

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Nun's Green; Timber Quarter; Good Hope; The Key

AND/OR COMMON

NUN'S GREEN (preferred); Onley house

**2** LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Southeast corner of State Road No. 12 and Cherrix Road,  
3 miles south of Snow Hill

CITY, TOWN

Snow Hill

 VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Worcester

CODE

047

**3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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"/> TRANSPORTATIO
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Edward P. Phillips, Jr.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Decatur Farm, Rt. 3 No. 236

CITY, TOWN

Berlin

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21811

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Worcester County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Snow Hill

STATE

Maryland

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

W0-43

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	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Nun's Green is located on the southeast corner of Maryland Route 12 and Cherrix Road, three miles south of Snow Hill in Worcester County, Maryland. The house consists of three sections on a north-south axis facing west: a main block kitchen wing, and connecting hyphen. The entire structure is of frame with beaded clapboarding except the north wall of the main block which is brick laid in Flemish bond. The house sits on a brick foundation.

The main block is a 1-1/2 story building plus attic, three bays wide and two rooms deep. Nine-panel doors are located in the south bay of both the front and rear facades. A gable-roofed entrance porch shelters the entrance on the west. There are two gable-roofed dormers on each slope of the roof, two windows in each gable, and a window in the peak of the south gable. All first floor windows have 12/8 sash, second floor windows (including the dormers) have 6/6 sash, and the window in the peak has a 6/4 sash. An interior chimney with a partially damaged sawtooth cap rises in the brick north end wall. This section is thirty feet square and has a full basement with a brick floor. A sheltered cellar entrance is located between the windows on the south end.

The first floor plan of the main block has double parlors on the north and a stair hall on the south. The hall has a large nine-panel door leading to the outside at each end. Two six-panel doors on the north wall lead to the double parlors and cornice and chairrail like that in the parlors is continued in the hall. The closed-string stair is on the south wall between the two windows. It has turned balusters and newel and a carved banister. The wall below the stringer is paneled. The west parlor, with a corner fireplace on the northeast has fielded panels across the north wall over both the fireplace and the door to the hyphen. A chairrail and heavy molded cornice surround the room. The fireplace has a segmental-arched lintel, as do the others in this section of the house. A six panel door connects this room to the east parlor.

The east parlor or Great Room is paneled with horizontal fielded panels on the north wall. The fireplace centered on that wall has a 5'5" opening and is flanked by a window on the east and a cupboard with ten-light glass door on the west. The raised paneling of the north wall is continued around the room in wainscoting of vertical raised panels topped by a chairrail. There is also a cornice in this room.

On the second floor of the main block are three rooms and a hall. The largest, over the Great Room, is the only one with a fireplace. The stair hall is in the southwest corner and all the rooms have six-panel doors opening into it. These and the six-panel doors on the first floor retain original HL hinges. Floors on this story are of original pine boards.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

Wo-43

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Nun's Green  
Worcester County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland . ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The one-story kitchen wing is two bays wide and one room deep with a shed addition on the rear. The south end has a large interior end chimney, and the north end has two windows, one on each floor. The upper window provides light to a small room above the kitchen. All windows have 6/5 sash. The fireplace has a 5'8" opening supported by a large oak beam. No trim remains in this section. A kitchen was added on the east side of this wing circa 1961.

Connecting the kitchen and main block is a one-story hyphen, two bays wide and one room deep. An old porch is located along the east side of this section. The fireplace on the north wall shares the kitchen chimney; it has a plain mantel. Original chairrail and baseboard surround the room. The 4'3" wide door that leads from the hyphen into the main block is unusual in that it is a folding door of three leaves, each with four panels. It has original HL hinges.

The original brick walk leading to the west side of the house is in remarkably good condition. The walk incorporates ninety degree arches at each right angle, as depicted in the sketch (see floor plan).

In the early 1960's the owner of Nun's Green carried out an extensive structural upgrading of the house. This included replacement of all joists on the first floor and some termite weakened standing posts. All of the original window sash were replaced with like sash. The beaded clapboard walls duplicate the original. Both porches on the west facade were added at this time and will be removed during the present restoration. Eighteenth century floor boards from another structure are being laid on the first floor of the main block as part of the current restoration.

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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 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  
SIGNIFICANCE

Nun's Green is a classic example of the small, 18th century, Eastern Shore plantation house. The 1 1/2-story structure, with its high gables, low eaves, and delicate dormers, connected to a kitchen wing by a hyphen, is typical of lower Shore architecture. It is, however, one of only fourteen standing 18th century dwellings in Worcester County. There are four other dwellings with a three-part form like that at Nun's Green listed on the Worcester County Inventory of Historic Sites (Maryland Historical Trust): the Otho Aydelotte Farm (WO-38), the Mervin Selby house (WO-45), the Ryton farmhouse (WO-47), and the William Jones farmhouse (WO-73). All of these are early 19th century structures with one-story main block, hyphen, and kitchen. Nun's Green is thus the earliest of the three-part frame structure to survive in the county. The main block with dormers and brickend wall is larger and much more elegantly detailed than any of these other structures. The Georgian-style paneling has remained unaltered with stair and trim to match.

HISTORY

The exact date of construction of Nun's Green is not known but architectural details indicate mid-18th century. The deed trace revealed John Selby Sr. as having purchased adjacent tracts of land, titled Nun's Green, Good Hope, The Key, and Timber Quarter, between the years 1763 and 1770. Nun's Green was a land grant of 350 acres certified in the name of Matthew Scarborough in 1683 and purchased by Selby in 1763. The tracts of Good Hope (land grant 1685, 150 acres), The Key (land grant 1681, 100 acres), and Timber Quarter (land grant 1683, 250 acres) were subsequently acquired by Selby. By the time of the Tax Assessment of 1783 he owned over a thousand acres of land.<sup>1</sup> His farm plantation of Nun's Green was valued at 641 and included 430 acres, 7 slaves, 4 horses, and 12 cattle.<sup>2</sup> Few residents of Mattaponi Hundred had more property than John Selby.<sup>3</sup>

Little is known about John Selby except that he sold his farm to Peter Dickerson in 1824 and retired to a farm situated on the Chincoteague Bay called Paramore's Purchase.<sup>4</sup> He died in 1826.

The Dickerson family owned the farm plantation until 1879.<sup>5</sup> In that year, U.S. Senator Ephraim King Wilson purchased the farm. Senator Wilson was born at Scarborough's Castle, Worcester County, and his father was the distinguished barrister, Col. E. K. Wilson, Sr. Senator Wilson followed in his father's footsteps, practicing law in Snow Hill until 1867. In 1869 he was elected to the House of Representatives, and in 1878 he was appointed Judge by Governor John Lee Carroll. In 1887 he was elected to the U.S. Senate. He died in 1891.<sup>6</sup>

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Worcester County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland . ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

(SIGNIFICANCE continued)

Senator Wilson's son William Sidney inherited the farm and sold it in 1901 to William Scarborough. The property has changed hands several times since then and was purchased by the present owner in 1976.

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<sup>1</sup>Somerset/Worcester County Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>2</sup>Tax assessment of 1783, Worcester County, Mattaponi Hundred, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Deed AQ/106, Worcester County Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>5</sup>Op.Cit., Deed ITM 6/575.

<sup>6</sup>52nd Congress 1st Session. From Memorial Address on the Life and Character of E.K. Wilson, Government Printing Office, 1893.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

W0-43

PRIMARY SOURCES, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland  
 Census of 1790, Maryland.  
 Chancery Records, Worcester County  
 Tax assessment of 1783, Worcester County.  
 Worcester County Land Records.  
 Worcester County Probate Records.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Snow Hill Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	4, 6, 6	4, 7, 0	4, 2	2, 0	1, 4, 0
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B						
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	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
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	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
--	------	---------	----------	--	------	---------	----------

C						
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D						
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E						
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F						
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G						
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H						
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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

### 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

Edward P. Phillips, Jr.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Decatur Farm, Route 3, No. 236

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Berlin

Maryland 21811

## 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

7-26-79

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Nun's Green  
Worcester County  
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland • ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the south side of Cherrix Road about 600 feet east of its intersection with Maryland Route 12, following the south side of Maryland Route 12 east about 415 feet to a point, then moving southwest about 515 feet to a point, then northwest about 415 feet to a point, then northeast about 515 feet to the point of beginning, containing about 5 acres.

## Easement

Form 10-445  
(5 62)

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Worcester</u> TOWN <u>Snow Hill</u> VICINITY <u>Scarboro</u> STREET NO. <u>Rt 12</u> , <u>1st lane south of</u> <u>Chevie Rd (east)</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>W. T. Onley</u> PRESENT USE <u>vacant</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>frame + brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>1 1/2</u>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>WC-43</u>
	2. NAME  DATE OR PERIOD <u>18th Century</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u></span>	
<p>One of the best eighteenth-century small houses in Worcester County is owned by the W. T. Onley Canning Company and is located on Route 12, between Snow Hill and Girdletree. It consists of a one-and-a-half-story frame house with one brick gable, a hyphen and kitchen. In recent years the entire framing and exterior has been reinforced or renewed. The interior, however, has not been finished, only stripped of its old plaster and lath and made ready for installation of modern wiring, plumbing, etc.</p> <p>The main portion of the house consists of a stair hall, dining room and living room. The stair hall has some traces of paneled dado and a very fine close-string stair. There is a nine panel door set at the front door, but not hung.</p> <p>The dining room has diagonal fireplace with paneling</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior <u>fair</u> Exterior <u>good</u>	
<p>extending along the north wall. An unusual feature of the room is a paneled door which folds into three sections.</p> <p>East of the dining room is the living room which has a fully paneled north fireplace wall with glazed cupboard and a</p>	
<p>paneled dado. (continued on reverse side)</p>	
 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> <u>Maryland Historical Trust</u>  DATE OF RECORD <u>July, 1969</u>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

On the second floor are three small rooms lighted by two dormers on each side of the "A" roof and windows in the gable. There is also a supra-attic lighted by one small casement.

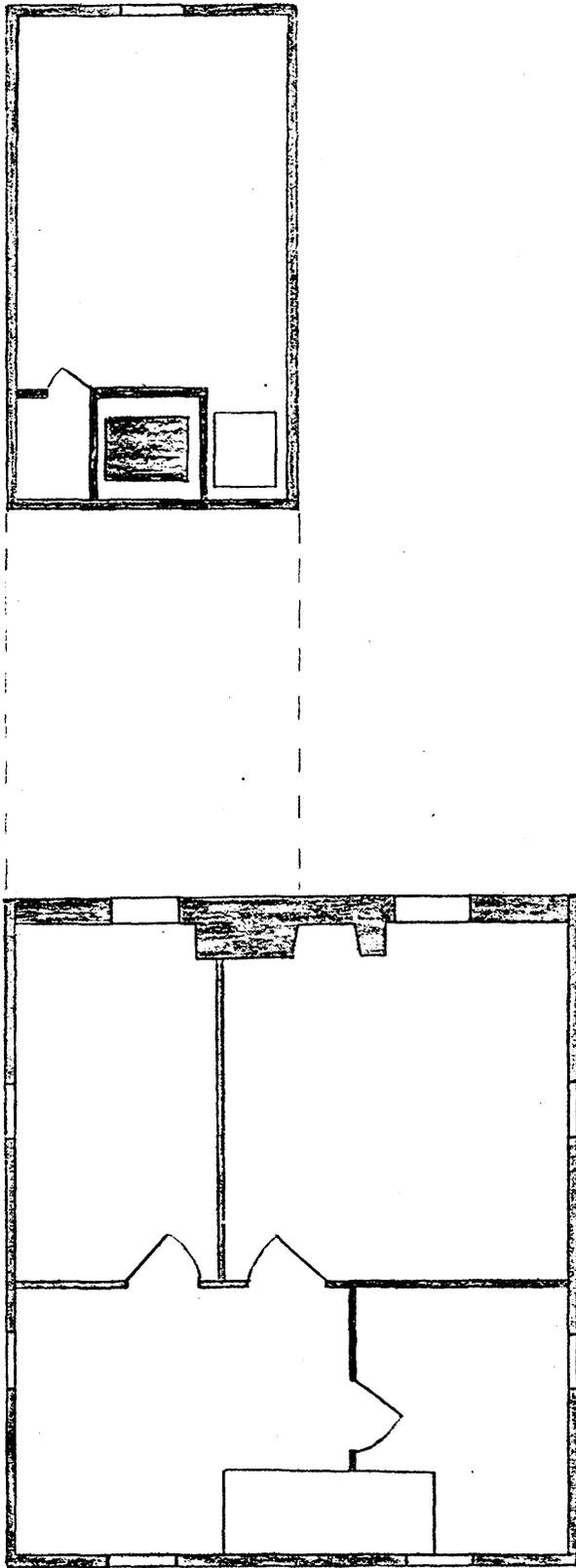
The hyphen and kitchen have been so renewed that only the fireplace in each is noteworthy. To the east of the latter two rooms is a series of utility rooms of recent construction.

Beneath the main portion is a full cellar with brick floor.

WO-43



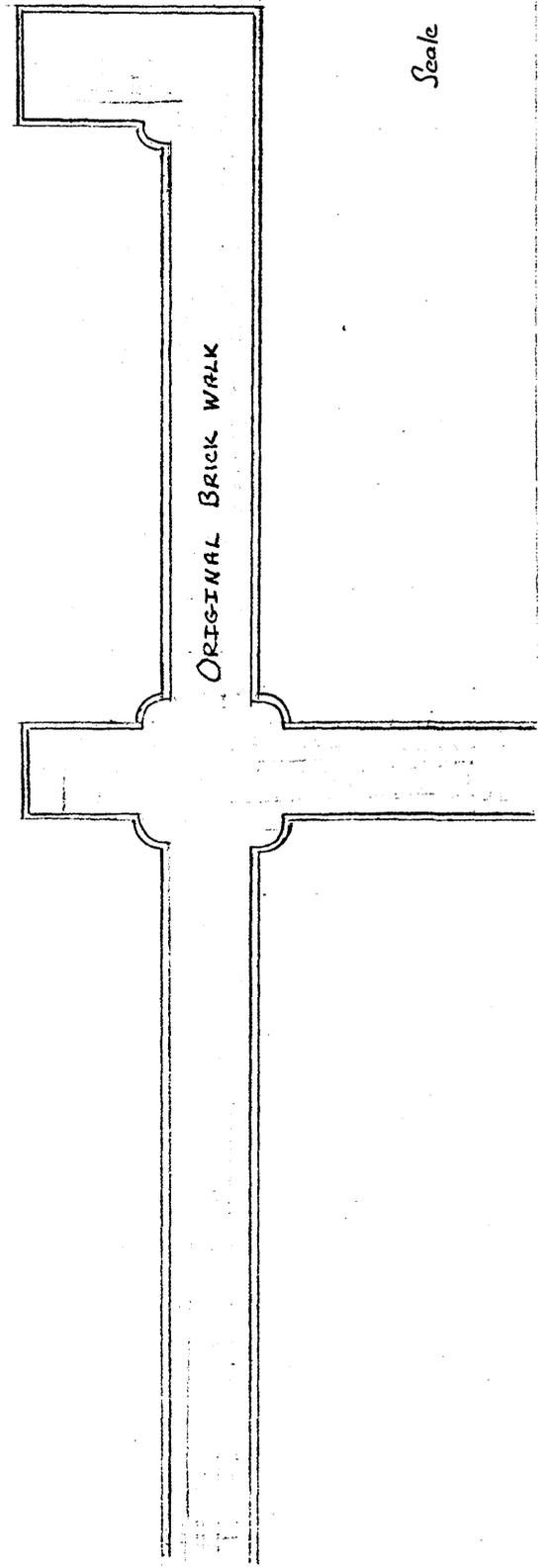
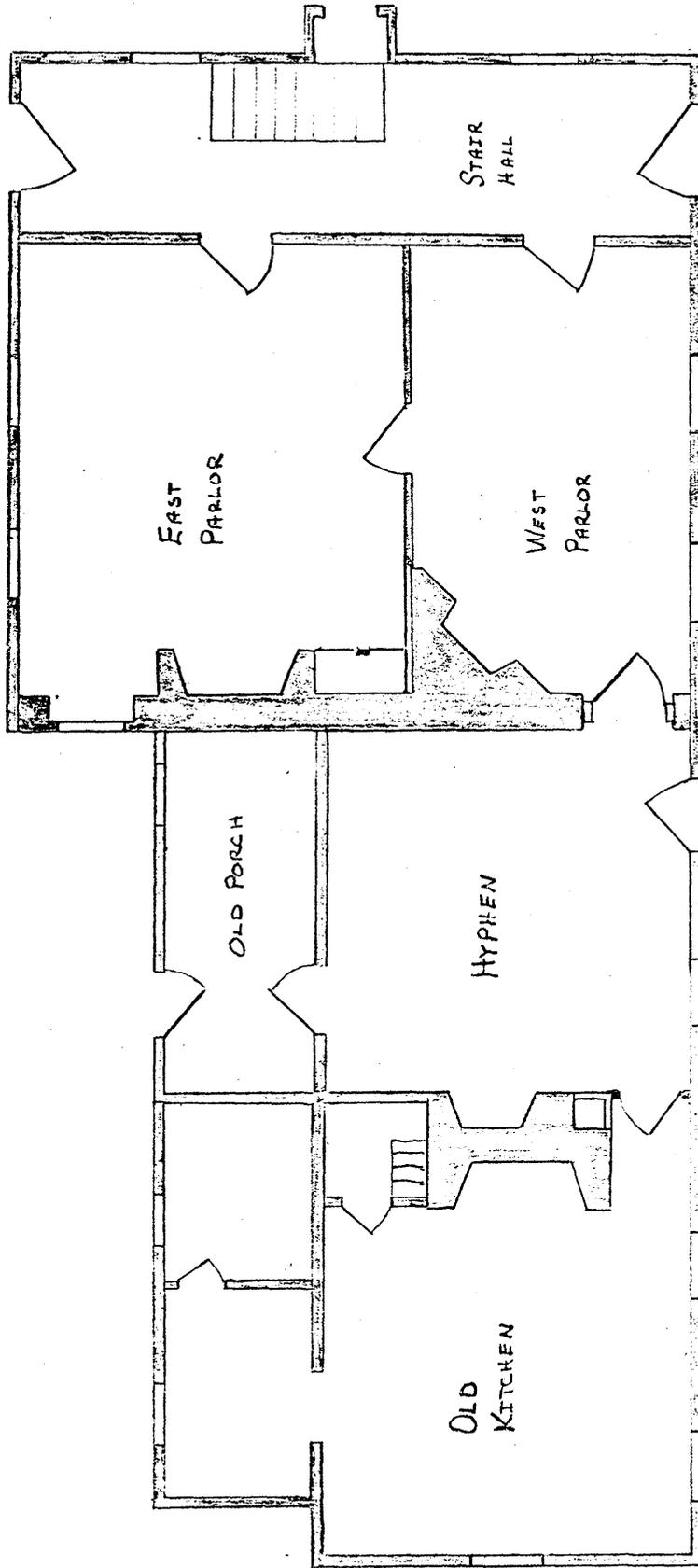
NUN'S GREEN, WORCESTER CO.  
2ND FLOOR PLAN



Scale  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$

A

NUN'S GR W, WORCESTER CO.  
1ST FLOOR PLAN

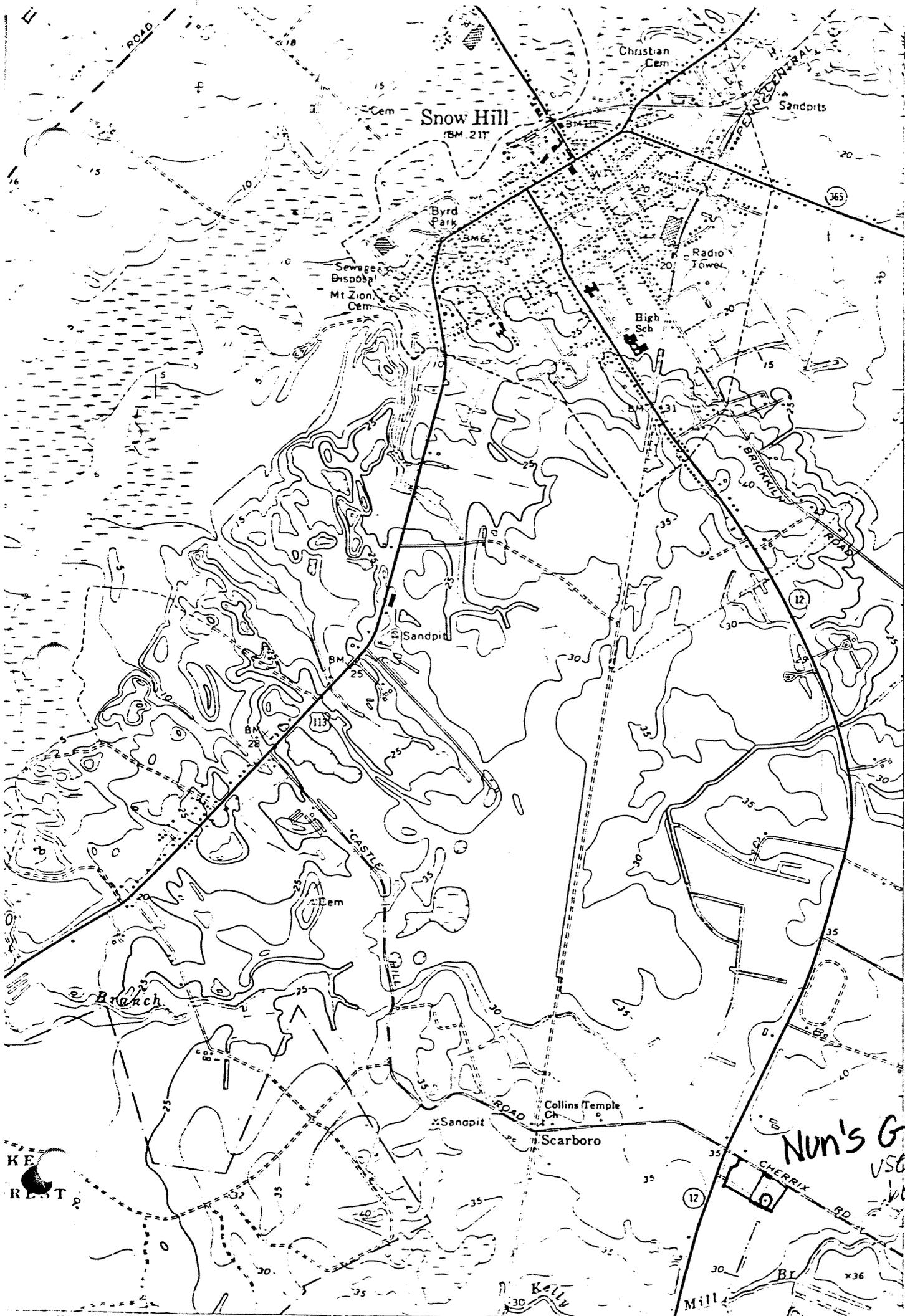


W0-43

Scale 1/8" = 1'  
EPP

WO-43

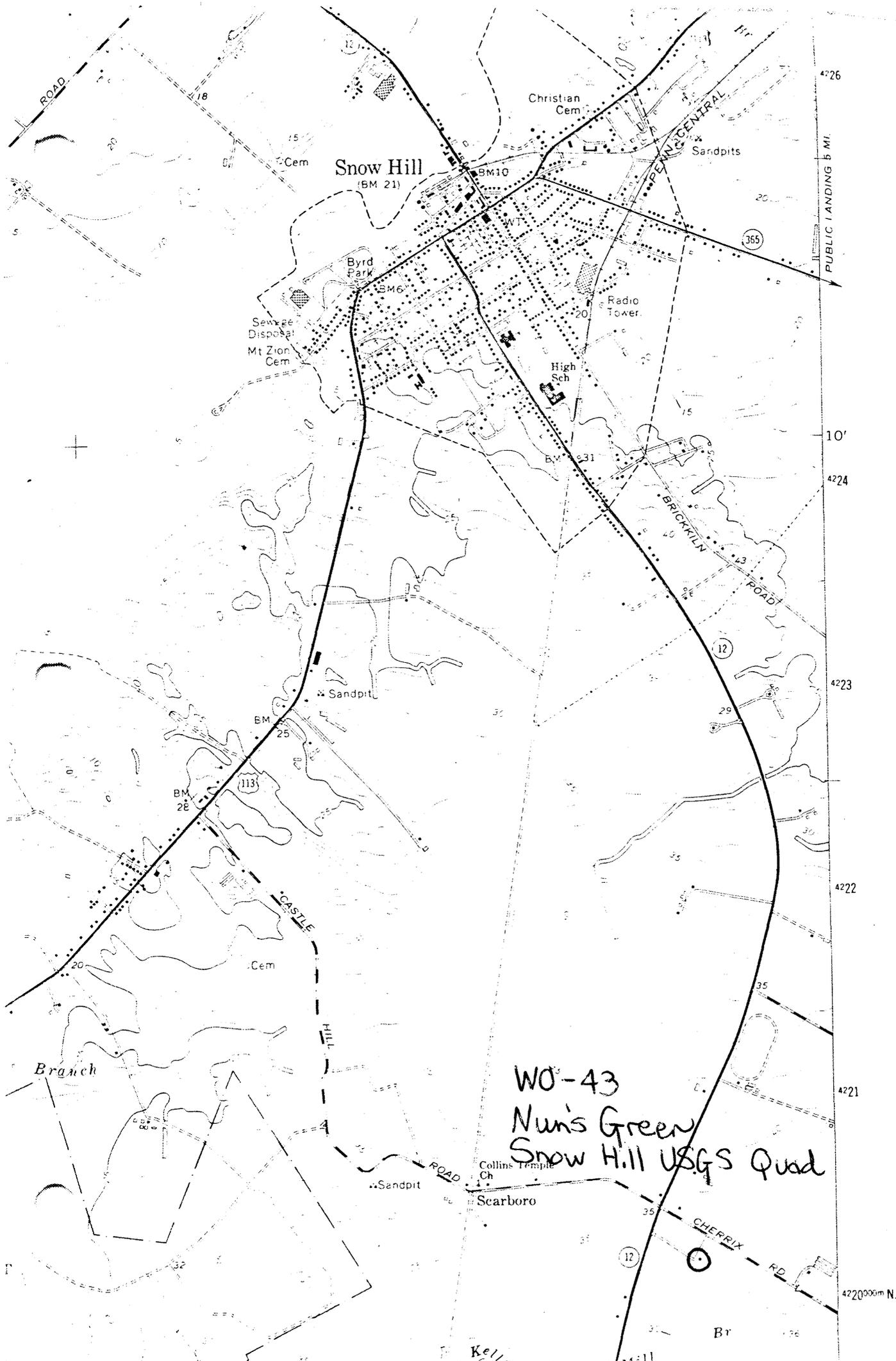
Snow Hill Quad



4226  
4274  
4273  
4272  
4271  
4220 (500m N)

Nun's Green  
use green boundary

38° 07' 30"



W0-43  
Nun's Green  
Snow Hill USGS Quad

Kell

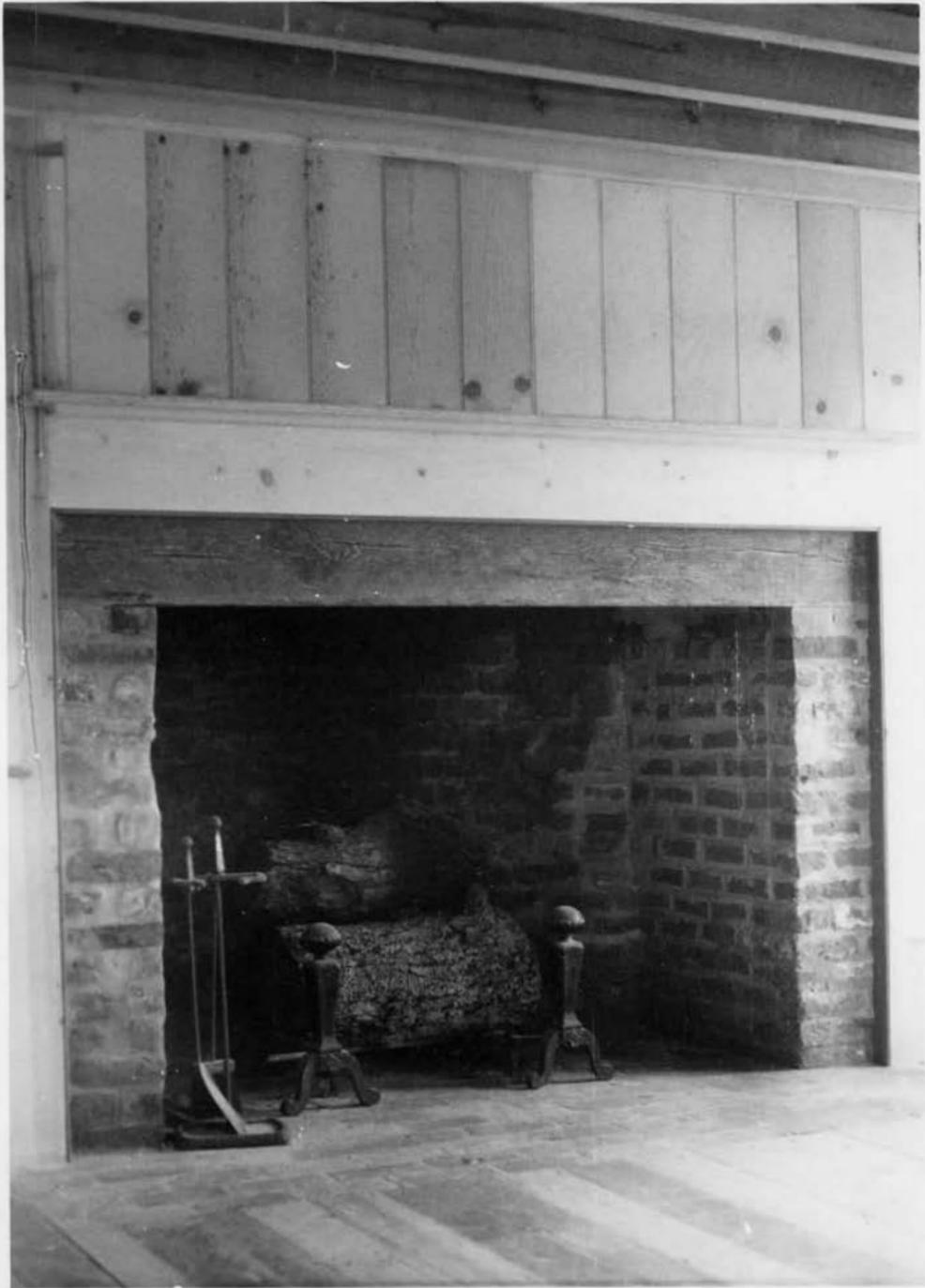


W0-43  
NUN'S Green

E.P. Phillips, Jr.

8/1/78

west parlor



W0-43  
Nun's Green

Edward P. Phillips, Jr.

8/1/78

old kitchen fireplace



NC-43  
Nun's Green

8/1/78

E. P. Phillips, Jr.

east parlor/great room



WO-43  
NUN'S GREEN

E. P. Phillips, Jr.  
8/1/78

east parlor / great room



WO-43  
Nun's Green

E. P. Phillips, Jr.  
8/1/78

sw facade



NO-43  
Nun's Green

E.P. Phillips, Jr.  
8/1/78

NW facade