

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Taylor's Meadow

Other names/site number: Willowdale; McMurrin Farm

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 161 McMurrin Farm Lane

City or town: Shepherdstown

State: West Virginia

County: Jefferson

Not For Publication: ☐Vicinity: ☒**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


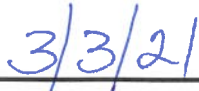
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance.

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

		
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer		Date
West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		
In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.		
Signature of commenting official:		Date
Title :		State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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 ☐

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL /Georgian

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Main house: STONE (foundation); BRICK (walls and chimneys); METAL (roofing). Barn and Crib: STONE (foundation), WOOD (walls), METAL (roofing); Springhouse: STONE (foundation and walls), METAL (roofing).

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Taylor's Meadow is located at 161 McMurren Farm Lane, off Engle Moler Road, in Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, West Virginia (Figure 1). Two adjoining parcels, one 44.85 acres, the second, 4.93 acres -- a total of 49.78 acres -- comprise the property (Figure 2).¹

The setting for contributing resources is rural, with mature trees that screen modern, noncontributing resources to the west. To reach Taylor's Meadow a visitor follows paved Engle Moler Road to McMurren Farm Lane, then off McMurren Farm Lane past a Sweitzer-style bank barn still in use (Figure 3 depicts the route from a county road). The principal contributing building is a 2-1/2 story Georgian-style brick house (dating to about 1775) with a 2-story brick addition (dating to 1830) that mirrors the original section in size and appearance but with a lower roof. The original house and addition measure 75 feet 6 inches wide by 24 feet 4 inches deep. Pasture makes up most of the 45-acre tract to the southeast. Rattlesnake Run, a year-round

¹ For clarity and simplicity this nomination will treat both parcels as one, except when discussing Historic Resource 1 (Taylor's Meadow Farmstead), where discussion of separate parcels is otherwise warranted. Again, for clarity, acreage is rounded: 50 total acres; 45 acres in one parcel, and 5 acres in the second. Finally, "Taylor's Meadow" will describe the property regardless of such other names owners have used as "Willowdale" and "McMurren Farm."

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flowing stream, bisects the tract, and trees border its boundaries. Two other contributing resources, one building and one structure, are the bank barn and corncrib.

At the western edge of the property is a recent home, barn, and garage that current owners built for their parents circa 2005. These modern buildings and structures are beyond the view of the historic property and are non-contributing to the nomination.

Site Integrity

For National Register nominations, seven elements comprise site integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. At Taylor's Meadow buildings and structures retain their original locations; no historical buildings or structures appear to have been destroyed or moved. Visual components of landscape, pathways, roofing, siding, foundations, and windows and doors appear to be historic (if not original) to the house, corncrib, and bank barn.

From the circular drive in front of the house, the viewshed to the north, east, and south is of rural farmland and pasture; the setting is mostly unimpaired by modern intrusions. Such modern additions as an enclosed porch, swimming pool, and cabana are at the rear of the house, out of view from the front. To the west, a grove of trees and other foliage block a view of the modern parents' cottage and pole barn.

Metal roofing, contemporary with construction, is historical on contributing properties; brick cladding (house), and painted wood (bank barn and corncrib) are historical. Uncoursed foundations on all contributing structures are historical and unmodified. As will be discussed in the following narrative, brickwork of the house depicts an early local use of Flemish bond; the siding of the barn remains straight and vertical.

In summary: For site integrity, landscape, acreage, and structures cohesively depict agriculture, a subset of the qualifying criterion, event. The distinctive construction and materials of the house warrant its nomination in the criterion of architecture. In sight, sound, and smell, the setting evokes the feelings one might experience on a historical rural farm.

Resource 1: Taylor's Meadow Farmstead (ca. 1734), contributing site

The current 50-acre Taylor's Meadow tract can be seen as two geospatial areas: one, a five-acre parcel for occupancy by all those who have lived at Taylor's Meadow from settlement to date; and the other, a 45-acre parcel of farmland, principally pasture for grazing cattle. The 45 acres is protected by a Conservation Easement with the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board and the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle (Figure 15a).

The larger (45-acre) parcel. The approach to the property is from County Route 31, Engle Molders Road, to a graveled McMurrin Farm Lane. To the north are deciduous trees, part of a

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neighbor's woodlot, that extend to the easternmost corner of the property. To the south are about three acres enclosed by a modern, four-horizontal-board, wooden fence. The area is distinctly one of pasture (evidenced by grasses but no sign of crop). It is flat and clear of trees, shrubs, or other distinctive vegetation.

Fencing serves to contain, exclude, or is a property boundary. Fencing around the five-acre parcel serves to exclude large animals from intruding into human space. Fencing is four-board horizontal wood attached to wooden posts. The fence type (height and material) defines the space as one intended to contain such large animals as cattle or horses. This kind of fencing and tree lines also define property boundaries.

McMurrin Farm Lane takes a dogleg from east to south. To the west is the three-acre grazing field. To the east is another fenced-in area of about one acre with the Sweitzer-type bank barn at its south edge. On the southwest edge, across McMurrin Farm Lane from the bank barn, is a corncrib. The terrain is level; its vegetation, grass.

In more recent years the current owners raised beef cattle, but no longer. The barn lies at the northern edge of about three acres of pasture. Two fenced holding areas lie at the forebay. Pasture lies south of the barn and to its east. This section of land is better suited to pasture than to tilling as it slopes steeply downward to Rattlesnake Run.

Rattlesnake Run is a year-round stream that bisects the property, east of the barn, and flows northeasterly to the Potomac River. Trees border both banks of the Run. About three acres of pasture are just east of the barn and span Rattlesnake Run. A bridged culvert allows cattle to cross the stream to a grazing area. Rattlesnake Run lies about 50 feet below the 1775 house and Sweitzer-type barn. Nonetheless the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has declared Rattlesnake Run as a "high risk" area for a 100-year flood.²

A narrow section of land extends south from the barn, bounded on the east by Rattlesnake Run and the south and west by a tree line boundary. The pasture below the barn and to its east measures about 10 acres. Pasture composition is primarily perennial rye and other grasses. The acreage provides a viewshed of stream, pasture, and tree lines that define property boundaries.³

To the east, two fields are tilled. The easternmost measures about 20 acres. Its boundaries are trees to the north, and a tree line to the east and south. The southernmost tilled field measures about 10 acres. It, too, is bounded by a tree line. In both tilled fields are outcrops of limestone, a common problem for farmers throughout the county and its agricultural history. Because limestone underlies field soil, the soil is slightly alkaline.

² WV Flood Tool: Remember: When in Doubt, It's Not Out!
<https://www.mapwv.gov/flood/map/?wkid=102100&x=-8657924&y=4778695&l=10&v=0>; accessed Jul6 12, 2020.

³ Not seen are such elements of a 19th-century farm as a kitchen garden, small orchard, hen house, and perhaps a pig sty. Archeology might help find these features, but the task is beyond the reach of this nomination.

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The smaller (5-acre) parcel. From ca. 1775 to date, a succession of owners erected a number of buildings and structures within a footprint of about five acres. In 2005 the current owners, Eric and Joy Lewis, divided their property retaining the larger, 45-acre parcel, for conservation easement, and the remaining five acres for historical preservation and use by three generations of the Lewis family. The five-acre parcel features the ca. 1775 Georgian brick house with its 1830 brick addition. A spring house (retreat) is to the left (east), downhill. South of the house (hidden from view) is a pool and cabana, structures for 21st-century life and comfort. To the west, beyond a copse of trees, and not in view of the 1775 house, is a 1-1/2-story cottage that Eric and Joy Lewis built for Eric's parents, the late Dave and Jackie Lewis (Figure 4). Just to the west of the parents' cottage is a modern, steel barn housing farm equipment. Within these five acres the extended Lewis family lives. Except for the transformed spring house, pool, cabana, cottage, and modern steel barn, the five acres may appear as occupied by previous owners in the 1900s.

The entrance drive to the 1775 house and the lane to the parents' cottage and modern barn are graveled but not paved. To the north, just across the five-acre boundary, but still prominent in the viewscape, are the corncrib and Sweitzer-type barn.

A wide brick pathway runs from the graveled circular drive to steps leading to a porch and the house. Landscaping is deliberate in plants selected and their arrangement. Lawn, ground cover, and flower gardens surround the 1775 house and parents' cottage. A vegetable garden, planned for full sun, is located at the western part of the property near the modern steel barn. Except along the treeless and open eastern exposure deciduous trees help shade the house and cottage in summer and provide a privacy screen for the residences year-round. The row of deciduous trees to the north are a windbreak in the winter. Combined, these trees and others cover about 75 percent of the parcel.

As stated, fencing serves to contain, exclude, or is a property boundary. Fencing around the five-acre parcel serves to exclude large animals from intruding into human space. Fencing is four-board horizontal wood attached to wooden posts. Except for a dog, cats, and other small, feral mammals, no large animals have open access to the area.

The setting is distinctly rural.

Resource 2: Taylor's Meadow House (ca.1785, 1830), contributing building

North Elevation (Facade)

As stated, the contributing building is a 2-1/2 story Georgian-style original brick house with a 2-story brick addition. A nearly full-width single-story porch extends across the front (north) façade of the original house and addition (Photo 1).

Original house. Roofing for original house is standing seam metal. On the first story, the original house is three bays wide (an entry door flanked by two windows), single pile in depth. On the

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second story are three windows, equally spaced. Brick is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. Radiused jack arches of brick are above windows. Brickwork includes a molded water table that extends across the front of the house. Architectural historian John Allen describes the bricks as "small, thin, and unique to the county."⁴ Interior chimneys are at east and west gable ends of the original house, and on the east end of the addition. Chimneys on the original house have recessed arches, a feature not common among other brick houses of the county.⁵ First story windows on the original house are 4/4 double-hung wood sash; 6/6 double-hung wood sash comprise the second-story fenestration.

Addition. In 1830 Jacob Hess, the owner, built an addition to the east. The addition shares a similar footprint to the original house but about one foot longer. Its windows are larger (36 inches by 72 inches versus 36 inches by 60 inches in the original house), brickwork simpler (American bond versus Flemish bond with glazed headers in the original house). Roofing for the addition is painted corrugated metal. First- and second-story windows are 6/6 wood double-hung sash. The foundation is uncoursed limestone. An interior brick chimney is at the gable east end.

East Elevation

The addition comprises the east elevation (Photos 1 and 2). The uncoursed stone foundation is exposed from a steep change in grade from the north to the south. The gable wall is of brick construction laid in American bond, with one 6/6 wood double-hung sash window on the first story. The window is topped with a brick flat arch. In the peak of the gable are two small, square, single-pane operable windows, placed to allow the escape of heat. An interior chimney stack is plain brick (unlike stacks of the original house). On the east wall of the original house is a small window (that probably allows for ventilation during hot summer months) that is situated above the roofline of the addition.

South Elevation

The terrain slopes downward from the front (north) side of the house to the rear (south) (Photo 3). This slope exposes the uncoursed stone foundation. Roofing for both sections (original and addition) is metal, standing seam for the original and corrugated for the addition. The wall is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond on the original, and American bond on the addition. Three windows on the second story of the addition are 6/6 wooden double-hung. On the first story of the addition are also three windows; the easternmost two are 6/6 wooden double-hung. The third window is 4/4 wooden double-hung.

⁴ John C. Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, Virginia, 1735-1835* (Morgantown, West Virginia: West Virginia University Press, 2011), 38.

⁵ Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular*, 38.

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Across the full-span of the first story of the original house is a modern wooden screened porch covered with a standing-seam metal shed roof. Four pairs of French doors allow a full view to the south from the porch. This porch extends upward from the lowest part of the foundation. Access to the deck from the ground is achieved by a flight of wooden stairs. Space under the first story deck is covered with wooden lattice lath, painted white. A small, white wooden open entry deck fronts the screened porch. Its wooden railing is in a stylized Chinese Chippendale pattern. At the westernmost part of the enclosed porch is a white wooden enclosed room with a 1/1 wooden double-hung sash window. At the ground level of the addition is exposed old stone foundation wall with a ground-level window and a doorway cut through the foundation wall. The doorway is paneled wood covered by an aluminum storm door. To the east of this doorway is a wooden sided storage room, painted white, and covered with a standing seam metal roof.

West Elevation

The western elevation is 2-1/2 story, gable end, with wooden eave boards and returns (Photo 4). The wall is brick construction laid in American bond. From this elevation the interior chimney is plainly visible. There are no doors or windows present. The elevation sits on a foundation of coursed stone. To the south of the brick is the single-story, west wooden wall of the rear porch, appearing as a shed add-on.

Interior

Original house and addition, basement. A full basement lies below the original house and addition. Wooden beams span the width of the house running north to south. Foundation walls are made of stone that has been finished with a plaster finish coat. At the east end is a fireplace centered on the east wall. Ostensibly this fireplace may have been used for cooking and laundry.

Original house, first floor. (Photos 19-26). As John Allen depicted in *Uncommon Vernacular*, the original house is classic hall-and-parlor (Figure 8) configuration.⁶ For both rooms interior ceilings and walls are plaster-coated lath. The flooring is pine tongue-and-groove boards. Interior fireplaces center the two gable walls. The east and west walls are “paneled at the gable ends to present the projecting stair as cohesively as possible.”⁷ Both rooms have crown molding, a trait common to rooms with full paneling. For the west room (parlor) two china cupboards flank the fireplace. The cupboards have “radiused tops and concave, profiled shelves, known as butterfly shelving.”⁸ Wooden shell motifs are applied below the keystone, and are “unusually decorative for the area.”⁹ The cupboard doors are half glazed allowing views of the cupboard’s contents. The east room (hall) has two exterior doors: one leads to the north and the other to the south. The east room also has the corner stairway leading to the second floor.

⁶ Allen, 38.

⁷ Allen, 283.

⁸ Allen, 303.

⁹ Allen, 303.

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Addition, first floor. As with the original house, two rooms comprise the first floor of the addition. If the addition were to stand alone, the configuration would be hall and parlor. Walls and ceiling are plaster-coated lath. The flooring is tongue-and-groove wood planks. The room to the west has a fireplace adjacent to the fireplace in the original house. A wall divides the two rooms in the addition; a center door allows access to either room. Unlike the wood paneling in the original house section, the fireplace wall in the addition is plaster-coated lath with a simple wood mantel. The room to the east in the addition also has lath and plaster walls and ceiling and wooden, tongue-and-groove flooring. It has a fireplace centered on its east wall. The fireplace also has a simple wood mantel.

Original house and addition, second floor. The second floor has been modernized and houses bedrooms and bathrooms – private and personal family areas for the Lewis family. Within these rooms are no features of historical or architectural interest.

Original house and addition, attic. The attic in the original house is tall enough (6 feet 2 inches) at the gable to allow access but without any windows to allow ventilation. In contrast, the attic in the addition is shallow (4 feet 6 inches) but has two operable 2/2 wood casement windows to allow ventilation. Ventilation allows the addition to exhaust hot air in summertime thus rendering the second floor somewhat cooler.

Resource 3: Sweitzer-type Barn (ca. 1900), contributing building

The core bank barn measures 80 feet wide and 50 feet deep (Photo 7). Its foundation is uncoursed stone. The barn is constructed of heavy timber framing covered with vertical wood siding that has been painted white. Whether the white paint is original is not known without paint analysis. Its roof is pressed metal in a raised seam pattern, painted red. A small weathervane sits atop the gable on the west end.

North Elevation

The barn elevation is 16 feet, sill to eave. Two pairs of wooden doors, each door nine feet wide by 13 feet high open outward. Two louvered ventilation openings, each opening two feet wide by four feet high, are on each side of the barn doors. A single wooden entry door is cut into the westernmost hinged door. A gutter spans the roof; its downspout inclines from the façade center to the east. At the lower western corner cork block letters spell “The Barn.”

West Elevation

Dimensions of the exposed uncoursed stone foundation are 44 feet wide by 7 feet 9 inches high (Photo 8). At the north end a pair of hinged wooden doors 7 feet 9 inches tall by 6 feet wide, open outward. At the center is a solid wooden door, painted, with a ventilating louvered transom. At the south section is a painted wooden, louvered, ventilation opening. To the south is the wooded cross-section of the forebay. Above the foundation is the barn gable wall measuring 50 feet wide by 35 feet tall (interpolated). On the first story are five evenly spaced louvered

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ventilation openings, each two feet wide by four feet high, staggered by height in placement. In the gable are three more louvered ventilation openings arranged to match the shape of the gable.

South Elevation

A forebay 80 feet wide and eight feet high spans the south elevation (Photo 9). Vertical wood sheathing, painted, encloses the forebay. Four wood sash windows, 2/2 (pane split vertically), 2 feet by 4 feet allow light into the forebay. The east half of the forebay is open with square posts supporting the projecting barn floor. Above the forebay shed roof a pair of wooden doors open outward. Each door pair measures 7 feet wide and 7 feet high. Two wooden louvered ventilation openings (2 feet wide by 4 feet high) mark the center of the façade. The openings are flanked by two sets of paired doors. A second pair of wooden louvered ventilation openings flank the door pairs to east and west. A painted metal roof covers the south protrusion.

East Elevation

Except for doorways, the east elevation is similar in construction to the previously-described west elevation.

Resource 4: Corncrib (ca. 1920), contributing structure

The foundation for the corncrib is three courses of concrete cinder block (Photos 5 and 6). The structure measures 26 feet wide, 36 feet 4 inches long, 12 feet 2 inches high at its opening, and 21 feet 1 inch at its gable.

Vertical boards form canted corners at the openings. Narrow vertical boards, painted, sheath the structure. Its metal roof is painted. Two enclosed storage areas, each 5 feet 2 inches wide, flank the length of the structure. A solid wood door allows entry at the northwest end; a solid wood door allows entry at the southeast and southwest ends. The opening allows ventilation to dry corn and to allow a wagon to load and unload.

Resource 5: Stone Spring House (early 1800s), non-contributing building

The stone foundation and walls of an early spring house have been converted for use as a reception area (Photos 10 and 11). The shed-roofed structure measures 24 feet 4 inches wide, 15 feet 6 inches deep, and 16 feet high. The south elevation is uncoursed stone forming two levels: one level above grade and another level below grade. The lower level has a modern opening to the west, and a wood, louvered ventilation opening to the east. The east elevation is solid uncoursed stone with a wood, louvered ventilation opening at the lower level. The north elevation façade is painted German siding with a modern glass sliding door. A modern wood deck provides for chairs and access to the interior of the spring house. Historically the spring house helped to provide water from Rattlesnake Run and perhaps served as a cooling location from hot, humid summers.

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Although the structure has original materials and crafting, it has been heavily modified with modern materials and is a non-contributing structure.

Resource 6: Inground swimming pool and deck (early 2000s), non-contributing structure

In the early 2000s the present owners installed a kidney-shaped, inground swimming pool with a concrete deck (Photo 12).

Resource 7: Cabana (early 2000s), non-contributing structure

To accompany the swimming pool, the present owners also built a cabana. Its footprint and metal roof measure 16 feet 8 inches by 32 feet, but the enclosed space measures 16 feet 8 inches by 8 feet (Photo 13).

Resource 8: Concrete-block Utility Building (mid-1900s), non-contributing building

Used for storage, the concrete block shed with metal shed roof measures 24 feet by 14 feet. With its whimsical inscription, "IT was Always you," the structure is a Lewis family folly (Photo 14).

Resource 9: Garage (mid-1900s), non-contributing building

The single-car garage is constructed of vertical rough-sawn sheathing, painted white, with a metal roof, and measures 11 feet by 22 feet (Photo 15).

Resource 10: Parents' Cottage: (2000), non-contributing building

The parents' cottage is a 1-1/2 story Georgian-style building with painted wood siding and a metal roof. The house measures 36 feet by 36 feet (Photo 16).

Resource 11: Parents' Garage (2000), non-contributing building

The structure is a detached two-car garage with painted wood siding and a metal roof. It measures 36 feet by 36 feet (Photo 16).

Resource 12: Modern Metal Barn (1995), non-contributing building

The structure is a metal-sheathed barn with a metal roof and forebay to the east. It measures 75' by 75 feet (Photo 17).

Resource 13: Wood Stable (1995), non-contributing building

At the edge of a pasture is a painted wood-sheathed stable with a metal roof. The structure measures 24 feet by 12 feet (Photo 18).

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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.)

☒

A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐

B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒

C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐

D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

☐

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1734-1970

ARCHITECTURE (1775-1920)

AGRICULTURE (1734-1970)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK (1734-1848)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT (1734-1800)

Significant Dates

1734 (Grant from Royal Governor William Gooch)

Ca. 1775 (Construction of main house)

1848 (Last year of documented enslaved presence at Taylor's Meadow)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Taylor's Meadow, a 50-acre farm in the northeast corner of Jefferson County, West Virginia, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A: *Exploration/Settlement* (to the west by Delaware aristocracy); *Ethnic Heritage* (recognized by 104 years of enslaved Africans and African-Americans who worked the farm and tended to farm owners); and *Agriculture* (a locally farmed area for more than 200 years). The Exploration/Settlement Period of Significance dates from 1734 to 1811, coinciding with farm ownership by the Taylor family; the Ethnic Heritage Period of Significance is from 1734, the presumed date Samuel Taylor brought enslaved persons to establish a farm in rural Virginia, to 1848, the date Jacob Hess died and manumitted his enslaved persons; and the Period of Significance for Agriculture from 1734 to 1970, the inclusive dates allowed outside a 50-year limit for a National Register nomination.¹¹

Taylor's Meadow is also locally significant under National Register Criterion C: *Architecture* for its method of construction, high artistic value, and nominally, work of an unnamed master. These traits apply to Taylor's Meadow's exterior and interior features. On its exterior, Taylor's Meadow Farm is perhaps the earliest brick house in Jefferson County.¹² With oversized brick laid in Flemish bond, glazed headers, radius-arched windows, molded watertable, chimney detail, and Georgian proportion, the house represents an early and distinct method of construction for the county. Important to note is the architect's (or builder's) attention to proportion, a key element of Georgian architecture. Further, on its interior, such details as full paneled walls, crown molding, and glazed china cupboards represent high artistic value and work of a master, though an unnamed master.¹³

Narrative Statement of Significance

The following deed chain narrative summarizes ownership from English settlement to the present. Nearly 50 acres of present-day McMurran Farm remain from 329 acres Royal Governor William Gooch (1681-1751) granted to Samuel Taylor (1695-1762) in 1734, then Thomas, Lord Fairfax (1693-1781) granted to Samuel Taylor in 1754, and to John Taylor (1738-1793) in 1760 and eventually to Levi Taylor (1758-1812) in 1793.¹⁴ Bernard (1766-1835) and Mary Wisenall

¹¹ Taylor's Meadow, now McMurran Farm, remains a farm. The 50-year limit of consideration for Period of Significance for National Register nominations excludes describing the property's continued use as a farm.

¹² Allen, 38.

¹³ For consideration as "work of a master" National Register guidelines require "facts about the career and work of the artist." Because names and facts about careers of those who carried out this skilled work in the late 1700s are unknown, under National Register guidelines the nomination cannot claim "work of a master."

¹⁴ William Gooch to Samuel Taylor (1734), Virginia State Library, Northern Neck Grants, Book 15, p. 311; Thomas, Lord Fairfax, to Samuel Taylor (1754), Virginia State Library, Northern Neck Grants, Book H, p. 528; Thomas, Lord Fairfax, to John Taylor (1760), Virginia State Library, Northern Neck Grants, H, p. 693. Online at: <http://wvgeohistory.org/portals/0/ESRIJavascriptMaps/GHLandGrants/viewer/index.html> .

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(b. 1764) owned Taylor's Meadow two years (1811 and 1812). Following the Wisenalls in ownership from 1813 were Jacob Hess (1771-1848), then his nephew Jacob Reinhart (1798-1876), then Jacob's son Andrew Philip Reinhart (1843-1917). Exactly when ownership transferred from Andrew Philip Reinhart to William J. Knott (1828-1901) is difficult to pinpoint, but Knott devised Taylor's Meadow to his daughter, Ella Knott Koontz (1863-1942) and she, on her death, to her daughters, Charlotte Koontz (1905-1990) and Margaret Koontz Patterson (1907-1970). These dates document ownership to 1970, beyond which activities cannot meet the 50-year requirement of National Register nominations.

Names of owners within the recent 50 years include Samuel J. (Jr.) and Edwina (Lane) Donley, Arthur and Kathleen Kennedy, corporate owners, and from 2004 its current owners, Eric and Joy Osbourn Lewis. Listing historical and recent owners help describe the evolution of Taylor's Meadow and underscore that while some farmsteads have been held by a single family for centuries, different families and corporations have owned Taylor's Meadow, each adding to its nearly 300-year history of colonial and post-colonial history.¹⁵

Criterion A. Exploration/Settlement. With the Albany Treaty of 1722, the six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy (now including the Tuscarora) agreed in theory to allow European settlement of the Shenandoah Valley. Conflicts and tension would follow for another six years until 1728 when the Iroquois formally abandoned their claims. Peace gave way to increased European settlement in the Shenandoah Valley, especially by the English.¹⁶

An early settler was Samuel Taylor (1695-1762), who relocated from southern Delaware with his family. William Gooch, royal governor for the colony of Virginia, granted land in 1734 to Taylor in what was then Orange County, Virginia, and what is now Jefferson County, West Virginia.¹⁷ Robert Brooke surveyed the property in 1734 describing it as "called Taylor's Meadow" (Figures 7a, 7b, 7c, and 7d).¹⁸ Brooke's choice of phrase implies Samuel Taylor occupied the tract before Governor Gooch formally granted it to him. Local tradition holds that

¹⁵ Inclusive dates of birth and death are gleaned for Ancestry.com, findagrave.com, and Beeline Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, *Tombstone Inscriptions and Burial Lots, Jefferson County, WV, 1687-1980*. (Hagerstown, MD: Hagerstown Bookbinder Press, 1981).

¹⁶ Allen, 24.

¹⁷ Library of Virginia, *Land Office Patents 15*, p311. Dates for three generations of the Taylor are found in "An American Family History: Taylor Family," <https://www.anamericanfamilyhistory.com/West%20Virginia%20Families/Taylor%20Family.html>, accessed July 6, 2019.

¹⁸ Robert Brooke, *Survey Book, 1732 November 23 to 1734 December 31*. (Richmond, Va.: Virginia Museum of History and Culture, Mss 11:3/B7905:1); available on microfilm at Shepherd University at F236. P4.

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in 1732 Samuel built a log cabin that has since been sheathed, enlarged, and still stands.¹⁹ No other descriptions survive that describe the property before Taylor arrived.

Though not a large tract by 1730s standards, Taylor's Meadow was a strategic purchase. It straddled two principal roads through the area. One led east to Taylor's Ferry across the Potomac River to Maryland (Figure 7d). The other road led northeast to today's Boteler's Ford across the Potomac River. Either road led to and from Philadelphia (later to and from Baltimore), and south to Hite's Ferry near Harpers Ferry (and Alexandria) and up the Shenandoah Valley to Winchester and points south. Taylor sought and achieved a corner on the market.

In 1809 Charles Varlé included the Taylor property on his regional map (Figure 10). While the Taylors probably paid Varlé a subscription for the inclusion, the Taylors nonetheless wanted map viewers to know that the Taylors had arrived and settled an important tract in Jefferson County. Unlike absentee landowners, the Taylors lived on their land and helped settle the area that would become Shepherdstown and Jefferson County.

Eventually Samuel Taylor and his son, John Taylor (1738-1793), would own more than 1,000 acres in the county.²⁰ The Taylors were active in civic affairs. In 1772 John Taylor served on the first grand jury in Berkeley County, newly formed from Frederick County.²¹ Not all were patriots. At the outset of the Revolutionary War, George Taylor (n.d.) enlisted as a private in Hugh Stephenson's Company, and marched to Boston on the Beeline March. A payroll report later stated: "Deserted on July 9, 1776."²²

At least part of Taylor's Meadow descended from Samuel to son John Taylor. John probably built the original brick house in about 1775. A house of brick reflected permanence and exuded a message of settlement. The Taylor family had laid roots in Jefferson County; in short, they had come to stay, and their brick home underscored their claim to settlement. At his death, John Taylor left his house to his son, Levi. A third generation Taylor would live on Taylor's Meadow, and succeeding generations would live on other Taylor lands adjoining Taylor's Meadow.

Criterion A. Ethnic Heritage/Black. The Taylor family owned enslaved persons. Rent roles for Berkeley County for 1772 record that John Taylor owned two enslaved persons.²³ The 1810

¹⁹ William D. Theriault, *History of Eastern Jefferson County of West Virginia*. (Hagerstown, MD: Published by the author, 2009), 15, 16. Theriault described the surviving property as "the Caton house," that today lies across Rattlesnake Run from Taylor's Meadow Farm on former Taylor lands and is owned by Eric Sundback.

²⁰ Danske Dandridge, *Historic Shepherdstown*. (Charlottesville, VA: Michie Company, 1910), 72.

²¹ Dandridge, 1910, 60.

²² Dandridge, 1910, 352, 353. A year later 50 of his company would die as prisoners of war aboard British prison ships in New York harbor.

²³ William H. Rice, ed. *The 1774 List of Tithables and Wheel Carriages in Berkeley County, Virginia*. (Parsons, WV: McClain Printing, 2006), 52.

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census record for Levi Taylor (1758–1812), son of John and inheritor of the Taylor's Meadow house, states that his household totaled 11 persons, white and black.

More detail about Levi Taylor's household can be deduced from an appraisal inventory taken soon after his death in 1812. Human property included "one Black woman named Hannah and her child" valued at \$325; "one Black girl named Susia \$150 dollars," "one black boy named James \$100;" "one black girl named Polly \$75;" "one Black woman and child named Polly \$250;" "one Black girl named Evalina \$175;" "one Black man named Isaac \$30;" "one Black man named Bill \$250, ditto one named Townsend \$75."²⁴

These eleven humans had an appraised value of \$1,430. By comparison, the remainder of Levi Taylor's property – household furnishings, farm implements and tools, horses, cattle, and swine, and crops – had an appraised value of \$1,926. Humans represented nearly 43 percent of Levi Taylor's personal property. Levi and Frances Taylor sold their farm for \$6,910, giving the farm a total value of \$10,266. When total value is factored, Taylor's human property accounted for nearly 14 percent of his wealth.

In 1813 the Hess and Reinhart families became new owners of Taylor's Meadow. According to the federal census for 1820, Jacob Hess (1771-1848), owner of Taylor's Meadow from 1813, was a farmer.²⁵ Hess had relocated to Virginia from Sharpsburg, Maryland, where he had a successful mill on Antietam Creek. In 1820 his household numbered eight persons: five whites and three enslaved. In 1830 the number of persons in his household had diminished to four whites and two adult, male enslaved. The Hess household size warrants examination. In 1830 four persons was the smallest number of any that occupied the original house. Despite his small household size, in 1830 Jacob Hess built an "all new Brick addition" to quote the description in Jefferson County land records. Hess had doubled the size of his house.

Assessors valued the addition at \$540. By comparison, divining the assessed value of the original house with elaborate paneling, woodwork, china cabinets, and Flemish-bond brickwork with glazed headers, molded watertable, and radius jack arch windows would be difficult. The land record category includes the value of all buildings and structures – house, barn, spring house, wagon shed, perhaps enslaved quarters – and not just the house. With a diminished household size, why Jacob Hess needed an addition is puzzling. Oral tradition holds that the Hesses took in orphan family members, though their presence is not cited on federal censuses for 1830 or 1840.

²⁴ Jefferson County Will Book (JCWB) 2, 4.

²⁵ Bernard and Mary Wisenall owned Taylor's Meadow briefly, from 1811 to 1812.

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In 1840, ten years after he had built the addition, the Jacob Hess household was reduced even further to Jacob Hess and his wife and two adult slaves, a male and a female. The 1840 census affirms, however, that the Hess family was engaged in agriculture.

Jacob Hess died in 1848. He left his farm to his nephew, Jacob Reinhart (1798-1876). His will also states that "his servants, Moses and Mary, and John, about 15 years old, shall be free at my decease."²⁶ Hess also directs his nephew to apply \$2,000 to buy or build a parsonage for, or to repair, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Shepherdstown. Hess then offers his servant Moses \$600 if Moses will emigrate from Virginia to Liberia, Africa, within 18 months of Hess's death. Hess offers Mary \$100 if she will emigrate, and the same amount and terms to John on attaining age 21. In an accounting for June 1850, Jacob Reinhart, executor of his uncle's will, notes payments of \$600 to a "Moses Jordan" and \$100 to a "John Burns."²⁷ No mention is made of a \$100 payment (or any other sum) to a "Mary." Where any of Jacob Hess's three servants went after their manumission is not known.²⁸

Jacob Hess's offer should be examined in context. The Virginia Manumission Act of 1806 required slaves, freed by their masters, to leave the state within one year.²⁹ Further, and closer to home, the American Colonization Society (ACS), was founded in 1816. Between 1819 and 1832, Bushrod Washington of Charles Town led the national organization. The ACS proposed emigration of freed African Americans to Liberia to join a colony of other freed men, women, and children. The ACS was prominent throughout the United States; Jefferson County had auxiliary societies in Charles Town, Harpers Ferry, and Shepherdstown. According to the *Shepherdstown Register*, between 1820 and 1857, 10,502 African Americans returned to Liberia including 5,500 whose owners freed them to emigrate.³⁰ Hess, an ardent Methodist, knew of the ACS and its aims, and probably saw his offer as a last and noble gesture to his loyal servants.

The federal census for 1850 lists Jacob Reinhart, age 50, living at the farm with a laborer, James Sleppy, also age 50. For 1860, the census lists Reinhart living by himself. The era of enslaved persons owned by Reinharts had passed. Coincidentally, the *Shepherdstown Register* began publication in 1848, the year Jacob Hess died and the last year any Taylor's Meadow owner is

²⁶ JCWB 11, 412.

²⁷ JCWB 12, 406.

²⁸ A thorough search for a "John Burns" and a "Moses Jordan" on Ancestry.com did not lead to any conclusive link to their whereabouts after manumission. In the federal census for 1880 a 77-year-old Black named Moses Jordan, born in Virginia, is listed living with his wife, Eliza, in Lawrence, Kansas. Moses Jordan did not know where his parents were born.

²⁹ Samuel Shepherd, ed., *The Statutes at Large of Virginia, from October Session 1792, to December Session 1806* (Richmond: Samuel Shepherd, 1836), 3:251–253.

³⁰ Hannah Geffert, ed., *An Annotated Narrative of the African-American Community in Jefferson County, West Virginia* (Shepherdstown, WV: Berkeley County N.A.A.C.P. and Jefferson County N.A.A.C.P., 1992), 45, 46. Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John Randolph (of Virginia) were well-known supporters of the ACS.

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documented with owning an enslaved person. From its first issue were ads placed for enslaved persons for hire. Whether Jacob Reinhart hired enslaved help is not known as no documentation survives. Regardless public records document enslaved persons at Taylor's Meadow from 1772 (and probably earlier) to 1848.

In keeping with their brethren throughout the south enslaved servants kept the longest hours performing the most arduous work. *Encyclopedia Virginia* gives insight to some of these duties in Virginia in the mid-1850s.³¹ Owners expected enslaved house servants to keep fires burning and clear ashes; carry water and heat water for bathing; wash and iron clothes and bedding; empty chamber pots; tend kitchen gardens; cook meals; mind babies and young children; and tend to needs of visitors. Owners kept enslaved persons on call, allowing them little free time. Even an enlightened owner like Jacob Hess required much of his enslaved servants.

Criterion A: Agriculture. From its European habitation by Samuel Taylor and the Taylor family in 1734, the land that has been called "Taylor's Meadows," the "Reinhart Farm," "Willowdale Farm," and today "McMurrin Farm" has served an agricultural function.

In 1793 John Taylor died, leaving Taylor's Meadow to his son and daughter-in-law, Levi and Frances Taylor.³² John Taylor left other land to his other sons, John, Jr., and William. The 1798 House Tax Book for Berkeley County appraised Levi Taylor's house at \$735, a relatively high valuation compared to those of his two brothers. John Allen states fewer than 25 percent of properties had appraisals higher than \$500.³³ This high valuation supports the description of a brick house rather than one of log or wood. Charles Varlé published a map of the area in 1809. The only house depicted on that map near Molers Crossroads is marked "Taylor" (Figure 10).

In 1810, Levi Taylor, the surviving Taylor, advertised for sale: "a number of young horses..., cattle, hogs, two stills and still tubs, one iron apple mill, and farming utensils...."³⁴ These items support Taylor's Meadow as a working farm. When Levi died in 1812, a sale notice for his farm advertised: "All the farm utensils and stock of every description, consisting of a wagon and geers, ploughs and harrows, and every other implement necessary on a farm...."³⁵ The Taylor family practiced agriculture, farming, for as long as they owned the property.

³¹ Leni Sorensen, "Enslaved House Servants" (Richmond: Library of Virginia and Virginia Humanities, 2020). URL: https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Enslaved_House_Servants. Accessed October 18, 2020.

³² Berkeley County Will Book 2, 163. John Taylor, Sr. left money and the charge that John Taylor, Jr. be guardian for Taylor Sr.'s fourth son, Samuel, who suffered from "insanity."

³³ Don C. Wood, compiler, *1798 House Tax and Slave Tax of Berkeley County, Virginia*. (Martinsburg, WV: Berkeley County Historical Society), 21. Jefferson County split from Berkeley County in 1801.

³⁴ Allen, 40, 41.

³⁴ *Farmer's Repository*. October 5, 1810. Vol. III, Issue 123, 3.

³⁵ *Farmer's Repository*. February 4, 1812. Vol. IV, Issue 203, 3.

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In 1811, Levi and Frances Taylor sold their property to Bernard (1766-1835) and Mary Wisenall (b. 1764). Wisenall, identified in the federal census of 1820 for Shepherdstown as a carpenter, held the property for only two years. In 1813 the Wisenalls sold the farm to Jacob Hess (1788-1848) and Elizabeth Hess (1798-1889) for \$8,887, nearly \$2,000 more than the Wisenalls had paid two years before.³⁶ The increase in value is difficult to trace. Jefferson County Land Books did not begin to distinguish between value of land and buildings until 1820. As a carpenter, Wisenall could have built an outbuilding whose value would account for the increase in sales price of his property.

Agriculture is more than crop husbandry. Agriculture requires a workforce. The Taylor's Meadow workforce was enslaved workers and hired apprentices. Hess also had to transport his goods to market. Jacob Hess invested in a turnpike to help ship his goods to his principal market in Baltimore. Labor and transport are critical elements of agriculture. Reliable help or lack thereof is important throughout agricultural history.

Reliable help was hard to find. In 1815 Jacob Hess advertised a two-dollar reward for a runaway apprentice: "...John Catlett, about 19 years of age, wearing a tow linen shirt, pantaloons, and a wool hat."³⁷ The ad reveals that Hess took on an apprentice who ran away. A two-dollar reward implies Hess was not eager for the apprentice's return but wanted to alert prospective employers that the apprentice was a runaway and therefore someone to avoid. The description also gives a clue to clothing that apprentices wore, presumably furnished by an employer. The ad also implies that Hess, who had children, and owned no fewer than three enslaved persons (Moses, Mary, and John), took on additional help in the persons of apprentices to help with running a farm.

In 1816 Hess was part of a corporation to pave a turnpike to Boonsboro, Maryland, about ten miles east of Shepherdstown.³⁸ The link was strategic as the Boonsboro turnpike would connect with the National Road in Boonsboro that led to Frederick, Maryland, and Baltimore. No longer would Philadelphia be the Valley's commercial outlet as Baltimore was closer and had a better harbor closer to the Atlantic Ocean.

As evidenced by the appraisal made after he died in 1848, Jacob Hess produced corn, wheat, rye, potatoes, and clover and timothy hay. He also raised sheep and hogs. This produce and the agricultural tools and implements in the appraisal attest to the property's agricultural use.³⁹ Jacob

³⁶ Jefferson County Deed Book (JCDB) 7, 383. Bernard Wisenall died in 1835 leaving his estate to his daughter Catharine and sons John and Henry (JCWB 8, 84). No inventory of his property has survived.

³⁷ *Farmer's Repository*. November 16, 1815. Vol. VIII, Issue 397, 4.

³⁸ *Farmer's Repository*, January 18, 1816. Vol. VIII, Issue 406, 4.

³⁹ JCWB 12, 403.

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Hess bequeathed his farm to his nephew, Jacob Reinhart (1798-1876). Elizabeth, Hess's widow, moved to Ohio to be with the Hess sons.

Jacob Reinhart, the new owner, farmed more ardently than his uncle. According to the 1850 agricultural census, for example, Jacob worked 275 acres, had 48 acres unimproved, 5 horses, 5 milk cows, 7 other cattle, 14 sheep, and 30 swine, for a total value of \$630 (in livestock). He produced wheat (780 bu.), rye (11 bu.), Indian corn (1,400 bu.), wool (90 lbs.), Irish potatoes (50 bu.), butter (250 lbs.), and hay (25 tons). Jacob Reinhart is depicted as property owner on the 1852 map of Jefferson County drawn by county surveyor Samuel Howell Brown (Figure 11).

Year	Improved land	Unimproved land	Cash value of land \$	Farm implement \$	Value wages paid \$	Horses	Milk cows	Other cattle	Swine	Livestock \$	Wheat bushels	Indian corn Bushels	Wool in pounds	Irish potatoes bshls.	Butter, pounds	Hay, tons	Clover seed, bshls.	Homemade manfs. \$	Animals slaughtered \$
1850	275	48	17K	150	n/a	5	5	7	14	30	650	780	90	50	250	25	n/a	n/a	160
1860	170	30	15K	350	n/a	8	8	6	12	800	980	500	100	30	400	30	6	300	144
1870	237	45	1720	450	1100	11	16	3	18	1650	675	1070	0	35	300	0	0	300	1420
1880	120	7	8000	900	380	5	9	16	12	11	1450	1550	56	100	650	31	0	300	n/a

Table 1. Production for lands farmed by Jacob Reinhart. Source: U.S. Agricultural Censuses for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880.⁴⁰

According to farm-specific agricultural censuses for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880, farm owners (the Reinharts) grew corn, potatoes, wheat, timothy, and clover; and kept horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, the latter a major food source. In short, the land fed all animals by hay, grasses, and grains. Milk allowed farmers to make cream and cheese. From the initial census category in 1820 and throughout the 1800s to 1940, owners of Taylor's Meadow called themselves "farmers," which, in every sense of the term, they were. Federal census data post 1940 has not been released. How recent owners describe themselves on censuses to date is not known.⁴¹

Jacob Reinhart divided his property and turned over responsibility for farm operations and his house to his nephews: William (1847-1917), Christian (1865-1943), and Andrew Philip (1843-1917) (Figure 12). Initially Andrew's share was 62 acres. On that comparatively sufficient, if not large, parcel of land, Andrew grazed 5 milk cows, 2 horses, 1 other cattle (perhaps beef), and 7

⁴⁰*Agricultural and manufacturing census records of fifteen southern states for the years 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880.* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: Library Photographic Services, University of North Carolina, 1960). On microfilm.

⁴¹ What can be noted is that Donald G. Patterson and his wife, Margaret, lived on Shepherd Grade, and in all likelihood rented Taylor's Meadow to a tenant.

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swine. He also produced 75 bushels of wheat, 300 bushels of Indian corn, and five bushels of potatoes. This may not sound like enough production to feed a family much less to generate sufficient income on which to live. Perhaps the census recording is inaccurate, or more likely, the relatives shared produce, cattle, and swine. Absent from the census for any year is a poultry count. Any farm could raise several chickens, turkeys, or ducks not tallied in the agricultural census.

In 1881, for \$4,025, Andrew bought an additional parcel of 67 acres from his brother William (Figure 11).⁴² In addition to land, the parcel came with the house that Andrew Philip and his wife would especially appreciate to accommodate their six children. Andrew Philip Reinhart is listed as property owner on the Samuel Howell Brown map of the county for 1883 (Figure 13).

By 1900 the federal census reported that Andrew and Mary, ages 56 and 53, respectively, lived on a farm with their children Harry (26), Lelia (24), Charles (19), and Mary (17). When Andrew died in 1917 at age 74, the *Shepherdstown Register* reported that he, a farmer, temperance advocate, Civil War veteran (Company D, Twelfth Virginia Cavalry), and “respected by all who knew him,” had Bright’s disease and had been in declining health.⁴³

Sometime between 1881 and 1907 Andrew Reinhart sold his farm to William J. Knott (1828-1901). Although the sale is recorded, perhaps through chancery court, the record is not indexed and has been elusive. Ella Knott Koontz (1863-1942), daughter of William J. Knott, became the new owner of the Reinhart farm (Figure 14). Unfortunately, if federal agricultural censuses exist by county farmstead for later years (post 1880), they are not readily available. It is difficult, then, to pinpoint agricultural output without accurate records.

Knott provided life tenancy for his daughter, Ella, and on Ella’s death devised the property to his infant granddaughters. Ella was married to [Thornton] Lee Koontz (1862-1946). They had two daughters (William J. Knott’s granddaughters): Charlotte Koontz (1905-1990) and Margaret Knott Patterson (1907-1970). According to federal censuses for 1920, 1930, and 1940, the Koontz family were farmers. In 1904 Lee Koontz (who used his middle name) gave up “the Billmyer farm east of Shepherdstown and [to] open an agricultural implement house in Shepherdstown.”⁴⁴ Charlotte, his wife, leased Taylor’s Meadow lands to other farmers. When owned by the Koontz’s the property included several acres of arable land to the west.⁴⁵

He sold a line of farm equipment while continuing to farm. In the 1940 federal census Ella (77) is listed as “farm head” (and head of household) while her husband, Lee (78), has been relegated

⁴² JCDB I, 243.

⁴³ “Answering the Last Call,” *Shepherdstown Register*, May 3, 1917, 3.

⁴⁴ *Shepherdstown Register*, March 17, 1904, 3.

⁴⁵ Per JCDB 976, 314: 136.25 acres that would be subdivided and sold as nine homesteads.

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to the title of "farm chores." With the death of their mother in 1942, the farm devised to Margaret Patterson and Charlotte Koontz.

In 1982, Charlotte Koontz, Margaret Patterson, and her husband Donald transferred title to the property to the Bank of Charles Town as trustee.⁴⁶ On December 29, 1982, the Bank of Charles Town sold the property to Samuel J. Donley, Jr. and his wife, Edwina (Lane) Donley.⁴⁷ In 1990 the Donleys sold the property to Arthur and Kathleen Kennedy, trustees for the Alaska Resource Analysts, Inc., Pension Trust.⁴⁸ The Kennedys lived on the farm and named it "Willowdale."

The name confused some in the community because a development north of Shepherdstown was named "Willowdale" as was also a home near Cattail Run, south of Charles Town. In 2003 the Kennedys sold the property to Greenspace, a collective of individuals interested in preserving the Willowdale property. The collective would hold the property only a year.

In 2004 Eric Lewis and Joy Osbourn Lewis bought the Willowdale property.⁴⁹ They named their property "McMurran Farm" to honor Joseph McMurran (1829-1902), a fellow property owner near Molers Crossroads, and more significantly, founder and first president of Shepherd College where Eric and Joy attended, and where they have served as college (now university) trustees and benefactors.

The Lewis family has put their property under a Conservation Easement with the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board and the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle, ensuring McMurran Farm (Taylor's Meadow) will remain protected farmland in perpetuity (Figure 14).⁵⁰ While their two children, Chandler and Maclaine (two years younger than her brother), were growing up they helped their parents raise cattle. When Chandler and Maclaine went to college (both to Texas A&M) their parents gave up their herds. Today burros are the only large animals on the property.

Owners of Taylor's Meadow Farm in the 1700s, 1800s, and 1900s seemed to follow traditional farming methods rather than innovate. Perhaps an exception to this practice was Lee Koontz who sold and repaired farm equipment beginning in 1904. To what extent he experimented with new implements and methods is not known. What is known and remains is nearly 52 acres of farmland now protected from development.

Criterion C: Architecture. The house style is distinctly Georgian as defined by Virginia and Lee McAlester, for its "paneled front door, windows with double-hung sashes having small panes and aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows, and three ranked on the front

⁴⁶ JCDB 506, 405.

⁴⁷ JCDB 507, 633.

⁴⁸ JCDB 673, 449.

⁴⁹ JCDB 997, 226. (Correction deed).

⁵⁰ JCDB 1021, p. 291; Jefferson County Plat Book 20, 44.

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façade.”⁵¹ As he left no written records, we do not know what prompted John Taylor in the mid-1780s to build an early, if not the earliest, brick house in Jefferson County. Stone was plentiful and the material of choice for such other prominent Jefferson County homes as Harewood (1770), Prato Rio (1775), and the Nathan Haines House (1775). For David Hackett Fischer and James Kelly, the hall-and-parlor plan, common in Virginia, derived from vernacular forms found in the south of England from where many settlers emigrated to Virginia.⁵²

Unfortunately, neither the builder nor architect/designer of Taylor's Meadow is known. Except for its construction material, brick, the John Taylor house plan is like that and other late 1700s houses John Allen describes in Chapter One of *Uncommon Vernacular*. For Allen, hall-and-parlor is a common design of early houses in Jefferson County and derive from the Tidewater area. The Isaac Clymer house, built of stone in 1835, uses a floorplan similar to that of Taylor's Meadow, and demonstrates prolonged use of an efficient design.

We do not know where John Taylor traveled and what he saw. Williamsburg, the colonial capital of Virginia to 1799, lay about 200 land miles from his property in Mecklenburg (now Shepherdstown). A round trip would allow Taylor a view of Tidewater Georgian homes of brick with glazed headers, radiused jack-arch windows, molded watertables, and recessed-arch chimney tops. These design ideas he might bring with him on his return. Along the way he may have seen such English pattern books as William Salmon's *The London Art of Building* (1738) or William Pain's *The Builders Companion* (1762). He might also have studied the technology of brickmaking and come to appreciate the excellent clay for bricks that is commonly found where he lived at Taylor's Meadow.

Perhaps Taylor traveled to Philadelphia, at the time colonial America's most populous city and perhaps 40 miles closer to Taylor's Meadow than Williamsburg. Had he visited nearly any bookseller he would have seen or could have bought a builder's plan book. In the *Pennsylvania Gazette* for May 21, 1761, James Riverton, "Bookseller from London," advertised "Books of Architecture..." emphasizing a plural selection. In the October 29, 1761 issue of the same paper, bookseller David Hall touts "Gibb's, Ware's, and Swan's Architecture." In the October 31, 1765, issue of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, book seller William Sellers advertised "Gibb's *Architecture* and Price's *Carpentry*." These few examples help attest to the variety of Georgian builder plan books available to John Taylor or to anyone else. In Philadelphia he also would have seen more Georgian brick houses than anywhere else in colonial America.⁵³

Perhaps he took ideas from John Ariss (1725-1799), a Virginia-born architect who studied in England and Scotland. Ariss returned to America by 1751 and advertised his availability as a

⁵¹ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*. (New York: Alfred Knopf, 2005), 139.

⁵² David Hackett Fischer and James C. Kelly, *Bound Away: Virginia and the Western Movement*. (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2000), pp. 49, 50. Also David Hackett Fischer, *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989), 264-274.

⁵³ See also Richard Cheek, *Selling the Dwelling: The Books that Built America's Houses, 1775-2000*. (New York: Grolier Club, 2013).

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“builder” familiar with “*Gibbs Architect*” and any “Ancient or Modern order.”⁵⁴ Ariss is known to have designed such prominent Virginia Georgian houses as Mount Airy, Richmond County (1748-58), and in 1769, after moving to what became Jefferson County in 1801, Traveler’s Rest (1760) for General Horatio Gates, Harewood (1770) for Samuel Washington, brother of George, Locust Hill for himself (1784 – destroyed by fire), and Mount Eary (1775).⁵⁵ Ariss also designed Fairfield (1770) in neighboring Clarke County, Virginia, and in his will asked to be buried there.⁵⁶ Ariss died in 1799, the same year as George Washington. In the subsequent sale of his personal property, no architectural books are listed by title, but a set of “drawing instruments” sold to John Boads for nine shillings.⁵⁷ No more is known about John Boads.

No matter the construction materials, ornamentation, or designer-builder, the defining characteristic of Georgian architecture is proportion. The ideal proportion, gleaned from nature by early Greeks and later Romans, is the golden ratio, sometimes called the golden section. That ratio is 1:1.618, a seemingly meaningless number. When expressed as a graphic, however, and when the graphic is applied to a visual, the ratio takes on a greater meaning. For example, if the golden ratio is applied to the plan, or footprint, of Taylor’s Meadow, it corresponds readily (Figure 16). Equally as telling, if the golden ratio is applied to the elevation of Taylor’s Meadow, the similarity between the two is equally telling. This golden ratio is something that architects and vernacular builders recognized and strived to achieve in houses they planned and built.

Thus, as with many other fine Georgian homes in Jefferson County, without new documentary discoveries we simply do not know who designed and constructed Taylor’s Meadow. That Taylor’s Meadow embodies Georgian architecture can be seen in its proportions and in such details as symmetry, brick and glazed headers, molded watertable, radiused jack-arch lintels, recessed arch chimney tops, and multi-paned sash windows. Taylor’s Meadow embodies all these characteristics.

Not only is Taylor’s Meadow built of brick, but the brickwork is distinctive. Flemish bond is less common in Jefferson County than common bond, and glazed headers are more uncommon still, as is to some extent, a molded watertable, and radiused jack-arch windows (Photo 4a). Rarer yet anywhere in West Virginia are recessed arches in chimneys, though, according to John Allen, they occur in Tidewater homes. These traits are what make Taylors Meadow unique. By the 1770s, however, the exterior and interior design of Taylor’s Meadow had precedent. For the exterior, surviving examples of two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, single pile buildings in Jefferson County include the Richard Morgan House (Springdale), ca. 1765, and post 1775, the John McPherson House (McPherson Mill House), ca. 1785.⁴⁴ For interiors, these two examples are hall-and-parlor with corner stairs. Eventually corner stairs gave way to center hall stairways, a

⁵⁴ *Maryland Gazette*, May 29, 1751, 4.

⁵⁵ Thomas Tileston Waterman, *Mansions of Virginia 1706-1776*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1945), 243-248.

⁵⁶ Berkeley County Will Book 3, 315.

⁵⁷ Berkeley County Will Book 4, 40.

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separation of rooms, and therefore, more privacy.⁵⁸ This three-bay, single pile design would evolve to the I-house, one of the most popular designs in the mid- to-late 1800s and early 1900s.

Architectural distinction continues into interior details of Taylor's Meadow. Interior doors are paneled. The west wall of the parlor is paneled; paneling detail, crown molding, and trim around the fireplace bespeak quality and work of a master carpenter/cabinet maker. Glazed doors of the two china cupboards are intricate, as are both dome-topped doors. The source of the keystone ornamentation and applied shell is not known. It is not known what valuable possessions John Taylor may have owned and displayed in the corner cupboards. Levi Taylor, his son, however, owned "12 silver teaspoons and one-half dozen silver tablespoons," "a lot of Queensware," and "a number of Books."⁵⁹ These objects, especially the silver and Queensware, would warrant prominent display.

We may think of Jefferson County in the late 1700s and early 1800s as backwater, and to some extent it was. But a variety of merchandise was available for sale then from such local merchants as Anne and Matthew Frame in Charles Town and Henry Bedinger in Shepherdstown. In 1786 Bedinger ordered quantities of H/L hinges, the kind found on cabinetry at Taylor's Meadow Farm, from suppliers in Philadelphia.⁶⁰ Ann Smart Martin has documented the range of goods sold by John Hook, a merchant in Bedford County, Virginia, from 1758 to the early 1800s. His most popular sales were textiles, but he also sold Queensware, or creamware (as the ceramic was also known.)⁶¹

Taylor's Meadow is an early interpretation of vernacular Georgian architecture for Jefferson County. Before Taylor's Meadow builders used principally log or frame for house construction. Either method belied permanence. Those relatively few who built of stone demonstrated they had come to stay. Born a few years after his parents had left southern Delaware, John Taylor was a first-generation local. In 1738 Frederick County had just been formed from Orange County, and in 1772 Berkeley County would form from Frederick. Brick, a building material common east of the Blue Ridge, had yet to take hold in the lower Shenandoah Valley. Taylor's Meadow would be a first.

⁵⁸ Allen, 52.

⁵⁹ JCWB 2, 4.

⁶⁰ *Henry Bedinger Invoice Book, 1786-1791*. Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA. Mss. MsV Ame3 Oversize.

⁶¹ Ann Smart Martin, *Buying into the World of Goods: Early Consumers in Backcountry Virginia*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008).

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Summary

By 1810 Jefferson County's wealth had increased. The federal Harpers Ferry Armory, begun in 1798, attracted skilled craftsmen and mechanics and would operate to its destruction in the Civil War.⁶² The Shenandoah Valley that included Jefferson County produced enough wheat and flour to export through the late 1700s and 1800s. Wheat and flour milled in Jefferson County were transported to Alexandria by gundalow, a sort of raft or shallow boat built at the headwaters of the Shenandoah River for a one-way trip downriver to its confluence with the Potomac River and then down the Potomac to Alexandria.⁶³ In 1830 the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal reached Harpers Ferry. A few years later the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O) reached Harpers Ferry from Baltimore. By 1842 the B&O linked Baltimore with Cumberland, Maryland with a stop at Duffield's Depot, only a few miles from Taylor's Meadow. These two modes of transport, canal and railroad, would reduce the time and cost of shipping goods to and from Jefferson County.

In about 100 years from Samuel Taylor's settlement of Taylor's Meadow in 1732 dramatic changes had occurred by 1835. With enslaved workers, without which change would not have occurred, inhabitants built houses, roads, mills, factories, and other buildings, structures, and infrastructure that define permanent settlement. The Taylor family and Jacob Hess with their enslaved help built Taylor's Meadow (1775) and its addition (1830), of brick. They farmed. They grew orchards. They distilled alcohol. They raised cattle. They ran dairy. They kept swine and poultry. They helped established the ways and means for a semi-self-sufficient lifestyle throughout the 1800s. For these reasons they merit a National Register nomination for local significance.

⁶² Merritt Roe Smith, *Harpers Ferry Armory and the New Technology: The Challenge of Change*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1977).

⁶³ Seth Bruggeman. "The Shenandoah River Gundalow: Reusable Boats in Virginia's Nineteenth-Century River Trade." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, October 1, 2010, 314-349.

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ___ previously listed in the National Register
- ___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ___ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

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_____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

_____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

_____ Other State agency

_____ Federal agency

_____ Local government

_____ University

_____ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 49.78

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees) (See Figure 2)

Datum if other than WGS 84: _____

(Enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Location	Latitude	Longitude
1	-77.778091	39.399919
2	-77.771171	39.395152
3	-77.772233	39.394033
4	-77.775741	39.395401
5	-77.777737	39.394249
6	-77.779722	39.394945
7	-77.779335	39.398261
8	-77.778616	39.399016

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nomination includes two adjoining parcels, the first 44.85 acres, the second 4.93 acres, both totaling 49.78 acres. The Jefferson County ID for the first parcel is 09 120015 00000000; for the second, 09 12001500020000. The first parcel consists of pasture for McMurrin Farm cattle; the second parcel includes houses, barns, and other structures that support the farm (see Fig.2).

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

For the nomination to include Criterion A (EVENT: Exploration/Settlement and Agriculture) and Criterion C (ARCHITECTURE), both parcels need be included. The boundary includes the house, spring house, barn, corncrib, and other outbuildings that have been historically part of Taylor's Meadow Farm and therefore maintain historic integrity from the Periods of Significance.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: John Demer

Organization: Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

Address: 116 East Washington Street, Charles Town, WV 25424

Email: jdemer@hotmail.com

Telephone: 304-876-6013

Date: July 12, 2019

With assistance from Eric and Joy Lewis (McMurrin Farm property owners); Emily S. Vance, West Virginia Structural Historian; and Jeffrey S. Smith, West Virginia Structural Historian.

12. Additional Documentation

Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location (Figure 1).

Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources (See Photos/Photo Log). Key all photographs to this map.

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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List of Figures

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Figure 2 National Register Boundary Map of Taylor's Meadow with key to UTM coordinates.

Figure 3 Proximity of Taylor's Meadow Farm to a county road

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Figure 6. Sketch map and key to photographs, interior, 1785 original block.

Figure 7a Survey of Taylor's Meadow by Robert Brooke (1734)

Figure 7b Taylor's Meadow plat (detail).

Figure 7c Taylor's Meadow located in reconstructed map of mid-1700s

Figure 7d Samuel Taylor's lands (mid-1700s)

Figure 8 Conceptual drawing of Taylor's Meadow House and plan.

Figure 9 Plat of division from John Taylor to three sons (John, William, and Levi), 1793.

Figure 10 Charles Varlé Map, 1809, (detail) depicting Taylor House.

Figure 11 Samuel Howell Brown's map of 1852 depicts the farm of Jacob Reinhart.

Figure 12 Plat showing division of Jacob Reinhart's farm (1878).

Figure 13 Samuel Howell Brown map of 1883.

Figure 14 Plat of land conveyed to Ella Koontz in 1907.

Figure 15a Plat of Taylor's Meadow Farm in 2019.

Figure 15b. Taylor's Meadow, aerial view, 2019 (detail).

Figure 16 Golden ratio expressed in Taylor's Meadow plan and elevation.

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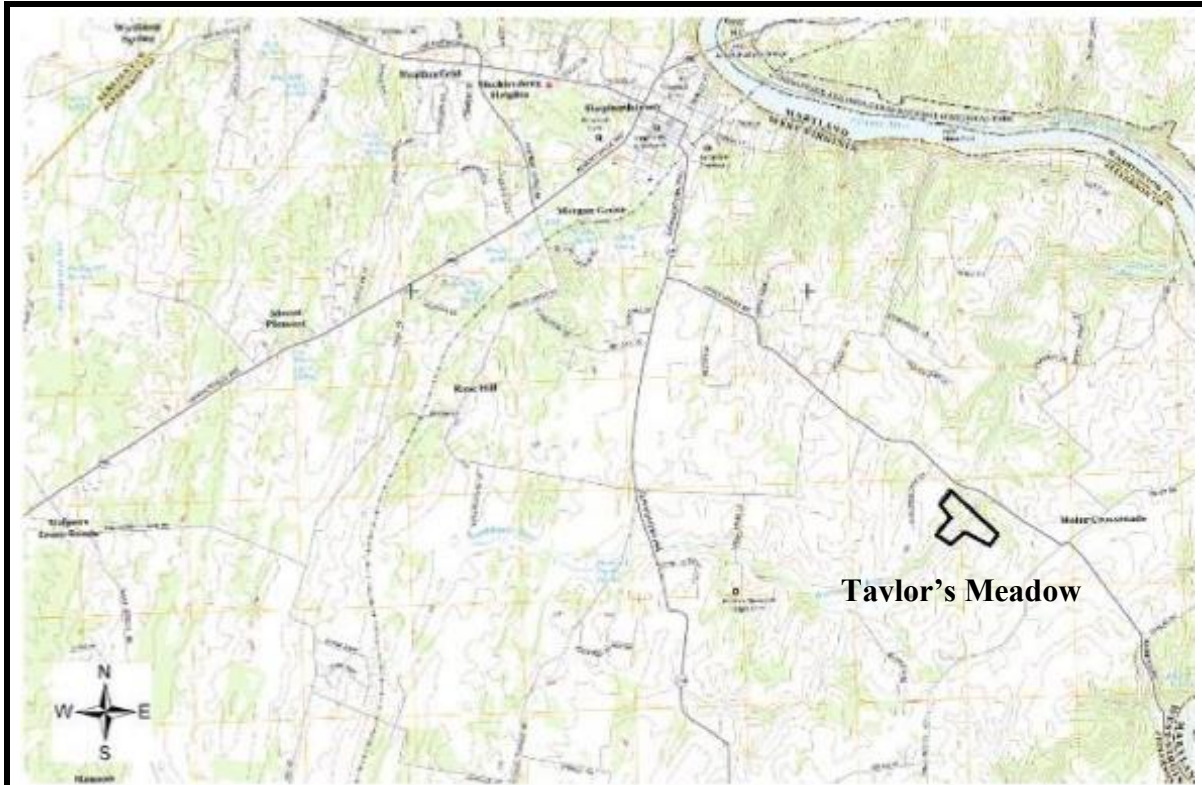


Figure 1. USGS map of property's location.

161 McMurrin Farm Lane, Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, West Virginia.
USGS Survey (2008), Shepherdstown Quadrangle.

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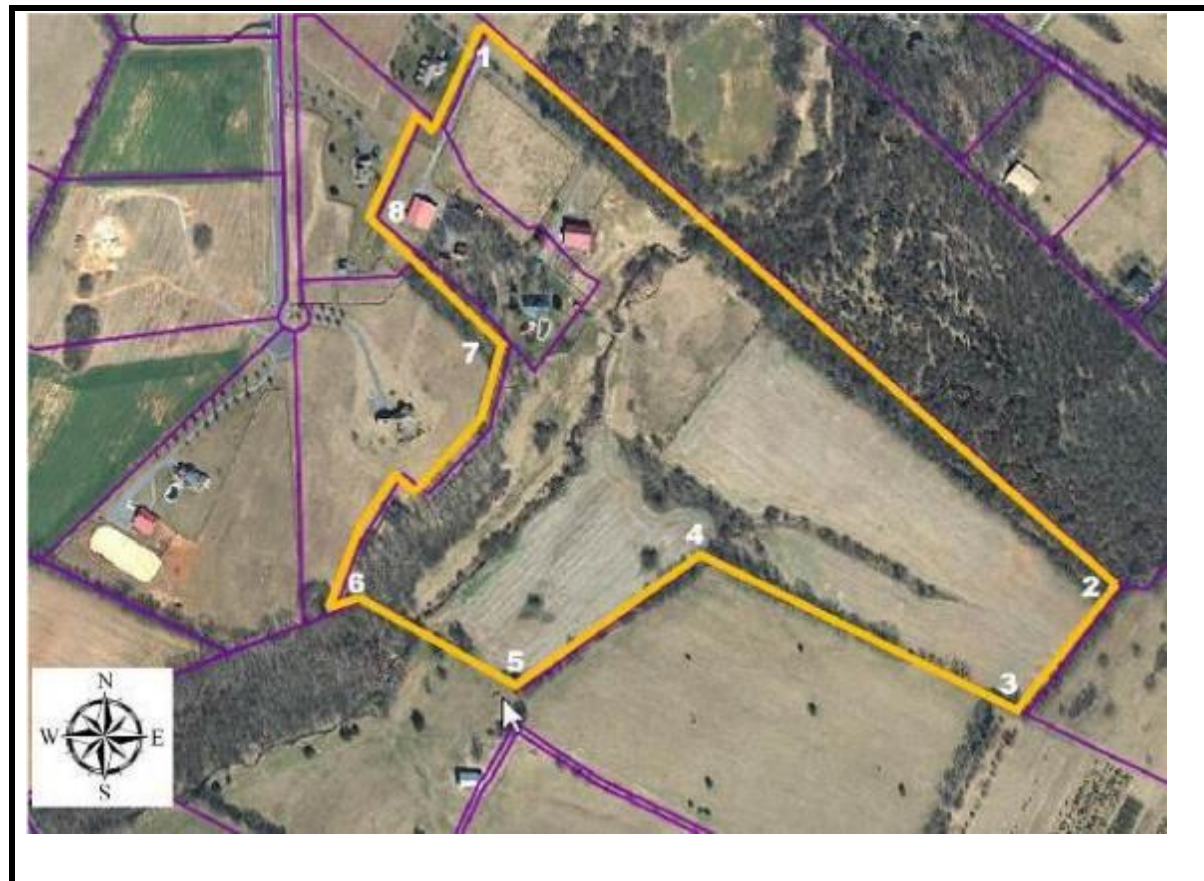


Figure 2. National Register Boundary Map of Taylor's Meadow with key to Latitude/Longitude coordinates

Location point	Latitude Longitude	
1	-77.778091	39.399919
2	-77.771171	39.395152
3	-77.772233	39.394033
4	-77.775741	39.395401
5	-77.777737	39.394249
6	-77.779722	39.394945
7	-77.779335	39.398261
8	-77.778616	39.399016

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Figure 4. Site Plan: Contributing Site and Buildings (bold numbers 1 - 4) and Non-contributing Buildings and Structures (*italics* 5 - 13)

Contributing resources are **bold numbered**; non-contributing resources are in *italics*.

Key:

1. Taylor's Meadow Site (detail of parcel; contributing & non-contributing resources)
2. Taylor's Meadow House (contributing building)
3. Corncrib (contributing building)
4. Bank Barn (contributing building)
5. Spring House (non-contributing building)
6. Swimming Pool (non-contributing structure)
7. Cabana (non-contributing structure)
8. Concrete-block Utility Building (non-contributing building)
9. Garage (non-contributing building)
10. Parents' Cottage (non-contributing building)
11. Parents' Garage (non-contributing building)
12. Modern Metal Barn (non-contributing building)
13. Wood Stable (non-contributing building)

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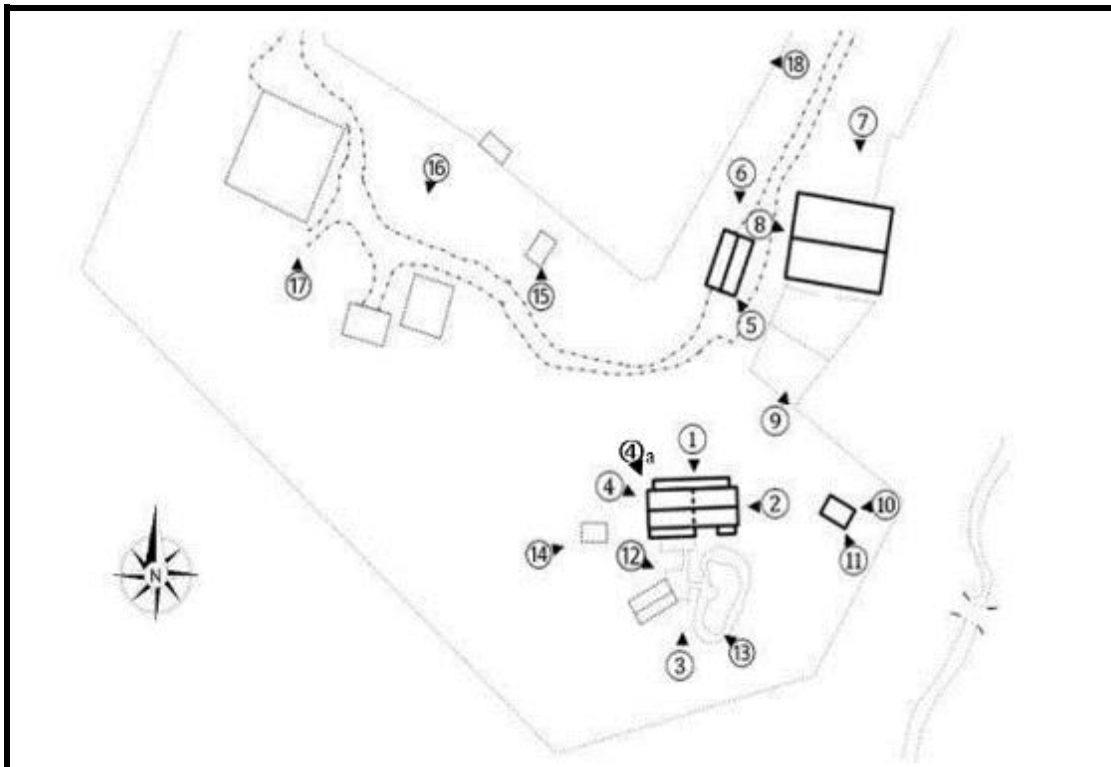


Figure 5. Sketch map and key to photographs, exterior.

- Photo 1. Taylor's Meadow House north elevation, view facing south
Photo 2. Taylor's Meadow House, 1830 block, east elevation, view facing west.
Photo 3. Taylor's Meadow House, south elevation, view to north. John Allen.
Photo 4. Taylor's Meadow House west elevation, view facing southeast.
Photo 4a. Detail of radiused jack arch window, glazed headers, molded watertable, and uncoursed limestone foundation.
Photo 5. Corncrib, southeast elevation, view to northwest.
Photo 6. Corncrib, north elevation, view facing south.
Photo 7. Bank Barn, north elevation, view facing south.
Photo 8. Bank Barn west elevation, view facing east.
Photo 9. Bank Barn (forebay) south elevation, view facing north.
Photo 10. Springhouse, northeast elevation, view to southwest.
Photo 11. Springhouse, southeast elevation, view to northwest.
Photo 12. Swimming pool, view to southwest.
Photo 13. Cabana, southeast elevation; view to northwest.
Photo 14. Concrete-block utility building, southwest elevation, view to northeast.
Photo 15. Garage, southeast elevation, view to northwest.
Photo 16. Parents' cottage and parents' garage, north elevation, view to south.
Photo 17. Metal Barn, southeast elevation, view to northwest.
Photo 18. Stable, east elevation, view to west.

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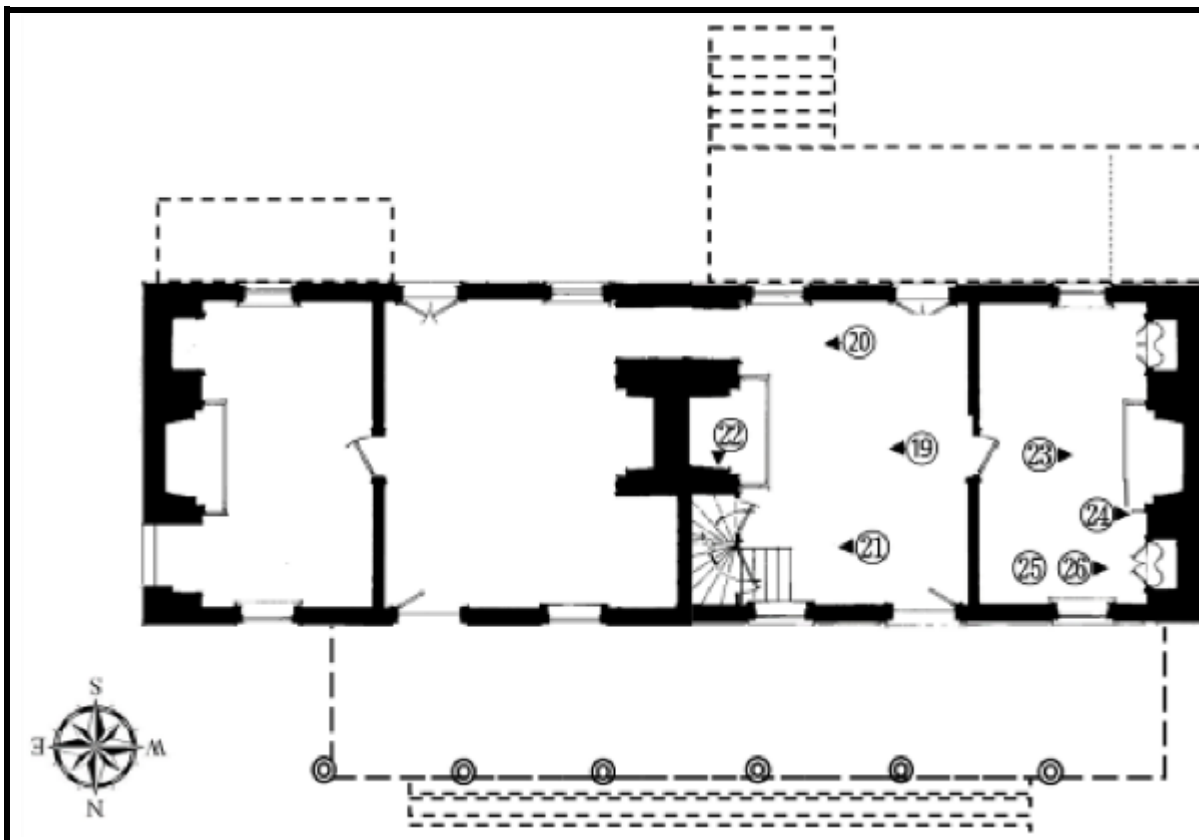


Figure 6. Sketch map and key to photographs, interior, 1785 original block.

Photo 19. Hall, 1785 original block, interior partition, facing east.

Photo 20. Hall, 1785 original block, doorway to 1830 block, facing east.

Photo 21. Hall, 1785 original block, door with H&L hinges, view to east.

Photo 22. Hall, 1785 original block, northeast corner stair, view from second floor to first.

Photo 23. Parlor, 1785 original block, fireplace and cupboard, view facing west.

Photo 24. Parlor, 1785 original block, paneling detail, view facing west.

Photo 25. Parlor, 1785 original block, cupboard, view facing west.

Photo 26. Parlor, 1785 original block, cupboard detail of keystone and shell.

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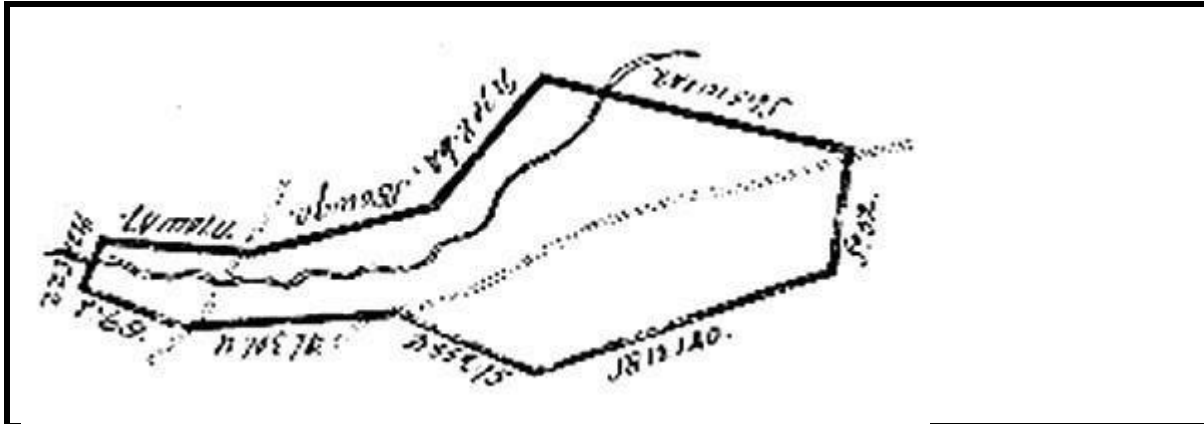


Figure 7b. Taylor's Meadow plat (detail). From Robert Brooke survey, 1734.



Figure 7c. Taylor's Meadow located in reconstructed map of mid-1700s. Taylor's Meadow spanned the junction of two roads leading to ferry crossings of the Potomac River and joining other roads south to the Shenandoah Valley.

Map source: Warren Hofstra and Karl Raitz, *The Great Valley Road of Virginia* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 2010), 81. (After a map by Galtjo Geertsma in Cecil O'Dell, *Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia* [Marceline, Mo.: Walsworth, 1995]. Gyula Pauer Cartography Lab, University of Kentucky).

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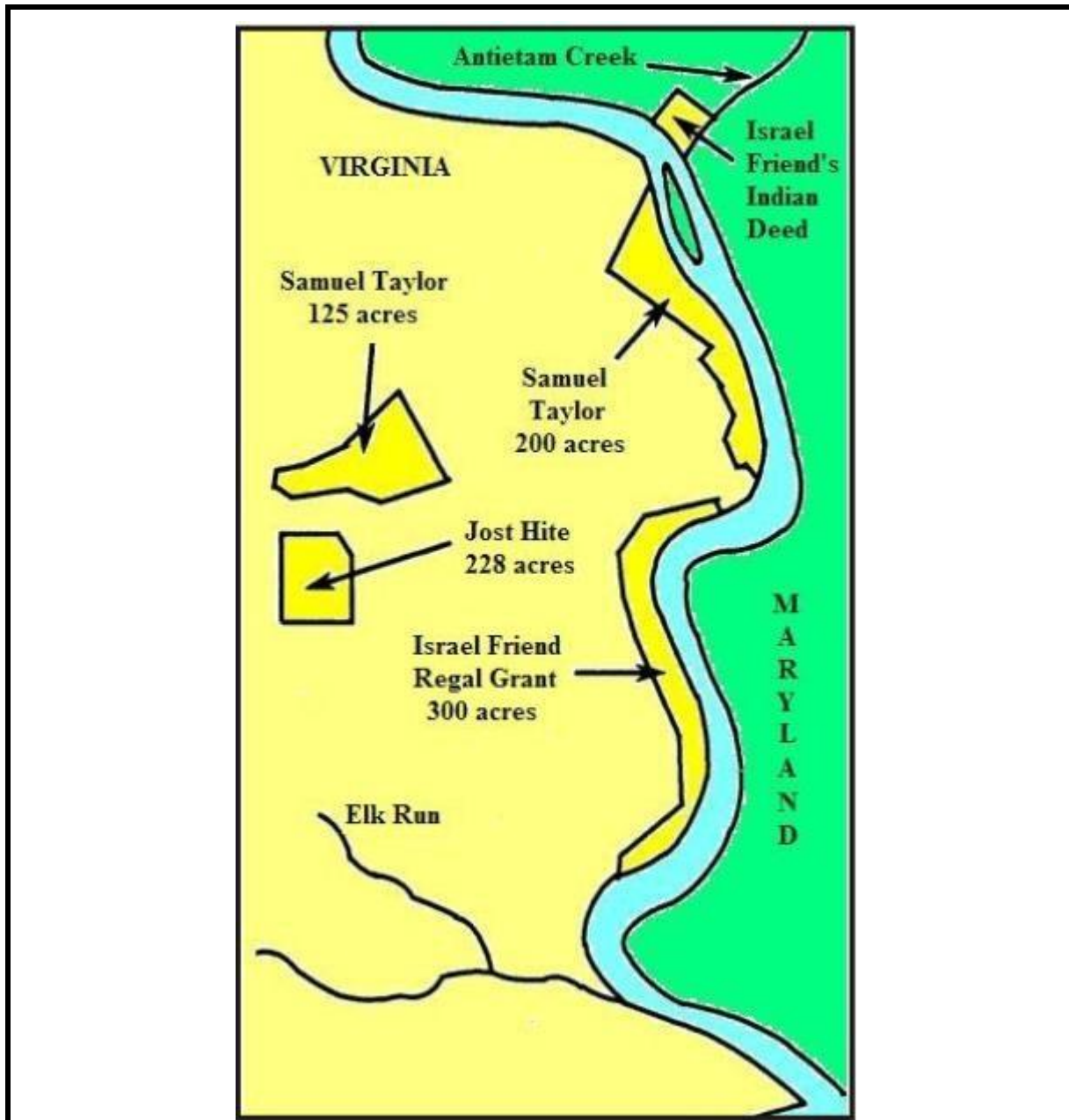


Figure 7d. Samuel Taylor's lands (mid-1700s). Not only does Taylor own the 125-acre tract, but equally important a 200-acre tract on the Potomac River where he built a ferry. The ferry provided Taylor income from traffic going to and from Philadelphia and the Valley of Virginia.

Source: William D. Theriault, *A History of Eastern Jefferson County, West Virginia*. (Hagerstown, MD: Published by the author, 2009), 13.

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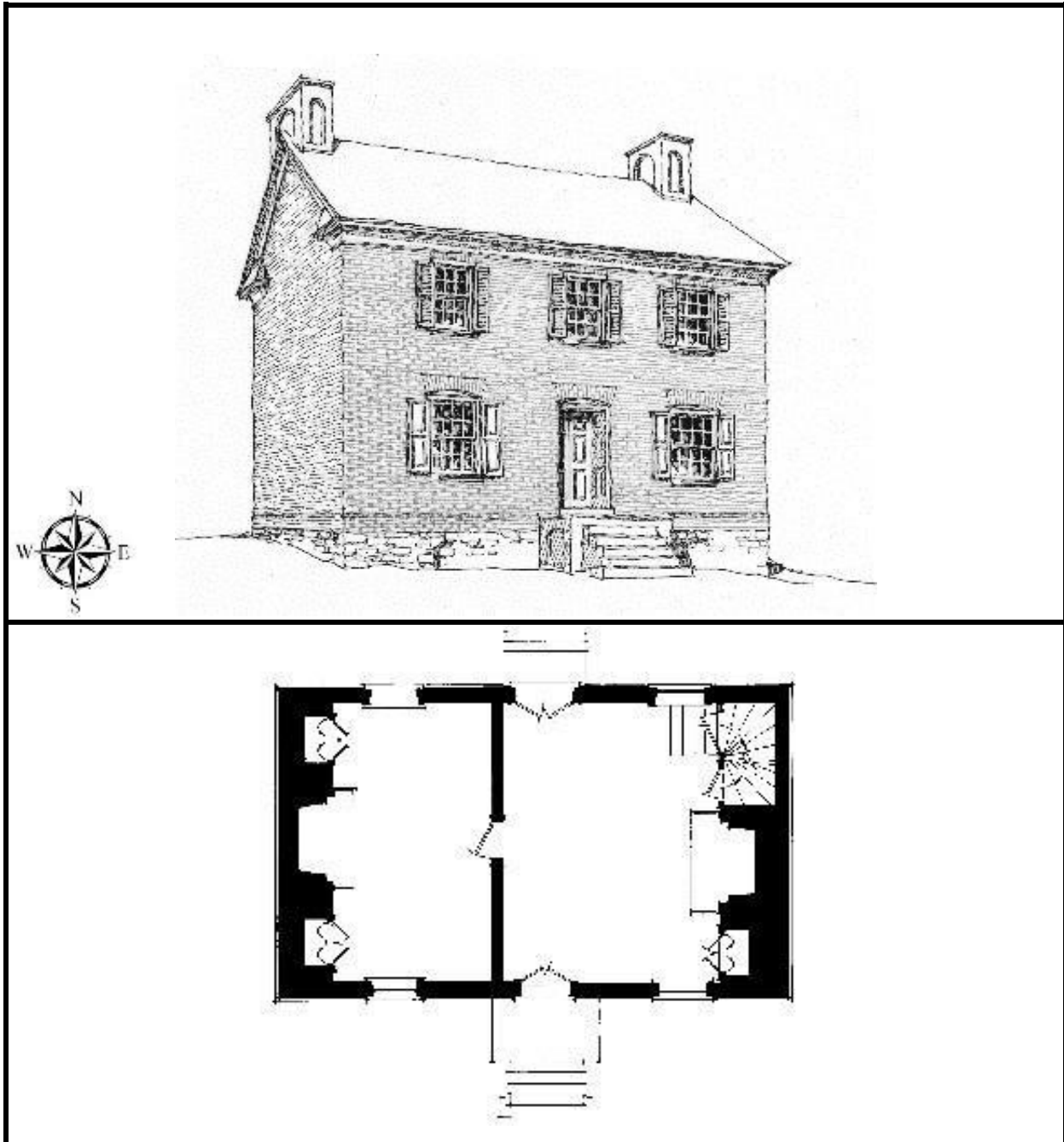


Figure 8. Conceptual drawing of Taylor's Meadow House and plan.

The drawing depicts the south elevation of Taylor's Meadow and its corresponding plan. The present entrance is through the north entrance, but as an old lane ran south of the house, it, too, could have served as the principal entrance.

Drawing and plan by Andrew Lewis, from John Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular*, p. 38.

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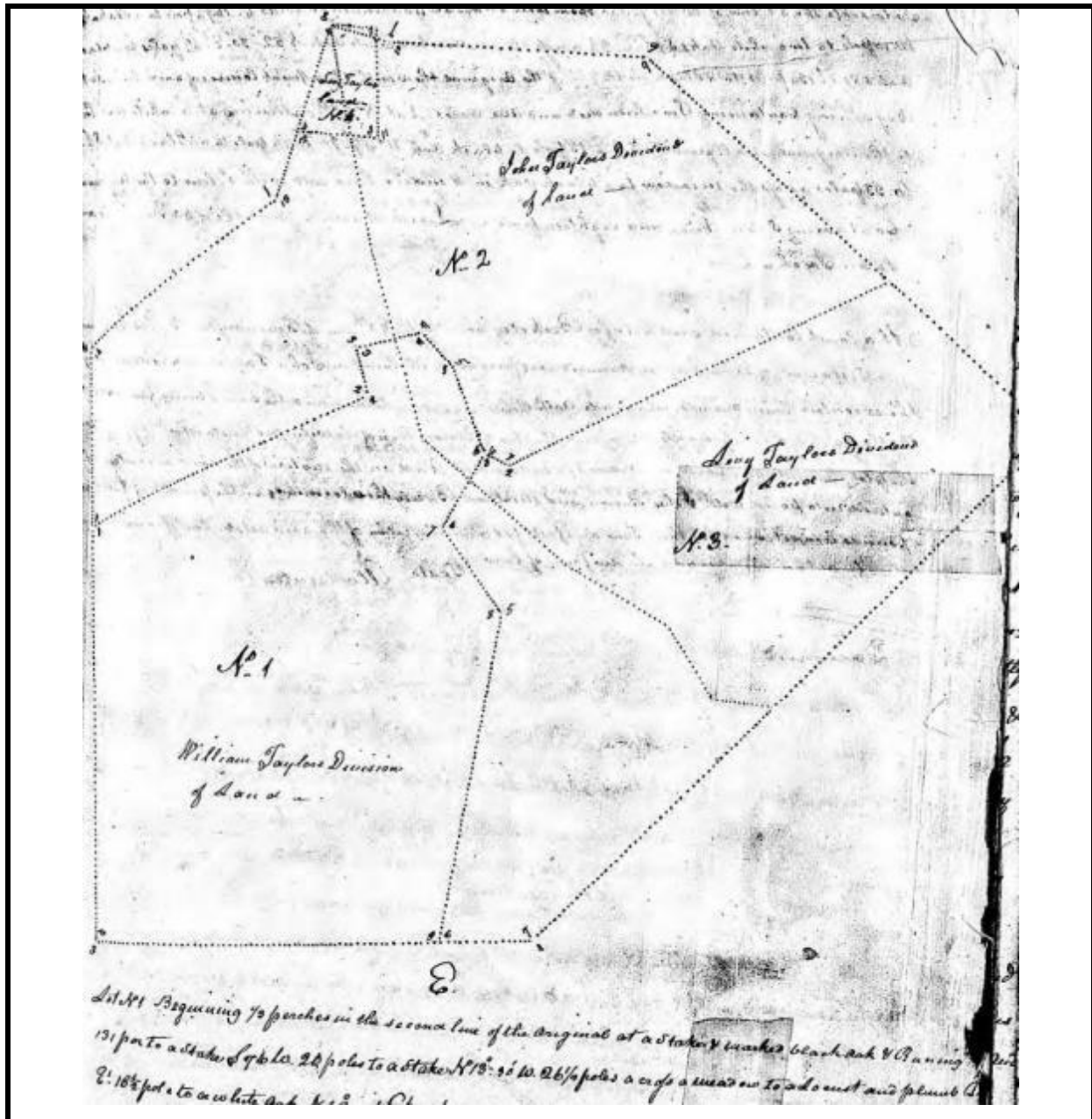


Figure 9. Plat of division from John Taylor to sons (John, William, and Levi), 1793.
From Berkeley County Will Book 2, page 161. Location of house not identified.

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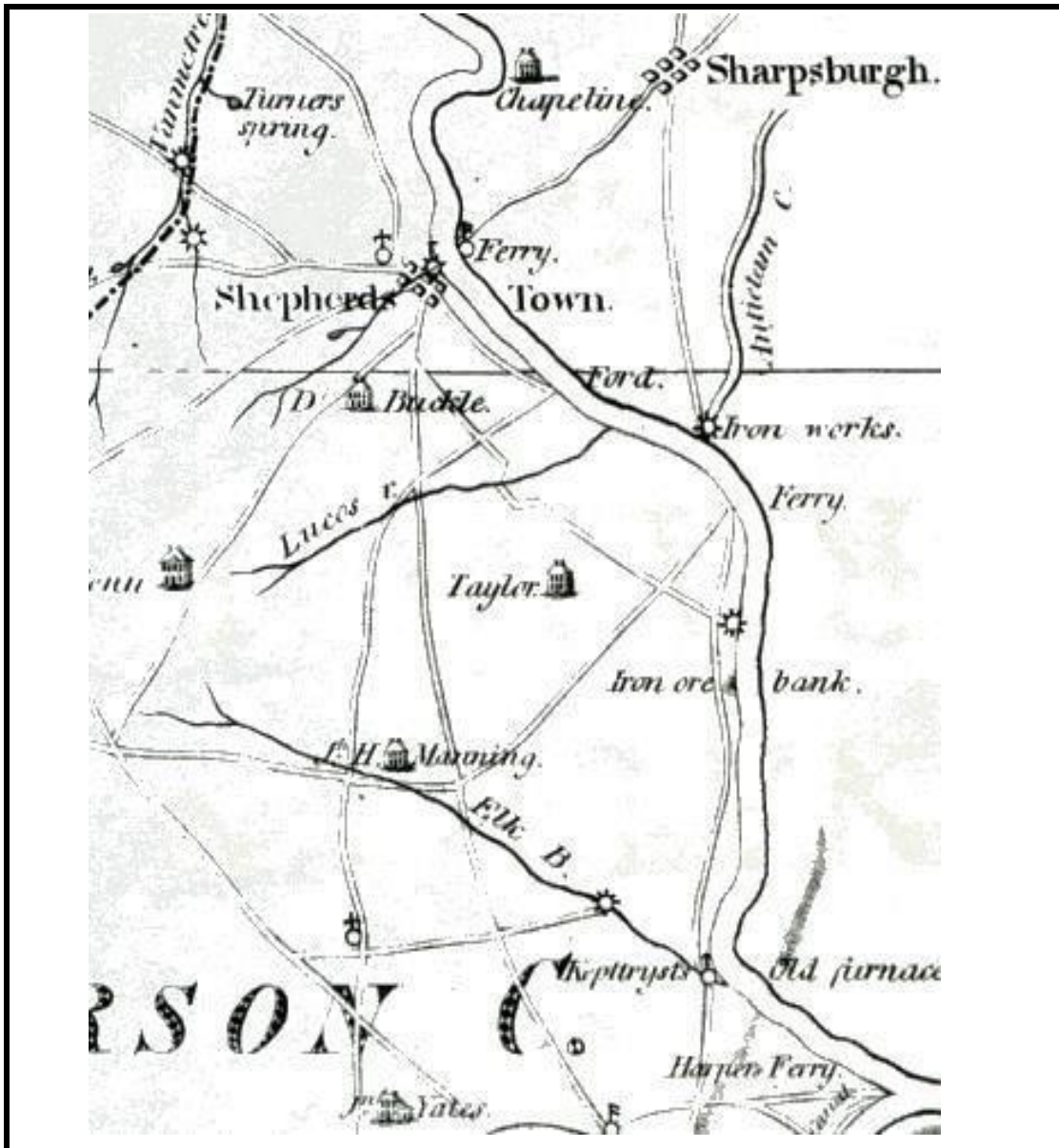


Figure 10. Charles Varlé Map, 1809, (detail) depicting Taylor House.

The route to Philadelphia or Baltimore was more direct by ferry below Antietam Iron Works than by backtracking to Shepherdstown and crossing there.

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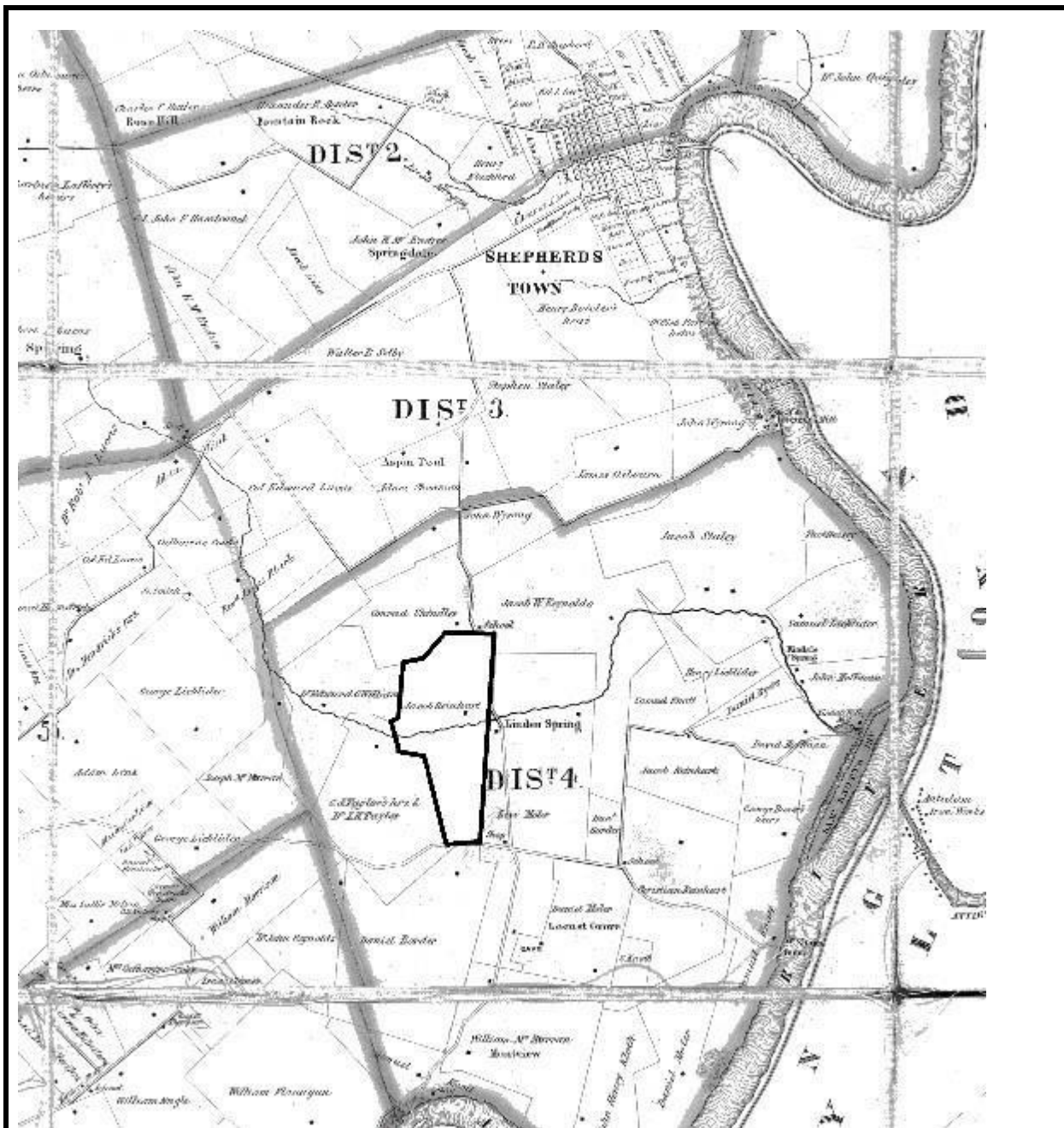
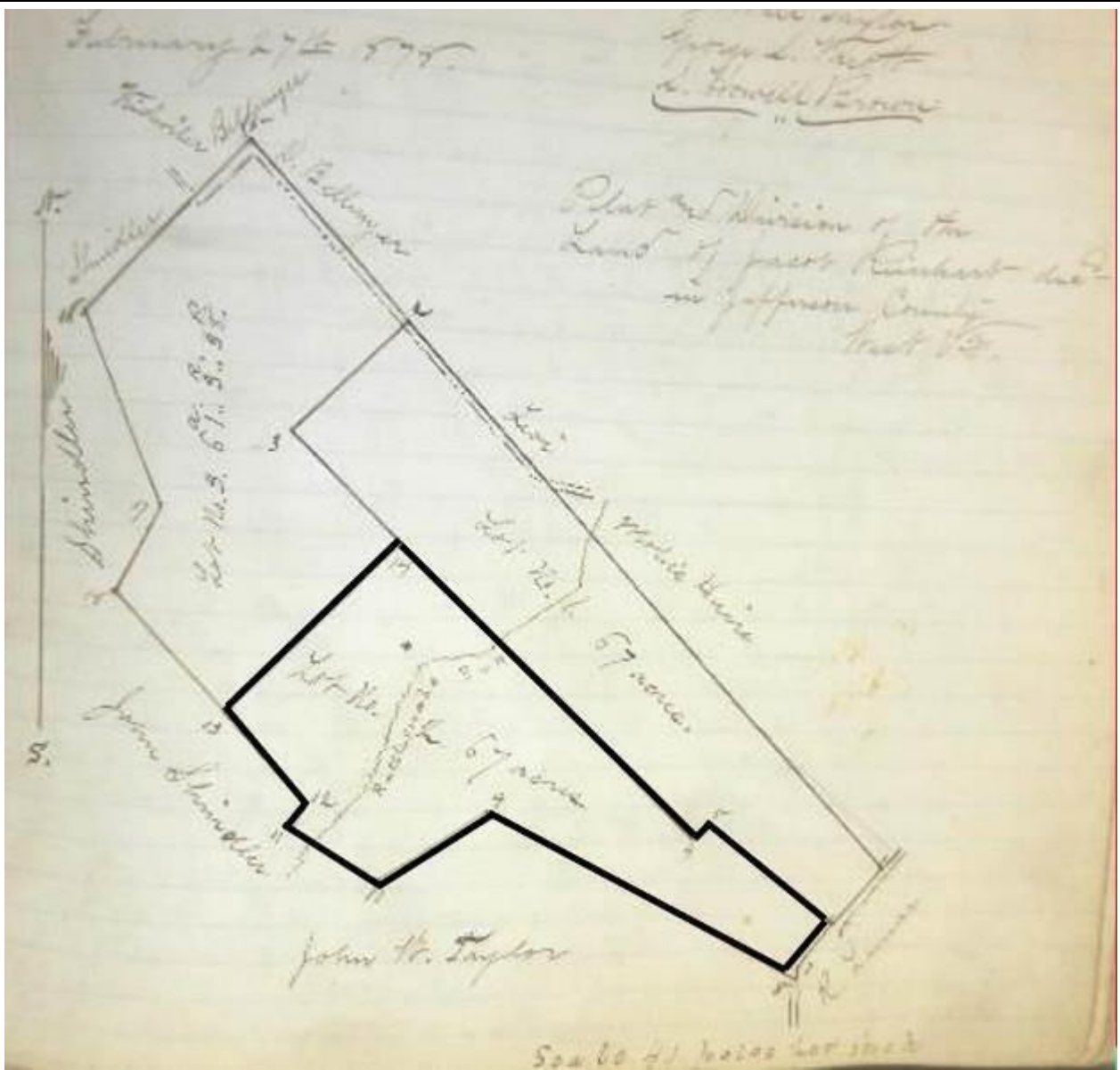


Figure 11. Samuel Howell Brown's map of 1852 depicts the farm of Jacob Reinhart.

The small dot below the letter "a" (in Reinhart) represents what is today the Taylor's Meadow House. Jacob Reinhart owned 275 acres.

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Land went to Reinhart's younger brother, William, and to his nephews Christian and Andrew. Andrew inherited Lot 2 (outlined) that included the house and would buy Lot 3 from his Uncle William. Christian Reinhart would keep possession of Lot 1.

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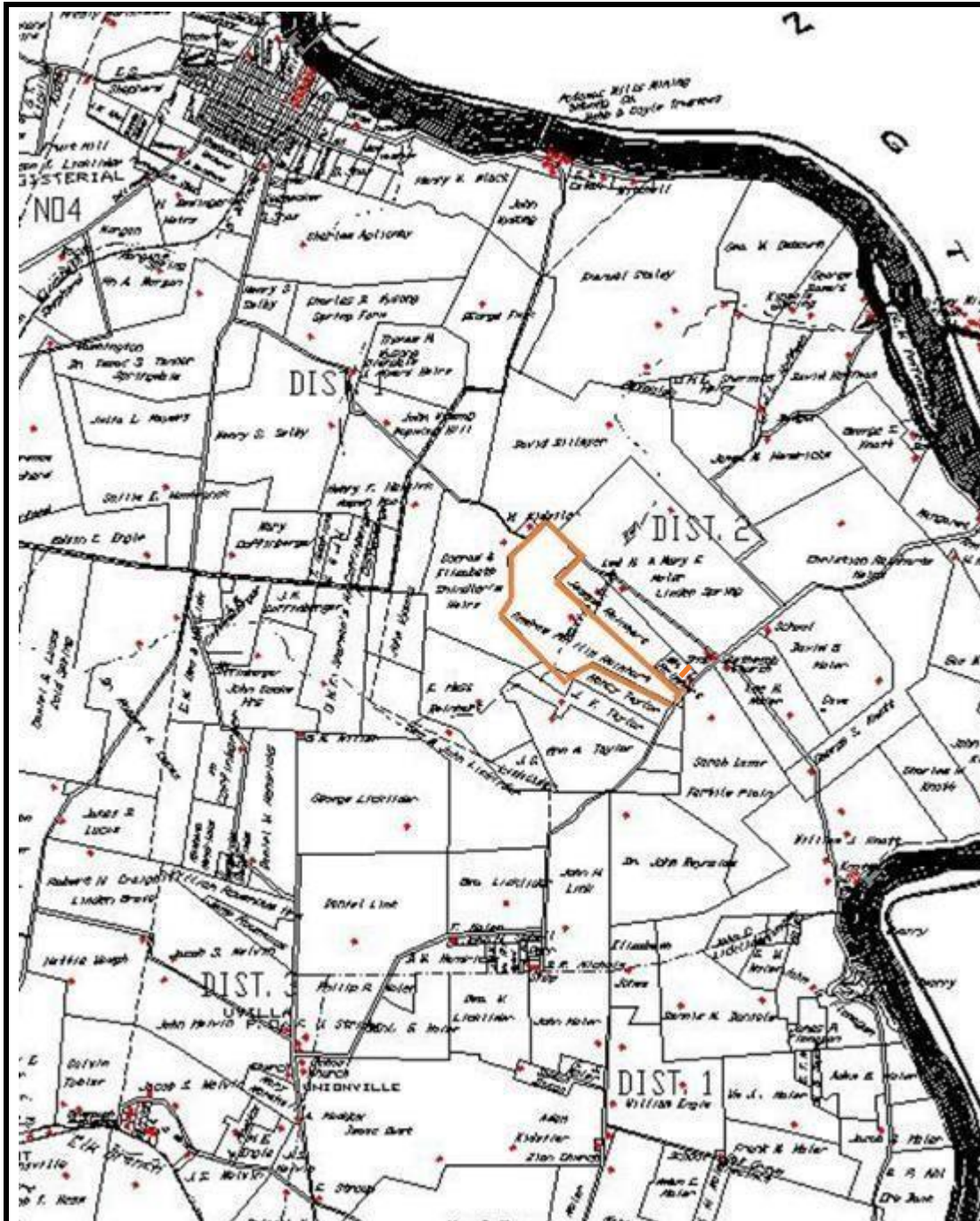


Figure 13. Samuel Howell Brown map of 1883.

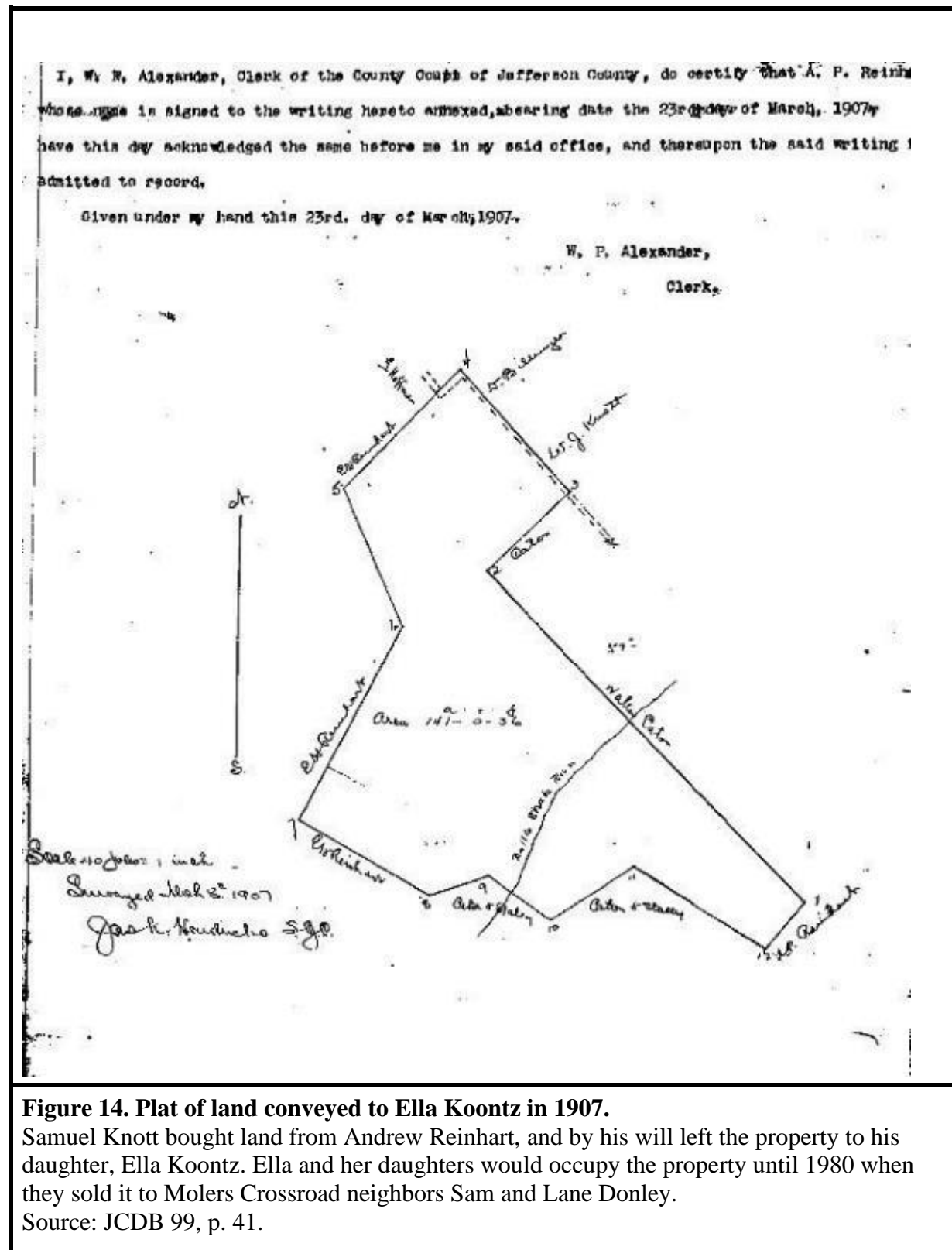
The shape is like that of 2019, but the plat includes more land. The plat depicts the devise of land to Christian Reinhart whose land adjoins that of his brother

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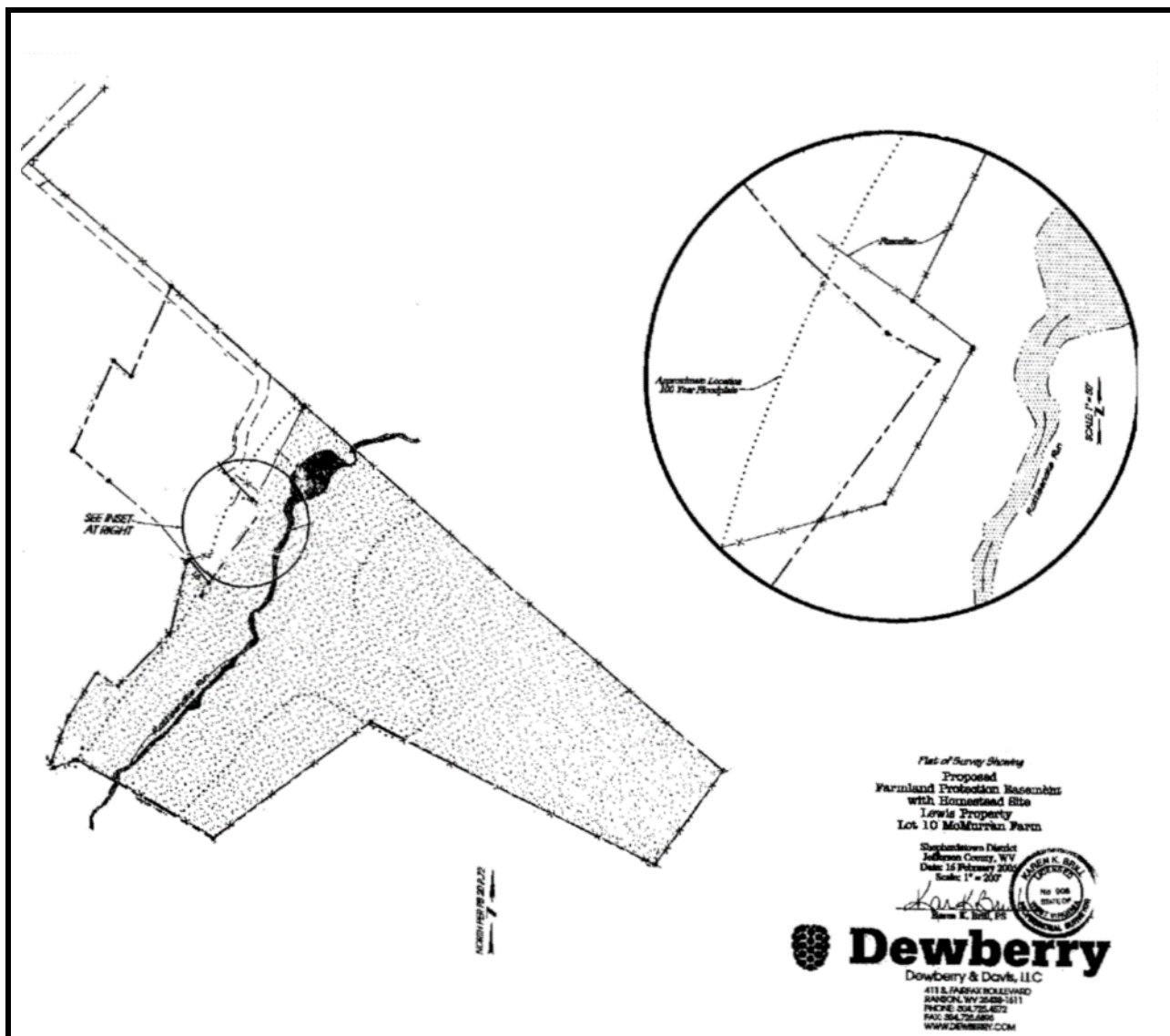


Figure 15a. Plat of Taylor's Meadow Farm in 2019. Plat depicts conservation easement in the shaded area as declared by Eric and Joy Lewis. The easement ensures preservation of the property in perpetuity. Rattlesnake Run is the thick, irregular line that bisects the easement. The thin, greatly irregular line that parallels Rattlesnake Run denotes the proposed 100-year flood plain.

Source: JCDB 1021, p.291

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Figure 15b. Taylor's Meadow, aerial view, 2019 (detail). The image depicts house, bank barn, corncrib, fencing, and Rattlesnake Run. The image, supplied by the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office is purposely "leaf-off" to allow a better view of cultural features (buildings, structures, fences, and roads) and natural features (trees, fields, and Rattlesnake Run that flows northeastward from the middle bottom of the image to the right). The image is not labeled to allow an unimpaired view of cultural and natural features.

Source: WVGISTC Best Leaf-Off Mixed Resolution Imagery

<https://mapwv.gov/shop/viewer/index.html> Long/Lat.77.777695 W, 39.397575 N.

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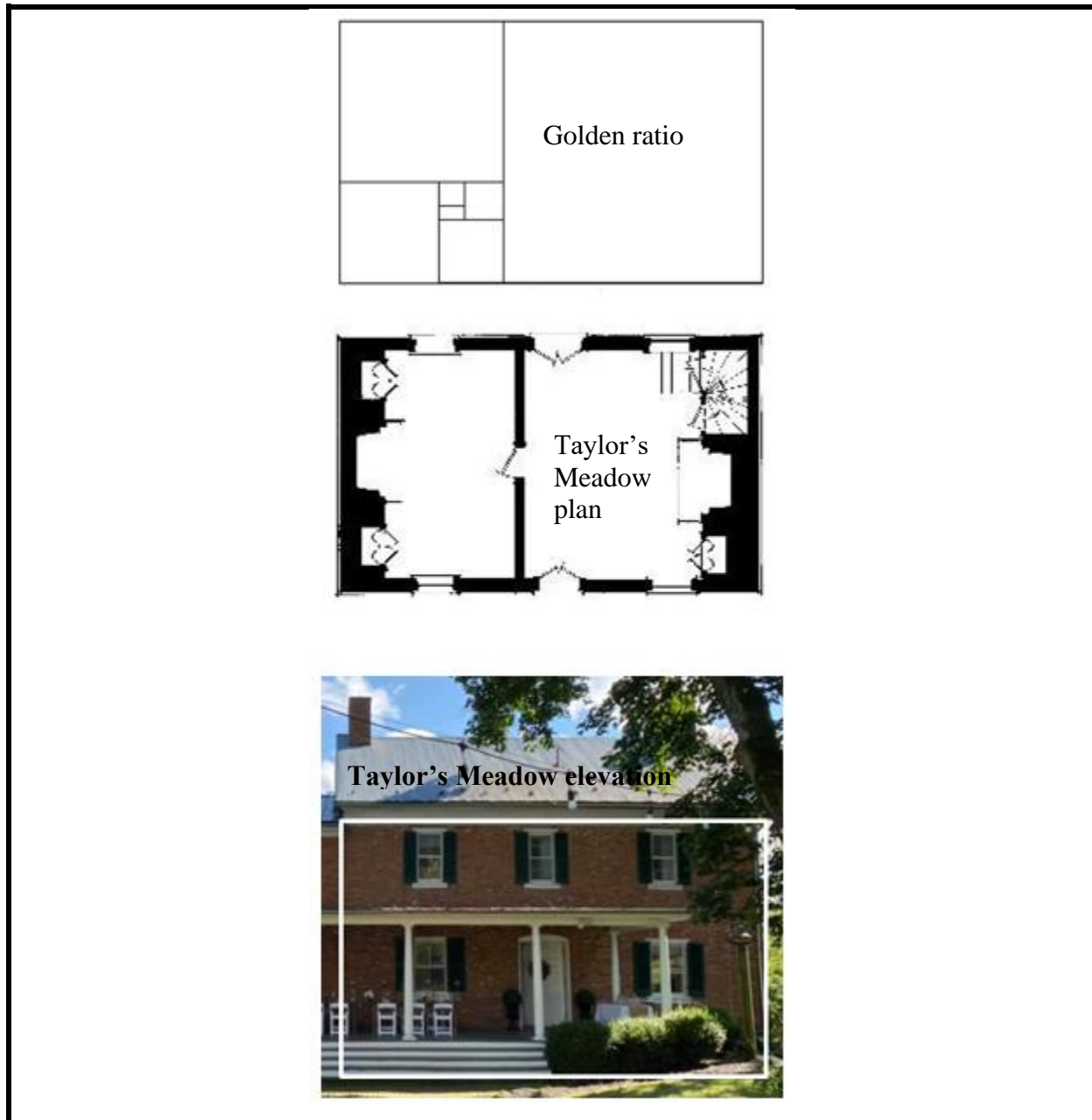


Figure 16. Golden ratio expressed in Taylor's Meadow. A Georgian architectural ideal was one of careful proportion, and the ideal proportion was the golden ratio, or 1:1.618. The ratio can be represented visually many ways. A common example is squares and rectangles as seen in the image at the top. The plan, or footprint, for Taylor's Meadow is below the golden ratio as the middle image. See how well it corresponds to the ideal above. At the bottom the golden ratio is applied to the façade of Taylor's Meadow. If the drawing were fully face on, rather than slightly off center to the left, the golden ratio image would look more accurate.

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Photographs and Photo Log

Name of Property Taylor's Meadow Farm

City or Vicinity Shepherdstown **County** Jefferson **State** West Virginia

Photographer(s) Exteriors: Joy Lewis (Photo 1), John Allen (Photo 3), John Demer (other exteriors); Interiors: Walter Smalling, Jr.

Date(s) Photographed Exteriors: March and July 2019 Interiors: 2009

Photo 1: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0001

Taylor's Meadow House north elevation, view facing south. Photo by Joy Lewis.

Photo 2: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0002

Taylor's Meadow House, 1830 block, east elevation, view facing west.

Photo 3: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0003

Taylor's Meadow House, south elevation, view to north. Photo by John Allen, 2009.

Photo 4: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0004

Taylor's Meadow House west elevation (original block), view facing southeast.

Photo 4a: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0004a

Detail of radiused jack arch window, glazed headers, molded watertable, and uncoursed limestone foundation.

Photo 5: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0005

Corncrib, southeast elevation, view to northwest.

Photo 6: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0006

Corncrib, north elevation, view facing south.

Photo 7: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0007

Bank barn, north elevation, view facing south.

Photo 8: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0008

Bank barn west elevation, view facing east.

Photo 9: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0009

Bank barn (forebay) south elevation, view facing north.

Photo 10: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0010

Springhouse, northeast elevation, view to southwest.

Photo 11: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0011

Springhouse, southeast elevation, view to northwest.

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Photo 12: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0012
Swimming pool, view to southwest.

Photo 13: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0013
Cabana, southeast elevation; view to northwest.

Photo 14: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0014
Concrete-block utility building, southwest elevation, view to northeast.

Photo 15: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0015
Garage, southeast elevation, view to northwest.

Photo 16: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0016
Parents' cottage and parents' garage, north elevation, view to south.

Photo 17: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0017
Metal barn, southeast elevation, view to northwest.

Photo 18: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0018
Stable, east elevation, view to west.

Photo 19: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0019
Hall, 1785 original block, interior partition, facing east.

Photo 20: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0020
Hall, 1785 original block, doorway to 1830 block, facing east.

Photo 21: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0021
Hall, 1785 original block, door with H&L hinges, view to east.

Photo 22: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0022
Hall, 1785 original block, northeast corner stair, view from second floor to first.

Photo 23: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0023
Parlor, 1785 original block, fireplace and cupboard, view facing west.

Photo 24: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0024
Parlor, 1785 original block, paneling detail, view facing west.

Photo 25: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0025
Parlor, 1785 original block, cupboard, view facing west.

Photo 26: WV_Jefferson_County_Taylor's_Meadow_Farm_0026
Parlor, 1785 original block, cupboard detail of keystone and shell.

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Photo 1. Taylor's Meadow House north elevation, 1785 block (right), 1830 block (left), view facing south. Photo by Joy Lewis.



Photo 2. Taylor's Meadow House, 1830 block, east elevation, view facing west.

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Photo 3. Taylor's Meadow House, south elevation, view to north.
Photo by John Allen, 2009.



Photo 4. Taylor's Meadow House west elevation (original block), view facing southeast

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Photo 4a. Detail of radiused jack arch window, glazed headers, molded watertable, and uncoursed limestone foundation.

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Photo 5. Corncrib, southeast elevation facing northwest.



Photo 6. Corncrib, north elevation, view facing south.

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Photo 7. Bank barn, north elevation, view facing south.



Photo 8. Bank barn west elevation, view facing east.

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Photo 9. Bank barn (forebay) south elevation, view facing north.



Photo 10. Springhouse, northeast elevation, view to southwest.

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Photo 11. Springhouse, southeast elevation, view to northwest.



Photo 12. Swimming pool, view to southwest.

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Photo 13. Cabana, southeast elevation; view to northwest.



Photo 14. Concrete-block utility building, southwest elevation, view to northeast.

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Photo 15. Garage, southeast elevation, view to northwest.



Photo 16. Parents' Cottage and Parents' Garage, north elevation, view to south.

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Photo 17. Metal Barn, southeast elevation, view to northwest.



Photo 18. Stable, east elevation, view to west.

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Photo 19. Hall, 1785 original block, interior partition, facing east. Courtesy of John Allen; photo by Walter Smalling, Jr.



Photo 20. Hall, 1785 original block, doorway to 1830 block, facing east. Courtesy of John Allen; photo by Walter Smalling, Jr.

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Photo 21. Hall, 1785 original block, door with H&L hinges, view to east.
Courtesy of John Allen; photo by Walter Smalling, Jr.



Photo 22. Hall, 1785 original block, northeast corner stair, view from second floor to first.
Courtesy of John Allen; photo by Walter Smalling, Jr.

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Photo 23. Parlor, 1785 original block, fireplace and cupboard, view facing west.
Courtesy of John Allen; photo by Walter Smalling, Jr

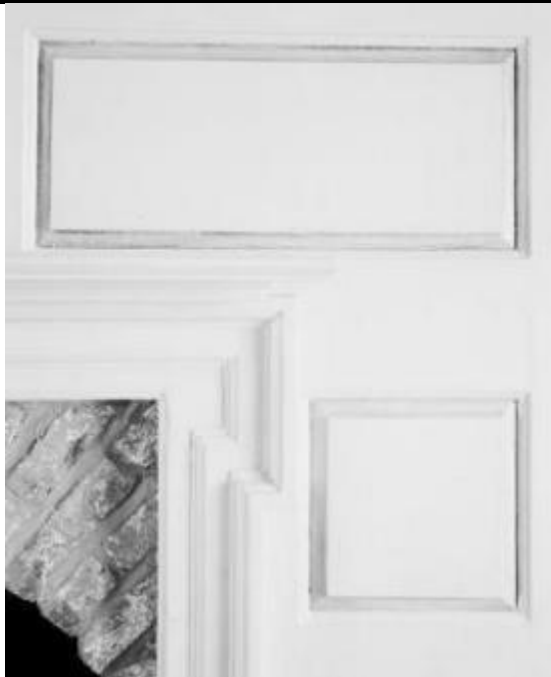


Photo 24. Parlor, 1785 original block, paneling detail, view facing west.
Courtesy of John Allen; photo by Walter Smalling, Jr.

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Photo 25. Parlor, 1785 original block, cupboard, view facing west.
Courtesy of John Allen; photo by Walter Smalling, Jr.



Photo 26. Parlor, 1785 original block, cupboard detail of keystone and shell.
Courtesy of John Allen; photo by Walter Smalling, Jr.

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours

Tier 2 – 120 hours

Tier 3 – 230 hours

Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Amendments to the Nomination

Taylor's Meadow, Jefferson County, West Virginia

This Supplementary Listing Record (SLR) is prepared for the Taylor's Meadow National Register nomination to more explicitly explain Agriculture and Ethnic History/Black applied as areas of significance under Criterion A; to correct the preferred name; and to eliminate the check next to "Not for Publication" in Section 2.

PREFERRED NAME

"Taylor's Meadow" is used throughout the nomination to describe this property, and designating "McMurrin Farm", the name acquired in 2004, is confusing and out of character with the history of the property. **The SHPO agrees that the preferred name should be "Taylor's Meadow".**

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

The nomination does not explain why "Not for Publication" was checked in Section 2, Location, as required by the instructions in Bulletin 16, which state: "any information about the location, boundaries, or character of a property that should be restricted should be compiled on one or more continuation sheets. On the same sheet, explain the reasons for restricting the information" (p. 10). **The check for "Not for Publication" is not explained in the nomination, and the SHPO confirms that the box was checked in error. By this SLR, the check is removed and the property is not considered fragile or in need of protection.**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The property is also nominated in the area of Exploration/Settlement under Criterion A and in the area of Architecture under Criterion C. Only Agriculture and Ethnic History/Black require elaboration in this SLR.

Agriculture

Situated within the fertile Shenandoah Valley, Taylor's Meadow is thought to be one of the earliest examples of a working farm in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Beginning in 1734, the Taylor family began cultivating the land for agricultural output, with a concentration on corn and wheat. Cultivation on and grazing of the land persisted through subsequent owners. Agricultural outbuildings, like the large Sweitzer-type barn and corncrib, speak to the property's evolution in agriculture over time. The 50 acres that remain from the original grants from Royal Governor William Gooch and from Thomas, Lord Fairfax, to Samuel Taylor, John Taylor, and Levi Taylor between 1734 and 1793 reflect the early settlement and agricultural development of the Northern Neck of Virginia (later West Virginia). Prominent landscape features, like Rattlesnake Run, reflect the wealth of natural features that attracted settlement. The run still serves as a natural field divider.

Ethnic Heritage/Black

As with other upper-middle class farming families in Jefferson County, the Taylor and Hess families of Taylor's Meadow were dependent on slave labor to work the fields and to manage the

household. Compared to Jefferson County farms of similar acreage, there was always a smaller presence of enslaved workers at Taylor's Meadow. In what appears to be an unusual occurrence for a farm of this size, Jacob Hess had his three slaves, Moses, Mary and John, freed upon his death in 1848. As part of the greater effort to encourage the resettlement of freed slaves in Africa and in accordance with the 1806 Virginia Manumission Act, Hess offered monetary support for their swift relocation to Liberia, marking the end of an enslaved presence at Taylor's Meadow. Although possibly common, this is an unusual discovery about a property that included enslaved African Americans.

These statements help explain the application of Agriculture and Ethnic Heritage/Black and the significance of the property under Criterion A.

Submitted by
Barbara Wyatt, 4-19-21