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 process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Donnelly, Daniel House

other names WA-II-417

2. Location

street & number 14906 Falling Waters Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Williamsport ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Washington code 043 zip code 21795

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).

Signature of certifying office/Title — Date 11-7-03

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 office/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. State/Federal Agency 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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☒ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	4	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2	4	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 resource previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Brick
roof Metal/tin
other

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

Physical Description:

The Daniel Donnelly house is a brick two-story, circa 1830s dwelling located on a prominent hill approximately 50' north of Falling Waters Road. The house faces south overlooking rolling farmland. The front yard is landscaped with large evergreen trees located near the road's edge, acting as a screen between the road and house. There is also a large and spreading English walnut tree located near the house's southeast corner. The rear yard is divided by a brick walkway that is flanked by boxwood. There is a gentle rise in the land beyond the backyard, with more open farmland edged by woodland in the distance, bordering the Potomac River and the C&O Canal. A small garden house, shed and a summerhouse are arrayed behind the house. These are small-scaled late twentieth-century structures. The original barn site is to the northwest of the house. A later dairy barn was located east of the house; both are now gone.

General Description

This brick farmhouse is a two-story, five-bay dwelling with a Flemish bond brick pattern at the front elevation. It shows influence of the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Loose bricks filling "put-log holes" (spaces left from scaffold poles during construction[1]) can still be seen at regular intervals at the front elevation, a rarely-seen detail of nineteenth-century masonry construction techniques. Wide, flaring flat arches of exceptionally long angle-cut bricks are present above the front openings. The side and rear walls of the house are laid in common bond, with put-log holes also evident. Broad chimneys are located inside the end walls on both ends of the house.

All windows have six-over-six pane sashes held within narrow rounded frames. The main entrance is located in the center bay of the front elevation and has a wide, seven-light transom and side lights around a six-panel door. Bands of symmetrical molding separate the door from the glazed areas of its lintel and jambs. There is a shadow on the bricks of the front façade that suggests there was once a one-bay porch on the front of the house.

The interior of the house is divided by a central entrance hall. There is evidence on the floor and walls of the hall that there was once a partition approximately 12' from the front entrance separating the stairway from the entrance area. The staircase has simple square newel posts with square balusters beneath a rounded handrail. The front portion of the stair and entrance hall has fancier trim consisting of detailed, deeply cut symmetrical molding. The staircase and trim in the rear portion is very plain and quite different in character. There are two

[1] Lounsbury, Carl R. An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture & Landscape (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994), p. 288.

rooms on each side of the entrance passage. On the east side of the house is a double parlor that was once divided by three folding doors. Each parlor has a fireplace approximately 40" wide and 16" deep along the east wall. All of the fireplaces in the house have their original mantelpieces with low relief panels and symmetrically molded trim. There is a built-in cupboard adjacent to the fireplace in each parlor. The cupboard in the front parlor (southeast room) has decorative shaped "butterfly" shelves.

On the west side of the hall are two rooms that have probably been used as a dining room and a keeping room. The dining room (in the southwest corner of the house) is almost a mirror image of the parlor across the hall. This room has a fireplace, mantelpiece, and built-in cupboard adjacent to the fireplace. About a third of the keeping room was partitioned off in the 1970s to add a bathroom. The keeping room also has a fireplace and built-in cupboard like the other three rooms.

The cellar contains two rooms, an original kitchen with service fireplace beneath the parlor and another room with a fireplace beneath the dining room, which serves as the modern kitchen for the house.

The interior of the house is remarkably intact with most of its original uniform-width pine floors, trim, and hardware remaining. Several doors retain their original English-made Carpenter locks. The flat panels of the interior doors have been scribed to make them appear to be raised panels. These simple scribe marks are quite effective at fooling the eye. Chair rail and crown molding have been added in the hallway and a few other rooms.

In the back yard there is a small wooden garden shed about 50' behind the house. This shed is roofed with wood shingles and sheathed with horizontal wood siding. The east side of the shed has a narrow wooden door and two window openings covered with lattice. Approximately 50' beyond this shed is a small, gable-roofed metal storage shed that is sitting on a concrete slab. Approximately 125' east of the house is a small concrete block building that was formerly used as a milk house. A log summerhouse of recent vintage is located about 30' from the east end of the house. The summerhouse is constructed with square 6-8" logs or beams and has a fireplace and chimney on its north side. These associated buildings all date from the late twentieth century.

The original frame Pennsylvania style barn was located just northwest of the house. A small hillock with large locust trees marks its site, and it is shown in a Civil War era drawing of the Falling Waters Battlefield. The barn was destroyed many years ago and was replaced with a dairy barn, now also gone, some distance northeast of the house.

The farmland to the north of the house along with the lawns around the buildings was the site of the battle of Falling Waters, July 13 and 14, 1863, as Confederates waited to cross the rain-swollen Potomac on their retreat following the Battle of Gettysburg.

The nominated area includes sixteen acres, the current acreage associated with the property. There are two contributing resources, the house and the site of the Civil War Battle of Falling Waters. The secondary buildings, two sheds, the log pavilion, and the concrete block milk house are all recently constructed buildings and do not contribute to the historic character of the property.

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 entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property as 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)

ARCHITECTURE
MILITARY

Period of Significance
C. 1833 - 1863

Significant Dates

C. 1833; 1863

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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:

Statement of Significance:

Summary

The Daniel Donnelly House and its surrounding acreage meets National Register Criterion A for its association with the Civil War Battle of Falling Waters, July 13th and 14th, 1863. The ridge behind the house was at the center of that action, which occurred during the Confederate retreat from Gettysburg. A study by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission found the Donnelly House property to be the best preserved battlefield along the route of Lee's retreat from Gettysburg.

The Donnelly House is also significant under National Register Criterion C as an excellent example of an early nineteenth-century (ca. 1830s) farmhouse, exhibiting influence from the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Its superior level of architectural detailing reflects the relative prosperity of its owner during a period when the region's grain-based agricultural economy was maturing. The interior retains much of its original woodwork, hardware and floor plan. Another distinctive feature of the house is the survival of "put-log holes" on all four exterior walls, indicating the placement of scaffold poles during construction.

Historical Context:

Permanent British and European contact with what is now Washington County occurred through two separate and distinct processes. One involved eastern Maryland investors, non-residents, taking up large tracts of land for the purpose of eventual subdivision and lease or sale. The other involved German farmers entering Maryland from the Philadelphia area and southeastern Pennsylvania.

The first period of settlement history in Washington County was one of instability, confused claims and habitation patterns and very modest material culture. Two main cultures met and began to converge: English investors and settlers from eastern Maryland, and German farmers from Pennsylvania. Eventually, the German settlers began to buy or lease land from the English speculators and the two cultures began to mix. The devastation of the French and Indian War followed by Pontiac's uprising in 1763 and 1764 left the settlers threatened and much of their settlements destroyed or damaged. There would be tewnty more years of instability as the American Revolution approached and passed. Yet Washington County was about to see a period of unprecedented prosperity with the development of fertile farms and intensive cultivation that made the greater region America's breadbasket for much of the nineteenth century.

Despite the national and international turmoil that embroiled the latter years of the eighteenth century with the French and Indian War and the Revolution, Washington County in general prospered. From the end of the French and Indian War through most of the first half of the nineteenth century, agriculture developed, matured and profited with grain farming dominating. The farmsteads that now characterize the county were for the most part established and constructed during this time period. Population grew to the point that Washington County was formed from Frederick County in 1776.

During the years from 1763-1840, the county's first period architecture was gradually replaced or enlarged into more substantial and permanent form. The large "Swisser" barns with cantilevered forebays and a ramp or bank at the back, hallmarks of central Maryland and south central Pennsylvania, replaced small log-crib stables and shelters for livestock and crops. Small log houses were improved with siding and additions, or replaced with stylish stone or brick dwellings.

Eventually the region became known for grain production. Grain was sold in bulk, or processed into flour and meal, or distilled into whiskey. These commodities were shipped to markets in Baltimore, Georgetown or Philadelphia. Shipping from central and western Maryland and the grain-growing regions of Pennsylvania and the Shenandoah Valley was a problem, and hindered the growth and prosperity associated with grain production. There was no inland water route to the farming areas, although navigation of the Potomac and Susquehanna were promoted or opposed by various factions. Rail and canal service did not develop until the 1830s, so highway transportation had to serve the freight hauling needs of the region. Maryland, therefore promoted turnpike development, although most of these toll routes were privately funded.

According to Susan Winter Frye, "By 1810 Maryland had become the third largest flour-producing state in the nation behind Pennsylvania and Virginia. Washington County was the state's foremost county in terms of the value of its flour mills and the number of barrels of flour produced by these mills."[1] An 1831 editorial in the Hagerstown newspaper the Torchlight and Public Advertiser numbers the flour mills of Washington County as "upwards of sixty-four," saying "...it is believed that we send annually to market 130,000 bbls. Being about one fifth of all the flour inspected in Baltimore."[2] This tremendous growth in production was supported by equal population growth. Between the years 1790 and 1820 Washington County grew by 8,603 people, by 1860 the population had grown by another 8,342 people, while growth in many

[1]Susan Winter Frye, Mill Settlement Patterns Along the Antietam Creek Drainage, Washington County, Maryland. Bound thesis, College of William and Mary, 1984, p. 45.

[2]Torchlight and Public Advertiser, March 10, 1831, microfilm collection, Washington Co. Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.

eastern counties had slowed or even decreased. The growth of farms and grain production in the western counties was made necessary by the phenomenal growth of cities such as Baltimore, which increased its population by over 200,000 people between 1790 and 1860.

In 1806 the Thomas Jefferson administration began the construction of a Federal highway that would lead to the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase lands comprising most of the central portion of the United States. The "National Road" began in Cumberland, Maryland and led to Wheeling in Virginia (West Virginia) and later on to Terre Haute, Indiana. The main wagon road from Baltimore to Cumberland, a collection of privately owned and operated turnpike segments, was eventually upgraded and consolidated to become part of the National Road. The National Road became one of the most heavily traveled east-west routes in America with traffic passing all hours of the day and night. Stage coaches, freight wagons, herds of swine, geese and cattle headed to market, plus individual traffic passed along the pike. Taverns, inns and hotels were an important part of the travel-generated economy. Also important were blacksmith shops, wagon shops, and leather and harness shops.

Maryland developers also promoted canals and railroads. While the cornerstone for the new Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was being laid on July 4, 1828, with the help of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, last living signer of the Declaration of Independence and by then in his 90s, the first shovel of dirt was lifted by President of the United States John Quincy Adams for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. The canal was to follow the north side of the Potomac River from Georgetown to Cumberland, then proceed overland to the Ohio River. The railroad fared much better than the canal, and by 1832 had reached the Potomac River at Point of Rocks in Frederick County. The C&O Canal was completed to Williamsport in 1834 and created a boost to the local economy which was sustained fairly evenly until the canal closed in 1924. Williamsport became a major stopping point on the canal between Cumberland and Georgetown. The construction and completion of the C&O Canal to Williamsport influenced the construction of the Donnelly house and the development of the surrounding farm. Daniel Donnelly was involved with promotion of the canal and reserved a right-of-way from his property across the canal to the river.

By the time of the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Washington County, specifically the area along the Potomac River and C&O Canal, was well established and intensively farmed. Farms were characterized by fields and boundaries marked with wood or stone fences, orchards and small herds of cattle, hogs and sheep, and flocks of chickens and geese. Carefully maintained woodlots supplied firewood, building materials and fencing. Demand for wood was great in the nineteenth century with the need for construction material and fuel (most households consumed about ten cords of wood per year for heating). Historic photographs affirm the

massive consumption of wood, revealing that the landscape at the time of the Civil War had far fewer trees than seen today.

The prosperity of the greater region led to its being served by important transportation routes, a good system of turnpikes, the National Road, C&O Canal and the B&O Railroad. These amenities and the overall prosperity of the region were certainly factors influencing Confederate General Robert E. Lee's attempts to enter and occupy the central portion of Maryland in the summers of 1862, 1863 and 1864. Falling Waters and Williamsport were important crossing points for the Confederate Army in 1862 and 1863. The Donnelly farm, located near the Falling Waters crossing, was the site of Civil War action as Confederates waited to cross the rain-swollen Potomac River on their retreat from the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 1862. Fighting occurred immediately behind the house, and the house reportedly served as a hospital thereafter.

After the Civil war, as urbanization and industrialization gradually transformed the economy of Maryland and of Washington County, the county responded by shifting to dairy products, fruit and vegetable production. Corn and wheat were still major agricultural products, but milling in Washington County changed from production for market to custom work for local farmers and planters. Susan Winter Frye, in her study of milling in the Antietam drainage area in Washington County, recorded similar findings concerning the decline in milling. "Several trends become apparent in the flour milling industry during the nineteenth century. First, large milling establishments had reached their pinnacle about mid century. By 1880, several of these large mills had converted to other lines of manufacture. Those merchant mills that continued producing flour decreased their output."[3] The fact that Frederick and Washington Counties were still producing large amounts of wheat and corn, while decreasing mill output, indicates that grain was being shipped unprocessed to markets or mills in Baltimore, or was converted locally to animal feed.

Architectural Evaluation:

Within this context, the Donnelly House emerges as representative of the evolution and development of farmhouse architecture as the grain-based agricultural economy matured in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The house is the only remaining historic building on what was a 420-acre farm that produced grain and other agricultural products. Its construction about 1833 seems to be linked to the C&O Canal through Daniel Donnelly's association with promotion of the canal and the farm's proximity to this transportation artery. The Donnelly House reflects the region's general prosperity in the 1830s and is a typical example of brick

[3] Frye, p. 71.

construction with a superior level of detailing. Certain construction characteristics, however, make the house distinctive and set it apart from other brick farmhouses of the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The quality of the masonry, particularly that of the wide, flaring arches above the front openings, is unusually refined, as is the interior woodwork. The surviving put-log holes are a rare illustration of a detail of nineteenth-century masonry construction.

Property History:

The Daniel Donnelly house is situated on land called "Woodland Hills," which began as a 1,070½ acre tract resurveyed for Samuel Ringgold in 1811.[4] Samuel Ringgold acquired the nearly 11,000-acre Conococheague Manor in Washington County, its reserves and some neighboring land as well. Encountering financial difficulties, he began resurveying, parceling and selling off the land in the early nineteenth century. George Showman purchased 251 acres of Woodland Hills from Samuel Ringgold in 1812 for $10,560.[5] In 1816 Showman purchased another 420¾ acres of Woodland Hills, adjacent to his first purchase, from Jacob Showman for $4,870.[6] This disparity in the purchase prices suggests that improvements were probably already on the 251-acre tract when Showman acquired the property. The property traditionally known as "Woodland" is located about a mile southeast of the Donnelly House and is believed to have been built by Judge John Buchanan in 1812 on land he acquired from Ringgold.

Daniel Donnelly bought the 420¾-acre part of Woodland Hills from David G. Yost, executor for the Showman estate, on Feb. 6, 1833, for $3,682, less than Showman paid in 1816.[7] The price Donnelly paid, less than $10 per acre, means that the place probably had no improvements. Later that year, Donnelly sold seventeen acres of the property to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company in November for $900, recouping almost a quarter of his investment. In addition, Donnelly retained a right of access to the Potomac River and the C & O Canal Company was responsible for building a bridge over the canal for his use.[8] Donnelly was also a member of the Washington County Canal Association, a group dedicated to promoting the Canal. The Washington County Canal Association was formed on September 27, 1827, and established a committee to collect subscriptions to support construction of the canal. Daniel Donnelly was one of the committee members.[9] Certainly the canal and river access of Donnelly's property, paid for by the C&O Canal Company, increased its value. Donnelly, as a member of the Canal Association and a politician, would have been aware of the property's

[4] Washington Co. Land Patent Record Book 1, page 289.
[5] Washington Co. Land Record Y, page 694
[6] Washington Co. Land Record BB, page 335
[7] Washington Co. Land Record NN, page 821
[8] Washington Co. Land Record OO, page 652
[9] J. Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland. (Philadelphia: L.H. Evarts, 1882), p 1230

potential and he bought the land just before the Canal was completed to Williamsport in 1834.

Architectural evidence, such as interior woodwork molding detail, Carpenter locks on the interior doors, window and door type and trim, combined with a low purchase price, indicates that the house was built by Daniel Donnelly shortly after he bought the place in 1833. Biographical information on Daniel Donnelly is sketchy and mostly available in a secondary source, J. Thomas Scarf's History of Western Maryland. Donnelly was a member of the House of Delegates from Washington County in 1829. The 1830 census of Washington County reveals that Donnelly was married and had three children under the age of 10, one boy and two girls. Donnelly also owned five slaves at the time of the 1830 census. He was a Justice of the Peace in Washington County in 1845. He was buried at Williamsport in September of 1858 with military honors, having served at the rank of Colonel for many years in the Maryland Militia.[10]

Daniel Donnelly encountered financial problems and, as a result, lost the farm that he established on Falling Waters Road. David Wilson, sheriff of Washington County, was appointed by the court on October 10, 1845 to sell Donnelly's land to satisfy a $5,000 judgment against Donnelly and Charles Downes (the two must have been in business together). The property was not actually sold until seven years later, when William B. McAtee acquired the 420¾-acre parcel in 1852. It remained in possession of the McAtee family until 1867.[11] Descriptions written by Federal and Confederate soldiers at the Falling Waters Battle note the presence of orchards and crop-lands, leading to the assumption that McAtee was raising fruit and grain, like most farmers in mid-Maryland, and may have been shipping some of the farm's products directly to market via the C & O Canal. The McAtee family's daily farming routine was seriously disrupted in mid-July of 1863.

After the failure of Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg on July 3rd, 1863, Lee's Army of Northern Virginia retreated south towards the Williamsport, Maryland vicinity (see Map I), planning to cross the Potomac River via a pontoon bridge at Falling Waters and a ford at Williamsport.[12] Union Cavalry had destroyed the pontoon bridge on July 4th and heavy rains caused the Potomac River level to rise, making the Williamsport ford impassable.[13] These two events effectively trapped Lee's army on the northern side of the Potomac River.

General Meade was slow in pursuing the retreating Confederate army. Meade's

[10] Ibid., p. 988, 992, and 1048
[11] Washington Co. Land Records IN 6, page 735 and LBN 1, page 724
[12] Edwin B. Coddington. The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command , (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1979)
[13] Edwin W. Besch. "Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report," commissioned by NCSHPO, n.d.

headquarters did not issue orders for a Federal reconnaissance and pursuit until the night of July 13th. By this time a large portion of the Confederate army had already escaped across the Potomac by using a newly constructed pontoon bridge at Falling Waters and the ford at Williamsport. Federal Major Peter Weber was leading the B and F companies of the 6th Michigan Calvary as the advance guard pursuing the Confederates. Kilpatrick and Custer followed him with the rest of the 6th Michigan Cavalry. Approximately 1½ miles from the river crossing the Federal Calvary came upon a Confederate brigade bivouacked behind earthworks just behind the Donnelly house (see Map II).[14] The Federal Cavalry dismounted and attacked the Confederate forces, initially catching them off guard. The Confederate forces regrouped and repulsed Weber just as the rest of the 6th Michigan Calvary came forward. The Confederate forces were eventually ordered to retreat across the Potomac, but the overwhelming numbers of the Federal forces intercepted the Confederates before they could cross the river.

There are conflicting statistics regarding the number of Confederate soldiers captured. The numbers range upwards to 1,500 including 35 officers taken prisoner in the battle.[15] In addition to this large number of captured soldiers, Brigadier General J. Johnston Pettigrew was mortally wounded just north of the Donnelly house.

Although William McAtee owned the farm at the time of the Civil War activity, contemporary maps and documents still refer to the place as the "Donnelly" property. Perhaps Donnelly's family was still residing on the farm. Anna A. McAtee sold the Donnelly farm on December 14, 1867, to James M. Downey. On the same day, apparently as a reconveyance, James M. Downey and Ann Eliza Downey of Loudon County Virginia sold the property for $7,000 to Edward Macgill. The property remained in the Macgill family until May 7, 1884, when it was sold to John Barnhart for $4,000. In 1887, Thomas C. Rowe purchased 148 acres of the property for $5,673.33 and owned it until September 7, 1909, when it was transferred to Daniel L. Swope and Salome Swope and George W. Swope and Fannie Swope. The farm remained in the Swope family until 1971. After that, the farm was reduced in acreage with the buildings on a smaller twenty-seven-acre parcel. It changed hands several times in the late twentieth century until reduced to sixteen acres acquired by the present owner in 2003.[16] It appears that after the Civil War the former Donnelly farm continued in a pattern typical of farms in Washington County, with a conversion to dairy in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

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[14]George B.Davis, Leslie J. Perry, and Joseph W. Kirkley. The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War
[15]Edwin W. Besch, "Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report"
[16] Deed references, LBN1/724, LBN1/730, 77/699, 85/673, 90/558, 132/54, 523/111, 535/728, 545/270, 675/123, 737/240, 1642/437, Washington County Land Records

Conclusion:

The Daniel Donnelly house is an excellent example of an early nineteenth-century farmhouse belonging to a prominent Washington County family. The fine brickwork, particularly that of the wide, flaring arches above the front openings, and the interior woodwork reflect the quality of workmanship involved in the construction of this house. The put-log holes are a rarely seen illustration of nineteenth-century masonry construction techniques. The interior of the house is remarkably intact with most of the original floors, trim, and hardware still in place. The house and the ridge behind the house are considered to be the best-preserved battle sites along the route of Lee's retreat from Gettysburg. Farming practices and suburban development have obliterated most of the evidence of Lee's retreat of July, 1863, making the Donnelly house and the surrounding acreage all the more significant.

Major Bibliographical References:

Besch, Edwin W. "Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report," commissioned by NCSHPO, n.d.

Coddington, Edwin B. The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1979.

Freeman, Douglas Southall. Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1944.

Imboden, John D. "The Confederate From Gettysburg" Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. Vol. 3. Edison, New Jersey: Castle, 1995.

Schildt, John W. Roads from Gettysburg. Parsons, WV McClain Print County, 1978

Scharf J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland. Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, c1882.

Tucker, Glen. High Tide at Gettysburg: The Campaign in Pennsylvania. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1958

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

U.S. Population Census Records, 1830, microfilm collection, Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.

Maps

Davis, George B., Leslie J. Perry, and Joseph W. Kirkley. The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War. Compiled by Capt. Calvin D. Cooles. The Fairfax Press. 1983.

Coddington, Edwin B. The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1979.

Taggert, Thomas. Map of Washington County, Maryland, 1859.

10. Geographical Data

reage of Property 16 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	254650	4382458
2	18	254940	4382377
3	18	254854	4381971
4	18	254656	4382042

☐ 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 Daniel Jackson and Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian

Organization Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc. date April, 2003, Rev. 10/03

street & number 105 N. Potomac Street telephone 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown state Maryland 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 Melissa Cooperson

street & number 5907 Wilson Lane telephone 301-320-2335

city or town Bethesda state MD zip code 20817

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.).

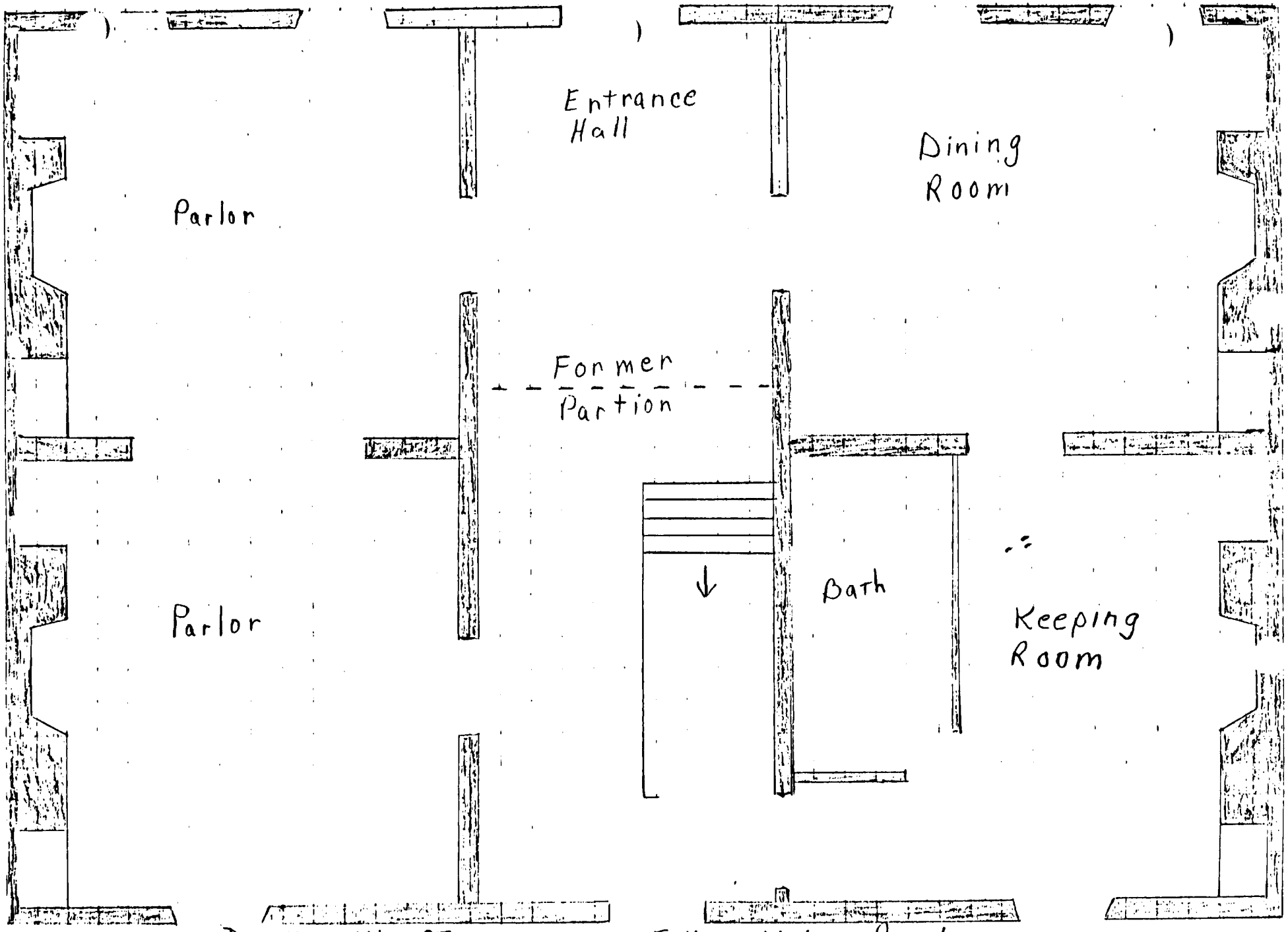
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this 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.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, 16 acres, is described in Washington County Land Records Liber 1941, Folio 248, and shown as Parcel 81 on the plat which accompanies this documentation.

Boundary Justification:

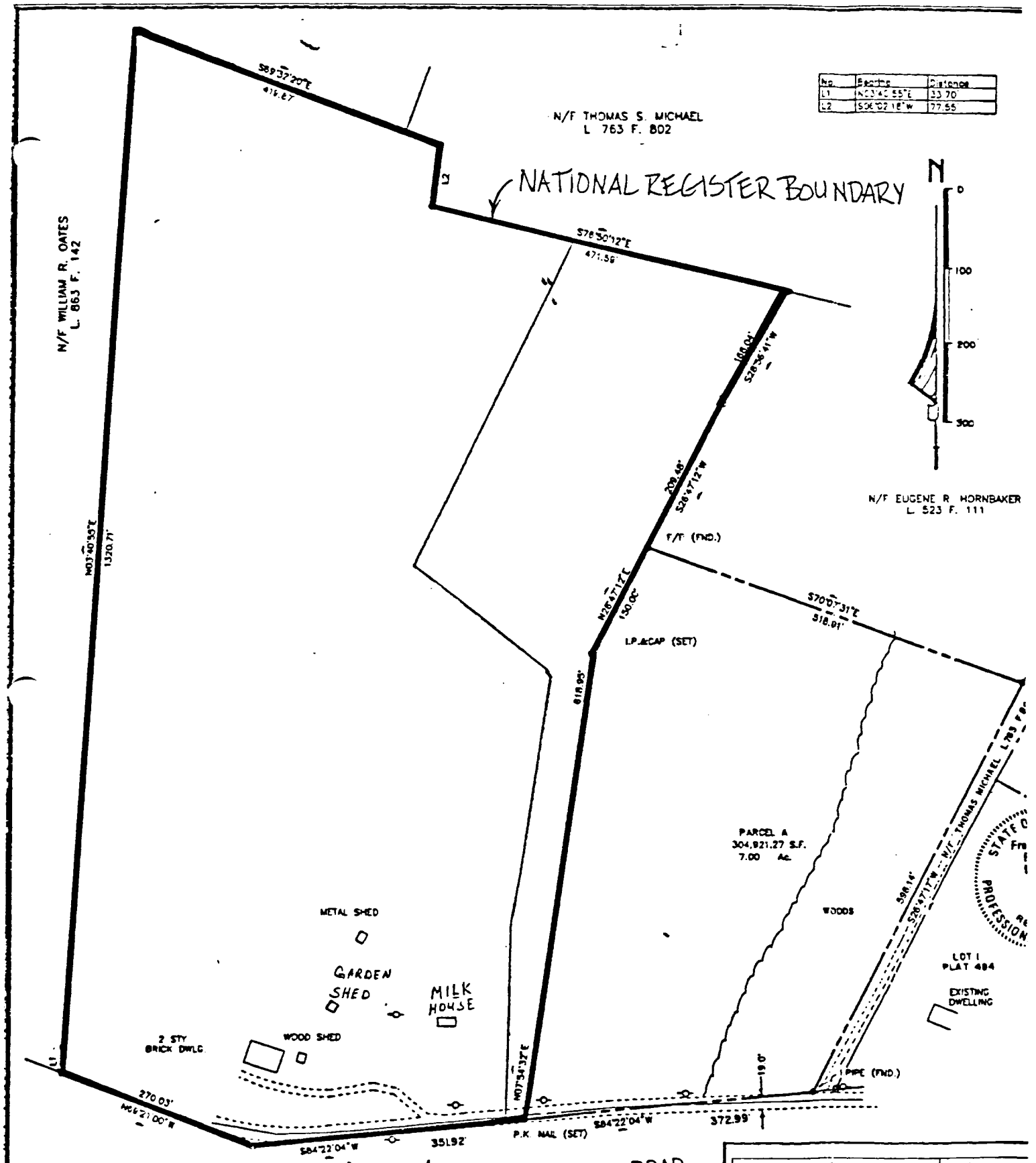
The nominated area comprises the remnant of the acreage historically associated with the resource, and encompasses the Daniel Donnelly house and the Civil War battlefield site.



DONNELLY HOUSE
WA-II-417

14906 Falling Waters Road
Williamsport, MD

Washington Co., MD



No.	Bearing	Distance
L1	N03°40'55"E	33.70'
L2	S56°02'18"W	77.55

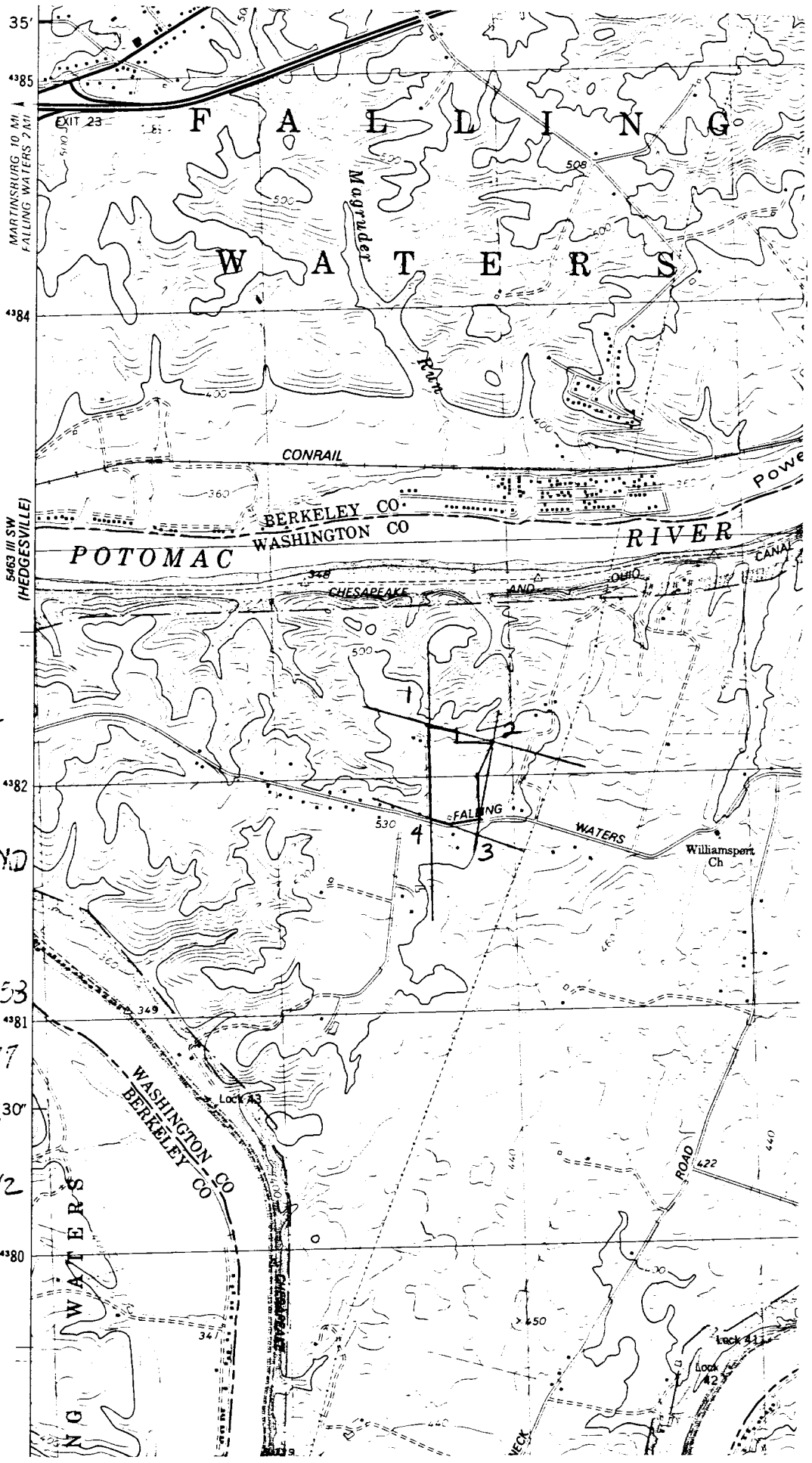
Washington Co. Land Records
Plat # 4441
Washington Co., Courthouse
Hagerstown MD

14906 FALLING WATERS ROAD
WILLIAMSPORT, MD 21795

TAX MAP 60-16-81 DISTRICT 20	
DRAWING NUMBER 1 OF 1	
DRAWN BY ALT	DATE 6\23\94
CHECKED BY RHS	DATE 8.9.94
SCALE 1"=100'	

FREDERICK SEIBERT & ASSOC.
CIVIL ENGINEERS
128 SOUTH P
10 WEST BAL

THE DONNELLY HOUSE, 14906 FALLING WATERS RD, WILLIAMSPORT, MD, WA II-417



WA-II-417

DONNELLY, DANIEL HOUSE

WILLIAMSPORT, WASHINGTON COUNTY, MD

UTM REFERENCES:

1. 18/254650/4332453
2. 18/254940/4382377
3. 18/254854/4381971
4. 18/254656/4382042

32'30"

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - east at western facade
2 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA - II - 417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed

4/2003
MD SHPO
view - looking south at northern facade
3 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - south west looking at east end and northern facade
4 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - north at main entrance
5 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - west - initials scratched in
bricks above east end cellar entrance
6 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - north - entrance hall
7 of 24

Woodland Hills WA - II - 417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - 1st floor entrance hall - door + ceiling trim
8 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - northeast - eastern wall of parlors
9 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - west - western wall of dining room
10 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA - II - 417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - Keeping Room - west wall
11 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA. II - 417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO

View - 2nd floor - southeast bedroom
12 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - 2nd floor - northeast bedroom
13 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA - II - 417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - 2nd floor - northwest bedroom
14 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA - II - 417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - 2nd story hall - door + ceiling trim
15 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View- scored door panels
16 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - hand written labeling on door
17 of 24

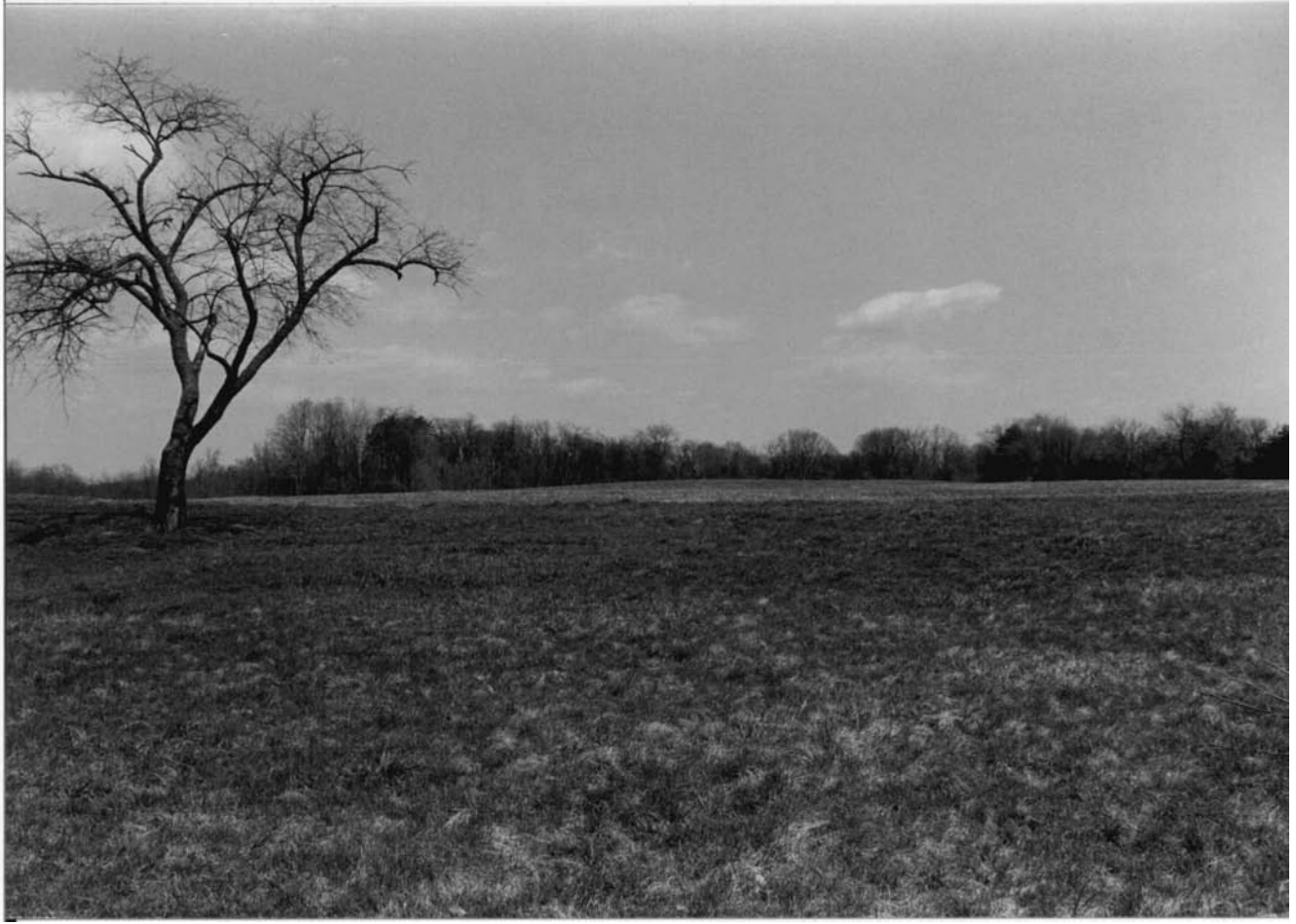
Woodland Hills, WA - II - 417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - northeast - log summer house
18 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - west looking at garden shed
19 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - north west looking at metal storage shed
20 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - north east - concrete block
milk house (former)
21 of 24

Woodland Hills, WA - II - 417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - looking south from ridge north of house
22 of 24



Woodland Hills WA-II-417
14906 Falling Waters Rd.
Williamsport, Washington Co., MD
P. Reed
4/2003
MD SHPO
View - looking north from ridge north of house
23 of 24

WA-II-417
District 20
Map 60
Parcel 81
MAGI # 2209815404

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Woodland Hills
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Falling Waters Road (218A)
CITY, TOWN
(Williamsport) X VICINITY OF **West Virginia**
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6
STATE
Maryland
COUNTY
Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Richard E. Altemus (Cynthia Oaks) Telephone #:
STREET & NUMBER
10306 Lloyd Road (218A Falling Waters Road)
CITY, TOWN
Potomac (Williamsport) __ VICINITY OF (MD 21795)
STATE, zip code
Marylanc 20854

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Washington County Court House**
Liber #: **545**
Folio #: **270**
STREET & NUMBER
West Washington Street
CITY, TOWN
Hagerstown
STATE
Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

WA-II-417

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED < 50%	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This brick farmhouse said to date from 1823 is a two story, five bay structure with Flemish bonding at the front elevation. Interestingly, loose bricks from put-log holes can still be seen at the front elevation at regular intervals in the wall. Wide flaring flat arches of long angle cut bricks are present above the front openings. Common bond brick work was used at the side and rear walls. Patterns of the put-log holes can be seen there as well.

All windows have six over six pane sashes held within narrow rounded frames which show now evidence of having been changed. The main entrance is located in the center front bay and has a broad seven light transom and sidelights around a six panel door. Separating the door from the glazed areas of its lintel and jambs are bands of symmetrical molding. Evidence remains of a one bay entrance porch, now removed.

Broad chimneys are located inside the end walls.

The interior of the house is divided by a central stair hall. Doors are said to have carpenter locks. Mantelpieces are simple with low relief panels and symmetrically molded trim.

A frame barn is also on the property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

WA-II-417

8 SIGNIFICANCE

ERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	X AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This brick house with a refined facade is an example of period architecture. Although a brick dated 1823 was said to have been found above the entrance, the house is actually more typical of local architecture of the 1830's.

It stands on part of the land grant called "Woodland Hills" which was patented to Samuel Ringgold, a prominent landowner. In 1812, he sold 250 acres of this grant to George Showman, presumed builder of the house. In 1833, after Showman's death, it was sold to Daniel Donnelly. (Y/694, NN/821, IN6/735).

The property is said to have been used as a hospital during the Civil War when there was a small battle at Falling Waters in what is now West Virginia.

This house was featured in an article in the Baltimore Sun Magazine of June 29, 1975.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

WA-II-417

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 27 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, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION DATE

Preservation Associates July 1978

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

109 West Main Street, Box 202 301-432-5466

CITY OR TOWN STATE

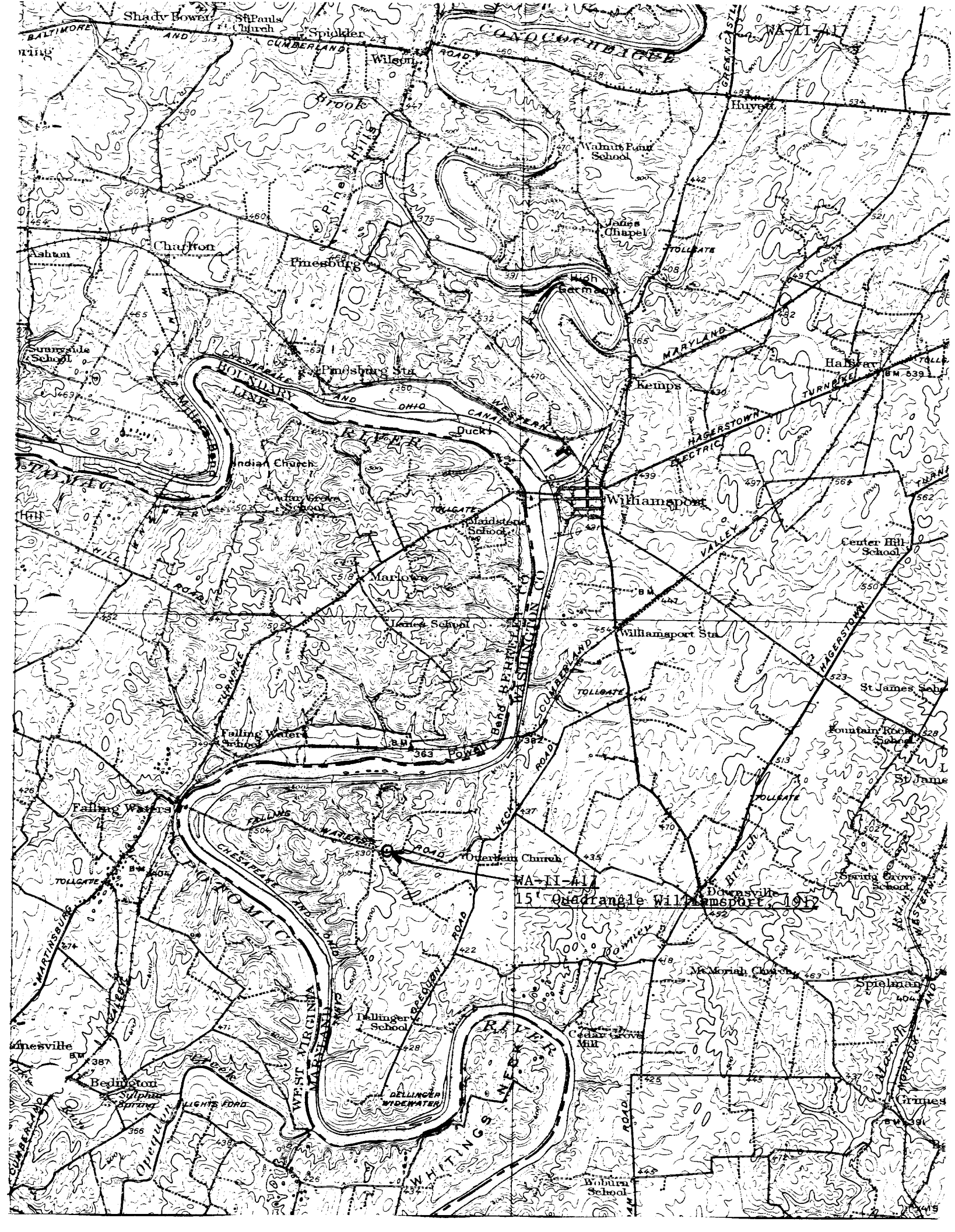
Sharpsburg Maryland 21782

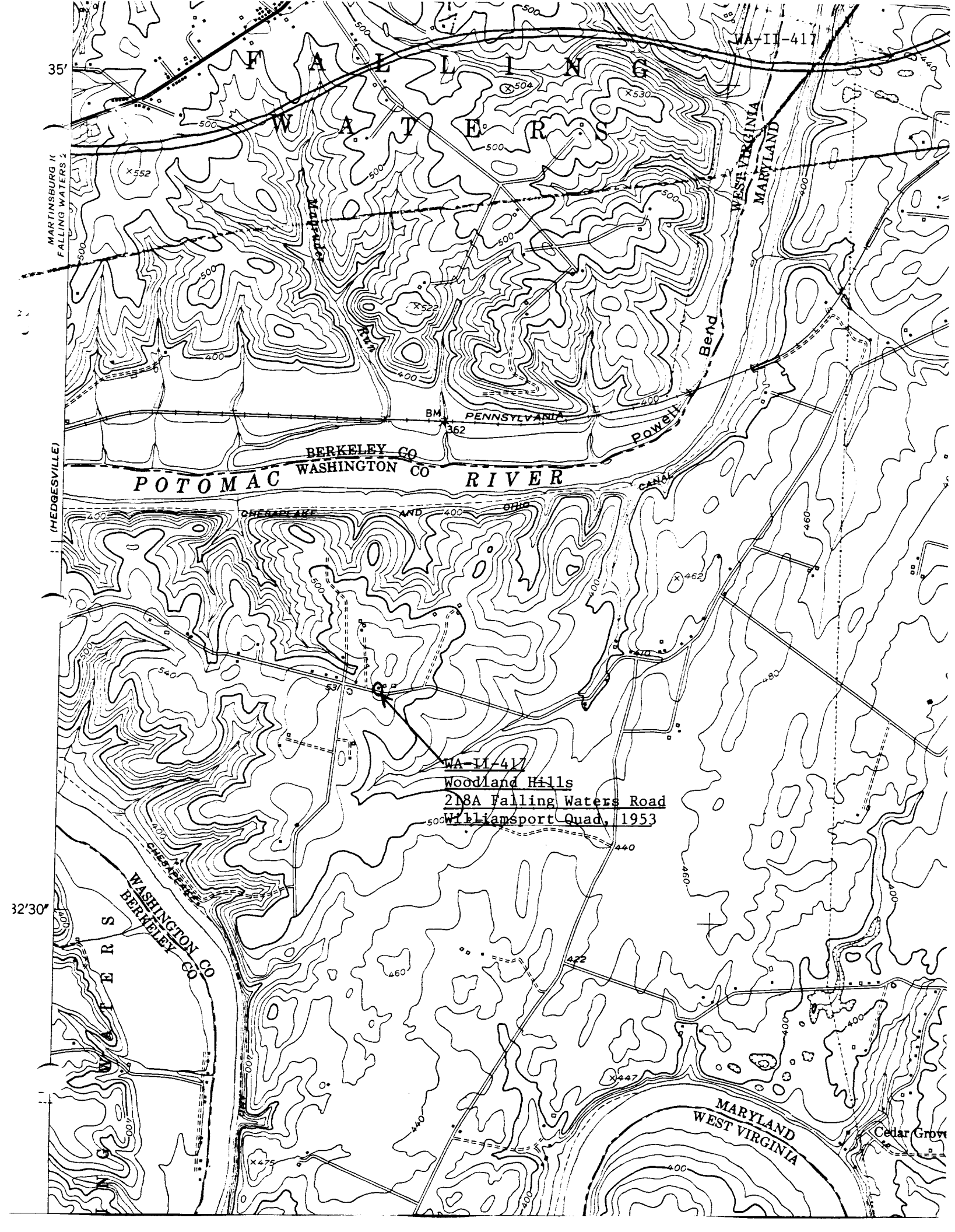
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

PS-1108


WA-II-417
15' Quadrangle Williamsport, 1912
Shady Bower
St Pauls Church
Spickler
Wilson
Huyett
Walnut Point School
Janes Chapel
Charlton
Ashton
Pinesburg
High Germany
Sunnyside School
Pinesburg Sta
Kemps
Halfway
Duck
Indian Church
Cedar Grove School
Williamsport
Maidstone School
Center Hill School
Marlowe
Janes School
Williamsport Sta
St James School
Fountain Rock School
Falling Waters School
Falling Waters
Otterbein Church
Downsville
Spring Grove School
Mt Moriah Church
Spielman
Dellinger School
Cedar Grove Mill
Bedington
Sulphur Spring
Woburn School
Grimes
CONOCOCHEAGUE
BALTIMORE AND CUMBERLAND ROAD
GREENCASTLE
TOLLGATE
MARYLAND
HAGERSTOWN TURNPIKE
ELECTRIC
VALLEY
CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL
WESTERN
BOUNDARY LINE
RIVER
Pine Hills
Brook
Miller's Bend
HILL ROAD
TURNPIKE
Powell Bend
WASHINGTON CO
CUMBERLAND ROAD
NECK
FALLING WATERS ROAD
POTOMAC
WEST VIRGINIA
MARYLAND
OPEQUON ROAD
WHITINGS NECK
DELLINGER WIDEWATER
Opequon
Creek
MARTINSBURG
Downey Branch
Marsh
MORFOLK AND WESTERN


WA-II-417
FALLING WATERS
35′
32′30″
MARTINSBURG
FALLING WATERS
(HEDGESVILLE)
WEST VIRGINIA
MARYLAND
Powell Bend
PENNSYLVANIA
BM 362
BERKELEY CO
WASHINGTON CO
POTOMAC RIVER
CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL
WA-II-417
Woodland Hills
218A Falling Waters Road
Williamsport Quad, 1953
WASHINGTON CO
BERKELEY CO
MARYLAND
WEST VIRGINIA
Cedar Grove

WA-II-417
S.W.
May, 1976

Woodland Hills

Falling Waters Road
West Virginia Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

WA-II-417
N.W.
May, 1976

Woodland Hills

Falling Waters Road
West Virginia Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

WA-II-417
entrance detail
May, 1976

Woodland Hills

Falling Waters Road
West Virginia Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY.

WA-II-411
detail S.
May. 1976

Woodland Hills

Falling Waters Road
West Virginia Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY