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

WA II-120

41

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Hitt's Mill and houses

AND/OR COMMON
Pry's Mill; Valley Mills; Hitt (or Cost) House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North and south sides of Keedysville-Bakersville Road, one mile west of Maryland Route 34 — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Keedysville — X VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Sixth

STATE Maryland — CODE 024 — COUNTY Washington — CODE 043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	X AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	X 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
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mill & House (south side) Mr. Frederick B. Hanson (1)
House (north side) Mr. Calvin W. Heuer (2)

STREET & NUMBER (1) -------
(2) Route 1

CITY, TOWN Keedysville — X VICINITY OF — STATE Maryland 21756

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN Hagerstown — STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE — __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN — STATE

DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hitt's Mill is located south of the Keedysville-Bakersville Road, on the Little Antietam Creek, near the point where it joins the Antietam in the vicinity of Keedysville in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on the north bank of the creek.

The mill is a five-story stone and brick structure built as a grist mill and now used as an antique shop. The ground story which is exposed on the south or creek side and the first full story above ground level are constructed of coursed limestone. The upper stories are built of bricks laid in common bond at all elevations. Stone foundations extend to the east of the mill along the edge of the creek. An outline of a gable from an adjoining structure said to have been a sawmill can be seen on the east elevation of the mill.

The ground story level of the south elevation and the adjoining foundations are pierced at intervals with segmentally arched openings. The arches are supported by carefully cut stone voussoirs. Between the ground and main stories of the stone portion of the mill are a series of square openings in the wall which apparently held joists or supports for some sort of attached structure. The stone portion was part of an earlier mill which was replaced by the present brick structure.

Windows in the mill have six-over-six pane double hung sash. Large wooden lintels ›p the windows and door in the brick section.

The wood shingle roof, barge boards and cornice are modern, having been replaced during restoration of the mill in 1972. Just upstream from the mill are the remains of the dam which regulated the flow of water to the structure.

Immediately across the Little Antietam Creek from the mill are the ruins of a small log house with a stone and brick flue inside its north gable end. Foundations of a structure said to have been a cobbler's shop are also located near the mill.

Old deeds for this property refer to a wagon road which crossed the Little Antietam Creek below the mill. Other references are made to the road leading from the Monroe School house, which presumably stood on Monroee Road, to Hitt's Mill.

Just north of the mill building is a two-story, six-bay log dwelling sheathed with weatherboarding. It is situated on sloping ground along the south side of the Keedysville-Bakersville Road. The dwelling rests on limestone foundations which become nearly a full story in height at the south elevation. Stone piers perpendicular to the foundation walls support a one-story porch extending along the entire south elevation.

The dwelling is a two-part structure, divided by an interior wall of log construction. Windows and doors in both sections of the house are aligned with each other, although they are not spaced symmetrically in the walls. Windows have narrow frames which hold six-over-six pane sash.

Entrances are located in the second and fifth bays from the west end of the house at both the north and south elevations. Original doors have six low relief panels and are hung below three-light transoms.

see continuation sheet #1

DESCRIPTION, continued

The roof is covered with sheet metal and terminates with barge boards set directly against the end walls. Plain boxing finishes the eaves. A brick chimney protrudes from the interior of the house at the juncture of the two sections.

The interior of the dwelling displays woodwork from different periods with that of the west section appearing earlier in style than that in the eastern portion.

In the north foundation wall of the cellar is a broad arch covering a recess in the wall about three feet in depth. The purpose of this arched recess has not been determined.

The main house for the mill complex is located on the north side of the Keedysville-Bakersville Road, immediately north of the log dwelling. The Hitt House is situated on gently sloping ground rising above Antietam Creek and faces west.

The house is a two-story, five-bay log dwelling set on low fieldstone foundations. Attached to its south gable wall is a two-story, four-bay wing lower in height than the main section. The walls of both sections are sheathed with German siding and composition brick. Some older weatherboarding finished with a bead at the lower edge can also be seen.

Windows of both sections have very wide frames with quarter round trim. All original sash have been replaced with two-over-two pane double hung windows. Openings in the foundations of the south wing have narrow wooden frames.

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the front or west elevation. It is framed similarly to the windows and holds a door with six raised panels under a simple four-light transom. Other doors have similar treatment. A second door in the main section is located in the center bay of the east or rear elevation. Doors in the south wing are located in the front and rear elevations. A one-story, shed-roofed porch extends across the front elevation of the main section and part of the wing. At the rear of the wing is a broad, one-story porch.

The roof of each section is covered with modern asphalt shingles and terminates with tapered barge boards set directly against the end walls. Large brick chimneys with corbels at their tops are located inside each gable end. A portion of the flue at the south gable end of the main section protrudes from the exterior surface of the end wall, an unusual feature which may be the result of rebuilding of the chimney. Plain boxing finishes the eaves.

see continuation sheet #2

DESCRIPTION, continued

Just south of the house is a square log outbuilding with a hipped roof covered with wooden shingles. Southwest of the house is a large frame bank barn and part of a fieldstone barnyard fence.

Several hundred feet north of the house is evidence of an old road which predated the present Keedysville-Bakersville Road between the Antietam Creek and Keedysville.

Approximately one-half mile east of the mill complex along the edge of the road is a stone lime kiln. Also nearby are two stone arch bridges, the historic Hitt Bridge and the smaller Pry's Mill Bridge. (None of these are included in this nomination.)

SIGNIFICANCE

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PERIOD

__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	X MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	X COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hitt's Mill complex is significant for its architecture and its contribution to local commerce and the milling industry. It is also important for its association with the nearby Civil War battle of Antietam and for social and humanitarian concerns since the mill and the Hitt house served as hospitals during and after the battle. The complex is significant, additionally, for its association with the Hitt family. Three brothers, Martin, Daniel and Samuel, all ministers, were influential in the development of Methodism in the early republic. Samuel M. Hitt, son of Martin, established the mill, an important commercial establishment, at this site in the early 19th century.

Architecturally, the Hitt's Mill complex represents the three major construction traditions in the Cumberland Valley and Western Maryland with the use of log, stone and brick in the buildings present. Log as employed in the dwellings was an important construction material popular from the earliest days of settlement in the 18th century to the early 20th century. The Hitt House is interesting as a relatively large example of log construction in Washington County. Although the exact building date of this structure has not been determined, it would appear to date from the late 18th century or very early 19th century. A large dwelling is depicted on this site on an 1808 map of Frederick and Washington Counties compiled by Charles Varle. The house is shown on the map as being in the possession of R. Smith. According to primary and secondary sources, Robert Smith willed his four farms to his grandnephew, Samuel M. Hitt (Will C/54). This will was probated October 18, 1818. The Varle map Robert Smith at the location of this house suggests that of the four farms he owned this one was his home. Smith was a member of a prominent early family in the Antietam Valley. Prior to 1750, the Smith family acquired land along the creek. Toward the end of the century, they held several thousand acres of land, some of which is encompassed in farms along Manor Church Road and the Sharpsburg-Keedysville Road. Robert Smith, presumed to be the son of settler James Smith, was a member of the State Legislature from 1800 until 1805.

The other log house in this nomination, on the south side of the road, was built in two parts. The interior woodwork of the western portion suggests a construction date during the second quarter of the 19th century, while that employed in the eastern portion is of a type associated with the later 19th century.

Stone construction was employed in the lower stories of the mill. The masonry work appears to be of high quality, particularly as seen in the arch construction toward the base of the south wall. Samuel M. Hitt operated a mill on this property during the early 19th century. It is not known, however, when the stone portion of the structure was built. A mill is not depicted on this site on Varle's 1808 map. The upper stories of the mill were added later, after part of the original structure was destroyed by fire. This brick portion appears to date from the mid-19th century.

SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Operating as a grist mill, presumably with an attached sawmill, the Hitt's or Pry's Millccomplex is important for its contribution to commerce and to the milling industry in Washington County. Grist milling was an important early industry in the area, providing a means for local farmers to process their grain products. Sawmills were also numeroud. As well as being trade centers, the mills served a social function as meeting places where information was exchanged. The mill was in operation until 1926.

Throughout their documentary history, the mill property and that across the road containing the main house have always been conveyed separately. The earliest documented record of the mill property is the will of Robert Smith (see above). It states that Samuel Merritt Hitt, Smith's grandnephew, was to inherit the residue of his great-uncle's estate. Later on March 7, 1820, Hitt's ownership was confirmed by a deed from Joseph Chapline (Deed EE/487), which stated that Chapline had at an earlier date agreed to convey a tract of land containing 20 1/4 acres (the acreage of the mill property throughout all the deeds) to a certain Andrew Baker. Subsequently Baker agreed to convey the land to Robert Smith, who had in turn willed it to Samuel M. Hitt. Presumbaly it was Hitt who established the original mill.

Samuel Hitt was influential in the construction of a stone bridge erected over Antietam Creek in 1830 to facilitate access to his mill. In an Article of Agreement recorded among the Washington County Land Records (LL/350), between Justices of the Levy Court and Samuel M. Hitt, dated March 15, 1830, Hitt agreed to repair the road from the bridge to be built by Silas Harry to the summit of the hill toward Hess' Mill in Keedysville. The road described in the agreement was shortly thereafter changed to its present course as depicted in a plat recorded May 6, 1833, in Volume I, folio 196, of the Washington County Road Records. The earlier road, which led directly east from the bridge, is said to have been that used by General Braddock in 1755 on his trip west to Fort Duquesne during the French and Indian War.

On August 7, 1846, Samuel M. and Barbara Hitt, who had previously moved to Ogle County, Illinois, sold two tracts, including the 20 1/4 acre mill property, to Lewis Watson for $6,137.75(IN3/71). Samuel Pry and Philip Pry purchased the mill property from Watson and his wife on December 16, 1847 (IN3/73). The mill property remained in the Pry family until 1941 (IN5/298, 115/383, 135/38, 173/307, 173/308, 217/131). The 20 1/4 acre property included parts of the grants "Addition to Bunell's Bower," "Resurvey of Felfoot Enlarged," "Resurvey of Hills and Dales" and "The Vineyard."

On August 17, 1846, the Hitts sold their farm across the road from the mill, containing 130 3/4 acres, to Samuel Cost for $5,199 (IN3/69). Samuel Cost owned

see continuation sheet #4

SIGNIFICANCE, continued

this farm (which includes the Hitt House) during the Battle of Antietam which occurred on September 17, 1862. In addition to having numerous Federal troops stationed in the area and to being a major crossing point of the Antietam Creek, the Hitt house and barn were also used as hospitals during and after the battle. Doctor Wilcox established a hospital in the Hitt barn for several hundred soldiers, while approximately twenty-five troops were treated in the parlor of the house. On October 4 after the battle, the remaining wounded soldiers were moved to the Smoketown hospital, located approximately one mile northwest of the Hitt farm. On the eve of the battle, September 16, General J.K.F. Mansfield dined at the Hitt house. After the battle, the farm served briefly as headquarters for General George Gordon Meade.

The farm remained in the Cost family until 1886, when Jacob H. Cost sold it to Jacob C. and Barbara A. Rohrer (88/23). It was held by the Rohrer family until 1945 (229/201). The farm was purchased by the present owners in 1964. The land includes parts of the grants "Resurvey on Felfoot Enalrged," "Red Oak Level," "Vineyard," and "Resurvey on Hills Dales and the Vineyard."

The mill property was owned by the Pry family during the Battle of Antietam. The mill was also used as a hospital for federal troops. The Sanitary Commission reported that this hospital was poorly managed and that the surgeons were young and frequently intoxicated (Schildt, p. 167). According to local legend, women of the Pry family baked bread for the wounded soldiers.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hays, Helen Ashe. The Antietam and its Bridges. New York: G.P. Putnam Sons, 1910.
Powell, Libbie. "Pry Mill near Keedysville Takes on New Life under Fred Hanson." The Daily Mail (Hagerstown, Maryland), November 11, 1974.
hildt, John W. Drums Along the Antietam. Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1972.
Varle, Charles. A Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, 1808.
Washington County Land, Probate, and Road Records.
Williams, T.J.C. History of Washington County, Maryland. Hagerstown, Md.: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 89 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	267190	4373930	B	18	266920	4373670
C	18	266280	4373780	D	18	266620	4374240

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the east bank of the Antietam 100 feet north of Hicks Bridge, then following the south bank of Antietam Creek south 1,800 feet to a fork, then following the smaller fork of the creek east 2,000 feet, then moving northeast across the Keedysville-Baker Road 1,200 feet to a point, then northwest 1,100 feet to the point of beginning.

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 pmj

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION DATE April March 1976

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

33 West Washington Street (301) 791-3065

CITY OR TOWN STATE

Hagerstown Maryland 21740

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 N. Pearce 5/10/77

TITLE 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

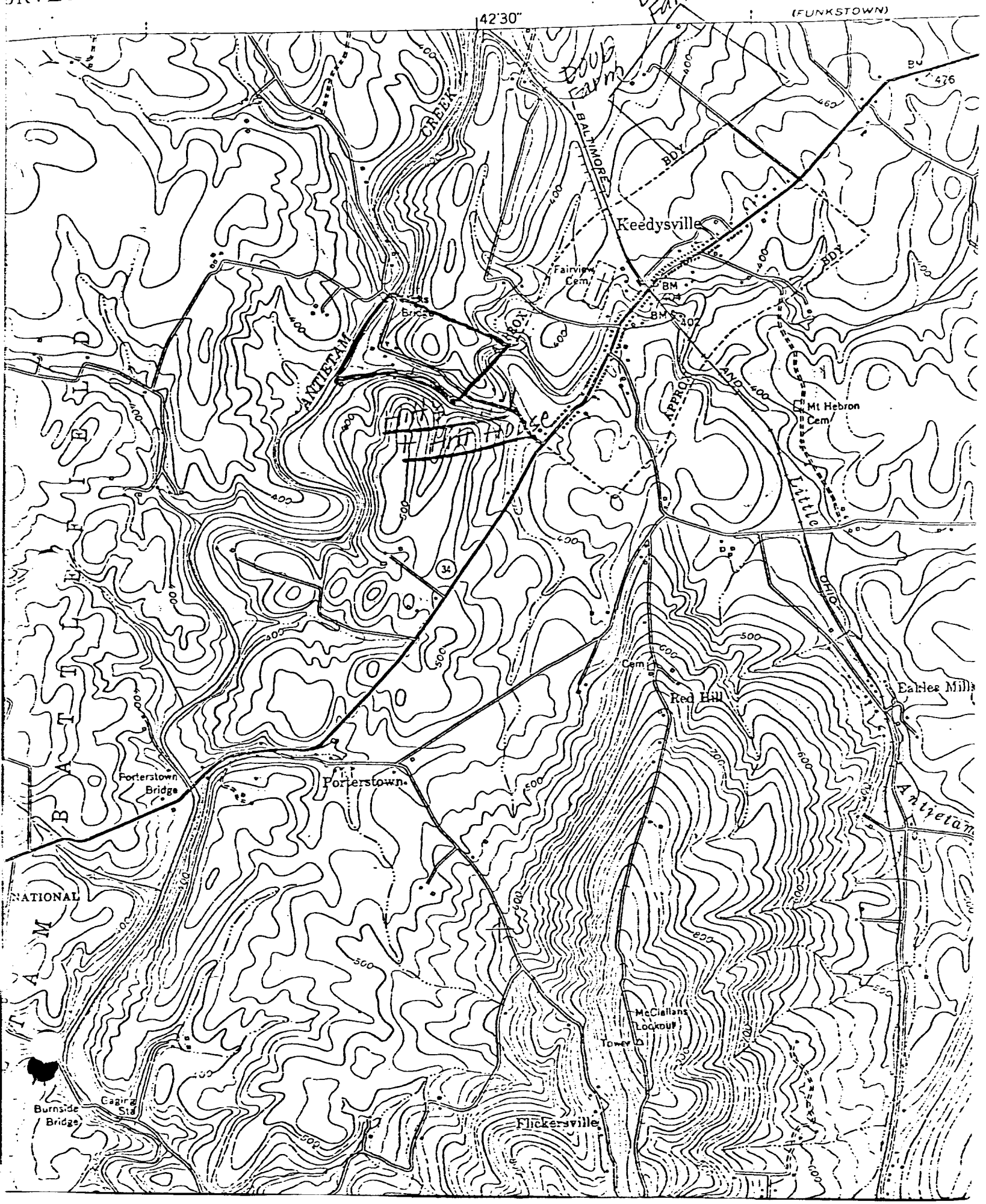
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 888-448

E INTERIOR
URVEY

WA-II-120

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS



UNITED STATES
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Keedysville quadrangle

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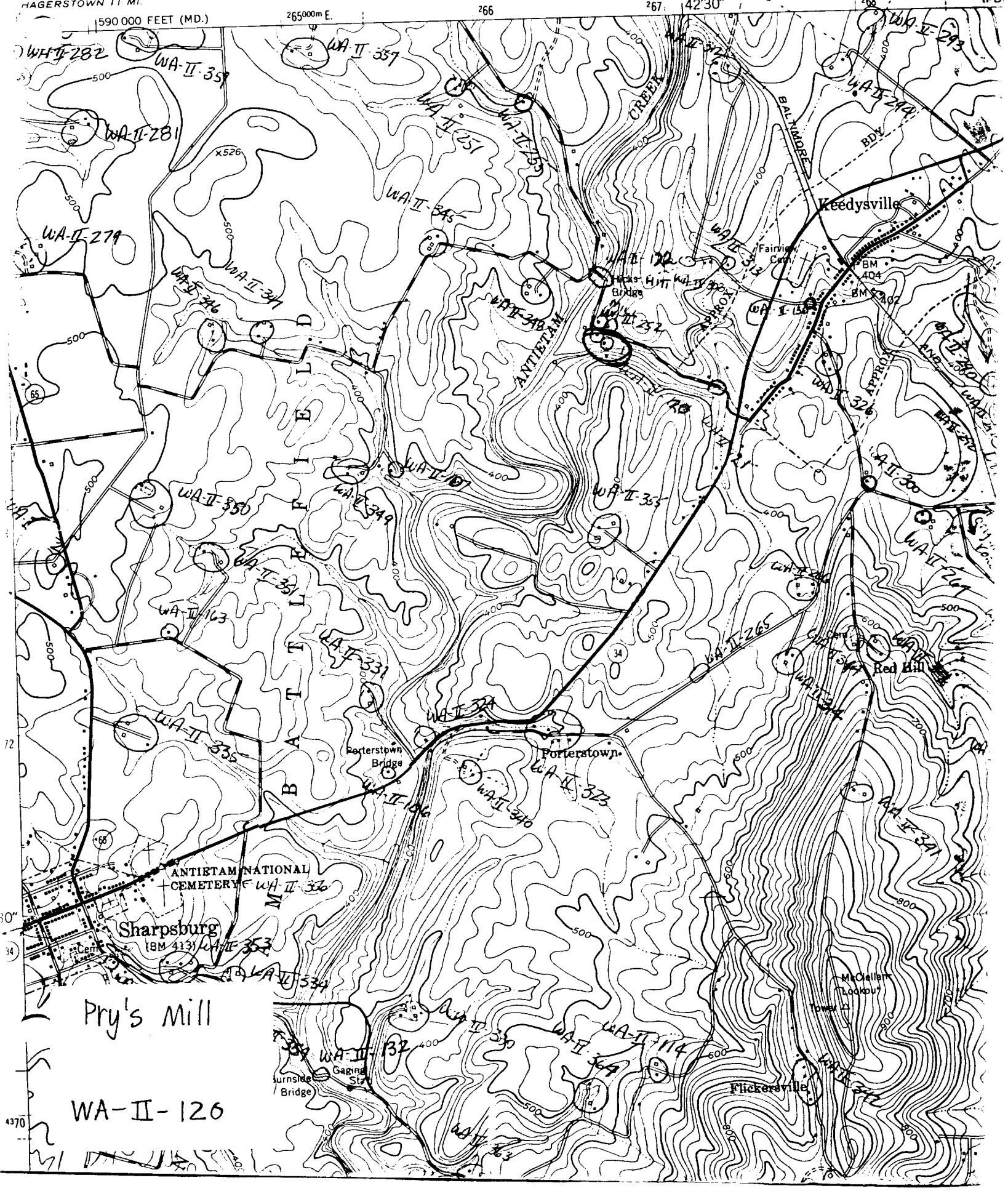

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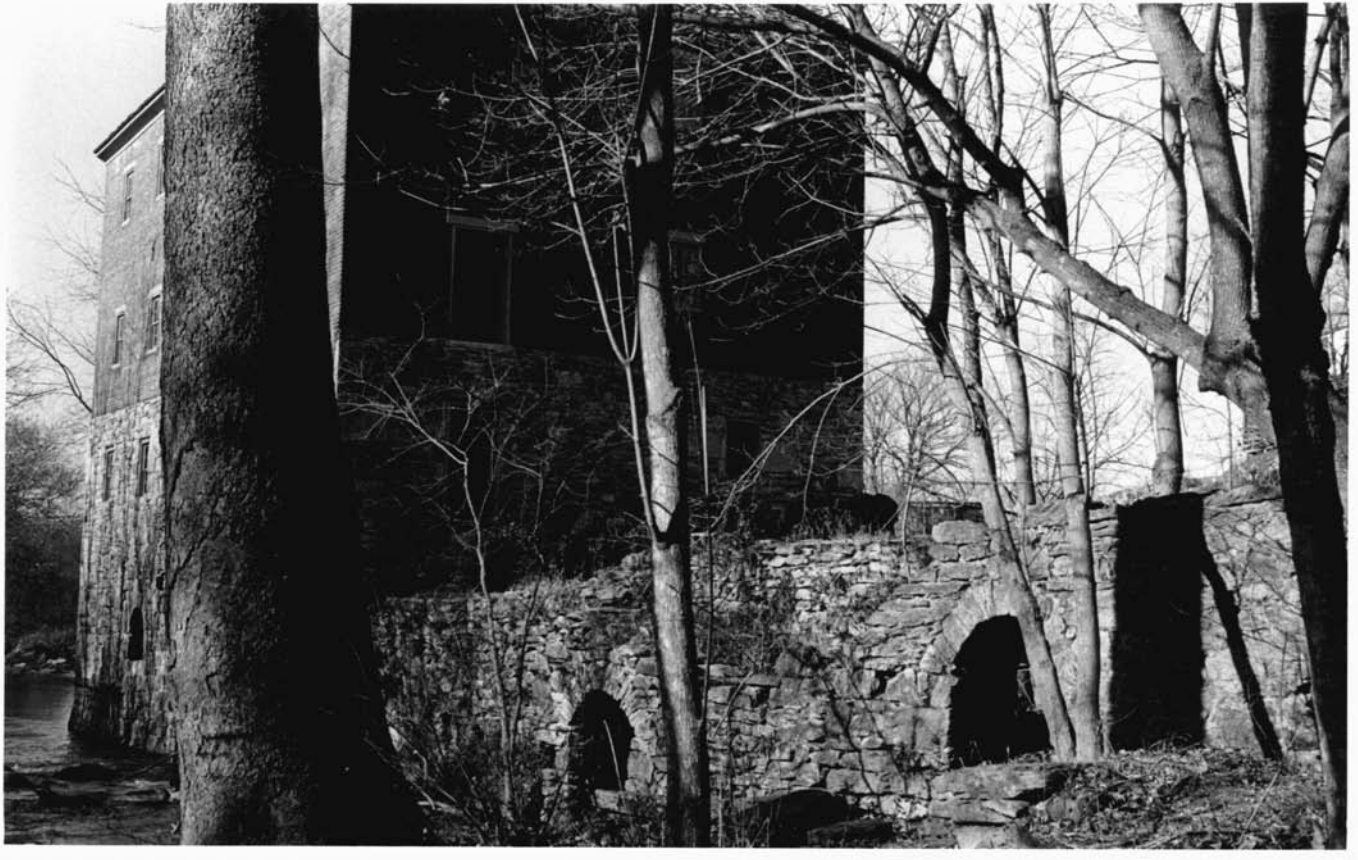

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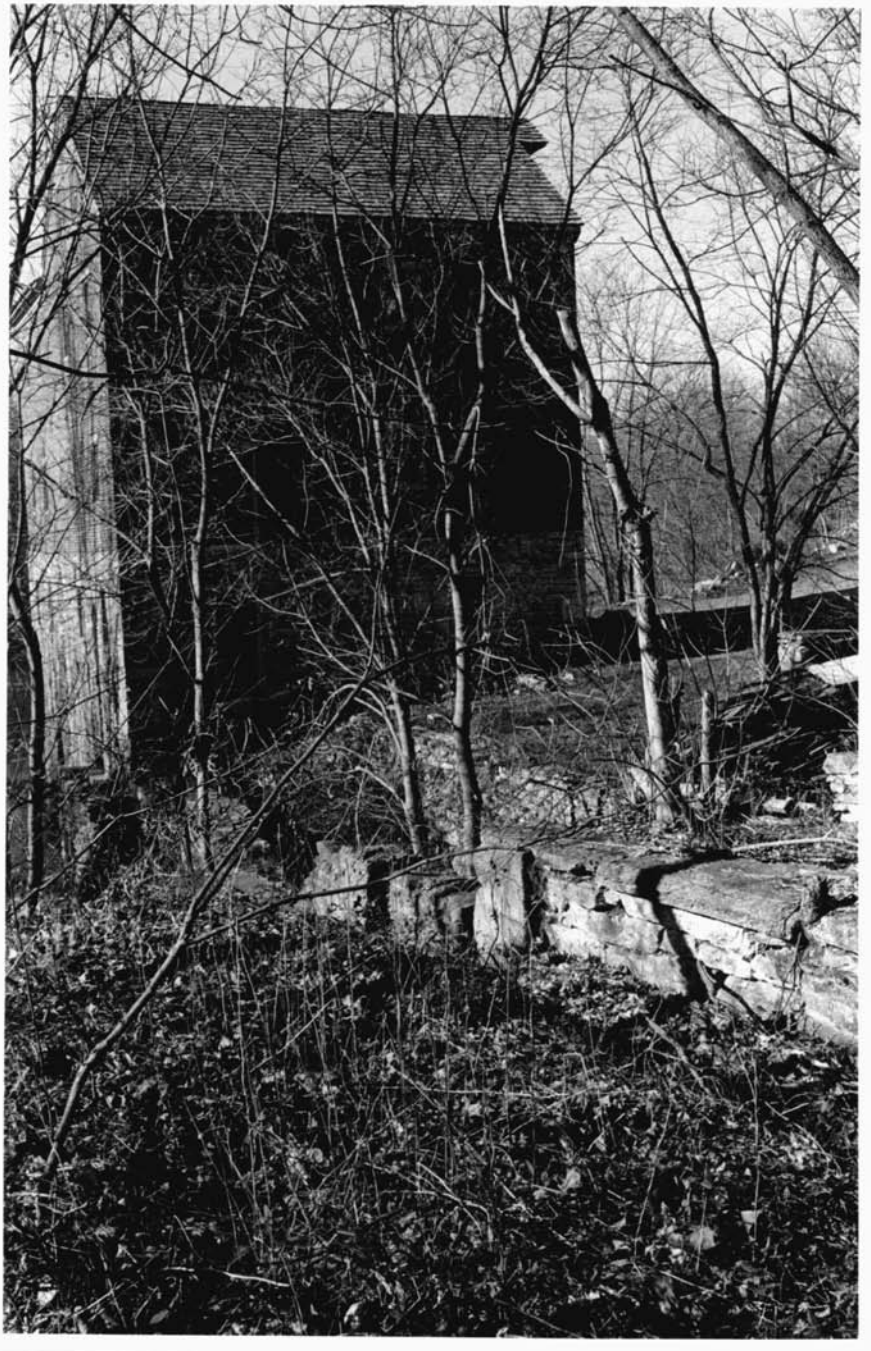

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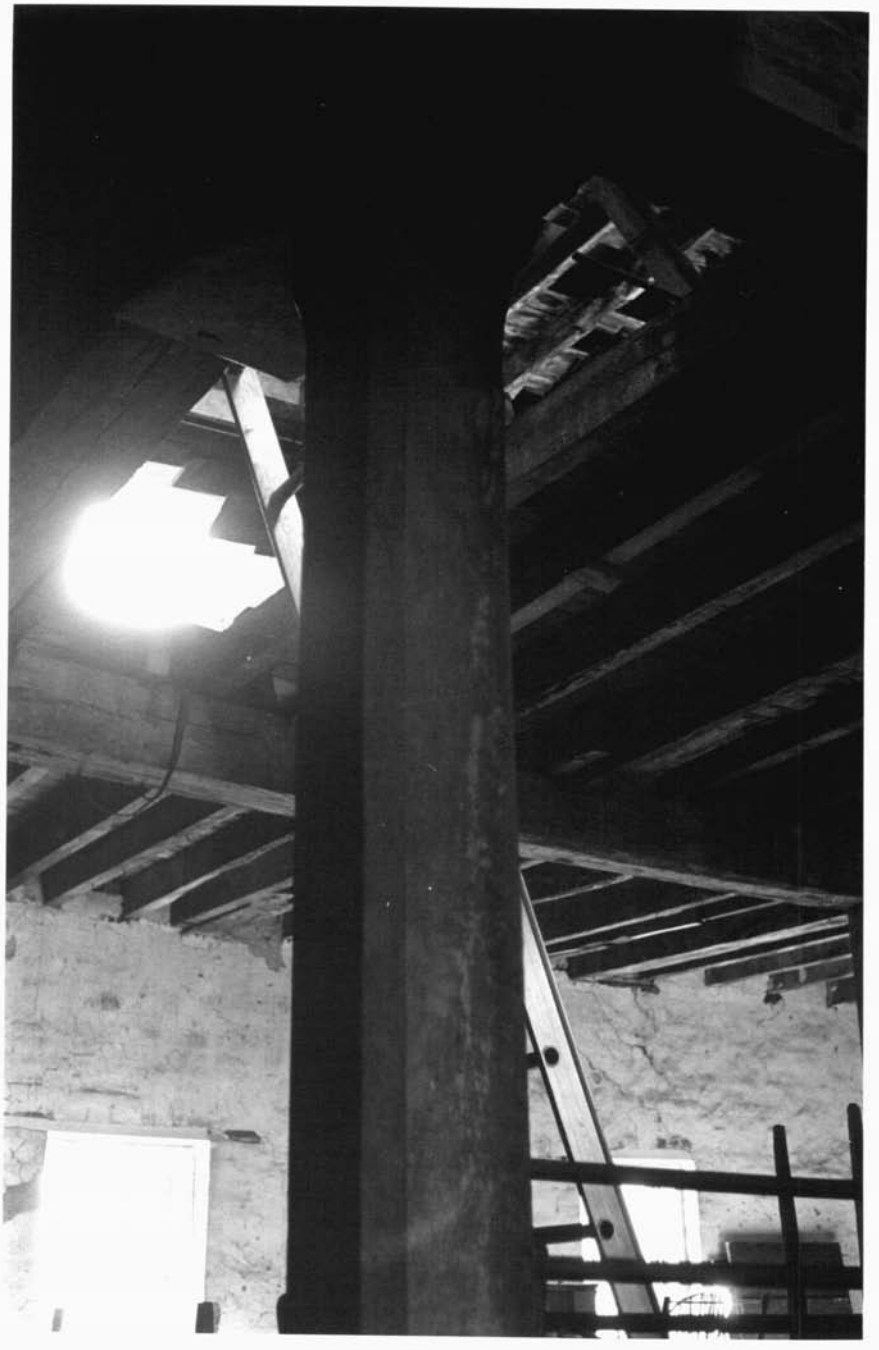

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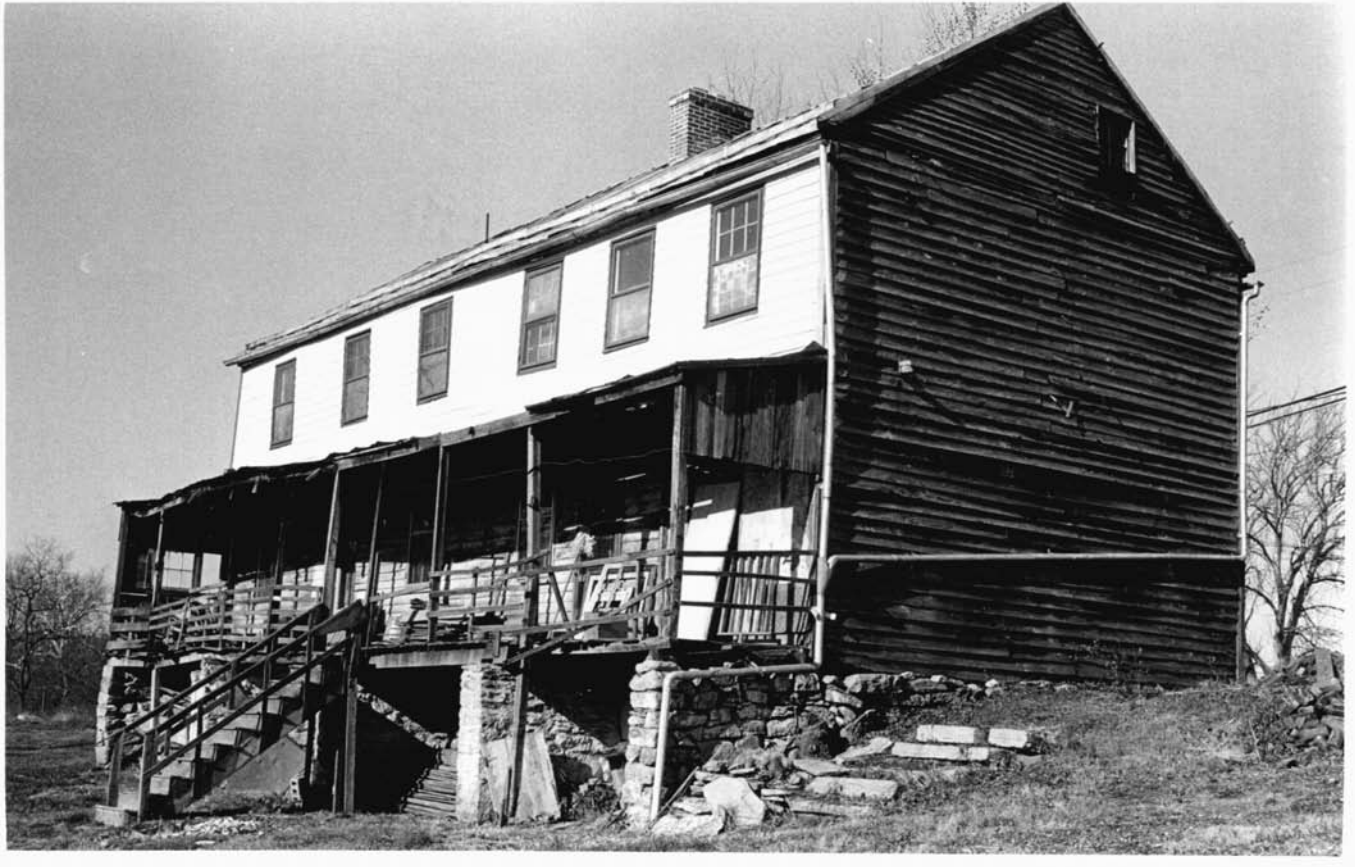

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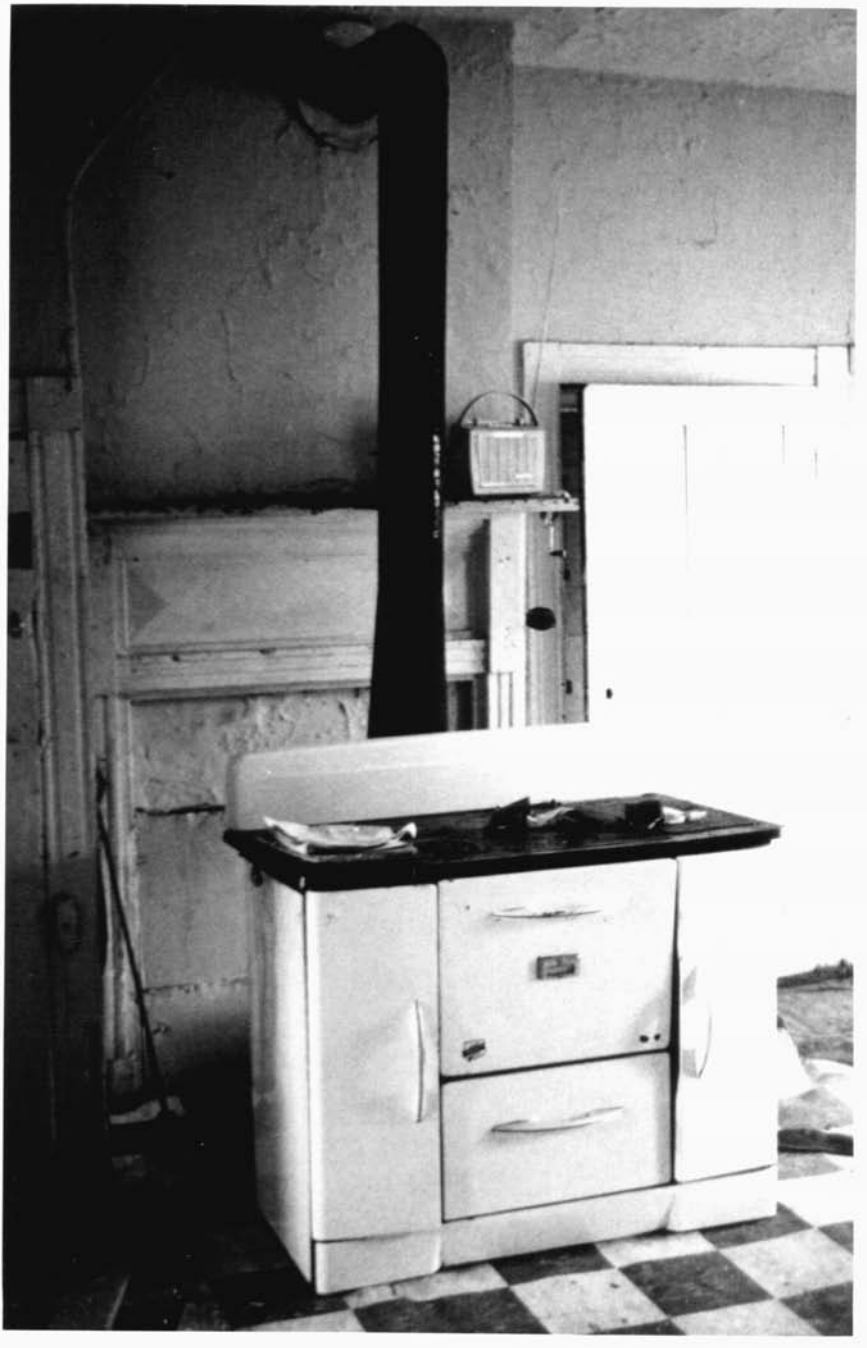

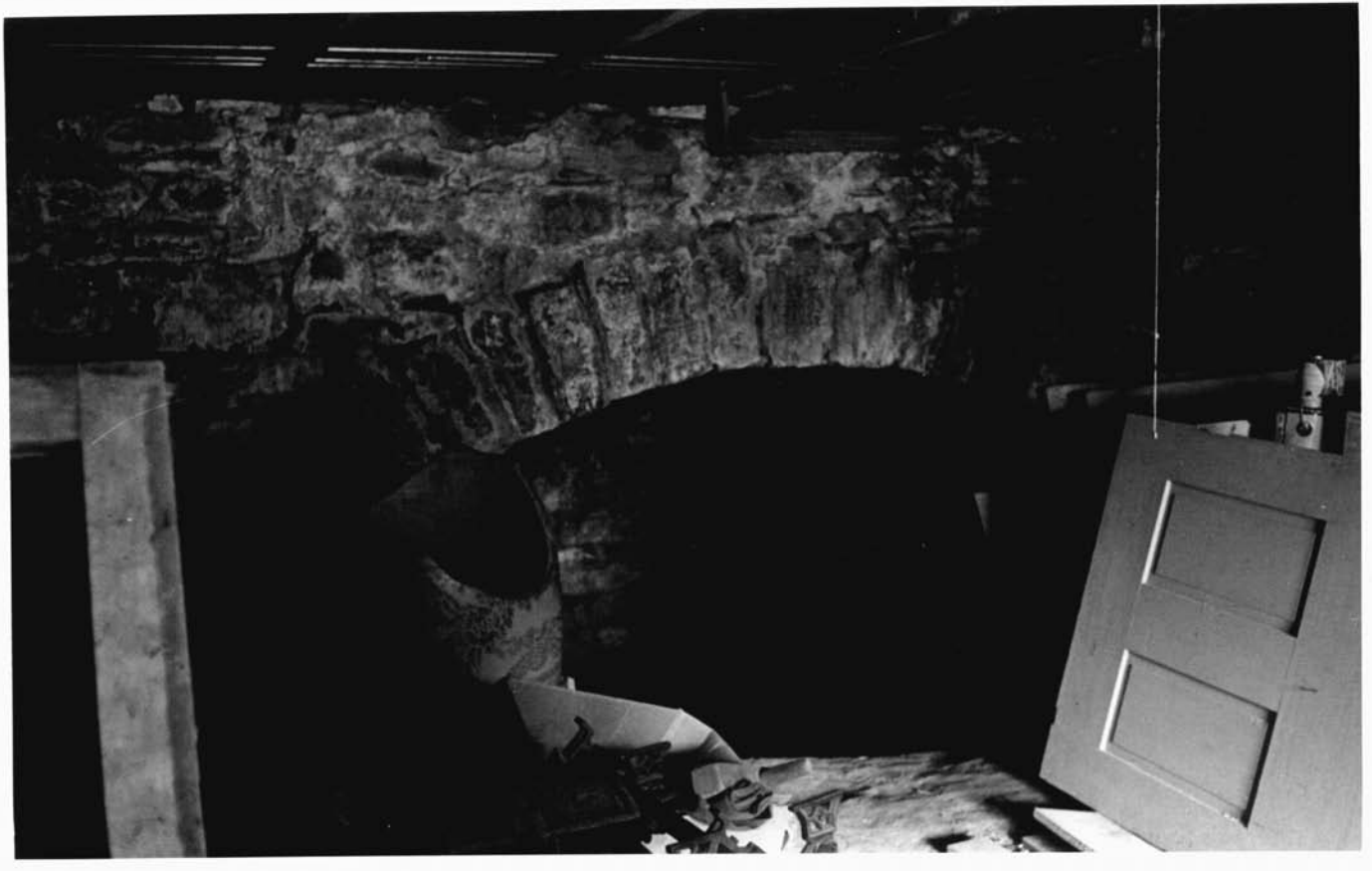

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BARN WAGON SHED

WA-II-120

WAGON SHED

HOUSE

SMOKE HOUSE

WA-II-120

HOUSE SMOKE HOUSE

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