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FHR 8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Nelson, Henry, House

and or common

2. Location

street & number North side of Gas House Pike, about 1600 feet west of Linganore Creek & about 1.3 miles east of McKaig ___ not for publication

city, town New London ___ X ___ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland code 24 county Frederick code 021

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 Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Robey

street & number Route 1, Box 133

city, town Mount Airy ___ X ___ vicinity of state Maryland 21771

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse

street & number North Court Street

city, town Frederick state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes ___ no

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

date

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Henry Nelson House is an early 19th century course stone rubble house which is 2½ stories high with a tin covered gable roof, three-bay symmetrical facade (east side), interior brick end chimneys, and a corbeled brick cornice. The house sits on the side of a hill with the full east wall of the basement exposed. A frame one story porch (probably circa 1920) extends along the facade and south side. A one story gable roofed frame garage shown attached to the porch in the accompanying photograph has since been removed. A small one story masonry block extension erected in the 1960s projects from the west side into the hill and contains the bathroom and kitchen.

The principal windows of the structure have double-hung wooden sashes with six-over-six lights and are mounted in narrow frames which appear to be original. A few of the windows retain exterior shutters. The gables have two four-light casement windows in each.

The principal entrance to the house is through a narrow doorway in the central bay of the facade. The doorway has two three-panel doors beneath a four-light rectangular transom and appears to be original. The only other entrance is in the east foundation wall and has a replacement door.

On the interior the room arrangement is two rooms on each floor separated by a central stairway on the first floor and a narrow stairs and hall on the second. The decorative detailing is simple and consists primarily of narrow, beaded trim around the doorways and windows; plain chair rail on the first floor; four mantelpieces of which the one in the first floor south room with its simple trim is the most elaborate. Both second floor rooms have a strip of wooden pegs on the interior wall. The second floor interior walls appear to be plaster over vertical boards. The south room on the second floor originally was two rooms divided probably by a vertical board wall which was removed several years ago.

Two interesting interior features found in the Henry Nelson house and in other houses of this period in the New Market area are drawers built into the walls under the windows and T-shaped wooden pieces mounted into the wall. The drawers in this house are under the east and west windows of the north room, have wooden peg knobs, and are framed as part of the chairrail. The T-shaped pieces are located one in each of the first floor rooms in the east wall. These pieces are devoid of decoration and their purpose is unknown (one suggestion is for hanging pictures).

The principal rooms of the house are intact and well-maintained. The basement, which contains a large fireplace and is speculated as the original kitchen, and the attic also appear to be basically unchanged except for the additions of insulation and shelving for storage.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

Also located on the property are a barn, log springhouse, and a small log house. The barn is a 19th century (possibly mid-century) heavy framed structure with vertical board siding beneath recently applied vinyl siding to which a one stopy clapboard addition was attached about forty years ago and a one story masonry block wing added probably more recently. The springhouse is a low rectangular structure with a tin roof and may be contemporary with the main house. The small log house appears to date from the first half of the present century and is 1½ stories with a three bay symmetrical facade.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of this property were determined by visual and natural features (a tree lined hilltop to the west, a hilltop and two creeks along the east) and man-made lines of convenience (Gas House Pike on the south and existing property lines also on the south and to the north). The house and outbuildings create a farm setting which stands essentially in the bowl formed by the surrounding hills.

8. Significance

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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	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
X 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 (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

The Henry Nelson house is architecturally significant as an excellent example of the late 18th and early 19th century English influenced vernacular architecture found in the New Market area of Frederick County. Whereas most of the southeastern Frederick County was predominantly German in early settlement, the New Market region attracted a fairly large English population. The house, constructed of stone, has some rather unusual features for this area: a closed stair between two rooms that rises directly to the second floor from the front entrance, and built-in drawers under the east and west windows in both rooms of the first level. The house remains basically unaltered; major changes have been limited to later additions (for kitchen and porch) that have not interfered with earlier construction. The building also has agricultural significance as being the house for a farm property that has been part of an operating farm since 1763.

HISTORY

The property on which this house was built was originally granted to Henry Hall on July 4, 1763 as a 5,415-acre land grant named Middle Plantation. 1,208 acres of the tract was resurveyed in May 1785 for Thomas Maynard and renamed Nathan's Undertaking.

Fifteen years later, in 1800, Maynard's son, Thomas Maynard, Jr., sold 372 acres of Nathan's Undertaking and 68 acres of Middle Plantation to Henry Nelson for 1,760 pounds (Deed W 19/479). The stone house may have been standing on the property at the time of this purchase, or it was built on it soon after, since an "H. Nelson" house appears on the Varle map of 1808.

Upon Henry Nelson's death in 1825, he left the "remainder of Nathan's Undertaking whereon I now dwell" to his son, Nathan Nelson (Will HS3/371).

In 1875 Nathan Nelson, who served as a Frederick County Commissioner, died and was interred on the "home farm". In his will he left "the stone house farm laying on the west side of Linganore Creek" to his son, Henry (Will SGC1/621). Henry, however, had died two years earlier, willing his real estate to his surviving sons and daughters, who gained possession of the farm (Will SGC1/443).

The Nelson family owned the property until 1918. In 1927 Nettie Jones purchased the property from her parents. In the 1930s Miss Jones built

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

a small log cabin on the property, which she used for many years as a summer camp for epileptic children. Upon her death the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Robey, purchased the property.

The present farm property has been part of an operating farm since 1875, and remains as such today. Mr. Robey has been grazing cattle and raising crops on the property since he purchased the farm in 1977. He is presently establishing a dairy heifer operation.

Nelson, Henry, House
Frederick County
Maryland

3 December 1980
(R. L. Andrews)

Section 8 SIGNIFICANCE revision

The Henry Nelson House is a two and a half story stone dwelling with a three bay symmetrical facade which is significant for its constructional qualities as possibly the best example (because of integry) of a type of domestic architecture found in the New Market region of Frederick County. The distinctive characteristics embodied in these structures and intact in the Henry Nelson House are a closed stairway sandwiched between two rooms, drawers built into the window sills (here in both first floor rooms), and a wooden cross built into the outside walls of the first floor rooms (no explanation for these crosses is known). The closed stairway is usually centrally located and just inside the front entrance. Of all the known examples of the houses containing these features, the Hnery Nelson House is the one which best retains its integry.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are a combination of man-made and natural features and consist of , as delineated on the attached map labeled "Boundary Survey of the Robert H. Robey, Jr. Property" and drawn to a scale of 1"=266', on the west and north existing property lines which includes a tree lined hill top; on the east a feeder creek, Linganore Creek, and the ridge line of a hill directly east of the house which is indicated on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle as being 400' elevation; and on the south by existing property lines, Gas House Pike, and a line northeasterly from the eastern point of the northern boundary of the triangular neighboring property on the south to the westerly point of the Linganore Creek.

9. Major Bibliographical References

F-8-14

Land Records of Frederick County, Frederick, Maryland Courthouse.
Titus, C.O. Map of Frederick County, Maryland, 1873.
Harle, Charles. Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, Maryland, 1808.
Williams, T.J.C. History of Frederick County, Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1967, (originally published, 1810).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property AGG. Approximately 66 acres

Quadrangle name Walkersville Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	303440	4367440
B	18	303460	4366970
C	18	302830	4366770
D	18	302760	4367100
E	18	303170	4367430
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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 Cherilyn Widell, Robert H. Robey

organization Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation date May, 1980

street & number 12 East Church St./RFD 1,Bx.133 telephone (301) 663-8300 x 266

city or town Frederick/Mt. Airy state Maryland 21701/21771

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [signature] 8-28-80

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

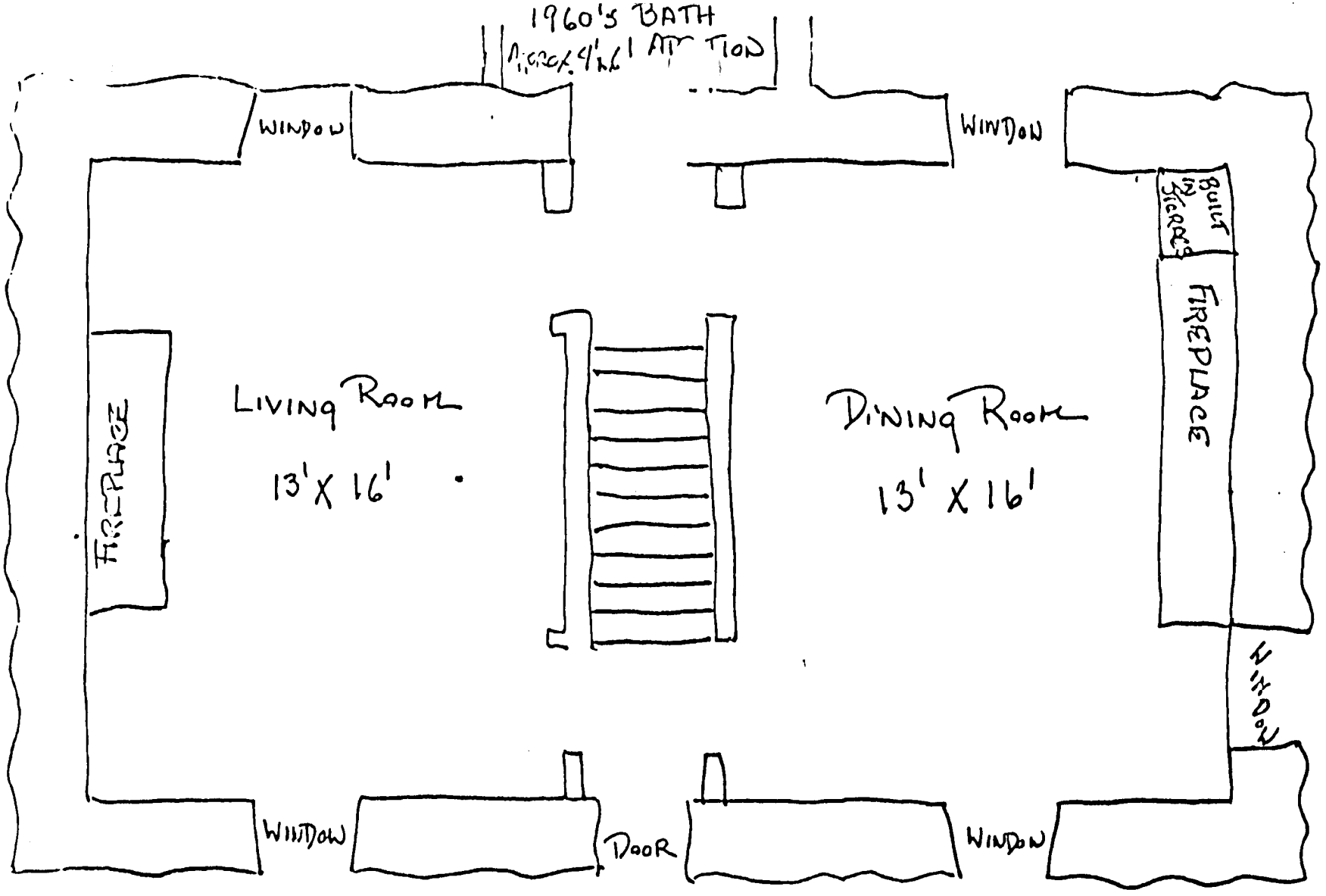
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration



FRONT PORCH

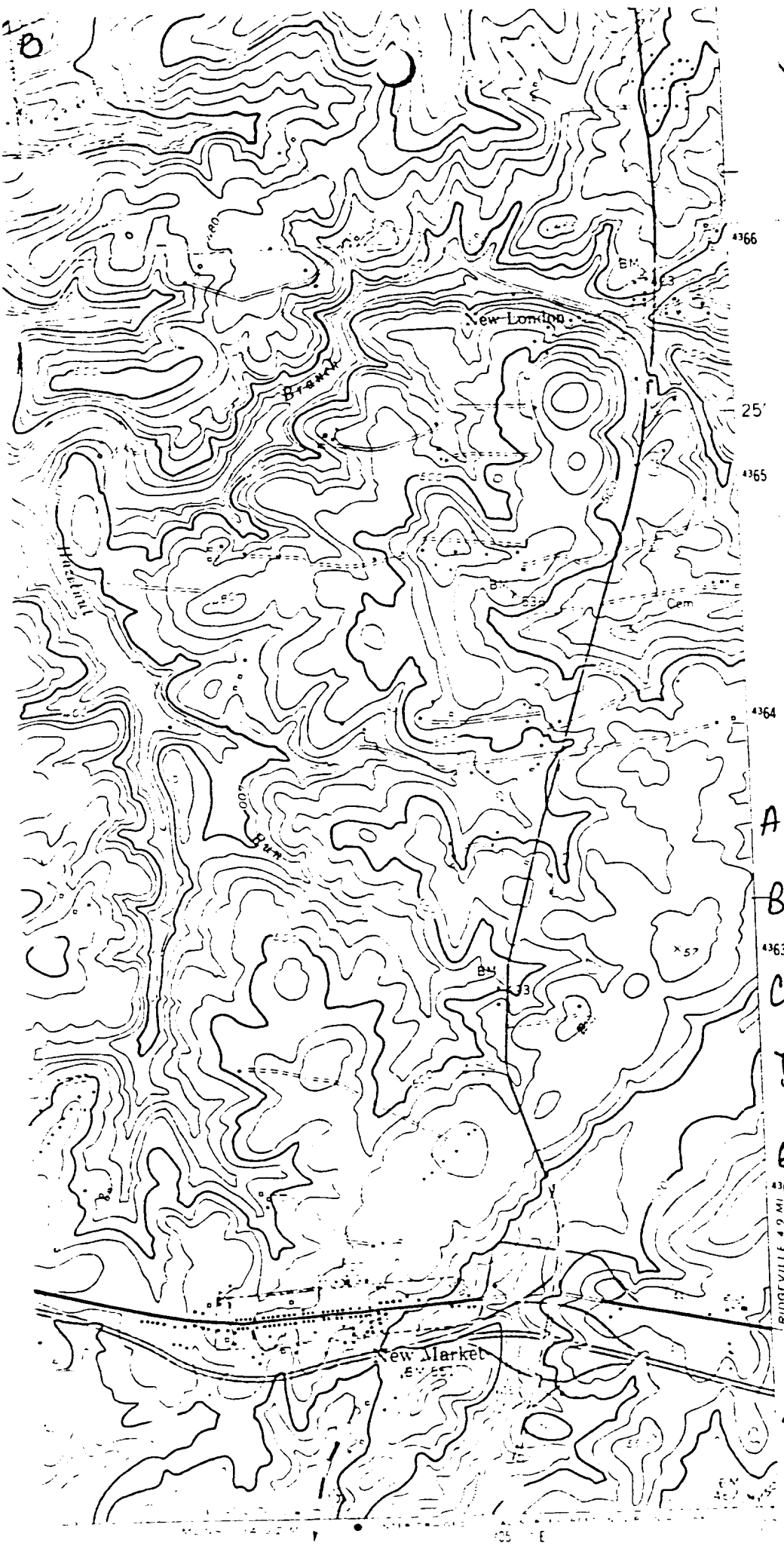
F-8-14

HENRY NELSON HOUSE

GAS HOUSE PIKE

FREDERICK COUNTY

MARYLAND



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Henry Nelson house.

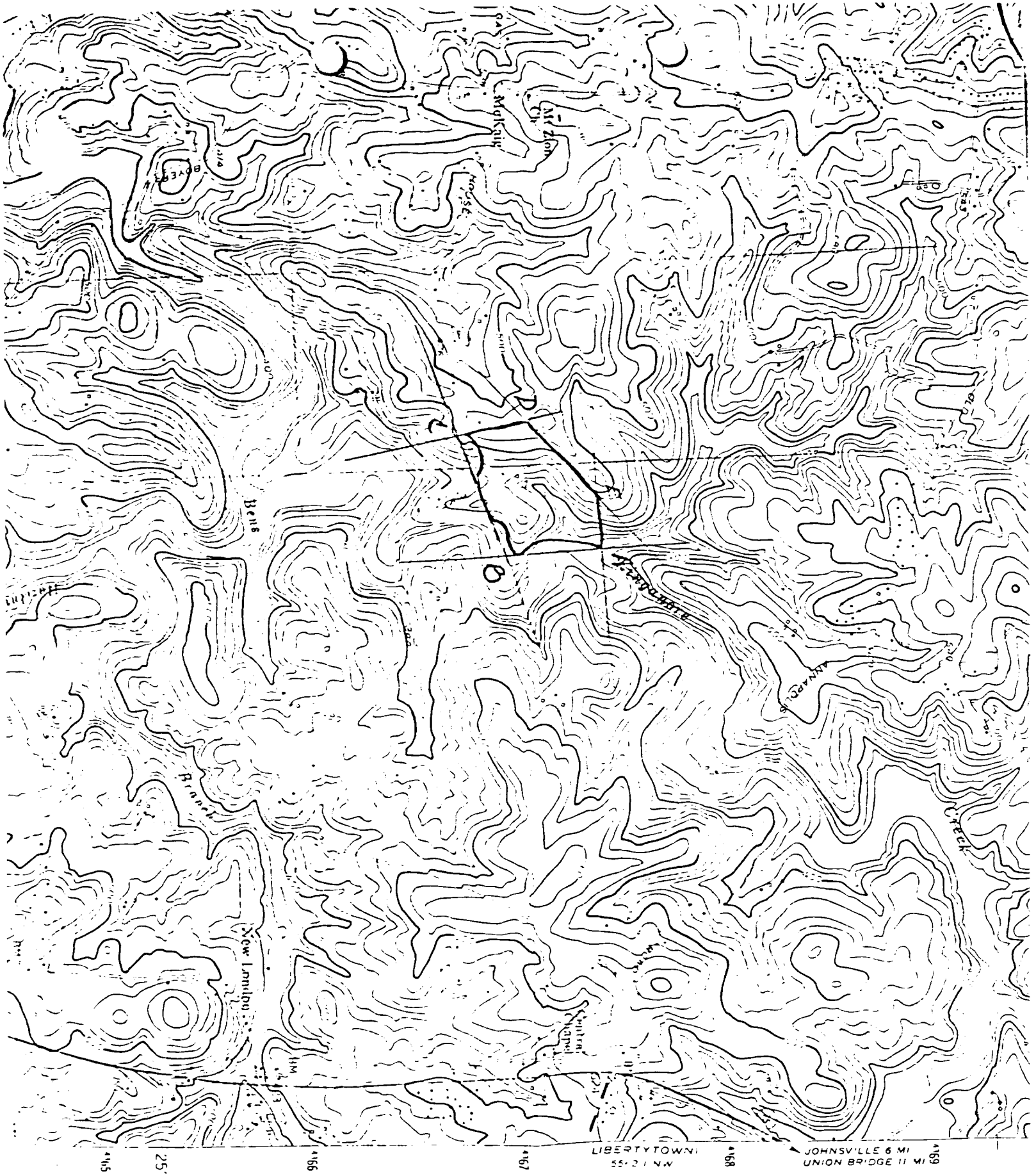
A. 18/303440
4367440

B. 18/303460
4366970

C. 18/302830
4366270

D. 18/302260
4367100

E 18/303170
4367430


McKaig
Mt Zion
Bens
Branch
New London
Creek
LIBERTYTOWN
55-2 1 NW
JOHNSVILLE 6 MI
UNION BRIDGE 11 MI
4165
25'
4166
4167
4168
4169

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Henry Nelson Hse
Frederick Co

SLFRS

source of photo & info: Robert Foley, owner

Aerial Photo of Farm Setting Last Summer
Spring House just to right of House
Crest line in woodlot behind the House
Barn and Cornfield to left ~~of~~ in picture
log Cabin beneath trees in foreground center
Building Farthest on left is an equipment shed
approximately 25 yrs old.
In this photo the garage has been removed.

Henry Nelson House
N/S Gas House Pike

South Elevation

CRW 5/78
~~F-5-27~~
F-8-14

HENRY NELSON HOUSE

CEW 5/78

~~F-527~~
F-8-14

W/S GAS HOUSE PIKE, FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

Henry Nelson House
N/S Gas House Pike, Frederick County
Interior, Mantelpiece Detail

CEN 5/78
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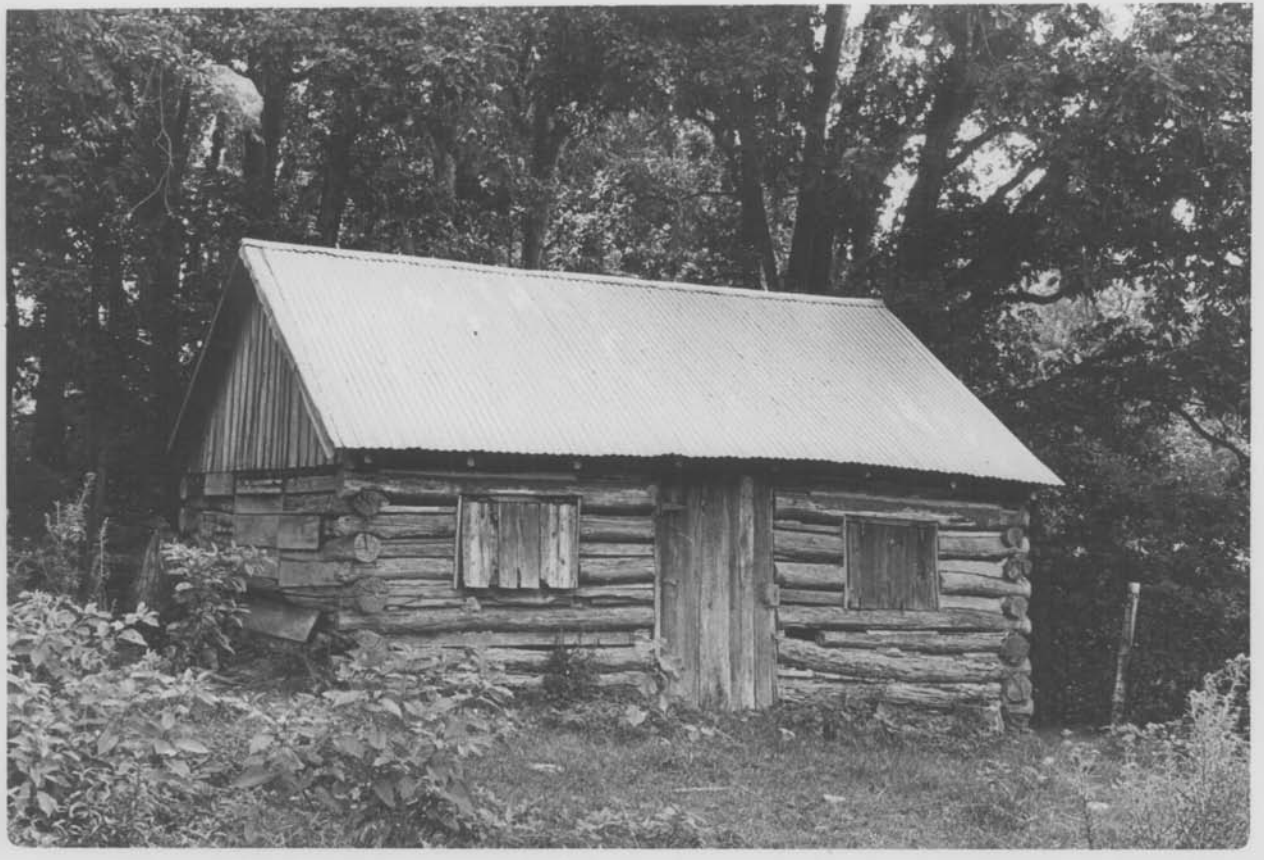
F-8-14



Henry Nelson House

N/S Gas House Pike, Frederick County

Log Cabin, West Elevation

CEW 5/78

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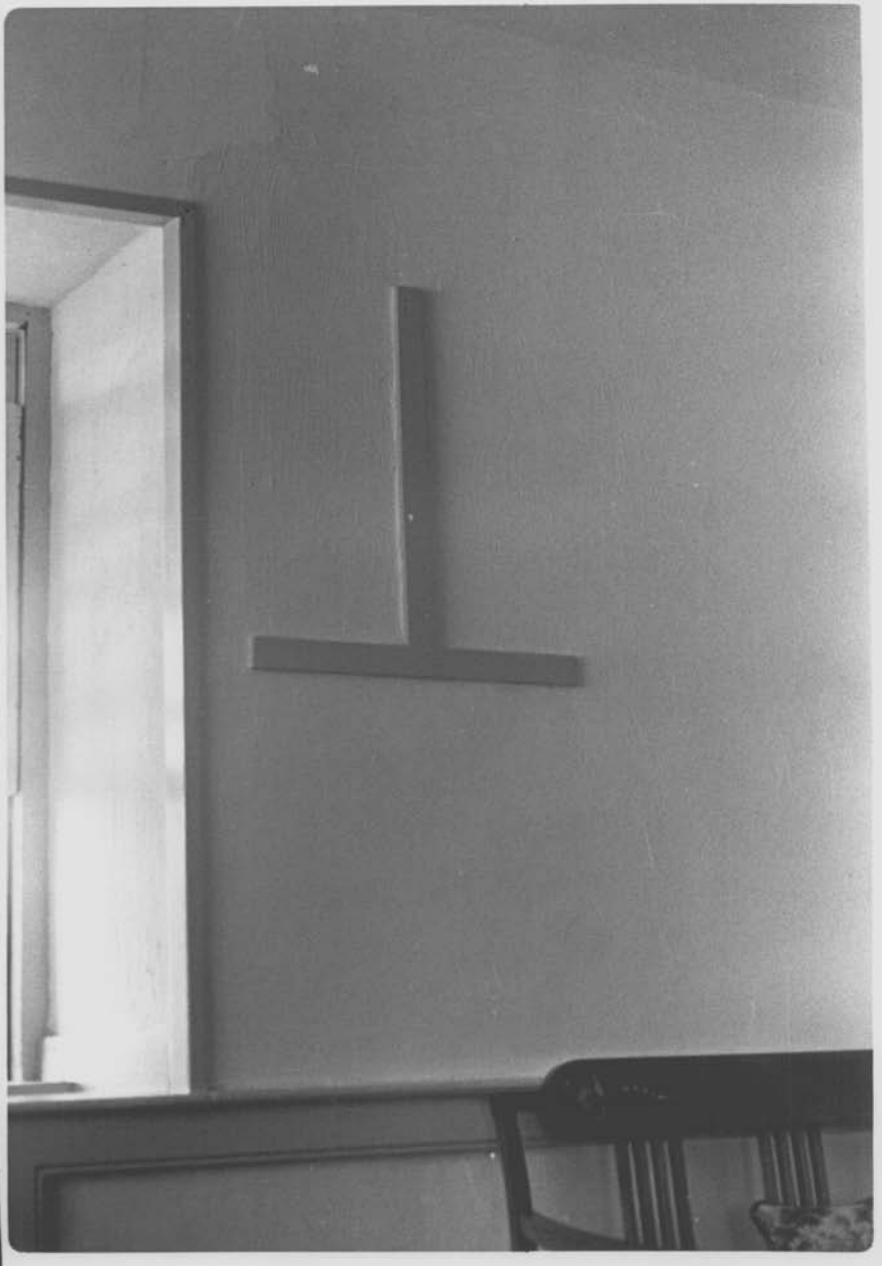
F-8-14

Henry Nelson House
N/S Gas House Pike

Barn Complex
West Elevation

CEW 5/78
~~F-5-27~~
F-8-14



~~[illegible]~~ Henry Nelson House CRW 5/78
N/S Gas House Pike, Frederick County
Interior Detail ~~F-5-27~~
F-8-14

Henry Nelson House CEW 5/78

N/S Gas House Pike, Frederick County

Interior Detail

~~F-527~~

F-8714

Henry Nelson House CEW 5/78 ~~F-5-27~~ F-8-14

N/S Gas House Pike, Frederick County

Detail, Drawer under window