

Capsule Summary

Inventory No. WA-II-120

Hitts Mill, Pry's Mill Complex NR District

18932-18947 Keedysville Road

Keedysville

Washington County, MD

Ca. 1790 (Main house); ca. 1850 (mill); ca. 1830 (miller's house, barn, smoke house, limekilns)

Access: Private

This MIHP form updates the National Register nomination document from 1976 and individual survey forms for component resources in the "Hitts Mill and Houses" National Register Historic District (Hitt House, WA-II-252; Hitt's Mill, WA-II-120). The complex lies along Keedysville Road and the Antietam Creek at the confluence with the Little Antietam Creek, approximately ½ mile northwest of Keedysville. This current documentation focuses upon the industrial character of the district. The district consists of a mid 19th century brick flour mill resting on stone foundations from a previous early 19th century mill that apparently burned, now converted to a residence; a timber frame late 18th century manor house with a log addition; a two-part log secondary house dating from the early to mid 19th century; a timber frame Swisser (bank) barn converted to a residence; a log smoke house with a hipped roof; foundation remnants of a saw mill attached to the flour mill, a cooper's shop on the opposite side of the creek, and another shop building, said by former owners of the mill to be a cobbler's shop located northeast of the mill. A remnant of the mill's headrace remains as well. Approximately ¼ mile southeast of the mill complex along the south side of Keedysville Road is a double limekiln, made of limestone. One of the kilns is in ruins but the other one is intact, revealing its chamber with a mound of old burned lime at the base. In addition, there are two non-contributing buildings, both of them workshop/garages. This assemblage, an early-mid 19th century industrial and residential complex with some older buildings is in excellent condition with a high level of architectural

integrity, although two of the main buildings, the mill and the barn have been creatively preserved and reused as residences.

The Hitt's Mill complex is significant for its historical associations in the areas of Architecture, Industry and Military. Architecturally the collection is exemplary for a variety of construction systems (heavy frame, stone, log, brick), and functions used in mid Maryland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Two houses, a barn, a mill and limekilns form the collection along with support buildings and structures. The main manor house, built by Robert Smith, probably in the 1790s reflects late Georgian influenced styling and detailing. It is a rare example of 18th century timber framed construction in Mid-Maryland. The mill and limekilns are excellent examples of the agricultural based industrial architecture prevalent in mid-Maryland. The barn is a typical Pennsylvania Swisser barn, characteristic of the region. Flour milling was the leading industry in Washington County in the early 19th century when Hitt's Mill was established. The dawn of the 19th century brought enormous growth to Central Maryland, part of the "bread basket" of the country, and its primary market, Baltimore City. In addition, the complex derives historical significance for its association with the Civil war Battle of Antietam fought on September 17, 1862. The main house and mill, and most likely the secondary house and barn as well were used as a Union field hospital after the battle. US General J.K.F. Mansfield dined in the manor house on the eve of the battle. He was killed the next day. After the battle, the farm served briefly as headquarters for Major General George Gordon Meade's division.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-II-120

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Hitts Mill, Pry's Mill Complex NR District

other _____

2. Location

street and number 18932-18947 Keedysville Road not for publication

city, town Keedysville vicinity

county Washington

3. Owner of Property (gives names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Multiple Owners

street and number _____ telephone _____

city, town _____ state _____ zip code _____

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington Co. MD Courthouse liber folio

city, town Hagerstown tax map 72 tax parcel 49,147,188 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: NR Listed District

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	5
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	4
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	9
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	2
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory <u>9</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. WA-II-120

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/>	good	<input type="checkbox"/>	ruins
<input type="checkbox"/>	fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This MIHP form updates the National Register nomination document from 1976 and individual survey forms for component resources in the "Hitts Mill and Houses" National Register Historic District (Hitt House, WA-II-252; Hitt's Mill, WA-II-120). The complex lies along Keedysville Road and the Antietam Creek at the confluence with the Little Antietam Creek, approximately ½ mile northwest of Keedysville. This current documentation focuses upon the industrial character of the district. The district consists of a mid 19th century brick flour mill resting on stone foundations from a previous early 19th century mill that apparently burned, now converted to a residence; a timber frame late 18th century manor house with a log addition; a two-part log secondary house dating from the early to mid 19th century; a timber frame Swisser (bank) barn converted to a residence; a log smoke house with a hipped roof; foundation remnants of a saw mill attached to the flour mill, a cooper's shop on the opposite side of the creek, and another shop building, said by former owners of the mill to be a cobbler's shop located northeast of the mill. A remnant of the mill's headrace remains as well. Approximately ¼ mile southeast of the mill complex along the south side of Keedysville Road is a double limekiln, made of limestone. One of the kilns is in ruins but the other one is intact, revealing its chamber with a mound of old burned lime at the base. In addition, there are two non-contributing buildings, both of them workshop/garages. This assemblage, an early-mid 19th century industrial and residential complex with some older buildings is in excellent condition with a high level of architectural integrity, although two of the main buildings, the mill and the barn have been creatively preserved and reused as residences.

Hitts Mill is a five-story stone and brick building constructed as a flour mill, but converted to a residence. It dates from the mid 19th century, ca. 1850. The mill sits at the edge of the waters of the Little Antietam Creek, just above the point where it opens into the larger Antietam Creek. The mill is a rectangular building, but with intersecting gables. The east end of the building has a north-south gable, while the west end has an east-west gable. The mill is constructed into steeply sloped land which drops to the edge of the creek, causing a full story to be exposed above ground on the south elevation. This partially exposed ground story and the first full story of the mill are of coursed limestone construction. The upper two and a half stories are brick. Extending to the east from the east end of the mill are stone walls which enclosed the head race and also foundations of the sawmill that was once attached to the flour mill. The ground story at the south elevation and the adjoining foundation for the saw mill are pierced at intervals with segmental arches. Between the ground and first stories a series of joist pockets extends in a horizontal row. These would have supported some sort of roof extension or framework over the millwheel area. The stone portion of the mill was part of an earlier mill building dating from the early 19th century, after 1808, that may have burned and was replaced by the current brick building. (No mill is shown on Charles Varle's 1808 Map of Frederick and Washington Counties). The brick upper stories are laid in common bond at all elevations, an indicator of mid 19th century workmanship. Most windows have six over six light sash set beneath wide wooden lintels, another indication of mid 19th century construction. Associated with the mill building are foundations from the cooper's shop across the creek. It was a log building and was still standing, although in ruined condition when the property was initially surveyed in 1976. A foundation also remains of another small support building, said by former owners to have been a cobbler's shop just northeast of the mill.

Secondary Dwelling (Miller's House) Just north of the mill is a two part log house, covered with beaded wooden siding. It stands along the south edge of Keedysville Road and served as the miller's house for the complex. The north façade, which faces onto the public road, has seven bays. The log structure is built in two parts with a central chimney separating the two sections. At the first story there are four bays east of the chimney and three to the west. On the south elevation, there are three bays in each section with the log structure above a full story raised cellar. A shed roofed porch extends across the entire south elevation at the main story level. At the south elevation there are entrances into each section and at the north elevation the façade arrangement is window, door, door, window; window, door, window. The west section of this building appears to be the older, dating from the early 19th century, approximately 1820s to '30s.

Hitt House (Manor House) The main house for the complex dates from the late 18th century and predates the rest of the complex. It is depicted on Varle's 1808 map labeled as belonging to "R. Smith." It is a two story, five bay timber framed

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Name Hitt's Mill, Pry's Mill Complex, NR Historic District
Continuation Sheet

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house with brick nogging within the framework. Timber framing is a rare construction system for houses in 18th century Washington County, where wood framing was more typically horizontal log construction rather than braced post and beam. The house stands on a bluff, facing west and overlooking the Antietam Creek. The mill complex is on the opposite side of Keedysville Road and due south of the main house. A two story, four bay log addition extends from the south gable end. The main entrance is in the center bay of the front (west) elevation. The east elevation is also formally arranged. Wooden replacement random width siding covers the house. The upper story and roof were severely damaged by a fire in 1989. The first floor staircase, woodwork and mantelpieces remain intact. A central stair and entrance passageway divides the house, with two rooms to the north, and one large parlor to the south. Behind and to the southeast of the house is a large log smokehouse with a hipped roof. There is also a recently built garage/workshop northeast of the house, designed to look like a local Pennsylvania bank barn.

Barn Southwest of the main house and west of the mill is a timber frame Pennsylvania type bank barn. It is situated along the east side of the Antietam Creek and faces north. It rests on limestone foundations with an overhanging forebay. Probably dating from the second quarter of the 19th century, like most barns of this type, the lower level was designed to shelter livestock while the upper level was for threshing and crop storage. In this barn, the lower level houses horses and the upper level, the threshing floor, has been creatively adapted as a residence. From the public right of way, there is no indication that the barn also serves as a human habitation. At the rear, bank side, however, there are numerous added windows and skylights. The roof covering is standing seam sheet metal. A limestone fence encloses the barnyard. A workshop and garage of recent vintage is located southwest of the barn.

Limekilns To the east of the mill complex on the south edge of Keedysville Road is a double limekiln. The tops of the kilns are at the same approximate level as the road bed. Their south faces are exposed, following the steep slope. The front walls are approximately 12 feet high. One of the limekilns, the one on the west, is severely deteriorated, much of its front wall having fallen away. The other kiln is quite intact, revealing a curved chamber. The kilns are constructed of dry-laid limestone.

Assessment of Integrity The Hitt's Mill/Pry Mill complex retains a high level of visual integrity. Although the uses of the buildings and structures have changed, they are certainly still recognizable for their original uses. A traveler from the 19th century would have no difficulty recognizing the place. Some of the buildings associated with the complex are gone (the saw mill, cooper's shop), but the main buildings and structures remain in good condition. There are also added buildings which do not contribute to the historic grouping, although both of them have been designed in such a way as to blend with the character of the surrounding complex. These added buildings are workshops/garages which have been constructed to look like typical agricultural support buildings. The district contains three separate parcels totaling approximately 35 acres.

Resource Count

5 contributing buildings (Main House, Secondary House, Mill, Barn, Smokehouse)
4 contributing structures (Limekilns, Sawmill Foundation, Mill Race, Cooper Shop Foundation)
2 non-contributing buildings (garage/workshops)

Additional features such as limestone fences, mill dam site, road traces are considered contributing, but are not counted.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates	September, 1862	Architect/Builder
Construction dates	Ca. 1790; Ca. 1850	

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Hitt's Mill complex is significant for its historical associations in the areas of Architecture, Industry and Military. Architecturally the collection is exemplary for a variety of construction systems (heavy frame, stone, log, brick), and functions used in mid Maryland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Two houses, a barn, a mill and limekilns form the collection along with support buildings and structures. The main manor house, built by Robert Smith, probably in the 1790s reflects late Georgian influenced styling and detailing. It is a rare example of 18th century timber framed construction in Mid-Maryland. The mill and limekilns are excellent examples of the agricultural based industrial architecture prevalent in mid-Maryland. The barn is a typical Pennsylvania Swisser barn, characteristic of the region. Flour milling was the leading industry in Washington County in the early 19th century when Hitt's Mill was established. The dawn of the 19th century brought enormous growth to Central Maryland, part of the "bread basket" of the country, and its primary market, Baltimore City. 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 In addition, the complex derives historical significance for its association with the Civil war Battle of Antietam fought on September 17, 1862. The main house and mill, and most likely the secondary house and barn as well were used as a Union field hospital after the battle. US General J.K.F. Mansfield dined in the manor house on the eve of the battle. He was killed the next day. After the battle, the farm served briefly as headquarters for Major General George Gordon Meade's division.³

Historical Context See "Historic Industry in Mid-Maryland" prepared for the Maryland Historical Trust through the Catocin Center for Regional Studies, 2002-2003.

Property History Operating as a flour mill with an attached sawmill, the Hitt's Mill/Pry's Mill complex is important as an example of this industry in Washington County. The mill was in operation until 1926. The history of this complex begins with the ownership of Robert Smith. Smith was a member of a prominent early family in the Antietam Valley who acquired land along the creek prior to 1750. Eventually the family owned some 4,000 acres patented as "Smith's Hills." Robert Smith was a member of the State Legislature from 1800 to 1805. The 1808 Charles Varle Map of Frederick and Washington Counties shows R. Smith with a dwelling house on the site of the present main house. When he died, Robert Smith left his four farms to his grand nephew, Samuel M. Hitt (Washington County Will Liber C, Folio 54). The will was probated October 18, 1818. Two years later Hitt had a confirmatory deed created to verify title to the portion of the property that was improved with the flour mill. On March 7, 1820, a deed was made by Joseph Chapline which stated that Chapline had at an earlier date agreed to convey a tract of land containing 20.25 acres (the acreage of the mill tract) to Andrew Baker.

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Name Hitt's Mill Complex
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Subsequently Baker agreed to convey the land to Robert Smith, who willed it to Samuel M. Hitt. Hitt established the original mill in this location (Washington County Land Records, Deed Liber EE, Folio 487). This parcel was not part of Smith's Hills, but instead was parts of four other tracts.

During ownership of the Hitts, the property remained together. By 1846, the Hitts had moved west to Ogle County Illinois and the property was subdivided with the 20.25-acre mill tract eventually transferring to Samuel and Philip Pry, builders of the current mill, and the rest of the farm with the manor house and barn to Samuel Cost. On August 7, 1846, Samuel M. and Barbara Hitt sold the 20.25 acre mill property to Lewis Watson for \$6,137.75 (Deed Liber IN3, Folio 71). This is a substantial sum indicating that the mill was a valuable industrial property. A little over a year later, Watson sold the mill property to the Pry brothers on December 16, 1847 (Deed Liber IN3, Folio 73). The mill property descended through the Pry family until 1941. The Prys built the present mill and the newer part of the log miller's house and most likely the limekilns as well. In 1844 Philip Pry built a large brick farmhouse and farmstead buildings on land adjacent to the west of the mill property.

Ten days after Samuel M. Hitt conveyed the mill parcel, he sold the remainder of the farm containing 130.75 acres on August 17, 1846 to Samuel Cost for \$5,199. This too is a substantial sum, reflecting the value of the manor dwelling, but less than the mill on its 20-acre piece brought. The mill and main house properties have been conveyed separately ever since. The log addition on the main house was probably already in place before the Costs acquired the farm, and the barn probably was as well. The farm remained in the Cost family until 1886 when Jacob H. Cost sold it to Jacob C. and Barbara H. Rohrer (Deed Liber 88, Folio 23). The farm was eventually subdivided in 1979 and the main house and barn were separated. The remainder of the farmland is now a low density residential development.

Samuel M. Hitt, developer of the mill complex was also influential in the construction of a stone bridge erected over the Antietam creek in 1830 to facilitate access to his mill. In an Article of Agreement recorded among the Washington County Land Records (Liber LL, Folio 350) between the Justices of the Levy Court (predecessors of the County Commissioners), 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's Mill in Keedysville. The road referenced in this agreement was shortly thereafter changed to its present course running much closer to the mill, as depicted in a plat recorded on May 6, 1833 in Volume I, folio 196 of the Washington County Road records. This road and bridge system is discussed in MIHP form WA-II-1173, "Keedysville Road." The importance of the road and the road's change in route to accommodate the mill is additional evidence of the importance of the grain processing industry in Washington County and the surrounding region.

The complex also was important as a hospital, encampment and headquarters site during the Battle of Antietam. The mill also figured prominently for this use. A large open industrial building was an ideal hospital shelter and the mill's supply of grain and flour were a source of food for the occupying army and their animals. The Hitt Mill complex was also at an established crossing point of the Antietam Creek. The Sanitary commission, however, reported that the hospital at the mill complex was poorly managed and that the surgeons were young and frequently intoxicated.⁴ The main house, mill and barn were hospitals.

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Name Hitt's Mill Complex
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WA-II-120, Hitt's Mill Complex. Ca. 1925 view of miller's house and Hitt manor house (center, behind trees).
Courtesy Kathleen Riley and William Maharay.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

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Name Hitt's Mill Complex
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3



WA-II-120, Hitt's Mill Complex. Ca. 1925 view of Hitt's Mill and sawmill. Courtesy Kathleen Riley and William Maharay.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WA-II-120

- Hayes, Helen Ashe. The Antietam and Its Bridges. New York: G.P. Putnam Sons, 1910.
Schildt, John W., Drums Along the Antietam. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1972
Shoaf, Dana B., "Maryland House Takes Twice the Effort." Early American Life, Vol. XXXIV, No. 1, February 2003, p. 28.
Washington County Land Records
Washington County probate Records
Varle, Charles. A Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, 1808.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of surveyed property Approximately 35
Acreege of historical setting Approximately 35
Quadrangle name Keedysville Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The recorded property includes three separate parcels, all historically part of the Hitt's Mill Complex. The are shown on Tax Map # 72, Parcel 147 and Parcel 190-1, the manor house; Parcel 188, the barn; and Parcel 49, the mill lot. The mill lot parcel has retained the same acreage (20.25) since before 1818. This acreage is historically associated with the mill complex. The remainder of the land associated with the Hitt/Cost farm has been subdivided for large lot residential development.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD., Architectural Historian and Edie Wallace, Historian
organization Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc. date July 2003
street & number 105 N. Potomac Street telephone 301-739-2070
city or town Hagerstown state Maryland

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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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

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

³Dana B. Shoaf, "Maryland House Takes twice the Effort," Early American Life, volume XXXIV, No. 1, Feb. 2003, p. 31.

⁴John W. Schildt, Drums Along the Antietam, (Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1972, p. 167.

HITTS MILL, PRY'S MILL COMPLEX NR DISTRICT
18932-18947 KEEDYSVILLE RD
KEEDYSVILLE, WASHINGTON CO. MD

NOT TO SCALE



WORKSHOP
GARAGE

SMOKE
HOUSE

MAIN
HOUSE

MILL
HOUSE

MILL

COOPERS
SHOP
RUIN

OLD ROAD TRACE

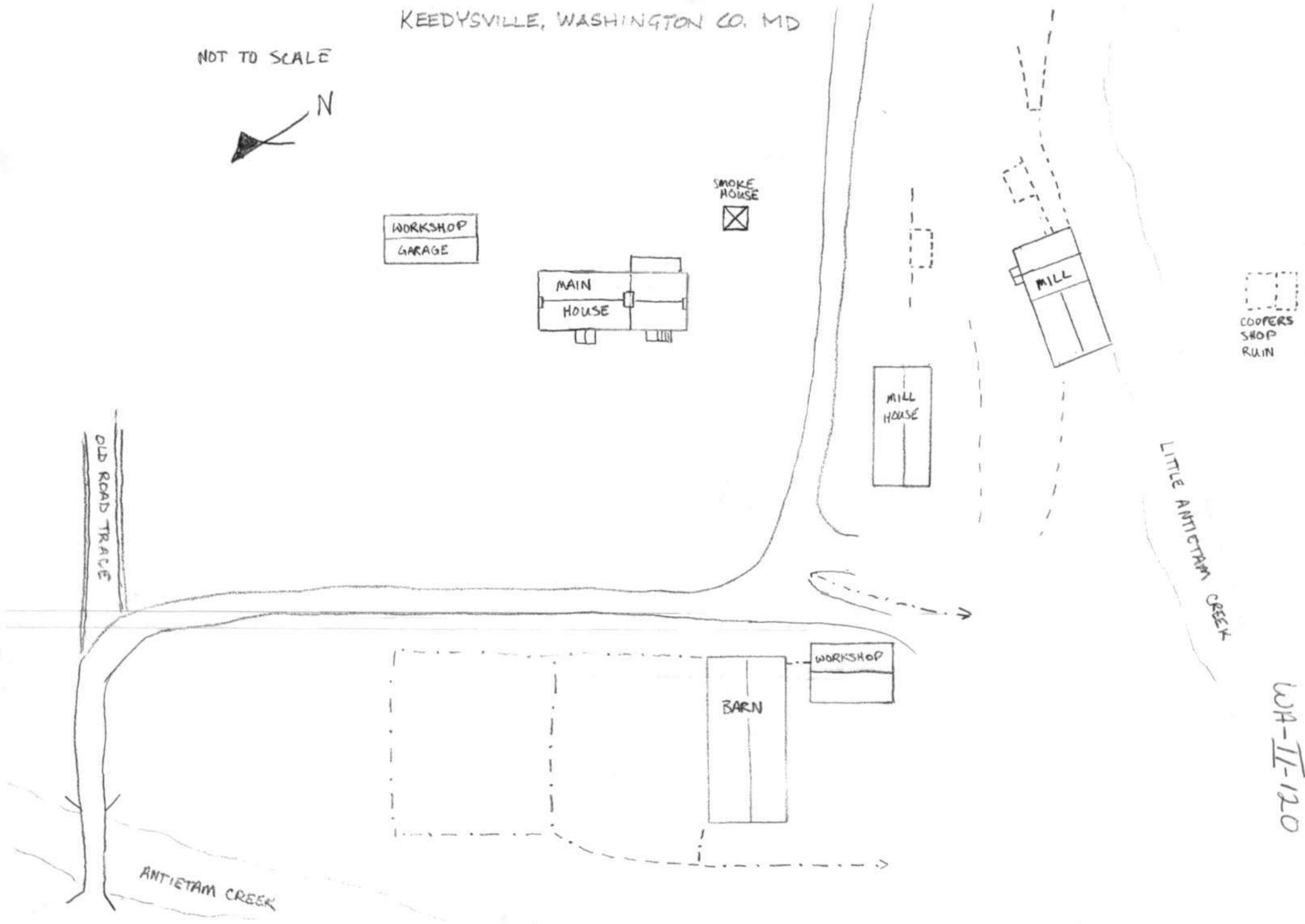
LITTLE ANTIETAM CREEK

WORKSHOP

BARN

ANTIETAM CREEK

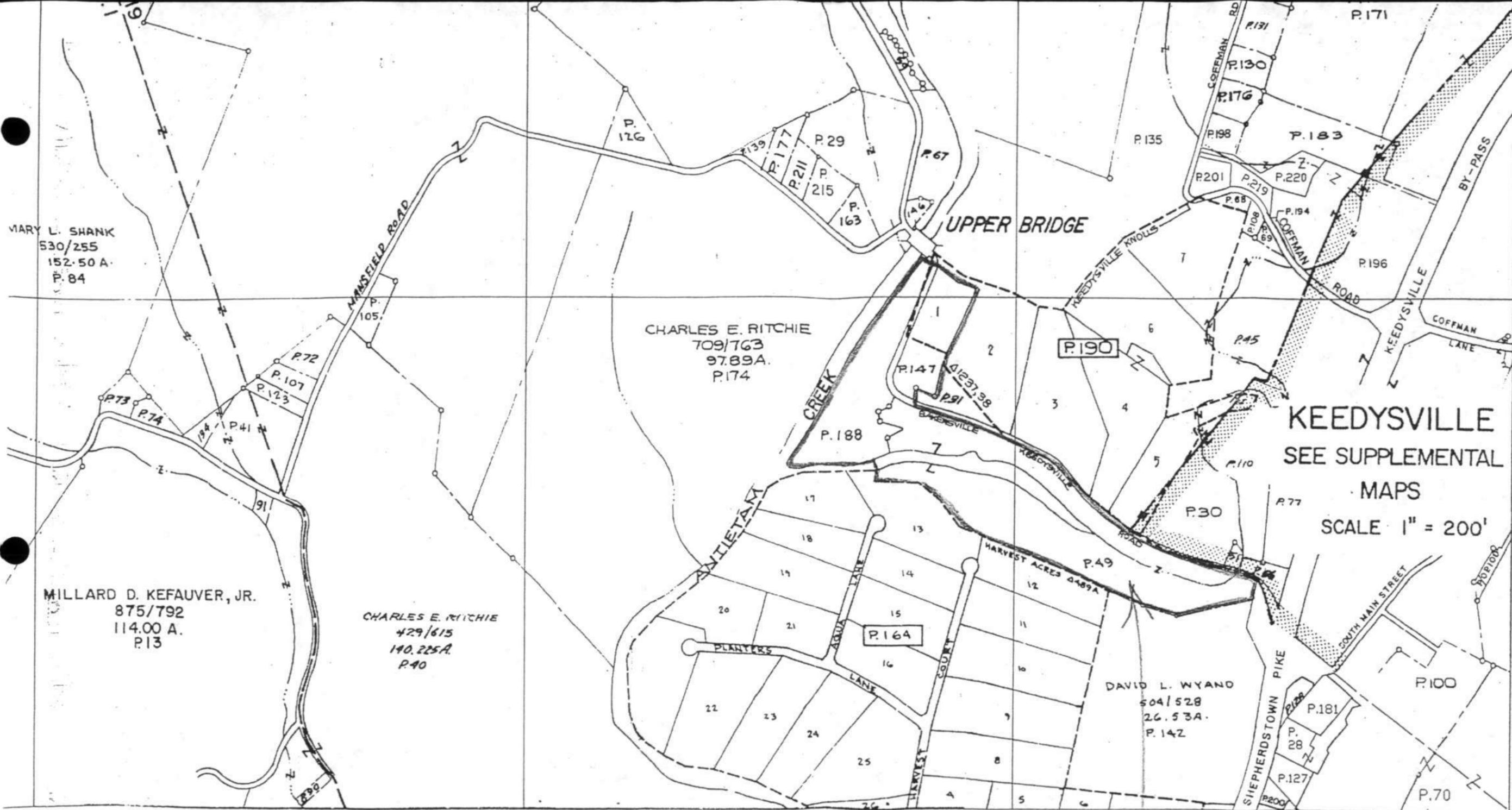
WA-II-120





WA-II-120
 CHARLES VARLÉ
 MAP OF FREDERIC AND
 WASHINGTON COUNTIES
 MD. 1808





603

600

76

593

COMPILED BY:
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
PROPERTY MAPPING SECTION

The information shown on this map has been compiled from deed descriptions and plats and is not an actual survey. It should not be used for legal descriptions. Users noting errors are urged to notify the Maryland Department of Planning, Property Mapping Section, Room 1101, 301 W. Preston St., Baltimore, MD 21201-2305.

REVISED TO:	DATE	BY	LIBER	LAST P. NO.	QUARTER-QUADRANGLE	DATE OF PHOTO	SHA GRID
	AUG. '01	AB					

PROPERTY LINE
 SUBDIVISION BOUNDARY
 TOWN BOUNDARY
 PRIVATE ROAD
 STREAM LINE

CONTINUING OWNERSHIP - *Z* la - *Z* - *Z* - *Z*

PARCEL NUMBERING - P.### (ASSIGNED TO IDENTIFY OWNERSHIP. MUST BE PRECEDED BY A MAP NUMBER.)

SCALE 1"=600' (RF 1:7200)



599

WASHINGTON COUNTY,
MARYLAND

WA-II-120

602

584-600
 MAP NO.
72

HITTS MILL, PRY'S MILL COMPLEX NR DISTRICT
 18932-18947 KEEDYSVILLE RD
 KEEDYSVILLE WASHINGTON CO. MD.

201396.2mN
 339675.7mE

KEEDYSVILLE QUAD

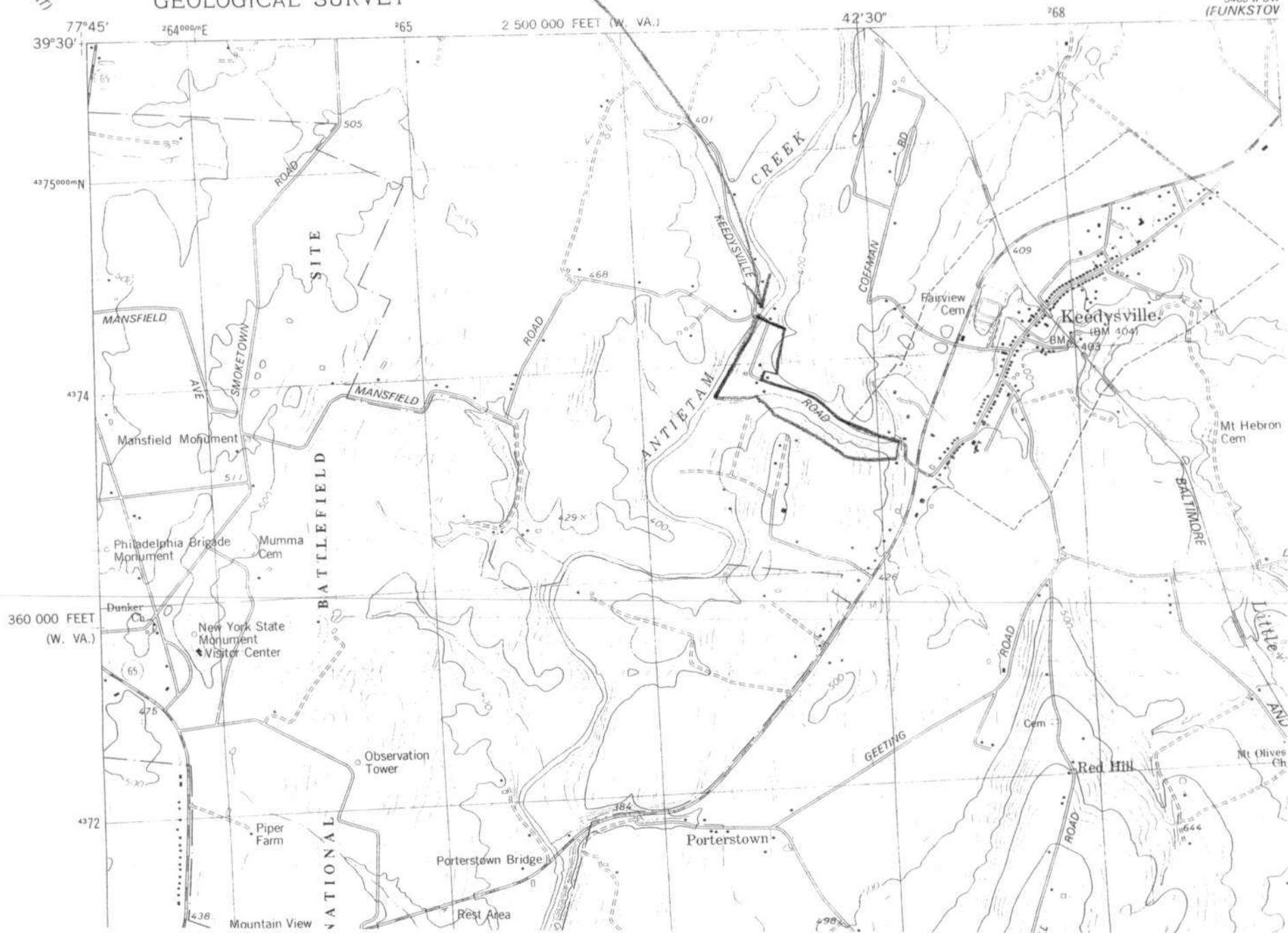
HILL MILL, PRY'S MILL COMPLEX NR DISTRICT
18932-18947 KEEDYSVILLE RD
KEEDYSVILLE, WASHINGTON CO. MD

WA-II-120

5463 III SE
(WILLIAMSPORT)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5463 II SW
(FUNKSTOV





WA-II-120

Hitt's Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Hitt House, W elevation, view NE from Kerdegsville Rd.

1/32



WA-II-120

Hitt's Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co, MD

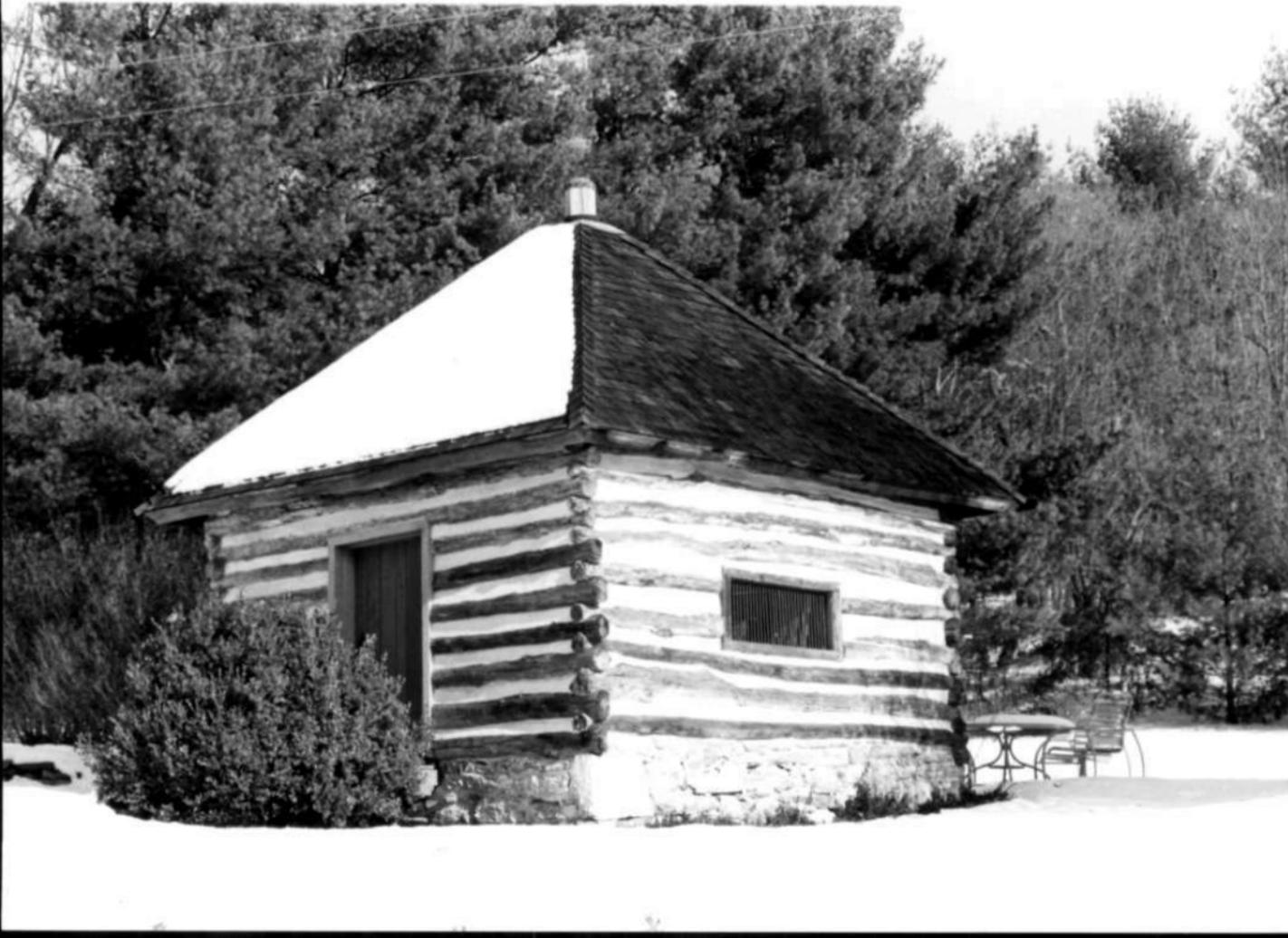
E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Hitt House, E elevation, view NW from rear yard.

2/32



WA-II-120

Hitt's Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Hitt House smokehouse, W and S elevations; view

NE

3/32



WA-II-120

Hitt's Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPD

Hitt House smokehouse, log construction detail, view
of NW corner.

4/
32



WA-II-120

Hitt's Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

R/02

MDSHPO

Hitt House smokehouse, interior detail, view S through window grill.

5/32



WA-II-120

Hills Mill and House NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallon

12/02

MDSHPO

Hill House, modern garage/workshop, W and S elevation,
view NE

6/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NK District

Washington Co. PA

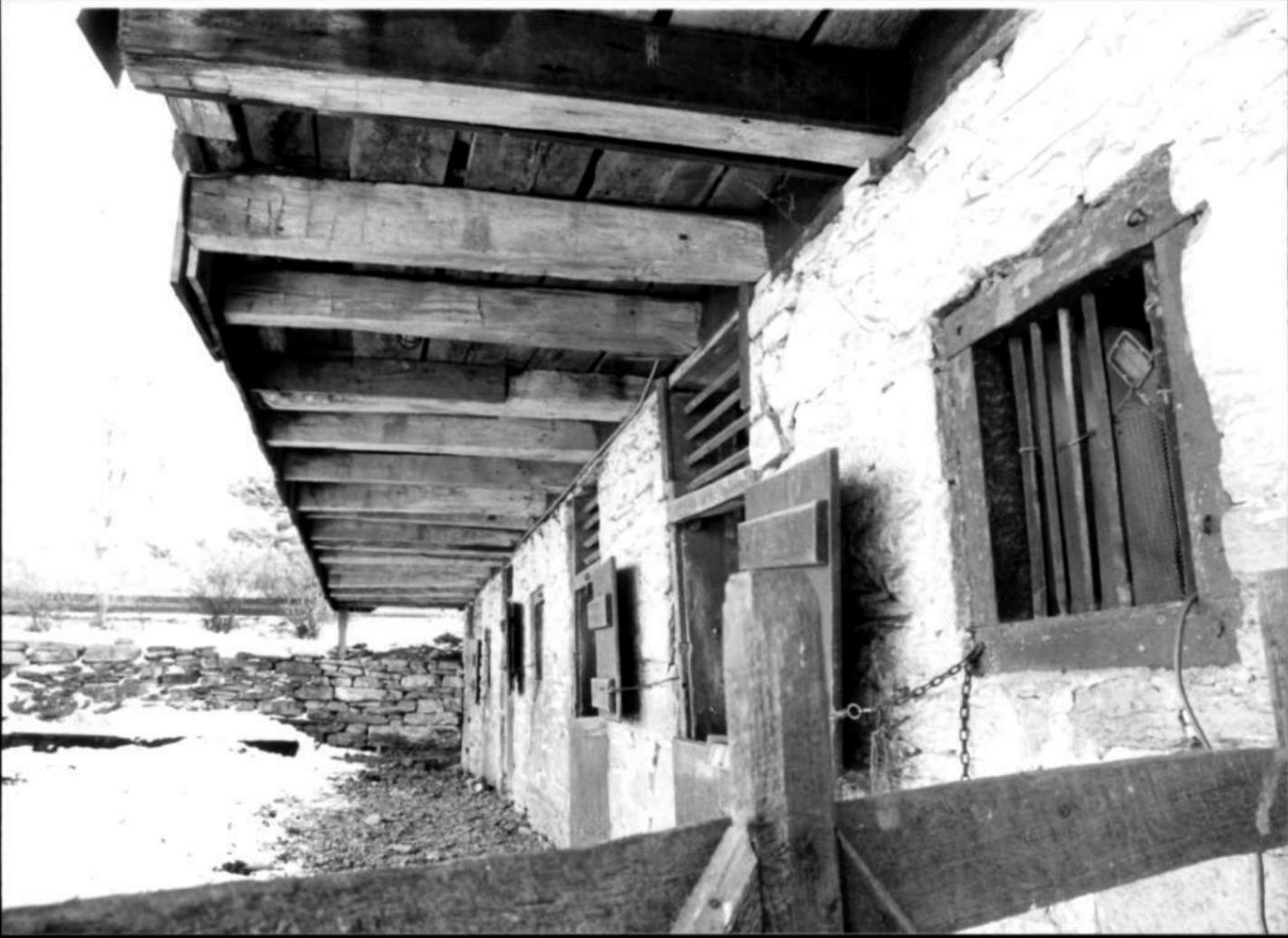
E. Wallace

12/02

MPSHPO

Hitt barn, NE elevation, view W from Keedysville Rd.

7/32



WA-TL-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NP District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Hitt barn, NE elevation, view E of stall area
below cantilevered forebay

8/32



WA-II-120

Hills Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Hill barn, NE barnyard, view W toward Antietam
Creek, note barnyard wall

9/32



WA-II-120

Hills Mill and Houses NK District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Hitt bar, SW elevation, view NE

10/32



WA-II-120

Wings Mill and Houses NR District

Massachusetts Co, MD

3/20/02

12/02

FRaming

Site plan, interior (after rehabilitation), showing
framing

11/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

View of Hitt House from under forebay of Hitt barn,
view E.

12/
32



WA-II-120

Hills Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Mill House, NE elevation, view SE from Keedysville
Rd.

13/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHP

Mill House, NE elevation, view SE.

14/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

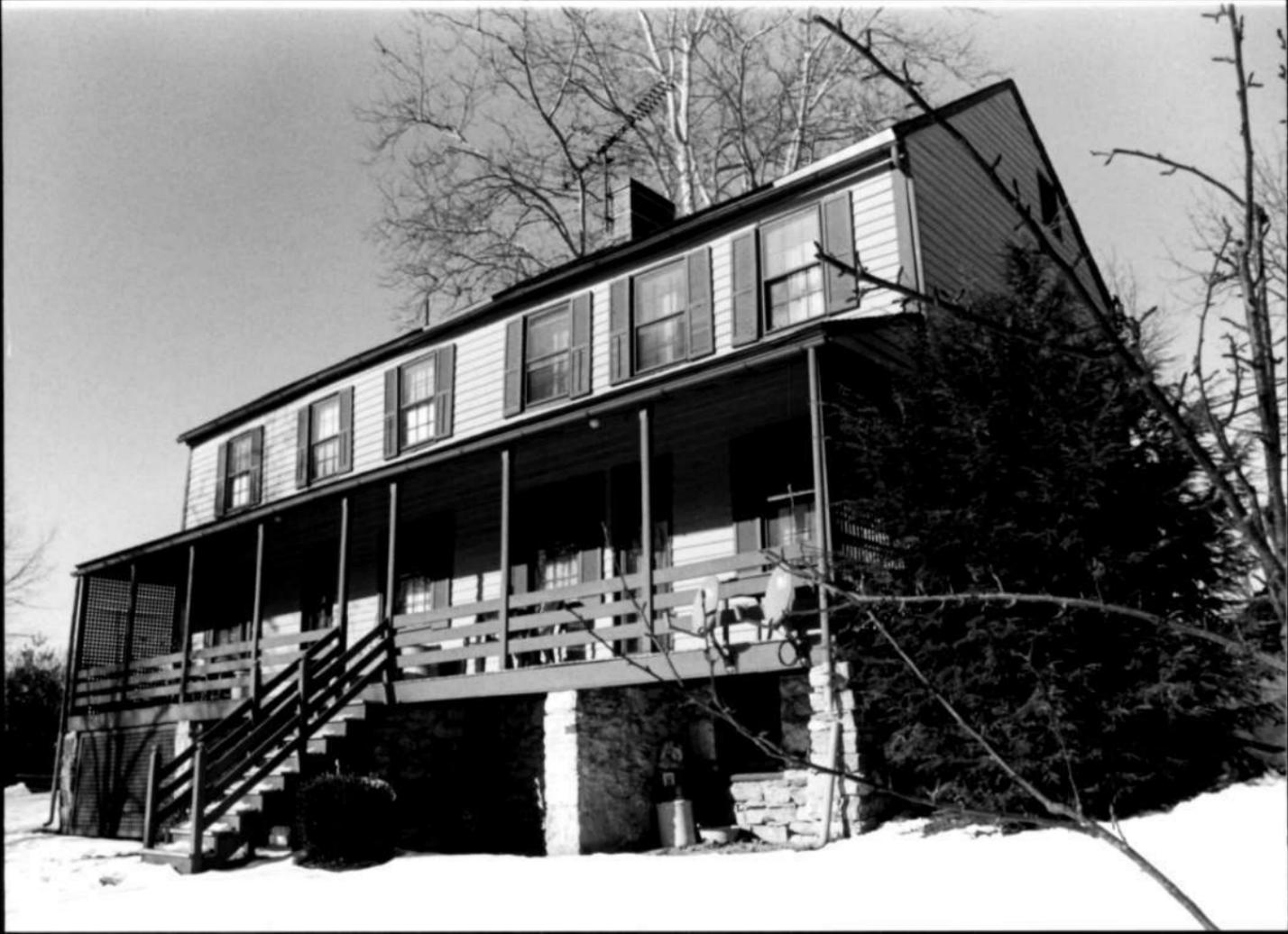
E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Mill House, NE elevation, detail of siding

15/
32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Mill House, SW elevation, view N.

10/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Mill House, W elevation, view S toward Mill.

17/
32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NK District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Stone wall S of shop foundations, view E

18/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co, MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Hitts Mill, W elevation, view SE toward Little
Antietam Creek.

19
/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Hitts Mill, N elevation, view SE

20/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Hitts Mill, E. elevation, view W, sawmill foundations
in the foreground

21/32



WA-II-120

Hills Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Hills Mill, S elevation along Little Antietam Creek
view SW

24/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Hitts Mill, E elevation, view of S walls of sawmill
foundations, view NW

23/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Sawmill Foundations, view S

2¹/₃₂



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

sluice remains, view E

25/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

mill dam remains, 1000 SE

26/
32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NK District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Cooper shop foundations, S bank of Little Antietam
Creek, view S

27/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and houses, NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Lime Kilns, S side of Keadysville Road, view SW

18
1/12

2014-01-12 10:00 AM



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallare

12/02

MDSHPO

Live kilns, S. operation, (new 116)

29/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Lime kilns, easternmost - lower chamber detail

30/31



WA-II-120

Hills Mill and Houses N.W. District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHP

Lime kilns, new timber lintel, detail

31/32



WA-II-120

Hitts Mill and Houses NR District

Washington Co., MD

E. Wallace

12/02

MDSHPO

Linne kiln, eastern-most upper chamber, interior

detail

3-1
32

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

Sixth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

CODE

024

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- 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

WA-II-120

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 support 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 Monroe 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.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Hitt's Mill and houses
Washington County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 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

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Hitt's Mill and houses
Washington County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 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

WA II-120

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

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 was 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.

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Hitt's Mill and houses
Washington County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

3

SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Operating as a grist mill, presumably with an attached sawmill, the Hitt's or Pry's Mill complex 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 numerous. 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. Presumably 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

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Hitt's Mill and houses
Washington County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 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.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

WA-II-120

- 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.
 Schildt, 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.L.C. History of Washington County, Maryland. Hagerstown, Md.: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 89 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	26,719,0	4,37,39,3,0	B	1,8	26,692,0	4,37,36,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	26,628,0	4,37,37,8,0	D	1,8	26,662,0	4,37,42,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

pmj

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE April

March 1976

STREET & NUMBER

33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

(301) 791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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

DATE

TITLE

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

ABSTRACT
WA-II-120
Pry's Mill
Keedysville Vicinity
private

Early 19th Century

The Pry's Mill Complex consists of a five story stone and brick Grist Mill situated on the bank of the Little Antietam Creek near its junction with the Antietam, also present are the remnants of a Saw Mill and the Mill dam. North of the Mill building is a log dwelling sheathed with weatherboarding. This house is significant for its architecture. It is also important for its association with the early milling industry in Washington County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hitt's Mill - Valley Mills

AND/OR COMMON

Pry's Mill (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Keedysville-Bakersville Road

CITY, TOWN

← VICINITY OF

Keedysville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Frederick B. Hanson.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Keedysville

← VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21756

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 508

Folio #: 172

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

7 DESCRIPTION

WA-II-120

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pry'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 elevation 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 sashes. Large wooden lintels top the windows and doors in the brick section.

The wood shingle roof, barge boards and cornice are modern having been replaced during restoration of the Mill. 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 cobblers 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 Monroe Road, to Hitt's Mill.

Just north of the Mill building is a two story, six bay log dwelling sheathed with weatherboarding, ~~and aluminum siding~~. 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 sashes.

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.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

WA-II-120

1-A

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pry'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 served as a hospital 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 this Mill.

Architecturally the Pry'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 dwelling was an important construction material popular from the earliest days of settlement in the 18th century to the early 20th century. The interior woodwork of the western portion of this house 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 Charles Varle's 1808 map of Frederick and Washington Counties. The upper stories of the Mill were added after part of the original structure was destroyed by fire. The brick portion appears to date from the mid 19th century.

Operating as a grist mill, presumably with an attached sawmill, the Pry's Mill or Hitt's Mill complex 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 numerous. 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 its documentary history, the Mill property contained 20 1/4 acres. It has always been conveyed separately from the property on which stands the main dwelling known as Hitt or Cost house, located north of the Keedysville-Bakersville Road. The earliest documented record of the Mill property is the will of Robert Smith which was probated October 28, 1818 (Liber C, Folio 54). It states that Samuel Merritt Hitt, Smith's grand nephew, was to inherit the residue of his great-uncle's estate. Later on March 7, 1820, Samuel Hitt's ownership was confirmed by a deed from Joseph Chapline (Liber EE, Folio 487) which stated that Joseph Chapline had at an earlier date agreed to convey a tract of land containing 20 1/4 acres to a certain Andrew Baker. Subsequently Baker agreed to convey the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hays, Helen Ashe, The Antietam and Its Bridges, New York: G.P. Putnams Sons, 1910.
 Powell, Libbie, "Pry Mill Near Keedysville Takes On New Life Under Fred Hansom,"
The Daily Mail, Hagerstown, Md: November 11, 1974.
 Schildt, John W., Drums Along The Antietam, Parsons, W. Va: McClain Printing Co.,
 1972.
 Varle, Charles, A Map Of Frederick and Washington Counties, 1808.
 CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (Continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20.25 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

March 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Court House Annex

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland

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

The roof is sheathed 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 jointure 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 employed 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 and is considered separately on form WA-II-252. 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, WA-II-122 and the smaller Pry's Mill Bridge, WA-II-121.

The Mill is in excellent condition; the log dwelling is in fair to good condition and is at present undergoing restoration. The property on which these buildings are located includes 20.25 acres.

land to Robert Smith who had, in turn willed it to Samuel M. Hitt. Presumably it was Samuel Hitt who established the original mill.

On August 7, 1846, Samuel M. Hitt and Barbara Hitt of Ogle County, Illinois., sold two tracts including the 20 1/4 acre mill property to Lewis Watson for \$6,137.75 (Liber IN3, Folio 71). Samuel Pry and Philip Pry purchased the mill property from Lewis Watson and Elizabeth Watson on December 16, 1847 (Liber IN3, Folio 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."

Samuel M. Hitt was influential in the construction of a stone bridge erected over the Antietam Creek to facilitate access to his Mill. In an Article of Agreement recorded among the Washington County Land Records (LL/350), between the 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's Mill which was 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.

Robert Smith, who bequeathed the mill property to Samuel M. Hitt was a member of a prominent early family in the Antietam Valley. Prior to 1750, the Smith family had acquired land along the Creek. Toward the end of the 18th century they held several thousand acres of land. Robert Smith, son of settler James Smith, was a member of the State Legislature from 1800-1805.

During the ownership of the Pry family, the mill property was the scene of activity during the Battle of Antietam in September of 1862. In addition to having numerous troops stationed in the area and being at a major crossing point of the Antietam Creek, the Pry's Mill was 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.¹ According to local legend women of the Pry family baked bread for the wounded soldiers.

¹ John W. Schildt, Drums Along The Antietam. Parsons, W. Va: McClain Printing Company (1972) p. 167.

Bibliographical References Continued
WA-II-120

Washington County Land Records.

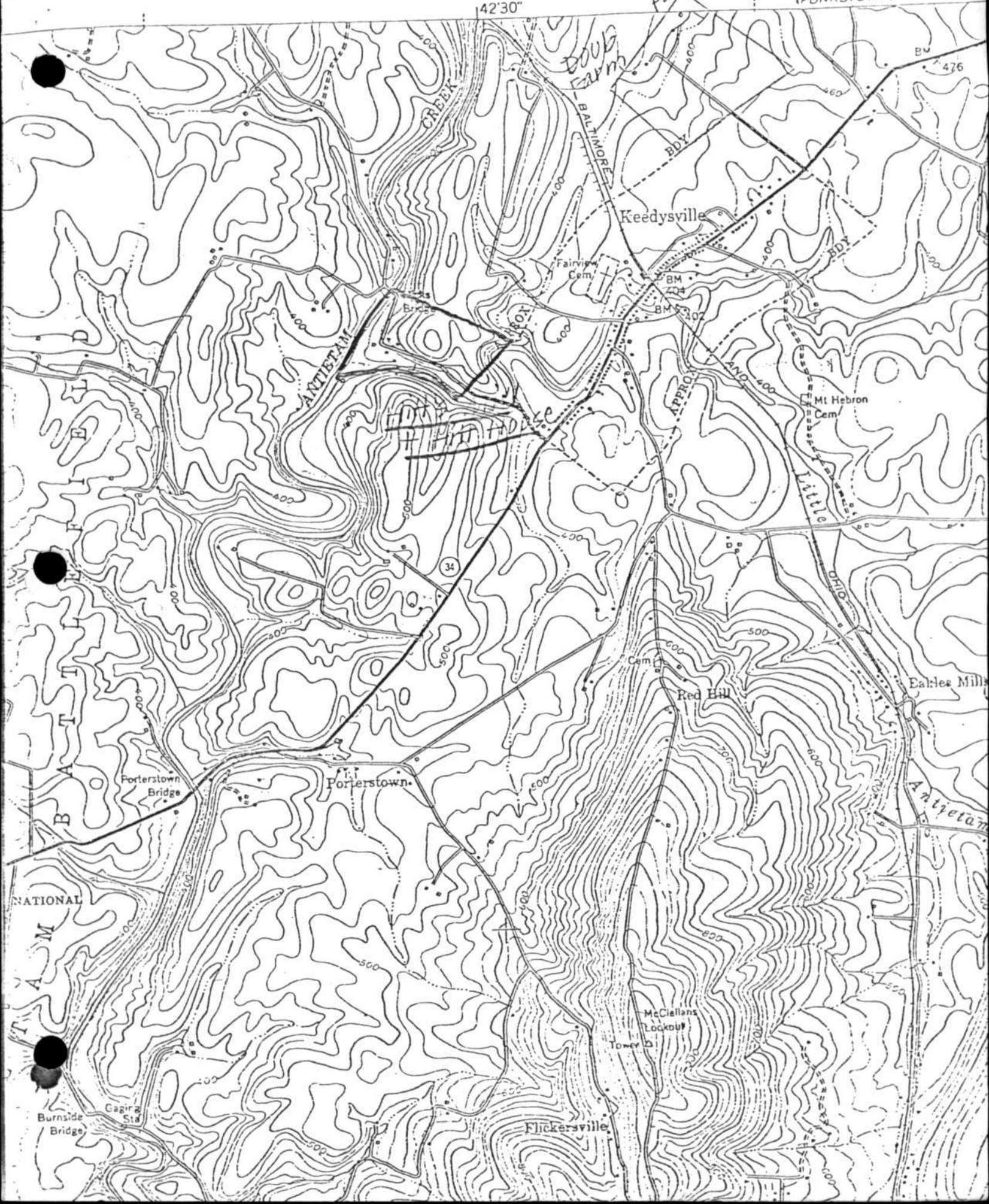
Washington County Probate Records.

Washington County Road Records.

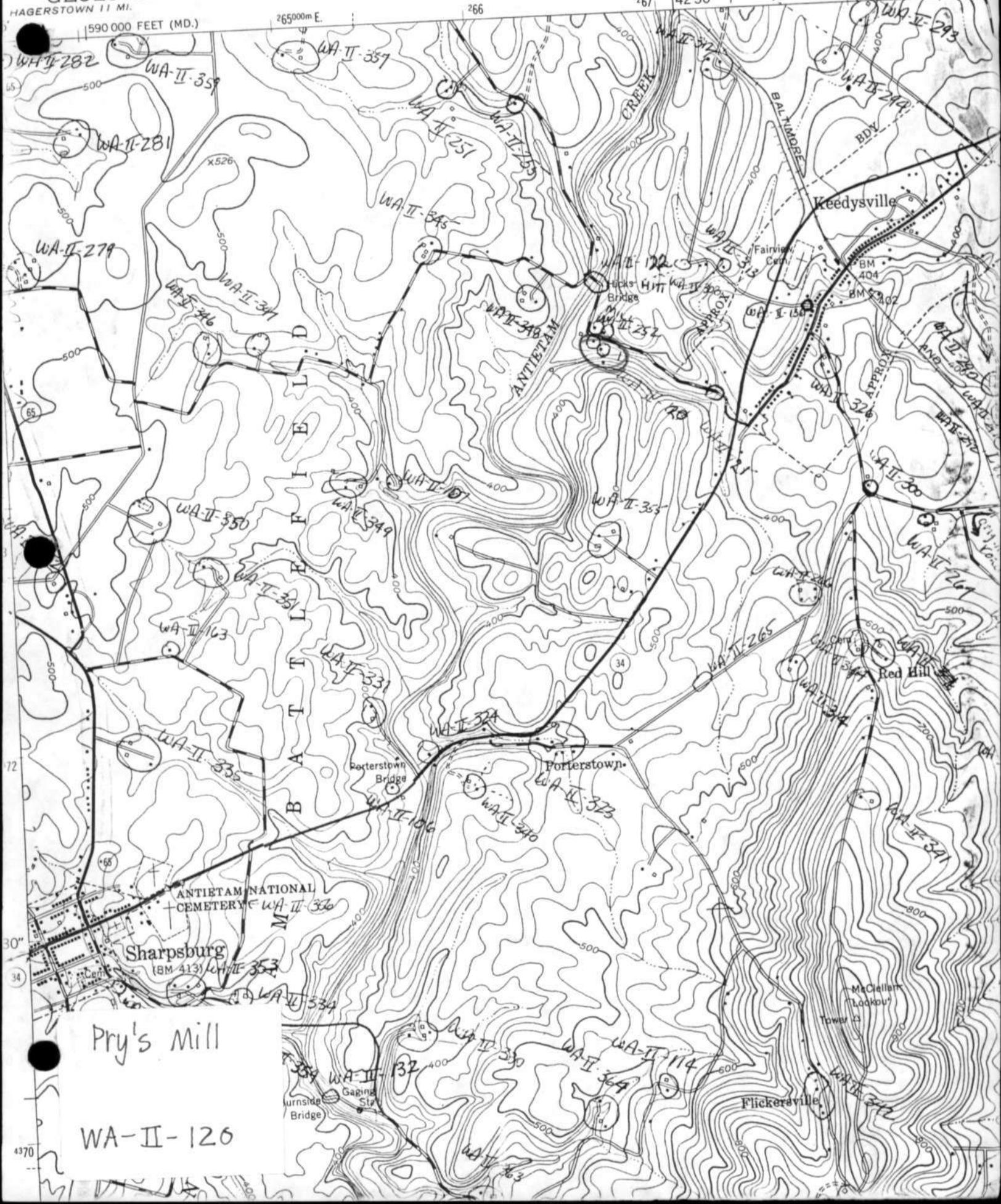
Williams, Thomas J.C., History of Washington County, Maryland. Hagerstown,
Md: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

(FUNKSTOWN)

42'30"



Keedysville quadrangle



Pry's Mill

WA-II-126

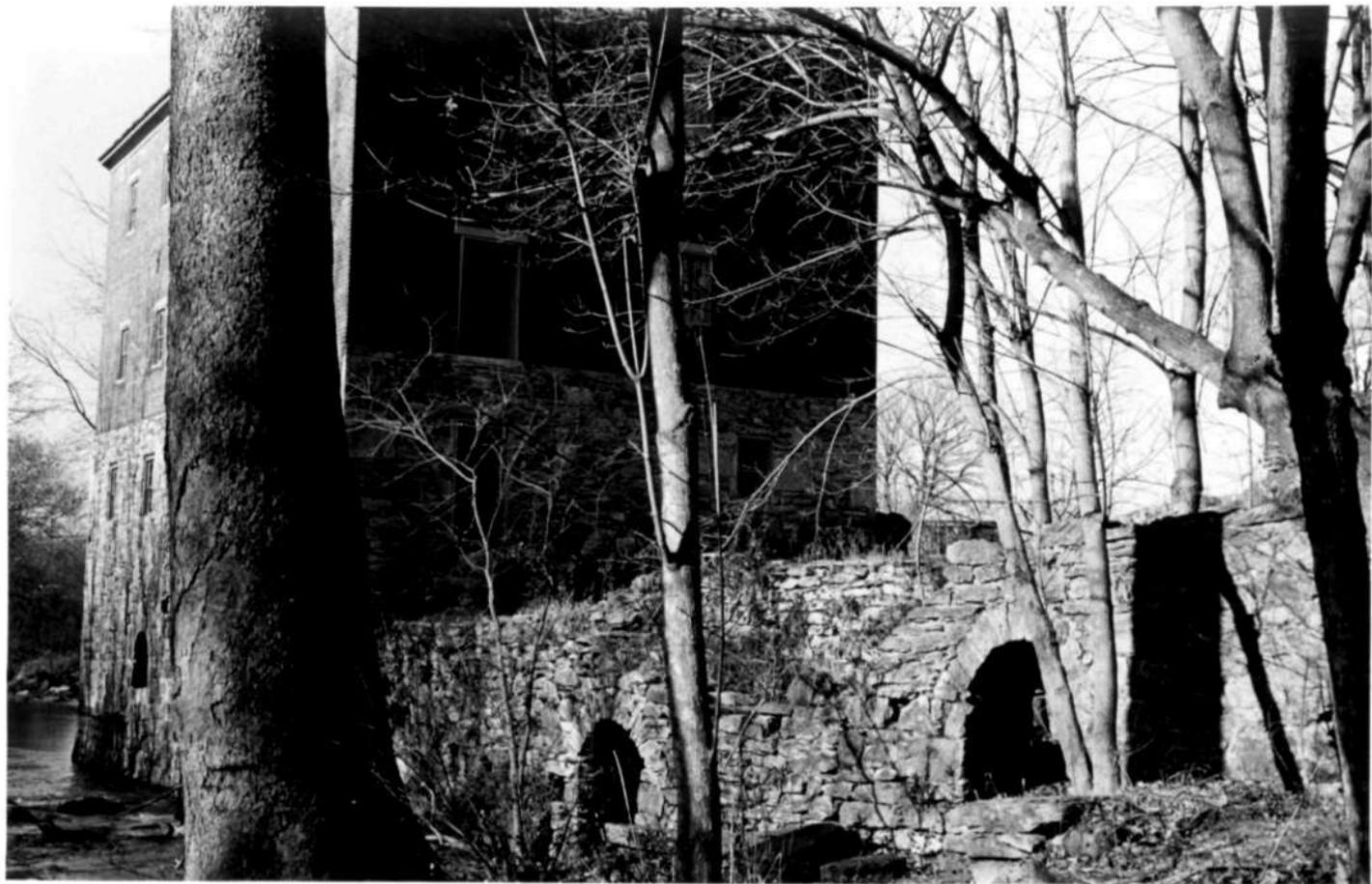


WA-T-130

N.W. Hill

Dec 1971

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-120

Null 31.

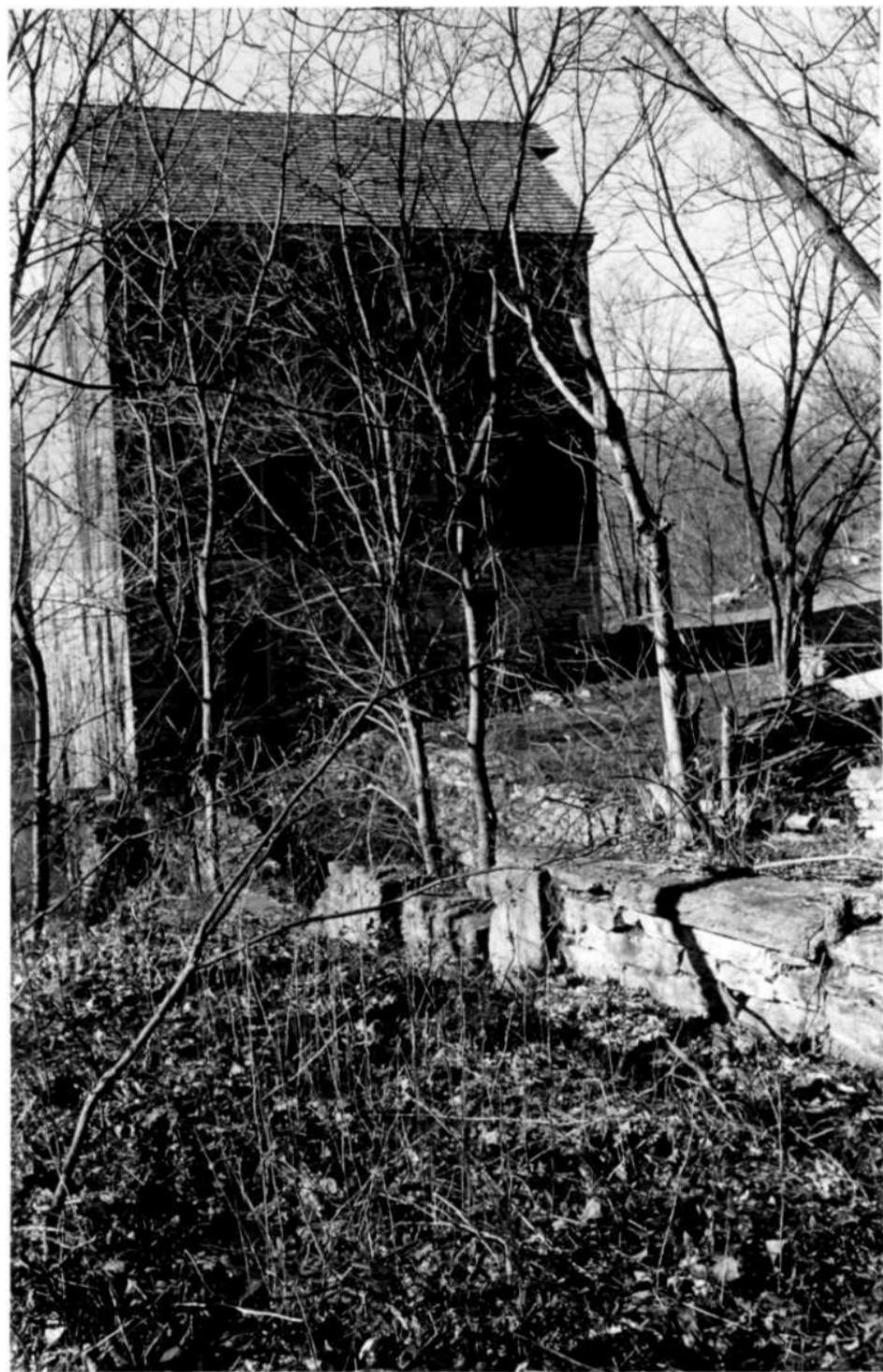
Dec. 1974

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WA-II 120
NW 1/4 S. 1
Dec 1914

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WA-II-120

S.E. Hill

Dec. 1924

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W.D. 12
W.D. 12
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WA-II-120

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WA-II-120

Interior of Alice, lower leaf

Frederick Hanson

Ch 1973



WA-II-120

Interior Mill. Mine - 1974

Dec. 1974

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WA-II-120

Howe S.C.

Dec. 1979

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WA-II-120

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WA-II-120
House N.W.
Dec. 1974

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-120



WA-II-120

Interior west half of house

Frederick Hanson

ca. 1913



WA-II-120

Detail, east section of house

Frederick Hanson

Ca. 1973



WA-II-120

Detail, Interior
east half of house

Frederick Hanson

ca. 1973



WA-II-120

detail of [unclear]

Dec. 1974

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WA-II-120



WA-II-120

Detail, west half of house

Interior

Frederick Hanson

Ca. 1973



BARN & WAGON SHED
WA-II-120

KODAK FILM

KOD



WAGON SHED
HOUSE

SMOKE
HOUSE

WA-II-120

KODAK FILM



HOUSE

SMOKE HOUSE

WA-II-120

KODAK FILM

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