Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

BA-2214

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Western Run - Belfast Road Historic District ~~(exempting the Cuba Road Bridge)~~

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: See map and verbal boundary description — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth and

STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24 — COUNTY: Baltimore — CODE: 005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	— PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	X AGRICULTURE	— MUSEUM
— BUILDING(S)	— PRIVATE	— UNOCCUPIED	X COMMERCIAL	— PARK
— STRUCTURE	X BOTH	— WORK IN PROGRESS	— EDUCATIONAL	— PRIVATE RESIDENCE
— SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	— ENTERTAINMENT	— RELIGIOUS
— OBJECT	— IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	— GOVERNMENT	— SCIENTIFIC
	— BEING CONSIDERED	— YES: UNRESTRICTED	— INDUSTRIAL	— TRANSPORTATION
		— NO	— MILITARY	— OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Multiple public and private

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: — VICINITY OF — STATE:

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER: Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN: Towson — STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Baltimore County Landmarks (partial)

DATE: 1971 — FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY X LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Baltimore County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN: York Road, Cockeysville — STATE: Maryland

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	_ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	_RUINS	_ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

From its initial settlement in the eighteenth century to the present day the Western Run-Belfast Road district has been an agricultural one. Most of this district remains agricultural but its accessibility to Baltimore via I-83 makes it vulnerable to the suburbia which is spreading over the face of the land. The Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District is the easterly half of a large region nominated to the National Register; the westerly half, already nominated, is the Worthington Valley Historic District.

Visually the Western Run-Belfast Road district resembles all agricultural land before residential, commercial and industrial exploitation. There are fewer structural intrusions in this district than would be expected in one so close to a major metropolitan area. Roads do not exceed two lanes in width--narrow two lanes at that--a scale in perfect harmony with the land.

Structures in this district have always been traditional in form and detail, little affected by current style or taste. The abundant stone is the typical building material, recognized and appreciated for its permanence, obviously a most important detail to early builders. The absence of important late nineteenth-century houses indicates the early prosperity which the area enjoyed,the conservative taste of its inhabitants and the degree of permanence which earlier builders incorporated into their structures.

Nature was the all-powerful influence on lives and the securing of food was man's basic quest. Accordingly, unless an overwhelming reason suggested otherwise, the dwelling house had its long principal facade to the south, the sunniest, warmest exposure in cold weather. Every dwelling was supported by a number of small outbuildings, in addition to major barns, the function of which was related to the preparation and preservation of food. The southerly exposure and supporting outbuildings remained typical characteristics of Maryland farm dwellings until central heating made the former unnecessary and canning, refrigeration, chemical preservatives and rapid transportation made the latter obsolete. Southerly orientations of dwellings are seldom changed but obsolescence has made outbuildings and other structures erected for purely functional purposes (such as grist mills, tanneries and industrial structures) rare. An area which retains a number of these buildings, as does this area, assumes greater significance.

Settlement in the district began in the eighteenth century but eighteenth century structures are, not surprisingly, extremely rare. The earliest were undoubtedly small, simple, hasty and crude. The remarkable 1798 Federal Direct Tax records, which recorded the measurements, number of

See continuation sheet #1

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Western Run - Belfast Road Historic District
Baltimore County,
Maryland

stories, and building material of every dwelling house and outbuilding, indicates that most houses in the area were quite small but all the known building materials were represented: log, stone, frame and brick. Brick dwellings were the rarest and it may be assumed that this manmade material was more expensive and possibly of a less desirable sophistication than was desired by the earliest builders. Three stone houses have been identified in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records: Conception Valley (1794), Regulation and the Kenneth Fisher House. The first two had pent roofs at their second floor lines and Conception Valley has a corner chimney, all features associated with southeastern Pennsylvania, not tidewater Maryland. The Kenneth Fisher House, originally three bays in length with two rooms in each story--one occupying two bays, the other occupying one--and an insignificant enclosed staircase, is related to several other houses with identical plans, dating from the opening years of the nineteenth century: Conclusion, Rosedale (1806) and Thistle Down Farms.

Two eighteenth-century houses have been moved to the area: Ross House from Bladensburg, Prince Georges County, and the Yates House from Kent County, Maryland.

Conclusion, Rosedale (1806) and Thistle Down Farms are also substantially built of stone, utterly traditional in form and detail, but incorporating timely technological advances in their use of the machine-cut nail. The Kenneth Fisher House and Thistle Down Farms are further related by their identical early nineteenth-century wings and twentieth-century adaptations of the smaller original room as a center hall with an important open staircase, an alteration which occurred early in the nineteenth century at Locust Hill (q.v.) in the Worthington Valley (q.v.). Conclusion shares several sophisticated interior details with Stamford (q.v.), an important brick house in the Worthington Valley (q.v.) both apparently built just after 1798.

Like Conclusion, Rosedale and Thistle Down Farms, other houses dating from the opening years of the nineteenth century are traditional, their nineteenth-century origins indicated only by their absence in the 1798 Tax records and their use of machine-cut nails; their forms belong to the eighteenth century as do most of their details. Several houses in one group of this period share common details as well as common names: Spring Garden (1807), Spring Garden (Ensor) and Spring Garden's Addition (1808); these stone houses all have a narrow

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Western Run - Belfast Road Historic District
Baltimore County,
Maryland

DESCRIPTION (continued)

central hall with an open, important staircase and a service wing containing the kitchen, attached at one end, its height slightly lower than the main house, its detailing simpler. Hilltops (1811) and Smallwood are similar but their kitchen wings are smaller and the Fuller House (1801) also has a narrow central hall but its kitchen wing is perpendicular to the main house. Sammy's Bottom is at the end of this group, a transition to the next period with its central hall, one-room depth and "L" shaped plan formed by the kitchen wing, itself one room in depth, two rooms in length.

Another group of very early nineteenth century houses have side halls, probably recognized as a way to commence a house with a convenient way to double its size in the future. Oakland is two rooms deep and it is built of brick, a rarity in this district. Wood Hall Farm is also two rooms deep, with a side hall. Cumberland House is of stone, one room deep but it shares many interior details with Oakland. Hartman House and Master's Care are both of stone, one room deep, with a side hall containing an important open stair. All but Wood Hall Farm have had major additions added beside the side hall.

Several very small houses survive from this period; small survivors are especially rare when they have not been enlarged, such as the Akehurst House, of stone. The oldest part of the Drawbough House belongs to the early nineteenth century. The Gerber House is a fragment--the stone kitchen wing--of an early house and Aunt Ellie's Chimney is an even smaller fragment of an early house. Hill House is partly of log construction, enlarged and often remodeled. Linfield's Log House is perhaps the rarest of all, being a very early house, certainly the oldest log house in the area, its handmade rails indicating a possible eighteenth-century date; it has not been enlarged and it is nearly unaltered. The log section of Orebanks has been much altered and additions on two sides at two different early periods have obscured its original identity. Bosley's Log House and the Glikin House are two other rare survivors in log, as is one of the Delight Farm Tenant Houses.

The Kensey Johns Mill, dated 1800, is one of the oldest surviving mill structures in the state. Gray's Rocky Lodge, closely related to the Mill, was probably architecturally related to other three-bay stone houses of the early nineteenth century.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

That a center hall containing an important staircase was a degree of sophistication is indicated by their increasing prevalence as the region prospered. Bellefield, Belhaven (1834) and Conclusion (Glenn Bosley) are examples; the first two are of stone, the last is of frame construction, perhaps the oldest surviving house in the district of that material. Pleasant Prospect is a variation on the theme, its important stair hall occupying one corner of the stone dwelling. Often an addition containing an important hall with staircase was added to an earlier, more primitive structure: Meadowdale, Orebanks and Regulation are examples of stone additions to frame, log and stone earlier houses, respectively, added to achieve a hall with an open stair, and a parlor. The Scott House, with its two datestones,1787 and 1823, is a three-bay, two-story stone house, gutted by fire early in this century, making it impossible to assign it in one of these particular sub-groups.

The tiny Callahan House is a substantial stone dwelling or an outbuilding for a much larger dwelling. Margaret's Delight is a small stone house, basic in design, with later additions. Two religious meeting houses, the Black Rock (Baptist) and the Gunpowder (Friends), both are structures of denominations which demanded substance with utter simplicity in their structures, hence their very traditional form and detail, substantially rendered in stone. Batchelor's Choice (1838) is a stone house of traditional form, unique with the formality of double parlors without the formality of a hall with principal staircase. Henderson House (1840) is a large stone house of traditional form with a fully developed central hall, two rooms deep.

Prosperity together with family increases often caused additions to existing houses. The addition to Bellefield (1842) virtually copied the form of the original house. Conclusion and the Hartman House both had third stories added to the original two, an engineering feat possible when the original construction was substantially built of stone. One room was added to the length of the Hartman House at this time while at Conclusion three bays were added, two rooms deep, with a new stair hall, plus the third story over the old house, thus creating a new main house. The three story form was characteristic of the mid-century, possibly an influence of the city house: the George Canoles House, the Lloyd House, Conclusion Overseer's House, the house on Stubbs Mushroom Farm and the Davis House are examples; all but the last are of stone, the last being of frame. The Davis House has a tripartite motif in its central bay--entrance with sidelights in the first story, a wide window flanked by narrower ones in upper stories--and this same motif is found in several other mid-century houses, almost the sole exterior decorative element related to current style: Buffalo Run,

See continuation Sheet #4

DESCRIPTION (continued)

Bland House and Delight Farm. Like the Davis Farm, the Bland House is of frame and the others are of stone. Stucco is an important exterior finish, probably considered more sophisticated than rubble stone and that finish is found on Conclusion Overseer's house, the house on Stubbs Mushroom Farm and Delight Farm.

Major additions (1858) to Rosedale (1806) are unique; the old house, three bays in length, one room in depth, had its orientation changed, converting its original front into the end of a much larger house, now five bays in length, two rooms in depth, with a center hall in the addition adjacent to the rear facade of the original house.

The Felton House (1849) is a stone house with a side hall, two rooms in depth, traditional in form and detail. Modest traditional additions to earlier houses continued: Cumberland House, Drawbaugh House. As the years draw closer to our own, more and more of the modest small houses survive: Ryder House, John Edelen III House and Western Run Road Tollhouse. A large stone grist mill, Willow Mill, together with its small stone Miller's House survives the former gutted and nearly ruinous.

The Oregon & Co. Store is a mid-century stone structure erected by an early industrial concern; the original part and its several later additions illustrate traditional or old-fashioned form and details employed when utility superseded style in importance.

A major technological change brought important architectural changes in this period: the closed stove superseded the open fireplace as a source of heat in buildings. Chimneys were built as single flues, without multiple fireplaces, each with its own flue. The Oregon & Co. Store (first mentioned above) is in this period, as is Belfast Farm, Butler Hotel, Brooks House, Mrs. Clara Lee's House, the Davis Plow Factory, Madden House, Margaret's Delight (addition), Oregon & Co. Overseer's House and Oregon & Co. Company Houses. Belfast Farm, like others mentioned earlier, was probably a hall-with-staircase and parlor addition to an earlier house, now vanished. Brooks, Mrs. Clara Lee's and Madden House are the frame dwellings of newly freed black people. The frame Barko House exhibits a stylish central pediment, perhaps the earliest in this area of a house type which became typical

See continuation sheet #5

DESCRIPTION (continued)

throughout the last half of the nineteenth century.

Four early one-room schoolhouses remain from this period dating from the establishment of public education: Black Rock School, Priceville School, Western Run School and Shawan School. The first three are of stone and the fourth is of brick, indicating the desire to make these public buildings permanent and relatively maintenance-free.

Increased transportation demands resulted in the development of the Western Run Turnpike and several stone-linteled culverts and at least one fine stone-arched bridge remain in service. Advanced technology allowed iron to replace wood and stone for bridges and a good early wrought iron Cuba Road Bridge spans Western Run.

As the century progressed, fewer important houses were built, indicating the early prosperity of the region and the later satisfaction with those earlier, traditional houses, a feeling still prevalent.

The Gill House and the Howell House are the largest and most important late nineteenth century dwellings, each on a commanding hilltop site, each of frame, each with modest late-nineteenth century detailing, a central gable in the roof being the predominant feature. Other frame houses, smaller, but with the characteristic gable as virtually the only stylish ornamentation are Daniel Bosley House, Linfield House, Parker House, Pindell House, Ramberg House, Robert Lewis' Rented House, Spring Garden Tenant House and Turnbaugh House. Similar but lacking the gable are Cole House, Gent Store, Waxter House and Wheeler Lane House. The Schaeffer House was similar, its additions creating a unique form. The Western Run Road Store and Tollhouse is an utterly simple frame utilitarian dwelling and business structure. The second Delight Farm Tenant House is similarly simple. The Whye House is a modest house of a black family, traditional in form. The Butler School is a very early example of consolidation in school construction, consisting of three classrooms instead of the then-customary one. The Bosley Methodist Church is a stylish Gothic-revival church, a radical departure from that denomination's earlier philosophy of utterly-simple meeting houses, an influence from such sophisticated city churches as the Mount Vernon Place Methodist.

See continuation sheet #6

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The few dwellings from this period including Breitnecker House and Bryant House continue the late nineteenth-century tradition of simplicity; neither of these two is large; both exhibit modest influences of the Colonial Revival. Greencroft in stone is on a commanding site and it is of a scale equal to the earlier stone houses; it, too, modestly reflects the Colonial Revival style. The Falls Road M.E. Church (1914) incorporates some very simple Gothic-revival detailing in an otherwise simple frame meeting house. The Gough Church (1907) is a simple frame meeting house of a black congregation incorporating even fewer Gothic-revival details. Riley's Store is a typical early twentieth century small general store, its form once repeated in many examples of that functional building type, a type becoming rarer with each passing year.

Kitchens are the most important outbuildings. Early kitchens in Maryland were often like those in other southern regions, in separate buildings. Others were in attached wings. Maryland has been a transitional area in many ways, and her domestic architecture is no exception. Many early Maryland kitchens, particularly in northern Maryland, were in basements, like their counterparts in more northerly regions of America. As technology allowed the cooking process to progress from an open fire to the enclosed range, the kitchen invariably was incorporated as part of the same structure and on the same floor as the dwelling. Tradition was strong, however, and throughout the nineteenth century the kitchen was usually expressed as a wing, structurally distinct from the principal dwelling, but attached and constructed in the same building effort. A tradition persists that the kitchen wings of many houses are the original dwellings on the property (undoubtedly because of their more primitive detailing and lower ceilings) but in most cases, structurally, they can be proven to be contemporary with the dwelling, sometimes constructed, in actual sequence, after the dwelling, but as part of the same building effort. A shed-roof form for kitchen wings, perpendicular to the principal part of the dwelling, is characteristic of many in this area, a form frequently seen in northern western Maryland and southern Pennsylvania, less frequently seen in eastern and southern Maryland: Conclusion, Hill House, Henderson House, Bland House, Buffalo Run, George Canoles House, John Edelen III House, Oregon & Co. Store, Oregon & Co. Overseer's House.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

Early barns, described in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records, were invariably small compared to barns typically associated with rural Maryland. The stone barn at the Mac Farlane House (originally part of the Cumberland House property) is typical of the earliest described barns. Unlike most nineteenth-century barns, it is not built into a hillside. Stone bank barns at Pleasant Prospect and Rosedale (1812) survive, relatively unchanged; stone bank barns survive in various conditions at Belhaven Farm, Conclusion, Meadowdale Farm, Scott House and Smallwood. Frame bank barns, on stone ground stories, survive at Breitnecker House, George Canoles House, Greencroft, Meadowdale Farm, Orebanks, Sammy's Bottom, Spring Garden, Spring Garden (Ensor) and Spring Garden Tenant House. Stone foundation walls of former bank barns survive at Bellefield, Fuller House, Hilltops, and Oregon & Co. Invariably the ground story, containing livestock stalls, opens to the south, sheltered by a projecting, often cantilevered, tall loft story, accessible on grade to the north.

A distinctive regional style exists for graineries: two stone side walls, usually buttressed, supporting a second story with framed end walls: Belfast Farm, Belhaven Farm (ruinous), Bellefield (ruinous), Davis Farm, Fuller House, Mac Farlane House, Master's Care, Meadowdale Farm, Pleasant Prospect and Spring Garden.

Polygonal outbuildings occur frequently throughout northern Baltimore County; two built as ice houses are in this area: at Felton House and at Spring Garden. Their origins probably lie in a popular nineteenth-century movement which advocated polygonal structures, small outbuildings being easily adapted to this practical, decorative and whimsical shape.

The abundance of springs eased the settlement in this area and this valuable natural gift was used for drinking water and for food preservation. Structures were built over springs to control and shelter this vital operation, stone being the usual material chosen to survive in the inevitably damp location. Many springhouses survive, a testament to their durable construction in spite of their functional obsolescense and resultant abandonment today. Surviving one-story spring houses include those at Belfast Farm, Belhaven

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Maryland

DESCRIPTION (continued)

Farm, Bellefields, Breitnecker House, Davis Farm, Felton House, Mac Farlane House, Margaret's Delight, Master's Care, Meadowdale Farm, Orebanks, Oregon & Co. Overseer's House, Oregon & Co. Store, Pleasant Prospect (1836), Rosedale, Sammy's Bottom, Spring Garden, Spring Garden (Ensor), Spring Garden's Addition, Spring Garden Tenant House, Thistle Down Farm, Woodhall Farm. Surviving two-story spring houses include those at Batchelor's Choice, Buffalo Run, Conclusion, Fuller House, Hartman House, Henderson House, Lloyd House, Oakland, Scott House.

Most of the smaller outbuildings associated with early dwellings relate to the preservation of food. Smoking and curing meat was an early preservation process, requiring its own structure and several survive, generally adapted to useful storage buildings today: Belhaven Farm, Bellefield, Breitnecker House, Cole House, Cumberland House, Davis Farm, George Canoles House, Master's Care, Meadowdale Farm, Pleasant Prospect, Sammy's Bottom, Spring Garden, Spring Garden's Addition, Turnbaugh House.

The most functional and inevitable outbuilding associated with all early dwellings is today the rarest: the privy. All are abandoned today. Two, one for ladies, the other for gentlemen, survive attached to the Gunpowder Friends Meeting House. A stone privy at the Davis Farm contains separate rooms for the sexes. A stone privy is attached to the stone meat house at Rosedale and a stone privy is attached to another stone outbuilding at Scott House. Frame privies survive at the George Canoles House, Hill House and Meadowdale Farm.

Root cellars are unusual but four survive in this area, underground, separate from the dwelling: Cumberland House, Hilltops, Smallwood and Woodhall Farm. At Hilltops, it is accessible from the dwelling's cellar. All have vaulted stone roofs covered with earth.

Mounting blocks, minimal structures provided as a permanent functional devices, survive at several dwellings, their permanence made possible by the abundant, easily worked stone in the area: Belhaven Farm, Conclusion, Gunpowder Friends Meeting House, Oakland, Pleasant Prospect, Smallwood and Meadowdale Farm.

See continuation sheet #9

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

Several stone structures survive at Pleasant Prospect related to that property's tanning industry. A rare stone Quarters survives, semi-ruinous, at Smallwood. Stone-walled pits covered by wooden structures, intended for the storage of ice, survive at Cumberland House and Conclusion; other ice houses were noted above as Polygonal Structures. Several timber-framed graineries follow the stone-walled form described above: Davis Farm, Delight Farm and Howell House. An early stone structure of undetermined original function survives at Scott House.

The Cuba Road Bridge is not included in this nomination.

BA-2214

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	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	
X 1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY	_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		_INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Western Run - Belfast Road Historical District is a natural extension of the Worthington Valley District which has previously been nominated to the National Register. Its western boundary follows the center of Falls Road, abutting the eastern boundary of Worthington Valley; its northern and southern boundaries extend the valleys and ridges of the latter and embrace the Western Run as it flows into the Gunpowder River. The eastern boundary of this district is the western edge of Interstate Highway #83.

This is a rural district, devoted entirely to agricultural and residential use, with only the village of Butler forming a small commercial crossroads with its general store, post office and firehouse. Except for a small area in the northwest corner the district lies entirely within the 8th election district of Baltimore County.

For as long as this area has been settled it has been known for its rich mineral resources, in particular its deep vein of iron ore and abundant supply of limestone. Over one hundred forty years ago the Oregon Company was formed to mine iron ore, and by 1877 the Ashland Iron Works, which had taken over Oregon, was capable of producing six hundred tons of manufactured iron a week.[1] Marble was found on the Western Run Near Tanyard Road, but the major quarries which are still worked are located north of Butler on the Falls Road. The limestone produced there has been used both for fertilizer and as a building material.

There were numerous saw and grist mills within the district. Now abandoned, they performed a major service for the farmers nearby. Indeed, the construction of the Western Run Turnpike which bisected the district was accomplished in 1868 to assist the farmers in transporting their grain to the mills and to the city of Baltimore. This road with its bridges and culverts has remained relatively untouched. The bridges with their Gothic arches and massive limestone construction reflect the availability of native stone nearby and the Gothic-revival style of architecture popular in the 1860's.

The district was once dotted with villages and hamlets, most of which have disappeared and are recalled in the neighboring road names. Typical of these crossroads is Western Run near the ruins

See continuation sheet #10

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

of the old Willow Mill. Here may be seen the surviving miller's house, public school, tollhouse and wheelwright shop - all converted into private dwellings. Research indicates that there was also a sawmill, a blacksmith shop and a combination store and post office.

Davisville, on the Belfast Road, was another industrial complex which surrounded the Davis Plough Factory. It included the factory, a sales building, tenant houses and a school. Only the Davis home, sales building and several tenant houses remain.

Butler has always been a commercial center. Located on a portion of the Falls Road which was part of the Western Turnpike system, it served both the Worthington Valley and Western Run - Belfast Road districts. The village contained a post office, hotel, blacksmith shop, two general stores, a school and several churches. All are standing today.

Leesville, a group of about five houses named for Benjamin Lee, a freed slave, was built shortly after the Civil War and continues to house some of Lee's descendants. Gentsville on Cuba Road, which takes its name from William C. Gent, one of the first three County Commissioners of Baltimore County (1851) and owner of a large tract of land there, is a small residential black neighborhood surrounding Gough United Methodist Church. There was formerly a school in the church building which dates from 1884.

Other communities within this district, which for the most part have disappeared, were Black Rock with its old grist mill, school and Methodist church, Oregon, Shawan and Belfast. Quaker Bottom is the name frequently associated with Priceville and Philopolis because it was settled early in the eighteenth century by members of the Society of Friends. The Gunpowder Friends Meeting House has been restored and still serves its modern congregation.

There are five school buildings still standing within the district. All but one, the Black Rock school, have been converted into private homes. The Black Rock school is presently being remodeled for an antiques shop. Additionally, there are five churches, all over one hundred years old and all presently in use.

See continuation sheet #11

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Of particular note is the fact that through the years, descendants of the original settlers have continued to live in this district, in many instances farming the same land and occupying the original homes of their ancestors. The Price family came into the area in 1723 and married into the Cole family. The Matthews family settled in 1727 and their descendants still live on the original property. The Scotts, who operated a tannery and mill on the Western Run, arrived around 1751 and four of their homes survive. The Ensors took out patents in the 1790's at Cold Bottom and Spring Gardens Addition and the Regulated Vineyard Resurveyed, all of which lie within this district. The Bosleys purchased land from Benjamin Wheeler about 1801. All of these families are still represented among the residents of the Western Run-Belfast Road District.

Historically, this district has always been an agricultural area. From the earliest times, it was recognized for the large and prosperous farms which produced crops of corn and grass, cattle and sheep. One event of historical importance took place in 1824 when General Lafayette, then on his final visit to America, presented the prize given by the State Agricultural Society for the best cultivated farm to Colonel Nicholas Merryman Bosley of "Hayfields."

Preservation efforts are evident everywhere in this district. The fact that although the mills, stores and other commercial-industrial structures have all but disappeared or been remodeled for private dwellings, the large working farms with their open spaces the wooded ridges and the many early ninetenth century domestic buildings have survived attests to the desire of the inhabitants to retain this rural district as it was when first settled. Although several efforts have been made to develop the area adjoining Interstate #83 on the eastern edge of the district and a tract near the intersection of Western Run and Shawan Roads, these newer houses have not yet had a severe impact on the whole district. The possibility of further development and the probable widening of Shawan Road presents an ever present fear among the residents. The valley as a whole is worthy of protection from federally financed projects because of its survival as one of the few untouched rural agricultural and residential areas in Baltimore County.

BA-2214

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet #12

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9,975 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	356,930	4,380,660
B	18	357,720	4,371,390
C	18	352,460	4,372,760
D	18	350,280	4,378,640
E	18	353,360	4,381,680

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet #13

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Catharine F. Black/James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA bjn

ORGANIZATION: For Valleys Historical District Project DATE: Sept. 1976

STREET & NUMBER: 1114 Bellemore Road TELEPHONE:

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore STATE: Maryland

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE X LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE John M. Pearce 3/22/78

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 892-453

Form No 10-300a
(Rev 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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BA-2214

Form No 10-300a
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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)

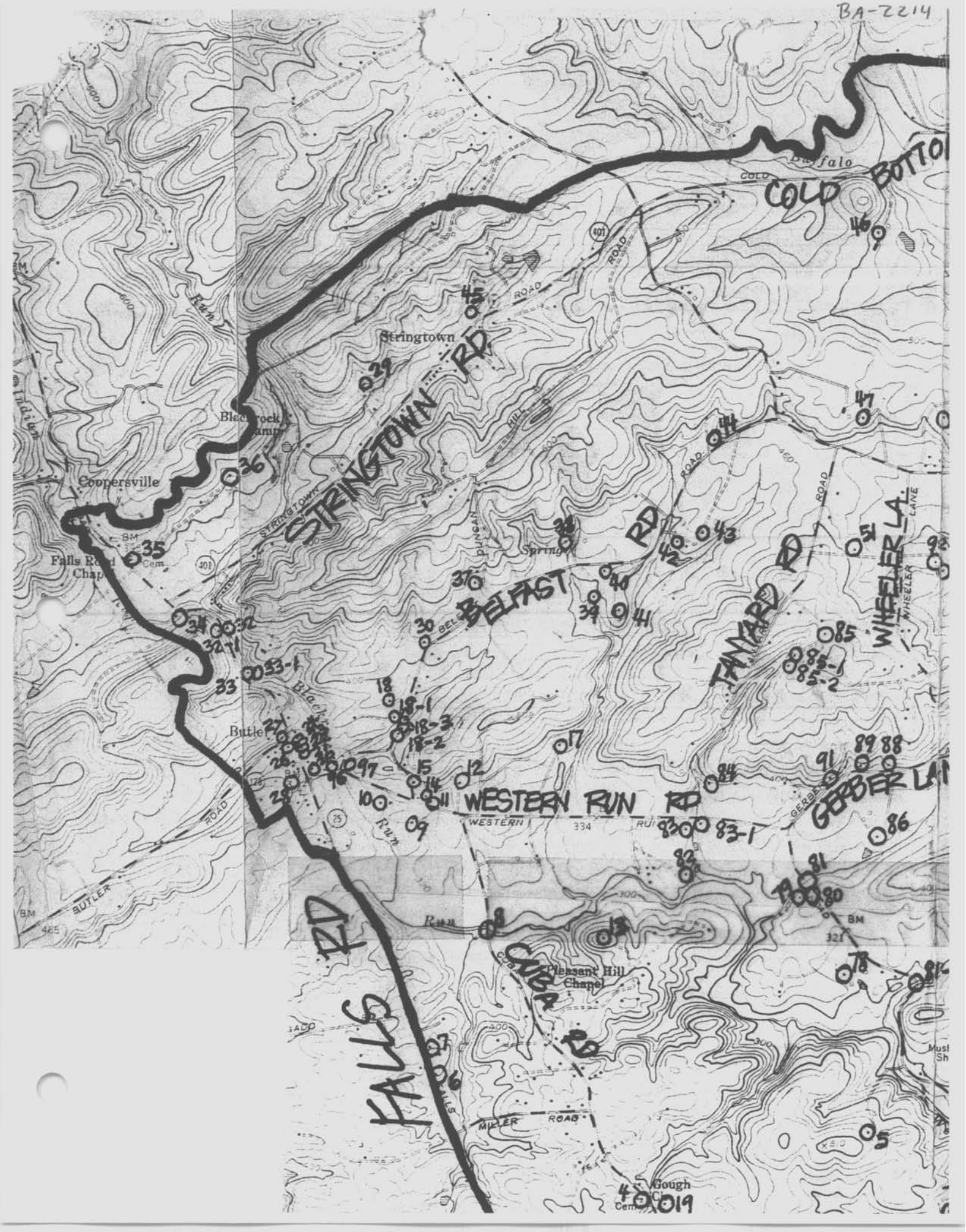
Beginning for the western boundary in the center of Falls Road approximately 800 feet north of Shawan Road at its crossing with the Oregon Branch. Thence following the center of Falls Road to the 340 foot contour line south of the village of Butler. Thence bounding the back property lines on the west side of Falls Road for a distance of about 1000 feet to the 400 foot contour line. Thence southwesterly on the 400 foot line for a distance of about 600 feet; north northwesterly a distance of approximately 5200 feet, crossing Butler Road, the southwestern branch of Black Rock Run, the northwestern branch of Black Rock Run, to a point on the 400 foot contour. Thence northerly on the 400 foot contour west of Falls Road to its nearest proximity with the 500 foot contour east of Falls Road.

For the northern boundary, continuing east of Falls Road on the 500 foot contour (approximately 800 feet) thence following that line to Black Rock Run. Crossing the Run in a straight line to the 600 foot contour line and following that line across Yeoho Road and Buffalo Run in a straight line to the 500 foot contour line. Continue on that elevation to the western edge of Interstate Highway #83.

For the eastern boundary of the district, follow the westernmost edge of the right of way of Interstate #83 to a point where it crosses Oregon Branch south of Shawan Road.

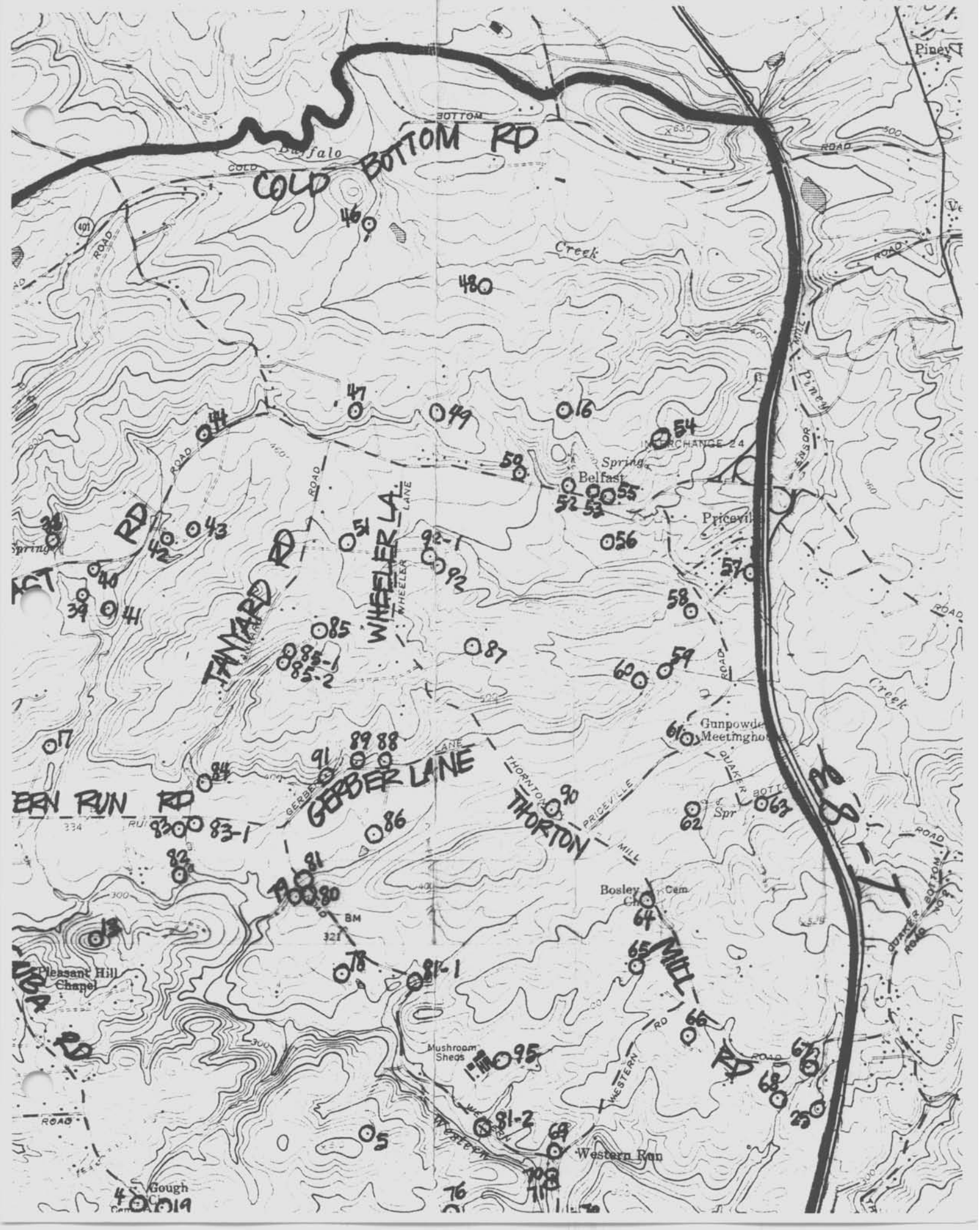
For the southern boundary, follow Oregon Branch to the 300 foot contour, thence due west to the 500 foot contour line. Continuing on that line to the eastern edge of Falls Road; north to Oregon Branch, thence easterly on Oregon Branch approximately 500 feet, then in a northwesterly direction to the beginning.

BA-2214

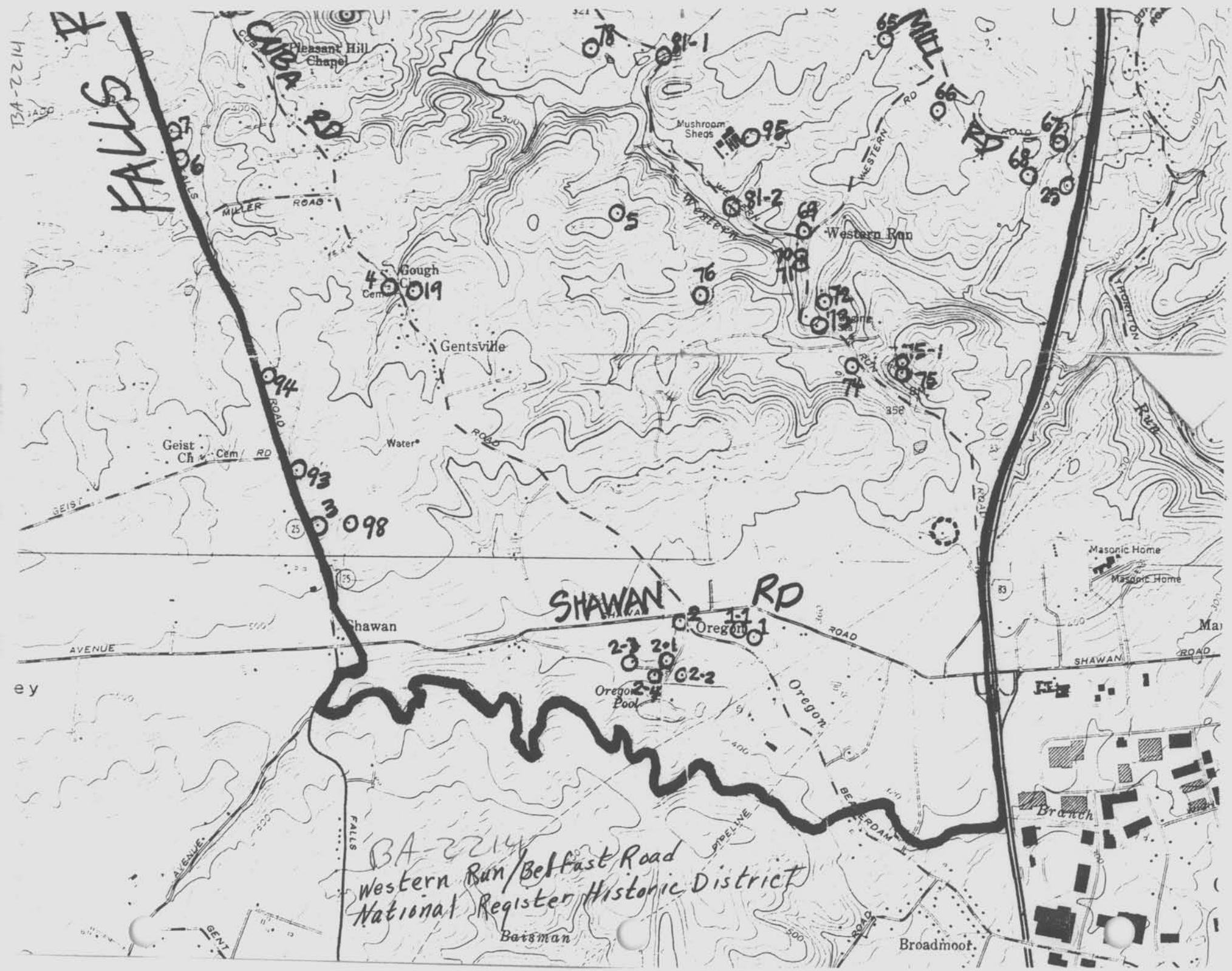


COLD BOTTO
Buffalo
COLD
Stringtown
STRINGTOWN RD
Blackrock Camp
Coopersville
Falls Road Chapel
Cem
STRINGTOWN
BELFAST RD
Spring
DUNCAN
HILL
ROAD
TANYARD RD
WHEELER LA.
WHEELER
LANE
Butler
Black
WESTERN RUN RD
WESTERN
334
GERBER LA
GERBER
BUTLER
ROAD
Run
Pleasant Hill Chapel
CUBA RD
FALLS RD
MILLER ROAD
Gough
Cem

BA-2214



COLD BOTTOM RD
Buffalo
Creek
Piney
Belfast
Spring
Priceville
INTERCHANGE 24
TANYARD RD
WHEELER LA.
GERBER LANE
THORNTON
PRICEVILLE
MILL
Gunpowder Meetinghouse
Bosley
Cem
Pleasant Hill Chapel
Mushroom Sheds
Western Run
Gough
ERN RUN RD


BA-2214
FALLS
CUBA RD
Pleasant Hill Chapel
MILLER ROAD
Gough Cir
Cem
Gentsville
Mushroom Sheds
Western Run
WESTERN RD
MILL RD
Geist Ch
Cem RD
GEIST
Water
SHAWAN RD
Shawan
AVENUE
Oregon
Oregon Pool
Oregon
Masonic Home
Masonic Home
SHAWAN ROAD
Branch
Baisman
Broadmoor
BA-2214
Western Run/Belfast Road
National Register Historic District