

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: Frederick Rosenberger Farm

Other names/site number: Current name: Brown 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: 494 Harry Shirley Road

City or town: Kearneysville 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Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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>Susan M Purci</u>	<u>D.S.H.P.O</u>	<u>2-26-24</u>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>		<b>Date</b>
<u>West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Arts, Culture and History</u>		
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>		

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ 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>

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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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register None

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural Outbuilding

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural Outbuilding

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

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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: *Foundation:* Uncoursed limestone; *Walls:* uncoursed limestone; *Roofing:* Standing seam 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.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The Brown Farm is a 272-acre complex reached from Harry Shirley Road, in rural Kearneysville/Middleway, West Virginia (Figs 1, 2). An unpaved drive about a mile long leads from Harry Shirley Road to the house, meat house, and other outbuildings (Fig.3). The drive is flat and passes fields under cultivation, grazing pasture for 100 cattle, occasional rock outcrops, and copses of Lebanon cedars. Cattle fence surrounds areas of pasture. The Brown farmhouse is two-and-a-half stories, Colonial/Georgian in plan, rectangular, with a cross-gable roof. Its foundation and walls are uncoursed limestone; its roof is standing-seam metal. Outbuildings include a wood bank barn on a stone foundation, smaller shelters for animals, and equipment sheds. Undeveloped farmland surrounds the farm building complex. Boundaries have remained largely unchanged since the early 1800s (Fig.5).

#### Historical integrity

Except for utility poles, a modern metal pole barn, and motorized farm equipment, the site retains strong historical integrity. The unpaved drive leads to the farm complex, also unpaved. No other houses are within sight of the complex. The house has not been embellished and probably looks much like it did when built. Grazing dairy and beef cattle give the resource the sight, sounds, and smells of an historical farm.

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## **Narrative Description**

### **Resource 1. Rosenberger/Brown Farm, 272 acres, contributing site.**

Though 81 acres larger than in 1809 when William McDonald bought 191 acres, the Rosenberger-Brown Farm retains its core footprint of 1809.<sup>1</sup> The farm today remains planted in wheat and soybeans, and provides considerable acreage to graze 100 prize beef cattle (Photo 1). Although metal cattle fence surrounds acreage for grazing, no other visual intrusions are seen. The site is distinctly rural and quiet. What is present are sounds and smells of a working farm. Corn cribs underscore the need to feed animals in off seasons. Equipment sheds shelter tractors and other farm implements. But for these modern necessities, a barn and other shelters focus on feeding cattle with farm-grown grasses and grains.

### **Resource 2. Rosenberger/Brown Farm house (ca. 1815), contributing building.**

Built ca. 1815 the Rosenberger-Brown house is two-and-one-half-stories and five-bays with a two-bay, two-story addition (Photo 2). Its style is Colonial/Georgian with a side-gable roof of standing-seam metal, and one interior, gable-end stone chimney between the addition and the main house. The house is built on a foundation of uncoursed limestone. Fenestration on the front façade is flat-arch stone lintels with double-hung sash. The main house and addition measure overall 62'-8" wide by 20'-4" deep. (Fig. 4, "A").

#### *East façade*

The east façade is front of the house and location of its principal entryway (Photo 2). The side-gable roof is metal, standing seam with an interior stone chimney on the north end adjoining the addition. An interior stone chimney on the south end collapsed in an earthquake in 2011. Main house walls are laid in uniformly colored uncoursed limestone; addition walls are also uncoursed stone more crudely selected than in the main house. First story openings in the main house are a six-panel centered entry door flanked by two 6/6, wood, double hung sash. Second story openings are five 6/6 double-hung sash windows above openings on the first story. Flat-arch stone lintels support openings. A simple porch supported by two columns covers the main entrance. The addition is two stories. Its entrance is on the end of the north wall. To its left is a single 6/6 double-hung window. On the second story are two 6/6 wood, double-hung sash windows. Stone flat-arch lintels support openings. A metal, standing-seam roof covers the main house and addition.

#### *North façade*

The addition covers the principal part of the north façade (Photo 3). It is laid in uncoursed stone of variegated coloring. Its first story is a solid wall of stone with no openings. In its second story are two evenly-spaced, 6/6 wood, double-hung sash. At the gable story is a single, fixed, four-panel wood window. Extending west from the addition is a modern, single story, concrete block addition housing a kitchen. Its entrance is a single, white, metal door. Its shed roof is metal.

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<sup>1</sup> Owner G.W.Z. Black sold a fifteen-acre parcel April 19, 1906, to N. R. Roberts (Jefferson County Deed Book 113:26).

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*West façade*

The modern, single story, concrete block addition extends across the addition and overlaps the main house (Photo 4). In the single story are two evenly-spaced, 6/6 wood, double-hung sash windows. The shed roof is metal. In the addition are two evenly-spaced 6/6 wood, double-hung sash windows. The addition roof is standing-seam metal with snow birds. The main house is three-bay on first and second stories. Its cellar level is partially exposed. Its centered entrance on the first story is reached by five steps leading to a small, covered, entry porch supported by four columns. A pair of 9/6 wood, double-hung sash flank the entry doorway. On the second story above first story openings below are three evenly-spaced 6/6 wood, double-hung sash windows. Roofing is standing-seam metal.

*South façade*

The south façade is uncoursed limestone from partially-exposed cellar to peak of the gable (Photo 5). Dressed stone form quoins at corners. A small wood batten door leads to the cellar. Above the eave is a four-pane casement window for attic ventilation. Until 2011, a brick interior chimney rose from the peak of the gable, however the earthquake of 2011 destroyed it.

**Resource 3. Rosenberger/Brown Farm Meat House (ca. 1815), contributing building.**

Built at about the same time as the main house, the meat house was a necessity to any farm family and the enslaved or hired servants who lived there. The meat house at the Rosenberger/Brown farm is important for having survived more than 200 years since its construction (Photos 6, 7). The base story is built of thick limestone blocks. The front (and rear) gables are vertical boards, painted. The roof is standing seam metal. A wood, batten door is off center on the front gable. There are no other entries or ventilation ports. Outside dimensions on each side are 14' 3". (Fig. 4, "B").

**Resource 4. Rosenberger/Brown Farm Dairy Barn (ca 1960s), non-contributing building.**

Four generations of Browns have kept a dairy herd at their farm. The dairy barn has a concrete block first story and ell that supports a wood gambrel roof covered with standing seam metal (Photos 8, 18, 19). (Fig. 4, "C").

**Resource 5. Rosenberger/Brown Wooden Equipment Shed (undated), non-contributing building.**

Shelter of any composition is important to protect livestock and equipment (Photo 10). This example helps protect valuable farm equipment from the elements. (Fig. 4, "D").

**Resource 6. Rosenberger/Brown Pair Corn Cribs (undated), non-contributing structures.**

Two wire corn cribs covered with conical metal roofs are common among many farms (Photo 11). Exposed to air, the design allows corn to dry rather than mold and rot. Corn is often fed to beef and swine. Chickens or other poultry can peck for cobs or kernels that drop. (Fig. 4, "E").

**Resource 7. Rosenberger/Brown Old Barn (ca. early 1900s), contributing building.**

Buildings wear out over time or suffer damage from wind, rain, and snow (Photos 12, 16, 17, 18, 19). This gambrel-roofed structure endured the elements and may have been further damaged by an earthquake in 2011. (Fig. 4, "F").

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**Resource 8. Rosenberger/Brown Metal Barn (ca. 1990), non-contributing building.**

This equipment shed represents other metal structures like this that are located throughout the farm (Photo 9). This particular structure shelters hay and fodder, crucial food for animals. Other buildings and structures shelter farm equipment or animals. (Fig. 4, “G”).

**Resource 9. Rosenberger/Brown Metal Barn (ca. 2022), non-contributing building.** This is a new building, constructed in 2022, to house equipment (Photo 13). (Fig. 4, “H”).

**Resource 10. Rosenberger/Brown Metal Barn (ca. 1990), non-contributing building.**

This equipment shed represents other metal structures like this that are located throughout the farm (Photo 14). This particular structure shelters equipment. Others shelter food for livestock. (Fig. 4, “I”).

**Resource 11. Rosenberger/Brown Animal Shelter (ca. 1980), non-contributing building.**

Livestock need shade from hot suns in summer, provided by this simple system of corrugated metal roofing on wooden poles (Photo 15). In footprint this building covers more area than any other building/structure on the farm. Its size is necessary to provide shade for as many as 100 head of cattle. (Fig. 4, “J”).

**Resource 12. Rosenberger/Brown Equipment Shed (ca. 1990), non-contributing building.**

This is an older building, constructed of corrugated metal roofing supported by poles. It shelters equipment (Photo 20). (Fig. 4, “K”).

**Resource 13. Rosenberger/Brown Metal Barn (ca. 1990), non-contributing building.**

This newer, metal barn serves as an adjunct to the older barn just behind it. Here livestock are sheltered from weather extremes in a building that is stronger than the old one it replaced. The Brown family can erect single-story buildings such as these by themselves in less time and at considerably less expense than a comparable cost of a wooden barn (Photo 17). (Fig. 4, “L”).

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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

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Period of Significance**

1809-1951

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

None

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

**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 Rosenberger/Brown Farm is locally significant under *Criterion A: Agriculture*, for its role as a working farm from 1809 when sold by William McDonald to Frederick Rosenberger to 1951 when it was sold to the Brown family, who own it to this day. The Rosenberger/Brown House and meat house are locally significant under *Criterion C: Architecture*, as an example of early Colonial/Georgian architecture in Jefferson County.

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

**A note on acreage:** Acreage is most accurately measured by a surveyor. In 1765 Thomas Rutherford surveyed the core Alexander Fryer tract at 151 acres. To this 151-acre area, owners later sold land to successive Rosenberger/Brown Farm buyers. For clarity, deeded acreage of each sale is noted. With each sale appears a slight increase in acreage. There appears no explanation for this "acreage creep." Perhaps sellers took latitude with the oft used deed term "more or less," to claim they were selling *slightly more* acreage than they owned. Jefferson County surveyor James K. Hendricks surveyed the farm in 1903 (Fig. 8). His survey of 297 acres has been the benchmark measurement for property transfers since 1903, including the most recent. When acreage of deeded outsales has been deducted, current net acreage is 272.

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## **Agriculture and the Rosenberger-Brown Farm**

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 English transplants from eastern Virginia.<sup>2</sup> Prospective landowners in the northern Shenandoah Valley could claim land from one of three sources: (1) a royal patent issued by the colonial governor; (2) powers delegated to Jost Hite (1685-1760), the royal governor's surrogate in the Valley; or (3) a land grant from Thomas, Lord Fairfax (1693-1782), whose family received nearly six million acres from Charles II in 1639.<sup>3</sup> Lawsuits ensued between owners granted land by Lord Fairfax and those who traced their deeds to a royal patent. These lawsuits would not be settled until 1802.<sup>4</sup> No matter the source of grant or patent, the applicant needed a land survey to help validate the property claimed.

Sensing relative peace among Indian nations, Virginia Royal Governor William Gooch pressed for settlements in the northern Shenandoah Valley. He felt settlers and settlements would act as a buffer to renewed encroachments by French and Indians, and eventually provide stability to Virginia's claim to land beyond the Blue Ridge. French and Indian encroachment, however, recurred, and came to a head with the French and Indian Wars beginning in 1756. Battles and contention remained to the late 1750s.

By 1760 relative peace had returned to the Shenandoah Valley. Britain had subdued French advances in the Ohio Valley, and the Treaty of Paris in 1763 would put a temporary end to British-French warfare in the British colonies. But for the northern Shenandoah Valley there was an upside to years of recent warfare: the area had become a commissary to British occupation. Local farmers and millers supplied British garrisons with ample wheat and flour, and others along the Opequon Creek provided beef, pork, butter, and cheese in quantities above those needed locally. Local sales to the British army generated cash, a much-needed medium of exchange, and stimulated agricultural production.

### **Lord Fairfax; Alexander Fryer (also Frier)**

In 1765, Thomas, Lord Fairfax, granted a 151-acre parcel to Alexander Fryer (d. 1793) (Fig. 5).<sup>5</sup> Not much is known about Fryer. After the Revolutionary War, Fryer filed a Revolutionary War

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<sup>2</sup> John C. Allen, Jr., *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia* (Morgantown, W. Va.: West Virginia University Press, 2011), 24.

<sup>3</sup> Warren R. Hofstra, "Land, Ethnicity, and Community at the Opequon Settlement, Virginia, 1730-1800." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 98, no. 3 (1990): 423-448.

<sup>4</sup> Duplicate claims for the same property form the heart of the well-documented Fairfax-Hite lawsuits and are beyond the scope of this study. For simplicity see: Rebecca Ebert, *Finding Your People in the Shenandoah Valley: A Genealogical Guide* (Ashland, WI: Heartland Press, 1988).

<sup>5</sup> Northern Neck Grants M, 1762-1765, p. 426 (Reel 295). In 1789 Virginia Governor Beverley Randolph granted 71 acres to Bryan Bruin. Library of Virginia, Northern Neck Grants U, 1789-1790, p. 289 (Reel 289). The two grants form the core of present-day Rosenberger/Brown Farm.

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Public Service Claim, probably for non-military services rendered or goods supplied.<sup>6</sup> In 1777, Fryer sold the 151-acre parcel to his son, Alexander, Jr.<sup>7</sup> Then, in 1787, Fryer, Jr. and his wife Rebekah, sold their 151-acre parcel to William and Rebekah McDonald.<sup>8</sup> Fryer, Sr., died in 1793. Deeded acreage in 1787: 151.

### **William and Rebekah McDonald (sometimes McDaniel)**

Two other owners sold contiguous parcels to the McDonalds: Carver and Frances Willis, and Nathaniel and Euphemia Manning, both in 1803.<sup>9</sup> In 1809 the McDonalds sold the consolidated tract to Frederick Rosenberger (d. 1823). The parcel comprised 191 deeded acres.<sup>10</sup>

### **Frederick Rosenberger**

In the federal census for 1810 Frederick Rosenberger listed a household size of five. Except for himself, no other household member is detailed by name. He did not own any enslaved persons. But ten years later, the Fourth Census of Occupations and Manufactures of 1820 listed his household size as seven with the addition of an unnamed child and one enslaved person.<sup>11</sup> Rosenberger's occupation was "farmer." A newspaper ad in 1834 announced that Frederick Rosenberger had corralled two stray horses. Their owner could claim them by identification and payment of charges.<sup>12</sup> Rosenberger died in 1834. To his son, David, Rosenberger left his farm and his "negro man, Bob."<sup>13</sup> Deeded acreage in 1809: 191.

### **David Rosenberger**

David Rosenberger (1799-1879) already owned 68 acres he bought in 1825 from neighbor Nicholas Shaull.<sup>14</sup> The federal census for 1830 listed David Rosenberger (1799-1879) as a "farmer" with a household of seven whites and three enslaved. Ten years later, the federal census for 1840 listed David with a household size of seventeen, eleven whites and six enslaved, with four persons engaged in agriculture. The decade of the 1840s proved difficult for David. In 1842 he dissolved a partnership with George McClure, his presumed partner in a grist mill. A year later in early April, a devastating flood damaged his mill on the Opequon. After the flood, he advertised "60 or 70 acres" of prime limestone land "near the Opequon," with about half the acreage in "thriving timber."<sup>15</sup> His land did not sell.

In December, 1843, David and Elizabeth sold their enlarged tract – 68 acres they bought in 1825 and 191 acres David inherited from his father. The buyer was Anthony Rosenberger (1771-1853)

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<sup>6</sup> Anne Waller Reddy, *West Virginia Revolutionary Ancestors whose services were non-military, and whose names, therefore, do not appear in Revolutionary indexes of soldiers and sailors*. (Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Company, 2001), 31.

<sup>7</sup> Berkeley County Deed Book 4:125.

<sup>8</sup> Berkeley County Deed Book 7:220.

<sup>9</sup> Willis: JCDB 1:518; Manning: JCDB 1:521.

<sup>10</sup> JCDB 5:297.

<sup>11</sup> Watts, Donald E., *Fourth Census of the United States of America, 1820: Occupations and Manufactures in Jefferson County, Virginia* (Charles Town, WV: Jefferson County Museum, 2012), 81.

<sup>12</sup> *Virginia Free Press*, June 26, 1834, 4.

<sup>13</sup> Jefferson County Will Book 8:7.

<sup>14</sup> JCDB 13:311.

<sup>15</sup> *Virginia Free Press*, April 20, 1843. 1.

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whose relationship to David is unknown. David and Elizabeth moved to Barbour County in central West Virginia. By the federal census for 1850, the family of David Rosenberger, age 50, had increased. Elizabeth, his wife, had born nine children. His occupation was listed as “agriculture.” The 1860 census listed David as a “miller.” Deeded acreage in 1843: 259; land tax cited: 261 acres.

**Anthony Rosenberger**

Anthony Rosenberger held the farm only four years. In 1847 he sold it to John and Mary Stewart.<sup>16</sup> Deeded acreage in 1847: 265.

**John and Mary Stewart**

John and Mary Stewart owned property adjoining Anthony Rosenberger. The Stewarts held the farm a relatively short time selling it to John W. and Phoebe Grantham in 1851 for \$10,980.<sup>17</sup> Grantham’s ownership is documented on the county map drawn by county surveyor Samuel Howell Brown in 1852 (Fig. 6). Deeded acreage in 1851: 274.

**John W. and Phoebe Grantham**

In what was likely the shortest period of ownership – two years – John W. and Phoebe Grantham sold the tract to Peter Bowers in 1853 for \$12,650.<sup>18</sup> Deeded acreage in 1853: 274.

**Peter Bowers**

Peter Bowers (1820-1881) and his wife Harriet (1831-1868) owned the farm until his death in 1881. Bowers was owner for the last three years of the federal agricultural censuses for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. For 1850, John W. Stewart owned the farm and is documented in the federal agricultural census for that year as is illustrated in Table 1.

**Table 1. Federal Agricultural Censuses for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 for Rosenberger-Brown Farm.**

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	300	190	14000	300	n/a	10	9	11	60	1575	2000	1000	60	0	200	25	0	0	125
1860	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
1870	300	100	24000	500	650	14	9	14	25	2000	1500	800	240	20	1200	30	0	548	3800
1880	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Note: John W. Stewart owned the farm in 1850. For 1860, 1870, and 1880, when owned by Peter Bowers, censuses do not report production. For 1860, the farm is listed to “Charles Bowers.”

<sup>16</sup> JCDB 29:69.  
<sup>17</sup> JCDB 31:418.  
<sup>18</sup> JCDB 34:101.

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Although incomplete for the years 1860 and 1880, the remaining agricultural census data for 1850 and 1870 document the site's use as a farm. Though detailed agricultural data for succeeding decades is not available, Rosenberger-Brown Farm has retained its use as a farm.

The 1883 map of Jefferson County drawn by county surveyor Samuel Howell Brown shows the farm owned by "Peter Bowers Heirs" (Fig. 7). Peter Bowers' heirs tried to sell the tract. They posted ads in local newspapers, but in the end, county commissioners ordered the property sold at auction. Newspapers reported more than one buyer, first Jno. Nicely at \$17.50 an acre,<sup>19</sup> and in 1885, A[ddison] L[ewis] Withers at \$25.50 an acre.<sup>20</sup> A. L. Withers was successful buyer.<sup>21</sup> Deeded acreage in 1885: 301.

### A. L. Withers

By his will, probated in 1903, A. L. Withers (1804-1890) devised the tract to his widow and sons.<sup>22</sup> They, in turn, sold the tract to G. W. Z. Black.<sup>23</sup> The deed included an important, surveyor-generated plat by Jefferson County surveyor James K. Hendricks (Fig. 8). Deeded acreage in 1903: 297 as properly surveyed by James Hendricks.

### G. W. Z. Black

George Washington Ziegler Black (1844-1914) was from Bedford County, south-central Pennsylvania. He was a Union officer in the Civil War and in 1862 was wounded at the Battle of Antietam. In 1869 Black was appointed postmaster for Frederick, Maryland.<sup>24</sup> In 1906, the *Spirit of Jefferson* reported that Black, who now went by his military rank and was known as "Colonel" Black, lived at "Beall-Air," a prominent Jefferson County home near Halltown. In 1906, Black sold 15 acres to Nelson Roberts,<sup>25</sup> and then sold the remaining 282-acre tract to J. W. Harper.<sup>26</sup> Net deeded acreage in 1906 (297 acres less 15 acres): 282.

### J. William Harper

J. William Harper (1867-1934) was a stock farmer, specializing in sheep. In 1909 he owned 100 "Wall's Western Ewes" and bought a "Shropshire ram" to service them.<sup>27</sup> Sheep grazed, provided wool, and could be slaughtered for meat. Later, Harper bought 30 stock steer.<sup>28</sup> But by 1913, Harper was ready to give up farming. He built a brick house in Charles Town,<sup>29</sup> leased his

<sup>19</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, November 10, 1885, 4.

<sup>20</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, December 8, 1885, 4.

<sup>21</sup> JCDB O: 331.

<sup>22</sup> JCWB A:452.

<sup>23</sup> JCDB 93:491.

<sup>24</sup> *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-1971*; Microfilm publication M841, 145 rolls; NAID: [596306](#) and [17027522](#); Records of the Post Office Department, 1773 - 1971, Record Group 28; The National Archives in Washington, D.C. <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/511652:1932>.

<sup>25</sup> JCDB 97:285.

<sup>26</sup> JCDB 98:280.

<sup>27</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, August 10, 1909, 4.

<sup>28</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, August 19, 1913, 6.

<sup>29</sup> *Virginia Free Press*, February 27, 1913, 4.

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farm, and advertised for sale his livestock and farm implements (Fig. 9).<sup>30</sup> His ad conveyed the extent of his farming operation. Horses, mules, cows, sheep, and hogs and a full spectrum of farm implements are all listed in detail. Harper sold his 282-acre farm in 1915 to E. G. Staubs for \$12,500.<sup>31</sup> Deeded acreage: 282.

### **E. G. Staubs**

Born in West Virginia, Edward Gardner Staubs (1874-1949) was a “general farmer” according to the federal census of 1920, living on his farm in Middleway. His World War I draft card lists him of “medium height and build” with “brown hair” and “blue eyes.” He and his wife, Rosa, had eight children ranging in age from three to nineteen. A newspaper article in 1915 describes him as “one of Jefferson County’s young and aggressive farmers,” and one who planned to turn his property into a “Stock Farm.”<sup>32</sup> In 1919 he advertised “100 cords of slab wood” and “200 cords of lap wood” for sale at his farm near Middleway. A livestock sale in 1926 grossed Staubs \$5,181.23 of which nearly “two fifths were in cash.”<sup>33</sup> In 1940, E. G. and his wife, Rosie, sold their farm to Howard W. Wilt and Oscar L. Wilt.<sup>34</sup> Deeded acreage (inferred): 282.

### **Howard William Wilt and Oscar Leo Wilt**

Howard William Wilt (1908-1958) and Oscar Leo Wilt (dates unknown) kept the property only five years, selling it in 1945 to Julian Alfred Everly (1911-1979) and Frances Everly (1909-1998).<sup>35</sup> No sales price given. Deeded acreage: 282.

### **Julian and Frances Everly**

According to the federal census for 1950, the Everlys lived on a farm in Greenaway, Clarke County, Virginia. Greenaway is where Thomas, Lord Fairfax lived when he administered his Northern Neck grants. The Everlys appear to be absentee owners of the Rosenberger/Brown Farm. In 1951 they sold the property to Emerson Brown.<sup>36</sup> Deeded acreage: 282.

### **Emerson Brown and the Brown family**

Emerson Brown was father of successive owner Ronald Brown, grandfather of current owners, Tim and Staci Brown, and great-grandfather of Tim and Staci’s children, Victor and Rylee, who will inherit the farm from their parents.<sup>37</sup>

The federal census for 1950 lists 50-year-old Emerson as a “farmer,” and his 14-year-old son, Ronald, as a “farm helper.” The Brown family have owned and farmed the Rosenberger-Brown Farm more than 70 years and have entered it into the Farmland Protection Program, ensuring it

<sup>30</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, February 25, 1913, 3.

<sup>31</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, August 31, 1915, 6.

<sup>32</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, August 24, 1915, 6.

<sup>33</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, March 17, 1927, 7.

<sup>34</sup> JCDB 151:530. In 1937, for \$1,000, Edgar and Rosie Staubs satisfied an outstanding mortgage made in 1926 by D.W. Staubs described in JCDB 146:9.

<sup>35</sup> JCDB 162: 487.

<sup>36</sup> JCDB 184:76

<sup>37</sup> JCDB 184:76. Also, Bonnie Williamson, “Quiet on the Farm: Deaf couple carries on a family farming tradition” *Spirit of Jefferson*. October 12, 2022. [http://www.spiritofjefferson.com/news/article\\_f33e4576-4a79-11ed-b157-d30b17909730.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](http://www.spiritofjefferson.com/news/article_f33e4576-4a79-11ed-b157-d30b17909730.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share) .

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remains a farm in perpetuity. The Browns conveyed three outsales in 1967, 1985, and 1994, reducing the acreage from 282 to 273.<sup>38</sup> Present deeded acreage (inferred): 273.

### **Architecture and the Rosenberger-Brown Farm**

The Rosenberger/Brown house and meat house are the contributing buildings of this nomination. The house is significant for its Colonial/Georgian style. The meat house, though lacking the style of the house, is an important surviving element of any Jefferson County farm from the 1700s, 1800s, and early 1900s.

#### The Rosenberger/Brown house

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 an uncoursed stone foundation, three-rank form (three-bay), dressed stone walls, 6/6 sash windows arranged in bilateral symmetry, jack-arch lintels, an interior stone gable-end chimney, and a standing seam metal roof.<sup>39</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>40</sup>

Unfortunately, neither the builder nor architect/designer of the Rosenberger/Brown house is known. No record survives that Rosenberger traveled any distance from Jefferson County; therefore inspiration for his new stone house likely did not result from a distant trip. But the Rosenberger/Brown 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>41</sup> For Allen, three-bay and five bay, center hall, houses are more common to southern Jefferson County than northern. Three-bay and five-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. 10).<sup>42</sup>

Instead, inspiration for the Rosenberger house (Fig. 11) could have come from other houses nearby and throughout the county. The five-bay, two-story, side-gable with interior gable-end chimneys form of the Rosenberger house resembles other neighboring Jefferson County houses in form and material: the Michael Shaull House (ca. 1815), and the Nicholas Shaull House (ca. 1816, Fig. 12). Allen posits that these three houses shared the same builder and were built at about the same time. Precisely when the stone house was built is unknown. Architectural historian John Allen places the date ca. 1815. The addition, however, appears to have been added later.

<sup>38</sup> (1967), 1 acre, JCDB 289:95. (1985), 6.3 acres, JCDB 546:147. (1994), 2 acres JCDB 1076:182.

<sup>39</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005), 20-60.

<sup>40</sup> McAlesters, *Field Guide to American Houses*, 139.

<sup>41</sup> Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular*, 20-33.

<sup>42</sup> Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular*, 90-95.

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Each of the three center hallways reflects the personal preference of its owner on location of the stairway. The Rosenberger/Brown stairway, a “closed winder stairway,” ascends as a dogleg perpendicular to its hallway. Both the Nicholas Shaul and Michael Shaul stairways ascend parallel to their center hallways. Stairway locations of the three properties point to the adaptability of a center hallway in a Colonial/Georgian plan illustrated by Owen Biddle.

Dates of construction are difficult to pinpoint. Three sources from the 1700s sometimes offer clues. The *1774 List of Tithables*, oldest printed reference to early property owners in Berkeley County, does not reference Alexander Fryer, probably because records for the district where he lived are missing.<sup>43</sup> Likewise, the *Jonathan Clark Notebook*, compiled in 1786, does not mention a “Fryer” (or any other variant of the name).<sup>44</sup> The remaining 1700s source, the *1798 House and Slave Tax*, also does not describe buildings of any owner before Frederick Rosenberger.<sup>45</sup>

More documentation to dates of construction may be available in land tax records. Prior to 1820, Jefferson County Land Tax records do not separate assessments of land and buildings. After 1820 they do. In 1821 the land tax record assessed Frederick Rosenberger with buildings valued at \$1,500 and 192 acres of land valued at \$3,300, for which Rosenberger paid \$4.32 in property taxes. In 1825 the same appraisal resulted in taxes of \$3.84; in 1835 that amount increased to \$5.27. The increase in 1835 may have resulted when David Rosenberger inherited the farm from his father and his land was reappraised.

David Rosenberger owned land in addition to what he inherited from his father. The land tax entry for 1842 lists David as owning 261 acres, “land transferred from George Reynolds” and adds, “allowed \$538 added for new house.” The entry suggests that the addition to the Rosenberger house occurred in 1842. In style and construction this makes sense. The stone is less carefully chosen for color and is not dressed. Lintels are uncoursed stone and not flat-arch as in the main house. No other dwelling has survived that appears to be a house built in 1842.

### The Meat House

The only other surviving early building is the meat house. Before refrigeration, the importance of a meat house can be summarized in the couplet, “No meat/No eat.” A meat house, sometimes called a smokehouse, preserved mostly hams and bacon, but also beef and venison, to feed farm families throughout times when fresh meat was not available. Referencing *Virginia Housewife*, published in 1824, architectural historian John Allen described how owners bled and butchered a cut of meat, rubbed it with salt, salt-peter, and brown sugar, then hung it in their meat house to

<sup>43</sup> William H. Rice, *The 1774 List of Tithables and Wheel Carriages in Berkeley County, Virginia* (McClain Printing Company, 2006).

<sup>44</sup> Peggy Shomo Joyner, “Jonathan Clark Notebook,” in *Abstracts of Virginia’s Northern Neck Land Warrants & Surveys, 1697-1784, Hampshire, Berkeley, Loudoun, Fairfax, King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland, and Lancaster Counties*, vol. 4 (Portsmouth, Va.: New Papyrus Publishing, 1987).

<sup>45</sup> Don C. Wood, *1798 House Tax and Slave Tax of Berkeley County, Virginia* (Martinsburg, W. Va.: Berkeley County Historical Society, 2003).



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cure.<sup>46</sup> Cuts were “hung” to allow air circulation and to keep meat away from rodents. Small vent holes facilitated air circulation. Stout doors and locks helped deter thievery.

The Rosenberger/Brown meat house is one-story, uncoursed limestone with vertical wood gables, and covered with a metal standing-seam roof (Fig. 13). Its doorway is in the gable-end façade. Architectural historian Allen describes the Rosenberger/Brown entry as an “off-center doorway.” As Jonathan Clark did not describe the meat house in 1786, its construction probably postdates 1786. There are no openings for air circulation and to keep the interior temperature more constant for curing.

The meat house is an important legacy to food preservation in Jefferson County from its settlement to the late 1800s. Though relatively small in size it played a major role in ensuring farm families were fed in off-harvest months with plentiful, high-calorie food to help sustain the hard physical work they performed. Farm families perform the same hard physical work today, but fortunately modern food preservation assists them.

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<sup>46</sup> Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular*, 129, referencing Mary Randolph, *The Virginia Housewife, or Methodical Cook* (New York: Dover Publications, 1993, first edition 1824), 48-50.

Rosenberger-Brown Farm  
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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

**Public Records** available on line directly or through FamilySearch.org

Berkeley County, VA and WV, Deeds and Wills

Jefferson County, VA and WV, Deeds and Wills

**Newspaper accounts** available through GenealogyBank (subscription)

*Farmers Repository* (Charles Town, WV)

*Shepherdstown Register* (Shepherdstown, WV)

*Spirit of Jefferson* (Charles Town, WV)

*Virginia Free Press* (Charles Town, WV)

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Watts, Donald E. *Fourth Census of the United States of America, 1820: Occupations and Manufactures in Jefferson County, Virginia*. Charles Town, West Virginia: Jefferson County Museum, 2012.

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

**Acreeage of Property** 272 \_\_\_\_\_

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	39.342523	-77.970602
B	39.340166	-77.964851
C	39.333262	-77.967684
D	39.332731	-77.965280
E	39.328847	-77.967040
F	39.328880	-77.967212
G	39.324465	-77.971417
H	39.324598	-77.971932
I	39.323303	-77.973220
J	39.323436	-77.973520
K	39.322008	-77.974722

Point	Latitude	Longitude
L	39.322573	-77.976095
M	39.323071	-77.975838
N	39.323403	-77.976353
O	39.322872	-77.976739
P	39.323635	-77.978026
Q	39.324764	-77.977425
R	39.324897	-77.978112
S	39.335435	-77.971505
T	39.335121	-77.970516
U	39.337942	-77.968499
V	39.338241	-77.969615

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

The Rosenberger/Brown Farm is a 272-acre, more-narrow-than-wide, polygon extending from Harry Shirley Road slightly northeast to adjoin other land bound properties. Its only access is from Harry Shirley Road that starts off the Leetown Road (WV Route 1) near Middleway, West Virginia. Small outparcels sold by George Washington Ziegler Brown in the early 1900s cut into its extremities. See Figure 8, "Plat of deed from Withers to Black (1903)."

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

Boundaries selected represent the entirety of the nomination and are close to boundaries of the original land grants

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: John Demer, Compiler  
organization: Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission  
street & number: P.O. Box 23  
city or town: Charles Town state: WV zip code: 25414  
e-mail: jdemer@hotmail.com  
telephone: 304-876-6013  
date: November 19, 2023

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

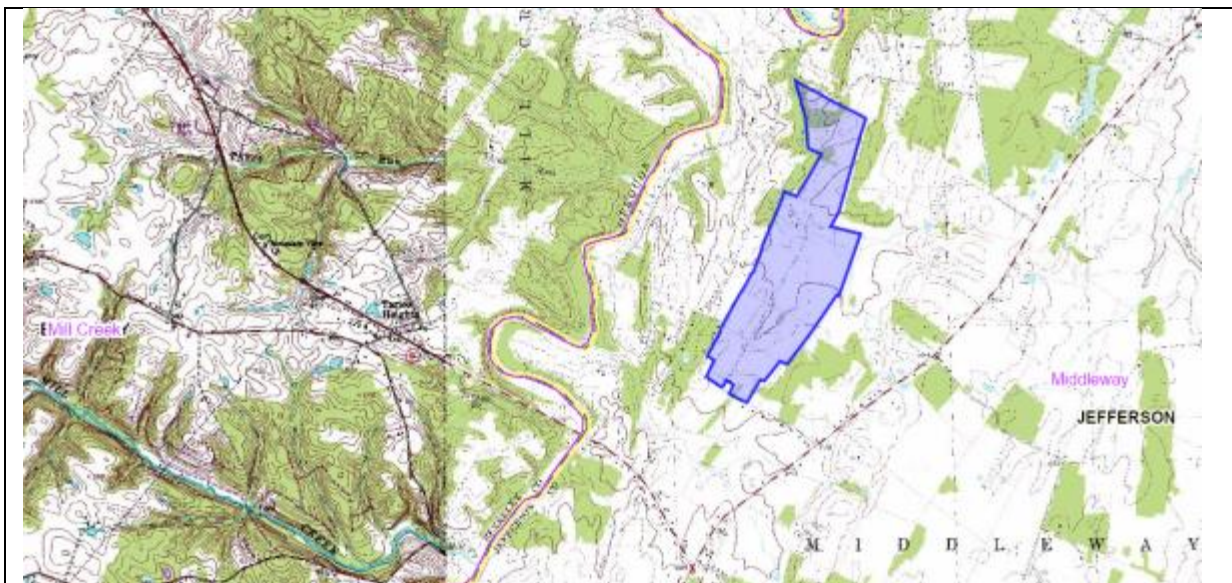
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any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

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**Table of figures**

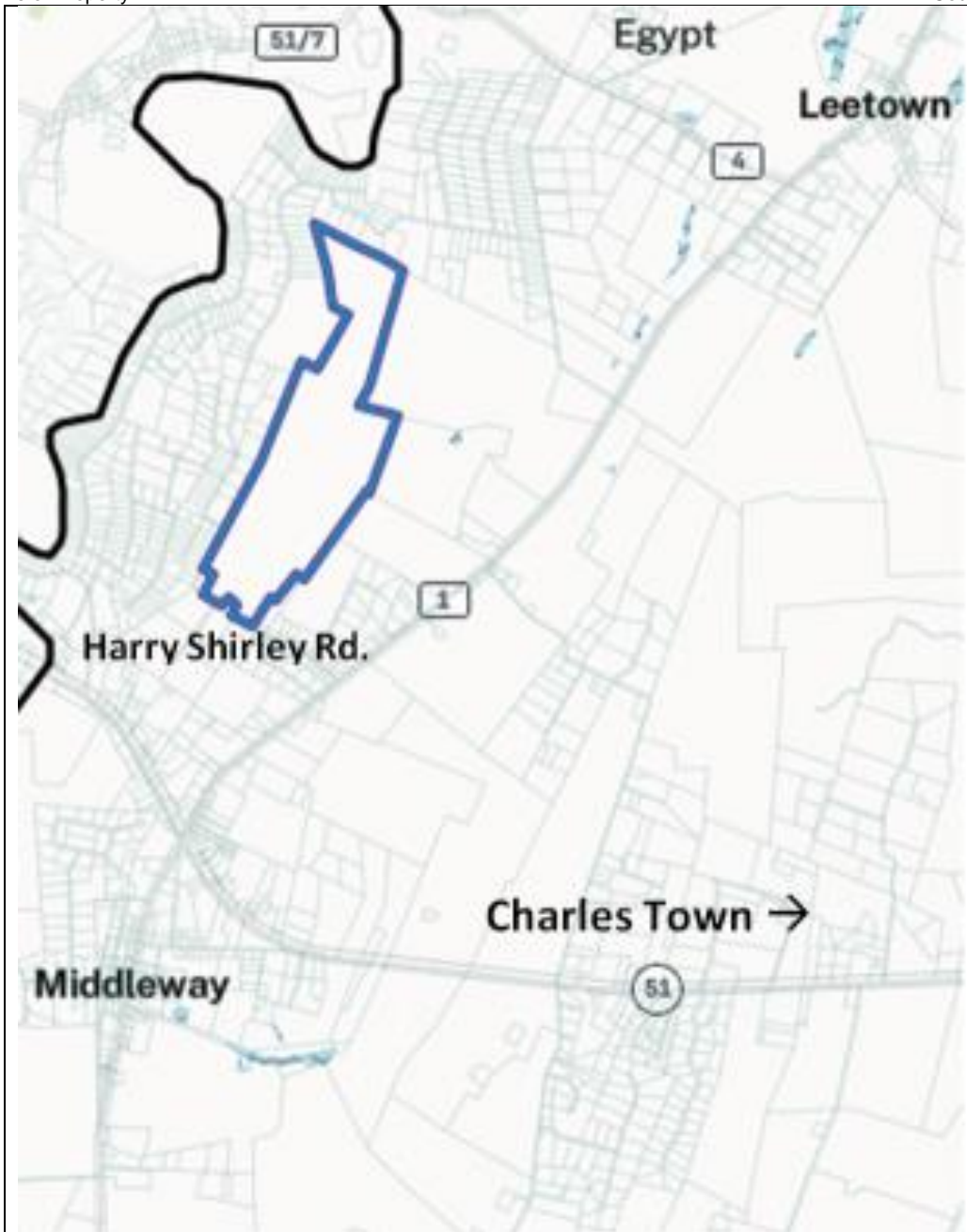
Figure	Description
1	USGS map of property location
2	Alternate location map of Rosenberger/Brown Farm
3	Map of UTM locations.
4	Key to photographs.
5	Plat of land grants for Rosenberger/Brown Farm.
6	Samuel Howell Brown map (1852).
7	Samuel Howell Brown map (1883).
8	Plat of deed from Withers to Black (1903).
9	Sales ad of J. William Harper (1913).
10	Georgian/Colonial three-bay, center hall house plan and elevation.
11	Rosenberger/Brown restored perspective view.
12	Michael Shaul and Nicholas Shaul restored perspective views.
13	Cutaway views of a typical Jefferson County meat house.
14	Plat of Brown family farmland donated to Farmland Protection.



**Figure 1. USGS map of property location.** The 272-acre Rosenberger/Brown Farm is located at 494 Harry Shirley Road, Kearneysville (near Middleway), West Virginia 25430. Source: WV SHPO Map Viewer <https://mapwv.gov/shpo/viewer/index.html>. Accessed 2023-10-26.

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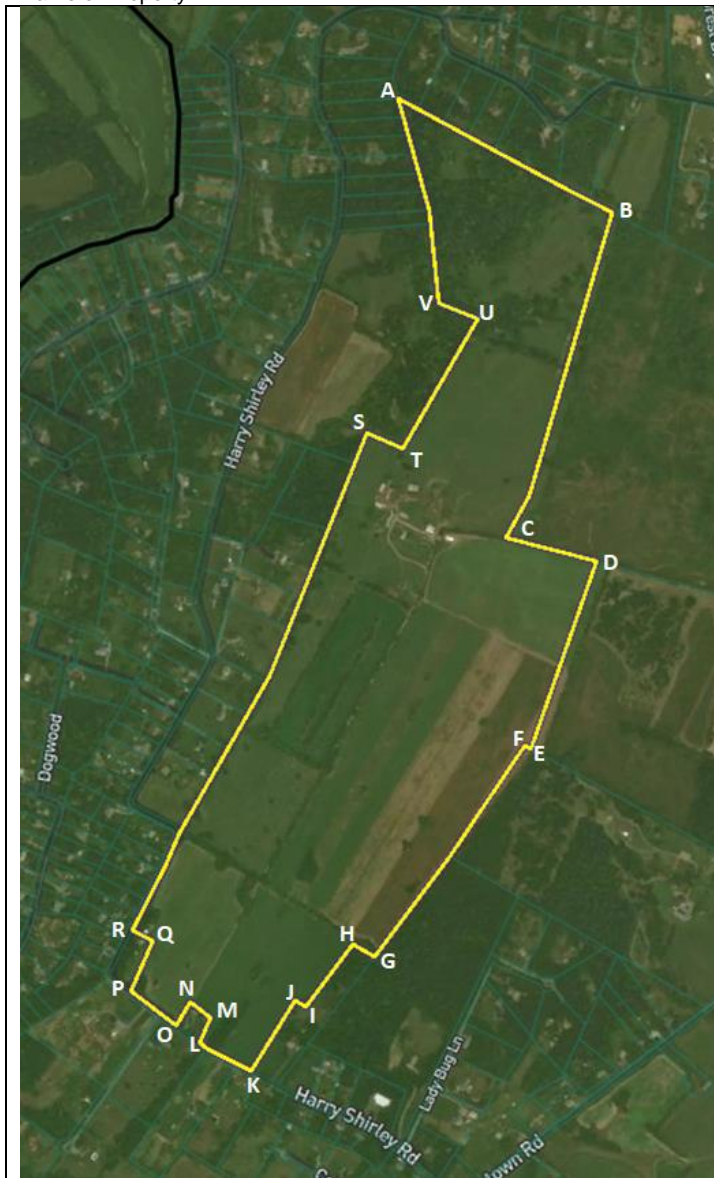


**Figure 2. Alternate location map of Rosenberger/Brown Farm.** The Farm is located at 494 Harry Shirley Road near Middleway, West Virginia. Opequon Creek is the boundary between Jefferson and Berkeley Counties.

Source: Regrid.com. <https://app.regrid.com/us/wv/jefferson/middleway#b=None>. Accessed October 26, 2023.

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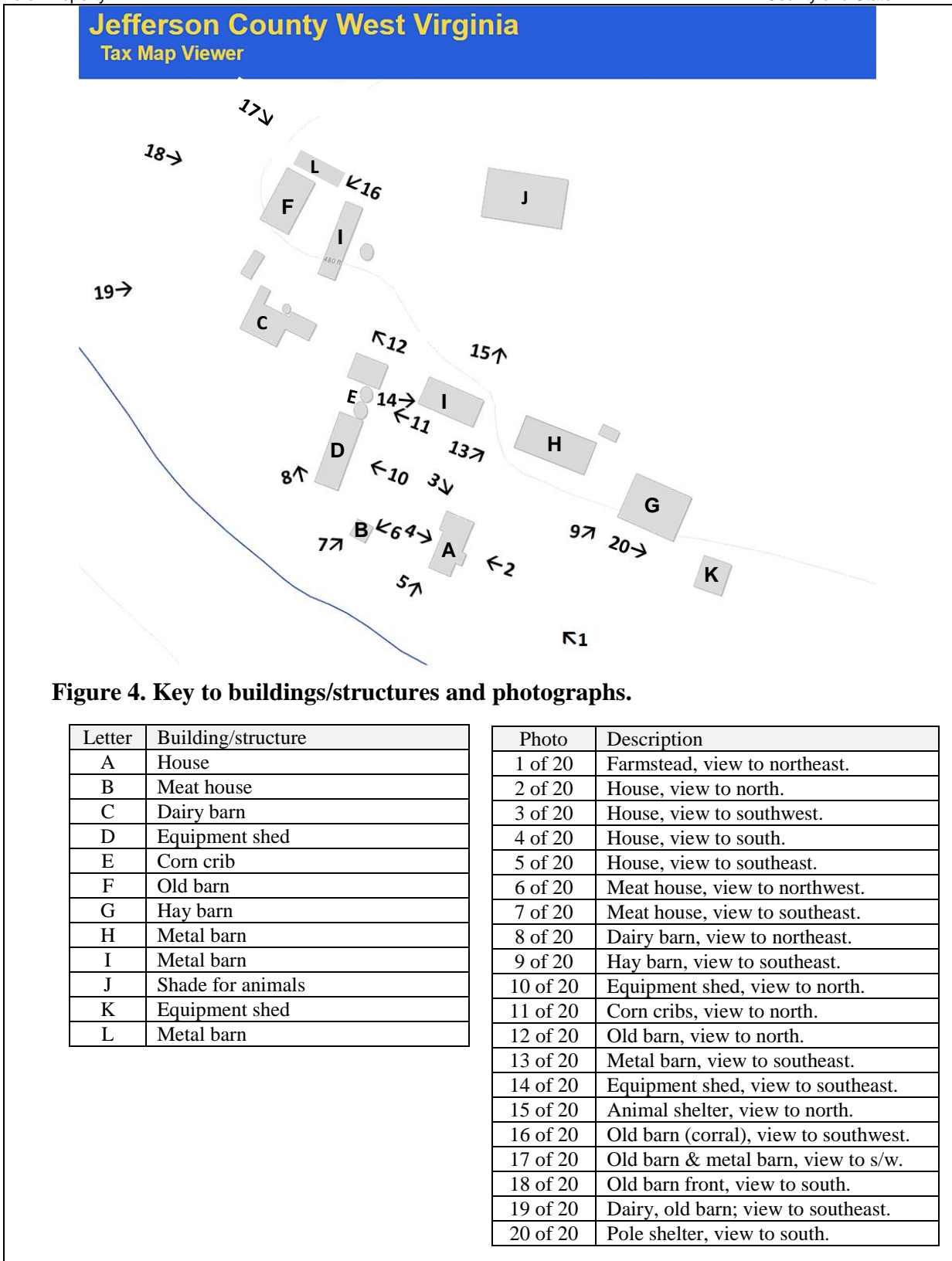
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J	39.323436	-77.973520
K	39.322008	-77.974722
L	39.322573	-77.976095
M	39.323071	-77.975838
N	39.323403	-77.976353
O	39.322872	-77.976739
P	39.323635	-77.978026
Q	39.324764	-77.977425
R	39.324897	-77.978112
S	39.335435	-77.971505
T	39.335121	-77.970516
U	39.337942	-77.968499
V	39.338241	-77.969615

**Figure 3. Plat showing Lat/Long coordinate positions**

Source: WV SHPO Map Viewer  
<https://mapwv.gov/shpo/viewer/index.html>.  
 Accessed October 26, 2023.

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**Figure 4. Key to buildings/structures and photographs.**

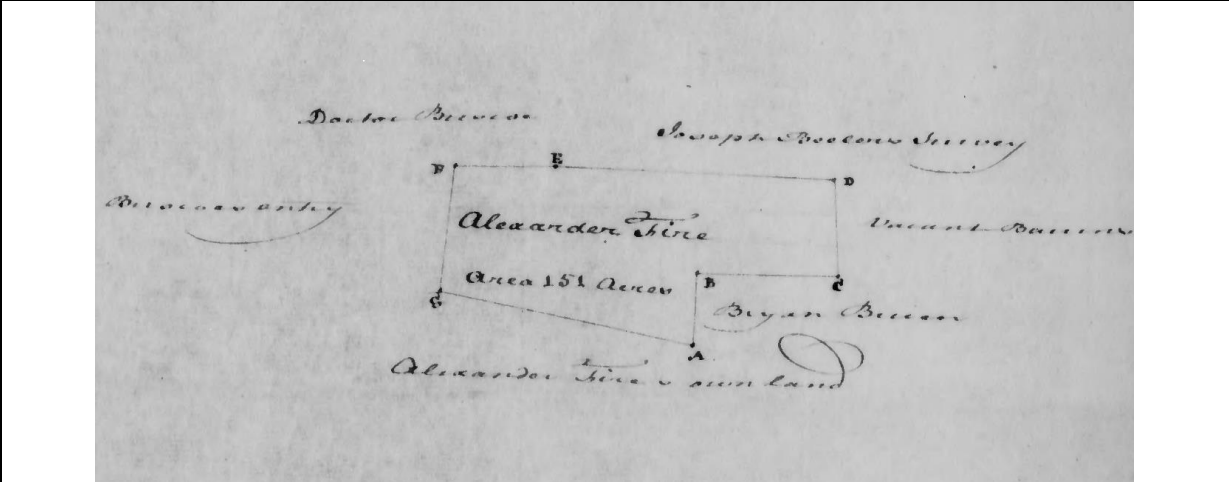
Letter	Building/structure
A	House
B	Meat house
C	Dairy barn
D	Equipment shed
E	Corn crib
F	Old barn
G	Hay barn
H	Metal barn
I	Metal barn
J	Shade for animals
K	Equipment shed
L	Metal barn

Photo	Description
1 of 20	Farmstead, view to northeast.
2 of 20	House, view to north.
3 of 20	House, view to southwest.
4 of 20	House, view to south.
5 of 20	House, view to southeast.
6 of 20	Meat house, view to northwest.
7 of 20	Meat house, view to southeast.
8 of 20	Dairy barn, view to northeast.
9 of 20	Hay barn, view to southeast.
10 of 20	Equipment shed, view to north.
11 of 20	Corn cribs, view to north.
12 of 20	Old barn, view to north.
13 of 20	Metal barn, view to southeast.
14 of 20	Equipment shed, view to southeast.
15 of 20	Animal shelter, view to north.
16 of 20	Old barn (corral), view to southwest.
17 of 20	Old barn & metal barn, view to s/w.
18 of 20	Old barn front, view to south.
19 of 20	Dairy, old barn; view to southeast.
20 of 20	Pole shelter, view to south.



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426  
C 226

The Right Honourable Thomas Lord Fairfax a  
 Baron of Camelford in that part of Great Britain called Shropshire and  
 proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia To all  
 whom this present Writing shall come send greeting Know ye that  
 for good Causes hereunto in consideration of the Commission to me paid and for the  
 Annual Rent therein after recorded I have Given Granted and Conferred  
 And by these presents have my Heirs and Assigns Do Give Grant and Conferred  
 unto Alexander Frier of Frederick County a certain Tract of Waste and  
 Ungranted Land on the Trains of Operation in the said County and bounded  
 as by a Survey thereof made by Thomas Rutherford beginning  
 at three white Oaks Corner to Bryan Brewer Tract with his line S. 60. West  
 forty nine poles to a white Oak Tract S. 20. E. ninety eight poles to a white  
 Oak in the line extending thence N. 65. W. sixty six poles to three young  
 white Oaks of Joseph Brewer's line thence with the said line S. 31. West  
 one hundred and ninety four poles to a black oak and white Oak Tract S. 20.  
 East and Corner to Dorcas Brewer Tract along Brewer's line S. 29. W. 20.  
 sixty nine poles to a black Oak and White Oak in the line extending thence  
 S. 24. E. fifty poles to a white Oak Tract S. 60. E. thirty seven poles to a  
 two black Oaks at the said Frier's own line And then along the same  
 S. 24. E. one hundred and ninety poles to the beginning containing  
 one hundred and fifty one Acres Together with all Rights Privileges  
 and appurtenances thereto to be enjoyed by the said Alexander Frier his Heirs  
 and assigns forever and a full Third part of all Land of the said Northern Neck  
 the first shall be found thereon To have and to hold the said one  
 hundred and fifty one Acres of Land together with all Rights Privileges  
 Benefits to the same belonging or in anywise appertaining (except as  
 herein expressed) to him the said Alexander Frier his Heirs and Assigns  
 forever The said Alexander Frier his Heirs and Assigns therefore shall  
 Yielding and paying to me my Heirs or Assigns or to my certain Attornies  
 Attorney or Attornies Agent or Agents or to the certain Attorney or Attornies  
 of my Heirs or Assigns Proprietors of the said Northern Neck yearly and  
 every year on the Feast day of Saint Michael the Archangel the sum of  
 one shilling Sterling money for every fifty Acres of Land hereby granted  
 and so proportionably for a greater or lesser quantity PROVIDED that if the  
 said Alexander Frier his Heirs and Assigns shall not pay the said recorded  
 Annual Rent as aforesaid so that the same or any part thereof shall be  
 behind and unpaid by the space of two whole years after the same shall be  
 become due (if legally demanded) that then it shall and may be lawful for  
 me my Heirs or Assigns Proprietors as aforesaid my or their certain Attorney  
 or Attornies Agent or Agents into the above granted premises to Enter and  
 hold the same so as this Grant had never passed Witness of my Hand in the  
 County of Stafford under my hand and seal Dated this twenty second  
 day of July 1765.

Alexander Frier Secd  
 for 151 Acres of Land in  
 Frederick County.  
 Ed. Tho. May Master

Fairfax

**Figure 5. Plat and grant for Rosenberger/Brown Farm.** A land grant of 151 acres from Thomas, Lord Fairfax, dated July 22, 1765, to Alexander Fire (Fryer) formed the core of the present 272-acre Rosenberger/Brown Farm.

Source: Source: Library of Virginia, Northern Neck Grants M, 1762-1765, p. 426 (Reel 295).

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Accessed 2023-10-26.



**Figure 6. Samuel Howell Brown map (1852).** County surveyor Samuel Howell Brown mapped and platted Jefferson County early in his career. The owner of the Rosenberger/Brown Farm was John W. Grantham. Grantham owned the farm only two years, but because his ownership coincided with Howell Brown's map, Grantham's ownership is enshrined in perpetuity.

Source: Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3893j.la001393/>. Accessed 2023-10-26.

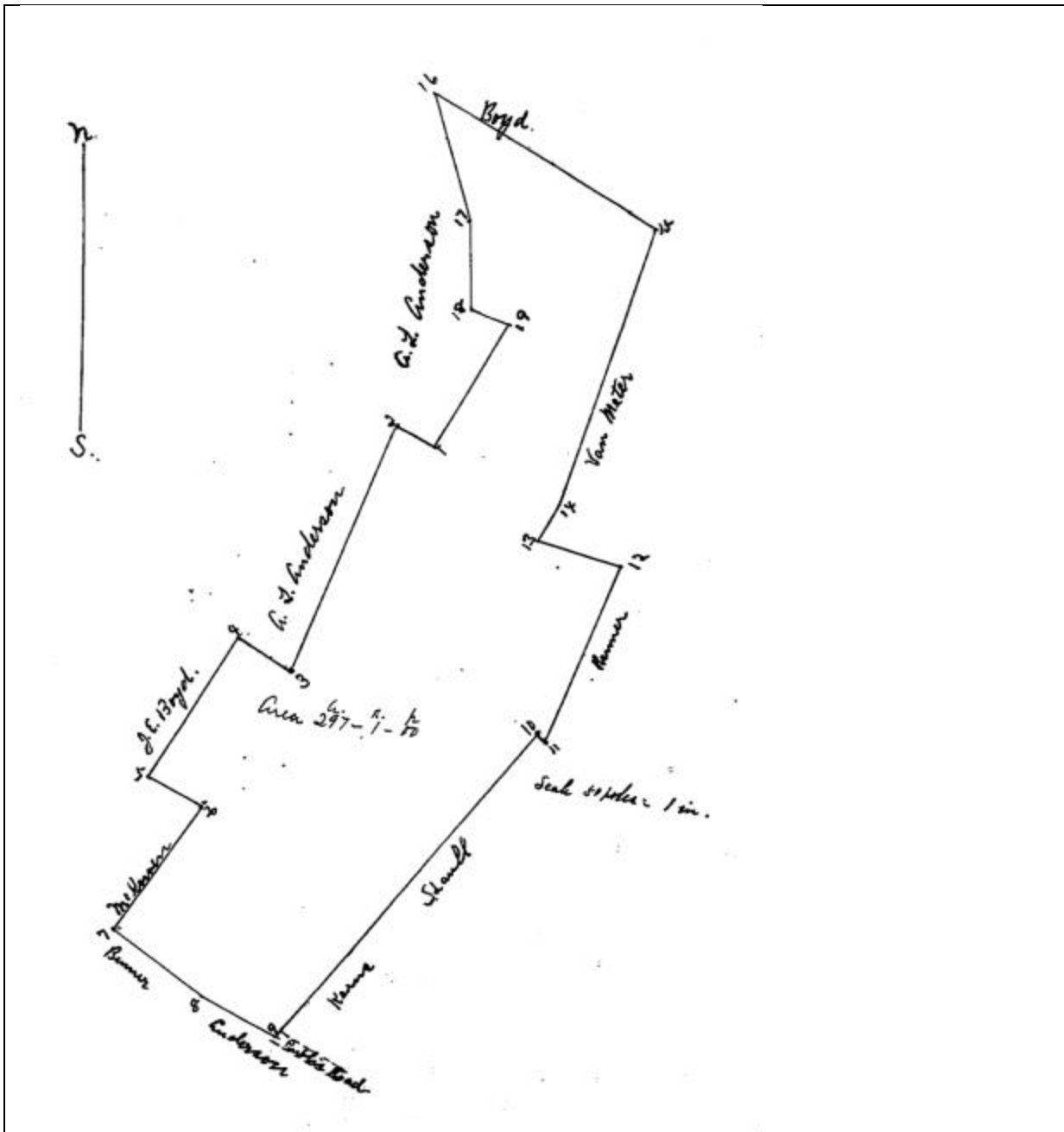


**Figure 7. Samuel Howell Brown map (1883).** Late in his career, county surveyor Samuel Howell Brown mapped and platted Jefferson County again. This map shows the property owned by the heirs of Peter Bowers.

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Source: Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2006627673/>. Accessed 2023-10-26.



**Figure 8. Plat in deed from Withers to Black (1903).** In 1903, the Withers family sold the tract to Colonel George Washington Zeigler Black. The deed includes a plat drawn by county surveyor James K. Hendricks (1870-1952). Black owned 297 acres, but sold a small, 15-acre outparcel that reduced the property's area to 282 acres. This deed and plat will anchor future conveyances, and future deeds to the present will refer to it.

Source: Jefferson County Deed Book 93:491.

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**PUBLIC SALE**  
 —OF—  
**Live Stock and Farming Implements.**

Having rented my farm and intending to discontinue farming I will sell without reserve to the highest bidder, the following valuable personal property on my farm known as the Peter Bowers farm, situated 1 1/2 miles north of Middletown, W. Va., and 1/2 mile west of Shepherdstown and Middleway turnpike on

**Tuesday, March 11, 1913,**  
 commencing at 10 a. m.,



**9 Horses, Mules and Colts.**

No. 1. Maud. Brown mare 9 years old, will work anywhere hitched, weight 1,500 pounds. In foal by Leetown Belgian Horse.  
 No. 2. Pat, Brown mare 11 years and will work anywhere hitched. Weight 1,500 lbs.  
 No. 3. Nellie, Gray mare 7 years old, will work anywhere hitched. Weight about 1550 lbs.  
 No. 4. Lucie, Gray mare, 4 years old, good strap mare and fine driver. Weight about 1,150 lbs.  
 No. 5. Kate, bay mule 4 years old, well broken. Weight about 1,200 lbs.  
 No. 6. Polly, bay mule 4 years old, good barshear leader and well broken. Weight about 1,100 lbs.  
 No. 7. Jack, bay mule 3 years old, well broken and weighs about 1,000 lbs.  
 No. 8. Diamond. Bay Horse 9 years old. This is a beautiful bay horse of fine appearance and good carriage, steady driver of about 9 miles per hour.  
 No. 9. Brown colt coming one year old. This is a large heavy draft colt.  
 All the above stock are free from blemishes and in good shape.

**8 Head of Milk COWS.**

2 will be fresh by day of sale. 1 in May, and others close springers. 3 of them young 6 year cows, and all good milkers.



**87 HEAD OF SHEEP**  
 All head of Fine Grade Ewes, all with good mouths, and should all have lambs by their sides by day of sale. We have 22 sets of twins. 1 Fine Horned Buck 1 year old. 2 other Fine Grade Bucks, one 3 years old, other 5 years old.

**40 HEAD OF HOGS**  
 One thoroughbred Duroc Jersey Boar 3 years old, weight about 300 lbs. 1 thoroughbred Duroc Jersey Sow 3 years old. They will farrow by day of sale. 4 grade sows that will farrow by day of sale. 2 years old. 5 grade Sows with 30 pigs by their side, will farrow by day of sale. These are all fine hogs and free from all diseases.

**FARMING IMPLEMENTS.**

No. 2 Brown waggon, 2 in tread, new, with 7-bbl. load; 1 old 2 horse wagon, 1 nearly new Advance 7 foot cut binder in first class shape; 6-foot cut Advance mower, new; 3 foot Osborne horse rake, 1 old horse rake, 8 ft horse hay tedder, 1 Osborne corn harrow, double-disk harrow, new; 12 disc Barlett grain drill, new; 19 foot Frazier grain drill Black Hawk double row corn planter, 100 coils of check wire; New Clover Leaf No. 3 manure spreader, 1 old American No. 4 manure spreader; 2 horse barshear plows 3 Brown Manley cultivators, 1 new; 1 hand roller, 1 square harrow, 2 corn harrows, 2 wood frame spring tooth harrows, 2 iron frame spring tooth harrows, single and double shovel plows, single, double and triple trees, crowd stick, spreader, log chains, 2, 3 and 4 prong forks, 1 Stunabout, 1 top Heavy 1 Barter, 2 pairs of sheaves, 1 hog or sheep hauling crate, will hold 35-40 lb hogs or 25 lambs; 1 wheat fan, 1 grain cradle, seed sower, 3 corn stickers, ice hooks, 2 x-cut saws, mattocks, picks, 1 sheep dipping tank, 1 sheep shearing machine, 1 sheep shearing knife, 1 mower cycle grinder.

**GASOLINE ENGINE.** 1 New Way 3 1/2 horse power air cooled gasoline engine, in perfect running order. 1 No. 4 Peerless Feed Grinder, with 2 sets of extra burrs. Will grind 30 bushels a per hour. 1 Wood Saw, with 22 inch saw. These are new and in perfect running order. **BLACKSMITH TOOLS.** 1 forge, 1 steel anvil, 110 lbs; 1 vise, 1 drill with bits, a set of stock and die, tongs, hot and cold cutters, hammer, complete shoeing outfit.

**HARNESS.** Set of new Yankee harness, set of old Yankee harness, 9 sets of plow harness, 1 set of double buggy harness, 2 sets of single buggy harness, 9 bridles, 12 collars, 12 halters, 10 cow chains, wagon saddle, 3 horse creak lines, 6 horse wagon line, and lots of other things too numerous to mention.

All of the above goods are new and in good shape, with a few exceptions.

**TERMS.** All sums of \$10 and under cash. On all sums over \$10 a credit of 12 months will be given, the purchaser to execute well endorsed negotiable note, bearing interest from date, and payable at any of the neighboring banks. No property to be removed until terms of sale have been complied with. All bidders welcome.

T. J. WEST, Auctioneer.  
 N. R. ROBERTS, Clerk

**J. W. HARPER.**

Public sales – auctions – were an expedient way of disposing of property without the need to sell individual animals or equipment piecemeal.

Horses, mules, and colts were the big draw for any farm auction as they were the 1913 equivalent of John Deere tractors: big, heavy, and powerful.

No. 6, “Polly,” a bay mule, was a good barshear (type of plow) leader. No. 9, “Diamond,” could pull a carriage at about “9 miles per hour.”

Horses, mules, and colts had names; for this ad, cows did not. They were just “cows.”

Sheep provided wool for clothing and could be slaughtered for meat.

Hogs ate just about anything and provided hams and bacon that were preserved as high calorie food.

The extensive list of farming implements detail equipment needed for a 272-acre farm. The 3.5-horsepower gasoline engine is almost an afterthought. Harness, however, is not, and is listed in detail.

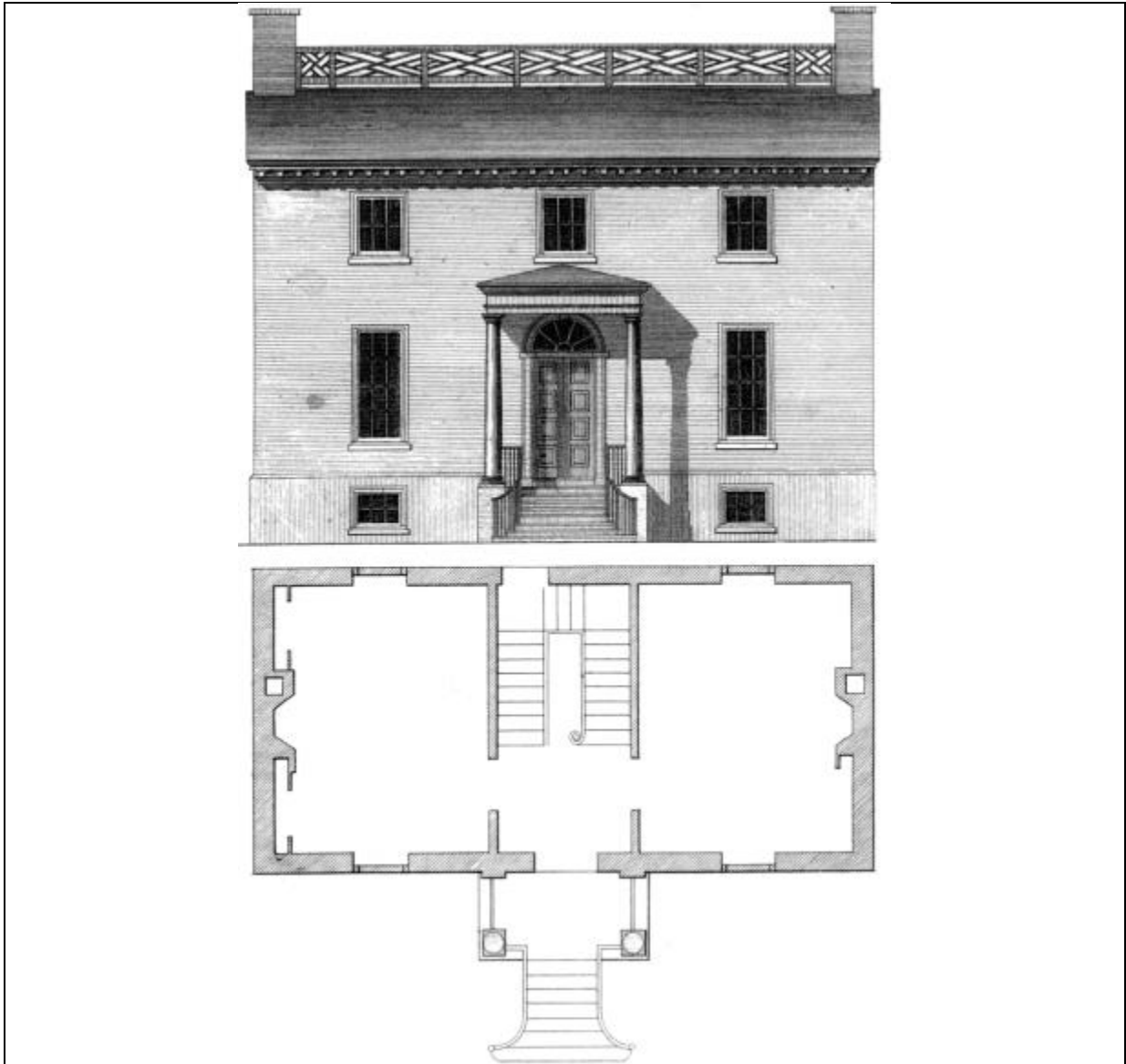
Common payment terms: cash for anything selling for less than \$10, limited, short-time credit for sales higher than \$10.

Figure 9. Sales ad of J. William Harper (1913).

Source: *Spirit of Jefferson*, February 25, 1913, 3.

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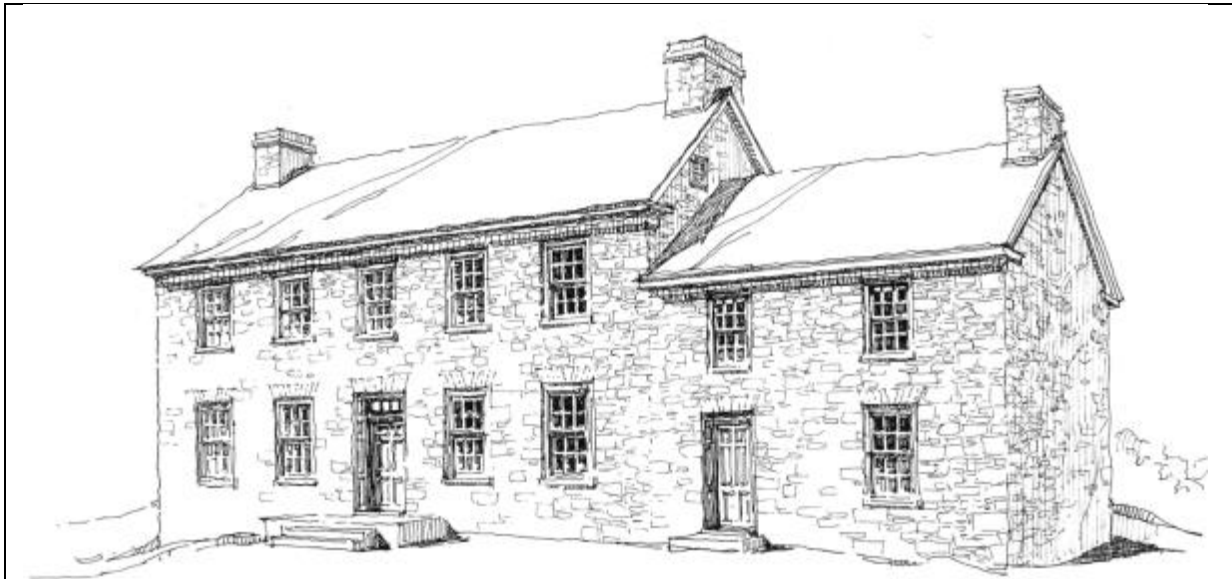


**Figure 10. Georgian/Colonial three-bay, center hall house plan and elevation.** The original ca. 1815 Frederick Rosenberger house resembled in plan the example Owen Biddle (1774-1806) depicted in plate 36 of his *Young Carpenter's Assistant* (1805). In elevation and embellishment, however, the Rosenberger house is a more plain, Colonial/Georgian style. It lacks Chinese tracery at the roof ridge, a raised basement, Doric-columned portico, and glazed demi-lune door lintel. Nonetheless, the plan of the Rosenberger house resembles that of a house from a design book printed ten years earlier.

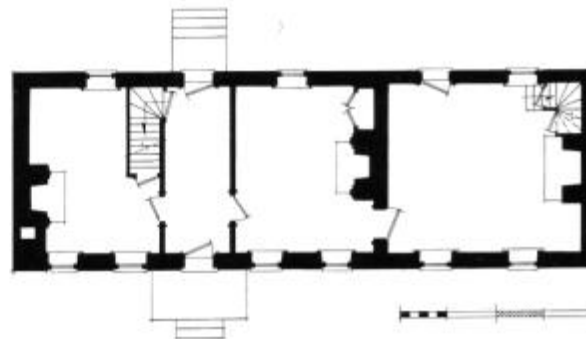
Source: Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular*, 90.

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Frederick Rosenberger House (Round Top), ca. 1815, Middleway vicinity, restored perspective view



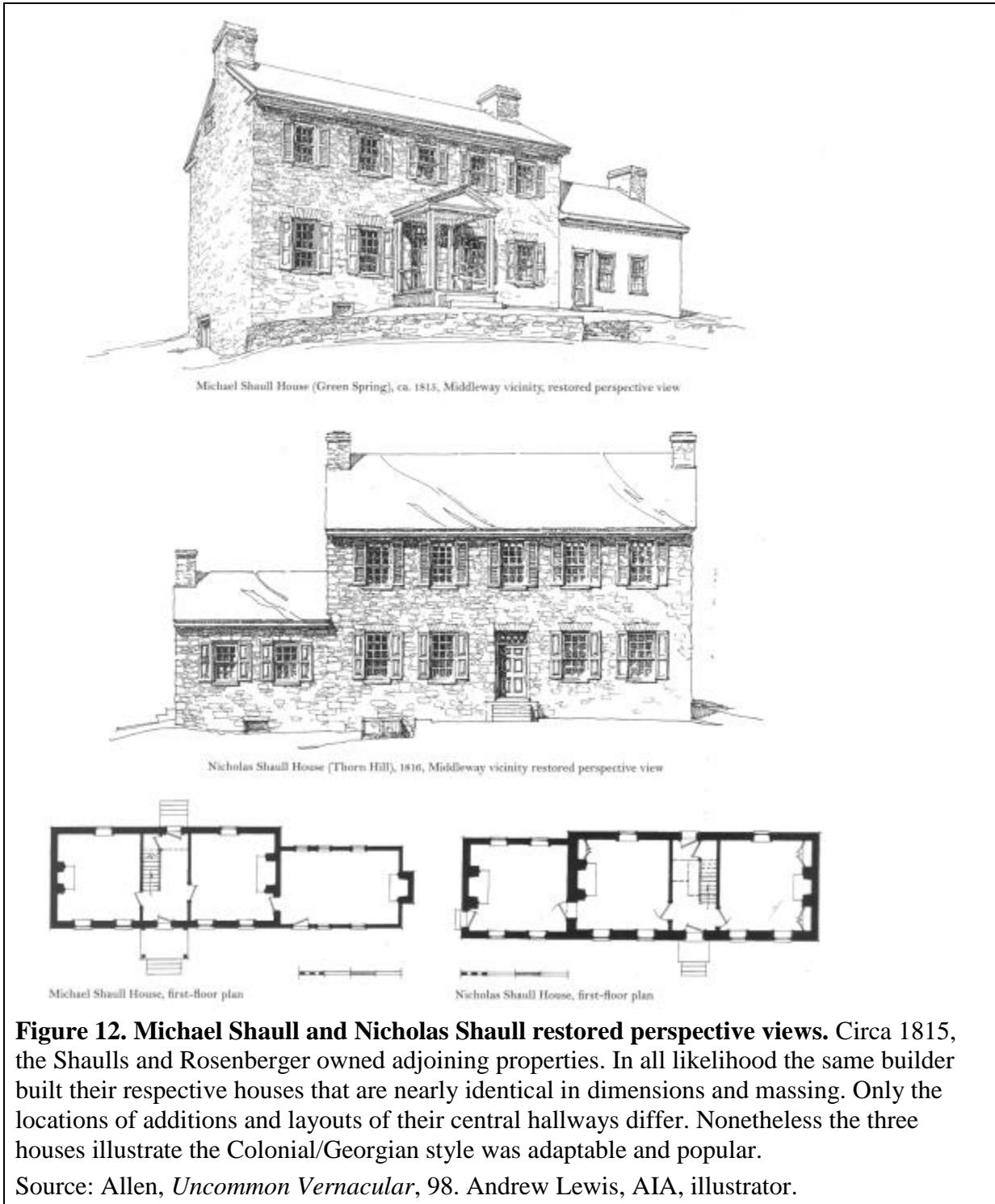
Frederick Rosenberger House, first-floor plan

**Figure 11. Rosenberger/Brown restored perspective view.** As current owners Tim and Staci Brown point out, the restored perspective view of the addition shows the first-story entry door and window transposed. The doorway should be where the window is, and vice-versa. The Browns also point out that the chimney at the far left no longer stands as it was lost in the earthquake of 2011. From the parlor ascends a “closed winder stairway” that opens the center hallway but takes room from the parlor it occupies.

Source: Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular*, 99. Andrew Lewis, AIA, illustrator.

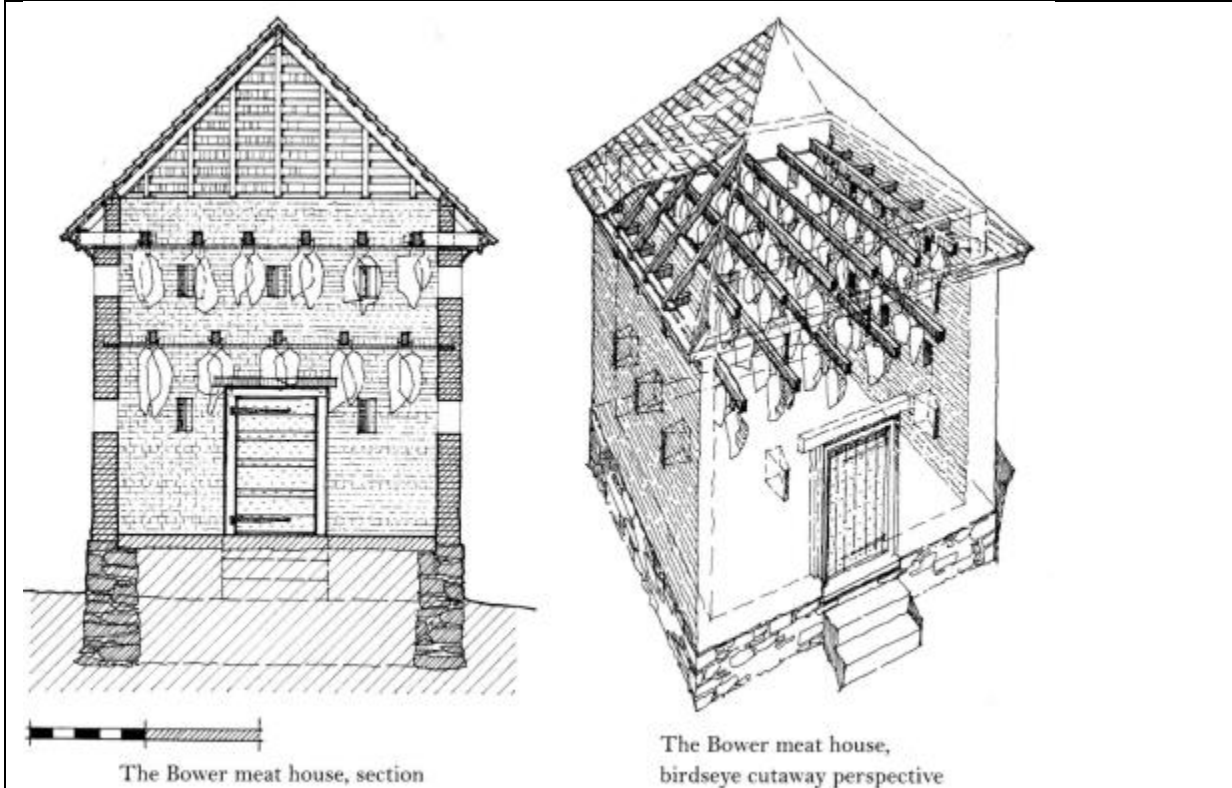
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**Figure 13. Cutaway views of a typical Jefferson County meat house.** Before refrigeration, the importance of a meat house can be summarized in the couplet, “No meat/No eat.” A meat house, sometimes called a smokehouse, preserved mostly hams and bacon, but also beef and venison, to feed farm families throughout times when fresh meat was not available.

Source: Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular*, 133. Andrew Lewis, AIA, Illustrator.



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**Figure 14. Plat of Rosenberg/Brown farmland donated to Farmland Protection.**

In 2022 the Brown family donated 311 acres to Farmland Protection, ensuring their land would remain farmland forever. A Farmland Protection sign at the head of their lane aptly reads “Protected Forever.”

Source of plat: Jefferson County Plat Book 26:471.

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**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Rosenberger/Brown Farm

City or Vicinity: Middleway

County: Jefferson

State: WV

Photographer: John Demer

Date Photographed: November 3, 2023

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

Photo	Description
1 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Farm, view to northeast.
2 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown House, view to north.
3 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown House, view to southwest.
4 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown House, view to south.
5 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown House, view to southeast.
6 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Meat House, view to northwest.
7 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Meat House, view to southeast.
8 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Dairy Barn, view to northeast.
9 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Hay Barn, view to southeast.
10 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Equipment Shed, view to north.
11 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Corn Cribs, view to north.
12 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Old Barn, view to north.
13 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Metal Barn, view to southeast.
14 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Equipment Shed, view to southeast.
15 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Animal Shelter, view to north.
16 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Old Barn (corral), view to southwest.
17 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Old Barn & Metal Barn, view to southwest.
18 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Old Barn Front, view to south.
19 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Dairy Barn & Old Barn; view to southeast.
20 of 20	Rosenberger/Brown Pole Shelter, view to south.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0001.** View to northeast. Farmstead and buildings are reached from a one-mile gravel road off Harry Shirley Road. Photo shows the house (ca. 1815), metal structures and sheds. Cattle graze freely throughout the property.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0002.** View to north. The house was likely built in two sections: the earliest (left) circa 1815, and the addition (right, behind the tree) circa 1842. Cattle graze freely throughout the immediate vicinity and largely reduce the need to mow.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0003.** View to southwest. Although the addition has corner blocks dressed as quoins, uncoursed stone in walls varies in color, unlike the stone in the main house.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0004.** View to south. Unlike five-bays of the front of the main house, the rear has only three, no doubt a cost savings. A modern furnace is attached to the brick chimney. The concrete block addition to the addition houses a modern kitchen.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0005.** View to southeast. Until 2011, the west façade had an interior chimney that an earthquake destroyed. A small door gives access to the cellar, and a four-panel casement window gives ventilation to the attic.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0006.** View to northwest. A family cured and stored pork, hams, bacon, beef and venison in their meat house (Fig 13). Thick stone helped keep the structure cool in summer. In style, this meat house has an off-center doorway on its gable end.



**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0007.** Meat house, view to southeast.



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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0008.** View to northeast. The Brown family raises beef and dairy cattle. The dairy barn encloses equipment for milking.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0009.** View to southeast. The Brown family keeps more than 100 head of cattle that require hay over winter months. This metal storage building provides ample, easy-to-reach space to store hay and straw.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0010.** View to north. These sheds help shelter farm equipment from rain and snow.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0011.** View to north. Dried corn provides food for poultry, cattle, and swine during winter months.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0012.** View to north. Modern metal structures have supplanted in use this old wooden barn.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0013.** Metal barn, view to southeast. Metal buildings such as this provide shelter for livestock and equipment formerly housed in the Old Barn and other wooden buildings and pole shelters. These provide adequate shelter, can be assembled by family and a small crew, and cost less than a traditional wood, barn-frame barn.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0014.** Equipment shed, view to southeast. As with other metal buildings on the property, this serves an important need to house valuable equipment.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0015.** Animal shelter, view to north. Livestock need shade from hot sun in summertime. This construct of corrugated metal roofing atop a system of vertical poles, provides at least some respite for them.



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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0016.** Old barn (corral), view to southwest. Low sun caused a poor photo. The corral is bordered with fence or buildings and allows livestock room to roam, however limited.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0017.** Old barn & metal barn, view to southwest. The new metal barn has taken the place of the old in providing shelter for livestock.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0018.** Old barn front, view to south.



**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0019.** Dairy barn & old barn; view to southeast.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Rosenberger/Brown Farm\_0020.** Pole shelter, view to south. Pole shelters of metal roofing supported by poles or 6" x 6" lumber prove an adequate shelter for valuable equipment.

**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.