

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: 19th c. Farmstead Survey Number: WA-II-363

Project: Scenic Easement Acquisition John Pieper Property Agency: FHWA/SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on available information, the 19th Century Farmstead (or John Pieper Property) located at 18502 Burnside Bridge Road near Sharpsburg is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, for agriculture, military, and architectural significance. The property is immediately adjacent to the Antietam National Battlefield, just south of the location of the important Civil War engagement that occurred at the Burnside Bridge, where Burnside's Union troops held positions at the north end of the Pieper Property. Thus the property was associated with the Civil War events for which the battlefield is significant. In addition, the farmstead and surrounding farmlands contribute to the cultural landscape setting for the battlefield. When inventoried in 1978, the property included a mid-19th century house, bake oven, smoke house, spring house, and 20th century bank barn. According to SHA's March 15, 1994 letter the sole building dating to the period of the dwelling is the smoke house. Thus, it is not clear how many of the domestic outbuildings mentioned in the inventory form remain standing. However, if the springhouse, smoke house and bake oven all remain, they would constitute an unusually rich collection of domestic outbuildings common to the 19th century farmhouse in rural Maryland. The farmstead is significant as a representative of Washington County's 19th and early 20th century agricultural heritage. The large frame L-shaped farmhouse is of architectural interest. The house has an unusual roof construction, consisting of a combination of hipped and gabled joints, which is found on several other mid-19th century houses in the Sharpsburg area. The unusual configuration allows the house to appear larger than it is from the road. The house exhibits Greek Revival and Victorian influences in the treatment of the porches.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Inventory Form WA-II-363 Project File

Prepared by: Paula Stoner, Rita Suffness

Elizabeth Hannold April 8, 1994
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

[Signature] 4/11/94
Reviewer, NR program Date

cmg

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Agricultural, dwelling

Known Design Source: na

WA-II-363
Noah Rohrbach House
(J. Wyland House, John Pieper Property)
18502 Burnside Bridge Road
Sharpsburg
Private

18th century; c. 1850

Although the Noah Rohrbach House appears from the road to be of frame construction, it is actually a log house held up by immense oak timbers hand mortise-and-tenoned together in a heavy skeleton. Moreover, this log skeleton is actually recycled and relocated from a much earlier structure. Studies of the building hardware, such as the bevel-sided, cast-iron rim locks, suggested a date of about 1850 for the current appearance. However, the 12"-thick walls of the structure are of vertical-post log construction, a system where the horizontal logs are let into posts at corners and intermediate points in the wall, rather than, say, lapped with notches. This sophisticated system, which uses carefully constructed mortise-and-tenon joints, was common from the 1820s to the 1860s and represents some 5% of the log houses built in western Maryland. What is even more unusual about the house is that there is no evidence of chinking or daubing in the spaces between logs. Typically, the timbers for a log house were cut, shaped, and erected while the logs were green, and allowed to dry and shrink over about a two year period, compressing the chinking between the logs. The lack of chinking between the logs of the Rohrbach house indicates a probable re-use of a previously existing log structure, which had long since dried and shrunk to a stable form. The large L-shaped house stands two stories in height, with a stone basement containing two windows and two doors exposed on the west side. The house is six bays wide along its west elevation. The first

floor of this elevation (as well as the basement below) is covered by a hip-roofed Victorian porch with turned posts, corner brackets, and a sawnwork balustrade. The southernmost bay of the porch consists of steps leading down to ground level. The door, with a transom above, stands in the third bay from the right. The south façade is five bays wide, with a small Greek Revival style portico covering an entrance in the center bay. The house has an unusual roof construction, consisting of a combination of hipped and gabled joints, which is found on several other mid-19th century houses in the Sharpsburg area. The unusual configuration allows the house to appear larger from the road than it actually is. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal. The house was completely restored in 2001, including replacement and repair of several termite-ridden framing members and the large wooden lintel over the basement fireplace.

The Noah Rohrbach House is historically significant for its architecture, its outbuildings, and its association with the Civil War. When inventoried in 1978, the property included the house, bake oven, smoke house, spring house, and 20th century bank barn. If the spring house, smoke house, and bake oven all remain, they would constitute an unusually rich collection of domestic outbuildings common to the 19th century farmhouse in rural Maryland. The farmstead is significant as a representative of Washington County's 19th and early 20th century agricultural heritage. The property stands immediately adjacent to the Antietam National Battlefield, just south of the location of the important Civil War engagement that occurred at the Burnside Bridge, where Burnside's Union troops held positions at the north end of the property. Thus the

property was associated with the Civil War events for which the battlefield itself is significant. In addition, the farmstead and surrounding farmlands contribute to the cultural landscape setting for Antietam National Battlefield.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-II-363
District 1
Map 80
Parcel 3
MAGI # 2209255535

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

19th Century Farmstead

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Burnside Bridge Road

CITY, TOWN

X VICINITY OF Sharpsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William Dorsey

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Burnside Bridge Road

CITY, TOWN

Sharpsburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21782

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 255

Folio #: 191

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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

This two story, six bay frame house is an L-shaped structure sheathed with random width lapped boards. Six over six pane windows are present at all elevations. The roof construction consists of a combination of hipped and gabled joints which was done on several mid 19th century houses in the Sharpsburg area. Outbuildings include a bake oven, a smoke house and a spring house. Also present is a frame bank barn which dates from the 20th century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This complex consists of a group of mid 19th century structures. The house shows characteristics of construction from the second quarter of the 19th century. Greek Revival influence is apparent in treatment of a side porch and entrances although the main front porch is Victorian.

The farm also derives some military significance from its nearness to the Civil War Battlefield at Antietam.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Old-House Journal, April 2001 "Skilled Fixes for a Log House" by Gordon Bock & Douglass C. Reed

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 154.5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

June 1978

STREET & NUMBER

109 West Main Street, Box 202

TELEPHONE

301-432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

STATE

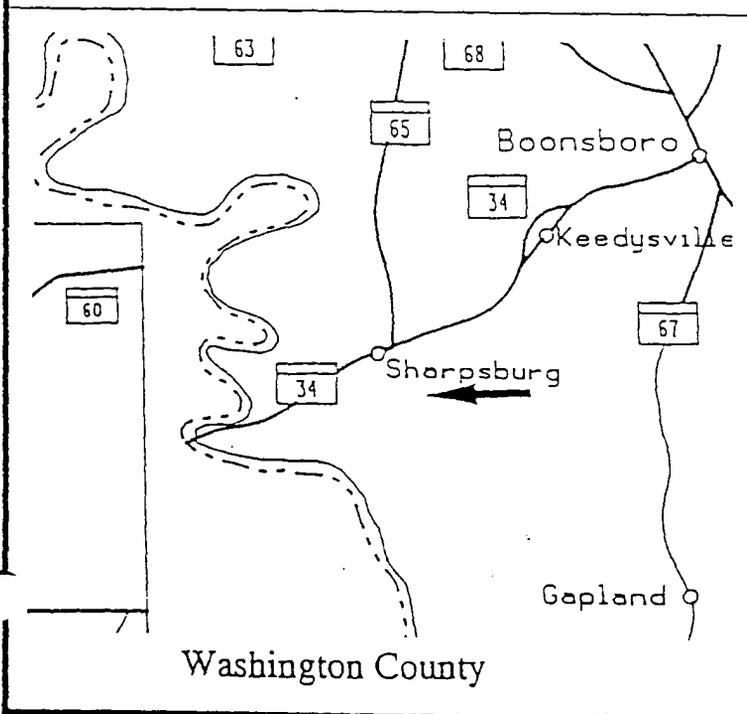
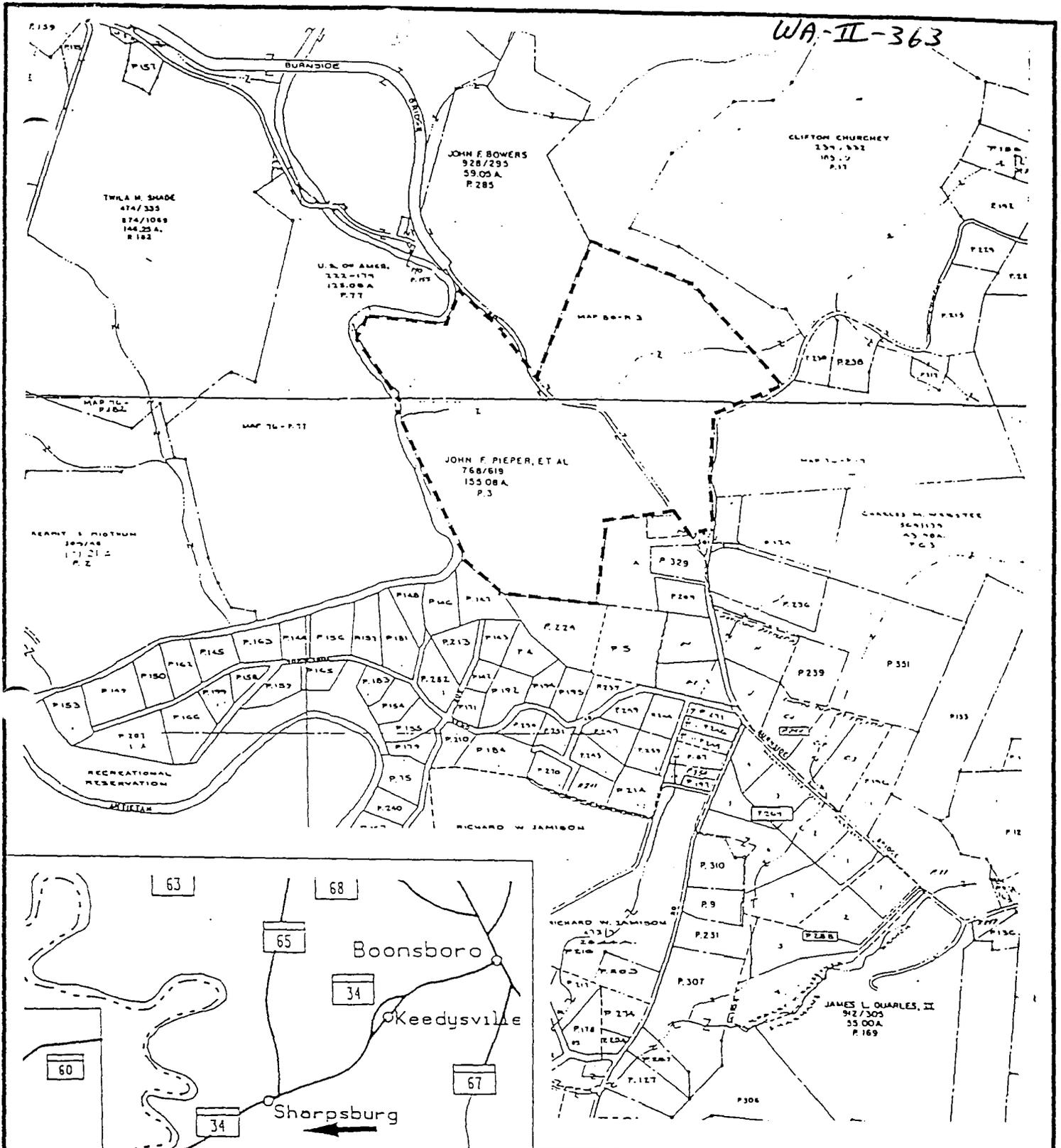
Maryland 21782

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

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

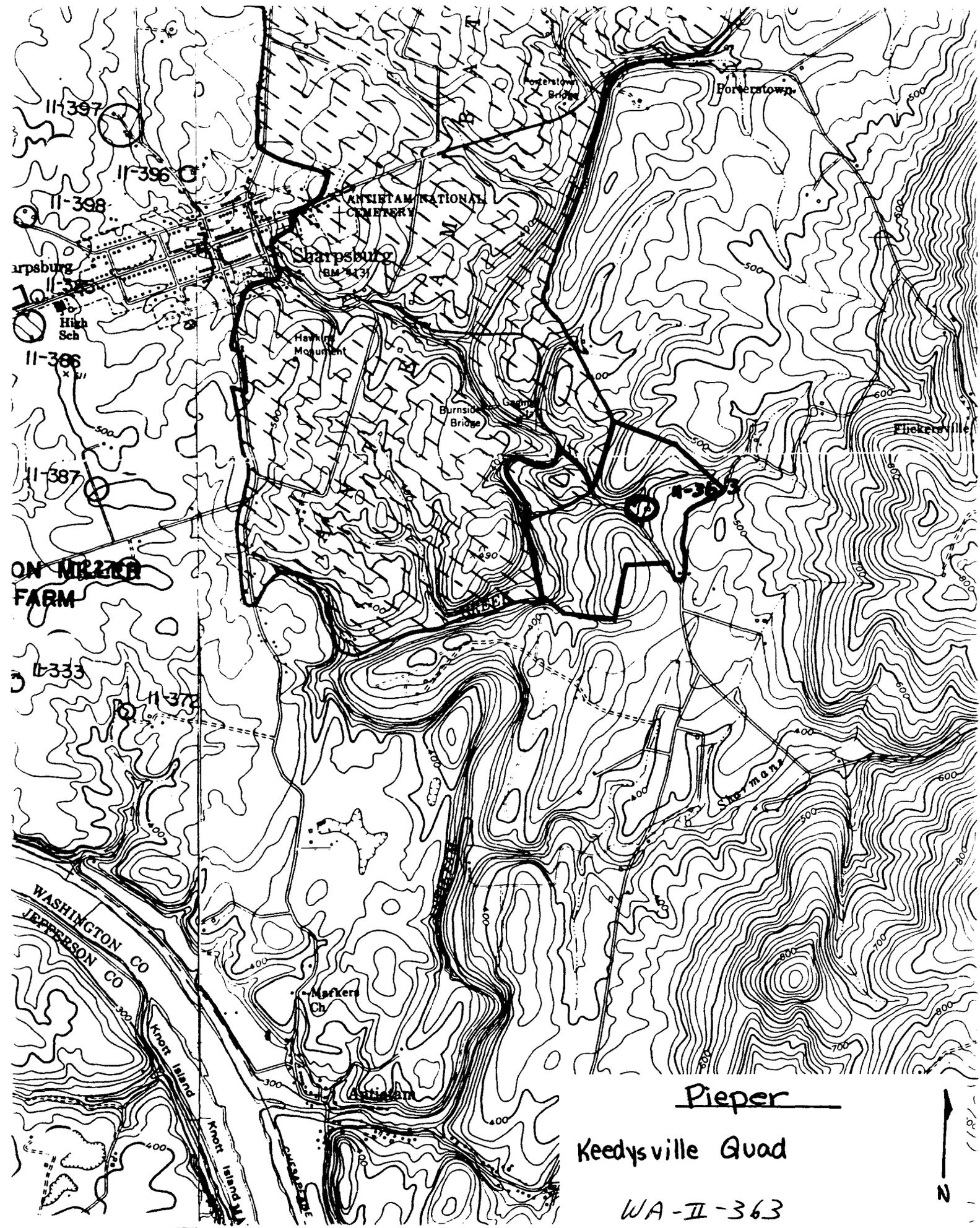
WA-II-363



MD DNR - Program Open Space
 MD Department of Transportation

John Pieper
 S.P.M. 80, Parcel 3
 155.06 Acres

64



11-397

11-396

11-398

11-386

11-387

11-383

ON MR. ZEB FARM

11-372

WASHINGTON CO
JEPPERSON CO

ANTIETAM NATIONAL CEMETERY

Sharpsburg (BM 443)

Harpersburg

Hawksch Bridge

Burnside Bridge

Gardner

Flickersville

Moffers Ch

Knott Island

Pieper

Keedysville Quad

WA-II-363



600 000 FEET

(MD)

4373

4372

27'30"

4370

5463 IV NE (SHEPHERDSTOWN)

WA-II-363



WA II 350



WA II 549



WA II 355



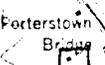
WA II 163



WA II 335

BATTIFFI

WA II 331

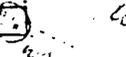


Porterstown Bridge



Porterstown

WA II 324



WA II 340

WA II 323



WA II 265



WA II 334



WA II 300



WA II 261



WA II 310



Eakles Mills WA II 268

ANTIETAM NATIONAL CEMETERY

Sharpsburg

(BM 113) WA II 352



WA II 151

Hawkins Monument



WA II 334

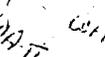


Burnside Bridge

WA II 132



WA II 333



WA II 349



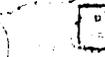
WA II 114

Flickersville

McClellan Lookout Tower



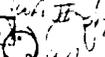
WA II 342



WA II 329

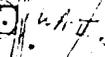
Antietam

WA II 212



WA II 317

WA II 310



WA II 362

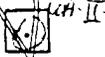
Keedysville quad

CREEK

WA II 262



WA II 363



WA II 369



WA II 366

Cem Mt Briar

Br...

WA-II-363



Farm
View Looking North



Dwelling
South Elevation



Dwelling
S.W. Corner



Dwelling
West (Principal) Elevation
WA-II-363



Bankbarn
S.W. Corner



Bankbarn
South Elevation



19th Century Farmstead

Burnside Bridge Road
Sharpsburg Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON DC
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



19th Century Farmstead

Burnside Bridge Road
Sharpsburg Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



19th Century Farmstead

Burnside Bridge Road
Sharpsburg Vicinity

July 1952

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

