

## Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: RS100001902

Date Listed: 4-20-2018

Property Name: Wild Goose Farm

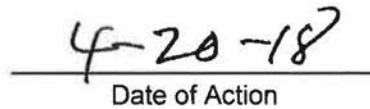
County: Jefferson

State: WV

---

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation

  
Signature of the Keeper

  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**The period of significance is changed to c.1810 to c.1920.** This period reflects the property's nomination under Criterion C for significance in Architecture. Construction ended in c. 1920.

**The level of significance is changed to Local.** The case has not been made for statewide significance in the nomination. The SHPO has been encouraged to investigate the significance of this property on a regional basis. The region should be defined according to the area that is similar to Kanawha County in geography and cultural, economic, and settlement history. The existing documentation presents significance in terms of Jefferson County only.

---

The WEST VIRGINIA SHPO was notified of this amendment.

---

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file**

**Nominating Authority** (without nomination attachment)

RS100001902

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin #39, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Wild Goose Farm  
Other names/site number: N/A  
Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 2935 Shepherd Grade Road  
City or town: Shepherdstown State: WV County: Jefferson  
Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national X statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

Susan M. Pierce 3/21/2018  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date  
West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official: Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

4-20-18  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>12</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>16</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/animal facility  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/animal facility  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/Greek Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/Colonial Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation	<u>STONE</u>
Walls	<u>WOOD/weatherboard</u> <u>STONE – springhouse, smokehouse,</u>
Roof	<u>METAL</u>
Other	<u>BRICK – chimney, icehouse</u>

### Narrative Description Summary Paragraph

With its many buildings and features, Wild Goose lies in the heart of a 173-acre land holding established in 1813 as a 187-acre tract, west of Shepherd Grade Road, north of Shepherdstown in Jefferson County, West Virginia. The land is a combination of cultivated fields, pasture and woodland that is watered by springs. The complex of buildings is an unusual collection, atypical in many ways from other 19<sup>th</sup>-century farmsteads in West Virginia's eastern panhandle. A gravel lane lined with stone fences, leading west from Shepherd Grade Road through iron gates, gives access to the Wild Goose farm. The complex includes a large irregular-shaped house with several components representing at least three major construction campaigns: ca. 1810, 1842-1845, and ca. 1911; a frame Pennsylvania type bank barn with an attached horse stable; a frame tenant house; a large cut-stone spring house; a stone smoke house/meat house; a stone and frame carriage shed; a brick ice house; a small frame octagonal building; a stone pump house; a stone building (perhaps a plantation office); a frame poultry house; a corn crib/wagon shed; and a stone-enclosed water tower. In addition to these buildings is a series of stone fences and retaining walls as well as roadways leading to the various sectors of the farmstead.

### Narrative Description

#### Integrity

For a National Register property, or in this case, a district, seven aspects of integrity help to convey the significance of a resource: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Fortunately, a contemporary (late 1880s) third-party description describes most of these aspects, though not delineated by topic per se.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

During the tenure of Henry Shepherd (1831-1891) historian-author F. Vernon Aler (1868-death unrecorded) visited Wild Goose while preparing his book on the history of Berkeley County (1888). As an appendix Aler included a biography of Henry Shepherd, Esq. (Jr.), "with the history of Wild Goose Farm" in which Aler described "One of the most attractive country seats in the Eastern portion of our Mountain State":

Looking out from a gently reclining hill, on the picturesque Potomac, with its varied and beautiful scenery, this old Virginia Homestead is one of those well remembered resorts, which in ante-bellum days were the pride and boast of the people of the South. This part was then owned by the late Mr. R.D. Shepherd, a wealthy and distinguished member of the family, by whom it was christened "Wild Goose Farm."

...Passing up a long avenue of well grown and carefully selected forest trees – beech, linden, maple, and others – we approach the mansion. Here on a knoll, embowered 'mid a profusion of waving willows, stately poplars, and quaking aspens, stands the residence, built in a quadrangular shape, with two extended wings – a pretentious frame structure of a comparatively modern architecture... We enter through a Gothic porch, a spacious hall, leading to the parlors, which are simply but richly furnished – skillfully reflecting mirrors and choice paintings adding to the pleasing effect. The library, adjoining, is a most unique and handsomely furnished room, and the dining and bed-rooms in elegance and taste correspond with the parlor and library. From a wide piazza, in a lovely window in front, we look down upon a miniature lake, on which sport the graceful swan, lordly geese and countless Muscovies.

A view of the garden presents a happy blending of the useful and ornamental – real vegetable gardening decorated... From the dwelling a fine gravelly walk leads down to the dairy and spring, while northward two white shelly roadways wind around a diamond-shaped centre plat, converging at the barn. The stables, in which the well-bred driving horses stand, are constructed after the best models, and the mangers furnished with the latest contrivances for safe feeding. The carriage room, with oiled floor, is equipped with barouches, phaetons, falling tops and village carts, while the room connecting exhibits a fine display of harness, most admirably arranged, – altogether affording the material for several handsome turnouts... Across from the stables is an octagon Japanese Pagoda, tastefully designed and painted, and surmounted by a gilt ball, weather cock and wild goose. Here stands the morning sentinel, who at appointed hours strikes the bell, giving signal and summons for all the workmen to repair to labor. The barn and extended range of stables are planned and equipped with a view to the greatest convenience and usefulness. A long row of painted shedding contains and shelters the various agricultural implements, all assorted and kept with the same system and care which mark everything about the premises. Hostlers and

**Wild Goose Farm**

Name of Property

**Jefferson County, WV**

County and State

watchmen are constantly on duty about the barn and stables, taking care of the property and the large herds of valuable cattle, sheep and hogs...Passing down the avenue from Wild Goose you behold dotted here and there over the farm, a number of modern style cottages where dwell the workmen in plenty, comfort and contentment...<sup>1</sup>

Although it appears from this 1880s description that Henry Shepherd did not make significant changes to the mansion house, he did add to the collection of outbuildings, in particular the “octagon Japanese Pagoda” that today (2018) stands on the north side of the lane running west from the house. The siding, decorative trim and interior molding indicates a post-war construction likely during Henry’s ownership. The “gilt ball, weather cock and wild goose,” later moved atop the barn, is currently in storage on the farm. Of the “modern style cottages” that were “dotted here and there” only one remains (now called the Tenant House), its center cross gable indicating its construction date from the Henry Shepherd ownership period. Not described by Aler but likely constructed during this time was the poultry house with board and batten siding and decorative ventilation cupola. It is also likely that the iron entrance gates to the farm date from this period.

In 2018 the district retains much of its integrity. Its location, design, setting, and materials have not changed. Indeed, ongoing renovations will rid the mansion house and surrounding structures of inappropriate alterations. The kitchen garden and fruit trees west of the smokehouse are overgrown but the current owners hope to reclaim both in the future as well as stabilize frail outbuildings. Despite this, two critical aspects remain: feeling and association. Any visitor must still enter between iron gates, drive the tree-lined lane flanked by stone fences to view a grand manor house situated on a knoll, surrounded by a series of 19<sup>th</sup> century dependencies whose design and location convey purpose. The complex impresses.

### Components

Taken as a whole, the farm collection has some characteristics linking it to the traditional local agricultural scene, but, as architectural historian John Allen notes about the house:

The house used a unique side-hall plan tucked behind the main building mass, interior chimneys, and unbalanced elevations. In this way, the amorphous plan of Wild Goose was a harbinger of what would become wildly popular in the Victorian era.<sup>2</sup>

From 1838 to 1911 the property was in the hands of various members of the Shepherd family, most of whom left a mark on the property. Rezin Shepherd purchased the property in 1841 and

---

<sup>1</sup> F. Vernon Aler, *A Full and Complete History of Martinsburg and Berkeley County, West Virginia. Past and Present* (Hagerstown, MD: The Mail Publishing Co., 1888), 441-443.

<sup>2</sup> John C. Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson, County, West Virginia, 1735-1835* (Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2011), 324.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

constructed much of the complex. Henry Shepherd added some buildings in the late 19th century, and after 1911, the next owner, Edwin Jarrett, made significant Colonial Revival style additions and alterations. The majority of the buildings date from the ownership of successful merchant, Rezin Shepherd. The buildings retain a high degree of architectural integrity as a collection portraying the genteel life of the prominent Shepherd family, and later, Edwin Jarrett, a semi-retired hydraulics engineer whose foundation designs underlay prominent tall buildings in New York City.

### Resource Inventory

Wild Goose Farm landscape, ca. 1840, 1 contributing site

The district comprises 173 acres, an area relatively unchanged from the mid-1800s. Viewed from Shepherd Grade Road, a cut stone fence parallels the roadway. A wrought-iron double-gate breaks the stone fence and opens to a gravel lane leading to the mansion-house. The term “mansion” or “mansion-house” applies. The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) defines a mansion-house as: “The house of the lord of a manor, the chief residence of a landed proprietor; hence (now only U.S.), a large house of good appearance.” The Wild Goose mansion-house is a large house of good appearance and was principal residence of Rezin Davis and his successors.<sup>3</sup> Perhaps what distinguishes an otherwise substantial farmhouse from a mansion-house is that the latter owner oversees or supervises work of the farm rather than performs manual labor. A lord of the manor may, or may not be, a farmer. While Rezin Shepherd and Edwin Jarrett farmed, they earned their respective fortunes from commerce and engineering.

Stone walls parallel the entrance drive and border other roadways on the property as illustrated in Figure 3a. Although the mansion-house cannot be seen from Shepherd Grade Road, the view east from the mansion-house is of a pond in the foreground and an undulating open field in the midground and distance (see photo 38), and heavily forested stands of hardwoods to the southeast. Integrity is not limited only to what can be seen, but also to what can be heard and smelled. Wild Goose is a quiet, bucolic farm that also smells like a farm with a mixture of pleasant and unpleasant odors (depending on season).

A view from the mansion-house to the west reveals the remainder of a kitchen garden, kitchen orchard, and small ornamental garden. Again, a cut stone wall separates the drive from this area. To the northwest are what remains of a multi-bay carriage shed that once housed vehicles Aler so aptly described. Farther west are fields that grew grain for the household and its livestock (see Figure 3b).

---

<sup>3</sup> In federal censuses for 1850 and 1860, Rezin Davis described himself a “farmer.” We may recall that George Washington and Thomas Jefferson also described themselves farmers, and in accordance with the OED, Mount Vernon and Monticello are mansion-houses in every sense. Henry Francis du Pont described himself a farmer; his Winterthur is readily a mansion-house.



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

To the northeast is a sunken cut-stone springhouse, its design and construction unlike any other in West Virginia. Beyond it is one of the largest bank barns in Jefferson County. Other buildings and structures are described in more detail. Aerial images of the property (see Figure 4) further help depict its size, shape, and location and orientation of buildings and structures.

The Wild Goose landscape was prominent in the mid-1800s. Agricultural censuses declare the value of Rezin Shepherd's farm at \$25,000 (1850) and \$33,200 (1860), among the highest in Jefferson County.<sup>4</sup> This figure becomes more significant when comparing the area of Wild Goose to other farms. Wild Goose had 250 acres; the adjoining farm which belonged to Henry Shepherd, Rezin's brother, measured 500 acres (twice that of his brother) and had a declared value of \$2,500. Per acre, then, Rezin's farm was twice as valuable as that of his brother. Unfortunately, records of Rezin Shepherd's farm operations and output are not known to have survived. Farm operation records of successive owners have also not survived.

As the nomination request is for a district, a discussion of land use is important. Any discussion of an historic landscape would need period documentation. Unfortunately, no period agricultural records are known to survive. Ethnobotany, the study of agricultural history through soil analysis of seed and pollen, is beyond the scope of this nomination. A land use map for Sharpsburg, Maryland, in 1862 is included as Figure 3c. The map reveals crops, orchards, fencing, and orchards. As Sharpsburg adjoins Shepherdstown (the two towns are divided by the Potomac River), perhaps crops depicted on the Sharpsburg map are similar to those in Shepherdstown.

What also must be considered is the time-honored farming practice of crop rotation. A wheat field may be in production for two years, then allowed to lie fallow or grazed. A benefit of grazing, especially by cattle, is the manure cattle produce. Manure and grasses (as opposed to a grain such as wheat) help rejuvenate a field. Continued use of a field for grazing, however, might lead to compacted soil that would be hard to plow and plant.

In the lower Shenandoah Valley commercial orchards replaced wheat in the late 1800s. Some orchards survive to date (2018). Wild Goose farm had a small kitchen orchard that provided fruit for its owners. There is no evidence that the Shepherds or Jarrett had a commercial orchard.

Mansion House, 1842-1845; earlier component, ca. 1810; modified, ca. 1911. 1 contributing building

*Exterior*

At the head of the entrance lane stands the main house, a wood sided frame building with an imposing square columned portico across the east elevation (Photo 1c). It is generally U-shaped with gabled roofs. The building is sided entirely with lapped wood weatherboarding, vertically sawn and with a small bead and attached for the most part with wire nails. The house exhibits

---

<sup>4</sup> Linda B. Green, *Virginia 1850 Agricultural Census*, Vol. 1 (Westminster, MD: Willowbend Books, 2006), 179.; Linda B. Green, *Virginia 1860 Agricultural Census*, Vol. 2 (Westminster, MD: Willowbend Books, 2006), 89.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

three main construction campaigns, one in the early 19th century, ca. 1810, comprising the west wing; the major construction phase in the 1840s, consisting of the east wing and hyphen linking to the pre-existing section, and a ca. 1911 Colonial Revival remodeling resulting in the east portico, raised roof, and dormer window additions.

East Elevation:

Added by Rezin Shepherd between 1845 and 1847, the east wing as a unit has a two-bay south-facing gable front with a recessed entrance bay constructed against its west wall. French doors open out to the east along the side elevation. To the west is the connection or hyphen linking to the “original” 1810 section of the house (west wing), creating a large U-shaped space. The east wing has three rooms on axis and gable front presentation with adjoining recessed entrance block. The east wing may be reminiscent of New Orleans and reflect builder Rezin Shepherd’s many years of residence in that city.<sup>5</sup> The east wing does not include the original block of the house. The preceding paragraph states that the west wing is the early 19<sup>th</sup> century component. The east wing was constructed in the 1840s, along with a hyphen that links it to the older west wing. As stated in this paragraph, the New Orleans influence appears in the narrow, gable front presentation with recessed entrance bay and single pile plan several rooms deep. This is reminiscent of Gulf Coast “shotgun” houses. The French doors add to the Gulf influence.

The east façade of the house is five bays in width, with French doors flanked with louvered shutters (Photos 1a – 2). A full-span, recessed portico, an early 20th century addition, is under the main roof span. Construction of the portico and attendant expansion of the roof system in height and width to accommodate the portico, increases the depth of the house by about one-third, and creates a third floor living space. The two-story portico columns are square and paneled, Colonial Revival style elements added in the early 20th century. The three central bays have a second story porch with French doors opening onto it and a Chippendale-reminiscent revival style balustrade. Second-story windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash. Five front-gable dormer windows extend from the east slope of the roof, also part of the early 20th century enlargement and renovation of the house. Three large brick chimneys, set with their long sides parallel to the roof ridge, extend from the east slope of the roof, just below the peak.

South elevation:

The south elevation is two stories in height with a one-story porch along the length extending from the west (rear) wall of the east wing, with octagonal columns (Photo 5). The one-story porch spans the length of the six-bay façade. Originally, the porch wrapped around the west elevation – west of the existing single-leaf entry -- but this section of the porch was enclosed in the early 20th century. Although the south elevation of the east wing projects forward from the

---

<sup>5</sup> Eleanor Burke, “Garden District Study Report,” Historic District Landmarks Commission, New Orleans, LA, 2006, 16-17. See also Roulhac B. Toledano, *Pattern Book of New Orleans Architecture*, (New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Company, 2010), 93-95, et. seq., for depictions of New Orleans buildings from contemporary Notary drawings.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

south elevation plane, this still adds three more bays to the south elevation: two bays within the south elevation of the east wing and one additional bay with the bay-width east portico. A flat pilaster forms the southwest corner of the east wing, matching the portico column at the southeast corner. The pilaster and column terminate with a frieze band running across the gable end of the east wing.

The eastern-most bay of the recessed portion of the south elevation features the main entrance of the house. The four-panel main entry door (Figure 6) is surmounted by a six-light transom and flanked by three-pane sidelights. A French door occupies the fourth bay from the west end of the south elevation. A third door with four panels situated beneath a three-light transom is in the west-most bay. All second-story windows have six-over-six, double-hung sash with louvered shutters. Three hip-roofed dormer windows extend from the south slope of the roof.

The three western-most bays of the south façade (door, window, window) may be an early, ca. 1810 component of the building, predating the construction of the east wing and the linking hyphen.

West elevation:

The west elevation consists of the now-enclosed wraparound porch (an early 20th-century alteration) in the first story and a semi-hexagonal projecting bay in the second story, over the former porch's roof. Within the gable end, three small, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows light the finished attic space (Photos 4 & 5). Most of the visible exterior features on the west elevation appear to date from the early 20th century.

North elevation:

The north elevation presents a complicated mix of features from several different time periods, each representing the three major building campaigns. Prominent among the features is a two-story gabled projection with a much lower height than the rest of the building. This projection creates the west leg of the U-shaped north elevation. A one-story porch with octagonal columns extends along the east façade of the projecting section, merging with a two-story gallery porch set under the main roof of the hyphen. Part of the first story of the two-story porch has been enclosed, probably in the early 20th century. A flight of steps leads up from the ground level to each leg of the U. The north elevation of the east wing has a semi-hexagonal projecting oriel bay, beneath which is access to the cellar and a cellar window. In addition, the north gable of the east wing has one additional first story window and two windows in the second story; all six-over-six, double-hung sash windows have louvered shutters. Three wood casement windows, flanked by louvered shutters, are within the east wing gable. Four hip roof dormers project from the north slope of the hyphen's roof.

The west projection retains a door and three small six-over-six windows with frames trimmed with ovolo molding of fairly small profile, indicating early 19th century construction. Other windows in this section have been replaced with larger six-over-six sash and do not have ovolo-

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

trimmed frames. This projecting west wing appears to be the oldest part of the house, predating the grand mansion house added to it in the 1840s.

Foundation, Roof and Chimneys:

The building rests on limestone foundations. The east wing's foundation is finely cut ashlar stone, while the remaining foundations are coursed rubble stone. Some of the foundations, such as those associated with the east façade's two-story porch, display raised round profile grapevine pointing characteristic of the early 20th century.

The entire roofing system is covered with standing seam sheet metal, painted red. Three chimneys extend from the east wing, just east of the roof ridge, serving fireplaces located along the east wall. They are oriented with their wide sides parallel to the roof ridge. One is near the center of the length of the wing and the others are set several feet in from the gable ends. In the hyphen area, there is one chimney at the west wing, which extends just south of the roof ridge.

*Interior General:*

The main entrance is located in the east bay of the hyphen along the south elevation. Greek Revival in style, it contains a four-panel door with sidelights and transom and opens into a formal stair and reception hall attached to the long side of the east wing.

Although major alterations occurred in the early 20th century, the 1840s floor plan and much of the trim and detailing remain intact. After the main 1840s construction campaign, the first floor had three rooms arranged on a north-south axis in the east wing, with the entrance hall adjacent to the east wing's west wall. Each of the three rooms had a fireplace, and each had French doors opening onto the east porch. The partition between the two front rooms was removed in the early 20th century, and the area was converted into one large space. The two original fireplaces were replaced by one large fireplace that was centered along the room's east wall. Architectural evidence of these changes remains in the cellar and in the flooring of the first-floor parlor (also referred to as the "Ballroom"). The second-floor plan remains intact.

First Floor:

The entrance hall (Photo 7) is a large open space with opposing front and rear doors. The rear doors open onto the back porch, now enclosed. A wide "archway" opens into the large double parlor (i.e., "Ballroom") to the east. The staircase occupies the northwest corner of the room. The stair is a cantilevered circular neoclassical element with round balusters, two per step. The rounded hand rail curls at the base around a delicate, turned newel post. Panels under the lower portion of the stairway are double fielded, trimmed with Grecian Ogee molding. The paneled dado along the wall leading up the stairs and in the rest of the hallway has different molding with delicate neoclassical revival character, likely part of the early 20th century renovation. Doors are trimmed with symmetrically molded architraves with decorated corner blocks.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

The large opening in the east wall leads into the parlor (the “Ballroom”, Photo 9), a room with two windows in the south wall and two windows in the east wall. In addition, two sets of French doors open onto the east porch. The windows and French doors are trimmed with symmetrically molded architraves and decorated corner blocks. Centered in the east wall of the room is a large formal fireplace with a Neoclassical Revival mantel with a molded oval central panel. The flooring is tongue and groove pine, but a spline running across the room and carpet tack hole patterns indicate the location of an original partition across this room.

The northernmost room in the east wing, the library, has an oriel window in its north wall and a set of French doors in the east wall opening onto the east portico. A fireplace in the east wall has a black marble mantelpiece, Greek Revival in style (Photo 10). This room can be accessed from the parlors or from the rear hallway which was once an exterior porch.

To the west of the entrance hall is the dining room (Photo 8), forming the hyphen attaching the east wing to the modest first period frame house on the property. On the south wall are two windows and French doors that open onto the south porch. On the north wall are triple-sash windows that open onto the north gallery porch. A fireplace flanked by two doors, one leading to the kitchen and the other to the billiard room fills the west wall. The mantelpiece is Neoclassical Revival, probably dating from the early 20th century. Window and door trim is deeply molded and symmetrical with decorated corner blocks.

The room west of the dining room (“Billiard Room”) may be a component of the pre-1840s dwelling on the property but was greatly modified during the 1840s construction. In the east wall of the west room is a fireplace, back to back with the one in the dining room. It has a black marble Greek revival style mantelpiece with flat pilasters. A door cuts diagonally across the northeast corner of the room, opening into an entryway leading to the kitchen and dining room. A door on the south side of the fireplace opens into the dining room. This room has two windows facing south onto the rear porch.

To the west of the Billiard Room is a stair and entrance hall for this section of the building. The staircase could date from the 1810s-1820s, with a round turned newel post and round handrail rising up to a sweeping “goose neck” to the second-floor landing. In the south wall, a door opens onto the porch. In the north wall, a door opens into a breakfast room, which is in part of the area of the enclosed porch that dates to the early 20th century.

From the breakfast room, stairs lead down to the cellar, and beyond that is the kitchen, a modern single room within the shell of what appears to be the oldest part of the house, dating from the early 19th century (ca. 1810). To the west of the kitchen are additional rooms, including a butler’s pantry added as part of the porch infill and extension in the early 20th century.

The second-floor plan is similar, although it retains the original three rooms-on-axis in the east wing which had been altered on the first floor. The third floor was added and finished in the early 20th century with the installation of dormer windows, raising of the roof, particularly to accommodate the east side portico. The cellar has basic divisions of space matching the rooms

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

above. A kitchen with fireplace is located beneath the library at the north end of the east wing (Photo 12). An intact dumbwaiter remains in place in the passageway beneath the now-enclosed rear porch (Photo 13). In the south room of the east wing in the cellar, scrawled into the rough plaster over an interior supporting wall is the date 1842. This may mark the beginning of the construction of the east wing of Wild Goose.

Smokehouse, ca. 1845, 1 contributing building

A stone smokehouse stands directly to the west of the main house (Photo 14). A square hip-roofed building, it has a door in its east elevation, and vertical ventilator slits in the other walls. The building is constructed of roughly coursed rubble limestone, very unlike the highly-refined masonry of the springhouse. Part of the back (west side) of the building is roughcast, and possibly the entire structure was once covered with stucco. The door has four panels trimmed with Grecian Ogee molding. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal. Inside, a chamfered post reaches to the apex of the roof, joining the four hip rafters.

Carriage shed and dovecote, ca. 1845, 1 contributing building

Immediately north of the smokehouse and along the driveway that wraps around the house and continues to the barn and other outbuildings, is a six-bay carriage shed (Photo 14) with a four-window-bay enclosure at its north end. The shed roof slopes downward to the rear or west. The west wall of the building is roughly coursed rubble limestone, as well as the end walls, with the area within the slope of the shed being frame. There are six open bays supported by square posts followed by the enclosed section. The four more northerly of the open bays have dovecote openings for pigeons along the lintel. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal.

Springhouse (wash house), ca. 1845, 1 contributing building

Sitting to the northeast and at the base of the hill upon which the main house stands is a multi-purpose springhouse/washhouse and dairy (Photos 15 – 19). A pathway paved with flat stones set within cut stone curbing leads from the back of the main house down to the springhouse. The springhouse is a four-bay gable roofed building, two bays wide. Set below ground level, it is surrounded on all four sides by coursed limestone retaining walls capped with cut stone coping. The level space surrounding the building is paved with square cut flag stones. The building is constructed of finely cut ashlar stone with narrow “butter” joints. It has an overhanging portico supported by square columns and with a pedimented gable on the west end. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal, and a brick chimney extends from the interior.

On its south elevation, the springhouse has four bays, arranged door, window, window, door. Large lintel blocks top the openings. Doors and windows have narrow mitered frames with a bead at the inner edge. Windows have remnants of nine over six light sash with louvered shutters. Doors have four panels with Grecian ogee trim and are hung beneath four-light transoms.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

The interior of the building divides into three spaces, a room at the west end which contains a channel for the spring, and the rest of the space divided into two rooms, on a small narrow space with a drain channel, a dairy, and a wash area with a fire box with two boiler units.

As Lauren Kelly reminds, architectural historian John Allen said of the Wild Goose springhouse/washhouse/dairy “no other building has such precise and sophisticated masonry.” Allen illustrated and described the structure in detail and declared it the finest example of its kind in the county.<sup>6</sup>

Gardens, contributing site (included in farm landscape discussion, not included in count)

Partially enclosed by the carriage shed and smokehouse on the east side and stone walls on the remaining sides is the area that once was the Wild Goose garden. Essentially, the space at the present time could be considered an unmaintained grassy lawn. The ground is level. There is a brick-lined well adjacent to the west side of the stone smokehouse, and several poured concrete cold frame forms remain along the north wall. Near the center of the garden are two rectangular flat stones joined at the center. At the center of each stone, a square cut out forms a type of mortise hole. The purpose of this stone structure is not known at this time. The former garden space is dotted with mature but barren fruit and nut trees as well as some evergreens along the perimeter. The area is fairly large: roughly 520 feet (east to west) by 250 feet (north to south). This area is best viewed in Figure 3, “Aerial view of Wild Goose complex.”

Water Tower and Reservoir, early twentieth century, 1 contributing structure

In a wooded area to the southwest of the main house stands a stone encased water tower/reservoir (Photo 20). The reservoir consists of two cast iron cylinders, one atop the other. The bottom cylinder has a larger circumference and has largely rusted away. The taller, narrower top cylinder rises well above the base and the stone encasement (Photo 21). A limestone structure with a spiral stone staircase wraps around the lower cylinder. The stairway leads to a deck on top of the lower cylinder. An entrance in the lower level of the stone structure opens to the base of the cylinder. Cast iron pipes lead into and out of the reservoir.

Stone building, ca. 1845, 1 contributing building

Located along the roadway leading west into the fields from the building complex, this is the last building encountered (Photos 23-24). It stands on the south side of the road with its gable end facing onto the road. The function of this building is not known, but it may have been a farm or plantation office. Constructed of coursed limestone with traditional V-joint pointing, it has large stone “lintels” over the openings, typical of the second quarter of the 19th century in stone

---

<sup>6</sup>Lauren Kelly, “Shepherdstown’s Wild Goose Farm: A Symbol of Jefferson County’s Captivating History.” *The Observer* (February 2018), 28, quoting Allen, 138. For a discussion of renovations to properties on Shepherd Grade and the construction of Popodicon, see Lauren Kelly, “Stuart Edmonds and the Colonial Revival,” *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society*, vol. LXXXIII, (December 2017), 23-35.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

buildings of the lower Great Valley. It is a two-bay building with only a door in the east elevation, opening onto the gardens, a door in the north wall, opening onto the lane, two windows in the west wall and a long, low window in the south wall. All are framed with pegged mortised and tenoned frames of moderate width. The east door has a three-light transom. Beside the north window in the west wall, carved into the stone is the name William Wells and the date 1868. Wells, described as mulatto, was listed on the 1880 census record for Henry Shepherd, working as a coachman. The building has a standing seam roof.

The interior appears to have been refinished in the late 19th century. It is covered with horizontal beaded paneling, similar to that found in the octagonal sentry's house. Bracket shelves on the wall, and the remnant of a wood rack for filing or storing small items remains. Trim around the openings on the interior appears to date from the late 19th century and is similar to that in the sentry house.

Frame Octagonal "Sentry Station," ca. 1880, 1 contributing building

This small frame octagonal building (Photo 25) stands on the north side of the west-leading lane, just beyond the ice house. Covered with German siding with ample windows and doors, it is described as an "octagon Japanese Pagoda" in F. Vernon Aler's history of Wild Goose published in 1888 (Aler 1888:441-443): "tastefully designed and painted, and surmounted by a gilt ball, weather cock and wild goose. Here stands the morning sentinel, who at appointed hours strikes the bell, giving signal and summons for all the workmen to repair to labor." The interior is finished with a wooden tongue and groove floor, tongue and groove horizontal paneling and molded window and door trim. A bracket shelf remains on one wall.

Ice House, ca. 1911, 1 contributing building

Along the stone wall-lined west lane is a gable roofed brick ice house with a deeply overhanging standing seam sheet metal roof (Photo 26). Inside, the ice house has a deep wooden floor and shelving along the upper wall. One board is inscribed with the painted name ES Jarrett, who purchased Wild Goose in 1911.

Pump House, ca. 1911, 1 contributing building

At the north end of the carriage shed, the driveway intersects with another lane heading west along a stone-walled track leading to gardens and fields beyond and lined with various utility buildings. The easternmost building is a stone pump house (Photo 27), which probably dates from the early 20th century, since it is not mentioned in the history of Wild Goose Farm book published in F. Vernon Aler's 1888 history of Martinsburg and Berkeley County. The two-bay by one-bay building is constructed of roughly coursed limestone with raised mortar joints. The gabled roof overhangs deeply on all sides and is covered with standing seam sheet metal. A door in the south wall opens into a single room with a large metal tank, cast iron pipes and an antique pump.



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Tenant House, ca. 1880, 1 contributing building

To the west of the barn behind an approximately seven-foot-high retaining wall is a frame tenant house (Photos 28-29). Resting on low limestone foundations it is a three-bay one and a half story dwelling with a one-story L to the rear. It faces south and has a prominent central front cross gable. German siding covers the walls and standing seam sheet metal the roof. Shed roofed porches extend across the entire front elevation and the east wall of the L-extension. Brick chimneys extend from inside each gable end.

Behind and to the west slightly of this house is a stone fireplace/chimney, a remnant of some other building or dependency for the tenant house (Photo 29a).

Barn and attached buildings and structures, ca. 1845, 1 contributing building

The barn complex (Photos 30 – 33) stands north of the house and the springhouse. The centerpiece of this connected grouping is the frame Pennsylvania type bank barn dating from 1842-1845. It faces south and has a closed forebay (Photos 31 – 32), resting on the extended limestone foundation walls. Attached to the west side of the south elevation of the barn is a long row of shed-roofed bays (Photo 33), also dating from 1842-1845, to house livestock and a harness room. A drive-through bay attaches this shed extension to the barn. Behind the barn at its northeast corner is a poured concrete stave silo, probably dating from the 1910-1920 period. The barnyard is walled with a coursed limestone fence, fallen in places. Cut stone coping tops the fence. A distinctive feature is a round arched opening at the juncture of the fence and the stone forebay wall (Photo 31), presumably creating an opening for livestock to exit the barnyard into the pastures. The arch stones are finely cut and the structure is topped with the same finely cut cap stones as the rest of the fence. Additionally, the walkway under the forebay and along the front of the livestock sheds is paved with coursed stones edged with cut stone curbing (Photo 32).

The barn is a braced frame structure constructed of hewn timbers and is typical of the Pennsylvania, Maryland, eastern West Virginia and northern Virginia cultural region. The siding has been replaced and windows added in recent years along with a polygonal cupola mounted with the Wild Goose weather vane. The barn's roofing material is modern snap-joint enameled metal roofing simulating standing seam metal. The lower level of the barn is very intact with two-leaved batten doors, mortised and tenoned and pegged frames and transoms; and windows with horizontal wood bars, all typical of the local region. The floors are paved with brick in a herringbone pattern, stretched side up.

The sheds retain their original beaded vertical siding. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal. The two southernmost bays of the sheds are finely finished stalls with paneled interiors and quarter-arched windows between them. These presumably housed prize horses. The northernmost bay was for storage of harness, with hooks and hangers attached to the walls and ceilings. The area along the sheds and under the forebay is paved with cobblestones.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Wagon shed/corn crib, ca. 1880, 1 contributing building

East of the poultry house is a frame, gable roofed wagon shed/corn crib (Photo 35). Although these structures are quite common on farmsteads of the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, this one is unusual in that the corn crib is central with the wagon bays on the outsides. Regional wagon sheds have a central wagon bay with the corn cribs on the outside. This building rests on brick piers and is covered with vertical siding, much of which has been replaced. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal.

Poultry House, ca. 1880, 1 contributing building

From the carriage shed, the main road to the building complex leads straight ahead toward the barn and agricultural buildings, crossing the lane to the west which led to the ice house, pump house and plantation office. Just north of the intersection of the two lanes, the road to the barn turns to the east and proceeds along the west side of the barns. To the west of this road is a tall stone retaining wall, the poultry house (Photo 36) and a wagon shed/corncrib.

The poultry house is a gable roofed frame building with vertical board and batten siding. It is covered with a deteriorated wood shingle roof and topped with a square cupola with louvered vents. The building is divided into two chambers with a loft above. Each chamber has a door and a window in the east façade, and at each end a small arched opening for the birds to enter and exit. The interior features feed bins and nesting boxes.

Stone walls, fences and curbing, 1842-1845, 1 contributing structure

A significant visual aspect of the Wild Goose complex is the extensive network of stone walls (fences), retaining walls, paving and curbing (Photo 39). While stone fences are common in the limestone studded eastern panhandle of West Virginia, the formal cut stone walls at Wild Goose are rare in the county, according to architectural historian John Allen, and are extraordinary in their extent and in the use of expert stone cutting for much of the work. This is evident in the cut cap or coping stones on the top of the walls and fences, cut stone gate posts, and cut curb stones defining roadways and walkways.

Pair of Iron Entry Gates, ca. 1842-1845, 1 contributing object

At the entrance to the Wild Goose property from Shepherd Grade, a pair of stone gate posts support iron entry gates, with ornamental lettering identifying the entrance as "Wild Goose." The gates remain open as they are too fragile to open and close. Low iron fencing flank the gates (see Photos 1, 1a, and 1b).

Ponds, ca. 2010, 2 non-contributing structures

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Non-contributing to the property are two large, possibly manmade ponds (Photo 38) along the entrance driveway, dating from ca. 2010. However, an 1888 description of Wild Goose mentions a “miniature lake” with swans and geese in front of the house (Aler 1888:441-443).

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

---

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

**Period of Significance**

1810-1940

**Significant Dates**

Ca. 1810

Ca. 1842-1845

Ca. 1880

Ca. 1920

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

Wild Goose Farm, a nearly 200-acre farming complex that lies in the Shepherdstown vicinity in Jefferson County, West Virginia, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level under Criterion C for its architectural expression. Unlike any other building in Jefferson County, the 10,000-square foot mansion house is not only a fine example of the melding of several styles including Greek Revival from the 1840s – with a New Orleans influence - and the twentieth-century Colonial Revival accretions, the farm also includes an intact assemblage of agricultural dependencies and other ancillary buildings, among them, a rare and notable cut-stone springhouse constructed in a style reminiscent of a Greek temple. The three-room building, set below ground level, is surrounded by a high stone retaining wall and a stone terrace and its interior includes fine brass fixtures. Most of the remaining agricultural and domestic outbuildings are common buildings but still manage to exhibit individual design elements. In addition, the farm retains many of its historic stone fences and the iron entry gates with the “Wild Goose” name and the goose weathervane mentioned in several historic descriptions of the farm. Wild Goose Farm retains a high degree of historic integrity and conveys its historic associations from its Period of Significance, 1810 – 1940.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The nominated property known as Wild Goose Farm includes the 173 acres now currently associated with the farm setting being the bulk of the historic 187-acre core parcel. Contributing buildings and structures include the mansion house, smokehouse, springhouse/dairy, carriage house, pump house, icehouse, pagoda, garden house/plantation office, tenant house, chimney

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

remnant, poultry house, corn crib/wagon shed, barn, stone fences, and the iron entrance gates (Photos 1, 1a, 1b). The Period of Significance begins ca.1810 with the construction of the first small frame house later incorporated into the 1842-1845 construction of the R.D. Shepherd mansion house, and includes the ca.1880 improvements by Henry Shepherd and the ca.1920 Colonial Revival changes made by Edwin S. Jarrett, ending in 1940 with Jarrett's death.

This nomination recognizes and includes in the resource count, many stone walls, fences, and iron entry gates. These resources contribute to the integrity of Wild Goose Farm as do remnants of a formal ornamental garden, kitchen garden, and orchard. Likewise, the nomination recognizes the potential value of archeology to determine locations of buildings no longer standing (slave quarters), plant species (paleoethnobotany), and early human habitation. Archeology is simply beyond the means of this study.<sup>7</sup>

Wild Goose History and Historic Context

Wild Goose Farm is located north of Shepherdstown in the area of a large loop in the Potomac River known as Terrapin Neck. This section was among the earliest settlements along the Upper Potomac in then-Virginia (now West Virginia) with settlers documented there as early as 1736 during a survey of the Fairfax Northern Neck Proprietary land. A tract of 1,200 acres just northeast of Wild Goose Farm was part of the infamous Jost Hite versus Lord Fairfax land dispute that lasted into the early 19th century and established the Abraham Shepherd family as a major land-owner on Terrapin Neck.

Through much of the later 18<sup>th</sup> century development on Terrapin Neck, the Wild Goose tract was part of a larger plantation tract owned by John Stipp. Stipp had a manor house south of today's Wild Goose Farm and in 1803 advertised for sale "the plantation on whereon I now live, containing 462 acres." Stipp also identified "3 good Dwelling Houses" on the property, indicating the farm was equipped with two houses in addition to his own manor house. Since Stipp was assessed on the 1798 Berkeley County House Tax for just one house, and his son John Stipp, Jr. for one house, it appears that Stipp may have constructed a new third house in order to sell his land. Two years later in 1805, Stipp sold a 121-acre parcel – part of what would eventually form the core of the Wild Goose Farm – to his son George.<sup>8</sup> The George Stipp house, may be the small frame house that presently serves as the kitchen wing of the Wild Goose manor house, which appears to date from around the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

One of the selling points for the Stipp plantation noted in the newspaper advertisement of 1803 was that the farm was "1 [mile] from Potomack River, 75 from Baltimore, 60 from the Federal City, and 70 from Alexandria, (produce may be taken down by water to either of the latter

---

<sup>7</sup> The Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Department of the Interior) conducted extensive archeology on its property (National Conservation and Training Center) adjoining Wild Goose Farm. The report documented "human habitation dating 8,000 years." See Dan Everson, "A History of the National Conservation and Training Center Property and Surrounding Area," *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society*. Vol. LXX, December 2004, 47.

<sup>8</sup> Reference in Jefferson Co. (JC) Deed Book (DB) 6, p. 82.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

places.)” The transportation of agricultural products from the Upper Potomac region to major city markets and the Chesapeake Bay ports was dependent on poorly maintained roads. Wagons could transport only small amounts of produce over such long distances thus making this an expensive travel (or transportation) proposition. Beginning as early as the late 1760s and continuing through the 1820s, an attempt to shift that transportation to the Potomac River as a primary artery was in full swing. In 1769, the Virginia Assembly heard a Bill which stated that “extending the Navigation of Potowmack River from the Great Falls of the said River up to Fort Cumberland will be of great benefit and advantage as well to the Inhabitants of the interior parts of the Colony...”<sup>9</sup> But it wasn’t until after the Revolutionary War that work making the upper Potomac River navigable was begun by the Patowmack Navigation Company headed by George Washington. Active boating of goods down the river began around 1798 and continued into the 1820s.

Although the seasonal variations of the river limited its usefulness as a permanent transportation corridor, farmers in the northwestern counties of Virginia and western Maryland found it a viable option as opposed to the rugged “waggon road.” Farms located along the Potomac River like John Stipp’s plantation, had a distinct advantage in that they did not have far to transport their produce to the river ports of Shepherdstown or Williamsport in Maryland. This advantage continued with the advent of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, beginning in 1828, which paralleled the Potomac River on the Maryland side. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, also started in 1828 and was routed through Jefferson County, quickly surpassed the canal as the primary transportation route for agricultural products. These transportation developments enhanced the agricultural development of northwestern Virginia and western Maryland.

In 1810, Shepherdstown merchant James S. Lane purchased part of the John Stipp plantation, a 187-acre tract from George Stipp and his father John Stipp, Sr.<sup>10</sup> The sale price of \$5,599 indicates the farm was well-improved. When the Lane estate was divided in 1828, the 187 acres called “George Stips [sic] Farm” were conveyed to the heirs of Martha C. (Lane) Webb. Then in 1829, John S. Webb of White County, Illinois sold the tract to neighbor Van Swearingen, “subject to a life estate held therein by George Webb as tenant.”<sup>11</sup> Swearingen, whose home farm called River View adjoined the 187-acre tract to the north, held the land for eight years. At the time the Van Swearingen heirs sold the land to Charles M. Shepherd in 1838, the parcel size had grown from 187 acres to 194 acres following the addition of a seven-acre strip of land; the sale price was \$10,072.<sup>12</sup>

By 1840, the Terrapin Neck neighborhood was dominated by Shepherd family holdings. In light of the prominent position within the community, Abraham Shepherd, son of Shepherdstown founder Thomas Shepherd, acted as advocate for the plaintiffs in the extended Hite vs. Fairfax land dispute, a case that lasted into the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The end result of the

---

<sup>9</sup> Grace L. Nute, ed., “Washington and the Potomac Manuscripts of the Minnesota Historical Society, [1754] 1769-1796,” reprinted from the *American Historical Review*, Vol. XXVIII, no. 3, April 1923, 503.

<sup>10</sup> JC DB 6, p. 82.

<sup>11</sup> JC DB 15, p. 330.

<sup>12</sup> JC DB 24, p. 260.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

dispute's settlement was Abraham Shepherd's acquisition of a large amount of the disputed land - including part of the historic Swearingen family estate known as Springwood - in payment for his services.

In 1822, Abraham Shepherd died and his estate was divided among his children – Rezin D., Henry, James H., Abram, Ann, Eliza, and Charles Moses.<sup>13</sup> Abraham Shepherd's probate inventory indicates a farm operation that focused on livestock to a larger degree than many of his neighbors. His holdings included 64 hogs, 26 beef cattle, 190 head of sheep, 5 horses, and 5 milch (milk) cows. The farm produced staple grains, including wheat, rye, oats, corn, and flax seed, as well as a "large Apple Orchard." Some of these products were processed on site in two (2) stills and twenty (20) still tubs; on hand was 110 gallons of apple brandy.<sup>14</sup>

Rezin Davis (R.D.) Shepherd was the oldest son of Abraham Shepherd. R.D. Shepherd apprenticed in a Baltimore merchant house beginning at the age of 16 in 1800. From there, he was sent to New Orleans in 1802, just as the Louisiana Territory became a part of the United States. Rezin Shepherd thrived in New Orleans, eventually establishing his own merchant house and nearly cornering the sugar trade there. He served under Commodore Patterson during the War of 1812 and was best known for saving the life of his good friend and Boston merchant Judah Truro. By the time of his father Abraham's death in 1822, R.D. Shepherd was already worth millions of dollars. After losing his young wife in 1814 and with his only daughter Ellen in school in Boston, Shepherd turned his attention to the Terrapin Neck land that he and his brothers inherited. There, R.D. Shepherd sought to establish a retreat near his childhood home of Shepherdstown.<sup>15</sup>

While Rezin Shepherd trained his nephew Henry Shepherd in the merchant business in New Orleans, his brothers developed their Terrapin Neck farms. Brother Henry at Springwood was already known for the high quality of his breed stock, particularly sheep, cattle and horses. Youngest brother Charles M. Shepherd appears to have been the property manager of the family, carefully buying tracts along the road through Terrapin Neck known as Shepherd Grade. When Charles Shepherd purchased the tract of 194 acres from the heirs of Van Swearingen it was likely the first step toward the development of Wild Goose Farm as Rezin D. Shepherd's retreat. The farm would also augment the livestock breeding business, begun around 1824 by Rezin Shepherd with Henry managing the day-to-day affairs.<sup>16</sup>

The improving quality of livestock on American farms was largely due to breeders like the Shepherds, who imported primarily English breed stock to their farms. Writing in an 1895 essay on American Live Stock, this author explains:

---

<sup>13</sup> JC Will Book (WB) 3, p. 391.

<sup>14</sup> JC WB 4, p.85.

<sup>15</sup> A.D. Kenamond, *Prominent Men of Shepherdstown During its First 200 Years* (Jefferson Co. Historical Society Publication, 1963), 103-105.

<sup>16</sup> Henry Shepherd Daybook, Shepherd Family Papers, Thornton Perry Collection, microfilm reel #45, Ruth Scarborough Library, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV.



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

The animals that came with the emigrants from Europe and the British Isles gave America such a mixed aggregation of traits and types as the world has never before witnessed. From this rare gathering of blood from every civilized land came our native cattle, our wild horses, and the common hog and sheep. From these the pioneers bred, and their sons, in turn, improved by importation and by selection, aided by a temperate climate, fertile soil, rich herbage, and grasses and grains such as no other country had ever furnished for the foundation and development of domestic animals. The mingling of bloods from every nation has given us a class of domestic animals called native or common stock, which has been easily impressed by the use of males of definite or fixed type. The result has been to give to the United States in one century the highest type and greatest number of high-grade and pure-bred animals of any nation on the earth.<sup>17</sup>

Brothers Henry and Rezin Shepherd's business in livestock breeding was located on their various Terrapin Neck farms. While Henry tended to the daily maintenance of the farms, R.D. was likely the money-man. In 1839, Henry paid Rezin \$4,000 to become an official partner in the business, "which gives to Henry Shepherd a clear unencumbered Interest of one half in all the stock of Cattle, Horses, Sheepe, and Hogs...including the Importation daily expected to arrive from Liverpool on board the Ellen Brooks...12 head [Devonshires?], 12 Sheepes & ten [Pigs?]."<sup>18</sup> A pamphlet printed in 1839 by J.F. Cannell of 18 Castle Street, Liverpool England, is "A Catalogue of Short-Horned Cattle, Leicestershire Sheep, Berkshire and Suffolk Hogs, Selected by J.C. Etches, of Barton Park, Near Derby, for R.D. Shepherd, Esq., of Shepherdstown, Virginia and New Orleans, United States in May, 1839."<sup>19</sup> "The pamphlet," notes Everson, "then itemized various animals including their previous owners, extensive genealogies, and various prizes won at area livestock shows." Henry Shepherd's Daybook provides the details of local sales, purchases, and breeding activities from 1824 through 1860.

The Shepherd family reputation for quality stock extended beyond the lower Shenandoah Valley. In 1835, for example, R. D. (living in New Orleans), negotiated the sale of Orozimbo, a prize English bull, from Henry Shepherd, in Shepherdstown, to Henry Clay, in Kentucky. Clay then put the bull to stud "to service cows."<sup>20</sup> "Raising livestock" is an example of the broader National Register category for agriculture under Criterion A, Significant Event. While the Shepherd family livestock husbandry supports inclusion in this category, its documentation may not warrant more than local significance and is therefore not proposed.<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>17</sup> Chauncey M. Depew, LL.D., ed., *One Hundred Years of American Commerce*, Vol. I (New York: D.O. Haynes & Co., 1895), 220, digitized on GoogleBooks.

<sup>18</sup> Henry Shepherd Daybook, 54.

<sup>19</sup> Dan Everson, *A History of the National Conservation Training Center Property and Surrounding Area* (Shepherdstown, WV, self-published, 2000).

<sup>20</sup> Robert Seager II, ed., *Papers of Henry Clay*, Vol. 8 (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984), 804.

<sup>21</sup> *National Register Bulletin*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997), 40.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

In 1841, Charles M. Shepherd sold all of his real estate and personal property to R. D. Shepherd, “of New Orleans” for a total of \$19,000.<sup>22</sup> Among the tracts of land included in the conveyance was the 194-acre tract recently purchased from the Swearingen heirs as well as Charles’ nearby home farm. His personal property included two slaves, horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and other stock “now on said tracts of land,” also farming utensils and household furniture. Unlike Washington County, Maryland (just across the Potomac River) where enslaved laborers were present but not in large numbers, slave labor in Jefferson County Virginia was an important aspect of 19<sup>th</sup> century life, as suggested by the percentages of slaves in the general population. According to federal census records in 1840, Charles Shepherd listed seven slaves, his brother Abram had five slaves, and Henry listed 22 enslaved men, women, and children. In 1850, Rezin Shepherd had 15 slaves on the Wild Goose Farm. By 1860, that number had risen to 22 enslaved with four “slave houses” recorded on the farm.

Rezin Davis Shepherd became locally prominent when he moved from New Orleans to Shepherdstown in the early 1840s. He contributed heavily toward construction of Trinity Episcopal Church, then, architecturally, the most prominent church in town. In 1859, R. D. Shepherd built a Greek-Revival courthouse (McMurrin Hall today) in Shepherdstown in hopes of moving the county seat from Charles Town. In 1860, he moved a tower clock from Trinity Church atop the courthouse. In 1865, the year of R.D.’s death, Shepherdstown became the county seat, but the move lasted only until 1871 when Charles Town reclaimed its role. In 1871, R.D.’s heirs leased the building for a teacher preparation school, Shepherd Normal School. In time the heirs named the building for James McMurrin, the school’s founder and first principal.

*Architectural Expansion and Influences during the Shepherd Family Ownership*

Shepherd family tradition recounts 1842 as the year that the Wild Goose mansion house was constructed, and indeed that date is incised in the plaster of one of the cellar walls of the house. However, the tax records seem to tell a different story. The 1843 tax record, which should have assessed any new building, still listed R.D. Shepherd’s now 200-acre tract with a \$400 building value – probably the George Stipp/George Webb house. In 1845, \$3000 in building value was “added for improvements.” Then in 1846, the assessment rose again by “\$2000 added for new house.” Despite extensive research efforts, it appears that records for the construction of the Wild Goose manor house do not exist. The plan of the house (before the ca.1911 changes) was unlike others typical of Jefferson County. There is some indication of influence from styles found in New Orleans, in particular the fenestration in the long east façade with multiple French door type windows and full-length shutters. The wide pass-through entrance hall originally opened onto the double-galleried porch overlooking a courtyard formed by the north extensions of the east and west wings.

American architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who arrived in New Orleans in 1819, appreciated the Creole influence on the architecture of the city, but noted: “The merchants from the old United States who are daily gaining ground on the manners, the habits, the opinions, and the

---

<sup>22</sup> JC DB 25, p. 204.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

domestic arrangements of the French, have already begun to introduce the lop-sided London house.”<sup>23</sup> Among the American influences on architecture in New Orleans that took shape through the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – the period of Rezin D. Shepherd’s residence there – was the “American Townhouse” style, different from the Creole with its interior stairway but often employing the full-length arrangement of facade openings and a balcony on the second floor. Typical façade openings were the “French door” style with full-length shutters. Early Garden District dwellings (1830s-1840s) in New Orleans were a similar mix of Creole and American elements.<sup>24</sup>

R.D. Shepherd’s rural retreat on Wild Goose Farm was influenced by the architecture of New Orleans, where R.D. lived for many years. R.D. Shepherd’s Wild Goose Farm by 1850 represented the “high end” among other farms in the region, however rapid population growth in the region and prosperity among the regional farming set resulted in a period of substantial building improvements in many regional farms. As John Allen states in his treatise, *Uncommon Vernacular, The Early House of Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1735-1835*, “the post-1835 farmhouses of the county [Jefferson] were different from those that had come before in two significant ways – detailing and scale.”<sup>25</sup> Access to more refined millwork and finer finishes - in the form of marble and decorative plaster - placed these homes at a higher level of refinement – at least in their finish work – than perhaps their more modest predecessors. Although a comprehensive study of similar manor or plantation homes in Jefferson County, has not been conducted, the scale of Wild Goose’s 9,000 square foot plus finished space is notable for its grandeur among the county’s early republic-era homes, thus, elevating Wild Goose in the area of architecture to the level of statewide significance.

The Greek Revival architectural style was a nationally popular style that peaked in the rural mid-Atlantic in the 1840s. Many area farmhouses from the period were indeed more substantial than earlier constructions, often built of brick rather than log, but rarely approaching the size of the Wild Goose manor house. One comparably sized mansion house is the Bushrod Corbin Washington house, Claymont Court (listed individually in the National Register in 1973), in the vicinity of Charles Town, Jefferson County. Originally built in 1820 with Georgian architectural influence, it was destroyed by fire in 1838 and rebuilt in the Georgian style by 1840.<sup>26</sup> The style of Claymont Court predates that of Wild Goose.

The outbuildings and agricultural buildings on Wild Goose Farm, particularly the frame bank barn, were more in keeping with others found throughout Jefferson County. The “Pennsylvania” style bank barn was ubiquitous on the region’s farms as were stone fences. Many farms in the area could be found with a stone smokehouse with hipped roof, an icehouse buried in the ground, and a stone springhouse. Few, however, had a springhouse that looked like a Greek temple or perhaps even a New Orleans burial crypt. Perhaps the nearest example of a classically-derived

<sup>23</sup> “Vieux Carré Historic District,” National Register documentation, 1984.

<sup>24</sup> Eleanor Burke, “Garden District Study Report,” Historic District Landmarks Commission, New Orleans, LA, 2006.

<sup>25</sup> John C. Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson, County, West Virginia, 1735-1835*. 324.

<sup>26</sup> “Claymont Court,” NR documentation, 1972.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

springhouse is at the Hampton estate, established in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century near Baltimore, Maryland, and having a springhouse/dairy of very similar arrangement to R.D. Shepherd's.<sup>27</sup> Hampton lies about 75 miles east of Wild Goose.

Substantial houses and heavy frame bank barns reflect the agricultural prosperity of the region. The farms in the Terrapin Neck neighborhood, like much of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, were part of the mid-Atlantic "breadbasket" where grain farming and agricultural processing industries dominated, along with the iron industry. By 1850, wheat and corn (referred to in agricultural census records as "Indian Corn") were the largest crops, with swine and sheep being the dominant livestock produced. Other crops included rye, oats, potatoes, orchard fruit, and hay. Wool and butter were also frequently listed in the 1850 agricultural census.

Although on the average family farm of 1850, livestock numbers were not large – usually fewer than a dozen horses, milch (milk) cows, cattle, and mules – in nearly all instances there were larger numbers of swine and sheep. Forty or fifty swine were common and smaller farms typically had anywhere from 20 to 100 sheep. Wool was produced by the pound and processed in woolen mills. Hogs were butchered annually producing hundreds of pounds of meat, generally sold in local venues. A surprising quantity of butter was listed in the census; certainly, such large quantities of butter were for market, along with the wheat and corn. It was through improved livestock breeding that so few dairy cattle could produce so much butter.

By 1850, R.D. Shepherd had retired to his Terrapin Neck retreat with an accumulated acreage of over 700 acres, valued by a county appraiser at \$240,000. Shepherd, who remained a bachelor following the death of his wife in 1814, shared his large manor house with an overseer named Eli Slone and a young German stonemason named Conrad Smith. Although verifiable evidence does not exist, it seems likely that Conrad Smith, just 26 years old in 1850, was brought over from Germany to lay the cut stone foundation of the mansion house and construct the fine springhouse on Wild Goose Farm. The vast network of stone fences and retaining walls were probably also Smith's work, or he supervised their construction. He probably also made the stone addition to the old Hezekiah Swearingen house located on adjoining 111 acres purchased by Shepherd in 1843. Living in a tenant house (probably the old Swearingen house) on the property was Shepherd's German gardener named George Beck, along with his wife and five children.

R.D. Shepherd's retirement at Wild Goose did not last long and was marred by the financial and social stresses of the Civil War. Throughout the war, business dealings in New Orleans were hampered, and with the end of the war, Shepherd would have lost the money invested in his enslaved laborers. But apparently, he was less affected by the depredations of the Civil War than many Southern gentlemen. In 1865 Rezin D. Shepherd passed away at age 80, his elegant manor farm still intact. In addition to his Wild Goose Farm, Shepherd left behind "an enduring contribution" to the town of Shepherdstown in the form of a town hall, now the centerpiece of the Shepherd University campus.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Hampton National Historic Site, [www.nps.gov/hamp/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hamp/index.htm), accessed 12/16/2016.

<sup>28</sup> Kenamond, *Prominent Men*

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Following R.D. Shepherd's death, Wild Goose Farm – described at the time as “R.D. Shepherd's Mansion house farm” – passed to his daughter Ellen Brooks and her two sons Peter and Shepherd Brooks. Ellen and Peter sold the 396-acre mansion house farm to Shepherd Brooks in 1866 (see attached 1866 Plat, Figure 7).<sup>29</sup> The odd sketch, apparently a plan view of the manor house on the plat, seems to indicate an earlier, smaller east porch. In 1869, Brooks purchased the 72-acre Markell tract, making the farm then 468 acres in all.<sup>30</sup> Brooks, who was the first to document the name “Wild Goose Farm” (see attached 1871 Plat, Figure 8), sold the farm for \$30,000 in 1871 to Henry Shepherd Jr., who was still living in New Orleans attending to the family merchant business. The deed of conveyance noted that the sale included “all the personal property – the equipment complete as it now stands.”<sup>31</sup>

Henry Shepherd Jr. and his family, listed on the farm in the 1880 census, moved to the farm after 1872, the youngest child Augustus, at 8 years old, having been born in Louisiana. Living with the Shepherd family in 1880 were five black and mulatto servants, among them Coachman William Wells, age 35. Wells had been working on the farm prior to Henry Shepherd Jr's ownership. The name William Wells, with the date 1868, is carved into the stone of the carriage shed on the west side of the garden. It was also in 1880 when the farm was first described in the annual tax record with the name “Wild Goose.”

In 1889, Henry Shepherd, Jr. wrote his Last Will and Testament at “Wild Goose Farm, Near Shepherdstown, West Virginia.”<sup>32</sup> Shepherd devised the farm to his sons Rezin D., Henry M., William J., and Augustus M.; Rezin as the oldest received the largest share at the time of his father's death in 1891. In 1892, the other heirs conveyed the full ownership of Wild Goose Farm to their brother Rezin for \$24,531 (the total value was \$38,000).<sup>33</sup>

Rezin D. Shepherd, son of Henry Shepherd Jr., was better known by his stage name R.D. McLean (his mother's maiden name). A successful actor, McLean retained Wild Goose Farm as his retreat from the stage and society. Asked early in his career where he went to relax, McLean answered: “I go to Shepherdstown, W.Va., where my father still resides, and I shall study and yell amid the rocks and woods on the farm to my heart's content.”<sup>34</sup> In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, McLean turned to movie acting and sold the core of the farm as a 185-acre tract, the historic acreage sold back in 1813 to James S. Lane, but this time with the full complement of domestic and agricultural buildings. The purchaser was Edwin S. Jarrett, who paid \$36,000 for Wild Goose Farm in 1911.<sup>35</sup>

---

<sup>29</sup> JC DB 1, p. 340.

<sup>30</sup> JC DB 4, p. 22.

<sup>31</sup> JC DB 6, p. 8.

<sup>32</sup> JC WB B, p. 24.

<sup>33</sup> JC DB Z, p. 260.

<sup>34</sup> Aler, *A Full and Complete History*, 452.

<sup>35</sup> JC DB 105, p. 494. Edwin S. Jarrett, known in local tradition as an engineer on the Holland Tunnel project, was probably the New York engineer/owner of a concrete foundation company. The Foundation and Construction Company, as described in a 1904 *New York Times* article, specialized in skyscraper foundations, noting “Every

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

### Post-Shepherd Family Ownership

Like the Shepherd's before him, Jarrett used the Wild Goose Farm as his retreat while he continued to work in New York City and traveled. During his ownership, the farm was leased to a tenant, a condition that continued through much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Recalled R.W. Morrow of his time on Wild Goose Farm:

We moved from Dam No. 4 in about 1928 to Wild Goose Farm...The Jarretts were not farmers. My dad was employed to manage the farm and pay only a very small percentage of the amount of money from the sale of wheat and other grain and livestock...The house we lived in had a kitchen, dining room, living room and 3 bedrooms all on one floor. Outside the kitchen door was the concrete top to a cistern that collected rain water from the roof... We had a large garden, a beautiful yard, a smoke house and on top of the smoke house was a large bell you could hear all over the farm...The barn was a large bank barn with a large metal goose weather vane on top...We milked 10 or 15 cows, made our own butter and cottage cheese and sold the surplus milk, except when we ran it through a separator. We used or sold the cream and fed the skimmed milk to the hogs...In the spring I hauled small loads of manure to town at about \$2.00 a load for people who had gardens... We also went house to house selling corn and other vegetables. We had many fruits and vegetables especially apples, pears, and quinces. Many times on weekends in the Fall we would run apples through our cider mill and cut wood for winter fuel.<sup>36</sup>

Jarrett is credited with the most striking Colonial Revival changes to the old Wild Goose mansion, beginning after his purchase in 1911. These changes included the raising of the east wing roof by nine feet, the construction of the heavy Colonial Revival galleried porch on the east elevation, and the conversion of the two east parlors into one large ballroom. For this alteration, the two parlor fireplaces were removed and a single central fireplace inserted in the new grand space. Part of the north porch was enclosed to create a pantry with a dumbwaiter connected to a basement kitchen. The porch on the west elevation of the house was also enclosed. A similar Colonial Revival update of the nearby Bellevue manor house was completed in 1907 by Henry Shepherd III, who had purchased that farm in 1900 "as a wedding gift to his bride Minnie Reinhart."<sup>37</sup>

After Jarrett's death in 1940, the farm changed hands several times but little changed about its appearance or use. It continued as a tenant farm with the manor house used by subsequent

---

caisson foundation on Broadway stands to their credit, besides innumerable foundations for bridge piers." (*The New York Times*, June 19, 1904) According to this article, Edwin S. Jarrett graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1888.

<sup>36</sup> "R.W. Morrow Autobiography," <http://www.geocities.com/dalemorrow/rwmc.html>, accessed 2008.

<sup>37</sup> "Bellevue" NR documentation, 1983.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

owners as a retreat, including NASA engineer Robert Moss in the 1960s and former West Virginia Governor Gaston Caperton beginning in 1998.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Aler, F. Vernon. *A Full and Complete History of Martinsburg and Berkeley County, West Virginia. Past and Present.* Hagerstown, MD: The Mail Publishing Co., 1888.

Allen, John C. *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1735-1835.* Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2011.

Berkeley and Jefferson Intelligencer. Newspaper microfilm collection, Martinsburg Public Library, Martinsburg, WV.

Berkeley County House and Slave Tax of 1798. Transcribed by the Berkeley Co. Historical Society, Martinsburg, WV.

Burke, Eleanor. "Garden District Study Report." Historic District Landmarks Commission, New Orleans, LA, 2006.

Depew, Chauncey M., LL.D., ed. *One Hundred Years of American Commerce.* Vol. I, New York: D.O. Haynes & Co., 1895. GoogleBooks.

Everson, Dan. *A History of the National Conservation Training Center Property and surrounding area.* Shepherdstown, WV, self-published, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_. "A History of the National Conservation Training Center Property and surrounding area." *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society.* Vol. LXX, December 2004.

Green, Linda B. *Virginia Agricultural Censuses [for 1850 and 1860].* Westminster, MD: Willowbend Books, 2006

Henry Shepherd Daybook, Shepherd Family Papers, Thornton Perry Collection, microfilm reel #45, Ruth Scarborough Library, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV.

Jefferson County Land Tax Records. Microfilm collection, Berkeley Co. Historical Society, Martinsburg, WV.

Kelly, Lauren. "Shepherdstown's Wild Goose Farm: A Symbol of Jefferson County's Captivating History." *The Observer.* (February, 2018).

Kenamond, A.D. *Prominent Men of Shepherdstown During its First 200 Years.* Jefferson Co. Historical Society Publication, 1963.



Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

Nute, Grace L., ed. "Washington and the Potomac Manuscripts of the Minnesota Historical Society, [1754] 1769-1796." Reprinted from the *American Historical Review*, Vol. XXVIII, no. 3, April 1923.

"R.W. Morrow Autobiography." <http://www.geocities.com/dalemorrow/rwmci.htm>. Accessed January 2018.

Toledano, Roulhac B. *A Pattern Book of New Orleans Architecture*. New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Company, 2010.

"Vieux Carré Historic District." Orleans Parish, NR documentation, Division of Historic Preservation, State of Louisiana, 1984.

---

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** None.

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** JF-0059-0004

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 173

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: 18	Easting: 257100	Northing: 4273760
2. Zone: 18	Easting: 258280	Northing: 4372760
3. Zone: 18	Easting: 258260	Northing: 4373460
4. Zone: 18	Easting: 257040	Northing: 4372480

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated boundary follows the boundary of the current Wild Goose Farm as shown on the attached Jefferson County tax map, Parcels 13, 13.8, and 13.6 (Figure 5).

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary of approximately 174 acres is the remaining acreage of the historic 187-acre tract parceled out and sold initially in 1813 by John Stipp Sr. and his son George Stipp to James S. Lane. Combined through the intervening years with adjoining parcels, this tract of 187 acres remained the core of the farm, encompassing the main building complex, and was again parceled out as 185 acres in the 1911 sale to Edwin S. Jarrett.

---

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Paula S. Reed, Ph.D., architectural historian; Edie Wallace, historian  
organization: Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc.  
street & number: One West Franklin Street, Suite 201  
city or town: Hagerstown state: MD zip code: 21740  
e-mail: paula@paulasreed.com  
telephone: 301-739-2070  
date: January 2018

---

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location. (See Figure 1.)
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map. (See Figures 2, 3, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4, and 5.)
- **Additional items:** See Figures 6, 7, 8, and 9.

## **FIGURES**

### **List of Figures**

Figure 1. Wild Goose Farm, USGS, Shepherdstown Quadrangle

Figure 2. Wild Goose Farm, USGS, Shepherdstown Quadrangle, with UTM coordinates

Figure 3. Wild Goose complex, aerial view

Figure 3a. Wild Goose Farm, Site Plan (Detail)

Figure 3b. Wild Goose Farm, Overall Site Plan

Figure 3c. Map of the Battle of Antietam Creek

Figure 4. Wild Goose Farm, Exterior Photo Views

Figure 5. Wild Goose Farm, Boundary Map

Figure 6. Wild Goose Farm, Ground Floor Plan with photo views

Figure 7. Wild Goose Farm, 1866 Plat

Figure 8. Wild Goose Farm, 1871 Plat

Figure 9. Wild Goose Farm, 1911 Plat

**Wild Goose Farm**  
Name of Property

**Jefferson County, WV**  
County and State

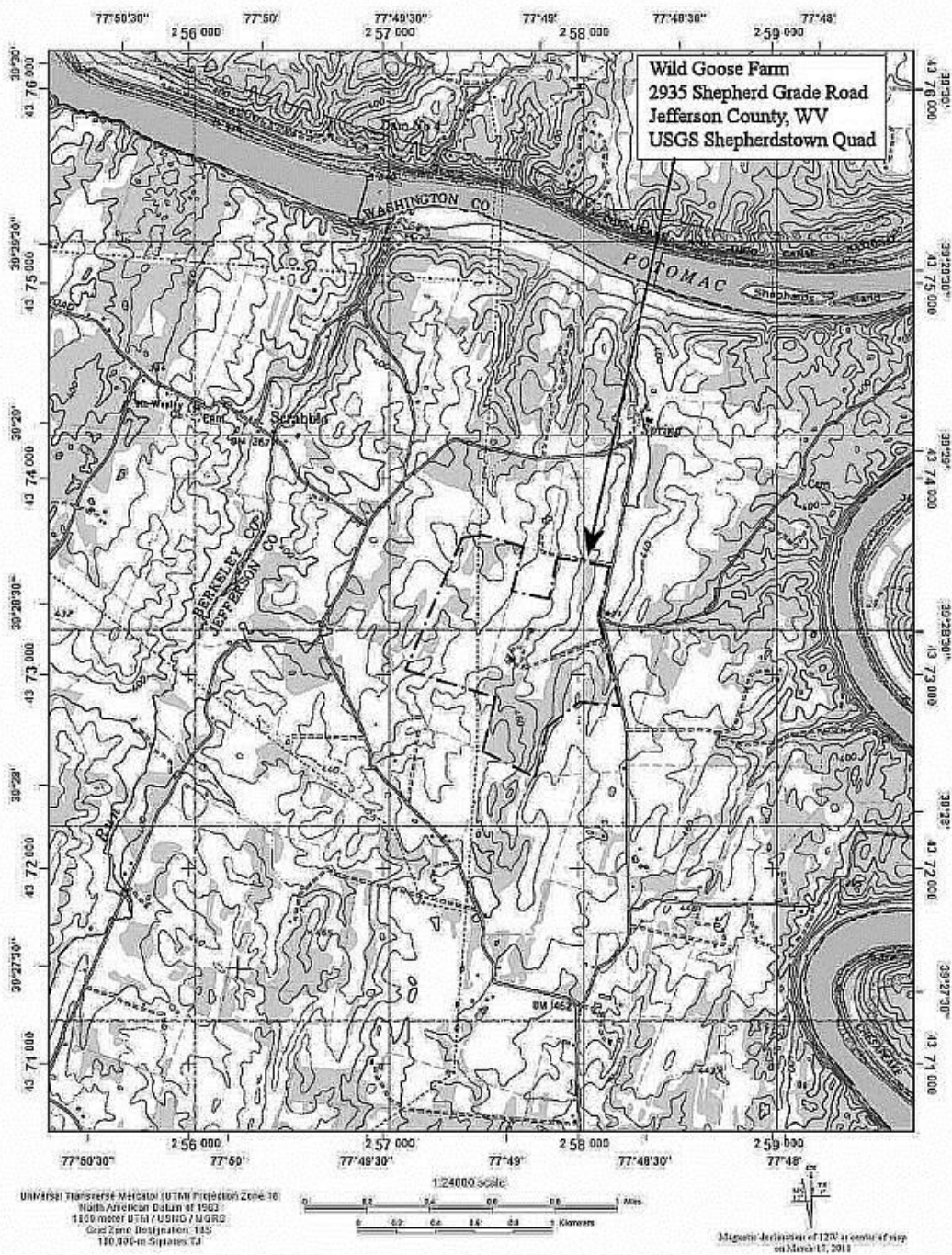


Figure 1. Wild Goose Farm, USGS, Shepherdstown Quadrangle

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

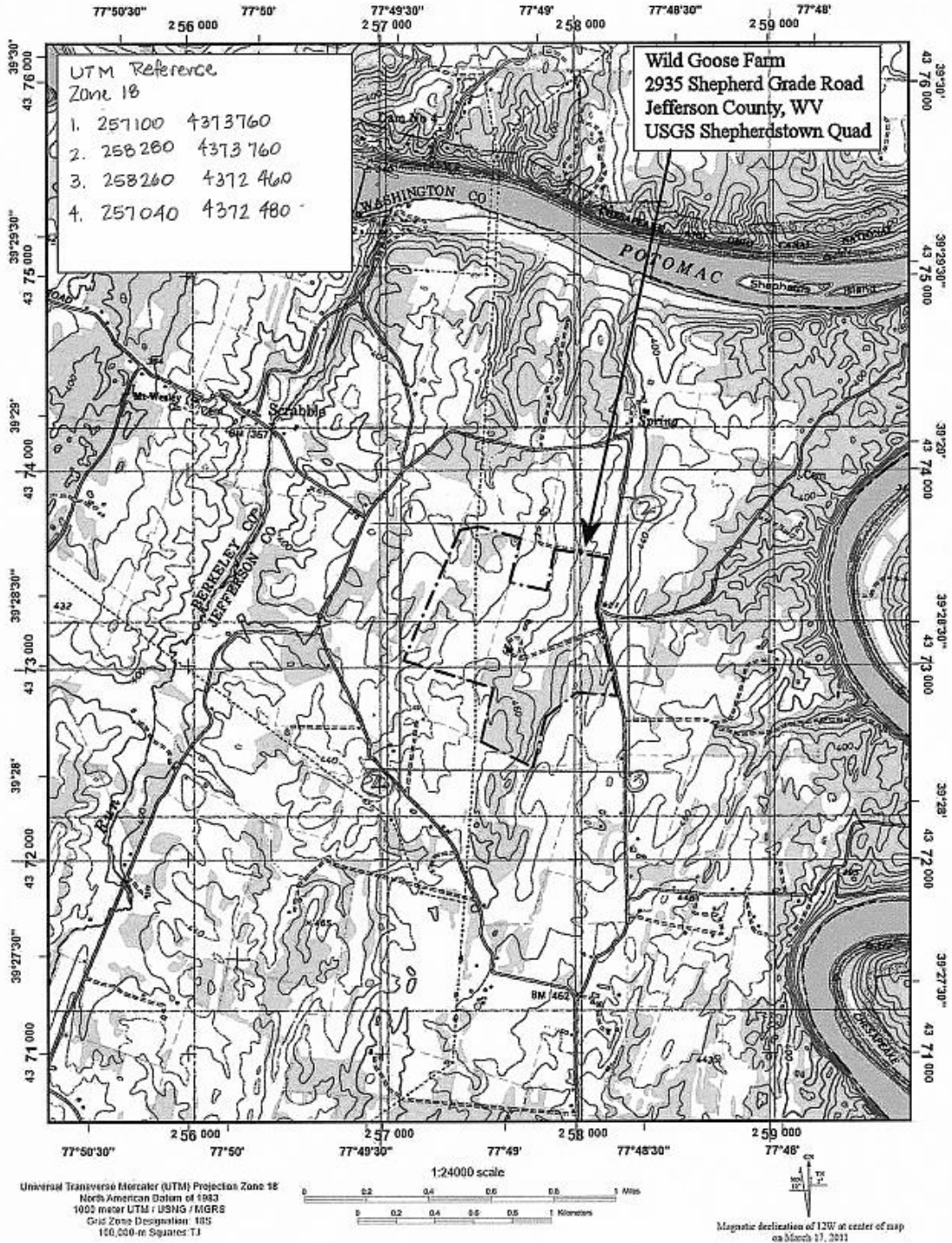


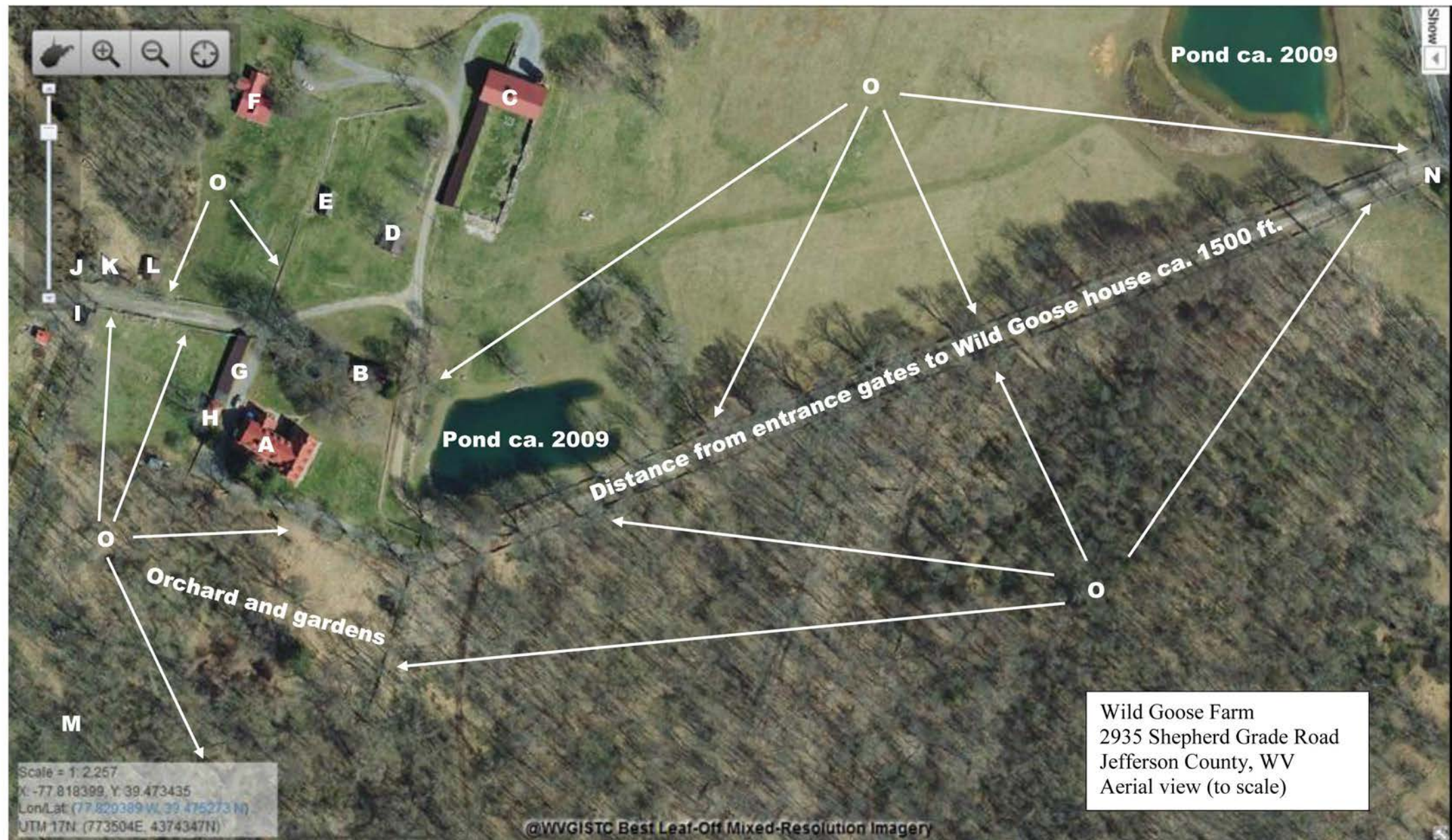
Figure 2. Wild Goose Farm, USGS, Shepherdstown Quadrangle, with UTM Coordinates

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



- |                                      |                         |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A: Main house                        | B: Spring or wash house | C: Barn, stables, stockyard       |
| D: Wagon shed/corn crib              | E: Poultry house        | F: Tenant house                   |
| G: Carriage shed and dovecote        | H: Smokehouse           | I: Stone building                 |
| J: Octagonal sentry station (pagoda) | K: Pump house           | L: Ice house                      |
| M: Water tower/resevoir              | N: Entrance gates       | O: Stone walls seen as dark lines |

Figure 3. Wild Goose complex, aerial view. Relative locations of buildings are depicted with greater precision by an aerial photograph than with a drawing.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

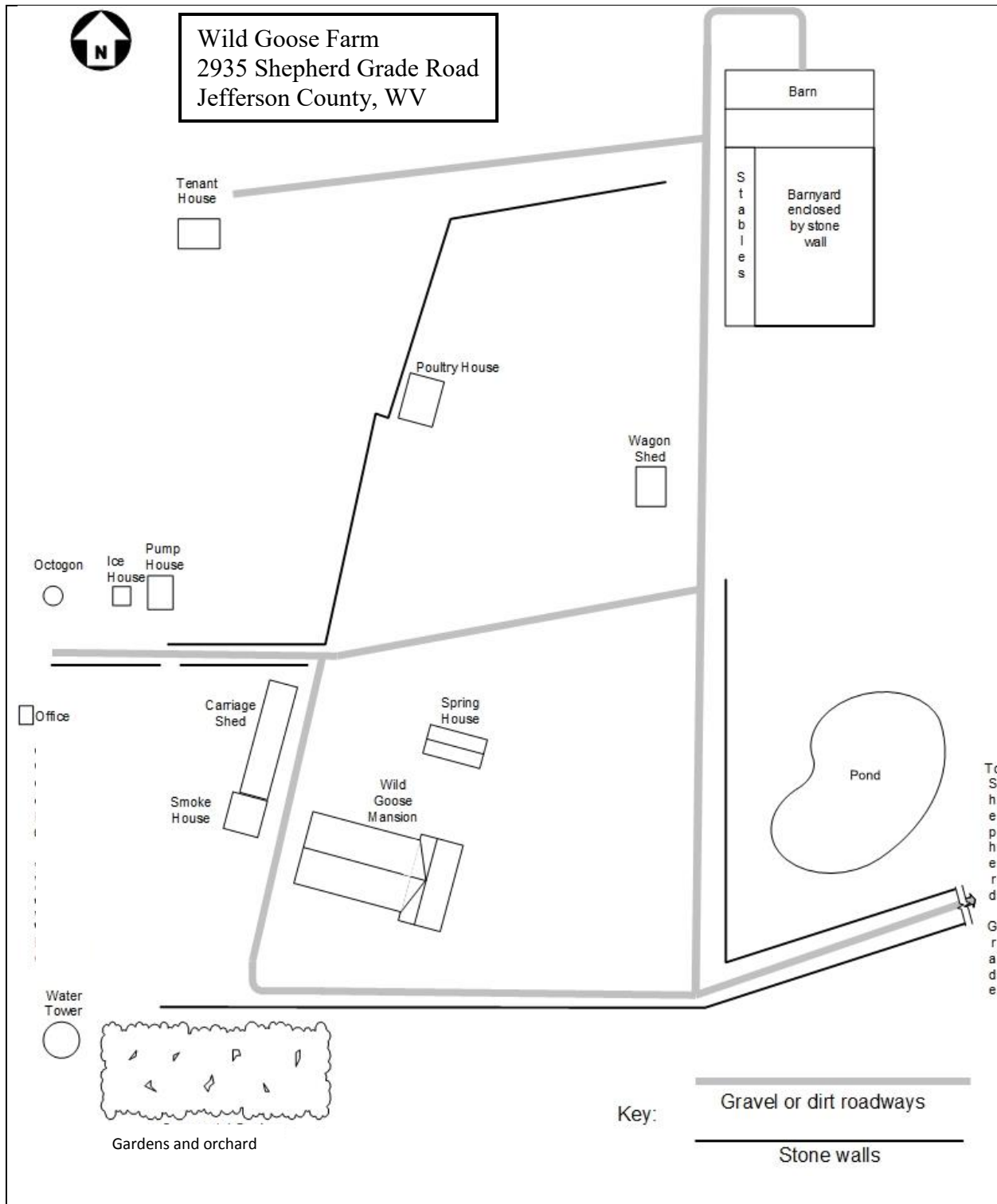


Figure 3a. Wild Goose farmstead site plan, circa 1940 (Not to Scale).

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

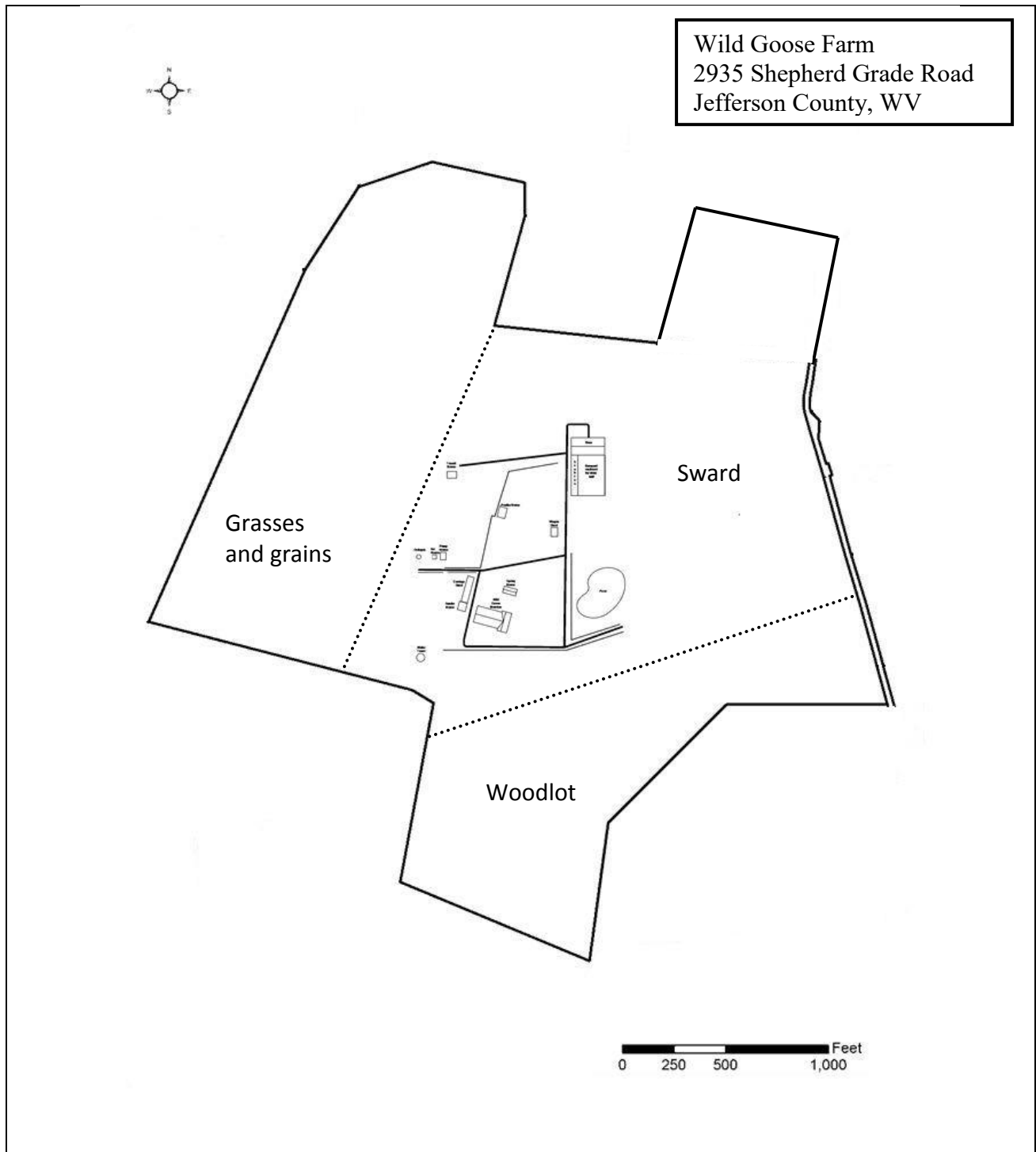


Figure 3b. Wild Goose site plan overall, circa 1940 (conjectural). Documentation for specific use of land surrounding the complex has not survived. A land-use map from 1860 for Washington County, Maryland, which adjoins Jefferson County, exists (see Figure 3c) and depicts the complexity of farm land use.



Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State



Figure 3c. Map of the Battle of Antietam Creek, 1862, edited by James Bowlby (1963). Map is a snapshot of field use within farmsteads in southern Washington County, Maryland. At the bend in the Potomac River in the upper left-hand corner is Jefferson County, West Virginia. Wild Goose lies about one mile west of the bend.

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

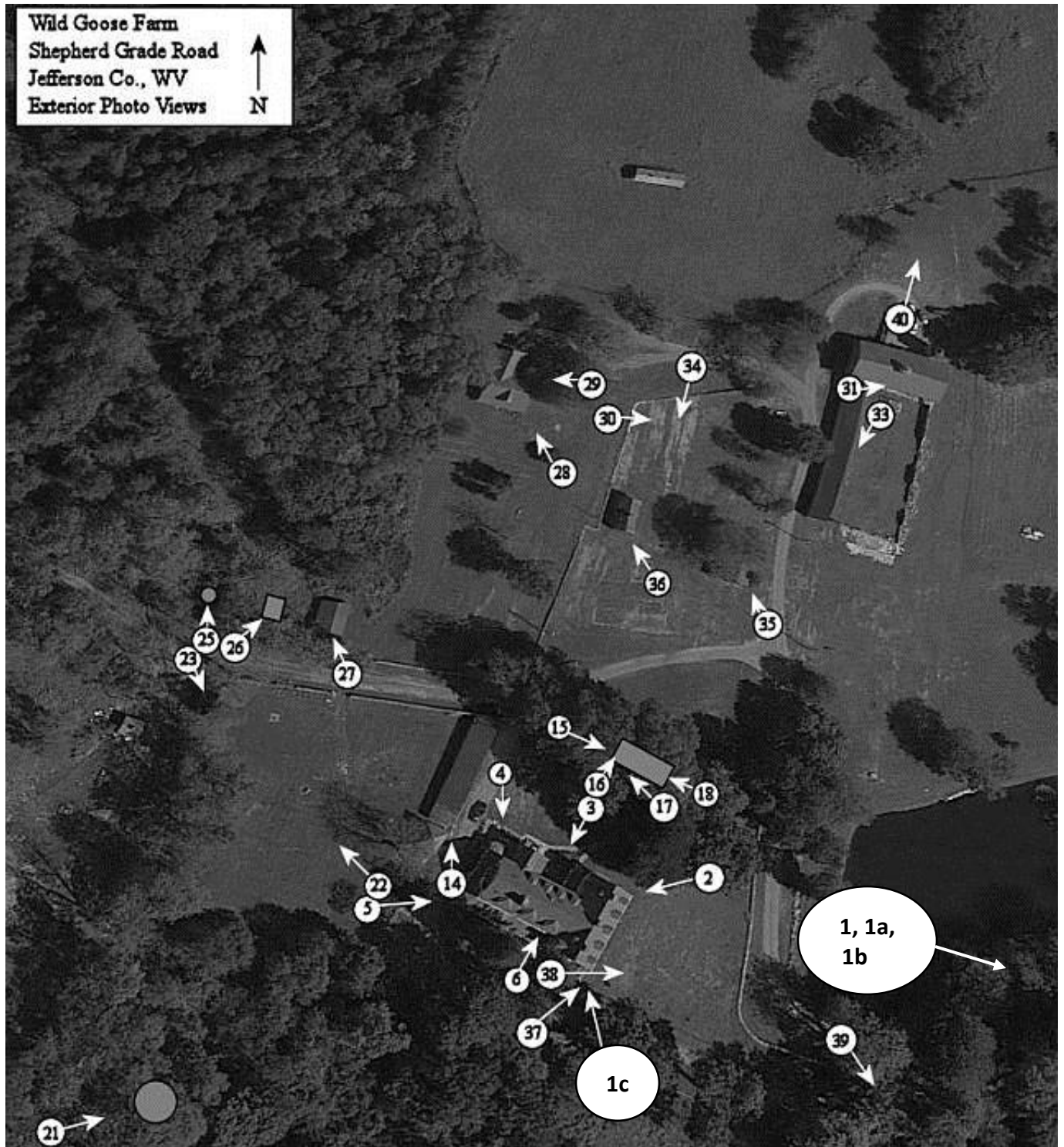


Figure 4. Wild Goose Farm, Exterior Photo Views

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

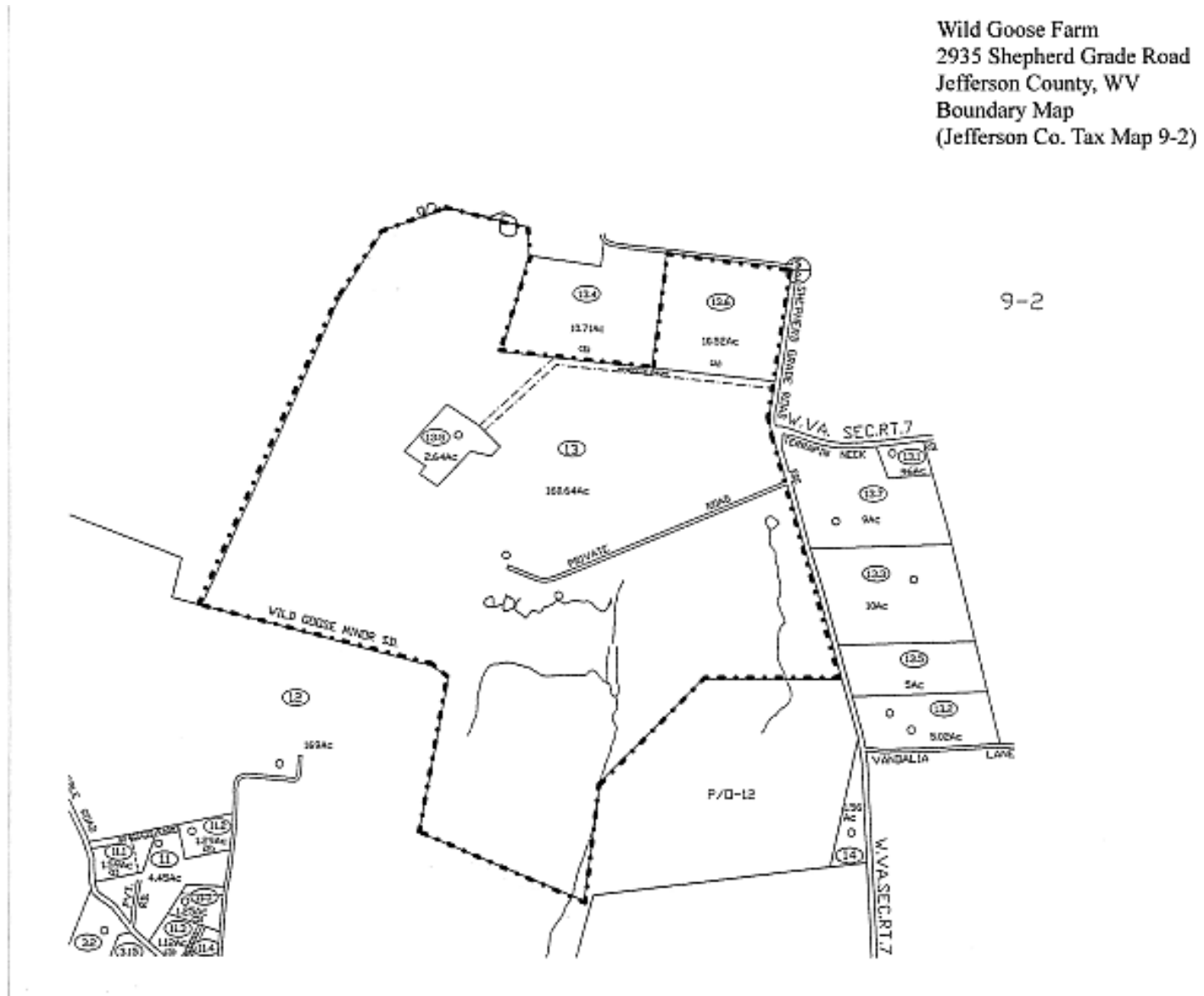


Figure 5. Wild Goose Farm Boundary Map

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

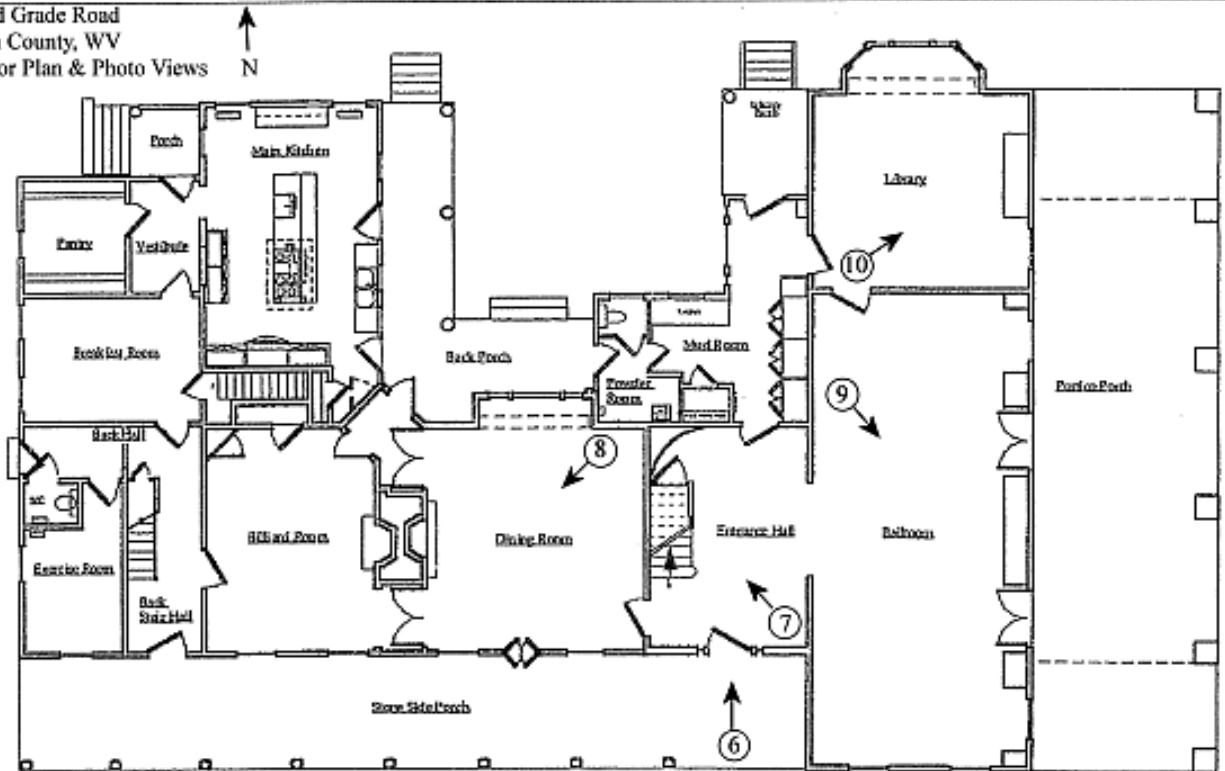
County and State

Wild Goose Farm

Shepherd Grade Road

Jefferson County, WV

First Floor Plan & Photo Views



Wild Goose Farm  
*Ground Floor Plan*

GROVE & DALL'OLIO  
ARCHITECTS

204 WEST MAIN • MARTINSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA • 25401  
304-257-2107

Figure 6. Wild Goose Ground Floor Plan with photo views

Wild Goose Farm  
 Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
 County and State

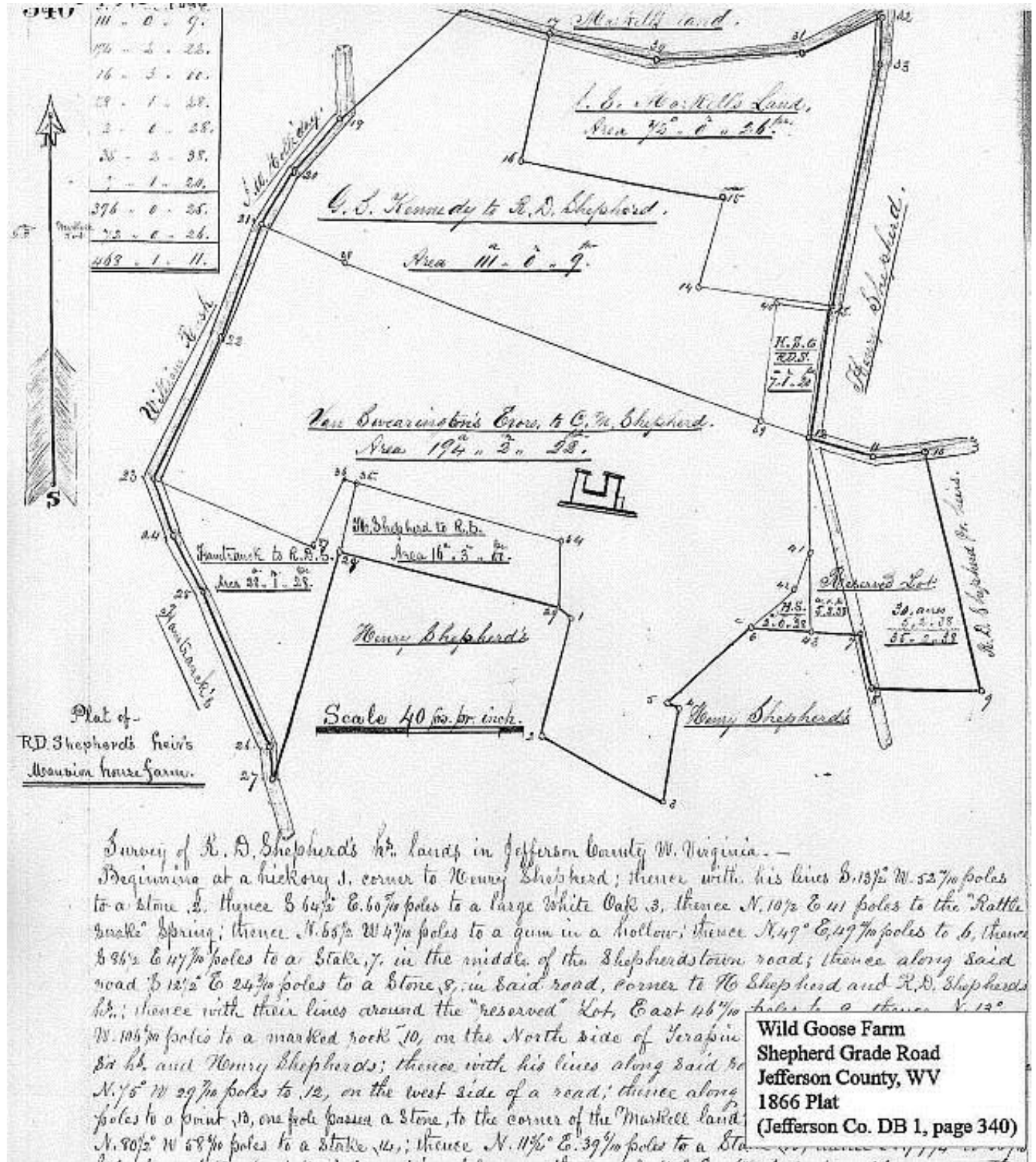


Figure 7. Wild Goose Farm 1866 Plat

Wild Goose Farm  
 Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
 County and State

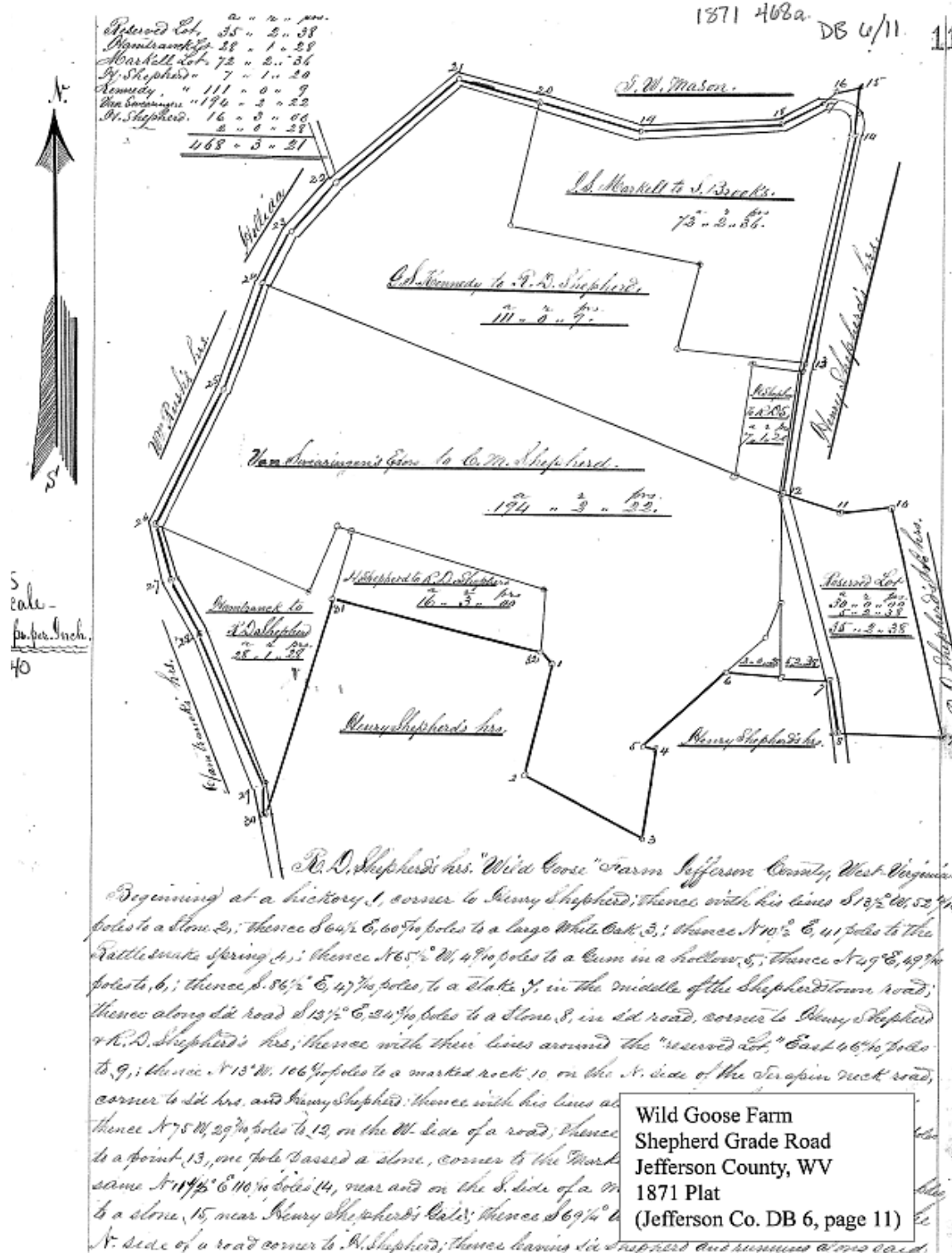


Figure 8. Wild Goose Farm 1871 Plat

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Wild Goose Farm  
Shepherd Grade Road  
Jefferson County, WV  
1911 Plat  
(Jefferson Co. DB 105, page 495)

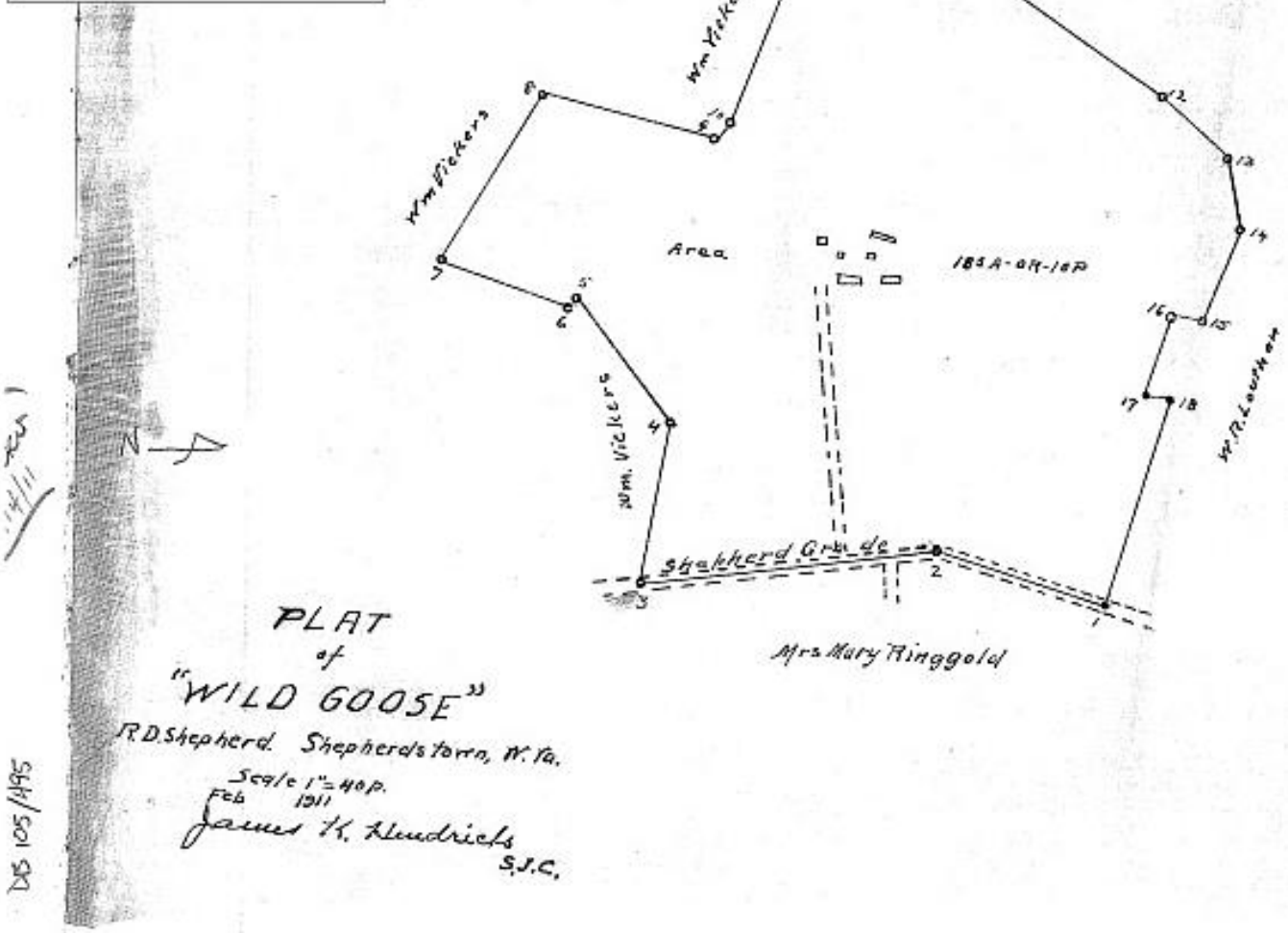


Figure 9. Wild Goose Farm 1911 Plat

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

## Digital Photograph Log

**Name of Property:** Wild Goose Farm  
**City or Vicinity:** Shepherdstown  
**County, State:** Jefferson County, WV  
**Name of Photographer:** Edie Wallace (except where noted)  
**Date of Photographs:** December 2016  
**Location of Original Files:** WV SHPO  
**Number of Photographs:** 45

### Page 1 of 4

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0001  
Entrance and gate; Shepherd Grade in foreground; view W

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0001a, b  
Gate "Wild" (view S) left; Gate "Goose" (view N) right. Artificial foliage adorns gates.  
Photos by Margaret Demer, February 2018

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0001c  
Mansion exterior, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0002  
Mansion exterior, east and north elevations, view SW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0003  
Mansion exterior, north elevation, view S

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0004  
Mansion exterior, north and west elevations, view SE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0005  
Mansion exterior, west and south elevations, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0006  
Mansion exterior, south elevation, main entrance, view N

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0007  
Mansion interior, first floor, entrance hall stairway, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0008  
Mansion interior, first floor, "Dining Room," view SW



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

**Photo Log: Page 2 of 4**

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0009  
Mansion interior, first floor, "Ballroom," view SE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0010  
Mansion interior, first floor, "Library," view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0011  
Mansion interior, first floor, detail of interior door knob and lock

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0012  
Mansion interior, cellar, kitchen fireplace in north-east room, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0013  
Mansion interior, cellar, dumbwaiter detail, view S

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0014  
Smokehouse and Carriage Shed, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0015  
Springhouse, west and south elevations, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0016  
Springhouse, detail of exterior spring access under west portico, view N

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0017  
Springhouse, south elevation, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0018  
Springhouse, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0019  
Springhouse, interior view of wash room, view W

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0020  
Water Tower and Reservoir, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0021  
Water Tower and Reservoir, interior view of deteriorated reservoir, view N

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0022  
Setting, plantation building group northwest of the mansion, view NW

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

**Photo Log: Page 3 of 4**

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0023  
Stone "plantation office," north and west elevations, view SE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0024  
Stone "plantation office," interior, view S

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0025  
Octagonal "sentinel station," view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0026  
Ice house, west and south elevations, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0027  
Pump house, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0028  
Tenant house, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0029  
Tenant house, east and north elevations and back building, view W

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0029a  
Fireplace remnant; stone, brick, with iron crane

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0030  
Barn and attached shed, west elevation, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0031  
Barn, south elevation forebay, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0032  
Barn, south elevation forebay, detail of stone paving and drain, view N

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0033  
Shed attached to barn, east elevation, view SW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0034  
Setting, view S from barn area toward mansion

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0035  
Wagon shed/corn crib, south and east elevations, view NW

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

**Photo Log: Page 4 of 4**

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0036  
Poultry house, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0037  
Setting, view N from mansion toward barn

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0038  
Setting, view NE from mansion toward Shepherd Grade Road and Potomac River, pond in foreground

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0039  
Setting, view SE from driveway

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0040  
Setting, view N from north side of barn

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0041  
Setting, view NE with stone walls, lane to Tenant House

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0001  
Entrance and open gates; Shepherd Grade in foreground; view W



0001a



0001b

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0001a, 0001b  
Gate "Wild" (view S) left; Gate "Goose" (view N) right. Foliage artificial.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0001c  
Mansion exterior, south and east elevations, view NW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0002  
Mansion exterior, east and north elevations, view SW

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0003  
Mansion exterior, north elevation, view S



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0004  
Mansion exterior, north and west elevations, view SE

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0005  
Mansion exterior, west and south elevations, view NE



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0006  
Mansion exterior, south elevation, main entrance, view N

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0007  
Mansion interior, first floor, entrance hall stairway, view NW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0008  
Mansion interior, first floor, "Dining Room," view SW



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0009  
Mansion interior, first floor, "Ballroom," view SE



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0010  
Mansion interior, first floor, "Library," view NE

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0011  
Mansion interior, first floor, detail of interior door knob and lock



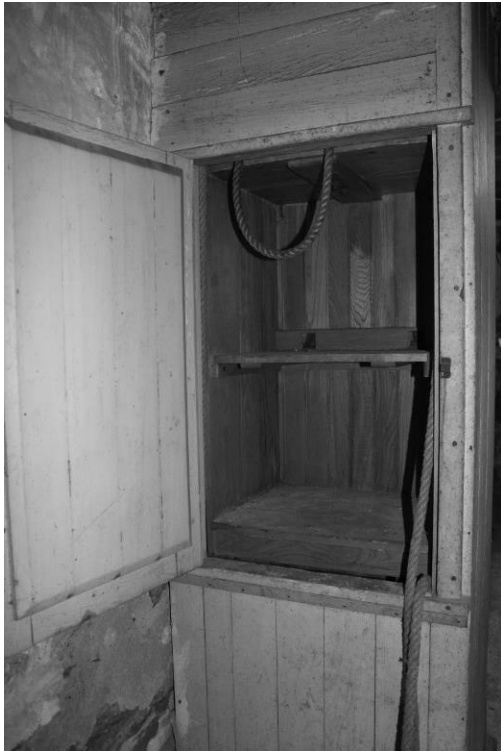
WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0012  
Mansion interior, cellar, kitchen fireplace in north-east room, view NE

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0013  
Mansion interior, cellar, dumbwaiter detail, view S



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0014  
Smokehouse and Carriage Shed, south and east elevations, view NW

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0015  
Springhouse, west and south elevations, view NE



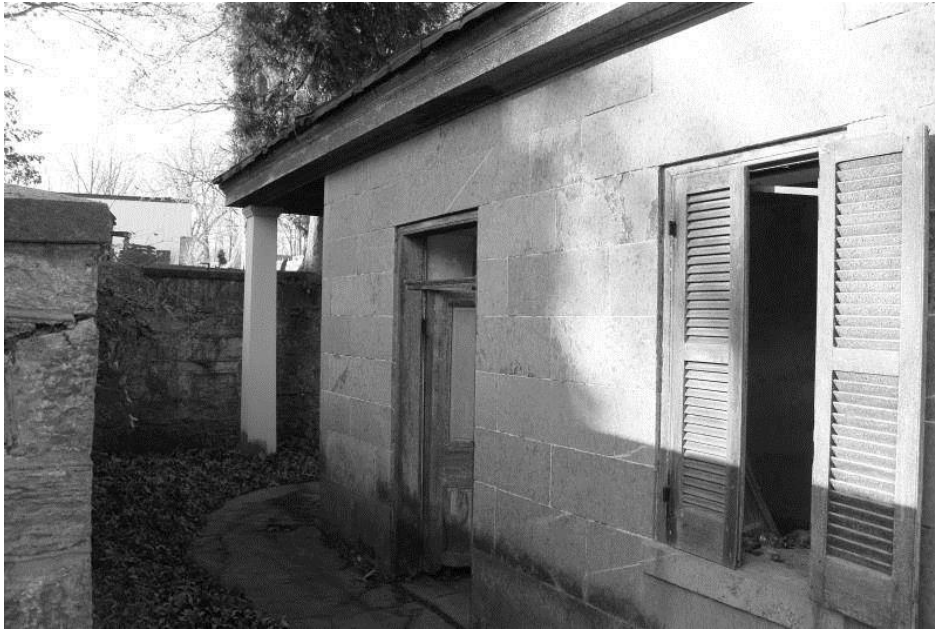
WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0016  
Springhouse, detail of exterior spring access under west portico, view N

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0017  
Springhouse, south elevation, view NW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0018  
Springhouse, south and east elevations, view NW

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0019  
Springhouse, interior view of wash room, view W



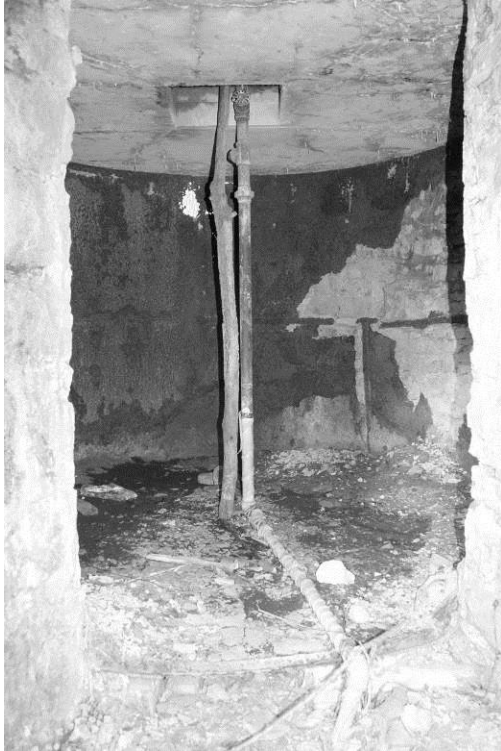
WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0020  
Water Tower and Reservoir, view NE

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0021  
Water Tower and Reservoir, interior view of deteriorated reservoir, view N



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0022  
Setting, plantation building group northwest of the mansion, view NW

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0023  
Stone "plantation office," north and west elevations, view SE



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0024  
Stone "plantation office," interior, view S



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0025  
Octagonal "sentinel station," view NW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0026  
Ice house, west and south elevations, view NE

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0027  
Pump house, south and east elevations, view NW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0028  
Tenant house, south and east elevations, view NW

**Wild Goose Farm**

Name of Property

**Jefferson County, WV**

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0029  
Tenant house, east and north elevations and back building, view W



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0029a  
Fireplace remnant; stone, brick, with iron crane

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0030  
Barn and attached shed, west elevation, view NE



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0031  
Barn, south elevation forebay, view NE

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0032  
Barn, south elevation forebay, detail of stone paving and drain, view N



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0033  
Shed attached to barn, east elevation, view SW

Wild Goose Farm

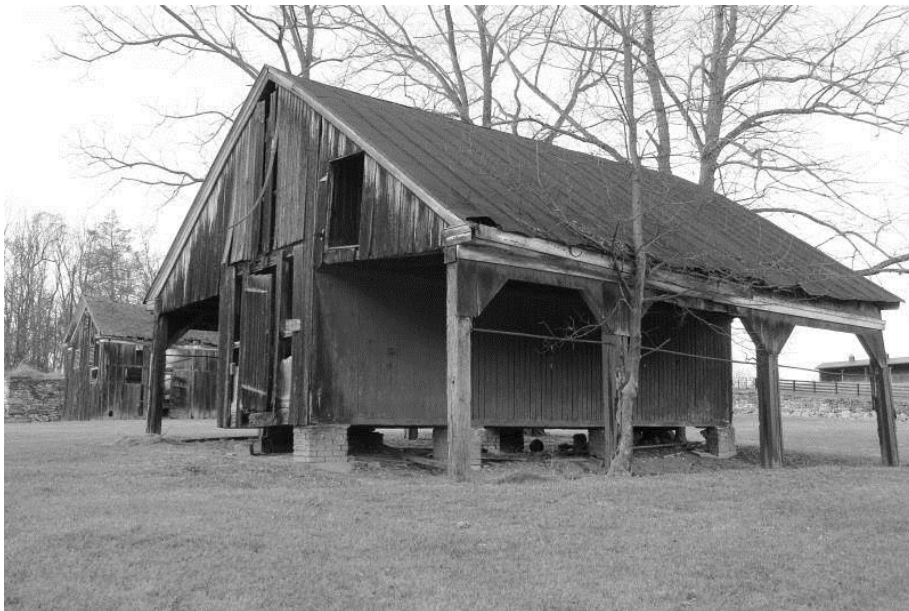
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0034  
Setting, view S from barn area toward mansion



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0035  
Wagon shed/corn crib, south and east elevations, view NW

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0036  
Poultry house, south and east elevations, view NW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0037  
Setting, view N from mansion toward barn

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0038

Setting, view NE from mansion toward Shepherd Grade Road and Potomac River, pond in foreground



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0039

Setting, view SE from driveway



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0040  
Setting, view N from north side of barn



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0041  
Setting, view NE with stone walls, lane to Tenant House

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



































































































National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received:  Date of Pending List:  Date of 16th Day:  Date of 45th Day:  Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept  Return  Reject  Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252 Date

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





**The Culture Center**  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.  
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

**Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner**

Phone 304.558.0220 • www.wvculture.org  
Fax 304.558.2779 • TDD 304.558.3562

October 30, 2017



Mr. J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

For your review, we are submitting National Register of Historic Places registration forms for the following properties:

*Fort Gay High School, Wayne County, West Virginia*  
*Wild Goose Farm, Jefferson County, West Virginia*

These nominations have been processed in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 60 and approved by the West Virginia Archives and History Commission. The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copies of the nominations for the abovementioned properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Should you have any questions please contact Jeffrey S. Smith, National Register Coordinator, at 304.558.0240.

Sincerely,

  
Susan M. Pierce  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

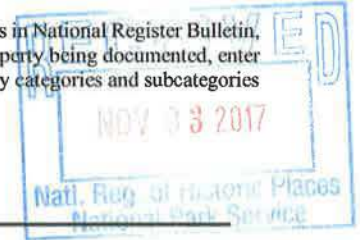
SMP/JSS

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

56-1902

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Wild Goose Farm  
Other names/site number: N/A  
Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

### 2. Location

Street & number: 2935 Shepherd Grade Road  
City or town: Shepherdstown State: WV County: Jefferson  
Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     X statewide     local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:  
X A     B     X C     D

Returned

Susan M. Torie 10/31/2017  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date  
West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.  
  
Signature of commenting official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Title : \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

---

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

---

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Returned

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>12</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/animal facility  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/animal facility  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Returned

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/Greek Revival  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/Colonial

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation	<u>STONE</u>
Walls	<u>WOOD/weatherboard</u> <u>STONE – springhouse, smokehouse,</u>
Roof	<u>METAL</u>
Other	<u>BRICK – chimney, icehouse</u>

### Narrative Description Summary Paragraph

With its many buildings and features, Wild Goose lies in the heart of a 173-acre land holding established in 1813 as a 187-acre tract, west of Shepherd Grade Road, north of Shepherdstown in Jefferson County, West Virginia. The land is a combination of cultivated fields, pasture and woodland that is watered by springs. The complex of buildings is an unusual collection, atypical in many ways from other 19th century farmsteads in West Virginia's eastern panhandle. A gravel lane lined with stone fences, leading west from Shepherd Grade Road through iron gates, gives access to the Wild Goose farm. The complex includes a large irregular-shaped house with several components representing at least three major construction campaigns: ca. 1810, 1842-1845, and ca. 1911; a frame Pennsylvania type bank barn with an attached horse stable; a frame tenant house; a large cut-stone spring house; a stone smoke house/meat house; a stone and frame carriage shed; a brick ice house; a small frame octagonal building; a stone pump house; a stone building (perhaps a plantation office); a frame poultry house; a corn crib/wagon shed; and a stone-enclosed water tower. In addition to these buildings is a series of stone fences and retaining walls as well as roadways leading to the various sectors of the farmstead. Wild Goose Farm retains a high degree of historical integrity and conveys its historic associations with agriculture and architecture from its Period of Significance (1810 – 1940).

### Narrative Description

Taken as a whole, the farmstead collection has some characteristics linking it to the traditional local agricultural scene, but, as architectural historian John Allen notes:

The house used a unique side-hall plan tucked behind the main building mass, interior chimneys, and unbalanced elevations. In this way, the amorphous plan of

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Wild Goose was a harbinger of what would become wildly popular in the Victorian era.<sup>1</sup>

From 1838 to 1911 the property was in the hands of various members of the Shepherd family, most of whom left a mark on the property. Rezin Shepherd purchased the property in 1841 and constructed much of the complex. Henry Shepherd added some buildings in the late 19th century, and after 1911, the next owner, Edwin Jarrett, made significant Colonial Revival style additions and alterations. The majority of the buildings date from the ownership of successful merchant, Rezin Shepherd. The buildings retain a high degree of architectural integrity as a collection portraying the genteel life of the prominent Shepherd family, as well as engineer, Edwin Jarrett.

Resource Inventory:

Main House, 1842-1845; earlier component, ca. 1810; modified, ca. 1911. 1 contributing building.

*Exterior*

At the head of the entrance lane stands the main house, a wood sided frame building with an imposing square columned portico across the east elevation (Photo 1a). It is generally U-shaped with gabled roofs. The building is sided entirely with lapped wood weatherboarding, vertically sawn and with a small bead and attached for the most part with wire nails. The house exhibits three main construction campaigns, one in the early 19th century, ca. 1810, comprising the west wing; the major construction phase in the 1840s, consisting of the east wing and hyphen linking to the pre-existing section, and a ca. 1911 Colonial Revival remodeling resulting in the east portico, raising the roof and adding dormer windows.

East Elevation:

Added by Rezin Shepherd between 1845 and 1847, the east wing as a unit has a two-bay south-facing gable front with a recessed entrance bay constructed against its west wall. French doors open out to the east along the side elevation. To the west is the connection or hyphen linking to the "original" 1810 section of the house (west wing), creating a large U-shaped space. The east wing has three rooms on axis and gable front presentation with adjoining recessed entrance block. The east wing may be reminiscent of New Orleans and reflect builder Rezin Shepherd's many years of residence in that city.<sup>2</sup> The east wing does not include the original block of the

---

<sup>1</sup>John C. Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson, County, West Virginia, 1735-1835* (Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2011), 324.

<sup>2</sup>Eleanor Burke, "Garden District Study Report," Historic District Landmarks Commission, New Orleans, LA, 2006, 16-17. See also Roulhac B. Toledano, *Pattern Book of New Orleans Architecture*, (New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Company, 2010), 93-95, et. seq., for depictions of New Orleans buildings from contemporary Notary drawings.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

house. The preceding paragraph states that the west wing is the early 19<sup>th</sup> century component. The east wing was constructed in the 1840s, along with a hyphen that links it to the older west wing. As stated in this paragraph, the New Orleans influence appears in the narrow, gable front presentation with recessed entrance bay and single pile plan several rooms deep. This is reminiscent of Gulf Coast “shotgun” houses. The French doors add to the Gulf influence.

The east façade of the house is five bays in width, with French doors flanked with louvered shutters (Photos 1a – 2). A full-span, recessed portico, an early 20th century addition, is under the main roof span. Construction of the portico and attendant expansion of the roof system in height and width to accommodate the portico, increases the depth of the house by about one-third, and creates a third floor living space. The two-story portico columns are square and paneled, Colonial Revival style elements added in the early 20th century. The three central bays have a second story porch with French doors opening onto it and a Chippendale-reminiscent revival style balustrade. Second-story windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash. Five front-gable dormer windows extend from the east slope of the roof, also part of the early 20th century enlargement and renovation of the house. Three large brick chimneys, set with their long sides parallel to the roof ridge, extend from the east slope of the roof, just below the peak.

South elevation:

The south elevation is two stories in height with a one-story porch along the length extending from the west (rear) wall of the east wing, with octagonal columns (Photo 5). The one-story porch spans the length of the six-bay façade. Originally, the porch wrapped around the west elevation – west of the existing single-leaf entry -- but this section of the porch was enclosed in the early 20th century. Although the south elevation of the east wing projects forward from the south elevation plane, this still adds three more bays to the south elevation: two bays within the south elevation of the east wing and one additional bay with the bay-width east portico. A flat pilaster forms the southwest corner of the east wing, matching the portico column at the southeast corner. The pilaster and column terminate with a frieze band running across the gable end of the east wing.

The eastern-most bay of the recessed portion of the south elevation features the main entrance of the house. The four-panel main entry door (Figure 6) is surmounted by a six-light transom and flanked by three-pane sidelights. A French door occupies the fourth bay from the west end of the south elevation. A third door with four panels situated beneath a three-light transom is in the west-most bay. All second-story windows have six-over-six, double-hung sash with louvered shutters. Three hip-roofed dormer windows extend from the south slope of the roof. The three western-most bays of the south façade (door, window, window) may be an early, ca. 1810 component of the building, predating the construction of the east wing and the linking hyphen.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

West elevation:

The west elevation consists of the now-enclosed wraparound porch (an early 20th-century alteration) in the first story and a semi-hexagonal projecting bay in the second story, over the former porch's roof. Within the gable end, three small, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows light the finished attic space (Photos 4 & 5). Most of the visible exterior features on the west elevation appear to date from the early 20th century.

North elevation:

The north elevation presents a complicated mix of features from several different time periods, each representing the three major building campaigns. Prominent among the features is a two-story gabled projection with a much lower height than the rest of the building. This projection creates the west leg of the U-shaped north elevation. A one-story porch with octagonal columns extends along the east façade of the projecting section, merging with a two-story gallery porch set under the main roof of the hyphen. Part of the first story of the two-story porch has been enclosed, probably in the early 20th century. A flight of steps leads up from the ground level to each leg of the U. The north elevation of the east wing has a semi-hexagonal projecting oriel bay, beneath which is access to the cellar and a cellar window. In addition, the north gable of the east wing has one additional first story window and two windows in the second story; all six-over-six, double-hung sash windows have louvered shutters. Three wood casement windows, flanked by louvered shutters, are within the east wing gable. Four hip roof dormers project from the north slope of the hyphen's roof.

The west projection retains a door and three small six-over-six windows with frames trimmed with ovolo molding of fairly small profile, indicating early 19th century construction. Other windows in this section have been replaced with larger six-over-six sash and do not have ovolo-trimmed frames. This projecting west wing appears to be the oldest part of the house, predating the grand mansion house added to it in the 1840s.

Foundation, Roof and Chimneys:

The building rests on limestone foundations. The east wing's foundation is finely cut ashlar stone, while the remaining foundations are coursed rubble stone. Some of the foundations, such as those associated with the east façade's two-story porch, display raised round profile grapevine pointing characteristic of the early 20th century.

The entire roofing system is covered with standing seam sheet metal, painted red. Three chimneys extend from the east wing, just east of the roof ridge, serving fireplaces located along the east wall. They are oriented with their wide sides parallel to the roof ridge. One is near the center of the length of the wing and the others are set several feet in from the gable ends. In the hyphen area, there is one chimney at the west wing, which extends just south of the roof ridge.



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

*Interior General:*

The main entrance is located in the east bay of the hyphen along the south elevation. Greek Revival in style, it contains a four-panel door with sidelights and transom, and opens into a formal stair and reception hall attached to the long side of the east wing.

Although major alterations occurred in the early 20th century, the 1840s floor plan and much of the trim and detailing remain intact. After the main 1840s construction campaign, the first floor had three rooms arranged on a north-south axis in the east wing, with the entrance hall adjacent to the east wing's west wall. Each of the three rooms had a fireplace, and each had French doors opening onto the east porch. The partition between the two front rooms was removed in the early 20th century, and the area was converted into one large space. The two original fireplaces were replaced by one large fireplace that was centered along the room's east wall. Architectural evidence of these changes remains in the cellar and in the flooring of the first-floor parlor (also referred to as the "Ballroom"). The second-floor plan remains intact.

First Floor:

The entrance hall (Photo 7) is a large open space with opposing front and rear doors. The rear doors open onto the back porch, now enclosed. A wide "archway" opens into the large double parlor (i.e., "Ballroom") to the east. The staircase occupies the northwest corner of the room. The stair is a cantilevered circular neoclassical element with round balusters, two per step. The rounded hand rail curls at the base around a delicate turned newel post. Panels under the lower portion of the stairway are double fielded, trimmed with Grecian Ogee molding. The paneled dado along the wall leading up the stairs and in the rest of the hallway has different molding with delicate neoclassical revival character, likely part of the early 20th century renovation. Doors are trimmed with symmetrically molded architraves with decorated corner blocks.

The large opening in the east wall leads into the parlor (the "Ballroom", Photo 9), a room with two windows in the south wall and two windows in the east wall. In addition, two sets of French doors open onto the east porch. The windows and French doors are trimmed with symmetrically molded architraves and decorated corner blocks. Centered in the east wall of the room is a large formal fireplace with a Neoclassical Revival mantel with a molded oval central panel. The flooring is tongue and groove pine, but a spline running across the room and carpet tack hole patterns indicate the location of an original partition across this room.

The northernmost room in the east wing, the library, has an oriel window in its north wall and a set of French doors in the east wall opening onto the east portico. A fireplace in the east wall has a black marble mantelpiece, Greek Revival in style (Photo 10). This room can be accessed from the parlors or from the rear hallway which was once an exterior porch.

To the west of the entrance hall is the dining room (Photo 8), forming the hyphen attaching the east wing to the modest first period frame house on the property. On the south wall are two windows and French doors that open onto the south porch. On the north wall are triple-sash

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

windows that open onto the north gallery porch. A fireplace flanked by two doors, one leading to the kitchen and the other to the billiard room fills the west wall. The mantelpiece is Neoclassical Revival, probably dating from the early 20th century. Window and door trim is deeply molded and symmetrical with decorated corner blocks.

The room west of the dining room ("Billiard Room") may be a component of the pre-1840s dwelling on the property, but was greatly modified during the 1840s construction. In the east wall of the west room is a fireplace, back to back with the one in the dining room. It has a black marble Greek revival style mantelpiece with flat pilasters. A door cuts diagonally across the northeast corner of the room, opening into an entryway leading to the kitchen and dining room. A door on the south side of the fireplace opens into the dining room. This room has two windows facing south onto the rear porch.

To the west of the Billiard Room is a stair and entrance hall for this section of the building. The staircase could date from the 1810s-1820s, with a round turned newel post and round handrail rising up to a sweeping "goose neck" to the second-floor landing. In the south wall, a door opens onto the porch. In the north wall, a door opens into a breakfast room, which is in part of the area of the enclosed porch that dates to the early 20th century.

From the breakfast room, stairs lead down to the cellar, and beyond that is the kitchen, a modern single room within the shell of what appears to be the oldest part of the house, dating from the early 19th century (ca. 1810). To the west of the kitchen are additional rooms, including a butler's pantry added as part of the porch infill and extension in the early 20th century.

The second-floor plan is similar, although it retains the original three rooms-on-axis in the east wing which had been altered on the first floor. The third floor was added and finished in the early 20th century with the installation of dormer windows, raising of the roof, particularly to accommodate the east side portico. The cellar has basic divisions of space matching the rooms above. A kitchen with fireplace is located beneath the library at the north end of the east wing (Photo 12). An intact dumbwaiter remains in place in the passageway beneath the now-enclosed rear porch (Photo 13). In the south room of the east wing in the cellar, scrawled into the rough plaster over an interior supporting wall is the date 1842. This may mark the beginning of the construction of the east wing of Wild Goose.

Smokehouse, ca. 1845, 1 contributing building

A stone smokehouse stands directly to the west of the main house (Photo 14). A square hip-roofed building, it has a door in its east elevation, and vertical ventilator slits in the other walls. The building is constructed of roughly coursed rubble limestone, very unlike the highly-refined masonry of the springhouse. Part of the back (west side) of the building is roughcast, and possibly the entire structure was once covered with stucco. The door has four panels trimmed with Grecian Ogee molding. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal. Inside, a chamfered post reaches to the apex of the roof, joining the four hip rafters.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Carriage shed and dovecote, ca. 1845, 1 contributing building

Immediately north of the smokehouse and along the driveway that wraps around the house and continues to the barn and other outbuildings, is a six-bay carriage shed (Photo 14) with a four-window-bay enclosure at its north end. The shed roof slopes downward to the rear or west. The west wall of the building is roughly coursed rubble limestone, as well as the end walls, with the area within the slope of the shed being frame. There are six open bays supported by square posts followed by the enclosed section. The four more northerly of the open bays have dovecote openings for pigeons along the lintel. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal.

Springhouse, ca. 1845, 1 contributing building

Sitting to the northeast and at the base of the hill upon which the main house stands is a multi-purpose springhouse/washhouse and dairy (Photos 15 – 19). A pathway paved with flat stones set within cut stone curbing leads from the back of the main house down to the springhouse. The springhouse is a four-bay gable roofed building, two bays wide. Set below ground level, it is surrounded on all four sides by coursed limestone retaining walls capped with cut stone coping. The level space surrounding the building is paved with square cut flag stones. The building is constructed of finely cut ashlar stone with narrow “butter” joints. It has an overhanging portico supported by square columns and with a pedimented gable on the west end. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal, and a brick chimney extends from the interior.

On its south elevation, the springhouse has four bays, arranged door, window, window, door. Large lintel blocks top the openings. Doors and windows have narrow mitered frames with a bead at the inner edge. Windows have remnants of nine over six light sash with louvered shutters. Doors have four panels with Grecian ogee trim and are hung beneath four-light transoms.

The interior of the building divides into three spaces, a room at the west end which contains a channel for the spring, and the rest of the space divided into two rooms, on a small narrow space with a drain channel, a dairy, and a wash area with a fire box with two boiler units.

Gardens (not included in resource count)

Partially enclosed by the carriage shed and smokehouse on the east side and a stone wall on the north side is the area that once was the Wild Goose garden. The ground is level. There is a well, brick lined, to the west side adjacent to the stone building, and several poured concrete cold frame forms remain along the north wall. Near the center of the garden are two rectangular flat stones joined at the center. At the center of the pair of stones a square cut out forms a type of mortise hole. The purpose of this stone structure is not known.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Water Tower and Reservoir, early twentieth century, 1 contributing structure.

In a wooded area to the southwest of the main house stands a stone encased water tower/reservoir (Photo 20). The reservoir consists of two cast iron cylinders, one atop the other. The bottom cylinder has a larger circumference, and has largely rusted away. The taller, narrower top cylinder rises well above the base and the stone encasement (Photo 21). A limestone structure with a spiral stone staircase wraps around the lower cylinder. The stairway leads to a deck on top of the lower cylinder. An entrance in the lower level of the stone structure opens to the base of the cylinder. Cast iron pipes lead into and out of the reservoir.

Stone building, ca. 1845, 1 contributing building.

Located along the roadway leading west into the fields from the building complex, this is the last building encountered (Photos 23-24). It stands on the south side of the road with its gable end facing onto the road. The function of this building is not known, but it may have been a farm or plantation office. Constructed of coursed limestone with traditional V-joint pointing, it has large stone "lintels" over the openings, typical of the second quarter of the 19th century in stone buildings of the lower Great Valley. This is a two-bay building with only a door in the east elevation, opening onto the gardens, a door in the north wall, opening onto the lane, two windows in the west wall and a long, low window in the south wall. All are framed with pegged mortised and tenoned frames of moderate width. The east door has a three-light transom. Beside the north window in the west wall, carved into the stone is the name William Wells and the date 1868. Wells, described as mulatto, was listed on the 1880 census record for Henry Shepherd, working as a coachman. The building has a standing seam roof.

The interior appears to have been refinished in the late 19th century. It is covered with horizontal beaded paneling, similar to that found in the octagonal sentry's house. Bracket shelves on the wall, and the remnant of a wood rack for filing or storing small items remains. Trim around the openings on the interior appears to date from the late 19th century and is similar to that in the sentry house.

Frame Octagonal "Sentry Station," ca. 1880, 1 contributing building.

This small frame octagonal building (Photo 25) stands on the north side of the west-leading lane, just beyond the ice house. Covered with German siding with ample windows and doors, it is described as an "octagon Japanese Pagoda" in F. Vernon Aler's history of Wild Goose published in 1888 (Aler 1888:441-443): "tastefully designed and painted, and surmounted by a gilt ball, weather cock and wild goose. Here stands the morning sentinel, who at appointed hours strikes the bell, giving signal and summons for all the workmen to repair to labor." The interior is finished with a wooden tongue and groove floor, tongue and groove horizontal paneling and molded window and door trim. A bracket shelf remains on one wall.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Ice House, ca. 1911, 1 contributing building

Along the stone wall-lined west lane is a gable roofed brick ice house with a deeply overhanging standing seam sheet metal roof (Photo 26). Inside, the ice house has a deep wooden floor and shelving along the upper wall. One board is inscribed with the painted name ES Jarrett, who purchased Wild Goose in 1911.

Pump House, ca. 1911, 1 contributing building

At the north end of the carriage shed, the driveway intersects with another lane heading west along a stone-walled track leading to gardens and fields beyond, and lined with various utility buildings. The easternmost building is a stone pump house (Photo 27), which probably dates from the early 20th century, since it is not mentioned in the history of Wild Goose Farm book published in F. Vernon Aler's 1888 history of Martinsburg and Berkeley County. The two-bay by one-bay building is constructed of roughly coursed limestone with raised mortar joints. The gabled roof overhangs deeply on all sides and is covered with standing seam sheet metal. A door in the south wall opens into a single room with a large metal tank, cast iron pipes and an antique pump.

Tenant House, ca. 1880, 1 contributing building

To the west of the barn behind an approximately seven-foot-high retaining wall is a frame tenant house (Photos 28-29). Resting on low limestone foundations it is a three-bay one and a half story dwelling with a one-story L to the rear. It faces south and has a prominent central front cross gable. German siding covers the walls and standing seam sheet metal the roof. Shed roofed porches extend across the entire front elevation and the east wall of the L-extension. Brick chimneys extend from inside each gable end.

Behind and to the west slightly of this house is a stone fireplace/chimney, a remnant of some other building or dependency for the tenant house (Photo 29a).

Barn and attached buildings and structures, ca. 1845, 1 contributing building.

The barn complex (Photos 30 – 33) stands north of the house and the springhouse. The centerpiece of this connected grouping is the frame Pennsylvania type bank barn dating from 1842-1845. It faces south and has a closed forebay (Photos 31 – 32), resting on the extended limestone foundation walls. Attached to the west side of the south elevation of the barn is a long row of shed-roofed bays (Photo 33), also dating from 1842-1845, to house livestock and a harness room. A drive-through bay attaches this shed extension to the barn. Behind the barn at its northeast corner is a poured concrete stave silo, probably dating from the 1910-1920 period. The barnyard is walled with a coursed limestone fence, fallen in places. Cut stone coping tops the fence. A distinctive feature is a round arched opening at the juncture of the fence and the stone forebay wall (Photo 31), presumably creating an opening for livestock to exit the barnyard into the pastures. The arch stones are finely cut and the structure is topped with the same finely cut

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

cap stones as the rest of the fence. Additionally, the walkway under the forebay and along the front of the livestock sheds is paved with coursed stones edged with cut stone curbing (Photo 32).

The barn is a braced frame structure constructed of hewn timbers and is typical of the Pennsylvania, Maryland, eastern West Virginia and northern Virginia cultural region. The siding has been replaced and windows added in recent years along with a polygonal cupola mounted with the Wild Goose weather vane. The barn's roofing material is modern snap-joint enameled metal roofing simulating standing seam metal. The lower level of the barn is very intact with two-leaved batten doors, mortised and tenoned and pegged frames and transoms; and windows with horizontal wood bars, all typical of the local region. The floors are paved with brick in a herringbone pattern, stretched side up.

The sheds retain their original beaded vertical siding. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal. The two southernmost bays of the sheds are finely finished stalls with paneled interiors and quarter-arched windows between them. These presumably housed prize horses. The northernmost bay was for storage of harness, with hooks and hangers attached to the walls and ceilings. The area along the sheds and under the forebay is paved with cobblestones.

Wagon shed/corn crib, ca. 1880, 1 contributing building.

East of the poultry house is a frame, gable roofed wagon shed/corn crib (Photo 35). Although these structures are quite common on farmsteads of the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, this one is unusual in that the corn crib is central with the wagon bays on the outsides. Regional wagon sheds have a central wagon bay with the corn cribs on the outside. This building rests on brick piers and is covered with vertical siding, much of which has been replaced. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal.

Poultry House, ca. 1880, 1 contributing building

From the carriage shed, the main road to the building complex leads straight ahead toward the barn and agricultural buildings, crossing the lane to the west which led to the ice house, pump house and plantation office. Just north of the intersection of the two lanes, the road to the barn turns to the east and proceeds along the west side of the barns. To the west of this road is a tall stone retaining wall, the poultry house (Photo 36) and a wagon shed/corncrib.

The poultry house is a gable roofed frame building with vertical board and batten siding. It is covered with a deteriorated wood shingle roof and topped with a square cupola with louvered vents. The building is divided into two chambers with a loft above. Each chamber has a door and a window in the east façade, and at each end a small arched opening for the birds to enter and exit. The interior features feed bins and nesting boxes.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Stone walls, fences and curbing, iron gates, 1842-1845 (not included in inventory count)

A significant visual aspect of the Wild Goose complex is the extensive network of stone walls (fences), retaining walls, paving and curbing (Photo 39). While stone fences are common in the limestone studded eastern panhandle of West Virginia, those at Wild Goose are extraordinary in their extent and in the use of expert stone cutting for much of the work. This is evident in the cut cap or coping stones on the top of the walls and fences, cut stone gate posts, and cut curb stones defining roadways and walkways. At the entrance to the property from Shepherd Grade, stone gate posts carry iron gates, with ornamental lettering identifying the entrance as "Wild Goose."

Ponds, ca. 2010, 2 non-contributing structures

Non-contributing to the property are two large, possibly manmade ponds (Photo 38) along the entrance driveway, dating from ca. 2010. However, an 1888 description of Wild Goose mentions a "miniature lake" with swans and geese in front of the house. (Aler 1888:441-443)

Returned

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
AGRICULTURE



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

**Period of Significance**

1810-1940

**Significant Dates**

Ca. 1810

Ca. 1845-1848

Ca. 1880

Ca. 1920

**Significant Person**

None

**Cultural Affiliation**

None

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

Wild Goose Farm, in Jefferson County, West Virginia, is significant at the state level under National Register Criterion A for its role in the social and agricultural history of the region. The collection of domestic and farm-related buildings is representative of the wealth and status of the Shepherd family. Construction began in the 1840s as a “gentleman’s farm,” part of the Shepherd brothers’ stock farming operation through much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Wild Goose Farm is significant under National Register Criterion C for its architectural expression. The 10,000-square foot mansion house not only is a fine example of the melding of several styles including Greek Revival from the 1840s – with a New Orleans influence - and the twentieth-century Colonial Revival accretions, the farm also includes a rare cut stone springhouse constructed in a style reminiscent of a Greek temple. The building, set below ground level, is surrounded by a high stone retaining wall and a stone terrace, has three rooms, and includes fine brass fixtures. Most of the remaining farm and domestic outbuildings are common buildings but exhibit unusual individual design elements. The farm retains many of its historic stone fences as well as the iron gates with the “Wild Goose” name and the goose weathervane mentioned in several historic descriptions of the farm.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The nominated property known as Wild Goose Farm includes the 174 acres now currently associated with the farm setting being the bulk of the historic 187-acre core parcel. Contributing buildings and structures include the mansion house, smokehouse, springhouse/dairy, carriage

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

house, pump house, icehouse, pagoda, garden house/plantation office, tenant house, chimney remnant, poultry house, corn crib/wagon shed, barn, stone fences, and the iron entrance gates (Photo 1). The Period of Significance begins ca.1810 with the construction of the first small frame house later incorporated into the 1842-1845 construction of the R.D. Shepherd mansion house, and includes the ca.1880 improvements by Henry Shepherd and the ca.1920 Colonial Revival changes made by Edwin S. Jarrett, ending in 1940 with Jarrett's death.

This nomination recognizes, but does not delineate in the resource count, many stone walls, fences, and iron entry gates. These resources contribute to the integrity of Wild Goose Farm as do remnants of a formal ornamental garden, kitchen garden, and orchard. Likewise, the nomination recognizes the potential value of archeology to determine locations of buildings no longer standing (slave quarters), plant species (paleoethnobotany), and early human habitation. Archeology is simply beyond the means of this study.<sup>3</sup>

Resource History and Historic Context

Wild Goose Farm is located north of Shepherdstown in the area of a large loop in the Potomac River known as Terrapin Neck. This location was among the earliest settlements along the Upper Potomac in then-Virginia (now West Virginia) with settlers documented there as early as 1736 during a survey of the Fairfax Northern Neck Proprietary land. A tract of 1,200 acres just northeast of Wild Goose Farm was part of the infamous Jost Hite versus Lord Fairfax land dispute that lasted into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and established the Abraham Shepherd family as a major land-owner on Terrapin Neck.

Through much of the later 18<sup>th</sup> century development on Terrapin Neck, the Wild Goose tract was part of a larger plantation tract owned by John Stipp. Stipp had a manor house south of today's Wild Goose Farm and in 1803 advertised for sale "the plantation on whereon I now live, containing 462 acres." Stipp also identified "3 good Dwelling Houses" on the property, indicating the farm was equipped with two houses in addition to his own manor house. Since Stipp was assessed on the 1798 Berkeley County House Tax for just one house, and his son John Stipp, Jr. for one house, it appears that Stipp may have constructed a new third house in order to sell his land. Two years later in 1805, Stipp sold a 121-acre parcel – part of what would eventually form the core of the Wild Goose Farm – to his son George.<sup>4</sup> The George Stipp house, may be the small frame house that presently serves as the kitchen wing of the Wild Goose manor house, which appears to date from around the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

One of the selling points for the Stipp plantation noted in the newspaper advertisement of 1803 was that the farm was "1 [mile] from Potomack River, 75 from Baltimore, 60 from the Federal

<sup>3</sup> The Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Department of the Interior) conducted extensive archeology on its property (National Conservation and Training Center) adjoining Wild Goose Farm. The report documented "human habitation dating 8,000 years." See Dan Everson, "A History of the National Conservation and Training Center Property and Surrounding Area," *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society*. Vol. LXX, December 2004, 47.

<sup>4</sup> Reference in Jefferson Co. (JC) Deed Book (DB) 6, p. 82.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

City, and 70 from Alexandria, (produce may be taken down by water to either of the latter places.)” The transportation of agricultural products from the Upper Potomac region to major city markets and the Chesapeake Bay ports was dependent on poorly maintained roads. Wagons could transport only small amounts of produce the long distances making this an expensive travel (or transportation) proposition. Beginning as early as the late 1760s and continuing through the 1820s, an attempt to shift that transportation to the Potomac River as a primary artery was in full swing. In 1769, the Virginia Assembly heard a Bill which stated that “extending the Navigation of Potowmack River from the Great Falls of the said River up to Fort Cumberland will be of great benefit and advantage as well to the Inhabitants of the interior parts of the Colony...”<sup>5</sup> But it wasn’t until after the Revolutionary War that work making the upper Potomac River navigable was begun by the Patowmack Navigation Company headed by George Washington. Active boating of goods down the river began around 1798 and continued into the 1820s.

Although the seasonal variations of the river limited its usefulness as a permanent transportation corridor, farmers in the northwestern counties of Virginia and western Maryland found it a viable option as opposed to the rugged “waggon road.” Farms located along the Potomac River like John Stipp’s plantation, had a distinct advantage in that they did not have far to transport their produce to the river ports of Shepherdstown or Williamsport in Maryland. This advantage continued with the advent of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, beginning in 1828, which paralleled the Potomac River on the Maryland side. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, also started in 1828 and was routed through Jefferson County, quickly surpassed the canal as the primary transportation route for agricultural products. These transportation developments enhanced the agricultural development of northwestern Virginia and western Maryland.

In 1810, Shepherdstown merchant James S. Lane purchased part of the John Stipp plantation, a 187-acre tract from George Stipp and his father John Stipp, Sr.<sup>6</sup> The sale price of \$5,599 indicates the farm was well-improved. When the Lane estate was divided in 1828, the 187 acres called “George Stips [sic] Farm” were conveyed to the heirs of Martha C. (Lane) Webb. Then in 1829, John S. Webb of White County, Illinois sold the tract to neighbor Van Swearingen, “subject to a life estate held therein by George Webb as tenant.”<sup>7</sup> Swearingen, whose home farm called River View adjoined the 187-acre tract to the north, held the land for eight years. At the time the Van Swearingen heirs sold the land to Charles M. Shepherd in 1838, the parcel size had grown from 187 acres to 194 acres following the addition of a seven-acre strip of land; the sale price was \$10,072.<sup>8</sup>

By 1840, the Terrapin Neck neighborhood was dominated by Shepherd family holdings. Abraham Shepherd, son of Shepherdstown founder Thomas Shepherd, acted as advocate for the plaintiffs in the extended Hite vs. Fairfax land dispute, a case that lasted into the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The end result of the dispute’s settlement was that Abraham Shepherd acquired

<sup>5</sup> Grace L. Nute, ed., “Washington and the Potomac Manuscripts of the Minnesota Historical Society, [1754] 1769-1796,” reprinted from the *American Historical Review*, Vol. XXVIII, no. 3, April 1923, 503.

<sup>6</sup> JC DB 6, p. 82.

<sup>7</sup> JC DB 15, p. 330.

<sup>8</sup> JC DB 24, p. 260.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

a large amount of the disputed land in payment for his services, including part of the historic Swearingen family estate known as Springwood.

In 1822, Abraham Shepherd died and his estate was divided among his children – Rezin D., Henry, James H., Abram, Ann, Eliza, and Charles Moses.<sup>9</sup> Abraham Shepherd’s probate inventory indicates a farm operation that focused on livestock to a larger degree than many of his neighbors. His holdings included 64 hogs, 26 beef cattle, 190 head of sheep, 5 horses, and 5 milch (milk) cows. The farm produced staple grains, including wheat, rye, oats, corn, and flax seed, as well as a “large Apple Orchard.” Some of these products were processed on site in two (2) stills and twenty (20) still tubs; on hand was 110 gallons of apple brandy.<sup>10</sup>

Rezin Davis (R.D.) Shepherd was the oldest son of Abraham Shepherd. R.D. Shepherd apprenticed in a Baltimore merchant house beginning at the age of 16 in 1800. From there, he was sent to New Orleans in 1802, just as the Louisiana Territory became a part of the United States. Rezin Shepherd thrived in New Orleans, eventually establishing his own merchant house and nearly cornering the sugar trade there. He served under Commodore Patterson during the War of 1812 and was best known for saving the life of his good friend and Boston merchant Judah Truro. By the time of his father Abraham’s death in 1822, R.D. Shepherd was already worth millions of dollars. After losing his young wife in 1814 and with his only daughter Ellen in school in Boston, Shepherd turned his attention to the Terrapin Neck land that he and his brothers inherited. There, R.D. Shepherd sought to establish a retreat near his childhood home of Shepherdstown.<sup>11</sup>

While Rezin Shepherd trained his nephew Henry Shepherd in the merchant business in New Orleans, his brothers developed their Terrapin Neck farms. Brother Henry at Springwood was already known for the high quality of his breed stock, particularly sheep, cattle and horses. Youngest brother Charles M. Shepherd appears to have been the property manager of the family, carefully buying tracts along the road through Terrapin Neck known as Shepherd Grade. When Charles Shepherd purchased the tract of 194 acres from the heirs of Van Swearingen it was likely the first step toward the development of Wild Goose Farm as Rezin D. Shepherd’s retreat. The farm would also augment the livestock breeding business, begun around 1824 by Rezin Shepherd with Henry managing the day-to-day affairs.<sup>12</sup>

The improving quality of livestock on American farms was largely due to breeders like the Shepherds, who imported primarily English breed stock to their farms. Writing in an 1895 essay on American Live Stock, this author explains:

<sup>9</sup> JC Will Book (WB) 3, p. 391.

<sup>10</sup> JC WB 4, p.85.

<sup>11</sup> A.D. Kenamond, *Prominent Men of Shepherdstown During its First 200 Years* (Jefferson Co. Historical Society Publication, 1963), 103-105.

<sup>12</sup> Henry Shepherd Daybook, Shepherd Family Papers, Thornton Perry Collection, microfilm reel #45, Ruth Scarborough Library, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

The animals that came with the emigrants from Europe and the British Isles gave America such a mixed aggregation of traits and types as the world has never before witnessed. From this rare gathering of blood from every civilized land came our native cattle, our wild horses, and the common hog and sheep. From these the pioneers bred, and their sons, in turn, improved by importation and by selection, aided by a temperate climate, fertile soil, rich herbage, and grasses and grains such as no other country had ever furnished for the foundation and development of domestic animals. The mingling of bloods from every nation has given us a class of domestic animals called native or common stock, which has been easily impressed by the use of males of definite or fixed type. The result has been to give to the United States in one century the highest type and greatest number of high-grade and pure-bred animals of any nation on the earth.<sup>13</sup>

Brothers Henry and Rezin Shepherd's business in livestock breeding was located on their various Terrapin Neck farms. While Henry tended to the daily maintenance of the farms, R.D. was likely the money-man. In 1839, Henry paid Rezin \$4,000 to become an official partner in the business, "which gives to Henry Shepherd a clear unencumbered Interest of one half in all the stock of Cattle, Horses, Sheepe, and Hogs...including the Importation daily expected to arrive from Liverpool on board the Ellen Brooks... 12 head [Devonshires?], 12 Sheepes & ten [Pigs?]." <sup>14</sup> A pamphlet printed in 1839 by J.F. Cannell of 18 Castle Street, Liverpool England, is "A Catalogue of Short-Horned Cattle, Leicestershire Sheep, Berkshire and Suffolk Hogs, Selected by J.C. Etches, of Barton Park, Near Derby, for R.D. Shepherd, Esq., of Shepherdstown, Virginia and New Orleans, United States in May, 1839."<sup>15</sup> "The pamphlet," notes Everson, "then itemized various animals including their previous owners, extensive genealogies, and various prizes won at area livestock shows." Henry Shepherd's Daybook provides the details of local sales, purchases, and breeding activities from 1824 through 1860.

In 1841, Charles M. Shepherd sold all of his real estate and personal property to R. D. Shepherd, "of New Orleans" for a total of \$19,000.<sup>16</sup> Among the tracts of land included in the conveyance was the 194-acre tract recently purchased from the Swearingen heirs as well as Charles' nearby home farm. His personal property included two slaves, horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and other stock "now on said tracts of land," also farming utensils and household furniture. Unlike Washington County, Maryland (just across the Potomac River) where enslaved laborers were present but not in large numbers, slave labor in Jefferson County Virginia was an important aspect of 19<sup>th</sup> century life, as suggested by the percentages of slaves in the general population. According to federal census records in 1840, Charles Shepherd listed seven slaves, his brother Abram had five slaves, and Henry listed 22 enslaved men, women, and children. In 1850, Rezin

<sup>13</sup> Chauncey M. Depew, LL.D., ed., *One Hundred Years of American Commerce*, Vol. I (New York: D.O. Haynes & Co., 1895), 220, digitized on GoogleBooks.

<sup>14</sup> Henry Shepherd Daybook, 54.

<sup>15</sup> Dan Everson, *A History of the National Conservation Training Center Property and Surrounding Area* (Shepherdstown, WV, self-published, 2000).

<sup>16</sup> JC DB 25, p. 204.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Shepherd had 15 slaves on the Wild Goose Farm. By 1860, that number had risen to 22 enslaved with four “slave houses” recorded on the farm.

*Architectural Expansion and Influences during the Shepherd Family Ownership*

Shepherd family tradition recounts 1842 as the year that the Wild Goose mansion house was constructed, and indeed that date is incised in the plaster of one of the cellar walls of the house. However, the tax records seem to tell a different story. The 1843 tax record, which should have assessed any new building, still listed R.D. Shepherd’s now 200-acre tract with a \$400 building value – probably the George Stipp/George Webb house. In 1845, \$3000 in building value was “added for improvements.” Then in 1846, the assessment rose again by “\$2000 added for new house.” Despite extensive research efforts, it appears that records for the construction of the Wild Goose manor house do not exist. The plan of the house (before the ca.1911 changes) was unlike others typical of the region. There is some indication of influence from styles found in New Orleans, in particular the fenestration in the long east façade with multiple French door type windows and full length shutters. The wide pass-through entrance hall originally opened onto the double-galleried porch overlooking a courtyard formed by the north extensions of the east and west wings.

American architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who arrived in New Orleans in 1819, appreciated the Creole influence on the architecture of the city, but noted: “The merchants from the old United States who are daily gaining ground on the manners, the habits, the opinions, and the domestic arrangements of the French, have already begun to introduce the lop-sided London house.”<sup>17</sup> Among the American influences on architecture in New Orleans that took shape through the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – the period of R.D. Shepherd’s residence there – was the “American Townhouse” style, different from the Creole with its interior stairway but often employing the full-length arrangement of facade openings and a balcony on the second floor. Typical façade openings were the “French door” style with full-length shutters. Early Garden District dwellings (1830s-1840s) in New Orleans were a similar mix of Creole and American elements.<sup>18</sup>

While Shepherd’s rural retreat on Wild Goose Farm may well have been influenced by the familiar architecture of New Orleans, there were many aspects of the house and outbuildings that were more typical of the mid-Atlantic region as well. R.D. Shepherd’s Wild Goose Farm by 1850 represented the “high end” among other farms in the region, however rapid population growth in the region and prosperity among the regional farming set resulted in a period of substantial building improvements in many regional farms. The Greek Revival architectural style was a nationally popular style that peaked in the rural mid-Atlantic in the 1840s. Many area farmhouses from the period were indeed more substantial than earlier constructions, often built of brick rather than log, but rarely approaching the size of the Wild Goose manor house. One

<sup>17</sup> “Vieux Carré Historic District,” National Register documentation, 1984.

<sup>18</sup> Eleanor Burke, “Garden District Study Report,” Historic District Landmarks Commission, New Orleans, LA, 2006.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

comparably sized mansion house is the Bushrod Corbin Washington house known as Claymont Court (listed individually in the National Register in 1973) in the Charles Town vicinity. Originally built in 1820 with Georgian architectural influence, it was destroyed by fire in 1838 and rebuilt in the Georgian style by 1840.<sup>19</sup>

The outbuildings and agricultural buildings on Wild Goose Farm, particularly the frame bank barn, were more in keeping with others found on neighboring farms. The “Pennsylvania” style bank barn was ubiquitous on the region’s farms as were stone fences. Many farms in the area could be found with a stone smokehouse with hipped roof, an icehouse buried in the ground, and a stone springhouse. Few, however, had a springhouse that looked like a Greek temple or perhaps even a New Orleans mortuary. The Hampton estate, established in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century near Baltimore, Maryland did have a springhouse/dairy of very similar arrangement to R.D. Shepherd’s.<sup>20</sup>

Substantial houses and large frame bank barns reflect the agricultural prosperity of the region. The farms in the Terrapin Neck neighborhood, like much of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, were part of the mid-Atlantic “breadbasket” where grain farming and agricultural processing industries dominated, along with the iron industry. By 1850, wheat and corn (referred to in agricultural census records as “Indian Corn”) were the largest crops, with swine and sheep being the dominant livestock produced. Other crops included rye, oats, potatoes, orchard fruit, and hay. Wool and butter were also frequently listed in the 1850 agricultural census.

Although on the average family farm of 1850, livestock numbers were not large – usually fewer than a dozen horses, milch (milk) cows, cattle, and mules – in nearly all instances there were larger numbers of swine and sheep. Forty or fifty swine were common and smaller farms typically had anywhere from 20 to 100 sheep. Wool was produced by the pound and processed in woolen mills. Hogs were butchered annually producing hundreds of pounds of meat, generally sold in local venues. A surprising quantity of butter was listed in the census; certainly, such large quantities of butter were for market, along with the wheat and corn. It was through improved livestock breeding that so few dairy cattle could produce so much butter.

By 1850, R.D. Shepherd had retired to his Terrapin Neck retreat with an accumulated acreage of over 700 acres, valued by a county appraiser at \$240,000. Shepherd, who remained a bachelor since the death of his wife in 1814, shared his large manor house with an overseer named Eli Slone and a young German stonemason named Conrad Smith. It seems likely that Conrad Smith, just 26 years old in 1850, was brought over from Germany to lay the cut stone foundation of the mansion house and construct the fine springhouse on Wild Goose Farm. The vast network of stone fences and retaining walls were probably also Smith’s work, or he supervised their construction. He probably also made the stone addition to the old Hezekiah Swearingen house located on adjoining 111 acres purchased by Shepherd in 1843. Living in a tenant house

<sup>19</sup> “Claymont Court,” NR documentation, 1972.

<sup>20</sup> *Hampton National Historic Site*, [www.nps.gov/hamp/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hamp/index.htm), accessed 12/16/2016.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

(probably the old Swearingen house) on the property was Shepherd's German gardener named George Beck, along with his wife and five children.

R.D. Shepherd's retirement at Wild Goose did not last long and was marred by the financial and social stresses of the Civil War. Throughout the war, business dealings in New Orleans were hampered, and with the end of the war, Shepherd would have lost the money invested in his enslaved laborers. But apparently, he was less affected by the depredations of the Civil War than many Southern gentlemen. In 1865 Rezin D. Shepherd passed away at age 80, his elegant manor farm still intact. In addition to his Wild Goose Farm, Shepherd left behind "an enduring contribution" to the town of Shepherdstown in the form of a town hall, now the centerpiece of the Shepherd University campus.<sup>21</sup>

Following R.D. Shepherd's death, Wild Goose Farm – described at the time as "R.D. Shepherd's Mansion house farm" – passed to his daughter Ellen Brooks and her two sons Peter and Shepherd Brooks. Ellen and Peter sold the 396-acre mansion house farm to Shepherd Brooks in 1866 (see attached 1866 Plat).<sup>22</sup> The odd sketch, apparently a plan view of the manor house on the plat, seems to indicate an earlier, smaller east porch. In 1869, Brooks purchased the 72-acre Markell tract, making the farm then 468 acres in all.<sup>23</sup> Brooks, who was the first to document the name "Wild Goose Farm" (see attached 1871 Plat), sold the farm for \$30,000 in 1871 to Henry Shepherd Jr., who was still living in New Orleans attending to the family merchant business. The deed of conveyance noted that the sale included "all the personal property – the equipment complete as it now stands."<sup>24</sup>

Henry Shepherd Jr. and his family, listed on the farm in the 1880 census, moved to the farm after 1872, the youngest child Augustus, at 8 years old, having been born in Louisiana. Living with the Shepherd family in 1880 were five black and mulatto servants, among them Coachman William Wells, age 35. Wells had been working on the farm prior to Henry Shepherd Jr's ownership. The name William Wells, with the date 1868, is carved into the stone of the carriage shed on the west side of the garden. It was also in 1880 when the farm was first described in the annual tax record with the name "Wild Goose."

It was during Henry Shepherd's tenure that Wild Goose Farm was visited by historian-author F. Vernon Aler in preparation for his book on the history of Berkeley County (1888). Aler included an appendix with a biography of Henry Shepherd, Esq. (Jr.), "with the history of Wild Goose Farm" in which he described "One of the most attractive country seats in the Eastern portion of our Mountain State":

Looking out from a gently reclining hill, on the picturesque Potomac, with its varied and beautiful scenery, this old Virginia Homestead is one of those well

<sup>21</sup> Kenamond, *Prominent Men*

<sup>22</sup> JC DB 1, p. 340.

<sup>23</sup> JC DB 4, p. 22.

<sup>24</sup> JC DB 6, p. 8.



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

remembered resorts, which in ante-bellum days were the pride and boast of the people of the South. This part was then owned by the late Mr. R.D. Shepherd, a wealthy and distinguished member of the family, by whom it was christened “Wild Goose Farm.”

...Passing up a long avenue of well grown and carefully selected forest trees – beech, linden, maple, and others – we approach the mansion. Here on a knoll, embowered ‘mid a profusion of waving willows, stately poplars, and quaking aspens, stands the residence, built in a quadrangular shape, with two extended wings – a pretentious frame structure of a comparatively modern architecture... We enter through a Gothic porch, a spacious hall, leading to the parlors, which are simply but richly furnished – skillfully reflecting mirrors and choice paintings adding to the pleasing effect. The library, adjoining, is a most unique and handsomely furnished room, and the dining and bed-rooms in elegance and taste correspond with the parlor and library. From a wide piazza, in a lovely window in front, we look down upon a miniature lake, on which sport the graceful swan, lordly geese and countless Muscovies.

A view of the garden presents a happy blending of the useful and ornamental – real vegetable gardening decorated. From the dwelling a fine gravelly walk leads down to the dairy and spring, while northward two white shelly roadways wind around a diamond-shaped centre plat, converging at the barn. The stables, in which the well-bred driving horses stand, are constructed after the best models, and the mangers furnished with the latest contrivances for safe feeding. The carriage room, with oiled floor, is equipped with brouches, phaetons, falling tops and village carts, while the room connecting exhibits a fine display of harness, most admirably arranged, – altogether affording the material for several handsome turnouts... Across from the stables is an octagon Japanese Pagoda, tastefully designed and painted, and surmounted by a gilt ball, weather cock and wild goose. Here stands the morning sentinel, who at appointed hours strikes the bell, giving signal and summons for all the workmen to repair to labor. The barn and extended range of stables are planned and equipped with a view to the greatest convenience and usefulness. A long row of painted shedding contains and shelters the various agricultural implements, all assorted and kept with the same system and care which mark everything about the premises. Hostlers and watchmen are constantly on duty about the barn and stables, taking care of the property and the large herds of valuable cattle, sheep and hogs... Passing down the avenue from Wild Goose you behold dotted here and there over the farm, a number of modern style cottages where dwell the workmen in plenty, comfort and contentment...<sup>25</sup>

---

<sup>25</sup> F. Vernon Aler, *A Full and Complete History of Martinsburg and Berkeley County, West Virginia. Past and Present* (Hagerstown, MD: The Mail Publishing Co., 1888), 441-443.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Although it appears from this 1880s description that Henry Shepherd did not make significant changes to the mansion house, he did add to the collection of outbuildings, in particular the “octagon Japanese Pagoda” that today (2016) stands on the north side of the lane running west from the house. The siding, decorative trim and interior molding indicates a post-war construction likely during Henry’s ownership. The “gilt ball, weather cock and wild goose,” later moved atop the barn, is currently in storage on the farm. Of the “modern style cottages” that were “dotted here and there” only one remains (now called the Tenant House), its center cross gable indicating its construction date from the Henry Shepherd ownership period. Not described by Aler but likely constructed during this time was the poultry house with board and batten siding and decorative ventilation cupola. It is also likely that the iron entrance gates to the farm date from this period.

In 1889, Henry Shepherd, Jr. wrote his Last Will and Testament at “Wild Goose Farm, Near Shepherdstown, West Virginia.”<sup>26</sup> Shepherd devised the farm to his sons Rezin D., Henry M., William J., and Augustus M.; Rezin as the oldest received the largest share at the time of his father’s death in 1891. In 1892, the other heirs conveyed the full ownership of Wild Goose Farm to their brother Rezin for \$24,531 (the total value was \$38,000).<sup>27</sup>

Rezin D. Shepherd, son of Henry Shepherd Jr., was better known by his stage name R.D. McLean (his mother’s maiden name). A successful actor, McLean retained Wild Goose Farm as his retreat from the stage and society. Asked early in his career where he went to relax, McLean answered: “I go to Shepherdstown, W.Va., where my father still resides, and I shall study and yell amid the rocks and woods on the farm to my heart’s content.”<sup>28</sup> In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, McLean turned to movie acting and sold the core of the farm as a 185-acre tract, the historic acreage sold back in 1813 to James S. Lane, but this time with the full complement of domestic and agricultural buildings. The purchaser was Edwin S. Jarrett, who paid \$36,000 for Wild Goose Farm in 1911.<sup>29</sup>

Post-Shepherd Family Ownership

Like the Shepherd’s before him, Jarrett used the Wild Goose Farm as his retreat while he was still working in New York City and traveling. During his ownership, the farm was leased to a tenant, a condition that continued through much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Recalled R.W. Morrow of his time on Wild Goose Farm:

<sup>26</sup> JC WB B, p. 24.

<sup>27</sup> JC DB Z, p. 260.

<sup>28</sup> Aler, *A Full and Complete History*, 452.

<sup>29</sup> JC DB 105, p. 494. Edwin S. Jarrett, known in local tradition as an engineer on the Holland Tunnel project, was probably the New York engineer/owner of a concrete foundation company. The Foundation and Construction Company, as described in a 1904 *New York Times* article, specialized in skyscraper foundations, noting “Every caisson foundation on Broadway stands to their credit, besides innumerable foundations for bridge piers.” (*The New York Times*, June 19, 1904) According to this article, Edwin S. Jarrett graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1888.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

We moved from Dam No. 4 in about 1928 to Wild Goose Farm... The Jarretts were not farmers. My dad was employed to manage the farm and pay only a very small percentage of the amount of money from the sale of wheat and other grain and livestock... The house we lived in had a kitchen, dining room, living room and 3 bedrooms all on one floor. Outside the kitchen door was the concrete top to a cistern that collected rain water from the roof... We had a large garden, a beautiful yard, a smoke house and on top of the smoke house was a large bell you could hear all over the farm... The barn was a large bank barn with a large metal goose weather vane on top... We milked 10 or 15 cows, made our own butter and cottage cheese and sold the surplus milk, except when we ran it through a separator. We used or sold the cream and fed the skimmed milk to the hogs... In the spring I hauled small loads of manure to town at about \$2.00 a load for people who had gardens... We also went house to house selling corn and other vegetables. We had many fruits and vegetables especially apples, pears, and quinces. Many times on weekends in the Fall we would run apples through our cider mill and cut wood for winter fuel.<sup>30</sup>

Jarrett is credited with the most striking Colonial Revival changes to the old Wild Goose mansion, beginning after his purchase in 1911. These included the raising of the east wing roof by nine feet, the construction of the heavy Colonial Revival galleried porch on the east elevation, and the conversion of the two east parlors into one large ballroom. For this the two parlor fireplaces were removed and a single central fireplace inserted. Part of the north porch was enclosed to create a pantry with a dumbwaiter connected to a basement kitchen. The porch on the west elevation of the house was also enclosed. A similar Colonial Revival update of the nearby Bellevue manor house was completed in 1907 by Henry Shepherd III, who had purchased that farm in 1900 "as a wedding gift to his bride Minnie Reinhart."<sup>31</sup>

After Jarrett's death in 1940, the farm changed hands several times but little changed about its appearance or use. It continued as a tenant farm with the manor house used by the wealthy owners as a retreat, including NASA engineer Robert Moss in the 1960s and former West Virginia Governor Gaston Caperton beginning in 1998.

<sup>30</sup> "R.W. Morrow Autobiography," <http://www.geocities.com/dalemorrow/rwmc.html>, accessed 2008.

<sup>31</sup> "Bellevue" NR documentation, 1983.

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Aler, F. Vernon. *A Full and Complete History of Martinsburg and Berkeley County, West Virginia. Past and Present.* Hagerstown, MD: The Mail Publishing Co., 1888.

Allen, John C. *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1735-1835.* Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2011.

Berkeley and Jefferson Intelligencer. Newspaper microfilm collection, Martinsburg Public Library, Martinsburg, WV.

Berkeley County House and Slave Tax of 1798. Transcribed by the Berkeley Co. Historical Society, Martinsburg, WV.

Burke, Eleanor. "Garden District Study Report." Historic District Landmarks Commission, New Orleans, LA, 2006.

Depew, Chauncey M., LL.D., ed. *One Hundred Years of American Commerce.* Vol. I, New York: D.O. Haynes & Co., 1895. GoogleBooks.

Everson, Dan. A History of the National Conservation Training Center Property and surrounding area. Shepherdstown, WV, self-published, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_. "A History of the National Conservation Training Center Property and surrounding area." *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society.* Vol. LXX, December 2004.

Henry Shepherd Daybook, Shepherd Family Papers, Thornton Perry Collection, microfilm reel #45, Ruth Scarborough Library, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV.

Jefferson County Land Tax Records. Microfilm collection, Berkeley Co. Historical Society, Martinsburg, WV.

Kenamond, A.D. *Prominent Men of Shepherdstown During its First 200 Years.* Jefferson Co. Historical Society Publication, 1963.

Nute, Grace L., ed. "Washington and the Potomac Manuscripts of the Minnesota Historical Society, [1754] 1769-1796." Reprinted from the *American Historical Review*, Vol. XXVIII, no. 3, April 1923.

"R.W. Morrow Autobiography." <http://www.geocities.com/dalemorrow/rwmc.html>.

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

Toledano, Roulhac B. *A Pattern Book of New Orleans Architecture*. New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Company, 2010.

“Vieux Carré Historic District.” Orleans Parish, NR documentation, Division of Historic Preservation, State of Louisiana, 1984.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** None.

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** JF-0059-0004

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 173

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates: UTM used.

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18 | Easting: 257100 | Northing: 4273760 |
| 2. Zone: 18 | Easting: 258280 | Northing: 4372760 |
| 3. Zone: 18 | Easting: 258260 | Northing: 4373460 |
| 4. Zone: 18 | Easting: 257040 | Northing: 4372480 |

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated boundary follows the boundary of the current Wild Goose Farm as shown on the attached Jefferson County tax map, Parcels 13, 13.8, and 13.6.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary of approximately 174 acres is the remaining acreage of the historic 187-acre tract parceled out and sold initially in 1813 by John Stipp Sr. and his son George Stipp to James S. Lane. Combined through the intervening years with adjoining parcels, this tract of 187 acres remained the core of the farm, encompassing the main building complex, and was again parceled out as 185 acres in the 1911 sale to Edwin S. Jarrett.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Paula S. Reed, Ph.D., architectural historian; Edie Wallace, historian  
organization: Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc.  
street & number: One West Franklin Street, Suite 201  
city or town: Hagerstown state: MD zip code: 21740  
e-mail: paula@paulasreed.com  
telephone: 301-739-2070  
date: January, 2017

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location. (See Figure 1.)
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map. (See Figures 2, 3, 4, and 5.)
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.) (See Figures 6, 7, 8, and 9.)

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

## **FIGURES**

### **List of Figures**

Figure 1. Wild Goose Farm, USGS, Shepherdstown Quadrangle

Figure 2. Wild Goose Farm, USGS, Shepherdstown Quadrangle, with UTM coordinates

Figure 3. Wild Goose Farm, Site Plan

Figure 4. Wild Goose Farm, Exterior Photo Views

Figure 5. Wild Goose Farm, Boundary Map

Figure 6. Wild Goose Farm, Ground Plan with photo views

Figure 7. Wild Goose Farm, 1866 Plat

Figure 8. Wild Goose Farm, 1871 Plat

Figure 9. Wild Goose Farm, 1911 Plat

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

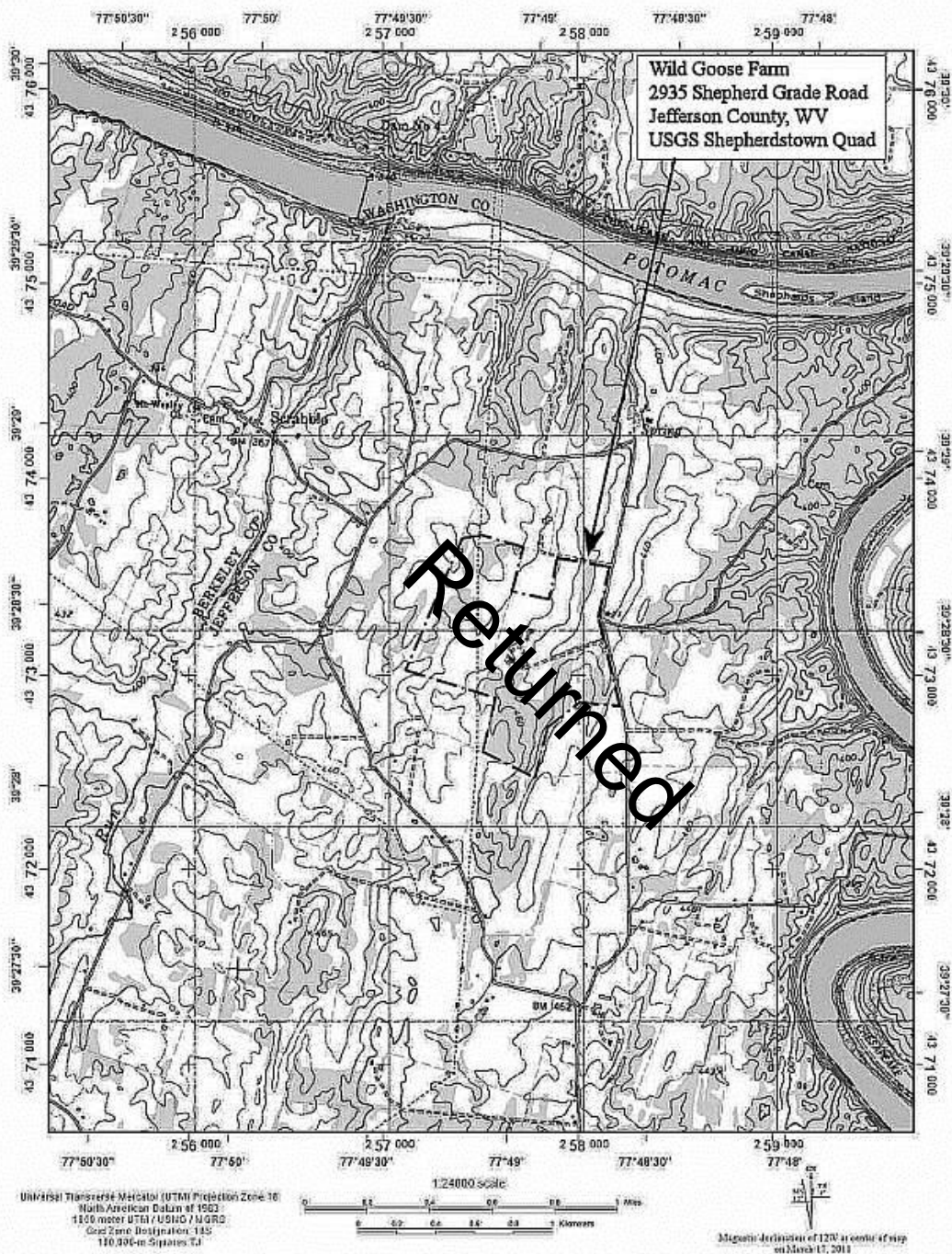


Figure 1. Wild Goose Farm, USGS, Shepherdstown Quadrangle



Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

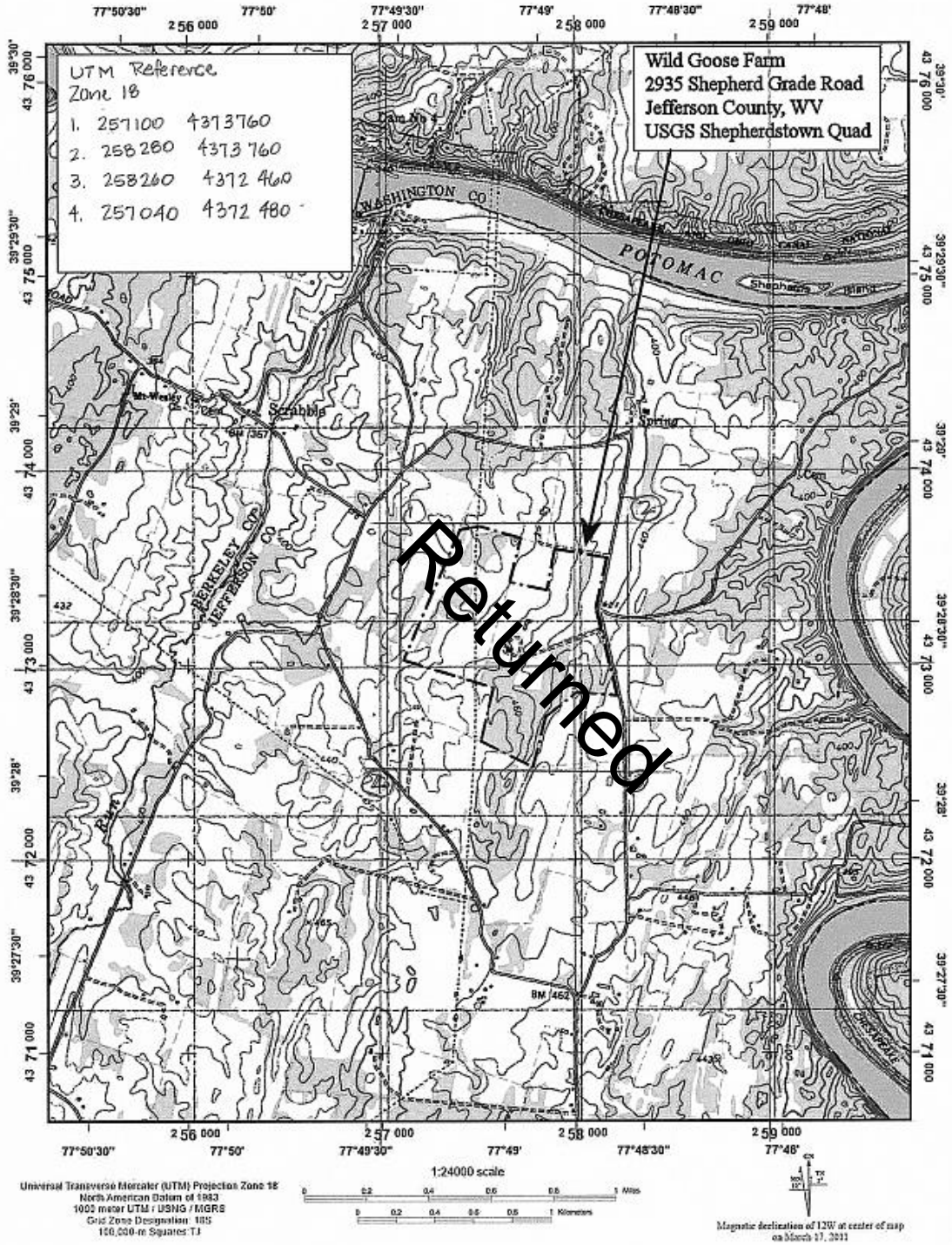


Figure 2. Wild Goose Farm, USGS, Shepherdstown Quadrangle, with UTM

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

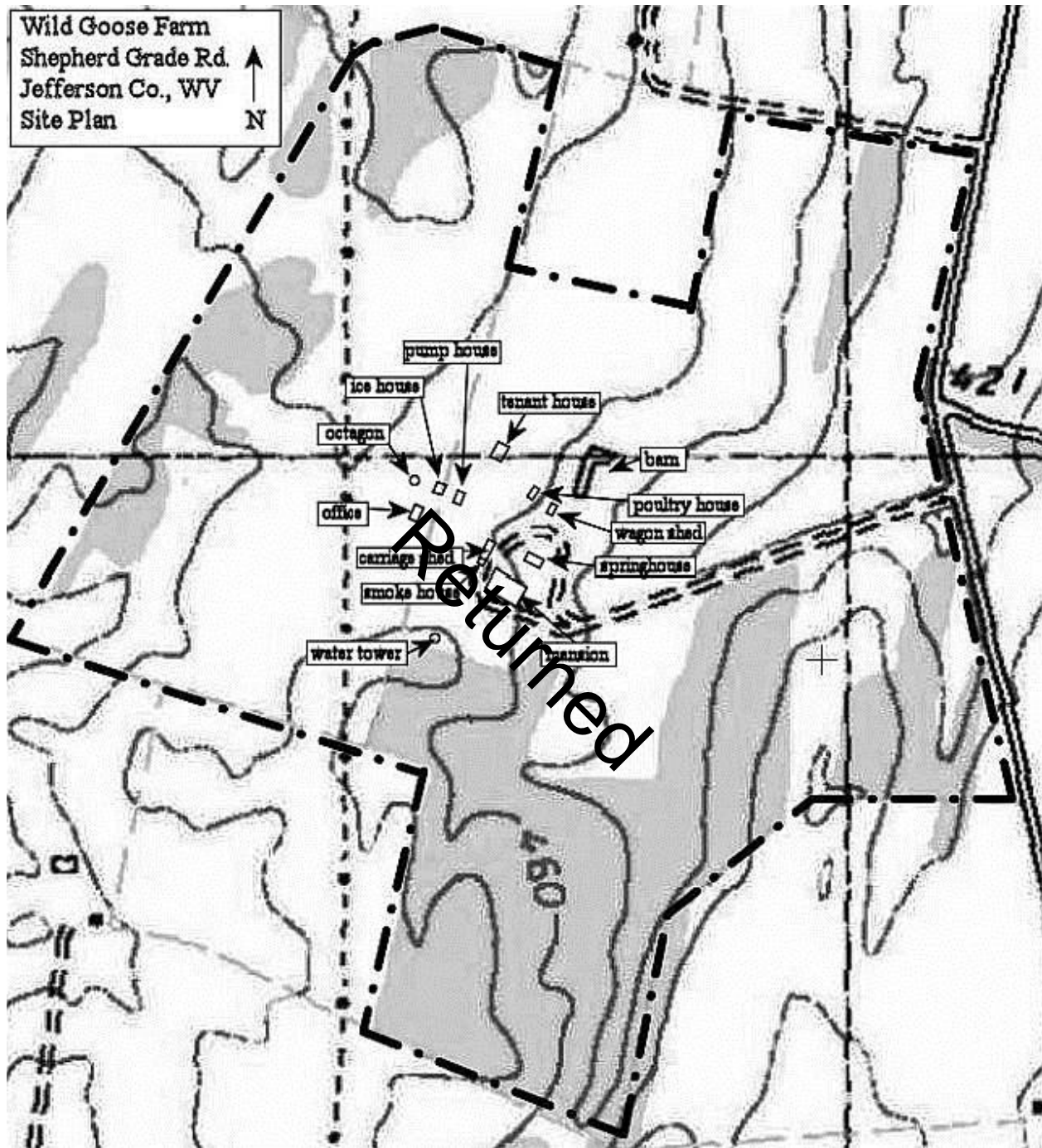


Figure 3. Wild Goose Farm Site Plan

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



Figure 4. Wild Goose Farm, Exterior Photo Views

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

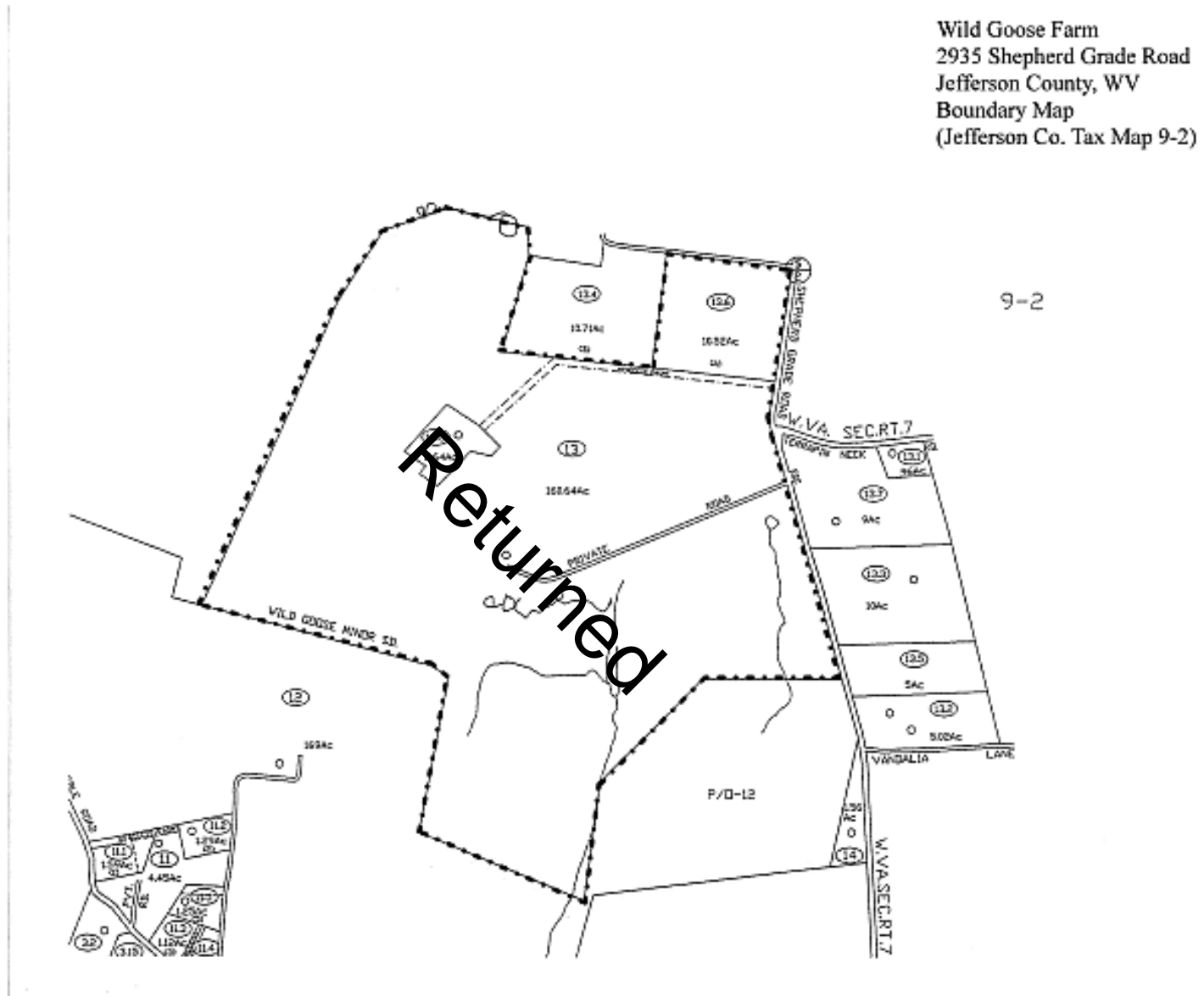


Figure 5. Wild Goose Farm Boundary Map

Wild Goose Farm  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

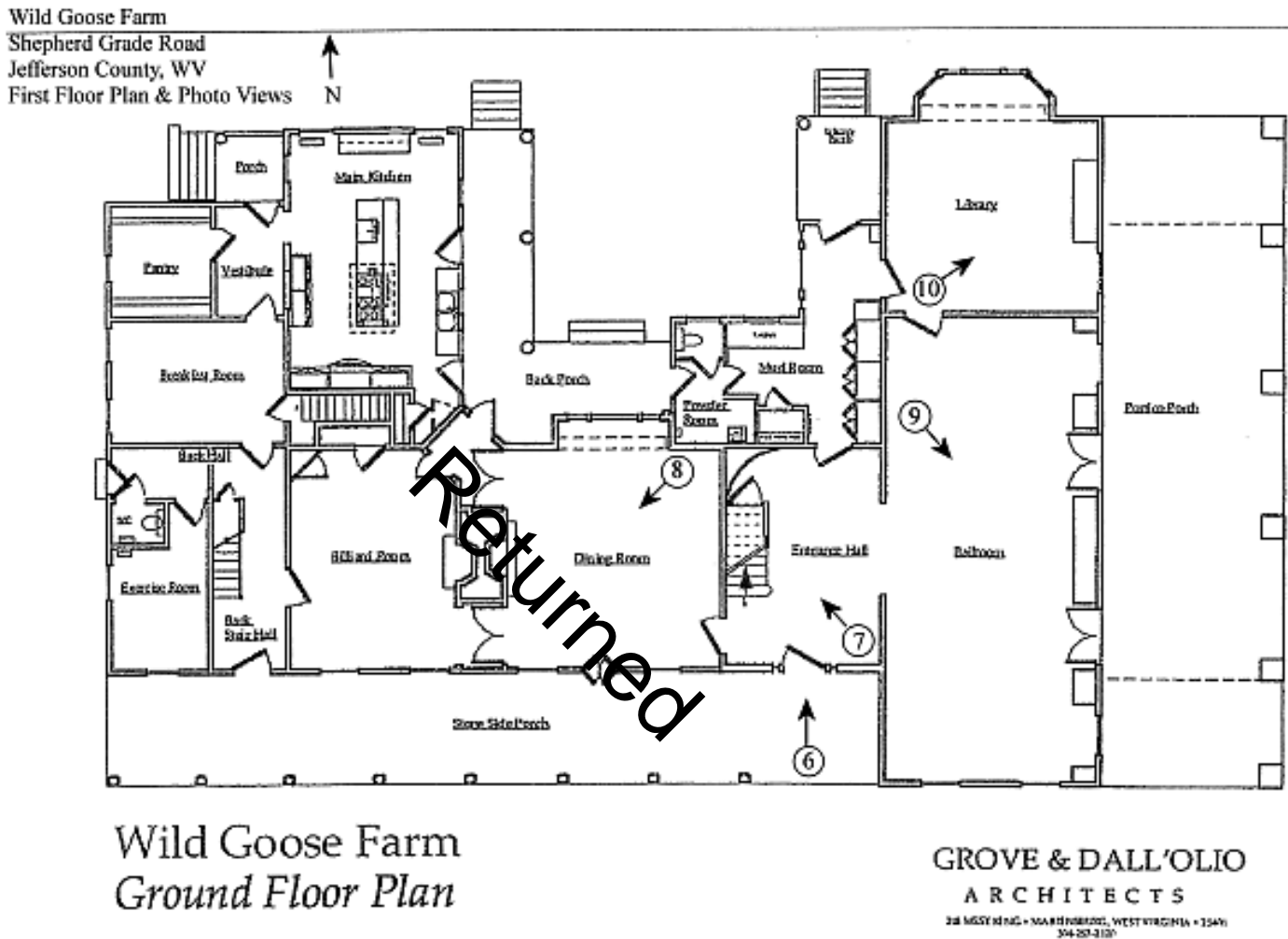


Figure 6. Wild Goose Ground Floor Plan with photo views

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

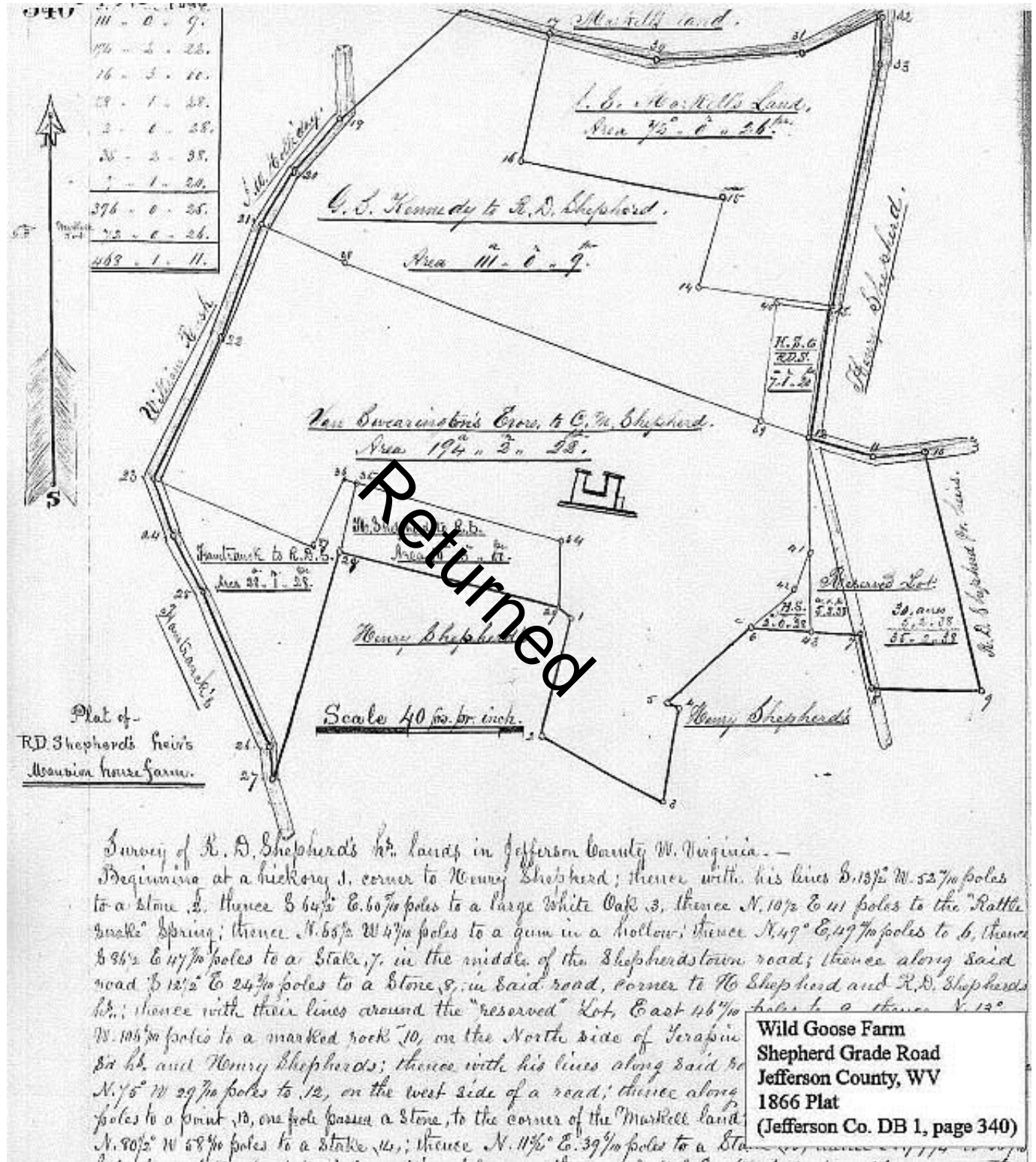


Figure 7. Wild Goose Farm 1866 Plat

Wild Goose Farm  
 Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
 County and State

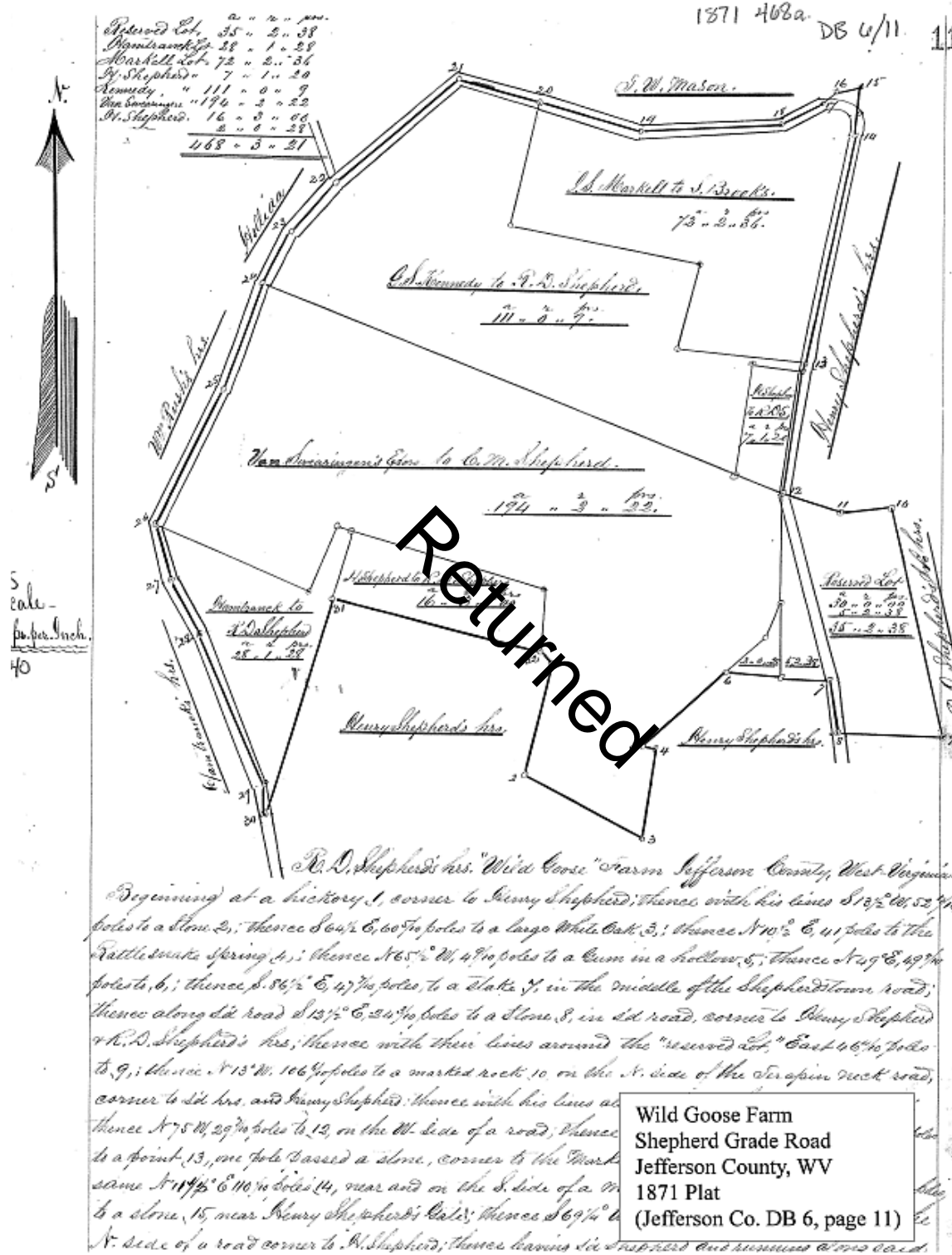


Figure 8. Wild Goose Farm 1871 Plat

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Wild Goose Farm  
Shepherd Grade Road  
Jefferson County, WV  
1911 Plat  
(Jefferson Co. DB 105, page 495)

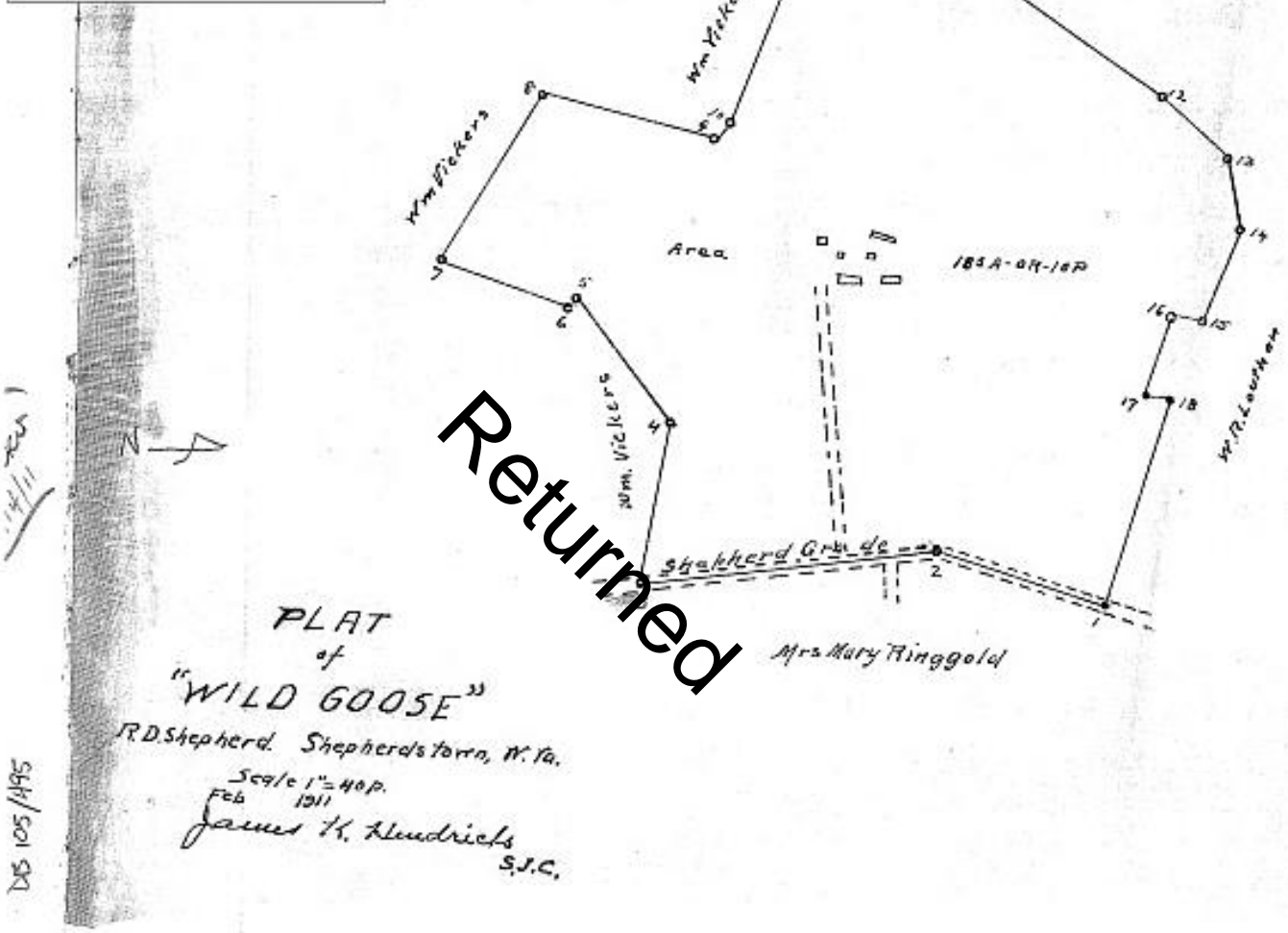


Figure 9. Wild Goose Farm 1911 Plat



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

**Digital Photograph Log**

**Name of Property:** Wild Goose Farm  
**City or Vicinity:** Shepherdstown  
**County, State:** Jefferson County, WV  
**Name of Photographer:** Edie Wallace  
**Date of Photographs:** December 2016  
**Location of Original Files:** WV SHPO  
**Number of Photographs:** 43

**Page 1 of 4**

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0001  
Entrance and gate; Shepherd Grade in foreground; view W

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0001a  
Mansion exterior, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0002  
Mansion exterior, east and north elevations, view SW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0003  
Mansion exterior, north elevation, view S

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0004  
Mansion exterior, north and west elevations, view SE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0005  
Mansion exterior, west and south elevations, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0006  
Mansion exterior, south elevation, main entrance, view N

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0007  
Mansion interior, first floor, entrance hall stairway, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0008  
Mansion interior, first floor, "Dining Room," view SW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0009  
Mansion interior, first floor, "Ballroom," view SE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0010  
Mansion interior, first floor, "Library," view NE

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

**Photo Log Page 2 of 4**

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0011

Mansion interior, first floor, detail of interior door knob and lock

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0012

Mansion interior, cellar, kitchen fireplace in north-east room, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0013

Mansion interior, cellar, dumbwaiter detail, view S

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0014

Smokehouse and Carriage Shed, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0015

Springhouse, west and south elevations, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0016

Springhouse, detail of exterior spring access under west portico, view N

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0017

Springhouse, south elevation, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0018

Springhouse, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0019

Springhouse, interior view of wash room, view W

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0020

Water Tower and Reservoir, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0021

Water Tower and Reservoir, interior view of deteriorated reservoir, view N

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0022

Setting, plantation building group northwest of the mansion, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0023

Stone "plantation office," north and west elevations, view SE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0024

Stone "plantation office," interior, view S

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

**Photo Log Page 3 of 4**

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0025

Octagonal "sentinel station," view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0026

Ice house, west and south elevations, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0027

Pump house, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0028

Tenant house, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0029

Tenant house, east and north elevations and back building, view W

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0029a

Fireplace remnant; stone, brick, with iron grate

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0030

Barn and attached shed, west elevation, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0031

Barn, south elevation forebay, view NE

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0032

Barn, south elevation forebay, detail of stone paving and drain, view N

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0033

Shed attached to barn, east elevation, view SW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0034

Setting, view S from barn area toward mansion

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0035

Wagon shed/corn crib, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0036

Poultry house, south and east elevations, view NW

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0037

Setting, view N from mansion toward barn

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

**Photo Log Page 4 of 4**

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0038

Setting, view NE from mansion toward Shepherd Grade Road and Potomac River, pond in foreground

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0039

Setting, view SE from driveway

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0040

Setting, view N from north side of barn

WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0041

Setting, view NE with stone walls, lane to Tenant House

Returned

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0001  
Entrance and gate; Shepherd Grade in foreground, view W



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0001a  
Mansion exterior, south and east elevations, view NW

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0002  
Mansion exterior, east and north elevations, view SW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0003  
Mansion exterior, north elevation, view S

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0004  
Mansion exterior, north and west elevations, view SE



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0005  
Mansion exterior, west and south elevations, view NE

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0006  
Mansion exterior, south elevation, main entrance, view N



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0007  
Mansion interior, first floor, entrance hall stairway, view NW



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0008  
Mansion interior, first floor, "Dining Room," view SW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0009  
Mansion interior, first floor, "Ballroom," view SE

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0010  
Mansion interior, first floor, "Library," view NE



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0011  
Mansion interior, first floor, detail of interior door knob and lock

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0012  
Mansion interior, cellar, kitchen fireplace in north-east room, view NE



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0013  
Mansion interior, cellar, dumbwaiter detail, view S

Wild Goose Farm

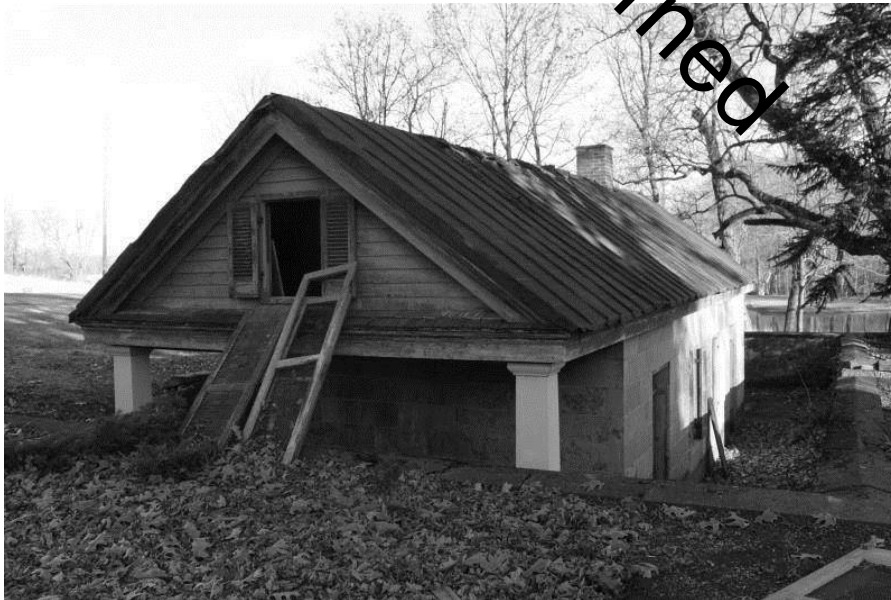
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0014  
Smokehouse and Carriage Shed, south and east elevations, view NW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0015  
Springhouse, west and south elevations, view NE

Wild Goose Farm

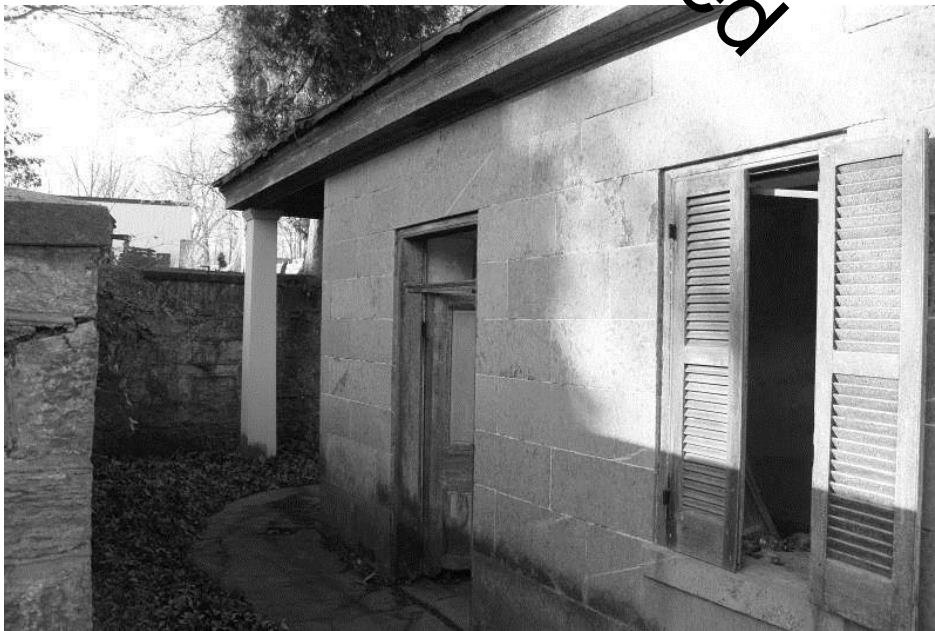
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0016  
Springhouse, detail of exterior spring access under west portico, view N



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0017  
Springhouse, south elevation, view NW

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0018  
Springhouse, south and east elevations, view NW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0019  
Springhouse, interior view of wash room, view W

Wild Goose Farm

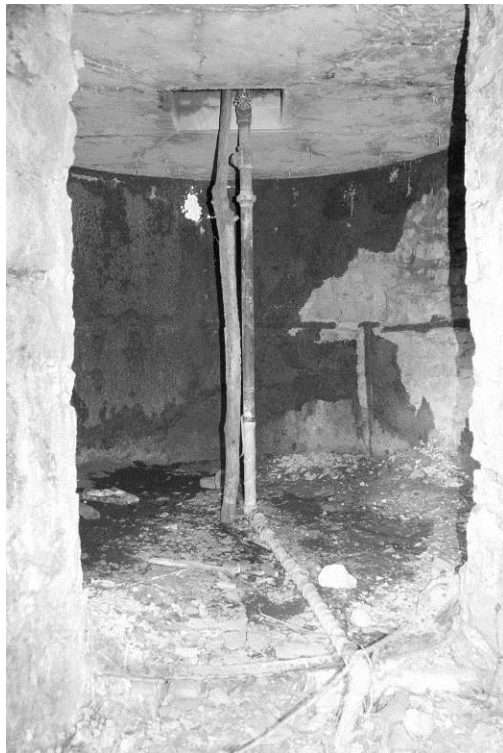
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0020  
Water Tower and Reservoir, view NE



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0021  
Water Tower and Reservoir, interior view of deteriorated reservoir, view N

Wild Goose Farm

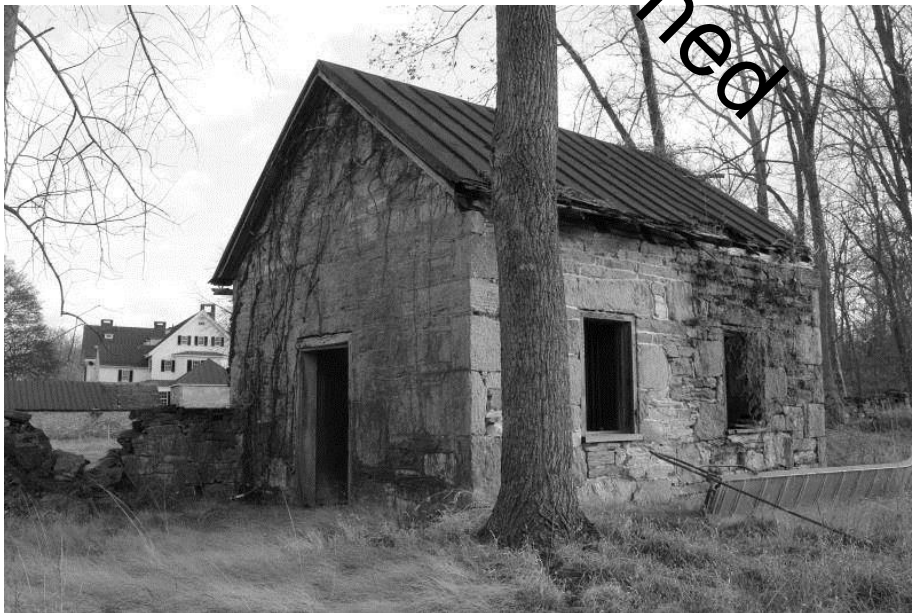
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_002  
Setting, plantation building group northwest of the mansion, view NW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0023  
Stone "plantation office," north and west elevations, view SE



Wild Goose Farm

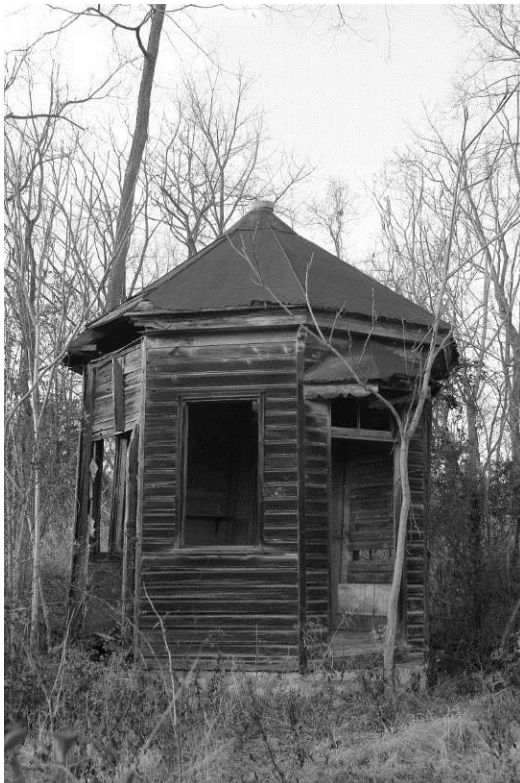
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0024  
Stone "plantation office," interior, view S



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0025  
Octagonal "sentinel station," view NW

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0026  
Ice house, west and south elevations, view NE



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0027  
Pump house, south and east elevations, view NW

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0028  
Tenant house, south and east elevations, view NW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0029  
Tenant house, east and north elevations and back building, view W

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0009a  
Fireplace remnant; stone, brick, with iron crane



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0030  
Barn and attached shed, west elevation, view NE

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0031  
Barn, south elevation forebay, view NE



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0032  
Barn, south elevation forebay, detail of stone paving and drain, view N

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0033  
Shed attached to barn, east elevation, view S



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0034  
Setting, view S from barn area toward mansion

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0035  
Wagon shed/corn crib, south and east elevations, view NW



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0036  
Poultry house, south and east elevations, view NW

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0037  
Setting, view N from mansion toward barn



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0038  
Setting, view NE from mansion toward Shepherd Grade Road and Potomac River, pond in foreground



Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0039  
Setting, view SE from driveway



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0040  
Setting, view N from north side of barn

Wild Goose Farm

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State



WV\_Jefferson County\_Wild Goose Farm\_0041  
Setting, view NE with stone walls, lane to Tenant House

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places

### Comments Evaluation/Return Sheet

**Property Name:** Wild Goose Farm  
**Property Location:** Jefferson County, WV  
**Reference Number:** 100001902  
**Date of Return:** 12-20-17

#### **Reason for Return**

This nomination is being returned because of errors and omissions, described below.

#### **Misclassification of Property Type**

A property with this many buildings and this much acreage needs to be nominated as a "district" not as "buildings."

#### **Lack of Necessary Documentation**

The following explanations are needed:

- **Complete landscape description.** The nomination explains in the first paragraph of Section 7 that "The land is a combination of cultivated fields, pasture and woodland that is watered by springs." Little else is known about the current appearance of the 173 acres or its integrity. The 1888 description of the farm by F. Vernon Aler is a wonderful and rare find. The current appearance can be weighed against this historical description as one means of assessing integrity (at least to that early date). The landscape description needs to be accompanied by a site plan that shows the location of major features, such as roads pastures, cultivated fields, woodlots, etc.
- **Site plan showing location of buildings.** A site plan showing the building complex is also needed, so the location of and relationship between buildings is understood. It can be part of an overall site plan or a larger scale site plan that focuses on the building complex—just so it's readable.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Comments**

2

**Property Name:** Wild Goose Farm  
**Property Location:** Jefferson County, WV  
**Reference Number:** 100001902  
**Date of Return:** 12-20-17

---

**Inclusion of All Contributing Properties in Section 7 Inventory and Section 5 Resource Count**

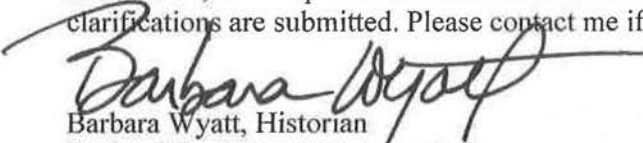
The 173 acres should be counted as a contributing site, assuming its integrity is adequate. The stone walls should be classified as contributing structures, unless they are ruins, in which case they would not be counted. The locations of the stone walls should be approximately located on the farm site plan. The iron gates may be (seem to be) contributing objects. The gardens described on page 10 should be classified as a contributing site, but not re-counted (they would be included in the count of "one contributing site" for the farm). This garden description should be more complete, at least with an idea of its scale (dimensions).

**Omissions Related to Significance**

The following should be changed or addressed:

- A justification of statewide significance has not been provided, nor is it clear if it pertains to Criterion A or Criterion C significance. If a survey of similar "manors" does not exist, please explain how an evaluation of statewide significance was achieved.
- An explanation of agricultural significance is not provided. The documentation did not convey what was exceptional about the farm operation at Wild Goose Farm. This needs to be clearly stated. Criterion A could be dropped as an area of significance. I suspect, but am not certain, that the statewide significance is related to the architectural significance. The Criterion C significance should be explicitly stated: the design and grandeur of the house, the complexity and possible unique nature of the collection of outbuildings; and the level of integrity—all struck me as possible points of Criterion C significance, but this should be clearly stated.
- Make sure that any changes to the nomination are reflected in the definition of the period of significance.

My apologies if I've missed anything requested in these comments; please tell me where the information might be, so we can discuss if it's adequate. I will not return the nomination, but keep it on hold for further information and sign it as soon as the clarifications are submitted. Please contact me if you have any questions.

  
Barbara Wyatt, Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
202-354-2252 or barbara\_wyatt@nps.gov



**The Culture Center**  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E.  
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

**Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner**

Phone 304.558.0220 • www.wvculture.org  
Fax 304.558.2779 • TDD 304.558.3562  
EEO/AA Employer



Mr. J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

*RE: Reference Number: 100001902, Wild Goose Farm, Jefferson County, WV*

Dear Mr. Loether:

For your review, we are submitting a *revised* National Register of Historic Places registration form for the following property:

*Wild Goose Farm, Jefferson County, West Virginia*

As you may know, this nomination was originally presented to and approved by the West Virginia Archives and History Commission on October 16, 2017. Our office mailed the original nomination package to your office for review on October 30, 2017.

Barbara Wyatt, West Virginia's National Register reviewer, reviewed the original nomination. Ms. Wyatt returned the submission on December 20, 2017. In response to Ms. Wyatt's comments, articulated on the Evaluation/Return Sheet dated December 20, 2017, we offer the following comments:

**Property Type Misclassification:** The resource classification in Section 5 has been changed from building(s) to district (see page two of the registration form).

**Lack of Necessary Documentation:**

- Complete landscape description: The physical setting description in Section 7 has been revised to include language that explicitly speaks to the current setting of Wild Goose Farm as well as the integrity of the expansive 173-acre farmstead (see page six of the Continuation Sheets).
- Site plan: New site plans (Figures 3, 3a, and 3b) have been incorporated into the series of existing figures within the nomination to better illustrate both the location and configuration of the buildings, structures, and other built elements that comprise the complex.

**Section 5 Resource Count and Section 7 Inventory:**

- The resource count (Section 5) and resource inventory (Section 7) have both been revised to incorporate the 173-acre farm site (Section 7, p. 7-8) as well as the stone walls (Section 7, page



17), the iron entry gates (Section 7, page 17), and the gardens (Section 7, page 14). Subsequent to these revisions, there are 16 contributing resources and two (2) non-contributing resources.

**Omissions Related to Significance:**


Subsequent to reconsideration of the resource's significance under the area of Agriculture, the nomination now requests consideration of statewide significance solely under National Register Criterion C: Architecture. The Section 8 narrative has been revised to explicitly state how Wild Goose compares with other similar resources. A survey of such "manor" homes in Jefferson County, like Wild Goose, has not been conducted; however, the preparer, as well as the nomination's sponsoring organization, the Jefferson County Historic Landmark Commission, conducted an exhaustive search of both the Jefferson County Landmarks database as well as our office's database of architectural resources in order to evaluate the statewide significance of Wild Goose Farm.

The revised nomination as well as a new set of digital photographs have been saved to two separate disks in accordance with the current National Park Service guidance.

In conclusion, we recommend that the nomination be accepted as revised.

Should you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact Jeffrey S. Smith, National Register Coordinator, at 304.558.0220.

Sincerely,

  
Susan M. Pierce  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

SMP/JSS

cc: Martin Burke, Jefferson County Historic Landmark Commission