NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Nicodemus Mill Complex

other names WA-II-115

2. Location

street & number 20019 Nicodemus Mill Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Keedysville ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code 24 county Washington code 043 zip code 21756

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Deputy SHPO 6-22-01

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Nicodemus Mill Complex (WA-II-115)
Name of Property

Washington County, MD
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
7	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/mill
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbldg.

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
OTHER/ruin
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE; BRICK
walls STONE: Limestone; BRICK; WOOD
roof METAL
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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 pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property 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)

Property is:

- ☐ **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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1810-c. 1900

Significant Dates

c. 1810; c. 1829

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Nicodemus Mill Complex (WA-II-115)
Name of Property

Washington County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.92 acres

UTM References Keedysville, MD quad
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	270060	4372830	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula S. Reed
Organization Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc. date 1978; updated 2/2001
street & number 105 N. Potomac Street telephone (301) 739-2070
city or town Hagerstown state MD zip code 21740

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Description Summary:

The Nicodemus Mill Complex consists of a dated 1810 stone house with a mid-19th century brick service wing, the ruins of a ca. 1829 grist mill, and an extensive complement of nineteenth-century domestic and agricultural outbuildings including a stone springhouse, stone-end bank barn, brick out kitchen, frame wash house, and a stuccoed stone secondary dwelling. The property is located southeast of Keedysville in Washington County, Maryland.

General Description:

This farm and grist mill complex is known locally as Nicodemus Mill. It is located on Dog Creek, north of Dogstreet Road and east of Nicodemus Mill Road, southeast of Keedysville in Washington County, Maryland.

The main building in the complex is a large stone dwelling dated 1810. It is a 2-1/2 story five bay stone structure with a two-story, four-bay brick service wing extending to the rear or north. Since the house is built into a slope, a full three stories are exposed at the front elevation.

The walls are constructed of roughly coursed native limestone without arches or decorative masonry at the window and door openings. A large amount of old lime mortar with an inverted V profile remains in the joints. The front wall surface at the ground story has been coated with whitewash. Set high in the gables of the east and west ends are plastered date tablets trimmed with brick. In the east end wall, the tablet is circular, set in a ring of wedge-shaped header bricks. This tablet is inscribed with the date 1810. In the west end the date marker is rectangular with a brick-trimmed, segmentally-arched head; near its top are the figures 18 H 10. Both datestones appear to have been refurbished in recent years.

Windows and doors are spaced symmetrically in the front wall. Wide window and door frames are pegged at the corners and trimmed with quarter-round backband molding. Windows at the two main stories have nine-over-six pane, double-hung sash; the ground story windows on the north elevation have six-over-six pane sash. Most window frames retain early shutter hardware.

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the front (south) elevation. Below a four light transom is a six-panel door which is sheathed on the inside surface with vertical boards and hung on wrought strap hinges. The principal entrance is accessed from a wooden, elevated porch which spans the entire width of the front elevation. The porch is supported on chamfered square posts between which run a series of three rails. A flight of steps rises from the ground story at the west end. The ground story has two entrances in the front elevation; each is fitted with a batten door, and the doors

retain early thumb latches with pointed upper cusps. During rehabilitation of the porch, evidence was found indicating that the central window at the second story level was formerly a door, suggesting that the porch may once have been two stories.

The roof of the stone section is covered in metal and terminates with tapered barge boards set dirctly against the end walls. Brick interior chimneys are located at both ends.

A brick service wing extends from the rear of the stone house. The wing is constructed of common bond, with varying numbers of stretcher courses between header rows. Windows have nine-over-six pane sash held within narrow frames; window openings are surmounted with wide wooden lintels. Two chimneys are located in the ell, one inside the north gable wall and another near the midpoint of the ridge. This wing appears to have been added in the middle third of the nineteenth century; the exterior masonry and interior decorative detailing are typical of that period. The northernmost room was a kitchen with a large cooking fireplace.

The interior of the stone section is bisected by a central stair hall. On the first floor, one large room is located on either side of the passage, each with a fireplace. Mantels here and throughout the stone section of the house have reeded trim. A large chimney breast jutting into the east room accommodates both the fireplace in that room and the flue from a large fireplace in the cellar below. Doors have six raised panels and are hung on strap hinges; archtraves have quarter-round backband trim.

On the second story, there are two rooms on the west side of the center passage and one room on the east. The east room features a highly unusual double mantel which trims a fireplace and an adjacent closed area which may have been backing for a free-standing stove. The woodwork on this mantel is elaborate, with cartouches above the openings and fan-shaped reeding.

There are two large rooms in the ground-level basement of the stone section. The east room has a fireplace and retains evidence of a brick floor.

Immediately behind the house is a brick out kitchen and a frame wash house. Northeast of the house is a large stone-end bank barn with louvered ventilators in the end walls. A date tablet is set under a recessed arch high in the west gable. Various minor wooden sheds are located near the barn.

Southwest of the house are the ruins of a stone structure, presumably the mill. Southwest of this structure on the south side of Dog Creek and near the edge of Nicodemus Road is a small, stuccoed stone secondary dwelling, 1-1/2 stories high. This building faces north and has a double porch across its front elevation. The poch appears similar to that of the main house. A new brick chimney is located inside its west end wall, and windows have six-over-six sash in narrow, beaded frames.

South of the house is a low stone springhouse with a hipped roof covered in standing seam metal.

These outbuildings reflect several periods of construction. The stone structures, the secondary dwelling, and the springhouse appear to have been built about the same time as the main house. The brick out kitchen probably dates from the mid-19th century, like the brick addition to the house. The frame wash house and barn appear to have been built in the late 19th century.

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Nicodemus Mill Complex is significant under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture as an exceptionally intact representative example of the type of farmstead characteristic of the region during the nineteenth century. It comprises a stone dwelling dated 1810 and a full complement of 19th-century domestic and agricultural outbuildings, in addition to the ruins of a ca. 1829 grist mill. The complex derives additional signficance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The main house is particularly noteworthy as an early example of vernacular domestic architecture in the county, with outstanding interior decorative detailing. The period of significance, c. 1810-c. 1900, encompasses the period during which the complex substantially achieved its present form.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Washington County, established in 1776, contains the lower portion of the Cumberland Valley, an agriculturally rich limestone region that was historically a breadbasket for the eastern United States. Initial settlement occurred in the 1730s with actual effective settlement taking place after the close of the French and Indian War in 1763.

Although early land grants were patented to investors and speculators of English descent from eastern Maryland, the majority of settlers were German farmers who came from southeastern and south central Pennsylvania. They specialized in the production of small grains, principally wheat, rye and barley. The major agricultural industry in the 18th and first half of the 19th century in the Cumberland Valley section of Washington County was milling, grist or flour. According to Dennis Griffith's 1794 Map of Washington County, 14 mills were located along the Antietam Creek alone.

The limestone geology of the region provided good building stone and also created a landscape with limestone outcrops and numerous springs. Building with limestone in the County had a fairly distinct time period from 1760-1850. Brick construction was more common after 1820.

According to Washington County Land Records, this property was owned by members of the Billmire family from the late 18th century until 1821. The earliest recorded deed referring to the property is an August 1783 conveyance of the estate of Leonard Billmire, deceased, to Martin and Leonard Billmire, presumably his sons (C/433). It is not known when Leonard Billmire (Sr.) acquired the land, but at the time of his death his holdings included 314 acres, part of a grant named "Piles Grove."

In 1821 Valentine Nicodemus purchased approximately 175 acres from Gabriel Billmire for $15,000. Prior to that date there is no mention of a mill in the deeds. The mill is traditionally held to

have been constructed ca. 1829. The property remained in the Nicodemus family until 1915 (RR/326, SMcKK2/545, 148/31).

Major Bibliographical References:

Washington County, Maryland, Land and Probate Records

Williams, T. J. C. History of Washington County. Hagerstown, MD: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is described in the current deed, recorded among the Land Records of Washington County in Liber 512, folio 101.

Boundary Justification:

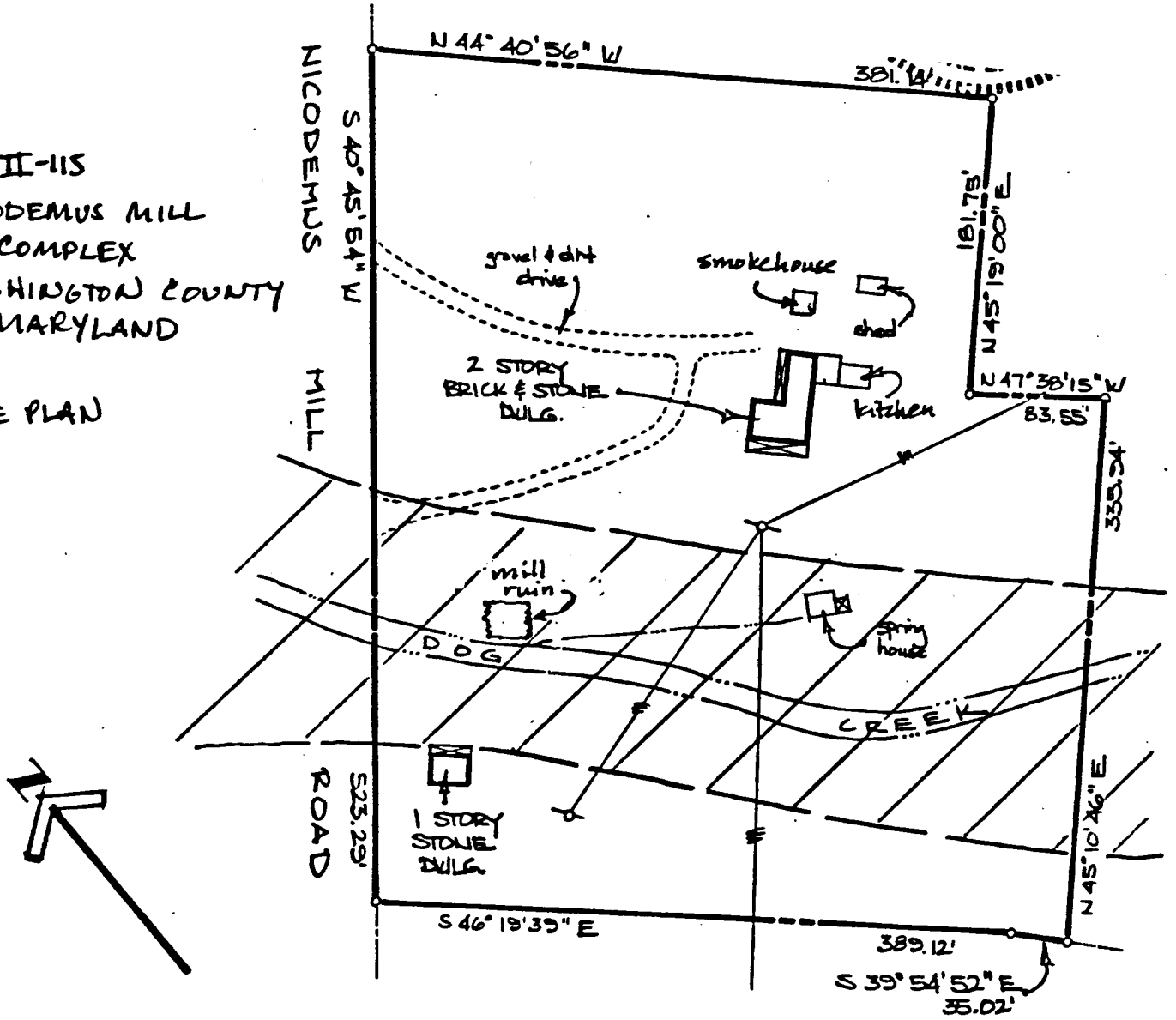
The nominated property, 4.92 acres, comprises the remnant of the property historically associated with the resource, and encompasses all the contributing elements within their immediate setting.

WA-II-115

NICODEMUS MILL COMPLEX

WASHINGTON COUNTY MARYLAND

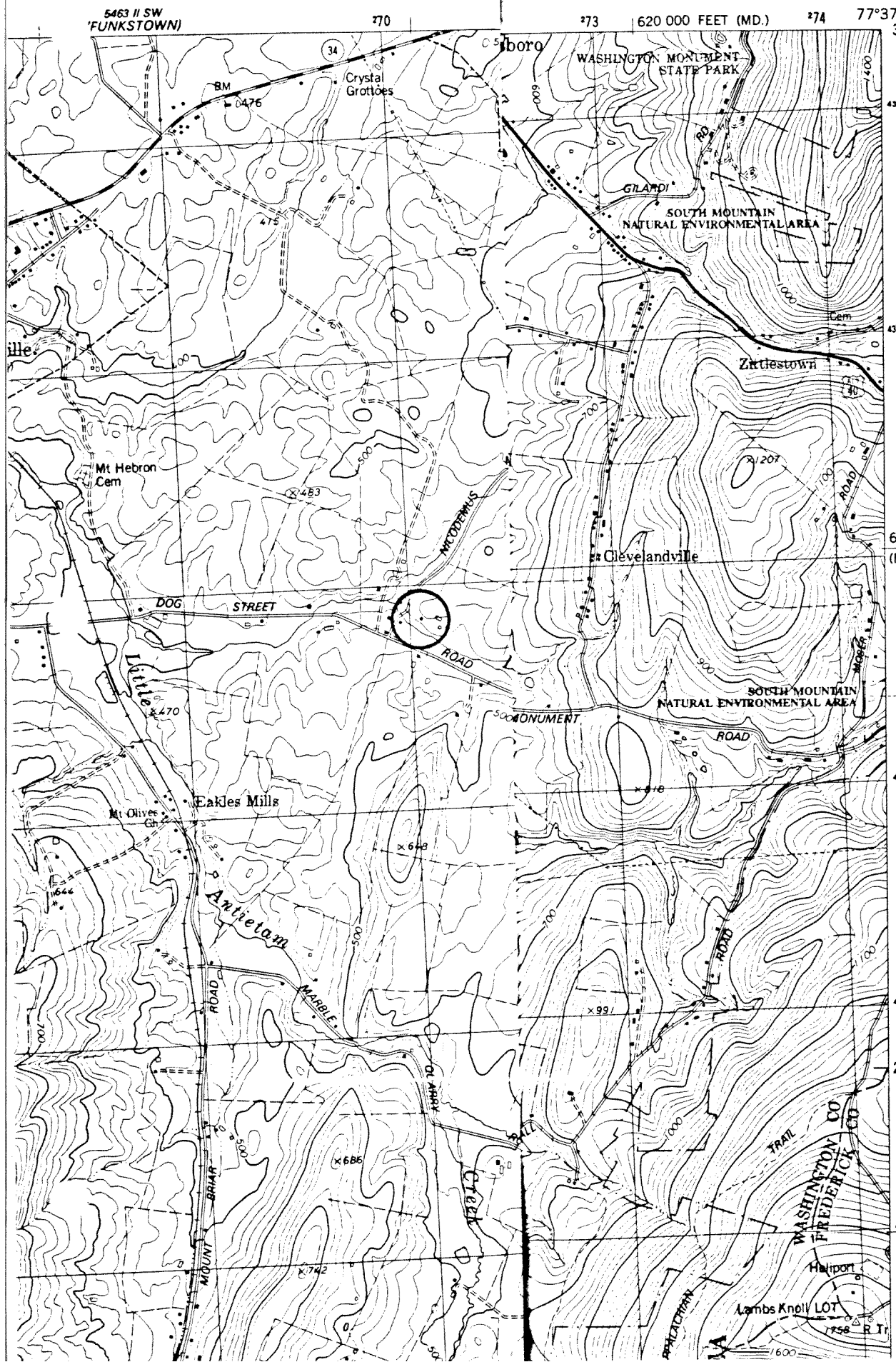
SITE PLAN



WA-II-115

KEEDYSVILLE QU RANGLE
MARYLAND—WEST VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5463 II SE (MYERSVILLE)

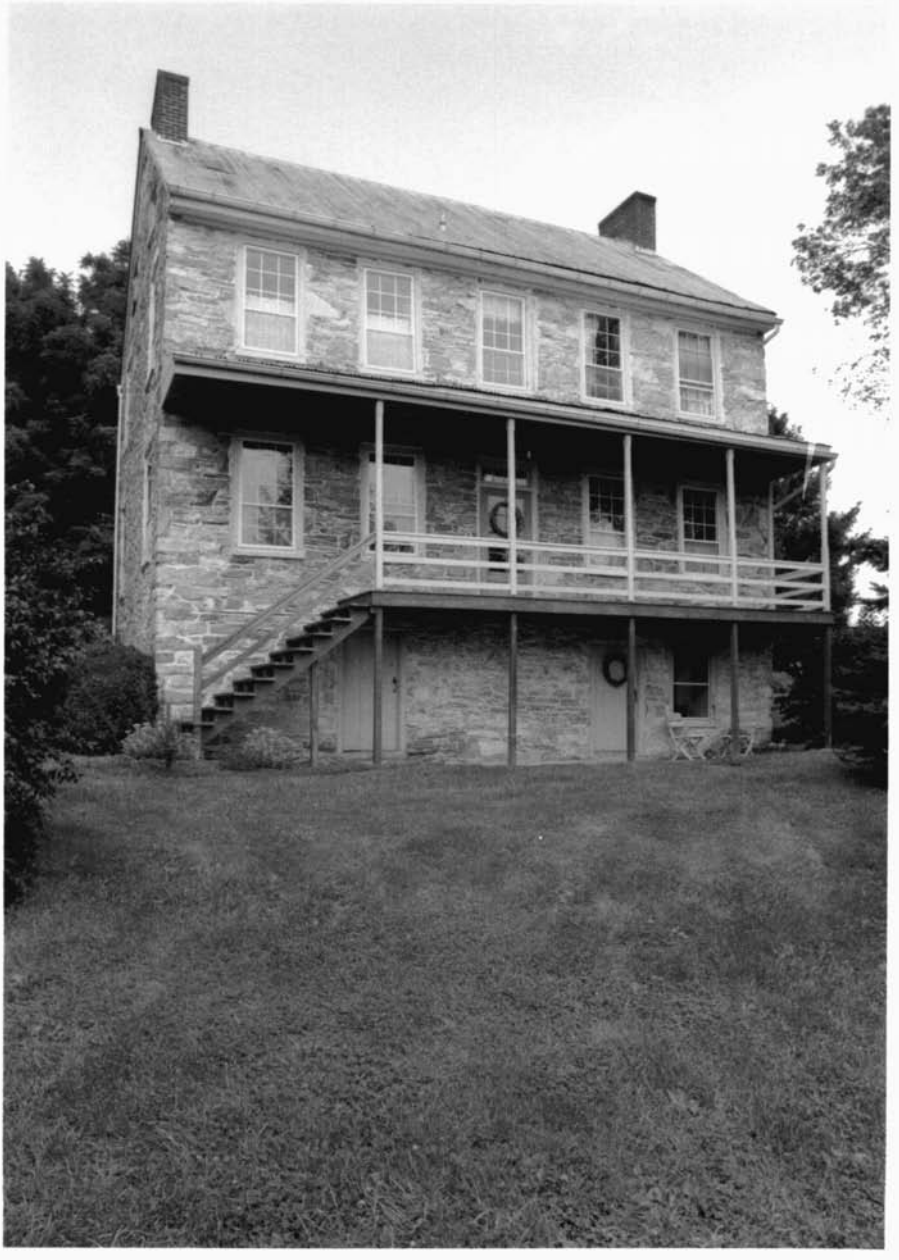


WA - II - 115

NICODEMUS MILL COMPLEX

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MD

18-270060-4372830



WA-11-115

NICODEMUS MILL

WASH CO MD

PEK 9/00

MAIN HOUSE FROM SW

WA - II - 115

NICODEMUS MILL

WASH CO MD

PER 9:00

MAIN HOUSE STAIR

WA II 115

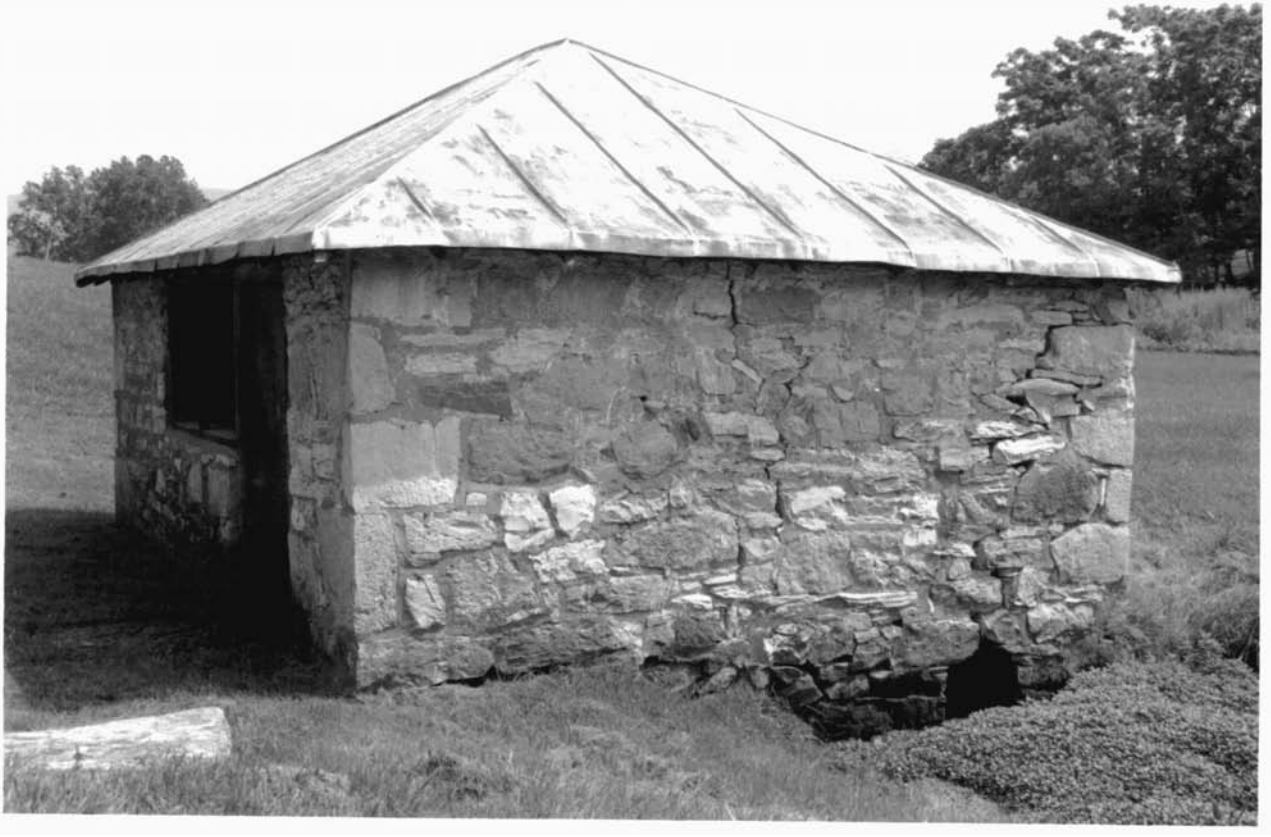
NICODEMUS MILL

WASHINGTON CO., MD

PEK 9/00

MILL RUIN

VIEW FROM SE



WA-11-115

NICODEMUS MILL

WASH CO MD

P KURTZE 7/60

SPRINGHOUSE

VIEW FROM NW

VVA II 115

NICODEMUS MIL

MASH CO MIL

PEK 900

PARLOR MANTEL

WA II - 115

NICODEMUS MILL

WASH CO MD

PEK 900

QANTEL, 2ND FL EAST RM

WA-II-115

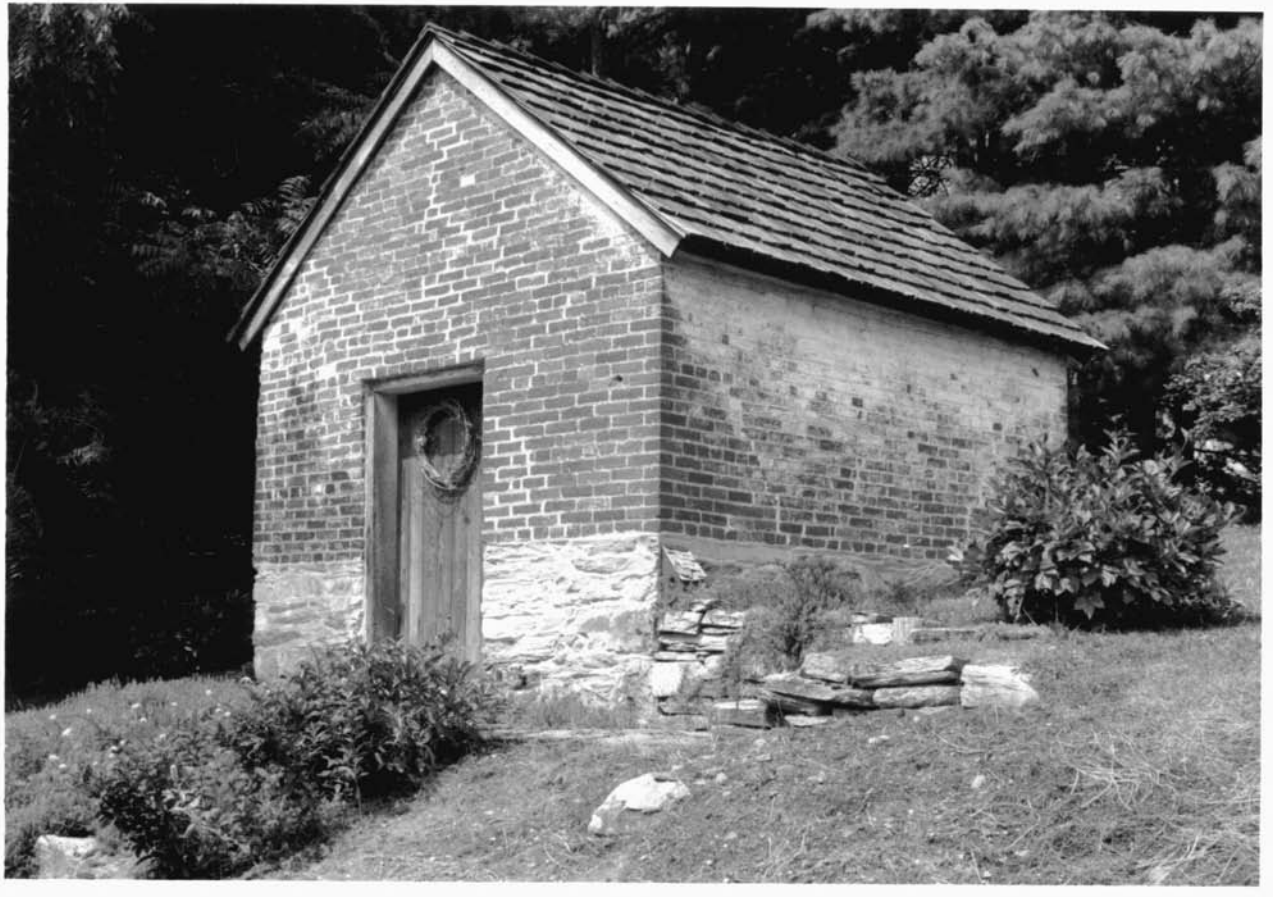
NICODEMUS MILL

WASH CO MD

PEK 9/01

SUMMER KITCHEN

VIEW FROM SW



WA - II - 115

NICODEMUS MILL

WASH CO MD

PEK 9/00

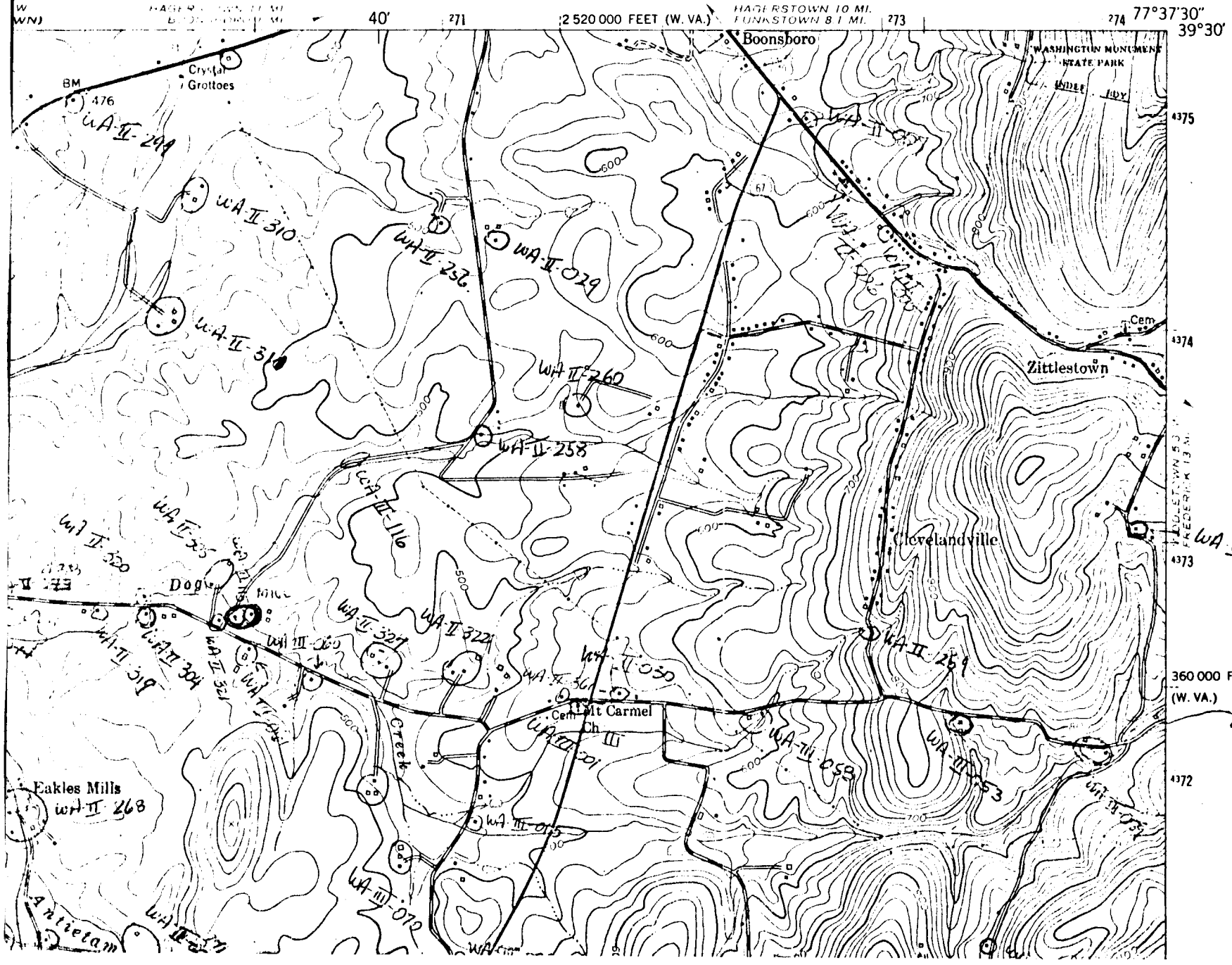
SMOKEHOUSE

VIEW FROM SE

TATES
THE ARMY
GINEERS

KEEDYSVILLE QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND–WEST VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5463 II SE (MYERSVILLE)



WA-II-115

WA-II-115
S.E.
June 1976

Nicodemus Mill Complex

Nicodemus Mill Road
Boonsboro Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

WA-II-115

Mill ruins [illegible]

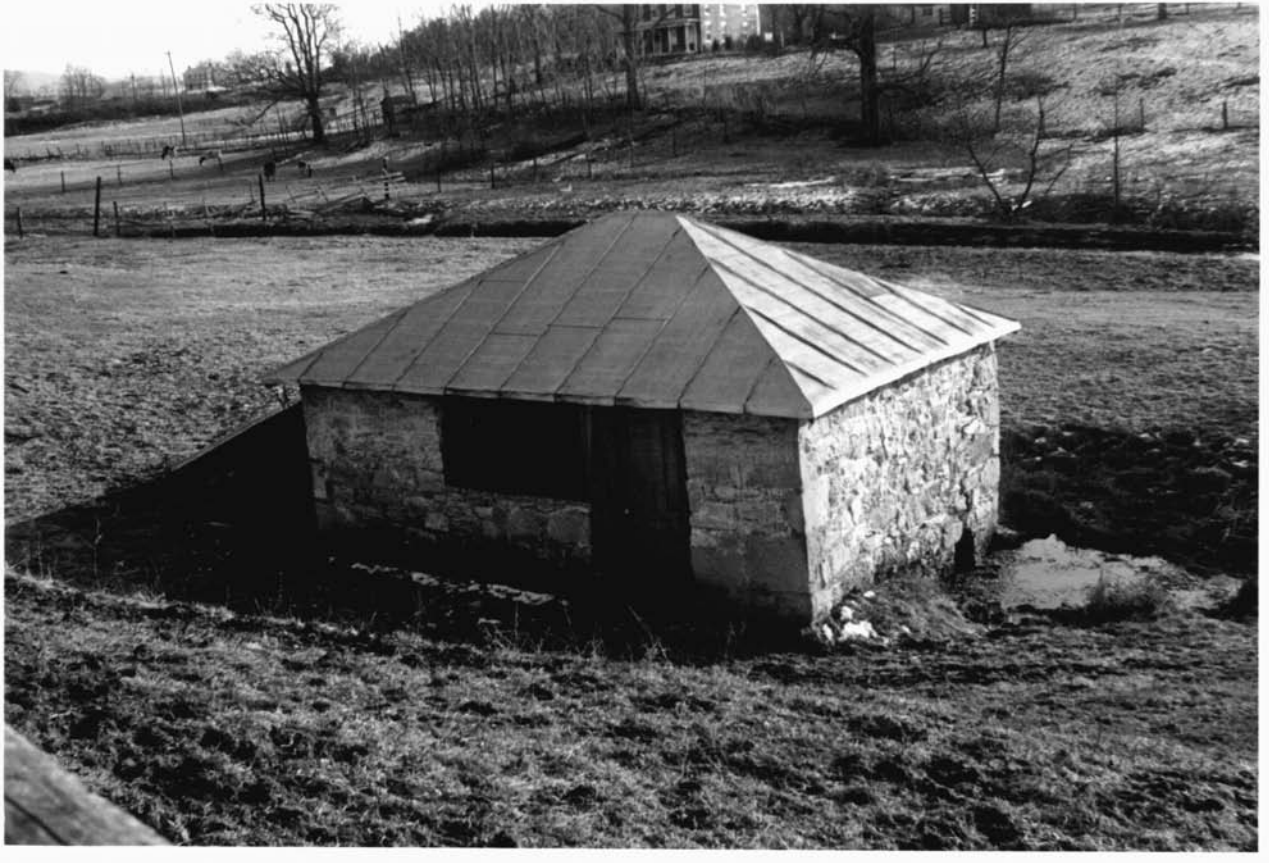
N.E. View

Jan 1976

Nicodemus Mill Complex

Nicodemus Mill Road
Boonsboro Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Nicodemus Mill Complex

Nicodemus Mill Road
Boonsboro Vicinity

WA-II-115
Springhouse N.W.
Jan 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

Nicodemus Mill Complex

Nicodemus Mill Road
Boonsboro Vicinity

AULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

WA-II-115

Nicodemus Mill Complex

Nicodemus Mill Road
Boonsboro Vicinity

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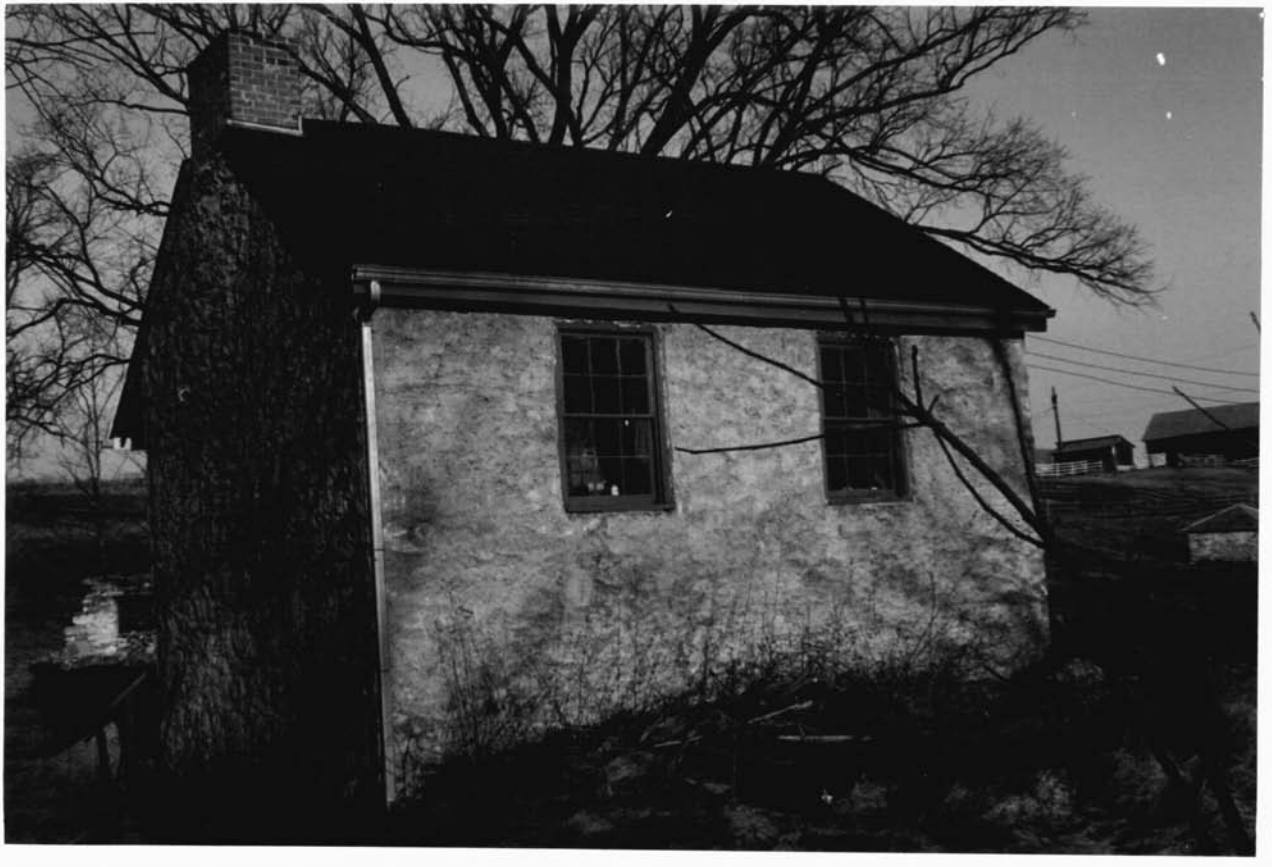
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

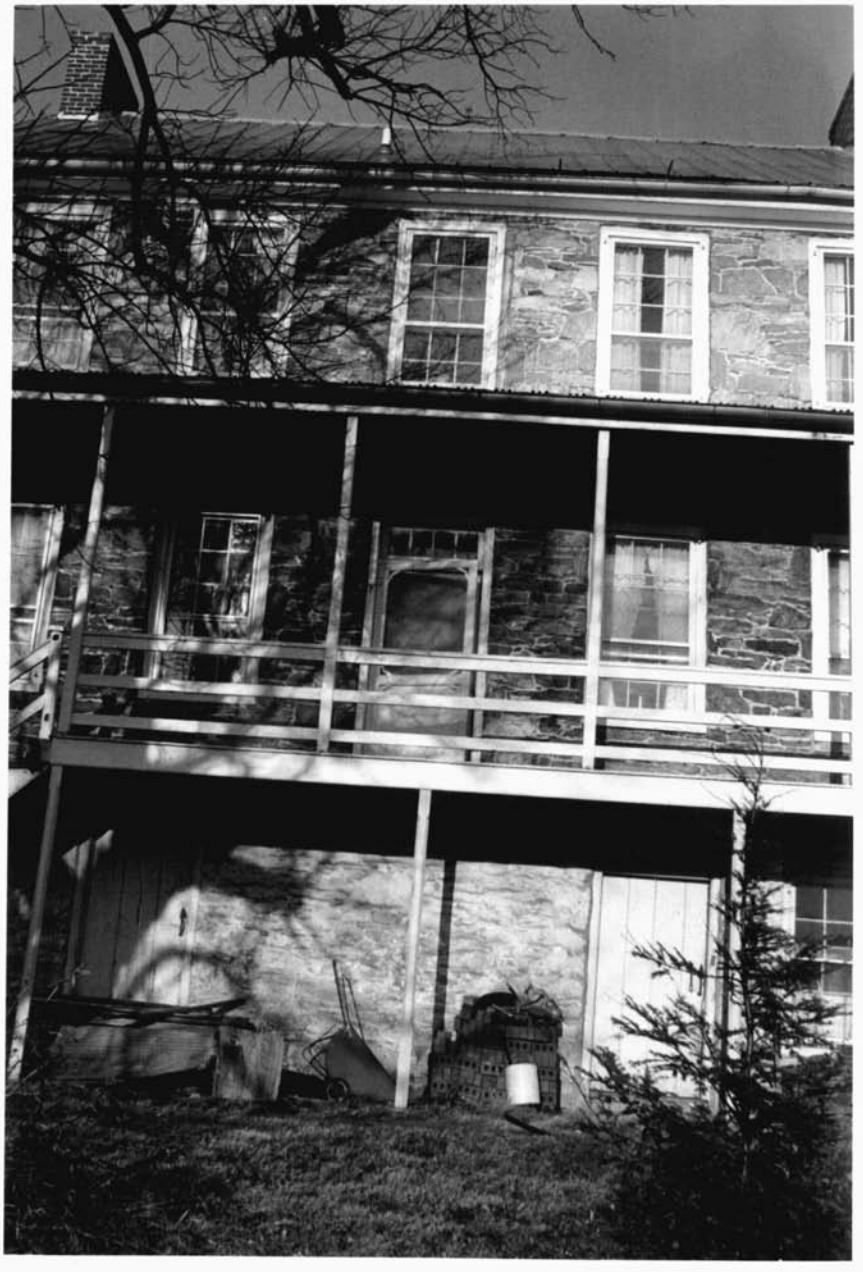


WA-II-115
Secondary dwelling
S. W.
Jan. 1976

Nicodemus Mill Complex

Nicodemus Mill Road
Boonsboro Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-115
Detail S.
Jan. 1976

Nicodemus Mill Complex

Nicodemus Mill Road
Boonsboro Vicinity

PAULA STONER D[illegible]
CONSULTANT, WASH[illegible]
HISTORICAL SITES SU[illegible]

WA-II-115

W.

Jan. 1976

Nicodemus Mill Complex

Nicodemus Mill Road
Boonsboro Vicinity

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CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

WA-II-115

Jan. 1976

Nicodemus Mill Complex

Nicodemus Mill Road
Boonsboro Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY