

WA-I-354

## Michael Neikirk Farmstead (James Reichard Farm, Log House and Barn)

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 03-21-2013***

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: Log House and Barn Inventory Number: WA-I-354  
 Address: 11818 Greencastle-Williamsport Pike City: Hagerstown Zip Code: 21740  
 County: Washington USGS Topographic Map: Mason Dixon Quadrangle  
 Owner: Reichard, James and Judith Is the property being evaluated a district?  No  
 Tax Parcel Number: 13 Tax Map Number: 48 Tax Account ID Number: 02-011344  
 Project: Proposed Baer Cell Tower Agency: FCC  
 Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is the property located within a historic district?  yes  no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NR-listed district  yes Eligible district  yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource  yes  no Non-contributing but eligible in another context

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible  yes  no

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form, 1977

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

WA-I-354 11818 Greencastle-Williamsport Pike, Log House and Barn  
 The pre-Civil War symmetrical (log) building reflects Classical influence upon a design consisting of a 4-bay front façade that is the hallmark of many vernacular buildings in the vicinity of Frederick Maryland. Although there is a symmetrical composition, the double entrance on the front façade suggests a type whose plan consists of 3 interior rooms. The configuration, also prevalent in Pennsylvania, is of German origin. The exterior double doorways flanked by windows on the first story with 4 windows across the second story, reflects the blending of a 3-room vernacular plan with Classical design ideas of symmetry and balance. This house is similar to a later 19<sup>th</sup>-Century building in the vicinity (WA-I-500), illustrating that the house type continued to be popular well into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.  
  
 The residence retains much architectural integrity including a rear gray-stone addition. The limestone rear section utilizes local materials to reflect yet another element of local building traditions. The stone and its finish can be found on two other nearby buildings, a stone barn (WA-I-461) and house (WA-I-428). The building also has original 6-over-6 wooden windows and the front entrances have 3-light transoms. The windows have wide flat (4 inches) trim with drip molding at the top and the doors also have wide flat trim with raised square edge. The building is sheathed in wooden clapboard siding and the roof is

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
<u>James Reichard</u> ✓ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>4/11/03</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR Program	<u>4/11/03</u> Date

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

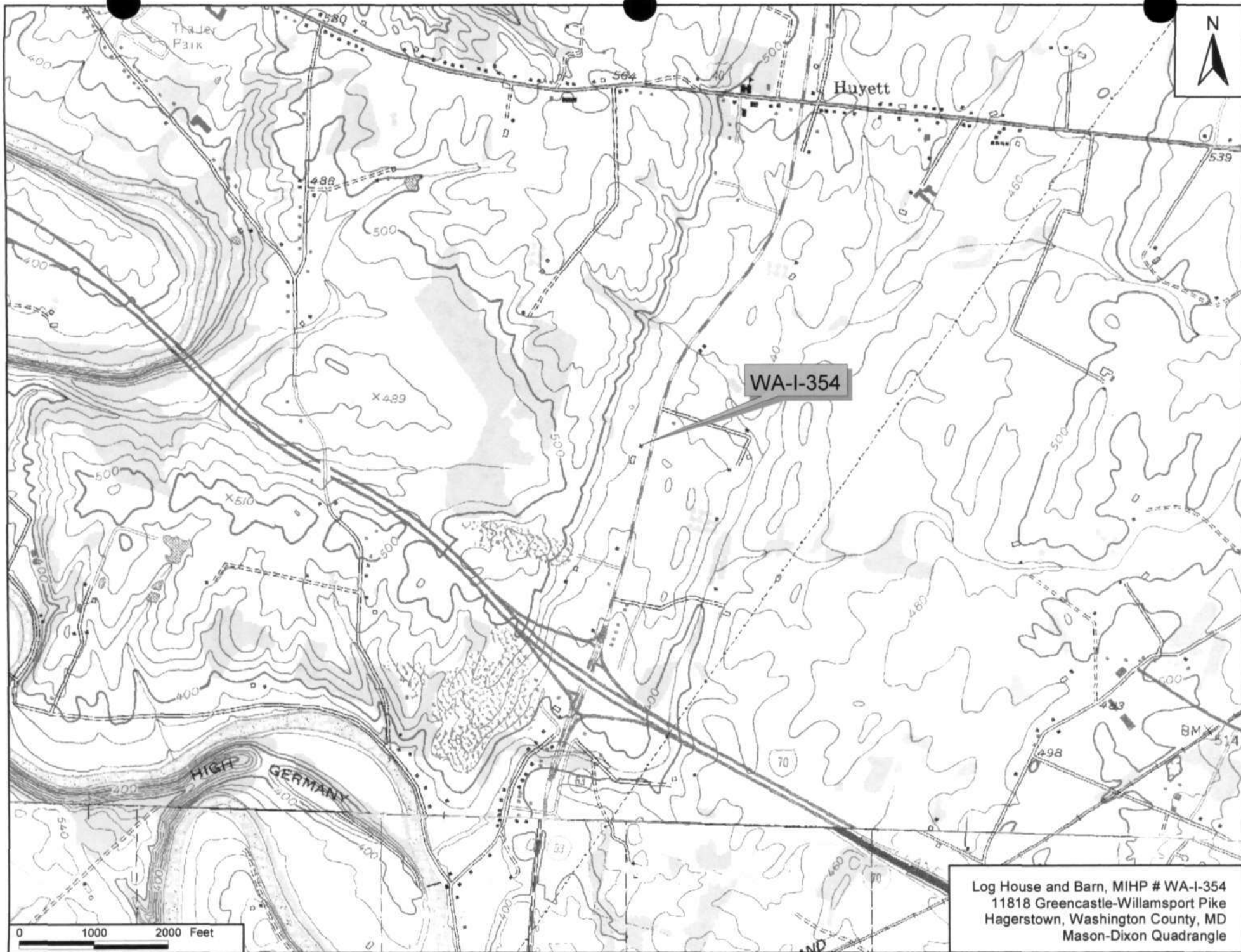
WA-I-354

sheathed in patterned metal shingles. The residence is a fine example of the Pennsylvania house constructed in log/frame with original details to provide significant information about this type within the context of settlement in this area of Maryland.

The property also includes two barns that are horizontally aligned with the residence to produce a linear layout for this farm complex that faces Williamsport Pike. One barn may be constructed of log and date from the fourth quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The farm retains its rural setting and the setting along with the residence and its agricultural buildings provide valuable insight not only about the agricultural development of the area but the architectural and cultural influences upon that development. The building would be eligible for listing on the National Register.

Prepared by: Kristie Lalire

Date Prepared: 3/12/2003



Log House and Barn, MIHP # WA-I-354  
11818 Greencastle-Willamsport Pike  
Hagerstown, Washington County, MD  
Mason-Dixon Quadrangle



WA -1-354

Log House and Barn

11818 Greencastle-Williamsport Pike

Hagerstown

Washington Co.

Photographer Kristine Lalire, 3/8/2003

① of 5

front (east) elevation



WA -1-354

Log House and Park

11818 Greencastle-Williamsport Pike

Hagerstown

Washington Co.

Photographer: Kristie Lalire, 3/2/2003

② of 5

front elevation and north side elevation



WA-1-354

Log House and Barn

11818 Greencastle-Williamsport Pike

Hagerstown,

Washington Co.

Photographer: Kristie Lalire, 3/8/2003

③ of 5

south side elevation



WA-1-354

Log House and Barns

11818 Greencastle - Williamsport Pike

Hagerstown,

Washington Co.

Photographer: Kristie Lalire, 3/8/2003

(A) of 5

barns to south of house (house is at  
right of photo)

## Capsule Summary

### **Inventory No. WA-I-354**

Michael Neikirk Farmstead

11818 Greencastle Pike

Washington County, MD

Ca. 1820 (log house and barn); ca.1882 (part of barn); ca.1920 (wagon shed)

Access: Private

The Michael Neikirk Farmstead consists of approximately 34 acres on the west side of the Greencastle Pike. The early 19<sup>th</sup> century log house and log barn, fronting closely onto the historic road, are joined by an early 20<sup>th</sup> century wagon shed/corncrib with shed additions. This simple collection of buildings, nestled between the road and a low ridge to the west reflect their historic and current agricultural use as a small family farm. The three buildings are considered contributing resources. The surrounding agricultural landscape and the historic road are also *contributing but not counted*.

The Michael Neikirk Farmstead is representative of mid 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century small family farming practice. The farm and building complex are significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with historical patterns of agricultural practice through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the mid-Atlantic region, and under Criterion C as a complex of domestic and agricultural buildings which retain distinctive design and construction techniques representative of the region. The Michael Neikirk Farmstead appears little changed from its original construction during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The log house and log barn, fronting closely onto the historic road between Williamsport and Greencastle, reflect the earliest occupation of this small farm by the Neikirk family. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century addition of the wagon shed/corncrib with its shed additions reflects the later occupation of the Reichard

family. Although reduced in size to 32 acres from its largest size of approximately 130 acres, the farmstead still retains its historic association with the historic road and the remaining agricultural acreage.



## 7. Description

Inventory No. WA-I-354

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/>	excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	good	<input type="checkbox"/>	ruins
<input type="checkbox"/>	fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### *Summary*

The Michael Neikirk Farmstead consists of approximately 34 acres on the west side of the Greencastle Pike. The early 19<sup>th</sup> century log house and log barn, fronting closely onto the historic road, are joined by an early 20<sup>th</sup> century wagon shed/corncrib with shed additions. This simple collection of buildings, nestled between the road and a low ridge to the west reflect their historic and current agricultural use as a small family farm. The three buildings are considered contributing resources. The surrounding agricultural landscape and the historic road are also contributing but not counted.

### *Description*

The Michael Neikirk Farmstead is a small complex of three buildings nestled between the west side of the Greencastle Pike (MD Route 63) and the east face of a low limestone ridge running north-south. Clustered along the road facing east is the house, barn, and wagon shed, each still functioning in their historic capacity. A U-shaped lane leaves the pike and loops around the house, separating it from the agricultural buildings, and returns to the pike. The house yard is landscaped with bushes and flowerbeds; to the south of the house are several large trees and a kitchen garden. The remaining 34 acres of the historic farm surround the buildings on the north, south, and west, stretching westward across the ridge. Fields on the east side of the ridge, within view of the house, are in pasture. The farmstead retains enough of a buffer from the nearby industrial park development to maintain its historic association with the farmland.

### Main House

The main house is a two-story log dwelling on stone foundation. The four-bay fenestration of window/door/door/window is a common early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular farmhouse style found throughout south-central Pennsylvania and western Maryland. Windows are 9 over 6 light sash on the first story and 6 over 6 light on the second story. Both doors have four-light transoms now covered. Windows have wide mortise and tenon frames with ovalo trim. Second story windows have louvered shutters. The house is sheathed with lapped weatherboard siding. A double, brick chimney rises inside the south gable end. The roof is sheathed with corrugated metal sheets. The eaves are boxed and there is no roof overhang on the gable ends. A shed-roofed porch with concrete floor covers the two front (east) entrances. It is supported with four, square poles.

A one-story stone kitchen addition is attached to the west elevation forming a small "ell." Doors to the kitchen are located on both the north and south elevations. The south door is accessed through a one-bay recessed porch. Plank steps rise in the recessed area to the upper loft

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. WA-I-354

Name Michael Neikirk Farmstead  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

---

room of the kitchen. One 6 over 6 sash window is located in both the north and south elevations. A brick chimney rises in the west gable end. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

A shed roof addition on the main house west elevation adjoins the north elevation of the kitchen. The whitewashed logs of the main house west elevation are exposed in this area. Probably used originally as a wood shed, the frame shed addition with vertical board siding covers the north entrance to the kitchen and the stone step entrance down to the cellar. The cellar is located only under the north half of the main house. The door to the cellar is plank with tapered battens and full-length strap hinges. A concrete block chimney rises along the center of the west elevation exterior.

The interior of the house is laid out in a three-room plan typical of the Pennsylvania German vernacular style. The southern-most front door opens into a large parlor the full width of the house. This door is beaded planks with full-length strap hinges. A large glass pane fills much of the upper half of the door. The fireplace in the large parlor is located on the south wall with a beaded board closet adjoining. A boxed stair is located in the southwest corner of the room. The walls are plastered and have a chair rail. The northern-most front door enters into the east room of the north half of the house. A west room adjoins the east room; access to view this part of the house was not given. The stone kitchen is accessed through the west wall of the south parlor. It is a single open room with cooking hearth in the west wall.

Barn

Standing southwest of the main house is the log and timber frame barn. Although technically a "ground barn" it is designed similarly to a bank barn, without the bank. The front elevation, through which the animal stalls are accessed, faces east. In 1933, the roof-line of the east elevation was extended, shading and partially enclosing the stall area, similar in purpose to the protection of the cantilevered forebay of a bank barn. The entrance to the central threshing floor is located in the west elevation and is slightly elevated in relation to the east elevation stall entrances. Granary additions are located on the north and south sides of the west entrance. With the extremely steep roof-line of this barn, the forebay extension, and the granary additions, the general appearance of the barn is more like a "Swisser" bank barn. Two shed additions are attached to the north and south elevations of the barn. The barn is sheathed with unpainted vertical boards; the roof is sheathed with corrugated metal sheets.

The barn is constructed of one log pen on the north end and the south end timber framed. The entire structure is housed under a single, steeply pitched roof with round log rafters. The south end serves as a standard hay mow, a large open area for storage of hay. It is separated from the threshing floor by horizontal boards to a height of approximately three feet. Several of these boards have painted inscriptions: "G.M.L. May 24<sup>th</sup> 1882," and "F.M.N. May 24<sup>th</sup> 1882," indicating a possible construction date for the timber framed section of the barn.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. WA-I-354

Name Michael Neikirk Farmstead

**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 2

---

The north log section is a single pen constructed of hewn logs, unchinked, with pointed corner notching. The pen has two levels, the stall area below and hay storage above. The stall area is slightly lower than the central threshing floor. This arrangement has been found in other non-bank style log barns in which the threshing floor is at a slightly raised level above the stalls (see Bloomsbury, F-7-18 NR)

Wagon shed/corncrib

The frame wagon shed/corncrib was reported by current owner James Reichard to have been constructed by the previous owner Kemp c.1920. Despite its late construction date it is typical of wagon shed/corncrib buildings constructed through the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The central wagon bay is open; there is a slatted corncrib on either side with access doors on the east elevation. The corncribs are set on stone piers to allow airflow. Two wooden cylindrical winches hang from the wagon shed ceiling; these were used to raise and store the wagon bed. The building has vertical board siding and a metal roof. The frame, shed roofed equipment shed was added to the south elevation after the Reichard's purchased the farm in 1928; it has board and batten siding and a concrete block chimney on the west elevation. An open shed extends from the north elevation of the wagon shed/corncrib.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. WA-I-354

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** c.1815-1953 **Architect/Builder** unknown

**Construction dates** c.1820 (log house and barn); c.1882 (part of barn); c.1920 (wagon shed)

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### *Summary Statement of Significance*

The Michael Neikirk Farmstead is representative of mid 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century small family farming practice. The farm and building complex are significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with historical patterns of agricultural practice through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the mid-Atlantic region, and under Criterion C as a complex of domestic and agricultural buildings which retain distinctive design and construction techniques representative of the region. The Michael Neikirk Farmstead appears little changed from its original construction during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The log house and log barn, fronting closely onto the historic road between Williamsport and Greencastle, reflect the earliest occupation of this small farm by the Neikirk family. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century addition of the wagon shed/corncrib with its shed additions reflects the later occupation of the Reichard family. Although reduced in size to 32 acres from its largest size of approximately 130 acres, the farmstead still retains its historic association with the historic road and the remaining agricultural acreage.

### *Resource History*

Carved out of Frederick County in 1776, Washington County included the westernmost reaches of Maryland. The land had been offered at very low prices beginning in 1732 to induce immigrants from the northern colonies, particularly Pennsylvania, and from Europe, to settle in Maryland rather than continue their trek through the valley to Virginia. A number of those with more disposable wealth began to acquire larger tracts of land, either to establish themselves as "lords of the manor," or to sell smaller tracts at a profit. Grants or patents of land were obtained from the Maryland land office while the grantee paid to have the property surveyed. Many of the smaller tracts were sold to farming families looking for 100-300 acres, a size suited to the labor of a single family.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-I-354

Name Michael Neikirk Farmstead  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Among the more desirable tracts of farmland were those located closest to one of the many swift creeks and streams of Washington County, particularly Antietam Creek and Conococheague Creek, along which there were counted 47 flourmills and 49 distilleries in an 1820 census of manufacturers in the county.<sup>1</sup> Important also was location on or near the established "wagon roads," many established during the early migrations from Pennsylvania leading to a number of Potomac River crossings. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, roads were a vital link between farm and market for the transportation of flour and whiskey, the primary agricultural cash products of the region. After the 1830s, the C&O Canal provided another link to markets and many Washington County farmers made use of this route as well.

The road between Greencastle, Pennsylvania and Williamsport, Maryland, known throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the Greencastle pike, was probably part of a north to south route followed as early as the 1730s (before the establishment of Williamsport) connecting a Potomac River crossing further south at the Opeckon Creek called Williams' (George Williams) Ferry.<sup>2</sup> In 1783, with the establishment of Williamsport at the more convenient ferry crossing there, the route to Greencastle was probably well worn and was certainly the most direct north-south route at the time of Dennis Griffith's map of 1794 (see attached copy).

Just west of the Greencastle pike, following a similar northerly route was the Conococheague Creek, known for its swift waters, and a number of tributaries, all capable of powering the numerous mills along its banks. By the time of Charles Varle's 1808 map of Maryland, four mills were located between Williamsport and Huyett's crossroads several miles to the north on the pike (see attached copy). It was within this small but active area that Michael Neikirk found land for sale in 1811, land which fronted directly onto the Greencastle pike within just a few miles of several mills, the town of Williamsport, and access to the Potomac River.

Michael Neikirk in fact bought into a joint ownership of two small parcels of land, part of the patent called *Resurvey on Salisbury* and part of *Resurvey on Let Justice Take Place*, totaling 42 acres on the west side of the Greencastle pike.<sup>3</sup> Purchased from St. Leger Neal, Neikirk's two-thirds interest in the land was shared with William and Esther Coaps, who had purchased their one-third share in 1809. The Coaps, however, joined the movement westward to Ohio, and in 1815 sold their interest in the two tracts plus 62 additional acres to Neikirk for \$1,971.<sup>4</sup> It appears that Michael Neikirk may have begun improving his acreage with a log house and barn prior to acquiring complete ownership from the Coaps in 1815.

In 1829, Michael Neikirk sold the farm, by then 129 acres, to his son John for a price of \$3,238 or \$25 per acre. The acreage included extensive road frontage and extended back to a low ridge where the spring flowed, continuing in a narrow wedge westward to another road near Conococheague Creek (see attached 1859 map). John, his wife Barbara and their nine children occupied the farm until John's death around 1854. In December of 1854, John Neikirk's heirs sold the farm to their mother Barbara for \$4,500 or \$34 per acre.<sup>5</sup> Clearly the careful farming and improvement of the land had increased its worth significantly over 14 years. The following

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-I-354

Name Michael Neikirk Farmstead  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

---

year, Barbara Neikirk sold a 30-acre parcel adjoining the farmstead on the south to her daughter Elizabeth Miller (this subdivided parcel does not appear in the 1859 map).<sup>6</sup>

In 1861, Barbara Neikirk wrote her Last Will and Testament, leaving the farm to her son Michael at the "appraised value," a common practice among farming families of Pennsylvania German heritage.<sup>7</sup> Michael had probably continued to occupy the farm with his mother until her death in 1865. Barbara Neikirk's personal property sale in January 1866 listed little animal stock and farming equipment in her possession at the time, indicating that Michael may have owned much of the farm-related property already. Of particular interest in the list of sales were the domestic stores from Barbara's cellar or pantry, including "baskets of onions," dried peaches, apples, cherries, corn, and beans, and five separate lots of apple butter.<sup>8</sup>

Title to the then 76-acre farm was finally conveyed to Michael Neikirk in 1867, at a cost of \$5,198 or \$68 per acre. The significantly increased value by 1867 may reflect the opening of the C&O Canal within a few miles of the farm in the 1830s. Michael retained the small farm for nearly 30 years, making improvements along the way. It appears in 1882 that Michael replaced one of the two log pens, which made up the barn structure, with a timber frame section on the south end of the barn (as indicated by the initials "F.M.N.," possibly F. Michael Neikirk, and "G.M.L." on the barn wall, both dated May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1882, see photograph). Although the basic floor plan of the barn remained in place, the roof was probably replaced and the granaries added to the west side of the barn. In 1888, he added 37 acres to the farm, "one mile south of the Hagerstown to Clear Spring pike."<sup>9</sup>

In 1893, after 82 years of Neikirk family ownership, Michael Neikirk and his wife Sarah sold the small farm of 112 acres to John W., George M., and D. Clayton Kemp, brothers and partners in a firm called "William H.C. Kemp."<sup>10</sup> Probably associated with the nearby Kemps Mill (Kemps Mill Road follows the Conococheague Creek just a few miles to the south), the farm appears to have continued to produce wheat and corn for milling. The Kemps improved the farm with the addition of a new wagon shed (this may have replaced an older version since wagon sheds of similar design were ubiquitous on farms of the region beginning as early as the 1850s). However, through the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the development of steam powered mills and railroad transportation, local water powered milling operations were waning, unable to compete. In 1927, the Kemp's property was sold through a Court of Equity to pay debts. J. Rowland Reichard purchased the 112-acre farm for \$5,740.<sup>11</sup>

Reichard added an equipment shed to the wagon shed in 1928 and extended the front of the barn, creating a ground-level forebay, in 1938. The farm was never converted to commercial dairy operation as many farms of the region did through the 1930s and 40s, and so does not include the building additions typically found associated with dairy production. Raising primarily grain and cattle, the Reichard farm through the 20<sup>th</sup> century changed very little, preserving its 19<sup>th</sup> century appearance. The farm passed to son James Reichard in 1986 and continues agricultural production although reduced in size to 32 acres.<sup>12</sup>

**Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Inventory of  
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. WA-I-354

Name Michael Neikirk Farmstead  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

---

**Note: For Historical Context, please refer to *An Agricultural History of Mid-Maryland*, a Maryland Historical Trust grant funded context development project administered through The Catoclin Center for Regional Studies, 2002-2003.**

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WA-I-354

---

Griffith, Dennis. *Map of Maryland, 1794*. In Papenfuse and Coale, *Atlas of Historical Maps of Maryland, 1608-1908*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982.

Lake, Griffing & Stevenson. *Illustrated Atlas of Washington County, Maryland, 1877*. Philadelphia, PA: H.J. Trudy, 1877.

Taggart, Thomas. *Map of Washington County, Maryland, 1859*. Washington Co. Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD.

Washington County Land and Estate Records, Washington Co. Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD.

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of surveyed property Approximately 34 acres

Acreage of historical setting Approximately 2 acres

Quadrangle name Williamsport Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are defined by the property boundary found on Washington County Tax Map 48, parcels 810 and 13. Parcel 13 includes the farmstead buildings and Parcel 810 the remaining acreage from the original Neikirk farm.

---

## 11. Form Prepared by

---

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD., Architectural Historian; Edie Wallace, Historian

organization Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc.

date 4 Feb. 2003

street & number 105 N. Potomac Street

telephone 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. WA-I-354

Name Michael Neikirk Farmstead  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 1

---

Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> 1820 Manufacturers Census, microfilm copy, Western Maryland Room, Washington Co. Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.

<sup>2</sup> Indicated on the Peter Jefferson and Robert Brookes Survey Map of the Northern Neck of Virginia, 1736. Copy from Cecil O'Dell, *Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia*, (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1995).

<sup>3</sup> Washington Co. Deed Book W, page 853. The patent *Resurvey on Let Justice Take Place* appears in later deeds as *Resurvey on Let Justice Be Done*.

<sup>4</sup> Washington Co. Deed Book AA, page 419.

<sup>5</sup> Washington Co. Deed Book IN 10, page 177.

<sup>6</sup> Cited in Washington Co. Deed Book 179, page 136.

<sup>7</sup> Washington Co. Will Book F, page 108. The farm totaled 76 acres after the sale of 30 acres to Elizabeth Miller.

<sup>8</sup> List of Sales Book [1866], pages 5-16.

<sup>9</sup> Washington Co. Deed Book 91, page 580.

<sup>10</sup> Washington Co. Deed Book 100, page 564.

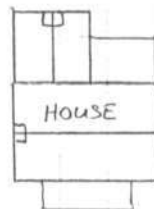
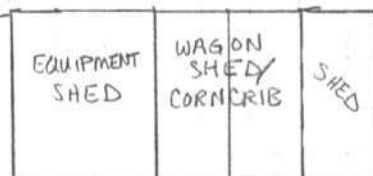
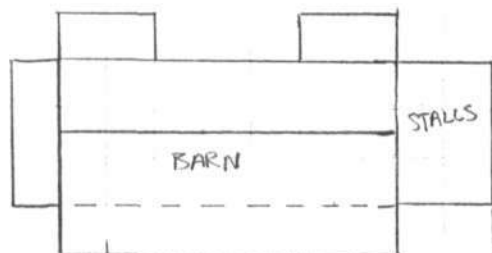
<sup>11</sup> Washington Co. Deed Book 179, page 136.

<sup>12</sup> Washington Co. Deed Book 833, page 704.

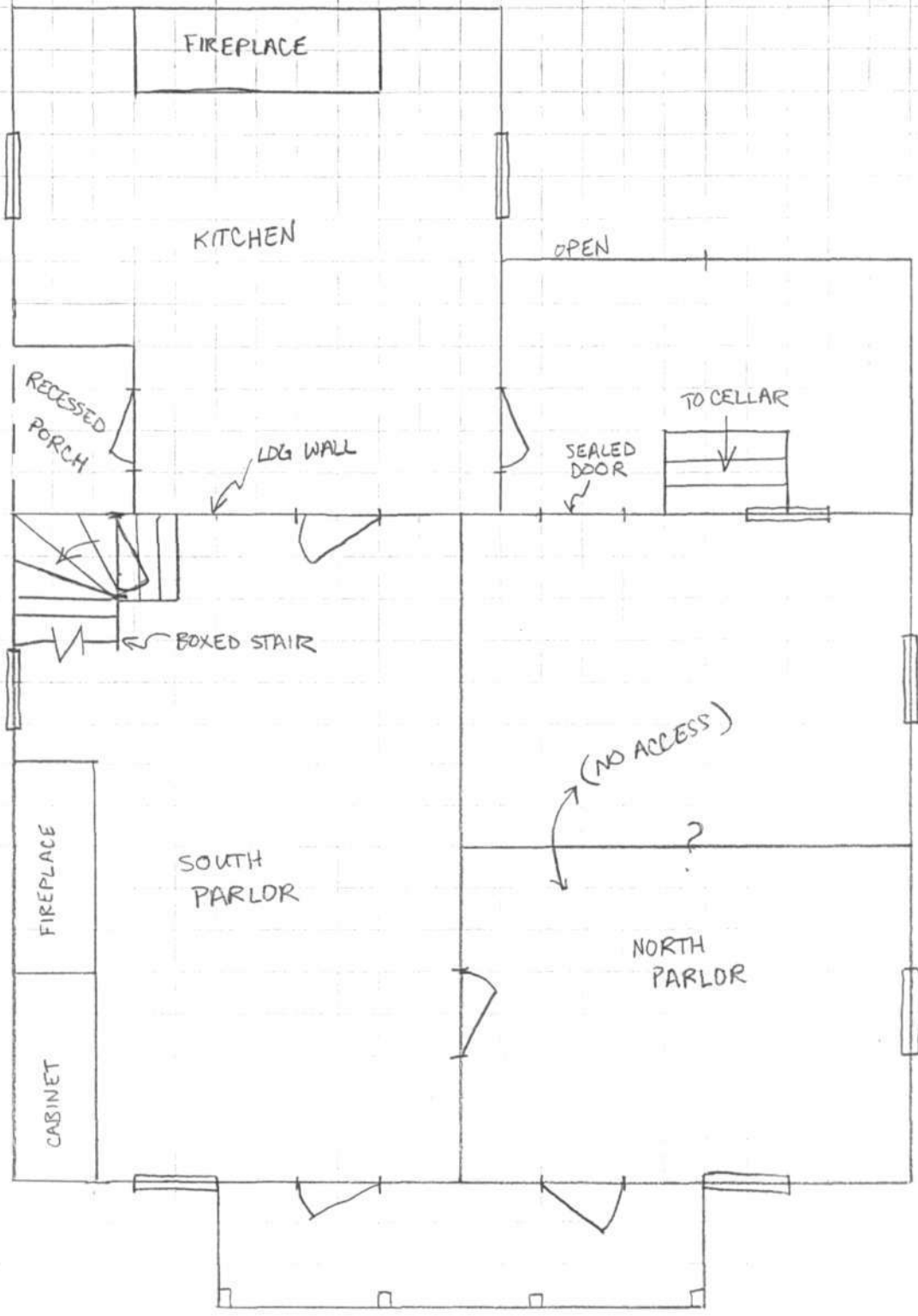


WA-I-354  
MICHAEL NEIKIRK FARMSTEAD  
WASHINGTON CO., MD

SITE PLAN  
(NOT TO SCALE)

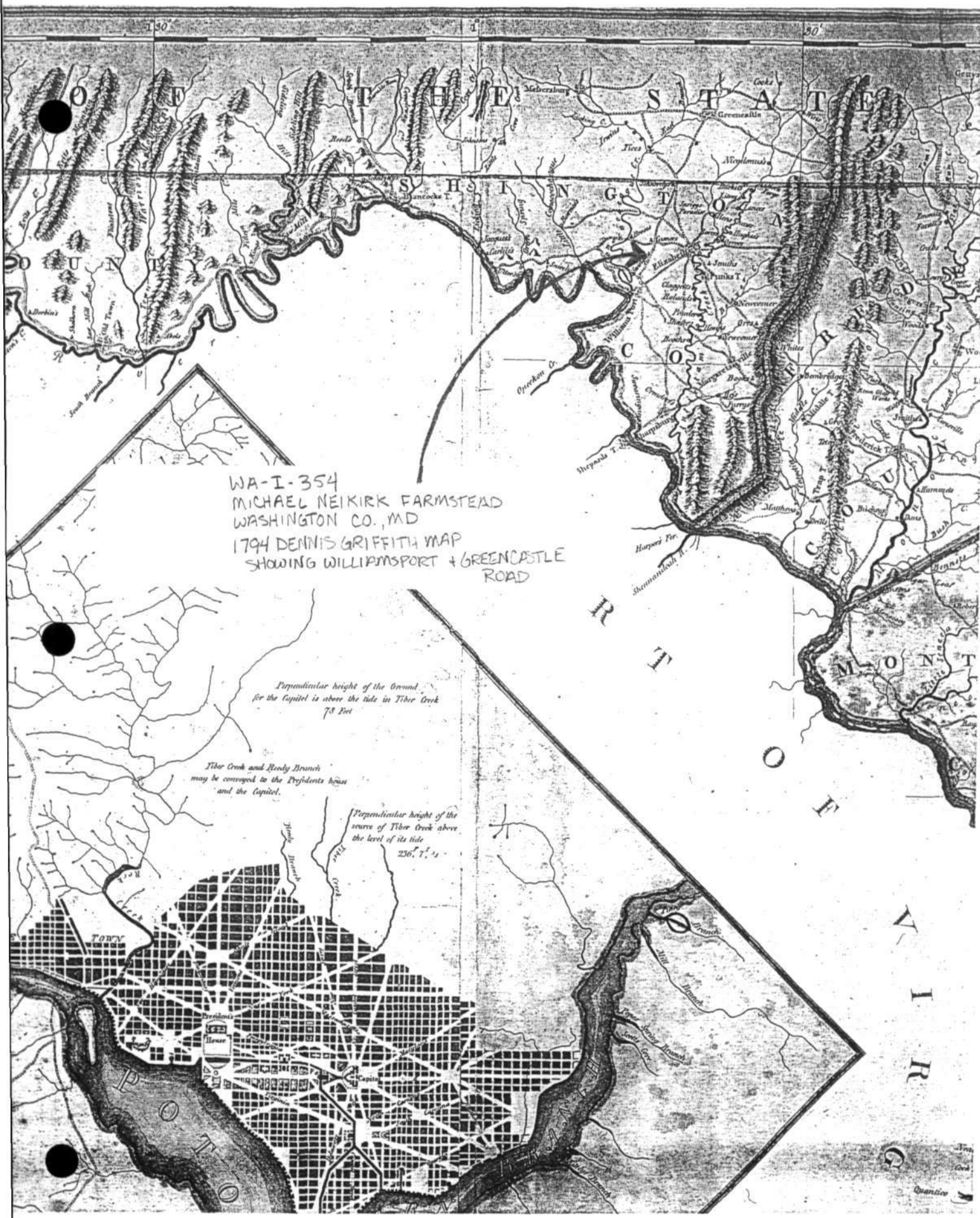


GREENCASTLE PIKE (MD ROUTE 63)



WA-I-354  
 MICHAEL NEIKIRK FARMSTEAD  
 WASHINGTON CO., MD

FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
 MAIN HOUSE  
 (NOT TO SCALE)



WA-I-354  
MICHAEL NEIKIRK FARMSTEAD  
WASHINGTON CO., MD  
1794 DENNIS GRIFFITH MAP  
SHOWING WILLIAMSPORT + GREENCASTLE  
ROAD

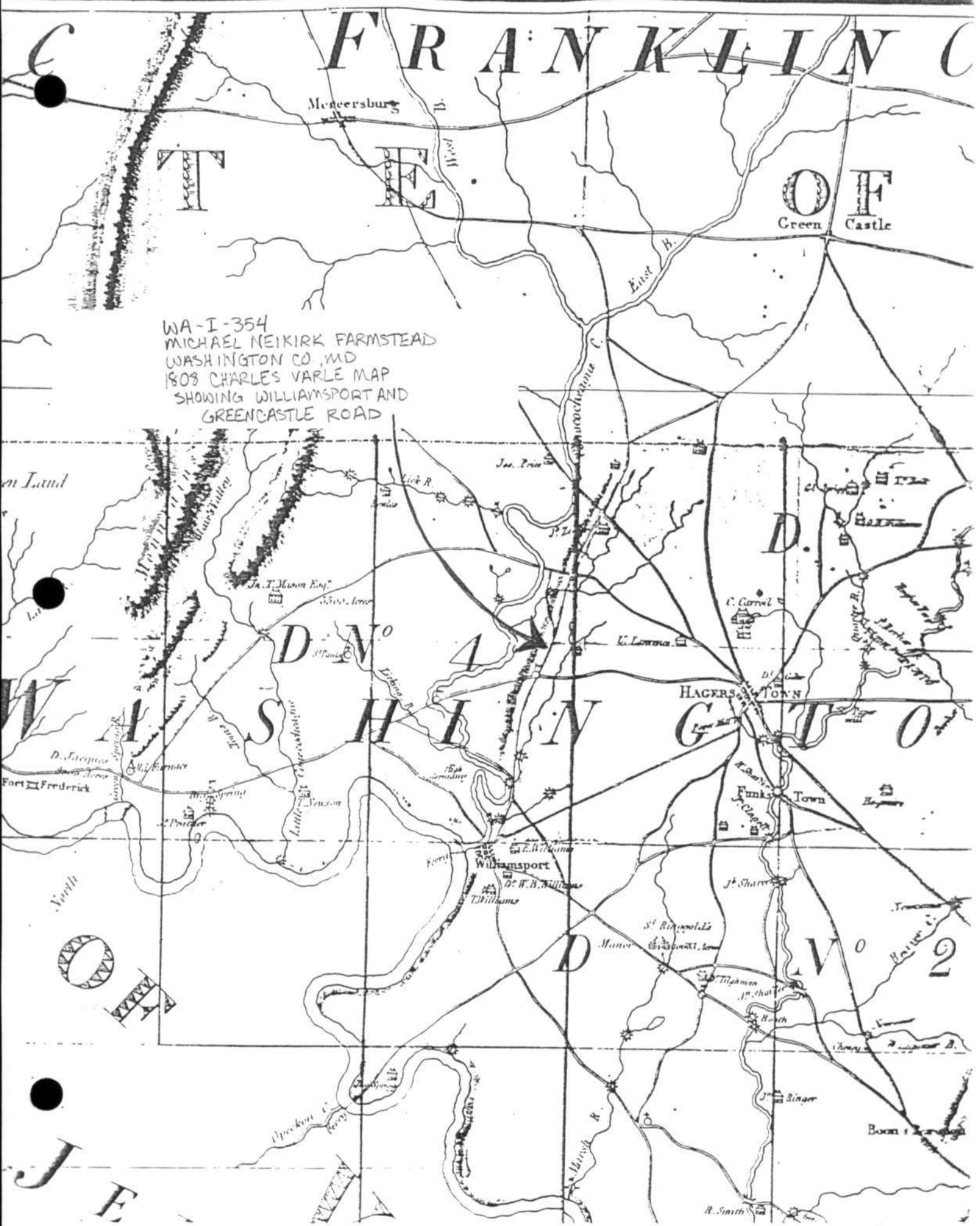
Perpendicular height of the Ground  
for the Capitol is above the tide in Tiber Creek  
78 Feet

Tiber Creek and Reedy Branch  
may be conveyed to the Presidents house  
and the Capitol.

Perpendicular height of the  
source of Tiber Creek above  
the level of its tide  
236 7/11

# FRANKLIN

WA-I-354  
MICHAEL NEIKIRK FARMSTEAD  
WASHINGTON CO, MD  
1803 CHARLES VARLE MAP  
SHOWING WILLIAMSPORT AND  
GREENCASTLE ROAD



Monersburg

Green Castle

HAGERS TOWN

Williamsport

Funk's Town

en Land

Fort Frederick

North

J F

Boon & ...

R. Smith

J. Singer

North

J. Shure

S. R. Reynolds

D. W. B. Williams

Williams

W. Williams

Little ...

W. Venson

D. J. Williams

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

W. Venson

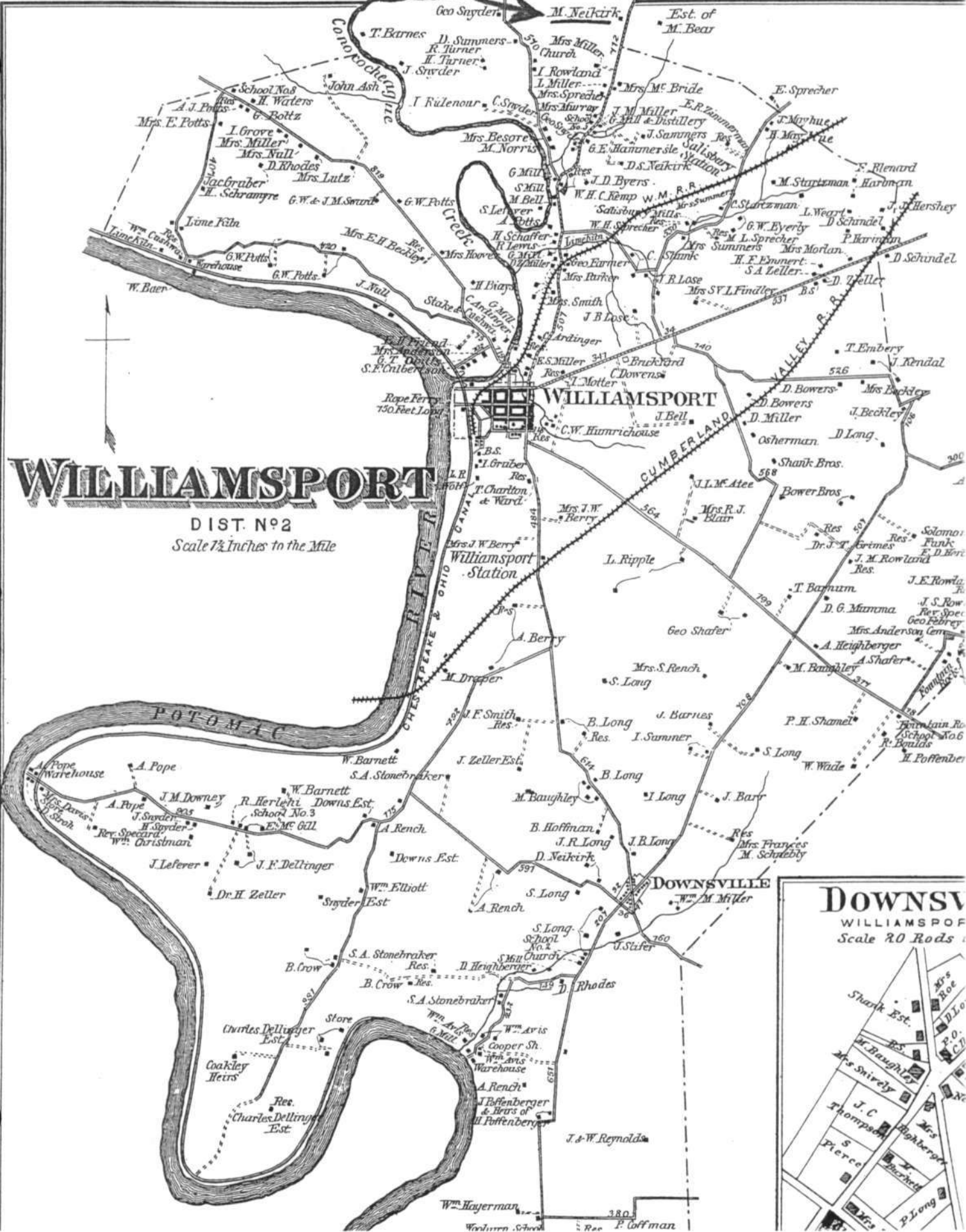
W. Venson

2



WA-I-354  
 MICHAEL NEIKIRK FARMSTEAD  
 WASHINGTON CO., MD  
 1877 ATLAS MAP OF  
 WASHINGTON CO., MARYLAND

WA-I-354



# WILLIAMSPORT

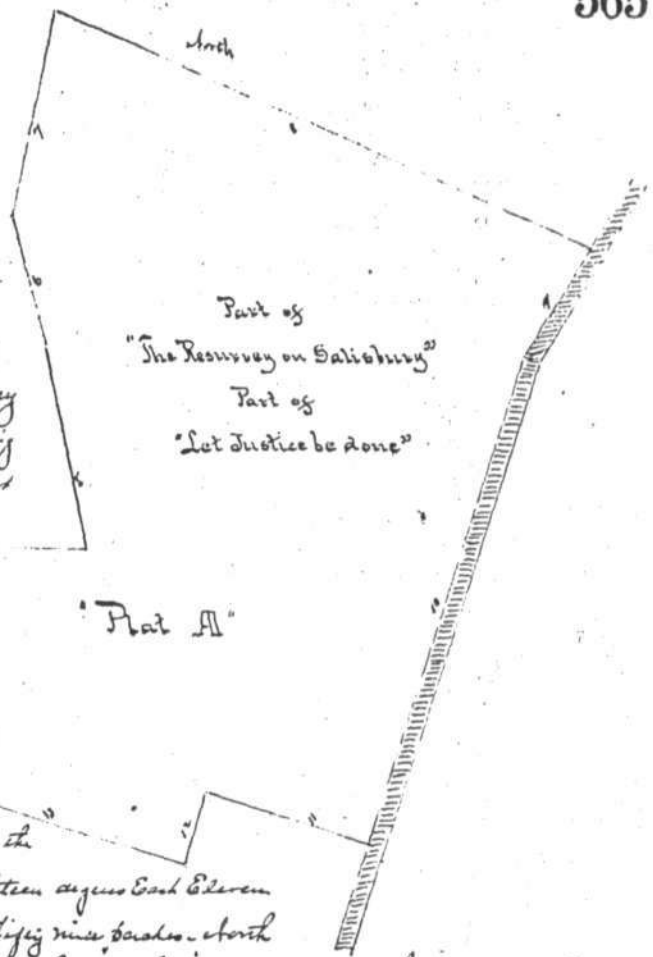
DIST. N°2  
 Scale 1/2 Inches to the Mile

# DOWNSVILLE

WILLIAMSPORT  
 Scale 20 Rods



Kemp, and D. Clayton Kemp, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, by the said Michael Neikirk and Sarah A. Neikirk his wife do grant and convey unto John M. Kemp, George M. Kemp and D. Clayton Kemp, Parties hereinafter under the firm name of Wm. H. Kemp all the following described parts of tracts of land situate lying and being in Election District No. 2, in Washington County, State of Maryland, lying contiguous, and along the Turnpike road leading from Williamsport to Greenbottle, and being part of a tract of land called "The Resurvey on Salisbury" and part of "The Resurvey on Lot Justice be Done"



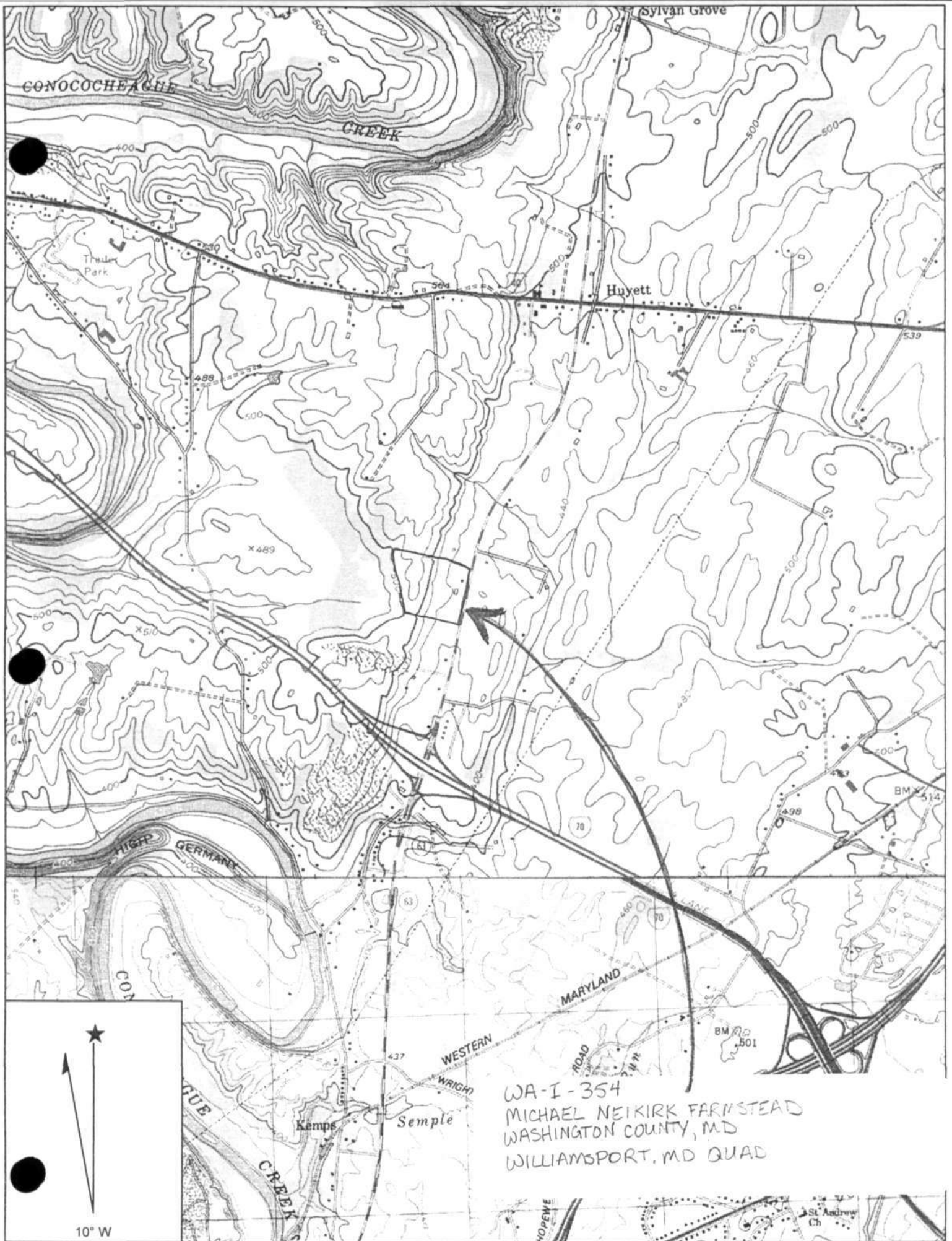
beginning for the parts hereby intended to be conveyed at a stone standing at the end of the right line of part of the aforesaid tracts of land conveyed by Barbara Neikirk to Elizabeth Miller by a deed dated January 12<sup>th</sup> 1855, and running thence according to the bearings of the lines on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1893, to wit: thence North fifteen degrees East Eleven Perches to a stone, North Eighty and one half degrees West fifty nine perches, North Fifteen and one half degrees East, Thirty Two and Eighty eight hundredths perches to a stone, thence East Eighty one and a half perches, thence North Twelve and a half degrees West fifty five perches to a stone, North Fifteen and one half degrees West, Twenty eight and fourty four hundredths perches, North Eleven and one half degrees East forty five and four tenths perches to Isaac Needy's land, thence with said land, South Sixty four degrees East One hundred and twenty eight perches to the middle of the Turnpike road leading from Williamsport to Greenbottle, thence with said road, South Thirty Two degrees West Twenty Seven and six tenths perches, South Seventeen and a half degrees West one hundred and twelve and eight tenth perches, North Seventy two and one half degrees West Thirty Eight perches, South Seventeen and one half degrees West Seventeen perches, North Twenty two and a half degrees West fifty five and a half perches to the beginning, containing One hundred and Twelve Acres of land be the same more or less, adjoining the lands of Isaac Needy, Elizabeth Miller and others, it being the same lands, part of which was conveyed to the said Michael Neikirk by a deed dated June 26<sup>th</sup> 1867 from J. and Andrew Neikirk (Executors) and Recorded in Lib. L. B. No. 2, folio 226 and part conveyed by Andrew & Thingle Neikirk by a deed dated April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1888 and Recorded in Lib. No. 91, folio 588 one of the Land Records of Washington County, Maryland, and also further described in the Plat hereto annexed and marked "A". And the said Michael Neikirk and Sarah A. Neikirk his wife covenant that we will warrant generally the land hereby conveyed, in fee simple, With our heirs and assigns.

John M. Kemp  
George M. Kemp  
D. Clayton Kemp  
State of Maryland

Michael Neikirk  
Sarah A. Neikirk

Washington County to wit: I hereby certify that on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, Eighteen hundred and ninety three, before me the subscribers, a Justice of the Peace, in and for Washington County, State of Maryland, personally appeared Michael Neikirk and Sarah A. Neikirk his wife, and did each acknowledge the foregoing deed to be their respective act and deed.

M. L. Neikirk, Jr.





WA-1-354

Michael McKirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MDSHPO

Overall view of building complex, view N

1/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neikerle Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MD SHPO

Main house, E and N elevations, view SW from  
Greencastle Pike

2/21



WA-1354

Michael Neil Kirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MDSHPO

Main house, E elevation, view W

3/21



WA-1-354

Michael Kirk Formstead  
Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MDSHPO

Main house, S and E elevations, view NW

4/21



WA-1-354

Michael Perkirke Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MO SHPO

Main house W log wall detail under recessed  
kitchen porch roof

5/21



WA-1-354

Michael Ne Kirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MDSTHPD

Main house, W and S elevations, view NE

6/21



WA-1-354

Michael Kirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

Po. Reed

12-02

MDSHPO

Main house, w elevation, view E

7/21



WA-1-354

Michael Reikirk Farmstead  
Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MDSHPO

Main house, detail of W log wall under shed  
addition (above cellar steps)

8/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neikirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-07

MDSHPO

Main house, detail of W log wall under shed  
addition (above cellar steps)

9/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neikirk Farmstead  
Washington Co., MD  
P. Reed

12-02

MDSHPD

Main house, interior, SE front door

10/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neikirk Farmstead

Washington Co. MO

P. Reed

12-02

MOSTHPO

Main house, interior, SE front door

11/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neikirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MD SHPO

Barn, E elevation, view W from Greencastle Pike

12/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neikirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MDSHPO

Barn, N elevation, view S

13/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neikirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MDST1P0

Barn, W elevation, and other buildings, view NE

14/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neil Kirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

A. Reed

12-02

MD SHPO

Barn, interior, timber framed S end, view SE from  
center threshing floor

15/21

R. A. V.

F. A. V.

May 24<sup>th</sup> 1882

May 24<sup>th</sup> 1882

WA-1-354

Michael Neikirk Farmstead  
Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MDSHPD

Barn interior, detail of dated initials, S wall of  
threshing floor

16/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neilcirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

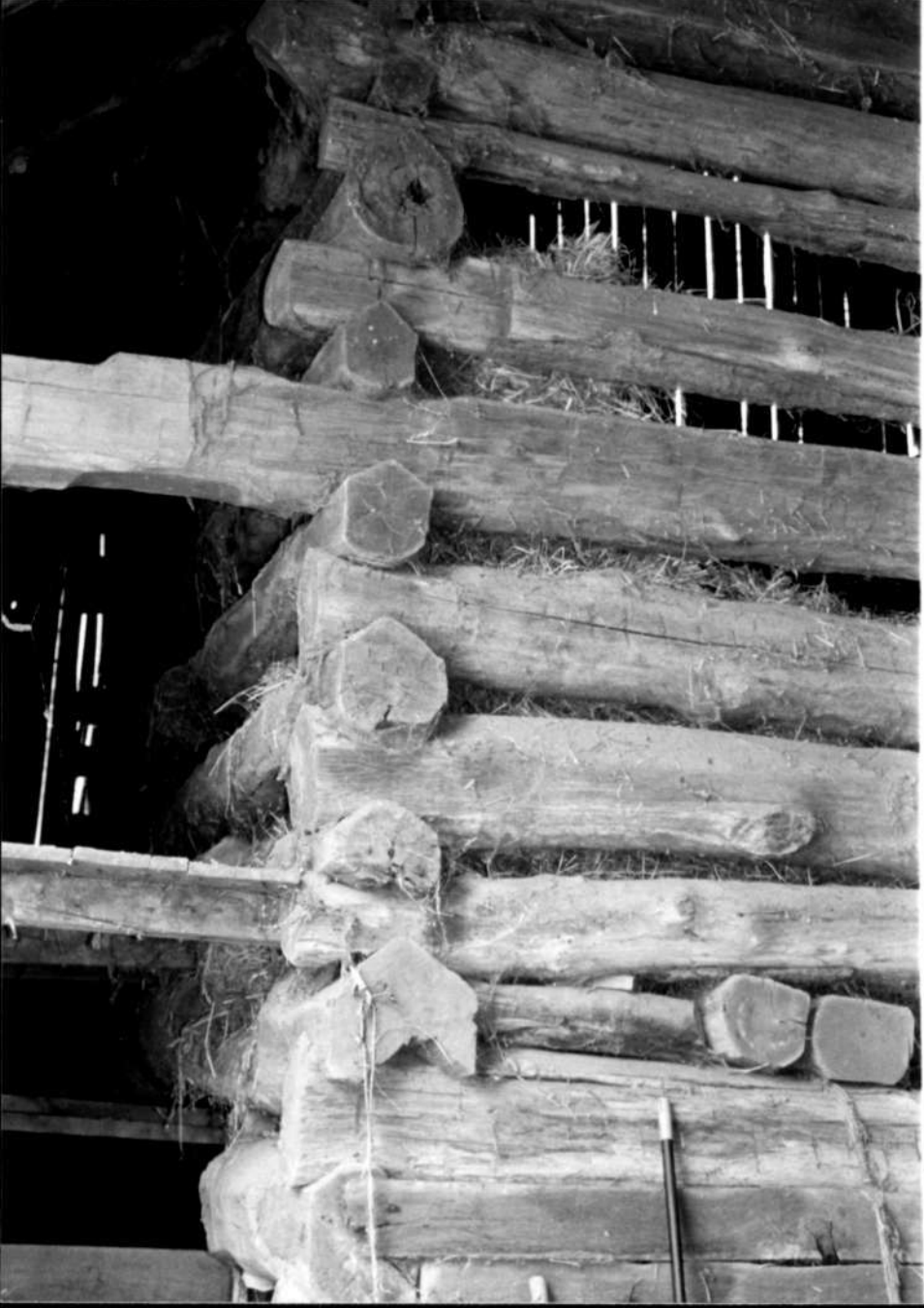
P. Reed

12-02

MDSHPO

Barn, interior, N end log crib, view NE from  
center threshing floor

11/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neikirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

D-07

MDST/PO

Barn, interior, N end log crib, detail of corner notching

18/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neikirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MDSHPO

Barn, interior, N end log crib, detail of corner  
notching

19/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neikirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-02

MDSHPO

Barn, interior, N end log crib, lower stall area  
view NE

20/21



WA-1-354

Michael Neikirk Farmstead

Washington Co., MD

P. Reed

12-07

MSHPO

Wagon shed/corncrib and sheds, E elevation  
view W

21/21

ABSTRACT

WA-I-354

Log House and Barn  
Hagerstown Vicinity  
private

Early 19th Century

This farm features two log structures, a house and a barn. The house possibly dates from the early 19th century. The date 1879 is said to be written in the barn and may or may not indicate the actual construction date. Together the buildings provide an example of an important regional type. Log was used extensively for the construction of houses and barns in Washington County during the 18th and 19th centuries. Relatively few log barns remain in use, however.

The house is four bays in width with two front doors set side by side in the center bays. This entrance plan is often associated with Germanic building traditions and frequently occurs in areas where Pennsylvania German influence is strong.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Log House and Barn

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER (Greencastle Pike)  
Maryland Route 63, north of I-70

CITY, TOWN

 VICINITY OF Hagerstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

J. Rowland Reichard

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route # 2

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Court House

Liber #: 179

Folio #: 136

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

WA-I-354

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This farm is located on the west side of Maryland Route 63, north of I-70 near Huyetts Crossroads, west of Hagerstown. The house and barn are situated on an area of level ground, both facing east.

The house is a two story, four bay log dwelling sheathed with composition siding and resting on low fieldstone foundations. Extending to the rear of the house is a one story, two bay stone addition.

Windows and doors are aligned with each other in the walls. First story windows have nine over six pane sashes around which has been applied early 20th century plain trim. Windows at the second story have six over six pane sashes. Entrances are located side by side in the two central bays of the front elevation. The doors are treated similarly, each with a transom. A one story shed roofed entrance porch supported by turned posts shelters the two doors.

The roof is sheathed with corrugated sheet metal and terminates with tapered barge boards set directly against the end walls. Plain boxing finishes the eaves. Inside the south end wall just east of its center is a brick chimney.

South of the house is a small log barn with a frame shed roofed extension. It is a two bay barn of interlocking "V" notched logs. According to the owner, the date 1879 was found written in the structure.

The buildings appear to be in fair condition and stand on a tract containing about 112 acres.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **1879 Written in Barn** BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This farm features two log structures, a house and a barn. The house possibly dates from the early 19th century. The date 1879 is said to be written in the barn and may or may not indicate the actual construction date. Together the buildings provide an example of an important regional type. Log was used extensively for the construction of houses and barns in Washington County during the 18th and 19th centuries. Relatively few log barns remain in use, however.

The house is four bays in width with two front doors set side by side in the center bays. This entrance plan is often associated with Germanic building traditions and frequently occurs in areas where Pennsylvania German influence is strong.

The property includes parts of the land grants, "Resurvey on Salisbury" and "Resurvey on Let Justice Be Done."

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 112 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

**Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION

**Washington County Historical Sites Survey**

DATE

**September 1977**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

**County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street**

TELEPHONE

**791-3065**

CITY OR TOWN

**Hagerstown**

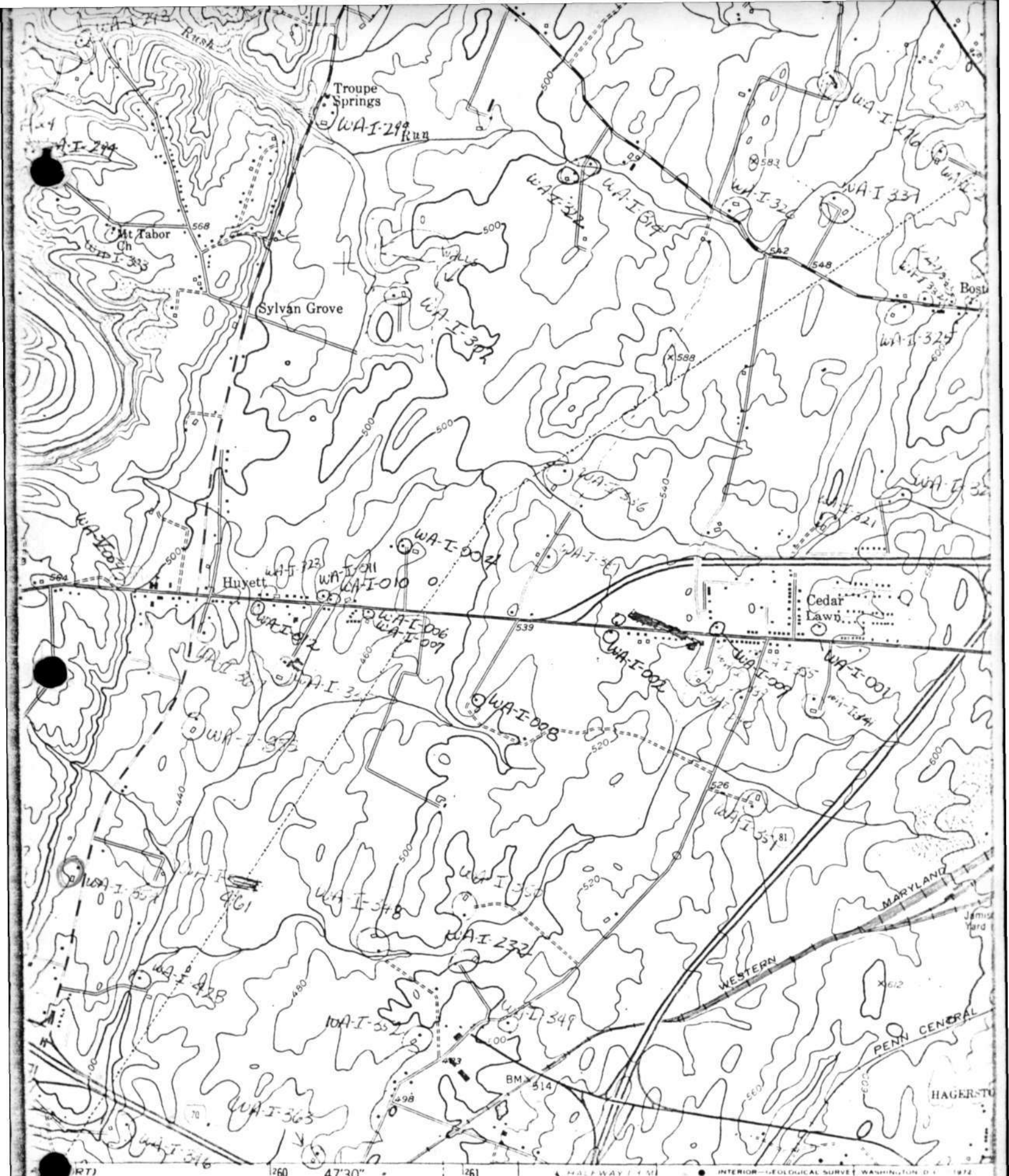
STATE

**Maryland 21740**

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



1260 4730 1261  
1990000 FEET (PA.)

*Mason-Dixon quadrangle*

*WA-I-354*

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy duty Light duty   
 Medium duty Unimproved dirt

00  
 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
 1 KILOMETER

1 MILE

763000m E



10-1-259

5.



A-I-

357

S.E.



WA-I. 354

S.E.

March, 1975

Log House and Barn

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-I-354

Barn, N.E.

March, 1975

Log House and Barn

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY