

**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: James Osbourn Farm

Other names/site number: Far Away 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: 1901 Trough Road

City or town: Shepherdstown State: WV 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Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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

	<u>2/28/23</u>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

James Osbourn Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson, WV  
County and State

---

**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

James Osbourn Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson, WV  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register           

---

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

DOMESTIC/single dwelling house

DEFENSE/battle site

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

DOMESTIC/single dwelling house

DEFENSE/battle site

James Osbourn Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson, WV  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL/Georgian

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property

**House:** Foundation: Stone; Walls: Brick; Roof: Metal.

**Barn:** Foundation: Stone; Walls: Wood; Roof: Metal.

### 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

The James Osbourn Farm is located at 1901 Trough Road, about three miles southeast of Shepherdstown, West Virginia (Fig. 1). The historic appearance of the 120.63-acre property was one of cleared fields and vistas, a farmhouse, bank barn, and haystacks (Figs. 5, 6). The house is late Colonial/Georgian in style, brick, built about 1848, with a brick addition built about 1856. Just north of the house is a wood corncrib/shed built about 1950, and to the north of it is a bank barn that dates from pre-1862. Finally, a modern all-metal building lies to the north of the bank barn and other buildings. Despite the modern metal utility building, the relative isolation of the farmhouse and dependencies help ensure the site's historic integrity.

---

### Narrative Description

#### Resource 1. Farm fields and Battlefield site. 120.63 acres, contributing site.

Though about 25 acres less than the 145-acre tract James Osbourn owned (a section east of Trough Road, formerly Charlestown Road, has been sold), the entirety of the remaining 120-acre site appears much as it may have in 1862. The tract is planted in soybeans with expansive lawns

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

around the brick farmhouse, bank barn, corn crib/shed, and modern metal utility building. House and dependencies are reached from a gravel entrance drive about 0.75 miles long. The appearance in 2022 is comparable to that of 1862 except that trees now block views to and from Maryland. Also, the addition of a 1950s wood corn crib/shed and a 1980s metal utility building somewhat detract from the historical scene. Utility poles in the field also pose a visual intrusion (Photo 10). Despite these alterations, the parcel still maintains good integrity. The land remains one of gentle rolling fields that slope toward the Potomac River to the north. Fields are currently planted in soybeans. The property is bordered by Trough Road, formerly Charlestown Road, to the east and south, a farm to the west, and a row of dense trees to the north (Fig. 4). Dips and turns in the gravel drive obscure a view of the house and dependencies from Trough Road.

**Resource 2. James Osbourn Farmhouse (ca. 1848, 1856), contributing building.**

Built in 1848, the James Osbourn House is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, Colonial/Georgian style, brick home with a side-gable roof of standing-seam metal, and interior gable-end brick chimneys on an uncoursed limestone foundation (Photo 1). An ell or addition, added ca. 1856, is also of brick with a side-gable roof of standing-seam metal, an interior gable-end brick chimney and an interior slope chimney at the juncture of the ell with the main house (Photo 5). Dimensions of the 1848 house are 38'3" wide and 19'1" deep; of the 1856 ell: 31'4" deep by 24'8" wide. Fenestration is jack-arch brick with double-hung sash.

*East façade*

The east façade is the front of the house and its formal entryway (Photo 1). The side-gable roof is metal, standing seam with interior gable-end stone chimneys. Walls are brick laid in common bond. Foundation is uncoursed limestone. First story openings are two 6/6 wood, double-hung sash flanking a six-panel wood entry door, above which is a four-pane transom light. Green louvered shutters flank each window. Three second-story windows are above the entrance doorway and windows on the first story and match them in size and appearance. Jack arch lintels top each opening. A brick walkway extends from the gravel drive to three brick steps and a brick entryway.

*North façade*

The north façade consists of two sections (Photos 2, 3). To the left in Photo 2 is the gable end of the original 1848 house consisting of brick, laid common bond, on the first and second stories. Two 2/2, wooden, fixed sash windows are in the upper ½ story. On the second story is embedded an iron cannonball, presumably incurred during the Battle of Shepherdstown (Photo 2). To the right in Photo 3 is an historical two-story porch, modernized in the 1990s. The first story is enclosed by painted wood siding with a sliding door flanked on the left by three joined 2/2 sash windows and on the right by two joined 2/2 sash windows. To the right is a single 6/6 sash window. On the second story is an open porch with a single 2/2 sash window to the left of a screened door. To the right is a room enclosed with wood siding and a single 6/6 sash window. Above the room is a skylight.

Historically (before modern alterations in the 1990s) the two-story porch on the ell would have been open on the first and second stories. A covered first-story porch would have allowed

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

protection from rain and snow. The first-story covered porch would have been a suitable location for stacking firewood for easy access in cold, snowy weather. Historically (before modern alterations in the 1990s), a second-story porch served as a place to sleep in hot weather. In short, the two-story porch is historical (dating to 1856) with modern alterations (dating to the 1990s). Photo 17 depicts how the view from the historical porch would have appeared in 1856 looking north (and ignoring the 1950s corn crib and shed). Alterations to the porch in the 1990s are thus not detrimental to the 1856 addition of an ell and its two-story porches to the historical house.

### *West façade*

The north façade consists of two sections. To the right in Photo 4 is the 2-1/2 story gable end of the 1856 brick addition laid in common bond. On the first story of the addition is a modern three-pane picture window with a single fixed center pane flanked by single-pane casement windows. Above the window are vertical bricks on end suggesting the window is a later modification. In the half-story above the second are two 2/2, wooden, fixed sash windows. To the east (left in Photo 4) is the north façade of the 1848 house. Its wall is brick, laid in common bond. On the first story is a 6/6 wooden sash window with a brick, jack-arch lintel. Above it on the second story is a matching 6/6 wooden sash window with a brick, jack-arch lintel.

### *South façade*

The west façade consists of the original 1848 house (right in Photo 5), with brick laid in common bond, facing gable end and interior gable end chimney. On the first story is a 6/6 double-hung wooden sash window to the left of center and a matching window above. In the half-story above the second story are two 2/2, wooden, fixed sash windows. The western portion of the façade is the 1856 addition with a side-gabled, standing seam metal roof, an interior slope chimney of brick, and a gable-ended chimney of brick. Fenestration on the first story consists of a door to the west (left) and two 6/6 wooden sash windows to the east (right). On the second story is a 6/6 wooden sash window above the doorway and a 6/6 wooden sash window above the middle window below. Jack arch lintels top each opening. Space above the first story window is brick with no evidence of a window.

### *Interiors*

Photos 11 through 17 illustrate how interiors have been updated with modern heating, air conditioning, lighting, and closets. No character-defining features remain on interior rooms. Original mantels are non-descript.

### **Resource 3. Bank Barn (ca. pre-1862), contributing structure.**

North of the house is a bank barn that measures 56'3" wide by 34'10" deep, including an overhang of eight feet on the south side forebay (Photo 7). The barn consists of boards nailed vertically, a side-gabled standing seam metal roof, and a foundation of uncoursed limestone. Fixed, louvered window openings on the east, south and west sides provide ventilation. Shallow triangular pediments top window openings. The south-sided forebay has a wide opening to access stalls. The date "circa pre-1862" refers to an image of the barn in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in 1862 (Fig. 5) that supports the existence of a barn.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

**Resource 4. Corncrib/shed (ca. 1950s), non-contributing structure.**

Between the house and barn is a 1950s corncrib/shed measuring 48'6" wide by 26'2" deep (Photo 6). The corncrib/shed consists of dressed boards nailed vertically, a side-gabled standing seam metal roof, and a foundation of concrete block. The roof consists of two portions: a gable roof over the corncrib and a shed roof over the adjoining shed. Entrances to the corncrib and shed are from the south façade.

**Resource 5. Metal utility building (ca. 1980s), non-contributing resource.**

North of the bank barn is a large, single story, metal utility building measuring 48'0" wide by 50'0" deep (Photo 9). It has a shallow, metal gable roof atop shallow, slanted metal sides.

James Osbourn Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson, WV  
County and State

---

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad 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

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

MILITARY

---



James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

**Period of Significance**

1848-1876

**Significant Dates**

1848

1862

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

None

**Cultural Affiliation**

None

**Architect/Builder**

None

**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.)

The James Osbourn Farm is locally significant under Criterion A: Agriculture, for its role as a farmstead from the construction of the main house in 1848 by James Osbourn until his death in 1876. The James Osbourn Farm is also locally significant under Criterion A: Military, as a major contributing site of the Battle of Shepherdstown on September 19 and 20, 1862. Finally, the James Osbourn Farm is locally significant under Criterion C: Architecture, as an example of late Colonial/Georgian architecture in Jefferson County.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Agriculture: The James Osbourn Farm**

Executors of the estate of Henry Boteler (1779-1836) tallied he had amassed a tract of 628 acres on the Potomac River about two miles downriver from Shepherdstown.<sup>1</sup> His holdings provided grain for "Boteler's Mill," his grist mill on the Potomac. Toward the end of his career he realized he could make more money by adapting his mill to grind cement instead of grain. Boteler made the transition from flour to cement and transported the product in barrels across the river to be loaded on canal boats for shipment on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. The canal led to Washington, D.C. and Alexandria, Virginia, two cities experiencing a building boom needing

<sup>1</sup> Jefferson County Deed Book 28:413.

**James Osbourn Farm**

Name of Property

**Jefferson, WV**

County and State

cement for houses, stores, offices, and government buildings. Cement manufacture required limestone and quantities of wood. Limestone cliffs at Boteler’s Ford provided lime, and forests surrounding the area were clear-cut for wood to burn to charcoal to calcify the stone. Boteler’s Cement Mill proved a financial success.

After Henry Boteler died in 1836, executors divided his land among his children (Fig. 7). They allotted an unimproved bucolic tract of land to daughter Priscilla (1819-1898), then age 17 and a minor. By 1840 she reached her majority and married Charles Gibson (1815-1876), a successful auctioneer in Baltimore. The Gibsons continued to live in Baltimore and raised their family there. Thus they had no need for farmland in Jefferson County and, in 1846, sold a 145-acre tract to James Osbourn for \$5,818.<sup>2</sup>

In 1848, James Osbourn (1815-1876), his wife Margaret (1819-1864), and their three children – George, Jacob, and Mary – built their brick home, the first building recorded on the property.<sup>3</sup> The Federal Census for 1850 listed family members and their ages as James (34), Margaret (30), George (6), Jacob (4), and Mary (not yet 1). The Federal Slave Census for 1850 listed two additional members of the Osbourn household: a female, age 50, and another female, age 11. Their race is listed as “Black.” For 1860, the Federal Slave Census listed two enslaved persons at the James Osbourn farm: a male, age 60 and a female, age 50. These enslaved persons likely assisted the Osbourn household rather than provided heavy manual labor in fields. The census does not cite individual names of the enslaved and nothing else seems to be known about them.

Federal Agricultural Censuses for 1850, 1860, and 1870 for the James Osbourn farm help indicate the scale of agricultural activities on the property:

**Table 1. James Osbourn Farm Agricultural Output**

Year	Improved land	Unimproved land	Cash value of land \$	Farm implement \$	Value wages paid \$	Horses	Milk cows	Other cattle	Swine	Livestock value \$	Wheat (Bushels)	Indian corn (Bushels)	Wool in pounds	Irish potatoes (Bshls.)	Butter, pounds	Hay, tons	Clover seed, bshls.	Homemade manfs. \$	Animals slaughtered \$
1850	120	25	6500	100	n/a	4	2	0	14	352	400	200	40	150	100	25	n/a	n/a	113
1860	154	18	10000	275	n/a	5	5	0	24	790	700	600	75	75	250	0	0	0	185
1870	167	30	9850	200	700	7	4	0	18	900	1100	500	65	20	200	33	8	0	570

<sup>2</sup> Jefferson County Deed Book 28:413.

<sup>3</sup> Jefferson County Land Book 1849.21. Located on <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKJ-TQLZ-9?i=375&cat=59773>. Accessed August 10, 2022. Under “Explanations...” is notation “added \$727 for new house.” This implies the construction date of the new house was the previous year, or 1848.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

James Osbourn increased the land he tilled and grazed from 127 acres in 1850 to 167 acres in 1870. He probably rented the additional acreage because county property records do not show him buying additional land. The proportional increase in the value of his land from \$6,500 in 1850 to \$9,850 in 1870 indicates an increase in the value of county farmland and the Osbourn farm through dedicated husbandry and stewardship. In 1870 Osbourn paid \$700 in wages to hire additional workers. Osbourn needed them to nearly triple the quantities of livestock, wheat, and corn the farm produced in 1870 compared to 1850. In 1870 for the first time, Osbourn harvested clover seed. Clover was an important crop to rejuvenate soil depleted of nitrogen and to attract bees and butterflies to pollinate fruit trees and other crops. Agricultural censuses for 1850, 1860, and 1870 lacked the detail of the 1880 census.

Margaret Osbourn died in 1864. In 1876, despite the farm's apparent success in 1870, James died in debt. The *Shepherdstown Register* described the property to be sold at auction as:

...a FINE TRACT OF LIMESTONE LAND..., 145 ACRES, more or less....

The improvements are good, comprising a good BRICK HOUSE with wing – also good Stable, Corn House, and Granary, and other necessary Outbuildings. Also a fine ORCHARD of improved varieties of fruit, and an abundance of good water for family purposes.<sup>4</sup>

The ad substantiated the presence of a wing or addition. A distinct butting of brick where the ell joins the main house suggests the ell was added after the construction of the main house. If the wing was added at the same time of the original house, there would be no need for a mason to have a hard vertical joint. The ad made no mention of a “barn” *per se*. Instead it referenced a stable, corn house, granary, and other unnamed outbuildings – perhaps a chicken coop and pig pen. The ad touted a fine orchard, a necessity on any farm. Apples provided a fresh fruit that could be pressed for cider that in turn could be fermented to an alcoholic beverage or allowed to turn to vinegar, all providing a necessary dose of vitamin C. Apples could be preserved through canning or drying and drawn on throughout winter months. The James Osbourn farm was an attractive tract of land.

Trustees sold the farm to George Fulk (1819-1887) for \$4,960, the amount to be paid in three installments of \$1,643.33.<sup>5</sup> Fulk never lived at the Osbourn farm, and instead, continued to live at Swan Pond, his farm in Scrabble, Berkeley County, West Virginia. When he died in 1877 he left the Osbourn farm to his daughter, Susan Myers, more commonly known as “Fannie.”<sup>6</sup> Fannie Myers (1864-1927) had married William Clayton “W.C.” Myers (1863-1933). In 1911 a complication arose: George Fulk had never made the final payment of \$1,643.33. Fannie and W. C. paid it and gained clear title to their family farm.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Shepherdstown Register*, July 14, 1877, p.4.

<sup>5</sup> Jefferson County Deed Book E:474.

<sup>6</sup> Jefferson County Will Book 23:265.

<sup>7</sup> Jefferson County Deed Book 11:415.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

W. C. has a dubious recognition. In 1884, the *Shepherdstown Register* reported that W. C.:

saw an immense bird flying around a pond on his premises, and went for his gun. The bird alighted on the bank of the pond, and Mr. Myers got close enough to give it a load of shot, killing it instantly. The strange bird proved to be a large blue heron, measuring six feet two inches from tip to tip of its wings. It was considerably out of its latitude when it got in this region.<sup>8</sup>

The account reveals that the property once held a pond, possibly dug by James Osbourn. Human-made ponds provided water for stock, and if deep and year-round, possibly fish (trout) for a family. That W.C. raised prize cattle is attested by an entry in the *American Short-Horn Herd Book* that states W. C. bred “FIFTH DUKE OF DARK HOLLOW,” a roan, with the entry further accounting for its lineage.<sup>9</sup>

In 1932 the Great Depression struck the Osbourn farm as it would many others. In debt, W.C. Myers, now a widower, lost his farm to creditors. At auction the successful bidder was his son, Thomas C. Myers (1889-1978), who paid \$5,103.83 to redeem the family farm.<sup>10</sup> Thomas and his wife, Hazel Bell Myers (1897-1969), owned the property until 1967 when they sold it to Lyle Mader (1919-2005) and Twylah Mader (1915-2013) for \$45,000.<sup>11</sup> Next owners were Dwayne and Alice Masemer who bought the property in 1987,<sup>12</sup> and in 2004, sold it to its current owners, Far Away Farm, LLC.<sup>13</sup>

Far Away Farm, LLC, leases out the majority of the farm for agriculture; in 2022 more than 80 acres were planted in soybeans.

From James Osbourn in 1850 to Thomas Myers in 1950, federal population censuses listed owners of the property as “farmers.” As well, federal agricultural censuses from 1850, 1860, and 1870 cited specific crops grown, the quantities of their harvest, and animals raised and processed. This data helps support the farm’s nomination, under local significance, to the National Register under Criterion A: Agriculture.

### **Architecture: the James Osbourn House**

Land records do not reveal any habitation on the property before James and Margaret Osbourn built their brick house in 1848. The Jefferson County Land Tax record for 1849 lists an increase

---

<sup>8</sup> *Shepherdstown Register*, July 25, 1884, p. 4.

<sup>9</sup> *The American Short-Horn Herd Book, containing Pedigrees of Short-Horn Cattle*, vol. 45 (Springfield, IL: American Short-Horn Breeders’ Association, 1900), 115.

<sup>10</sup> Jefferson County Deed Book 137:561.

<sup>11</sup> Jefferson County Deed Book 289:188.

<sup>12</sup> Jefferson County Deed Book 580:485.

<sup>13</sup> Jefferson County Deed Book 992:223.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

in the appraised value of the property of \$728 “for a new house.”<sup>14</sup> As defined in the descriptive terms of Virginia and Lee McAlester, the house is a simple classic side-gable, two-and-a-half story Colonial/Georgian design with a rear-facing L footprint, uncoursed stone foundation, three-rank form (three-bay), brick walls laid in common bond, 6/6 sash windows arranged in bilateral symmetry, jack-arch lintels, interior brick gable-end chimneys, and a standing seam metal roof.<sup>15</sup> The McAlesters would further define the house style as distinctly Colonial/Georgian 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 façade.”<sup>16</sup>

Unfortunately, neither the builder nor architect/designer of the James Osbourn house are known. No record survives that James Osbourn traveled any distance from Jefferson County; therefore inspiration for his new brick house likely did not result from a distant trip. But the Osbourn house resembles other houses that architectural historian John Allen describes in Chapter One of *Uncommon Vernacular*, his compendium of early houses in Jefferson County.<sup>17</sup> For Allen, three-bay, center hall, houses are more common to southern Jefferson County than northern. Three-bay, center hall houses can perhaps take inspiration from *Young Carpenter’s Assistant* (1805) a how-to guide written by Philadelphia builder-architect Owen Biddle (1774-1805) (Fig. 3).<sup>18</sup>

Instead, inspiration for the James Osbourn house could have come from other houses nearby and throughout the county. The three-bay, two-story, side-gable with interior gable-end chimneys form of the James Osbourn house resembles the following Jefferson County houses in shape if not in material: Richard Morgan House (1765); Taylor’s Meadow (1775); Van Swearingen House (1790); George Reynolds House (1812); Hefflebower Mill House (1826); Western View (James Hite House 1831); George Moler House (1834); and the Isaac Clymer House (1835). The Isaac Clymer house, built of stone in 1835, uses a hall-parlor floorplan unlike that of the James Osbourn house which is center hall. Regardless, the Isaac Clymer and James Osbourn houses demonstrate prolonged use of an efficient Colonial/Georgian design though built of different materials and with different interior layouts.

In 1856 the Jefferson County Land Tax records show an increase in the appraised value of buildings on the Osbourn Farm from \$750 to \$1,200. Unfortunately, the appraiser listed no reason for the appraisal increase by \$450 or 60 percent. Because the auction notice in 1877 describes a brick house “with wing,” it is possible that James and Margaret Osbourn built the wing in 1856. What also is possible is that the increased appraised value represents the wing and a major outbuilding such as a stable or barn. We will probably never know the reason for the dramatic increase in the property’s appraised value.

---

<sup>14</sup> Jefferson County Land Book 1849:21.

<sup>15</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005), 20-60. Architectural historian David Taylor described the form of the Osbourn house as “I-house” in his West Virginia Historic Property Inventory Form JF-0943.

<sup>16</sup> McAlesters, *Field Guide to American Houses*, 139.

<sup>17</sup> John C. Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular: Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia 1735-1835*, (Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University Press, 2011), 20-33.

<sup>18</sup> Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular*, 90-95.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

In design and materials, the James Osbourn house is Colonial/Georgian, but it differs from other local Colonial/Georgian houses in significant ways. A nearby house to compare with the James Osbourn house is Taylor's Meadow, also a Colonial Georgian, 2-1/2 story house built of brick by John Taylor in 1775.<sup>19</sup> For Taylor's Meadow, the unusual size of brick and the quantity of glazed headers suggest bricks were hand molded and fired on the property. Hewn floor joists were dressed on site to fit the foundation. Windows were individually custom-cut. In short, construction materials were modified to fit John Taylor's house plan in 1775. The overall house plan determined sizes and shapes of materials used. Builders modified materials to meet needs of the plan.

In 1848, by contrast, the James Osbourn house was built with commercially-available building materials and other materials produced offsite. Where wooden beams for joists at Taylor's Meadow were hewn and trimmed on site, wood joists for the James Osbourn site were sawn to standard dimensions. Osbourn's builder used standard dimension lumber for joists in Osbourn's house. Bricks at Taylor's Meadow were hand-made. By contrast, James Osbourn's builder bought bricks in quantity from suppliers in Shepherdstown or Charles Town. The brick mason may also have made bricks by machine on site. Machines made bricks of uniform size, color, and consistency.

In 1848, for example, in an ad in the *Spirit of Jefferson*, the Foundry, Machine, and Stove Works in Hagerstown, Maryland, advertised "Smedley's Brick Press."<sup>20</sup> Jeffery Smedley touted that his brick machine could make 5,000 bricks a day.<sup>21</sup> Brick masons could rely on the size, shape, and color of bricks available to them. Mortar for masonry was available less than a half mile from the Boteler Cement Mill. As ads in local papers will attest, in 1848 builders could buy window sash, doors, trim, and hardware nearby – all ready to install. Thus, the same economies of mass production of muskets in use a few miles away by the Harpers Ferry Armory could be seen in the erection of James and Margaret Osbourn's house. Both represent the efficient use of standard, interchangeable parts.

Other sources influencing design were builder price guides that detailed the cost of individual components of a building and their cost of assembly. Although focused on buildings in New England, James Gallier's *American Builders' Price Book and Estimator* (1836) was likely similar to others in New York and Pennsylvania.<sup>22</sup> A detailed list of component prices and cost

---

<sup>19</sup> "Taylor's Meadow," National Register #[100006390](#), entered in the National Register of Historic Places April 21, 2021.

<sup>20</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, June 27, 1848, p. 4.

<sup>21</sup> "Important to Brick Makers," *The Golden Rule and Odd Fellows' Family Companion*, vol. 6, no. 9, February 27, 1848, p. 160.

<sup>22</sup> James Gallier, *American Builders' Price Book and Estimator* (Boston: M. Burns, 1836). See also: Elizabeth H. Temkin, *Annotated Bibliography of Builders' Rule Books Published in America* (Washington: National Park Service, typescript, 1975).

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/568aa164c647ad510a0856fc/t/583d1ccb6a49631ee3657189/1480400077155/Builders-Rule-Books-Annotated-Bibliography-posted.pdf>.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

of labor assisted builders and clients by giving both the approximate cost of constructing a building. Builders' price books were a forerunner to builder estimating practices in 2022.

Viewed from the southwest looking to the northeast (and screening the modern addition to the porch), the James Osbourn house is a convincing example of a late adaptation of design in Colonial/Georgian architecture to a rural farm in Jefferson County. When compared to other local Colonial/Georgian houses, the James Osbourn house stands out as an example of innovation in construction planning and estimating.

### **Military: Battle Site**

Civil War armies battled on farms. While fighting occurred in such cities as Richmond, Fredericksburg, Atlanta, and Savannah, many other major battles occurred on rural farms in Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia, Maryland, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania. Sharpsburg, Maryland, is just across the Potomac River from present-day West Virginia. There, at the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, Federals and Confederates fought on farms owned by D. R. Miller, John Otto, Joseph Sherrick, Samuel and Elizabeth Mumma, Henry Piper, Joseph Poffenberger, Philip and Elizabeth Pry, William and Margaret Roulette, and Joshua Newcomer. The National Park Service preserves these farms as part of Antietam National Battlefield.

The Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862 was the single bloodiest day in American history with nearly 23,000 combatants killed or wounded.<sup>23</sup> On September 18, both armies declared an unofficial truce to treat their wounded, bury their dead, and to rest and recover from the exhaustion of the day before.

Confederate General Robert E. Lee decided to withdraw his army across the Potomac River from Maryland to the safety of Virginia, now present-day West Virginia. From there he could either advance north, cross the Potomac again at Williamsport, Maryland, and march into Pennsylvania, or he could travel south into the relative security of the Shenandoah Valley. Either way, first he had to move his army across the Potomac. On September 18, 1862, Lee's ruse was to wait until dark, then quietly march his army three miles south from Sharpsburg. Some Confederates crossed the Potomac at Blackford's Ford to Shepherdstown proper, and the others crossed at Boteler's Ford, about 1.5 miles below Shepherdstown. There they marched up the Charlestown Road that cut through the James Osbourn farm to the safety of high ground. Lee completed his withdrawal with no casualties.

Having moved his army safely across the Potomac from Maryland to present-day West Virginia, Lee needed to protect his rear. Lee did not know whether Federal Major General George McClellan would pursue him into present-day West Virginia to engage in another battle. For protection, Lee set up artillery defenses above Blackford's Ford in Shepherdstown and above

---

<sup>23</sup> Cited by the National Park Service on <https://www.nps.gov/anti/learn/historyculture/casualties.htm>. Exact numbers are impossible to compile, but the figure is gleaned from The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion and the Antietam Battlefield Board.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

Boteler's Ford on the James Osbourn farm downriver from Shepherdstown. At Shepherdstown proper, the greater depth of the river and Confederate artillery served to hold any Federal advance at bay. But Boteler's Ford downriver was shallow and crossed more easily. Here is where the principal Battle of Shepherdstown would occur.

At Boteler's Ford the battle took place in two principal areas. The first adjoined the Potomac River and comprised Boteler's Ford, Charlestown Road, old cement mill, and cliffs on the southern shore of the Potomac River, just north of the James Osbourn farm. The second principal area was the Osbourn farm itself, located on high, cleared ground above the river. The Osbourn farm held strategic and tactical importance. For military leaders, strategic planning entails decisions on big-picture goals. For Lee, protecting his withdrawal to present day West Virginia was a strategic decision. How to carry out a strategic plan required tactical planning, or specific steps to support the operation.

The Charlestown Road ran south from Boteler's Ford. The road cut through the eastern part of the Osbourn farm and made a dogleg turn west at the farm's southern boundary. The road was thus critical for passage from the river to the top of the hill. An army that controlled the Charlestown Road controlled an important passage from Maryland to present-day West Virginia. For Confederates the Charlestown Road led south to the relative safety of Winchester and Staunton, Virginia. Either army, Confederate or Union, needed to hold high ground – the Osbourn farm – to control movement from the Potomac to the Charlestown Road that fed into the Great Valley Road (today's U.S. Route 11) to the lower Shenandoah Valley.

Lee's tactical plans outlined how to protect his withdrawal. To control the Osbourn farm and its high, clear location, on September 19, Lee ordered General Nelson Pendleton, a 53-year-old classmate from West Point, to place 44 guns on high ground above Boteler's Ford pointed toward Maryland and Union artillery. Pendleton's artillery would prevent Federals from crossing the Potomac in pursuit of Confederates. Pendleton placed his artillery on James Osbourn's farm (Fig. 8). Artillery batteries need ammunition – powder and shot – an element of tactical planning. Lee promised ammunition. Artillery battery commanders waited, but the promised ammunition never arrived. In the meantime, Federal artillery began firing from across the river in Maryland. Pendleton panicked. He ordered his men to abandon the 44 Confederate cannon. Federal forces crossed the Potomac and without a fight, quickly captured Confederate artillery on the Osbourn farm.

On hearing news of the loss of his artillery at the Osbourn farm, Lee quickly sent Generals Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and A. P. Hill to recapture the Confederate cannon, now in Federal hands.<sup>24</sup> On the morning of September 20, Hill led Confederates to woods at the west and south ends of the Osbourn farm. Confederates advanced through the woods and opened fire on a relatively small brigade of Federals guarding the captured cannon, commanded by Major Charles Lovell. Vastly outnumbered, Lovell retreated north from the Osbourn farm toward the Potomac

---

<sup>24</sup> James C. Holland, ed., *Military Operations in Jefferson County (Now West Virginia) 1861 – 1865* (Charles Town, WV: Henry Kyd Douglas Camp, No. 199, Sons of Confederate Veterans, 2004), 14-16.



James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

and safety of Federal artillery in Maryland. Though Federals reinforced the beleaguered brigade, they were never able to regain the high ground of the Osbourn farm. Confederate artillery was able to hold Federals at bay while the major part of Lee's army made its way to Martinsburg, Berkeley County, where they rested, bathed in the Opequon Creek, and from Martinsburg eventually traveled south to Winchester, Virginia.

Throughout September 19 and 20, the ensuing Battle of Shepherdstown saw control of the Osbourn farm change between Confederates and Federals. In the aforementioned first area along the Potomac, Federal casualties were especially high. Federal artillery in Maryland mistakenly shelled other Federal soldiers of the 118th Regiment of Pennsylvania who had crossed the Potomac and were scaling cliffs leading to the Osbourn farm. Artillery shelling by both sides was fierce. A shell fired across the Potomac by Federal forces in Maryland is embedded in the north wall of the Osbourn house (Photo 2.). The Osbourn farm proved an important element in strategic and tactical plans especially for Confederates.

As with many other buildings in the Shepherdstown area, the Osbourn farm served as a field hospital for both wounded Federals and Confederates.<sup>25</sup> The *History of the 118th Regiment* recalls an event that includes an implied reference to the Osbourn farm. The surgeon for the 118th Pennsylvania, Dr. Joseph Thomas (no relation to the Confederate general of the same name), treated the wounded in all ways possible: "We washed and bathed their wounds, supplied them with water, and administered a dose of anodyne." While treating soldiers on the Osbourn farm, a heavily-armed Confederate vidette confronted Dr. Thomas and led him and his assistants to the Osbourn house, now occupied by Confederates. There Dr. Thomas found wounded Confederates and wounded Federals congenially cooking a meal of chicken and potatoes. The Confederates explained that they treated any unarmed Federals as brothers and would not harm them. After treating Confederates and Federals, the Confederate vidette provided safe passage for Dr. Thomas to return to his Pennsylvania regiment. With understandable warmth and compassion, Dr. Thomas would recall the story years later, and had it included in the regimental history.<sup>26</sup>

By the end of September 20, Confederates held the high ground on Osbourn farm and had won the Battle of Shepherdstown. But in spite of his army's success at Shepherdstown, Lee realized his army could not attack Pennsylvania. They needed rest. They recuperated in Martinsburg, then withdrew south. Their Federal opponents had been beaten badly at Harpers Ferry ten days earlier. Having been beaten again at Shepherdstown, McClellan did not press a major attack into Virginia at Shepherdstown. On September 22, two days after Federal forces thwarted a Confederate advance north, President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. On November 7, President Lincoln relieved General McClellan of command because McClellan failed to pursue General Lee's retreating army at Antietam and

---

<sup>25</sup> Kevin R. Pawlak, *Shepherdstown in the Civil War: One Vast Confederate Hospital* (Charleston, SC: History Press, 2015).

<sup>26</sup> Thomas A. McGrath, *Shepherdstown: Last Clash of the Antietam Campaign, September 19 and 20, 1862* (Lynchburg, VA: Schroeder Publications, 2007), 178-183; account quoted from Survivors' Association eds., *History of the Corn Exchange Regiment/118<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers* (Philadelphia: J. L. Smith Publishers, 1888), 85, 86.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

Shepherdstown. Major General Ambrose Burnside then rose to command the Union (Federal) army. The Confederate victory resulted in total estimated casualties of 625. A graphic of troop placements is seen in Figure 7. The Battle of Shepherdstown was the bloodiest Civil War battle in West Virginia.

In 2014, a comprehensive assessment by the National Park Service concluded that the Shepherdstown Battlefield is not eligible for inclusion in the National Park System as an independent unit. The rationale, clearly supported, is that the Battle of Shepherdstown does not rise to a sufficient level of national significance. However the report further states:

Public interest in and support for NPS protection of the battlefield is strong, as is evidenced by the existing grassroots efforts to protect the battlefield. The proposed residential development on the 120-acre parcel encompassing the Osbourn Farm has served as a catalyst for much of this community support. The development of this parcel into a residential subdivision would fragment a critical component of the battlefield landscape. If Congress were to authorize a boundary adjustment of Antietam National Battlefield or Harpers Ferry National Historical Park to include the Shepherdstown battlefield it may provide a means to purchase this and other key parcels within the legislated boundary from willing sellers or donors.<sup>27</sup>

The Battle of Shepherdstown is significant on a state and local level. The James Osbourn farm is central to the Battle of Shepherdstown. It is also a good example of a mid-nineteenth century farmstead in the Jefferson County Community. Finally, the 1848 brick farmhouse is an example of late local Colonial/Georgian architecture that represents updated innovation in construction methods and materials. These two additional aspects help support the property's local significance.

### Evaluation of Integrity

With its original house, barn, and surrounding farmland James Osbourn Farm retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Trough Road passes through farmland to reach the drive leading to the farmstead. The farmstead retains the two buildings represented in drawings of 1862, the brick farmhouse and the bank barn (Figs. 5, 6). These two structures retain their significant character-defining features, including windows, doors, brick walls, and limestone foundation. Roofing of the house and bank barn is modern but simulates roofing of the original buildings. Although two twentieth century agricultural buildings are present, they do not appreciably detract from the historic atmosphere of the farm as a whole. The historic character of the James Osbourn Farm complex is clearly recognizable.

---

<sup>27</sup> Section taken verbatim from *Shepherdstown Battlefield/ Special Resource Study/ Boundary Study/ Environmental Assessment* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2014), 38. Although not directly credited, Thomas A. McGrath, Ph.D., is its principal historian and author.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Public Records (available online at the Jefferson County website and FamilySearch.com).

Federal Population Censuses for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880

Federal Slave Population Censuses for 1850 and 1860

Federal Agricultural Censuses, 1850-1880 (captured from microfilm)

Jefferson County Deed Books, Jefferson County, West Virginia

Jefferson County Land Books, Jefferson County, West Virginia

Jefferson County Will Books, Jefferson County, West Virginia

Newspapers (available online through GenealogyBank.com, a subscription service)

*Shepherdstown Register*, Shepherdstown, West Virginia

*Spirit of Jefferson*, Charles Town, West Virginia

### Printed Sources

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

Holland, James C. *Military Operations in Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1861-1865*. Charles Town, WV: Henry Kyd Douglas Camp, No. 199, Sons of Confederate Veterans, 2004.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000.

McGrath, Thomas A. *Shepherdstown: Last Clash of the Antietam Campaign, September 19 and 20, 1862*. Lynchburg, VA: Schroeder Publications, 2007.

Pawlak, Kevin R. *Shepherdstown in the Civil War: One Vast Confederate Hospital*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2015.

Survivors' Association. *History of the Corn Exchange Regiment/118th Pennsylvania Volunteers*. Philadelphia: J. L. Smith, 1888.

---

### **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 # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

James Osbourn Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson, WV  
County and State

**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** 120.63

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:** See Figure 4.

Datum if other than WGS84: WGS84

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Location	Latitude	Longitude
A	39.423953	-77.785747
B	39.420963	-77.781224
C	39.413161	-77.784040
D	39.413561	-77.787210
E	39.416197	-77.787008
F	39.417237	-77.789749

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

Except for two relatively modern outparcels of 23.14 acres and 1.23 acres, the James Osbourn Farm tract is the same tract 145-acre that Henry Boteler devised to his daughter, Priscilla Boteler, in 1837.

From point A at Figure 2, Latitude/Longitude Coordinates, the property line extends south along Trough Road about three-fourths of a mile to point B, where Trough Road doglegs west about one-quarter mile to point C. There the boundary leaves Trough Road and extends north-northwest about one-third mile along the drive to an arbitrary point D, the about one-quarter mile

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

west to an arbitrary point E. Finally the property line extends from point E about one-half mile north to an arbitrary point F. From point F the line extends south where it connects with point A.

One outparcel measures 23.14 acres and in 2022 constitutes the nine-parcel Farview Farm Subdivision. The second outparcel measures 1.23 acres and is at the southwest apex of the parcel.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the 120.63-acre tract represent the remainder of the 145-acre tract that Henry Boteler devised to his daughter, Priscilla.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: John Demer, Compiler

organization: Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

street & number: 116 East Washington Street

city or town: Charles Town state: West Virginia zip code: 25414

e-mail: jdemer@hotmail.com

telephone: (304) 876-6013

date: August 23, 2022

With assistance from Mike Boltz, Martin Burke, Patrick Fuller, Manny Knott, Butch Sanders, and Cody Straley.

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**List of Figures**

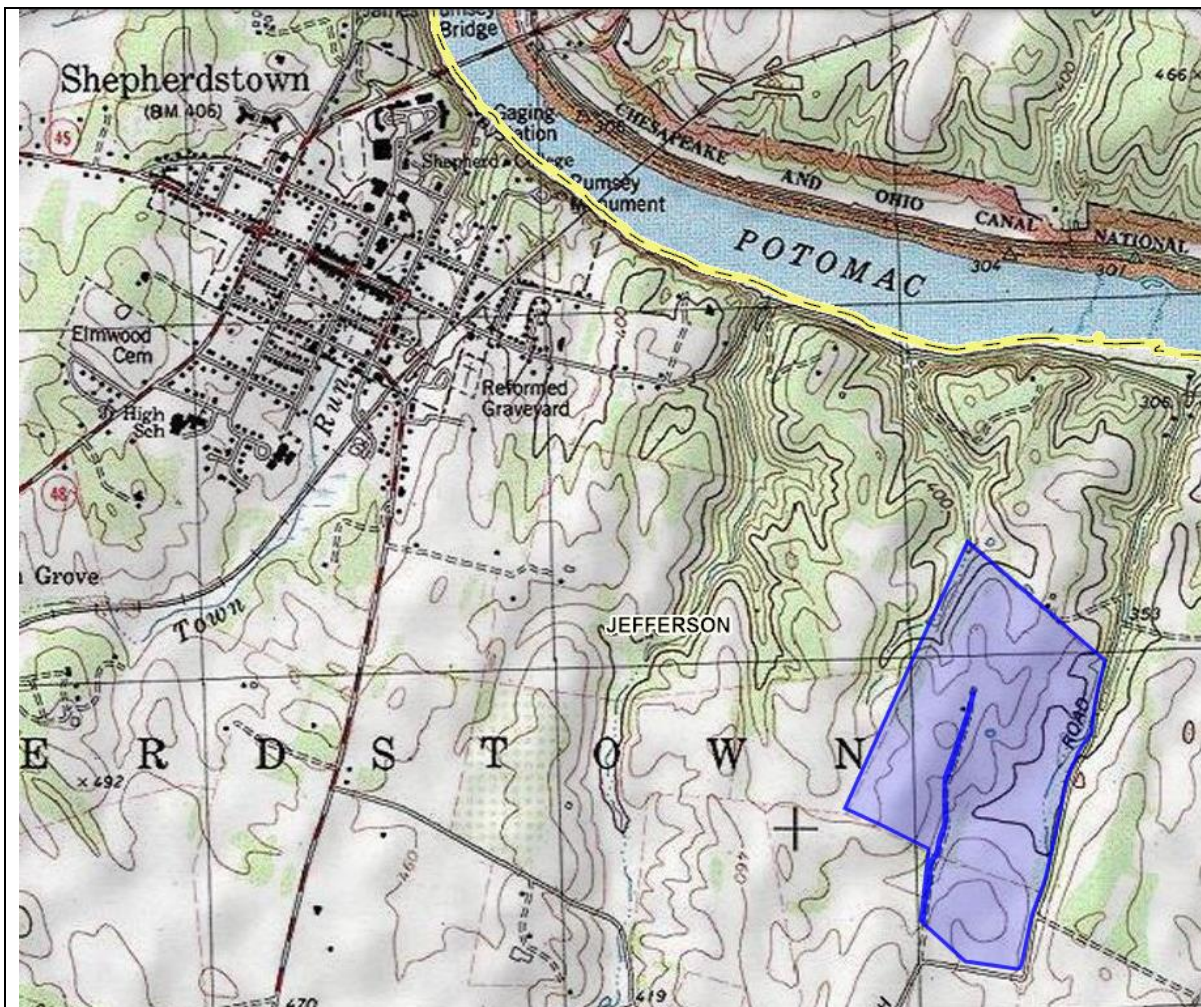
Figure	Description
1	USGS map showing property location.
2a	Sketch map with key to photographs, exterior.
2b	Sketch diagram with key to photographs, interior.
3	Three-bay, center hall house plan and elevation.
4	Latitude/Longitude coordinates.
5	Contemporary Drawing of Battle of Shepherdstown.
6	James Osbourn farm from 118th Pennsylvania Regimental History (1888).
7	Plat devising 141 acres to Elizabeth Boteler (1836).
8	Map of troop positions on September 20, 1862.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State



**Figure 1. USGS map showing property location.** The James Osbourn Farm is located about two miles downriver from Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, West Virginia. The parcel comprises about 120.63 acres and is known in 2022 as Far Away Farm.

Map Source: West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

<https://mapwv.gov/parcel/?pid=19-09-0009-0008-0000>; accessed August 20, 2022.

James Osbourn Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson, WV  
County and State



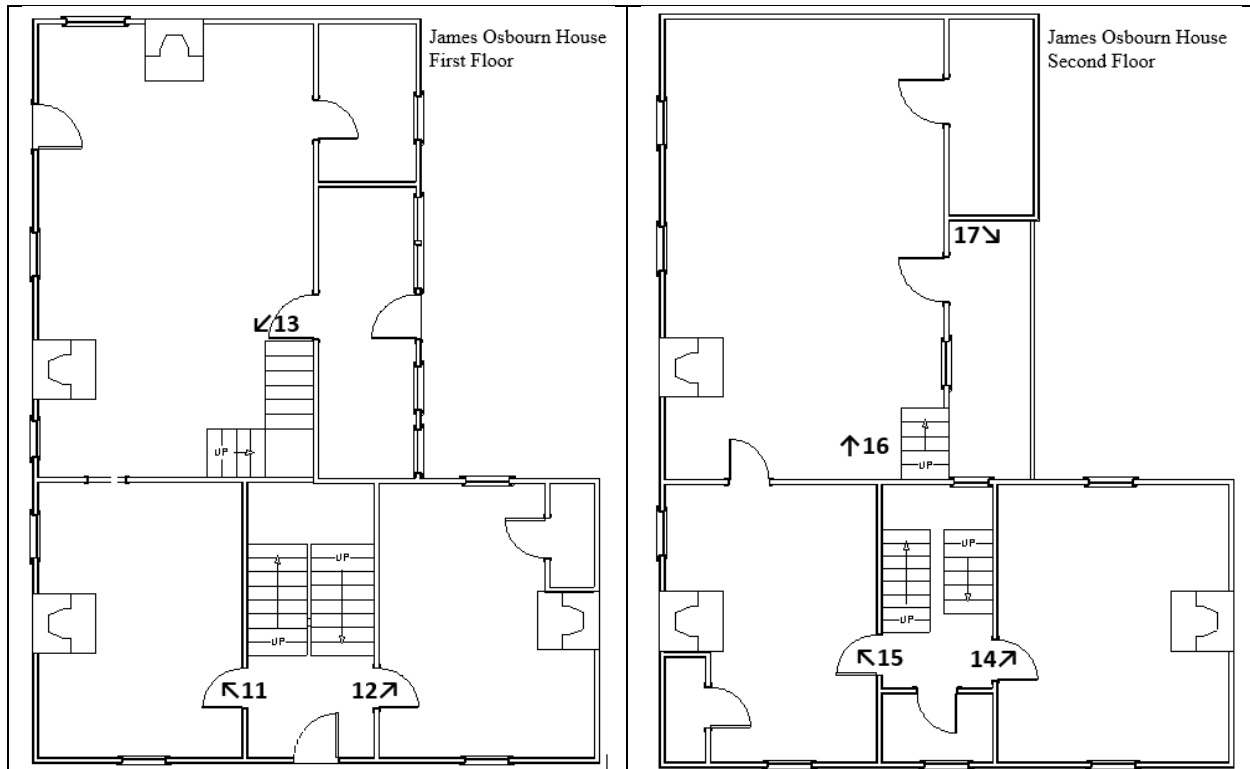
Figure 2a. Sketch Map with key to photographs, exterior.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State



**Figure 2b. Sketch diagram with key to interior photographs. S $\leftrightarrow$ N;  $\downarrow$ E  $\uparrow$ W. Not to scale.** The diagram shows the plan for 2022 with an enclosed first-floor porch and a second-floor bathroom at the northwest corner of the porch. The enclosed porches date to the 1990s. They are alterations to the historical building that do not deter from the building's historical appearance.

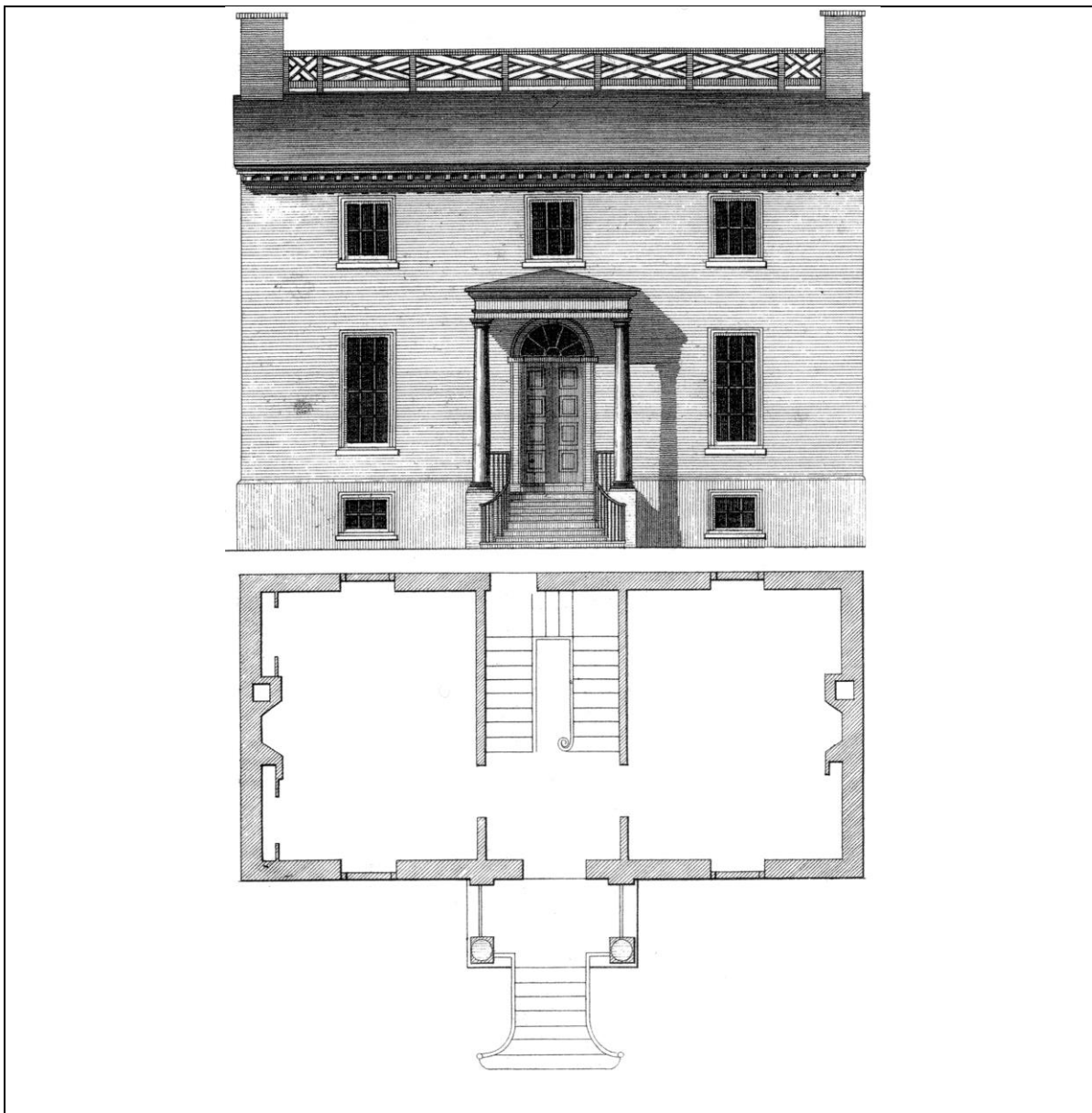


James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State



**Figure 3. Three-bay, center hall house plan and elevation.** The original 1848 James Osbourn house resembled in plan the example Owen Biddle (1774-1806) depicted in plate 36 of his *Young Carpenter's Assistant* (1805). In elevation and embellishment, however, the James Osbourn house is a more plain, Colonial/Georgian style. It also lacks Chinese tracery at the roof ridge, a raised basement, Doric-columned portico, and glazed demi-lune door lintel. Nonetheless, the plan of the James Osbourn house nearly matches that of a house from a design book printed 43 years earlier.

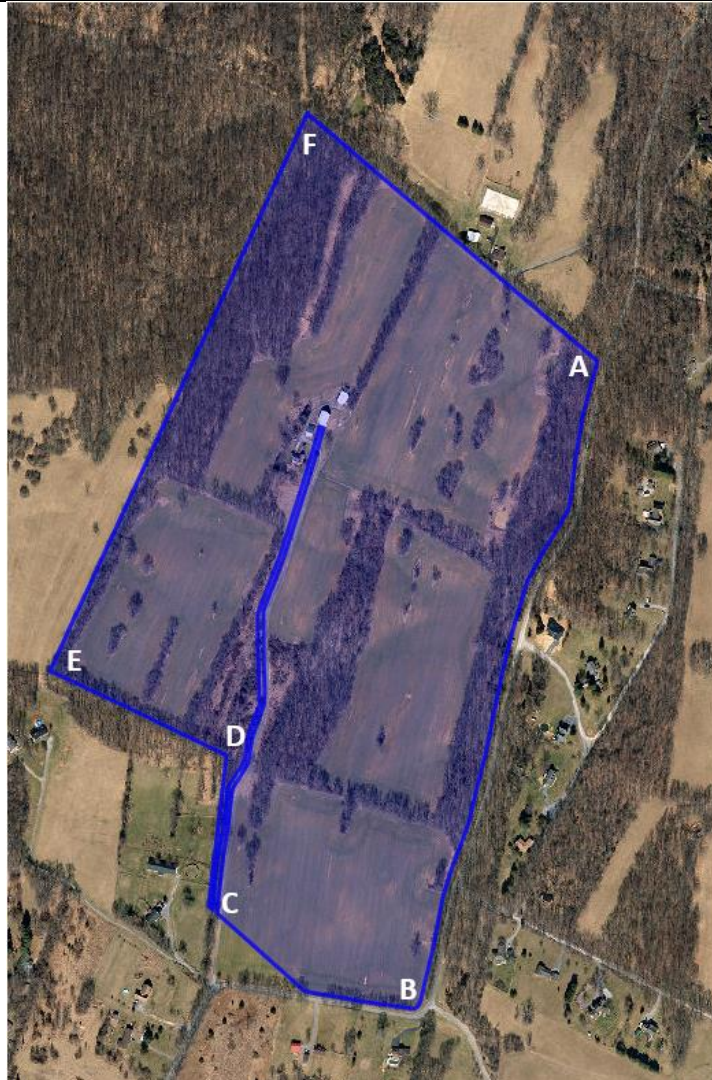
Source: John C. Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular, Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia* (Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University Press, 2011), 90.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State



Location	Latitude	Longitude
A	39.420963	-77.781224
B	39.413161	-77.784040
C	39.413561	-77.787210
D	39.416197	-77.787008
E	39.417237	-77.789749
F	39.423953	-77.785747

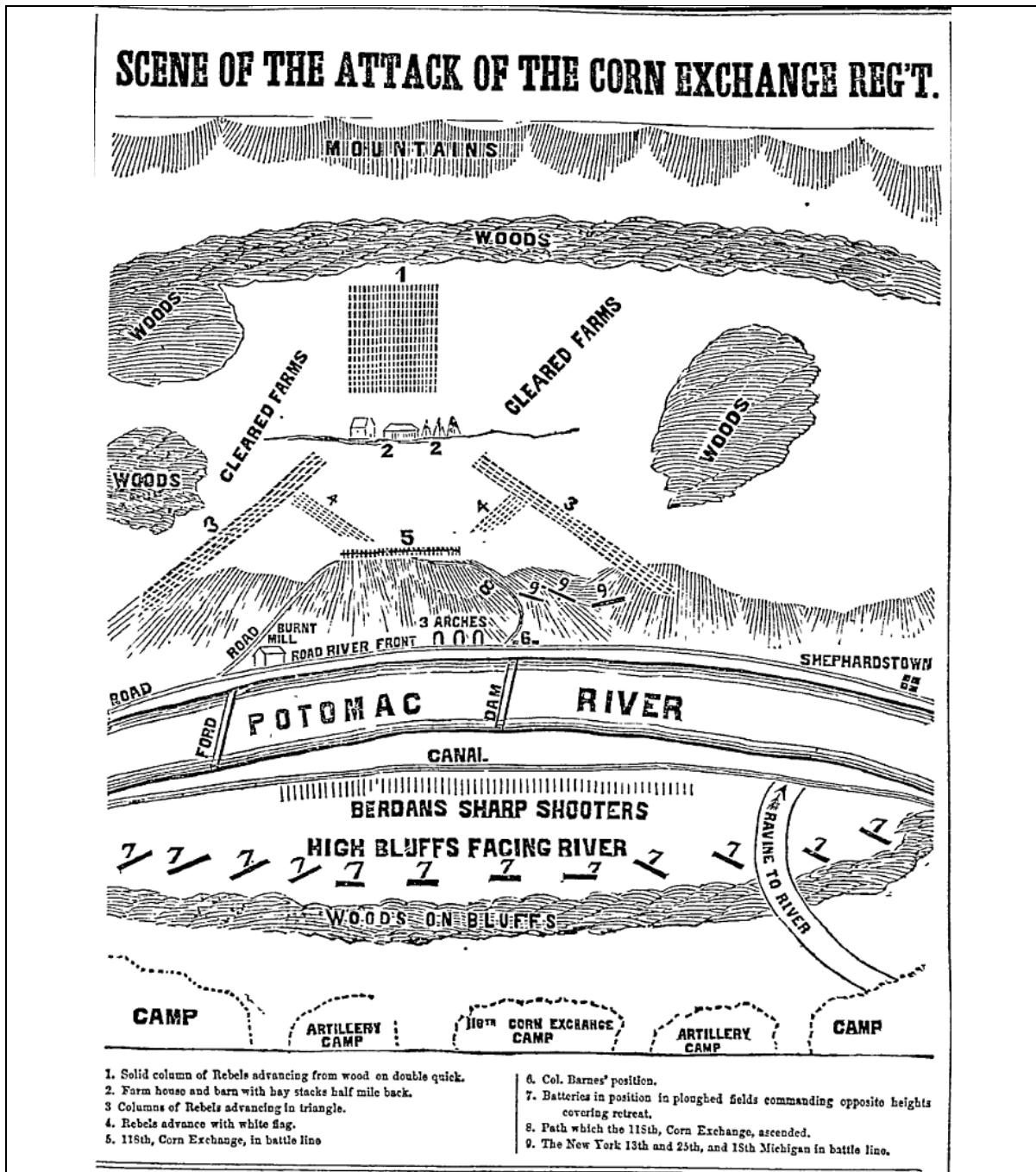
**Figure 4. Latitude/Longitude Coordinates.** See also Verbal Boundary Description, p. 21.

Map Source: West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

<https://mapwv.gov/parcel/?pid=19-09-0009-0008-0000>; accessed August 20, 2022

James Osbourn Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson, WV  
County and State

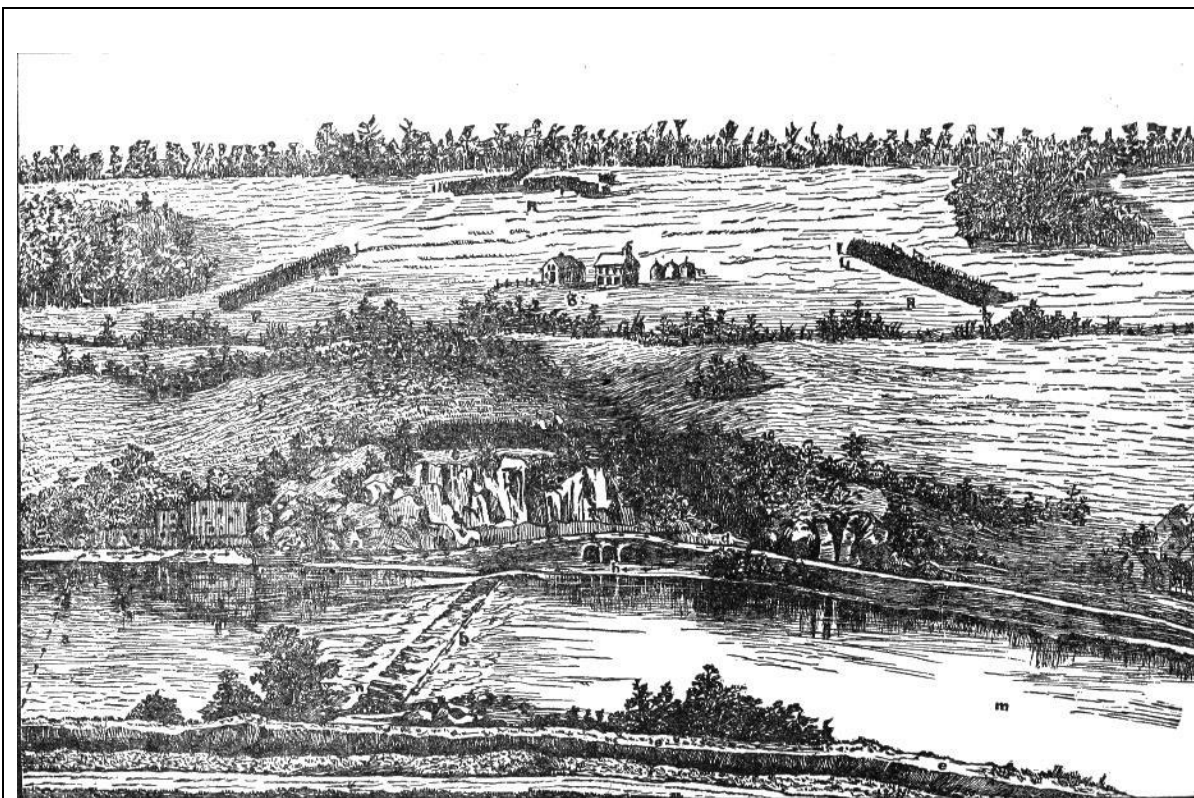


**Figure 5. Contemporary Drawing of Battle of Shepherdstown.** James Osbourn farm seen as image “2” between the two labels “CLEARED FARMS.” A common name for the 118th Pennsylvania Regiment was the “Corn Exchange.” Because officers and men of the regiment suffered so many casualties at the Battle of Shepherdstown – 269 killed or wounded – local interest in their military actions was high.

Source: *Philadelphia Enquirer*, September 27, 1862, p. 1.

James Osbourn Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson, WV  
County and State



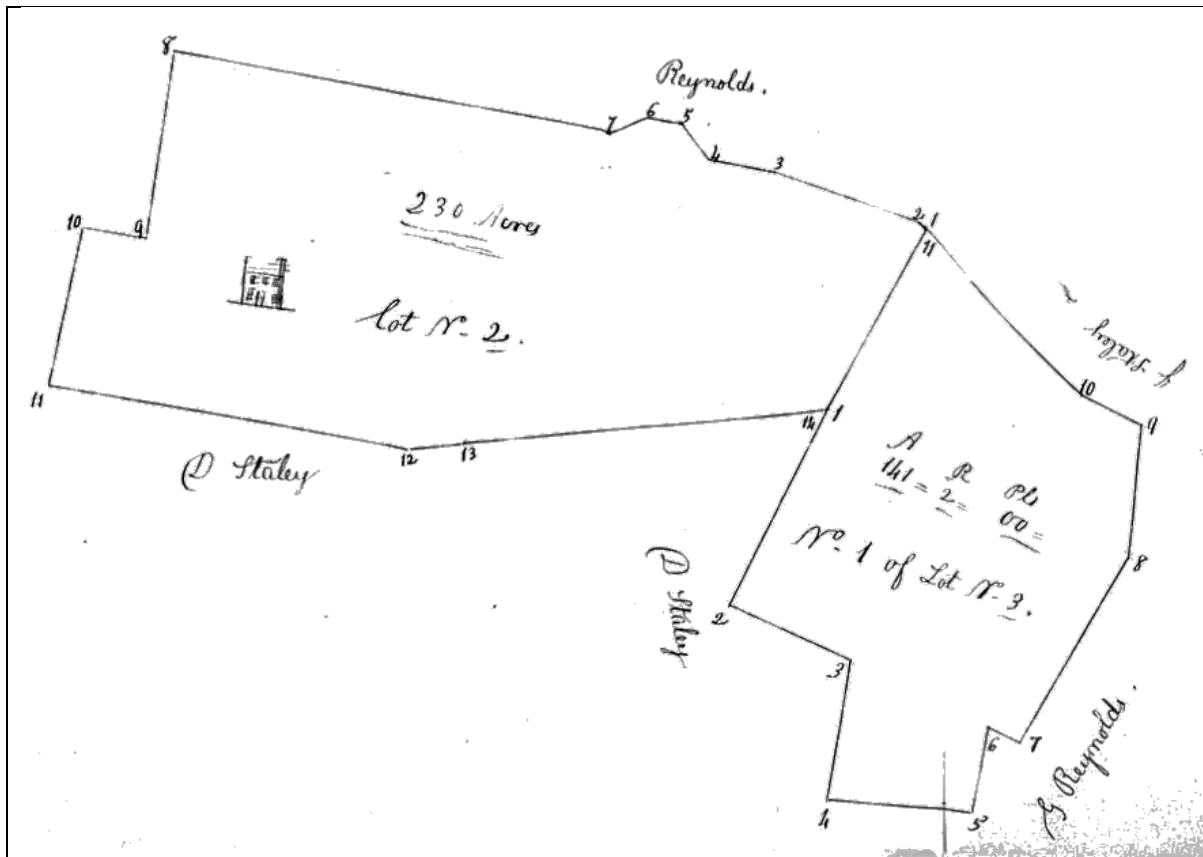
**Figure 6. James Osbourn farm from 118th Pennsylvania Regimental History (1888).** Although this engraving is more detailed than the cut from the after-battle engraving in the *Philadelphia Enquirer* from 1862 (Fig. 5), the barn and house appear transposed. Source: Survivors' Association eds., *History of the Corn Exchange Regiment/118<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers*. (Philadelphia: J. L. Smith Publishers, 1888), 83.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

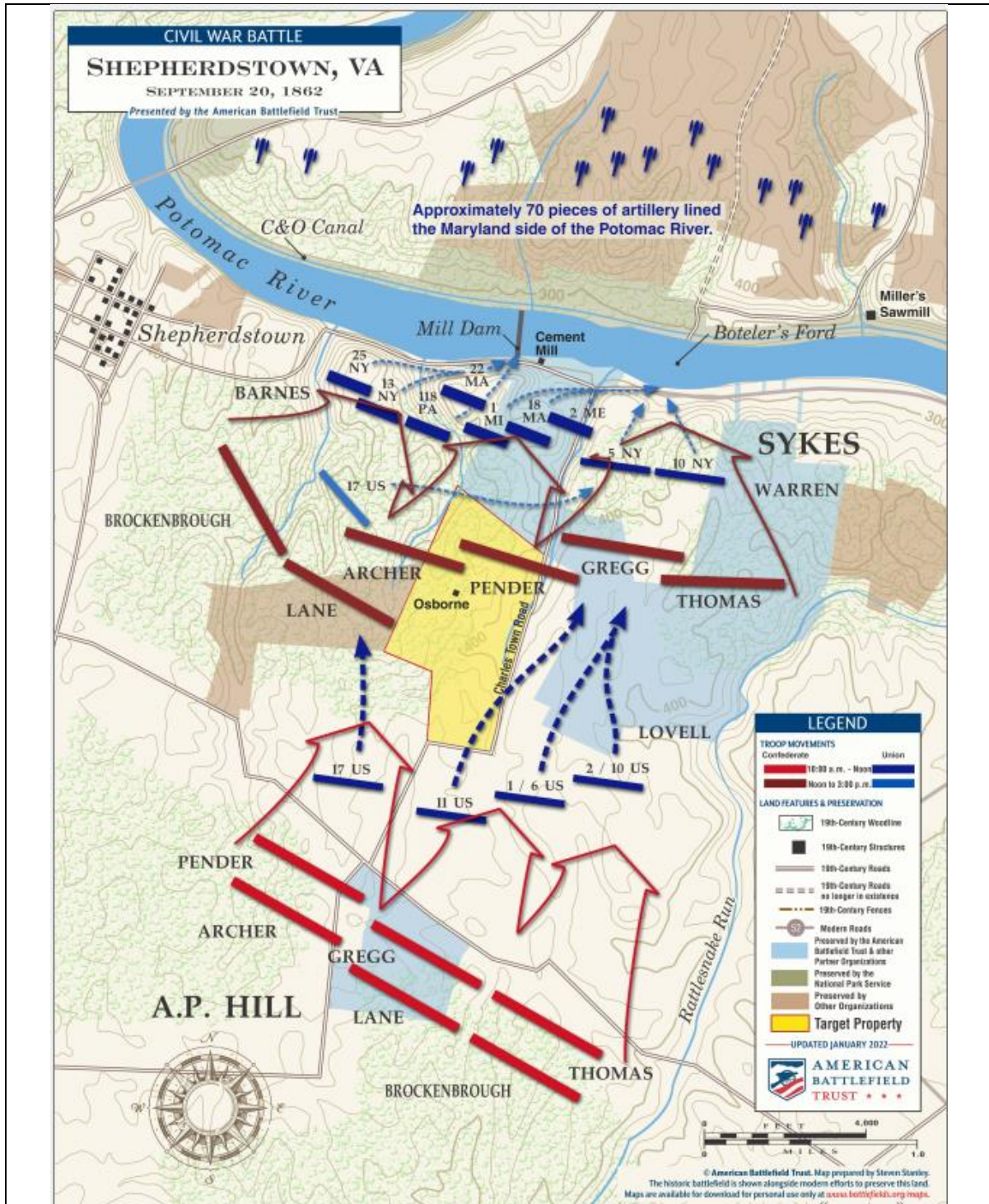
County and State



**Figure 7. Plat devising 141 acres to Elizabeth Boteler (1836).** Henry Boteler divided property among his children. Daughter Priscilla inherited a 141-acre parcel vacant of any buildings or structures. In 1846 Priscilla and her husband, Charles Gibson, sold the land to James and Margaret Osbourn. The Osbourns built a brick house, added an ell, and later built a barn and other outbuildings. The parcel remained as indicated by the 1836 plat until the late 1980s when owners sold 23 acres of outparcels from the right hand side of the plat. Source of plat: Jefferson County Deed Book 27:386.

James Osborn Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson, WV  
County and State



**Figure 8. Map of troop positions on September 20, 1862.** Graphic depicts yet another Civil War battle on someone's farm, that of James and Margaret Osborn, their three children, and two elderly enslaved women. Source: American Battlefield Trust.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. Key all photographs to the sketch maps (Figs, 2a, 2b).

### Photo Log

Name of Property: James Osbourn Farm

City or Vicinity: South of Shepherdstown County: Jefferson State: West Virginia

Photographers: Exteriors: John Demer. Interiors: BrightMLS Realtors

Dates Photographed: Exteriors: August 16, 2022. Interiors: 2004.

Description of Photograph(s), number, and description with direction of camera:

Number	Description/Direction of camera
1 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0001 James Osbourn house east façade. View from east to west.
2 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0002 James Osbourn house, north wall. View northeast to southwest.
3 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0003 James Osbourn house, north façade. View northwest to southeast.
4 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0004 James Osbourn house, west façade. View west to east.
5 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0005 James Osbourn house, south façade. View from south to north.
6 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0006 James Osbourn corncrib/shed, south façade. View east to west.
7 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0007 James Osbourn bank barn, east/south façades. View southeast to northwest.
8 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0008 James Osbourn bank barn, northwest façade. View northwest to southeast.
9 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0009 James Osbourn Metal Utility Building. View southwest to northeast.
10 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0010 James Osbourn Farm Soybeans. View southwest to northeast.
11 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0011 James Osbourn house first-floor front room, south.
12 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0012 James Osbourn house, first-floor front room, north.
13 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0013 James Osbourne house, addition looking south.
14 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0014 James Osbourn house, second floor, north room.
15 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0015 James Osbourn house, first floor, addition looking south.
16 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0016 James Osbourn house, second floor addition looking west.
17 of 17	WV_Jefferson_County_James Osbourn Farm_0017 James Osbourn house, second floor porch, looking north.

**James Osbourn Farm**

Name of Property

**Jefferson, WV**

County and State



**Photo 1. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0001**  
**James Osbourn house east façade. View from east to west.**



**Photo 2. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0002**  
**James Osbourn house, north wall. View northeast to southwest. Arrow points to cannonball embedded during the Battle of Shepherdstown, September 19 and 20, 1862.**



James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State



**Photo 3. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0003**

**James Osbourn house, north façade.** View northwest to southeast. Photo shows the north wall of the 1848 original house and the addition added in 1856, not heavily modified by an enclosed porch on the first story and an enclosed half-porch on the second story.



**Photo 4. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0004.**

**James Osbourn house, west façade.** View west to east. He photo shows the original 1848 house to the left and the west façade of the 1856 addition. The picture window on the first story is modern as are walls and second-floor railing at the center of the image. Historically the addition would have been open on both stories.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State



**Photo 5. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0005**

**James Osbourn house, south façade.** View from south to north. The photo shows the original 1848 house (right) and the 1856 ell (left). The brick and masonry of the ell are so close to the original house that it almost appears the two sections were built at the same time.



**Photo 6. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0006**

**Corncrib/shed, south façade.** View east to west. The cement block foundation and uniform dimensions of the structure's framing and sheathing are clues that indicate it was probably erected in the 1950s or 1960s.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State



**Photo 7. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0007**

**James Osbourn bank barn, east and south facades.** View from southeast to northwest. The heavy timber framing and rough-sawn vertical board sheathing indicate the barn dates to the mid-1800s and is contemporary with the house and ell.



**Photo 8. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0008**

**James Osbourn bank barn, north and west façade.** View from northwest to southeast. Osbourn never had large herds of horses, cattle, or sheep, and a barn of this size probably accommodated all his livestock except for swine that had their own pen.

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State



**Photo 9. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0009**

**James Osbourn Metal Utility Building.** View southwest to northeast. An owner before Far Away Farms, LLC, erected this as a utility building. It is electrified which allows use of power equipment and lights.



**Photo 10. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0010**

**James Osbourn Farm Soybeans.** View southwest to northeast. The expanse of soybeans occupies a former hayfield of James Osbourn. Trees mark the northern boundary of the Osbourn property. Confederates and Federals shared this field with Confederates ultimately holding it. Confederate artillery shelled to the north; Federal artillery responded from across the river.

James Osbourn Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson, WV  
County and State



**Photo 11. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0011  
James Osbourn house first-floor front room, south.**



**Photo 12. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0012  
James Osbourn house, first-floor front room, north.**

**James Osbourn Farm**  
Name of Property

**Jefferson, WV**  
County and State



**Photo 13. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0013**  
**James Osbourne house, addition, looking south.**



**Photo 14. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0014**  
**James Osbourne house, second floor, north room.**

**James Osbourn Farm**

Name of Property

**Jefferson, WV**

County and State



**Photo 15. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0015  
James Osbourn house, first floor, addition looking south.**



**Photo 16. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0016 James Osbourn house,  
second floor addition looking west.**

James Osbourn Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson, WV

County and State



**Photo 17. WV\_Jefferson\_County\_James Osbourn Farm\_0017  
James Osbourn house, second floor porch, looking north.**

**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.