

Memo to file

February 27, 2015

From: Casey Pecoraro  
Inventory Registrar

Re: F-5-26  
Rich Hills

The property documented in the following DOE form has not been formally evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The comments and opinions in the text are those of the preparer of the documentation. The State Historic Preservation Office has neither concurred nor disagreed with the recommendations presented in the form.

No photographs or map were submitted with the form.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: Rich Hills Inventory Number: F-5-26  
 Address: 6300 Boyers Mill Road Historic district:  yes  no  
 City: New Market Zip Code: 21774 County: Frederick  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Walkersville  
 Property Owner: William T. & Lillian C. Blentlinger Tax Account ID Number: 09223576  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 2 Tax Map Number: 79  
 Project: Boyers Mill Road Improvement Agency: Frederick County Div. of Public Works  
 Agency Prepared By: Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc.  
 Preparer's Name: Heidi Campbell-Shoaf Date Prepared: 11/21/2005  
 Documentation is presented in: MIHP form F-5-26  
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation:  Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended  
 Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:  
 Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible:  yes Listed:  yes  
 Site visit by MHT Staff  yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Rich Hills Farmstead is set to the east of Boyers Mill Road and includes a two-part stone dwelling facing southwest, a frame Pennsylvania type bank barn, frame wagon shed and corn crib, frame and concrete block hog barn and a frame chicken house and garage. The buildings are set among farm fields and pasture.

The northern section of the house is a 1 1/2 story, three bay stone building with a central entrance, very steeply pitched gable roof with shed dormer windows. Attached to its north end wall is a small gable roofed structure, which may be an attached bake-oven. It has a door in the front wall and a window in the gable end. There is a massive stone chimney with a stone corbel at its top, located inside the north gable end. The northernmost bay of the front elevation is part of the stone construction. The remainder of the facade is covered with asbestos shingle siding, which may enclose a former open porch under the main roof span. A shed roofed enclosed entrance bay has been added. Windows are small with louvered shutters and 2/2 replacement sashes. The shed dormers each have single pane sash windows. The roofing material of this section is corrugated sheet metal. This section appears to predate, perhaps by several decades, the remainder of the house (the south section), which is believed to date from 1792. The very steep roof and overall form of the house indeed suggests a construction date from well before 1790.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended   
 Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

**MHT Comments:**

_____	_____
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
_____	_____
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date

Attached to the south gable end is a larger stone section which appears to be an addition. It has two full stories, four bays and two center front doors. A date tablet in the south gable end has the date 1792 painted onto it. The south section has a one story hip-roofed porch across the front, inside end brick chimneys with corbels at their tops and a recently replaced standing seam metal roof. Windows have massive mortised and tenoned frames secured with pegs and trimmed with a molded backband. Single pane sash replace older, but not original, two over two pane sash which were present when the house was initially surveyed for MHT in 1978. Shutters present in 1978 are now gone. The two central front doors are framed similarly to the windows and each has a four light transom. The across-the-front hipped roof porch has been altered since 1978, but retains its essential form and character. It rests on the same concrete block foundation, which seems to date from the mid 20th century. The porch framing appears to date from the late 19th century with turned posts and decorative brackets. Since 1978, a porch railing has been added.

In addition to the house is a frame Pennsylvania-type bank barn. It is a mid-19th century frame building resting on stone foundations. The forebay appears to have been originally open, and then later enclosed with wood vertical siding. On either side of the barn ramp are concrete stabe silos. In addition there is a frame hog barn and chicken coops, wagon shed and a stone spring house.

Property History:

Rich Hills with its mains section built c. 1792, but its north wing apparently much older, represents one of the earliest farmsteads still extant in this area of Frederick County. The possible mid 18th century origin of the house with the 1792 addition make it a rare architectural survival from Frederick County's early development. Many of the farm's outbuildings are intact and reflect the particular construction and spacial arrangement unique to agricultural use in mid Maryland. Of note, in addition to the dwelling, are the barn and small stone springhouse located in the field northwest of the house. The Pennsylvania type bank barn developed for grain farming illustrates the region's emphasis on wheat and other grains in agricultural practice. The farm encompasses land from two original land grants, "Lapland" granted to Col. Ephaim Howard in 1770 and "Resurvey on Rich Hills" granted to Samuel Plummer in 1743.

Evaluation:

Rich Hills meets National Register criteria A and C, criterion A as representing the early settlement patterns of Frederick County, and Criterion C as an excellent example of 18th century farmstead architecture which evolved into the 19th century and which remains largely intact, along with its associated lands. The farmstead retains a high level of visual integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

F-5-26

Rich Hills  
New Market  
Private

1792

Rich Hills, a one and a half and two story stone residence is one of the most unusual residences in the New Market region exhibiting architectural details more similar to the English homes of Eastern Shore Maryland than the German style of Western Maryland.

The residence has two parts; the northern section, a one and a half story coursed random stone structure three bays wide and one room deep, dating to the mid-eighteenth century, predates the south section, a two and one half story coursed random stone structure, three bays wide. A one story frame porch with decorative scrolls extends across the front of the building. Very large stone quoins (some in excess of three feet) alternate every other foot in each corner of the building. A date stone with "1792" hand painted on it is located in the south gable.

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INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Rich Hills

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

East Side Boyers Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

New Market

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

ED 9 Map 72 P 2

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

**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 William T. Blentlinger

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Route #1, Box 169

CITY, TOWN

Mount Airy

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21771

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: 433

Folio #: 545

STREET & NUMBER

North Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland 21701

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Rich Hills is a most unusual one and one-half and two story stone residence which faces west from the east side of Boyers Mill Road.

The oldest section of the structure definitely dating to the second half of the eighteenth century is a one and one-half story random stone structure three bays wide and one room deep. A one story small stone addition is located north of this center section.

This structure is the most unusual residence in the New Market area. The principle facade is three bays wide; the main entrance door which has been replaced and a small entrance addition made is located in the second bay. Two small replaced 2/2 windows are located in the remaining bays. The entire west side of this section has been covered with aluminum siding. A large plank door with strap hinges is located in the center of the north addition. The unusually steep gable roof has been replaced with standing seam tin. Two very small and narrow shed roofed gables extend from the roof over the first and third bays of the first level. A massive stone chimney is located, for the most part, on the east side of the north gable end of the center section.

The south section of the house is a two story random stone building. The main facade is four bays wide. A six panel door, (one with glass inserts) with four light transom is located in both the second and third bay on the first level. Occupying the remaining bays on the first and second level are replaced 2/2 windows with louvered shutters.

A one story frame porch with decorative scrolls and replaced cinder block foundation extends across the first level of this section of the building.

Very large stone quoins (some in excess of three feet in length) alternate every other foot in each corner of the building.

A date stone with "1792" hand painted on it is located in the south gable. The south addition is covered by a standing seam tin flank gabled roof attached to a replaced boxed cornice. An interior corbeled brick chimney is located on each gable end of the addition.

A frame bank barn is also located on the premises of Rich Hills, just south of the building.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 1792

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rich Hills is one of the most unusual residences in the New Market region exhibiting architectural details more similar to the English homes of Eastern Shore Maryland than the German style of Western Maryland.

The building has, up until recently, always been owned by families of English descent. The farm is located on two original land grants. Lapland was conveyed to Col. Ephraim Howard in 1770; resurvey on Rich Hills was granted to Samuel Plummer in 1743.

By 1812 Jesse Hughes was in possession of the 175 acres upon which the house was built and probably built the south section of the house which is dated 1792.<sup>1</sup>

Upon his death in 1812 Hughes left the property to his sons and daughters to sell if they wished and each getting a "fair share". In 1816, the property was sold to Eli Elliott for \$9,947.<sup>2</sup> In 1832 Eli Elliott sold the land which now consisted of 127 acres and buildings for \$4,000 to Abner Plummer.<sup>3</sup> The Plummer family owned "Rich Hill" until 1889 when Abner Plummer's son, William, sold the farm to Adam Blentlinger, the family which still runs the farm today.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Frederick County Probate Records, Liber RB1; Folio 322.

<sup>2</sup>Frederick County Land Records, Liber JS 3; Folio 180.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., Liber JS 39; Folio 472.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., Liber WIP 9; Folio 75.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

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

Cherilyn Widell, Sites Analyst

ORGANIZATION

Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

6/30/78

STREET & NUMBER

12 East Church St., Winchester Hall

TELEPHONE

663-8300 ext. 266

CITY OR TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland 21701

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

~~WALKERSVILLE~~  
WALKERSVILLE  
QUADRANGLE

Mc Zion

McKaug

Central  
Chapel

Bens

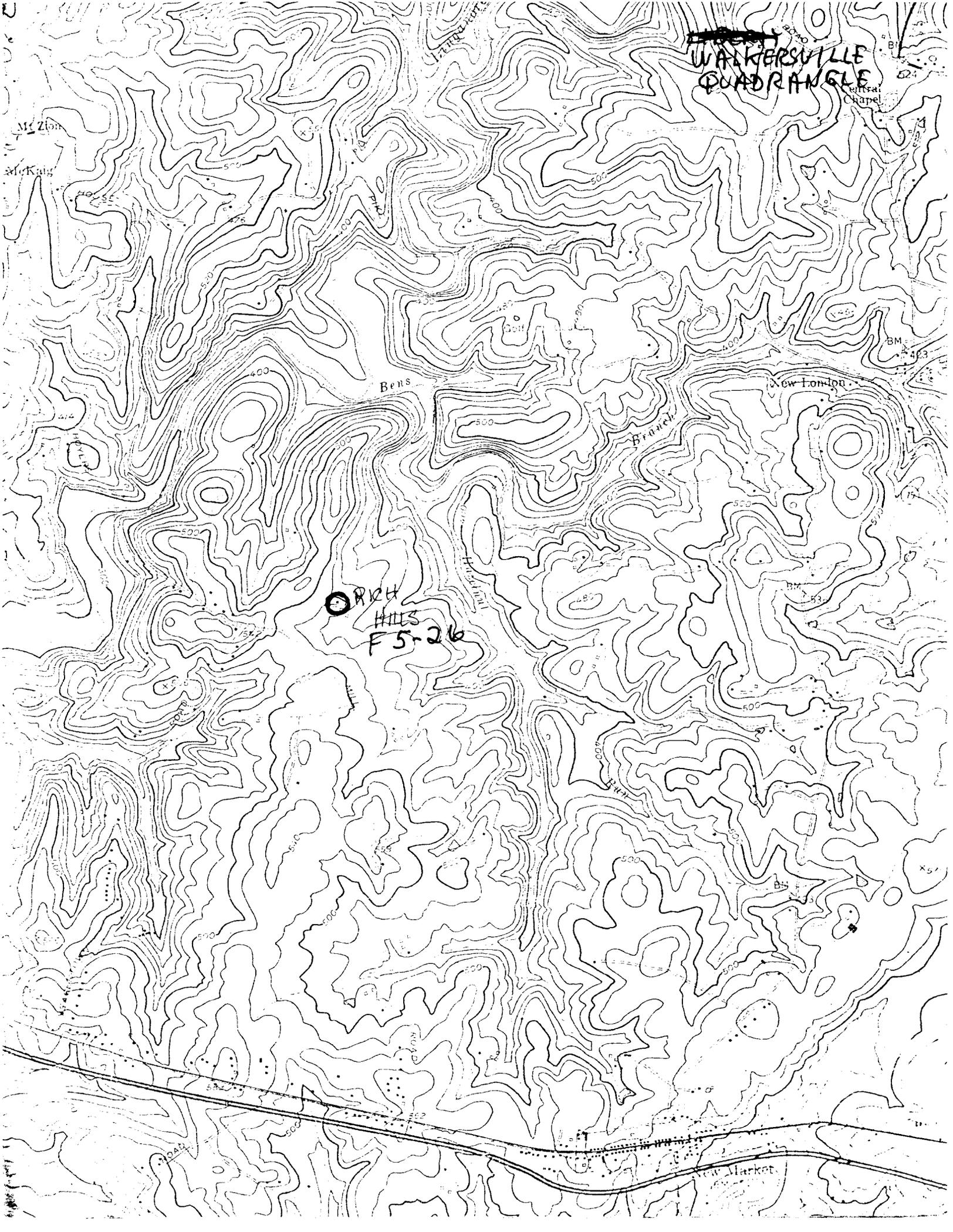
New London

ORIH  
HILLS  
F5-26

Hickman

Branch

New Market





RICH HILLS

E/S BOYERS MILL RD

WEST ELEVATION

OEW 9/77  
F-5-26



RICH HILLS

E/S BOYERS MILL RD

SOUTH WEST ELEVATION

CEW 9/77

F-5-26