre farmstead complex, called on the plat (see attached), the “Home Lot” of the “Snyder Farm.”¹⁰¹ In 1962 the Twin Ridge Orchard Co., with Jerry C. Hockman “Its President,” purchased from the Hockensmiths a 139-acre parcel to the south. This parcel, purchased by Samuel Hockensmith and Milton Burr in 1929, included the B&O Railroad along its southern border and the intersection with the N&W Railroad, which crossed its interior, providing immediate access to both lines.¹⁰² In 1968 Robert and Pauline Hockensmith sold a 42-acre parcel immediately adjoining the farmstead parcel to the south and including part of the Hendricks/Snyder family graveyard. This conveyance was “subject to a Lease with Twin Ridge Orchard Co., Inc., with which said Grantees are familiar, but said Grantees shall receive the per bushel rentals from said Lease apportionable to the land hereby conveyed.”¹⁰³

The Twin Ridge Orchard Co. remained under the primary operation and ownership of Jerry and Mary Frances Hockman, although some of the acreage was still owned by Pauline Hockensmith after her husband Robert’s death. In 1989, following their divorce, Jerry Hockman conveyed their jointly-owned property to Mary Frances Hockman.¹⁰⁴ Then in 1997, Pauline Hockensmith conveyed what remained in her ownership of the 135-acre Snyder farm, “known as Twin Ridge Orchards,” to her daughters Mary Frances Hockman and Margaret Anne Saunders. The remaining parcel totaled 85 ¼ acres on the east side of Ridge Road, minus the 42-acre and the 7 ¾-acre parcels on the west side of the road previously conveyed.¹⁰⁵ The Twin Ridge Orchard Co., Inc. is the parent-company of the York Hill Orchard & Farm “pick-your-own” operation currently at York Hill.

⁹⁸ JC, Deed Book 182, p. 383.

⁹⁹ JC, Deed Book 192, p. 188.

¹⁰⁰ Mary Frances Hockman, personal communication, February 2006.

¹⁰¹ JC, Deed Book 236, p. 495.

¹⁰² JC, Deed Book 253, p. 555; this parcel is not contiguous with the nominated York Hill farm boundary.

¹⁰³ JC, Deed Book 293, p. 267.

¹⁰⁴ JC, Deed Book 637, p. 436.

¹⁰⁵ JC, Deed Book 852, p. 8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

York Hill
name of property

Jefferson Co., West Virginia
county and state

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number 10 Page 1

York Hill
name of property

Jefferson Co., West Virginia
county and state

UTM References

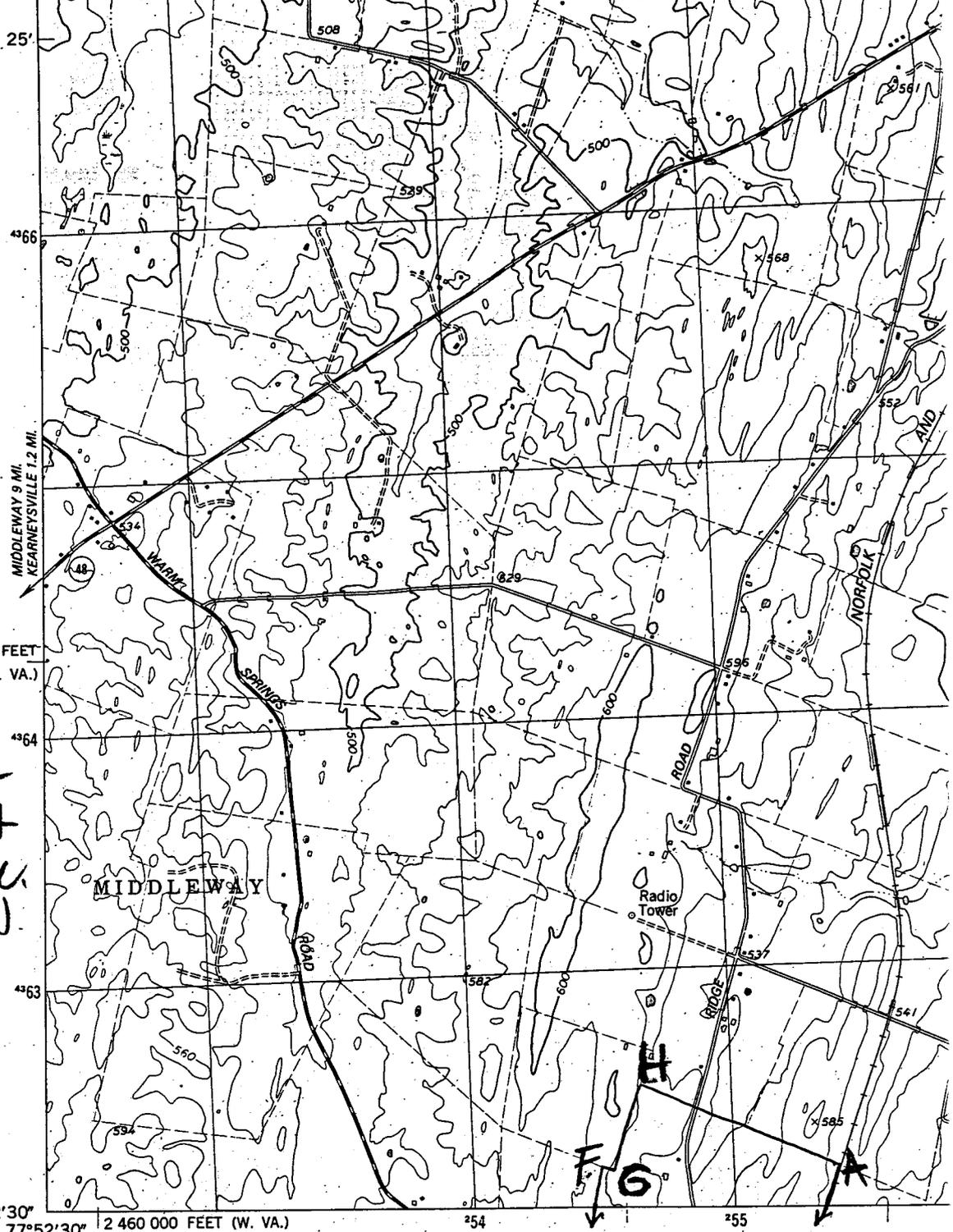
E:	18	254387	4361765
F:	18	254492	4362211
G:	18	254536	4362194
H:	18	254646	4362543

Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated York Hill farm encompasses Parcels 2, 3, 4, and 4.1 on Jefferson County Tax Map 22, Shepherdstown District. See attached tax map.

Boundary Justification

The four parcels included within the nominated boundary constitute the bulk (approximately 138 acres) of the historic 183-acre Snyder farm and includes the Hendricks/Snyder family cemetery (Parcel 3).



YORK HILL
SHENANDOAH
JUNCTION VIA
JEFFERSON
CO., WV

- UTM:
- A 18 255406
4362185
 - B 18 255233
4361704
 - C 18 254755
4361804
 - D 18 254755
4361626
 - E 18 254387
4361765
 - F 18 254492
4362211
 - G 18 254536
4362294
 - H 18 254646
4362543

MIDDLEWAY
5482 IV SW

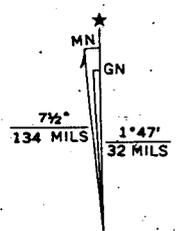
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and U.S. Soil Conservation Service

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1974
Supersedes map dated 1971. Map edited 1978

Projection: West Virginia coordinate system, north zone
(Lambert conformal conic)
10,000-foot grid ticks based on West Virginia coordinate
system, north zone and Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18
1927 North American datum

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



UTM GRID AND 1978 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Map photinspected 1988
No major culture or drainage changes observed

Shepherdstown Q.

5422 N.W. 1/4
(MARTINSBURG)

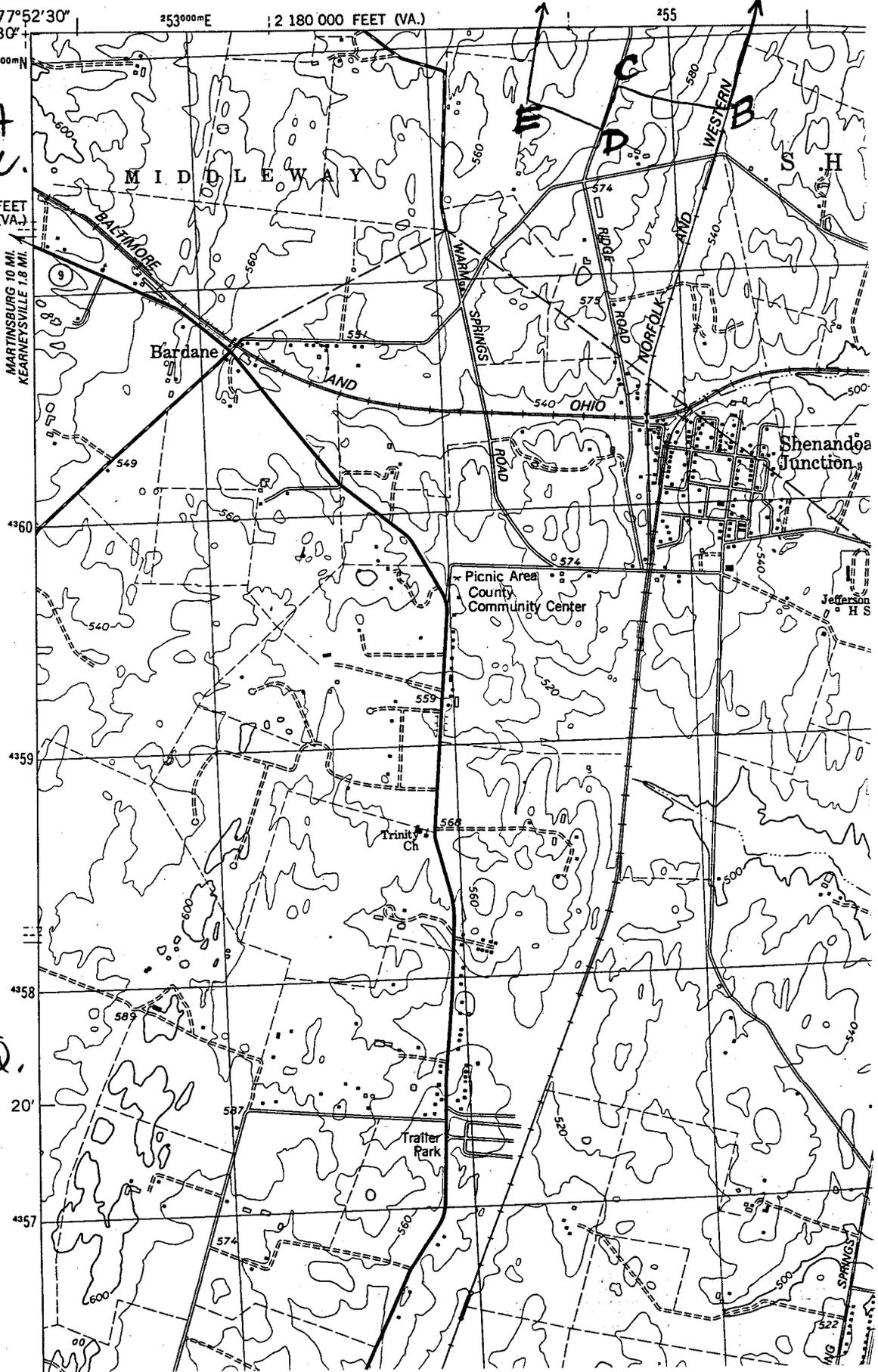
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

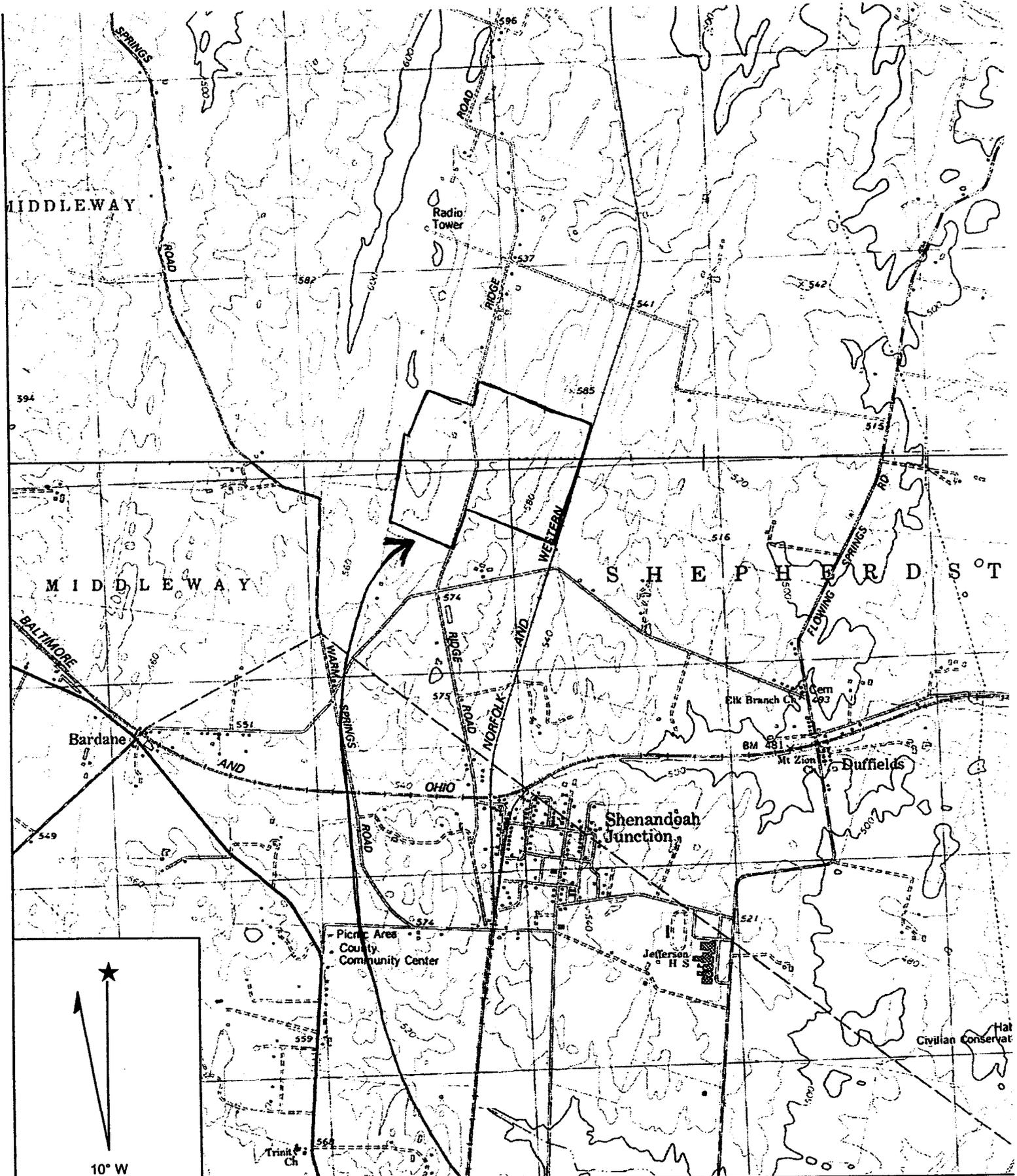
YORK HILL
SHENANDOAH
JUNCTION VIC.
JEFFERSON
CO., WV

UTM:

- A 18 255 400
4302 185
- B 18 255 233
4301 704
- C 18 254 755
4301 804
- D 18 254 689
4301 626
- E 18 254 384
4301 765
- F 18 254 492
4302 211
- G 18 254 536
4302 194
- H 18 254 646
4302 543

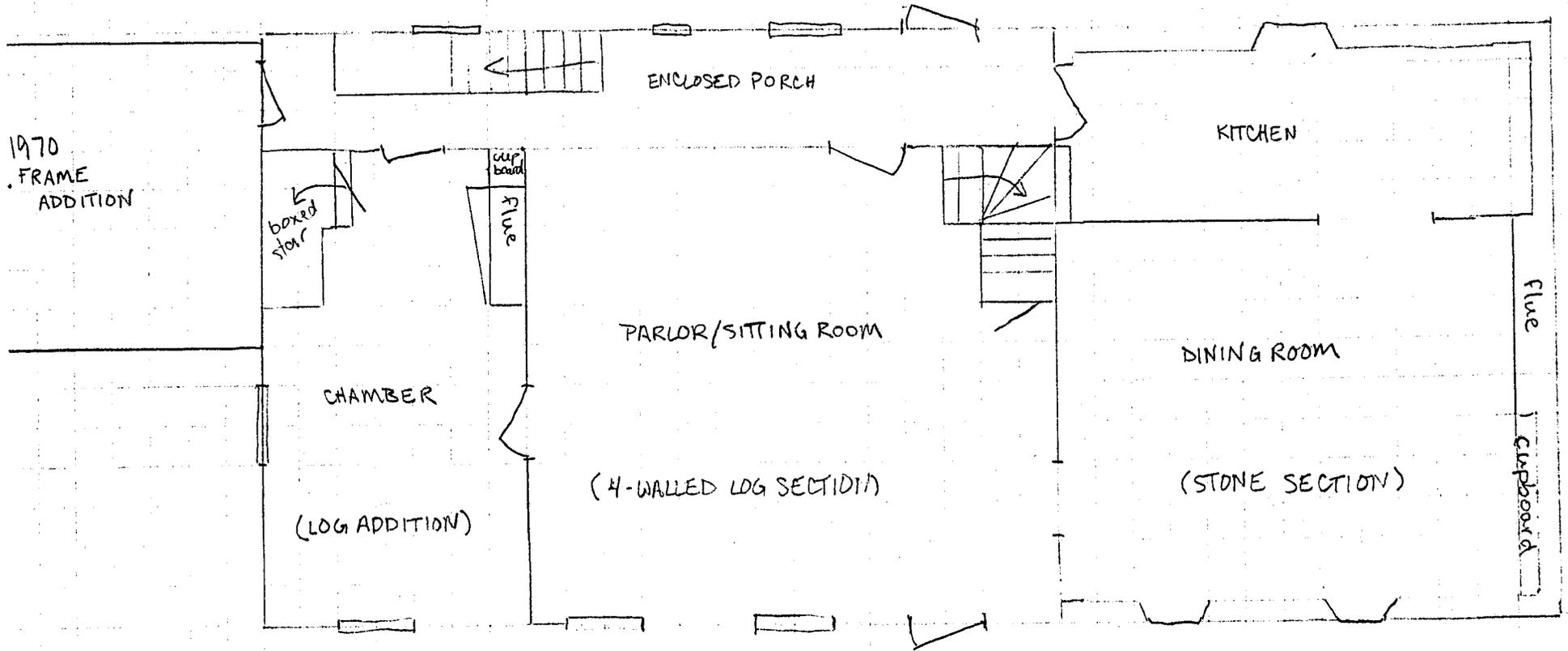
Charles Town Q.





Name: CHARLES TOWN
 Date: 3/17/2006
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 22' 09.7" N 077° 50' 39.7" W
 Caption: York Hill
 1583 Ridge Road
 Jefferson Co., West Virginia



1970
FRAME
ADDITION

ENCLOSED PORCH

KITCHEN

boxed
stair

flue
cup
board

PARLOR/SITTING ROOM

flue

DINING ROOM

CHAMBER

flue
cupboard

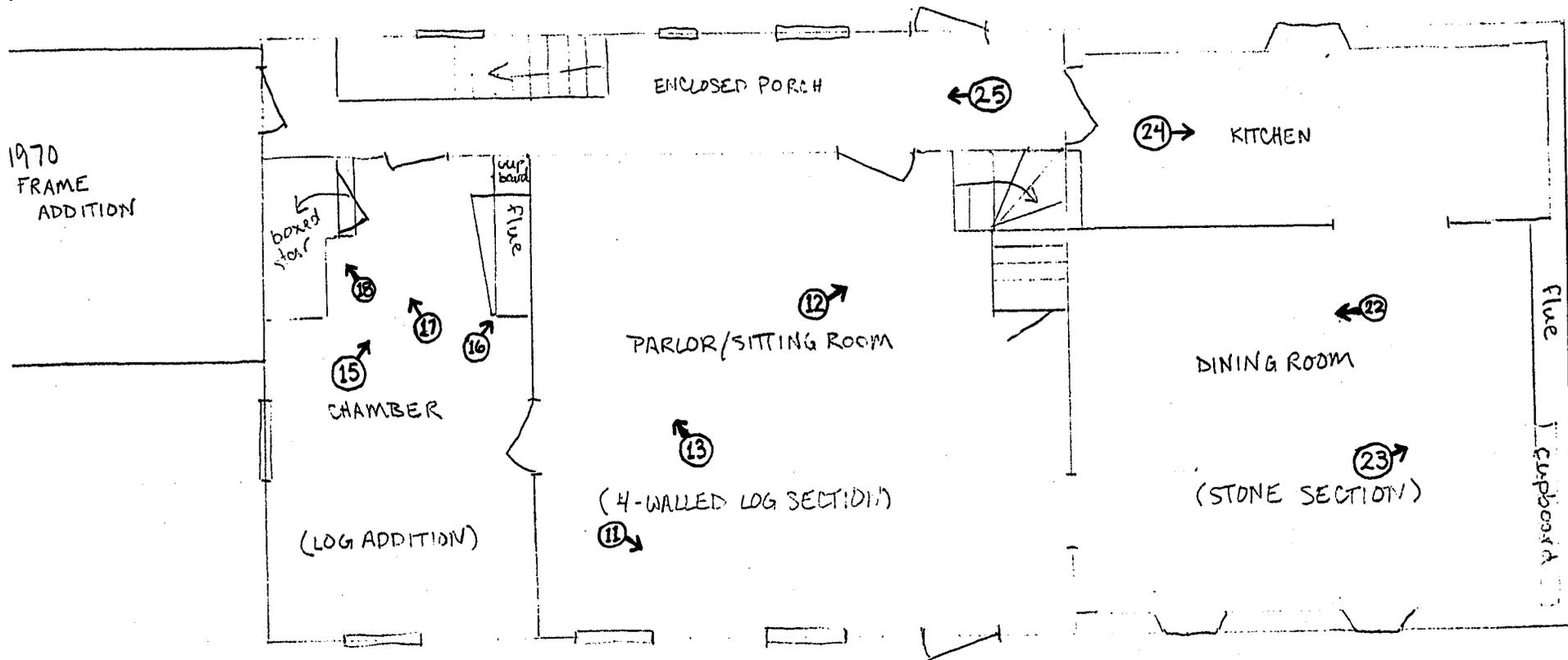
(4-WALLED LOG SECTION)

(STONE SECTION)

(LOG ADDITION)

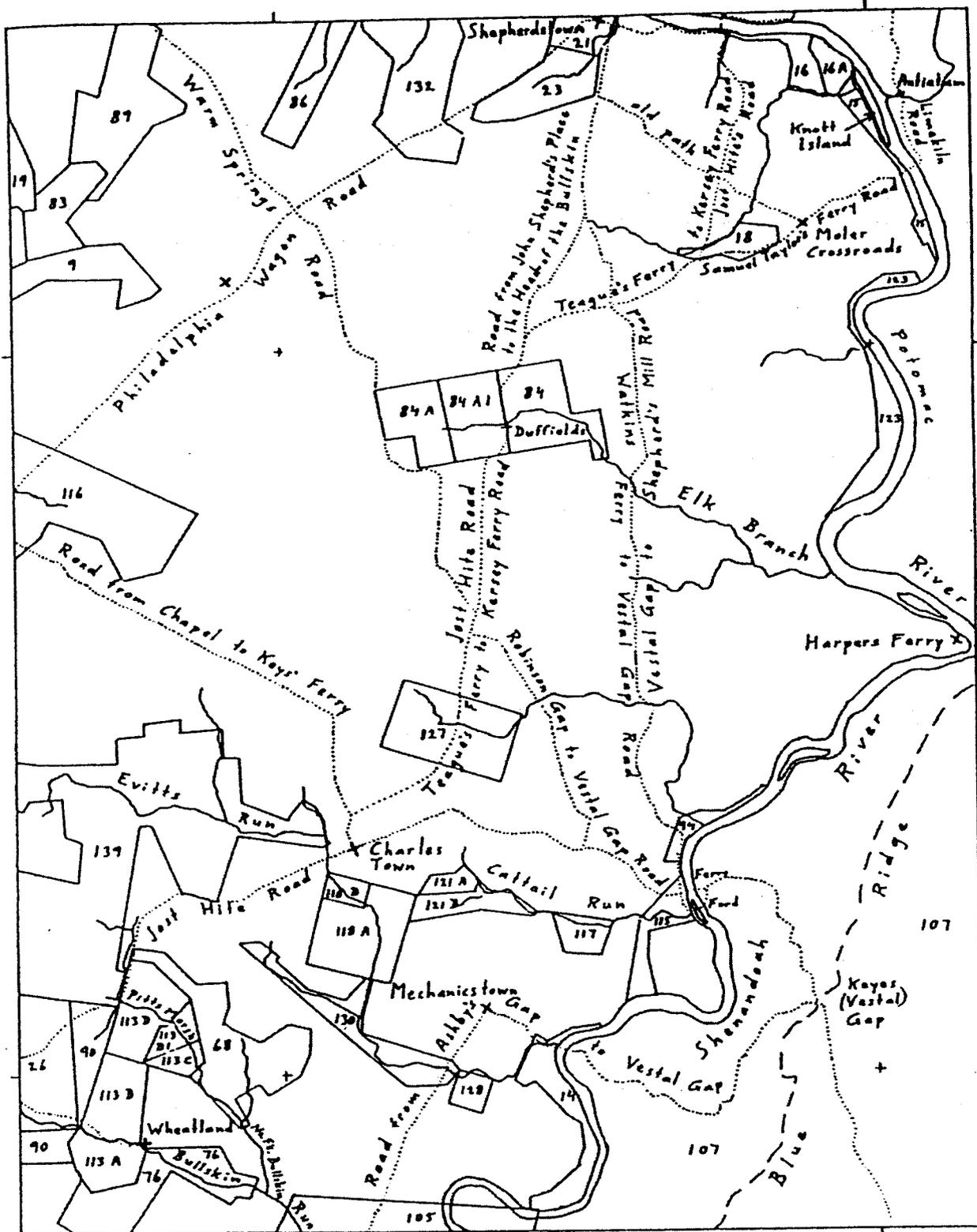
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
YORK HILL
1583 RIDGE ROAD
JEFFERSON CO., WEST VIRGINIA





FIRST FLOOR PLAN / PHOTO VIEW + NUMBER ① →
 YORK HILL
 1583 RIDGE ROAD
 JEFFERSON CO. WEST VIRGINIA

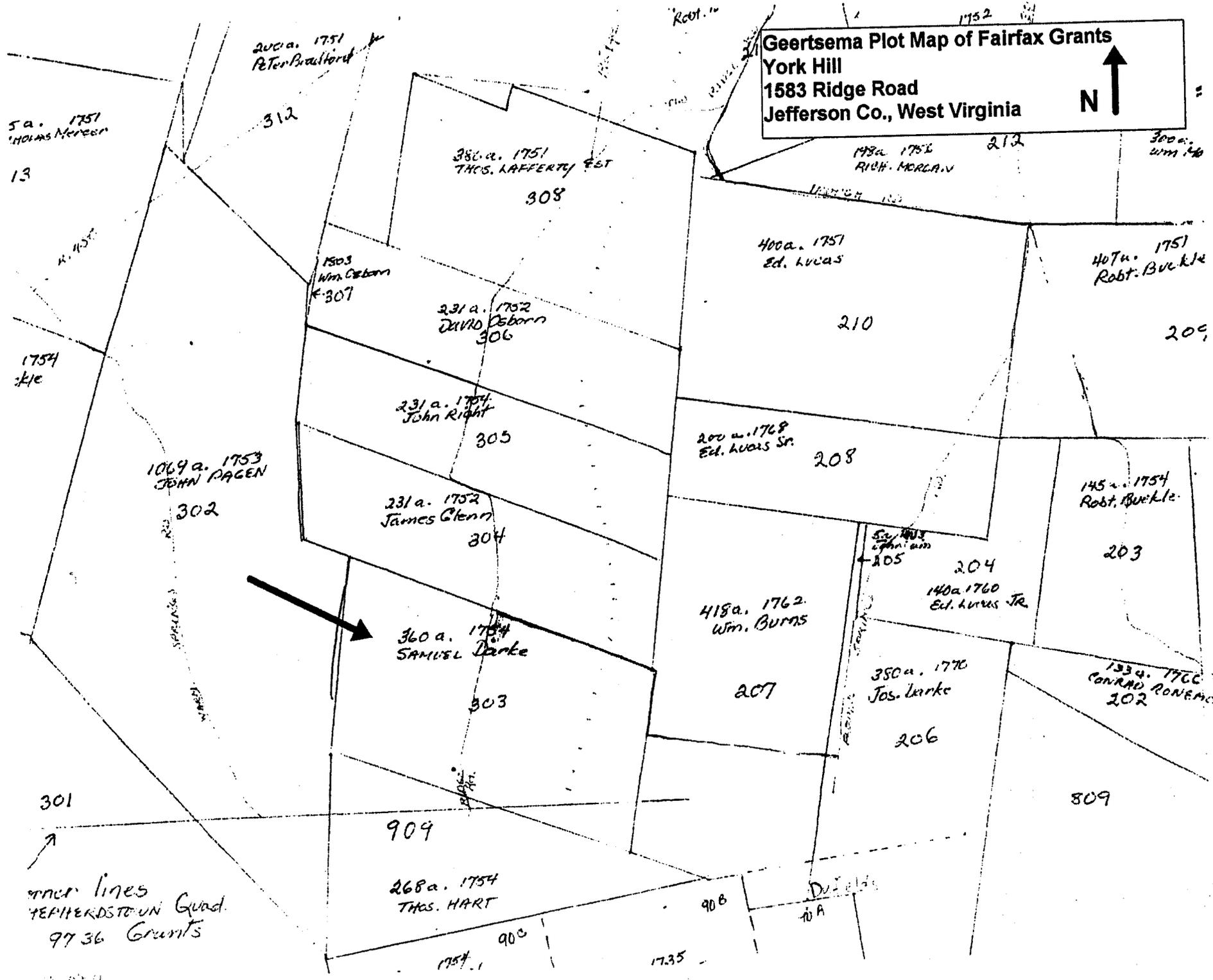




Map 3
 Charles Town Area to Moler Crossroads Area

From Cecil O'Dell, "Pioneers of Old Frederick Co.,
 Virginia"
 York Hill
 1583 Ridge Road

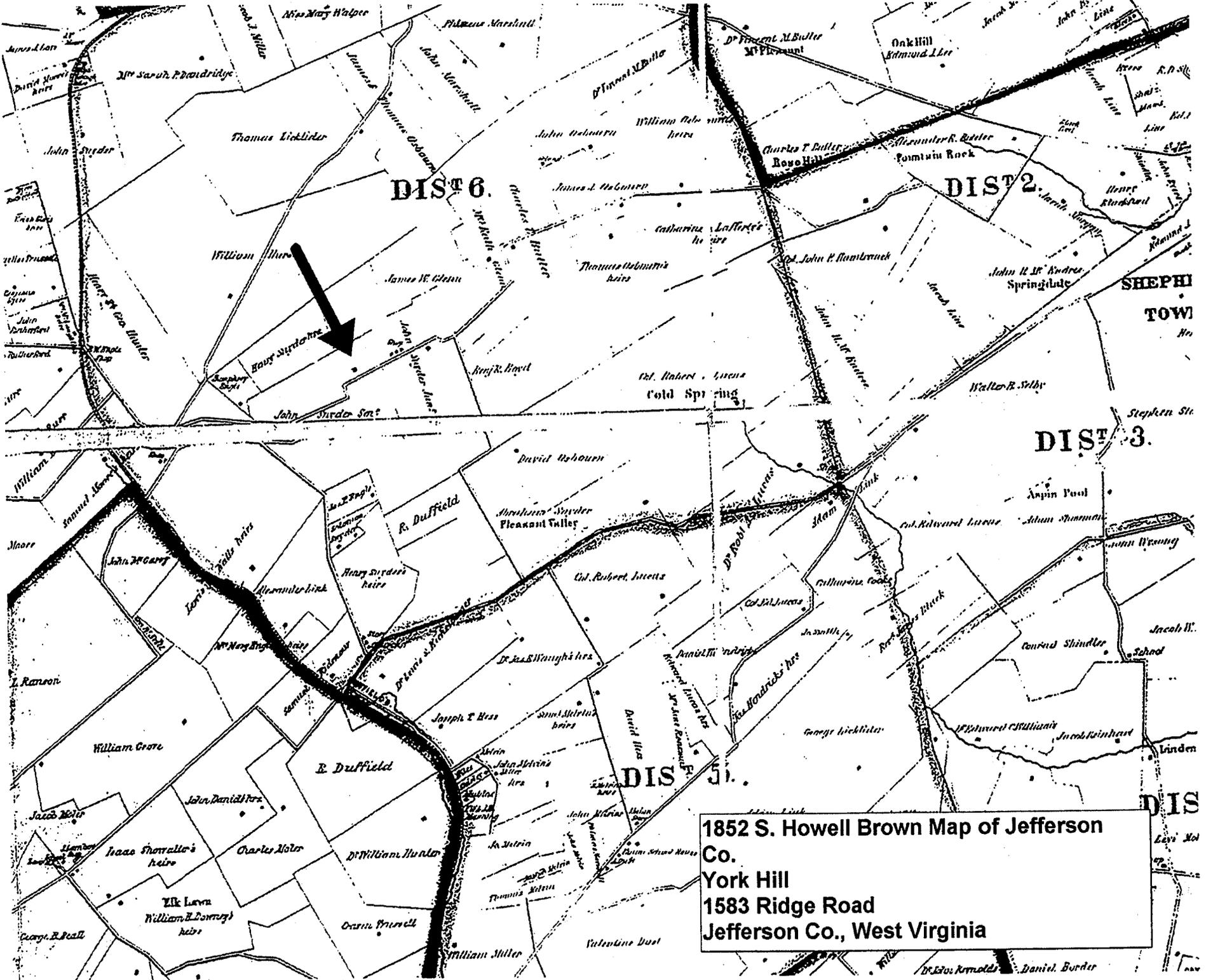
Geertsema Plot Map of Fairfax Grants
York Hill
1583 Ridge Road
Jefferson Co., West Virginia



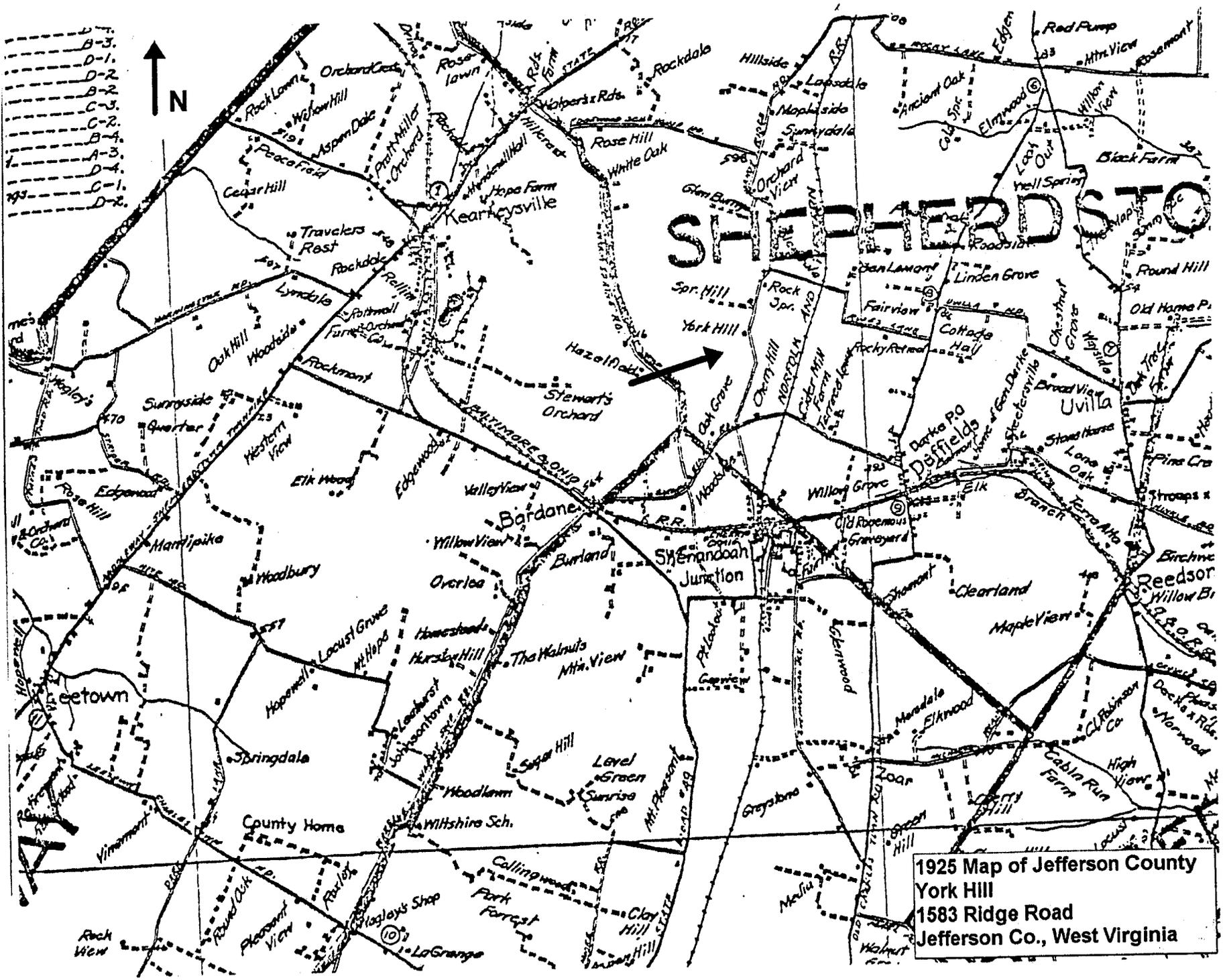
corner lines
 FEATHERSTON Quad.
 9736 Grants



1809 Charles Varle Map of Jefferson and Berkeley Counties
 York Hill
 1583 Ridge Road
 Jefferson Co., West Virginia



1852 S. Howell Brown Map of Jefferson Co.
 York Hill
 1583 Ridge Road
 Jefferson Co., West Virginia



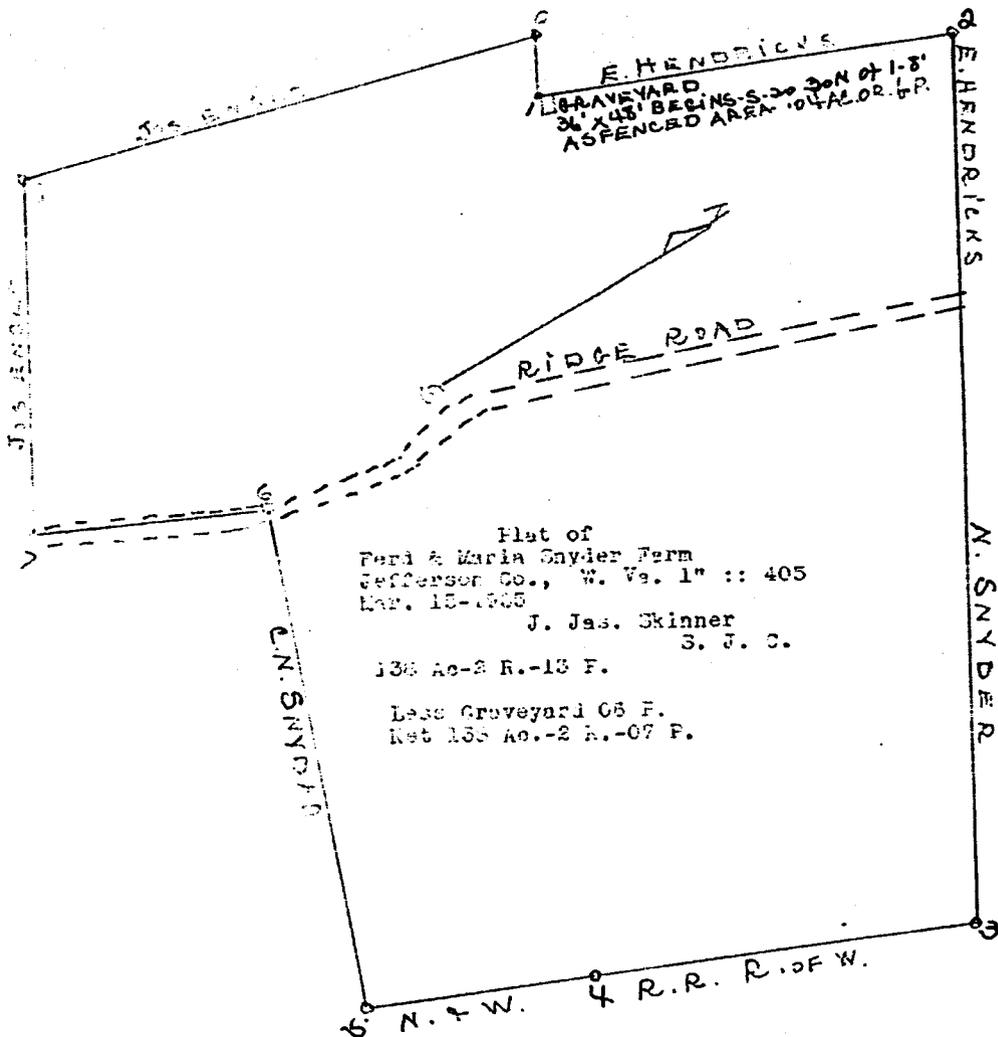
- D-7.
- B-3.
- D-1.
- D-2.
- B-2.
- C-3.
- C-2.
- B-4.
- A-3.
- D-4.
- C-1.
- D-2.

1925 Map of Jefferson County
 York Hill
 1583 Ridge Road
 Jefferson Co., West Virginia

1939 Survey of the Snyder farm, DB 148, p. 306
 York Hill
 1583 Ridge Road
 Jefferson Co., West Virginia

Plat and Survey of
 Land of
 FERD AND MARIA SNYDER

*Revised
 and Surveyed
 11/1939*



Plat of
 Ferd & Maria Snyder Farm
 Jefferson Co., W. Va. 1" :: 405
 Mar. 13-1935
 J. Jas. Skinner
 S. J. C.
 136 Ac.-2 R.-13 F.
 Less Graveyard 06 F.
 Net 135 Ac.-2 R.-07 F.

SURVEY OF PART OF FERD AND MARIA SNYDER,
 Near Shenandoah Junction, W. Va.

Beginning at a stone (1) at graveyard, a corner with Hendricks. graveyard, thence with E. Hendricks, N. 20° - 30 E. 1173 ft. to a post (2) again with E. Hendricks S. 61 - 13 E. at 771 ft. a stone at eastern side of Ridge Road, then with N. Snyder, in all 2707 ft. to a post (3) at western limits of N. & W. Railroad, thence with same S. 23 - 22 W. 1104 ft. to a stone (4) S. 23 - 00 W. 685 ft. to a stone (5) corner with C. N. Snyder in N. & W. Railway line; thence with C. N. Snyder N. 70 - 00 W. 1536 ft. to a point in Ridge road (6) 15 ft. S. 70 - 00 E. of a stone in western limits of Road, thence with Road S. 23 - 45 W. 685 ft. to a point in line (7), 19 ft. S. 00 E. of a stone in western limits of Road, corner with Jas. Engle, thence with same N. 00 - 00 W. 1096 ft. to a stone (8), thence N. 10 - 30 E. 1534 ft. to a stone (9) in line of E. Hendricks, thence with same S. 63 - 00 E. 195 ft. to beginning, containing 138

PLAT

"Home Lot"

"Snyder Farm"
Shepherdstown District
Jefferson Co. W. Va.

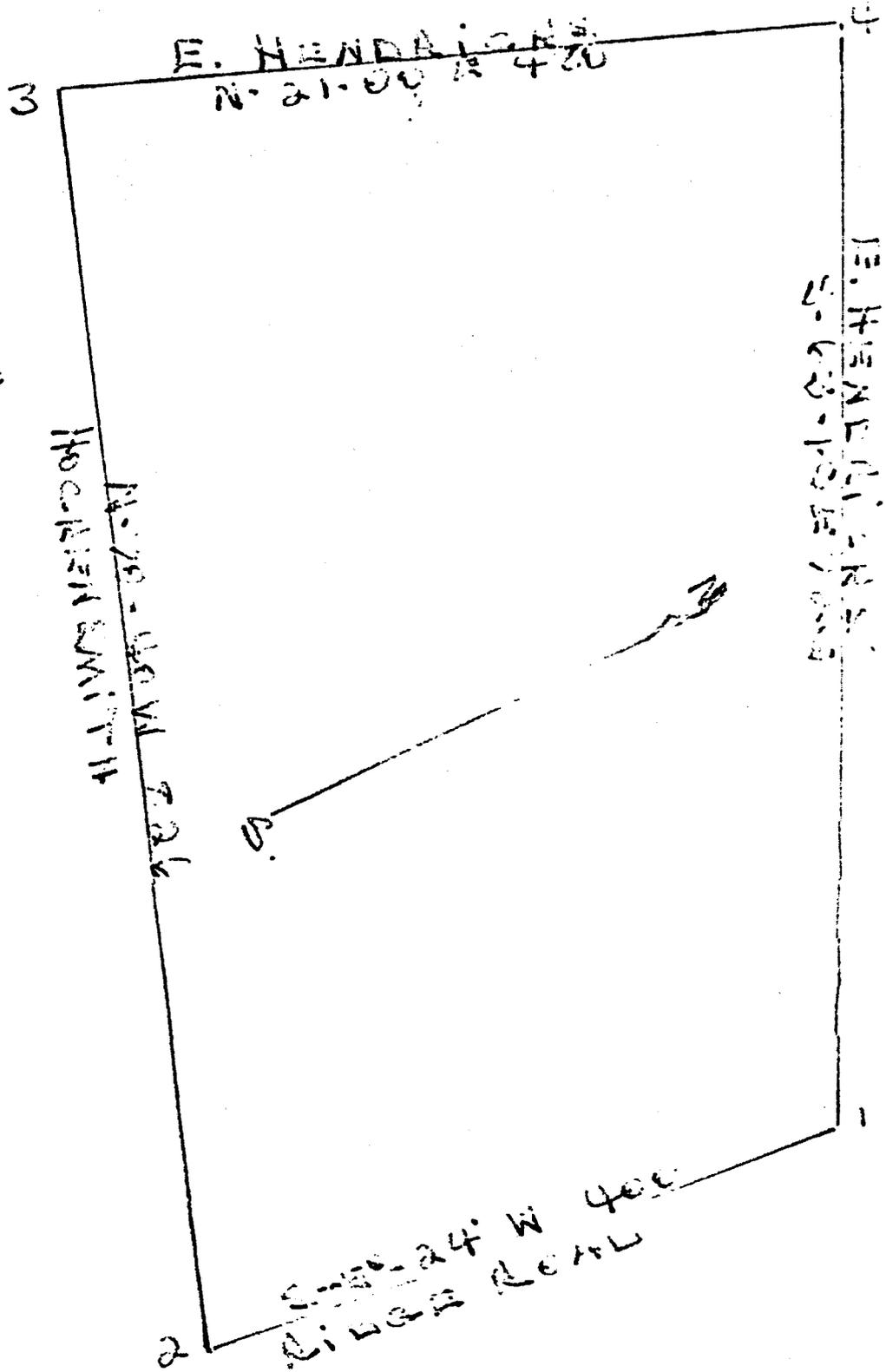
1":::100 Ft.

July-17-1959

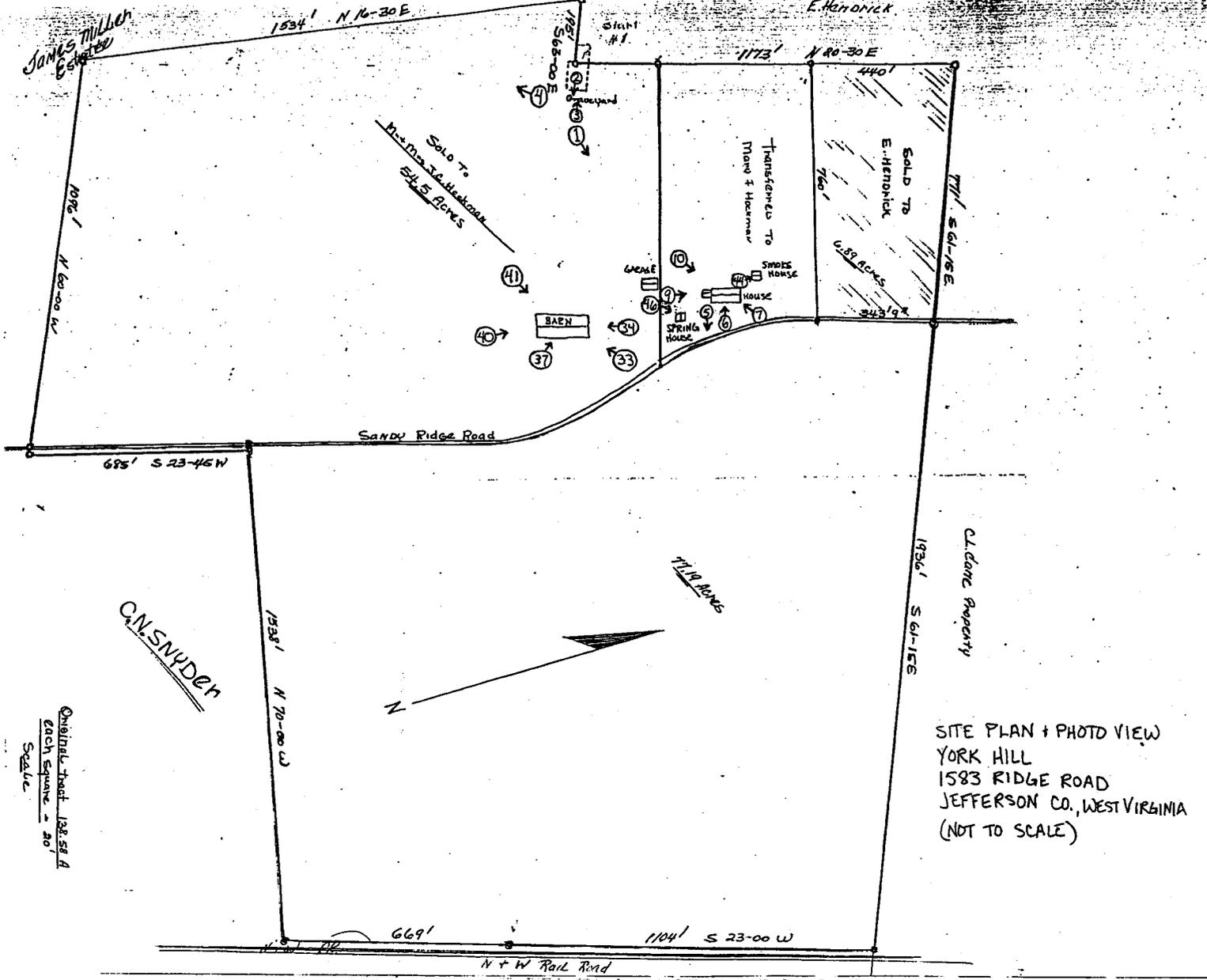
Area:::7.73 A.

J. Jas. Skinner

S. J. C.



1959 survey of the York Hill farmstead, DB 236, p. 497
 York Hill
 1583 Ridge Road
 Jefferson Co., West Virginia



James Miller
65/100

1534' N 16-30 E

E. Henonick

1173' N 40-30 E

185' S 68-00 E

Stake #1

Sold to
Mrs. M. J. Haddock
E.H.S. Farms

Transferred to
M. J. Haddock

Sold to
E. Henonick

771' S 61-15 E

41

W. H. H.

SMOKE HOUSE

HOUSE

SPRING HOUSE

40

37

34

33

SANDY RIDGE ROAD

695' S 23-45 W

C. Lane Property

1936' S 61-15 E

C. N. Snyder

1538' N 70-00 W

771' S 61-15 E



SITE PLAN + PHOTO VIEW
YORK HILL
1583 RIDGE ROAD
JEFFERSON CO., WEST VIRGINIA
(NOT TO SCALE)

Original tract 138.58 A
Each Square = 50'
Scale

669'

1104' S 23-00 W

N + W RAIL ROAD































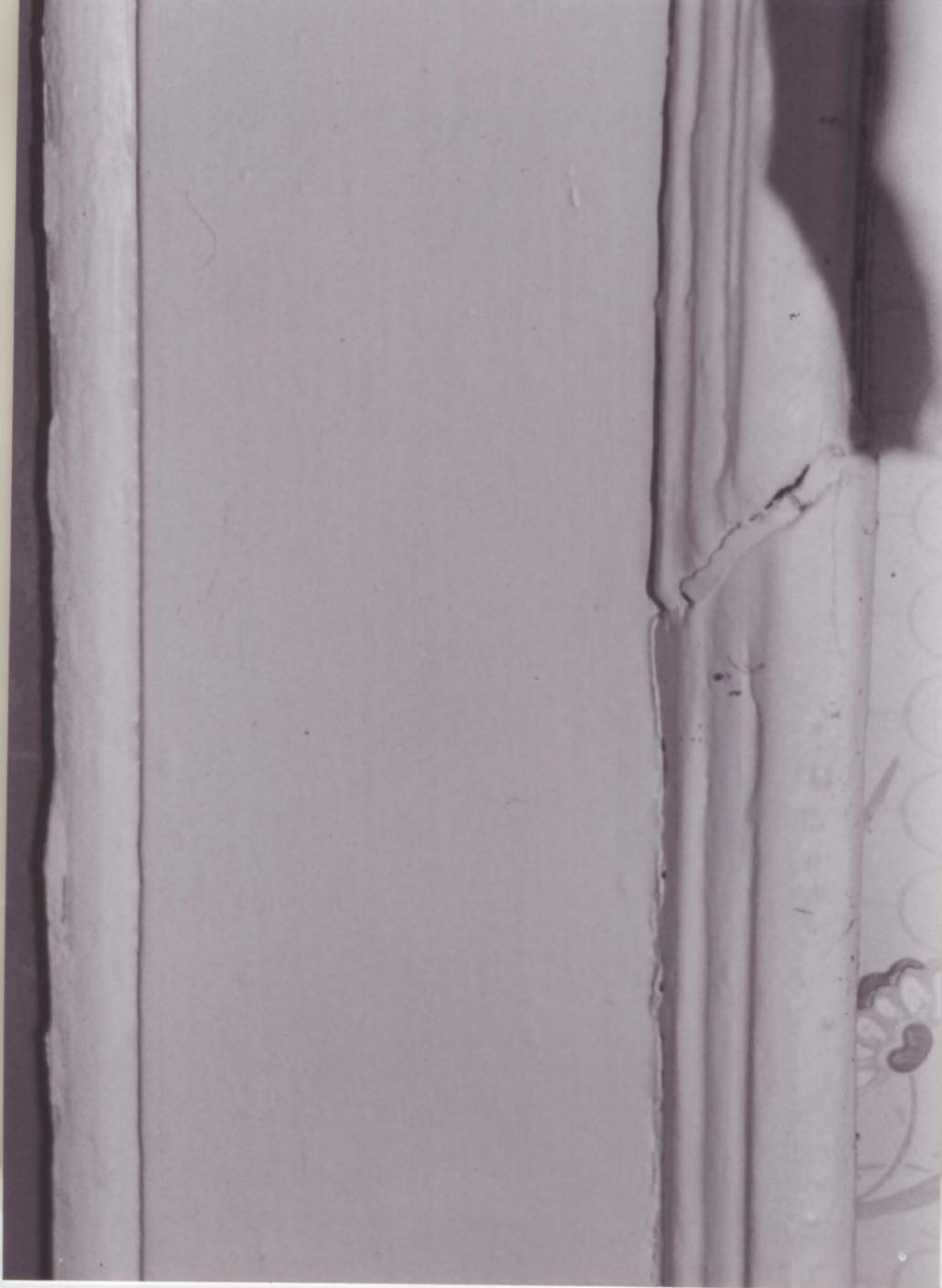












































U T B
J W H
M 1819
R S

E C U

C A K

M S

H S
F

8

A X

F

F

R T S J W

8

A X

F















