

AL-1-C-020
William E. Reckley Log House
Gorman Road
Keifers, Maryland
ca. 1870's

The coming of the C & O Canal attracted settlers to the isolated southeastern corner of Allegany County. One of them was Everhart Reckley who, in 1847, bought a large tract near the canal now known as Reckley Flat. His farm was divided between his sons, William and Roman in 1881. Prior to that, during the 1870's, William built this log house. Like others in the area, this house was built resting on stone pillars at the corners.

INVENTORY NO: AL-I-C-020

DATE: 7/8/78

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: William Reckley Log House

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Gorman Road, Reckley Flat

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: West

NAME OF OWNER: Freda Robertson

ADDRESS: Rt. 1 Box 139

Paw Paw, W. Virginia 25434

STORIES: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS: Large frame abuts northern end of original - German siding

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular) "I" Shaped

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- () BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- () STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- (X) LOG
- (X) OTHER: Coverings Board and Batten on log original

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others Cornerboards

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone Random rubble on addition. Original rests on

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick stone pillars on corners.

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other() 6/2 lights casement on
pegged() nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment() original

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: Center of Western facade - vertical boards second story
HARDWARE: original() replaced() door with gabled roof.
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards

Box

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)
original() replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original() replaced()
Tar paper

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable() shed rear porch on east.

CHIMNEYS: Number: 2 Brick() Stone() Corbeled(1) original(1) replaced()
Location: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()
On original

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

USE: Farm
SIGNIFICANCE: Agriculture/Architecture
DATE CONSTRUCTED: _____
CONDITION: Fair

FLOOR PLAN:

- () CENTRAL HALL: Two rooms, each side; double parlor, one side
- () SIDE HALL: One room deep, two rooms deep
- () IRREGULAR

STAIRWAYS:

- () ENCLOSED: Single flight, two flights with landing
- () OPEN: Single flight, two flights - one landing, three flights - two landings
- () DOG-LEG
- () DOG-LEG with WINDERS
- () SPIRAL
- () ROUNDED
- () SYMMETRICAL DIVIDED FLIGHTS

WALL FINISH:

- () PLASTER
- () PANELED: original; replaced
- () BOARD PARTITION: baseboard, cornice, chair rail, wainscot

FIREPLACES:

NUMBER _____
 LOCATION: parallel to walls, diagonal
 MANTELS: wood mouldings, pilasters, columns, masonry, marble

DOORS: paneled, board and batten, flush
 HARDWARE: original; replaced

DOOR & WINDOW TRIM:

- () PLAIN
- () ARCHITRAVE
- () SYMMETRIC with CORNER BLOCKS
- () FLUTED
- () FLUTED with CORNER BLOCKS
- () ARCHED OPENINGS: elliptical, tudor

NOTES:

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

William E. Reckley Log House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Gorman Road

CITY, TOWN

Keifers

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

George B. Robertson and Freda Robertson Telephone #: 724-8511

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 1 Box 139

CITY, TOWN

Paw Paw

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

W. Virginia, 25434

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 430

Folio #: 47

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-I-C-020

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William E. Reckley Log House is located north of Gorman Road near Keifers, Maryland

The building is a "T" shaped, two story, three bays wide structure. The original building is rectangular. The frame addition is larger than the original log building. Wall construction of the original is of logs with board and batten siding. The frame addition is covered with German siding. The building has cornerboards.

The original has no foundation but rests on stone pillars on the corners. The addition has a low stone random rubble foundation. Eaves of the building consist of a box cornice and soffit. One chimney on the original is located in the interior. The chimney of the addition is centrally located. The roof of the original is gable flank while the roof of the addition, perpendicular to the original, is gable front. Both are covered with tar paper.

Windows of the building are double hung, 2/2 light, two wooden sash, with wooden lugsills and plain frames. The second floor windows of the original are six light casements with plain wooden frames.

The porch on the western facade of the original has a plain gabled hood. The entrance on this porch is a simple vertical board door. A shed roof porch is on the eastern facade of the original. The shed roof porch in the northern side of the addition has been partially enclosed with German siding.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" 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 1870's BUILDER/ARCHITECT William E. Reckley

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The tract of land known as "Fertile Meadow" was conveyed in a patent from the State of Maryland to a "gentleman" of Montgomery County, Lawrence O'Neale. O'Neale was probably an absentee owner. In another deed, not directly concerning this property, there is mention that O'Neale had "Fertile Meadow" surveyed before he owned it, in 1790. ¹

The isolated existence of families farming the general area was enlivened in the mid-nineteenth century when construction on the adjacent C & O Canal passed through the area. ² The coming of the canal attracted settlers including the Reckley family whose name was given to the large flat meadow known as Reckley Flat.

Everhart Reckley bought the farm in 1847 and built a log house. (See AL-I-C-019). This was the first of several log houses built in the neighborhood. In 1881 the farm was divided between Everhart's sons William E. and James Roman Reckley. Roman eventually occupied his father's house and William was already living in this log house built prior to 1881. ³

In 1912 William E. Reckley sold the farm to the Robertson family which still owns it. ⁴

This is one of several log farmhouses around Keifers that are constructed with stone pillars on the corners that serve as foundations of the houses. The log part of the house has been obscured by board and batten, used to cover most old log houses of the area. A much larger frame addition has been added to the northern facade of the original log house.

1. Allegany County Land Records Liber 3, Folio 313; Liber 3, Folio 341
2. Harry Stegmaier, Jr. Allegany County-A History (Parsons, W. Va: McClain Printing Co., 1976) pp. 258-9
3. Allegany County Land Records Liber 55, Folio 458; Liber 93, Folio 443
4. Ibid Liber 134, Folio 629; Liber 138, Folio 39; liber 249, Folio 350

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records
Stegmaier, Jr., Harry. Allegany County-A History. Parsons, W. Va. McClain
Printing Co, 1976.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 102 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

David A. Dorsey

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

7/8/78

STREET & NUMBER

3-33 Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

777-5944

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH

AL-I-C-020
William E. Reckley Log House
Gorman Road
Keifers, Maryland

Allegany County Deed: Liber 430, Folio 47
Grantee: George Bernard Robertson and Freda Naomi Robertson Date: April 29, 1969
Grantor: Donald W. Mason, Trustee
Notes: To make them tenants entirties .

Allegany County Deed: 430, Folio 44
Grantee: Donald W. Mason Date: April 29, 1969
Grantor: George and Freda Robertson

Allegany County Deed: Liber 161, Folio 489
Grantee: George Bernard Robertson Date: August 22, 1929
Grantor: William D. Robertson
Notes: All his rights title and interest.

Allegany County Wills: Liber P, Folio 1
Grantee: George B. Robertson Date: September 24, 1929
Grantor: Alice V. Roberston

Allegany County Deed: Liber 154, Folio 595
Grantee: Alice V. Robertson Date: December 19, 1925
Grantor: William D. Robertson

Allegany County Deed: Liber 111, Folio 299
Grantee: William D. Robertson Date: October 30, 1912
Grantor: William F. Reckley and Laura L. Reckley

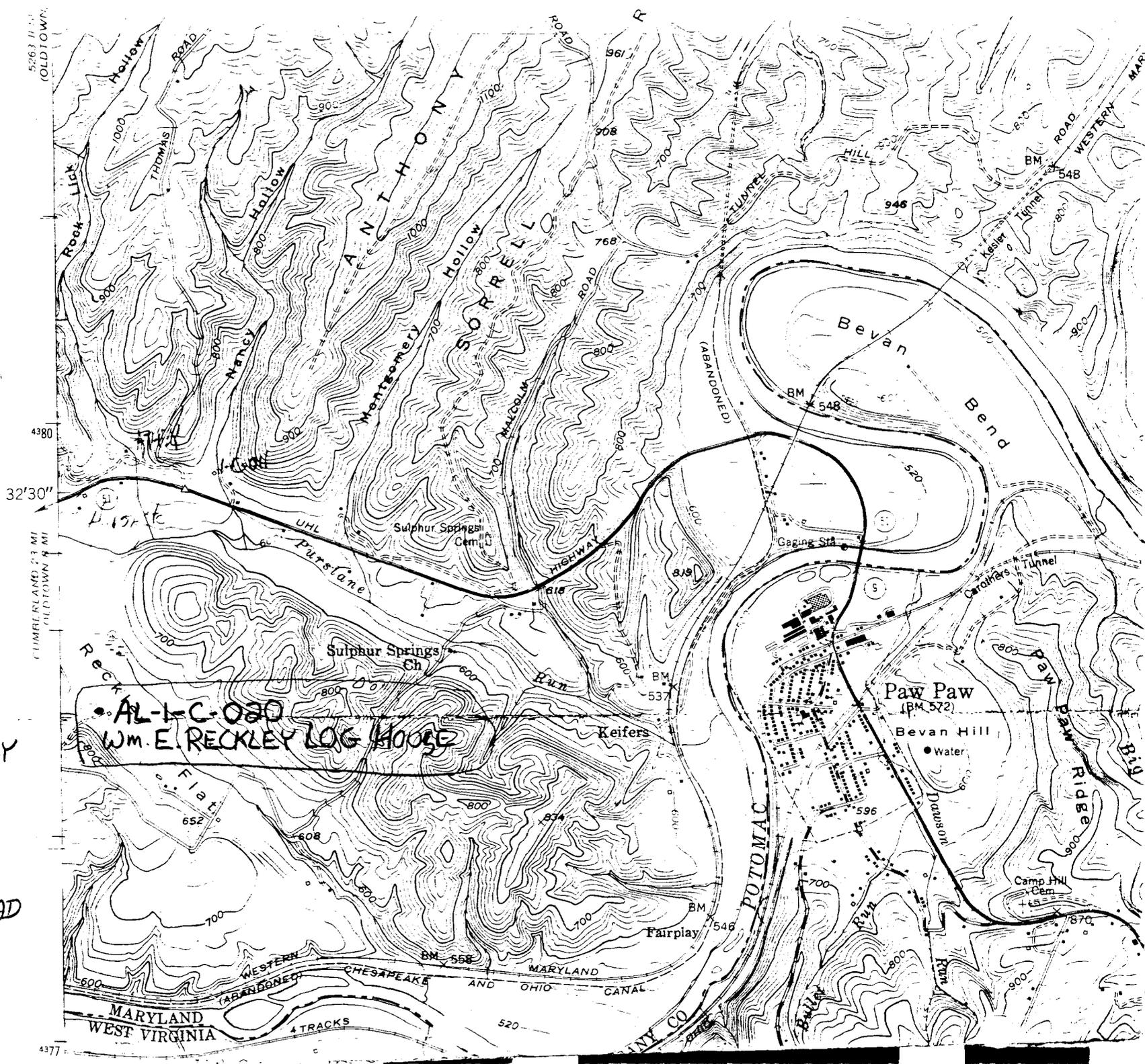
Allegany County Deed: Liber 93, Folio 444
Grantee: William E. Reckley Date: September 7, 1903
Grantor: James R. Reckley and wife Emma J.
Notes: Parts of "Fertile Meadow" and "Bladges Hollow"

Allegany County Deed: Liber 55, Folio 458
Grantee: Will and James Reckley Date: September 14, 1881
Grantor: Everhart Reckley

Allegany County Deed: Liber 3, Folio 313
Grantee: Everhart Reckley Date: April 1, 1847
Grantor: James Smith (Trustee) Consideration: \$771.82
Notes: All of Fertile Meadow- Trustee from equity between two Eliza O'Neales.
Smith sold land at a public sale to John Goramn who failed to pay full price.
In 1847, this deed, land was sold for balance of purchase price. Lawrence
O'Neale obtained land in a patent from the State of Maryland, December 10, 1794.

Allegany County Deed: Liber 3, Folio 341
This deed concerns another O'Neal property but mentions that he had "Fertile Meadow"
surveyed June 7, 1790. He is identified as a gentleman from Montogomery County, Maryland.

AL-1-C-020
WILLIAM E. RECKLEY
LOG HOUSE
GORMAN ROAD
KEIFERS, MD
USGS PAW PAW QUAD
1950





AL-1-C-020

W.M.E. Reckley Log House

GORMAN RD. KEIFERS, MD

DAVID A DORSEY

7/8/78

Northeast



AL-1-C-020

Wm. E. Reckley Log House
outbuilding

Gorman Rd Reifers, Md

David A. Dorsey

7/8/78

southeast



AL-1-C-020

Wm. E. Reckley Log House
Gorman Rd. Keifers, Md

DAVID A. DORSEY

7/8/78

Southwest