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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

SEP 28 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Inn at Fowlerstown

other name/site number: Drover's Inn

2. Location

street & number: 1001 Washington Pike, (S.R. 27)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Wellsburg

vicinity: X

state: WV

county: Brooke

code: 009

zip code: 26070

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this

- 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

- meets
- does not meet

the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

William G. Lerner
Signature of Certifying Official

9/23/92
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property

- meets
- does not meet

the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

~~Entered in the~~
~~National Register~~

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

[Handwritten signature]

William G. Lerner *10/29/92*

=====
6. Function or Use
=====
Historic: Domestic Sub: Inn
Commerce Department & General Store
Government Post Office
Current: Commerce Sub: Restaurant & Tavern

=====
7. Description
=====
Architectural Classification:
Mid-19th Century - Greek Revival

Other Description: _____
Materials: foundation Sandstone roof Tin metal
walls Brick other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A & C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Commerce
Government
Transportation
Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1820 - 1938

Significant Dates: 1851 1878

Significant Person(s): Fowler, William
Fowler, John (son)

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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Known today as the Drover's Inn, the property was acquired by John Fowler in the 1840's. There are several structures on the site including a two story log house, and frame cottage, which pre-date the 1848-51 brick inn constructed by Fowler. Located on the Washington Pike which ran between Wellsburg, VA (later WV), and Washington, PA, the inn catered to drovers moving livestock along the road, providing pastures as well as food and lodging. Eventually the area became known as Fowlerstown when businesses sprang up across the road on Fowler's land. These businesses comprised a shoe shop, buggy and harness shop, and grist mill. The post office for the town was located in the Fowler's Inn. The Fowler family declined to own the property until 1965.

The site of Fowlerstown is approximately three miles east of Wellsburg, which is the halfway point for the width of Brooke County, part of West Virginia's northern panhandle. Drover's Inn is located on the top of a ridge with the inn on the highest rise facing southwest. The property in front of the inn slopes down to State Route 27 or Washington Pike. There are trees scattered across the lawn with evergreens to the north side of the inn. Across the drive in front of the inn is the contributing log house, and to the east is the contributing frame cottage. Contributing outbuildings include a small clapboard well house, chicken coop and privy.

The single-pen log house was constructed about 1820, by Richard Starr, and was later occupied by the Fowlers. It is two stories with a lower level built into a hillside and is three bays wide. The first floor is elevated on the south facade with a sandstone foundation. The walls of the cabin are squared logs with adz marks, and are V-notched at the corner ends. The chinking between the logs is small flat sandstones set on edge with daubing acting as the mortar. The logs were covered with wood siding hung from vertical boards which are exposed in places. The front facade has a vertical wide plank door to the left, and a three light transom. There are two other openings on the first floor and three on the second floor, with all the windows being 2/2 light double-hung. The west facade has entrances on each level and step to left on each floor going up. The planked entrance to the cellar is at the right corner and leads to a dirt floored room. The second floor entrance is unusual and appears to have been altered to a window at some point. The third floor door is at the top left of the facade and opens into space. Unfortunately this west facade has suffered some damage and the logs have sagged below the second floor mark. At some point an effort was made to install a concrete foundation wall but the logs are no longer secured at that level. The rear of the cabin faces north and has a plank door to the lower right. Each floor has two bays with the windows being 2/2 and 6/6 light openings. The east facade has wood siding and an interior sandstone chimney. At the top of the structure the exterior chimney has been replaced with brick. The gable roof has rolled asphalt and is in poor condition. The interior of the cabin has a stairway directly opposite of the front door. Originally the first floor interior was divided into two rooms and a hallway ran the length of the house. The fireplace had an opening into

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each room and was angled in the corner placed in the center of the house. The interior walls were removed so that now the first floor is open with an angled fireplace in the center of the east wall. The second floor had also been divided into two rooms. The interior black walnut walls were removed by Meadowcroft Village near Avella, PA, in 1964, to be used in their nineteenth century village.

The cottage is located near Washington Pike to the east of the inn. It was constructed by Robert Douglas for his bride, Mary Fowler, before 1848. The building is a beveled clapboard one story L-shaped plan, with five bays across the front west facade and a hipped asphalt roof. The door is located in the center with two 9/6 double-hung windows with hoods to each side. The front has a center portico with turned posts and a shed asphalt roof. The porch was replaced in 1989, retaining the original design and cut sandstone steps and corner posts. The interior has wood floors, and original plaster walls. Some of the early wallpaper remains on the ceiling and walls in the front north room. Each room has a fireplace mantel, and the middle room has an extant built-in cupboard with double six light upper doors and wood panel doors below. The other rooms have cupboard shelves next to the fireplaces. The sunporch on the south side has been enclosed so that now the structure has an almost square appearance.

The inn was constructed by John Fowler from 1848 - 1851. The two-and-a-half-story brick Greek Revival edifice has a Flemish bond on the front facade, with five bays. The center door has a multilight transom and side lights and a wide four-panel door with cross stiles. The windows are all 6/6 double-hung with the center window above the door being a triple window with four-light sidelights. Approximately 85% of the glass in the windows is the original wavy glass, and all openings have stone lintels and sills. The first floor front windows have shutters. The foundation is cut sandstone. The front porch has a sandstone foundation and steps and a rolled asphalt roof. The posts and rails were rebuilt following the existing design in 1975, and include cutout supports, scrollwork and wooden rails. The roof of the inn is gabled with seamed tin. To the left on the first floor is a single four-panel entrance door which led into what was the general store section of the inn. The north and south facades have three 6/6 double-hung windows on the first and second floor with a triple window with four light sidelights, in the gable end. There are shutters on the north facade and a single center first floor shutter on the south side. The house has wide eaves and the gable ends have cornice returns. The north facade has a cellar trap door entrance at the front corner, and a single window well. There have been additions to the east facade with a modern kitchen added to the north side in 1965. This addition is one story with board and batten siding, gable seamed metal roof, and a concrete pad foundation. The next year the south side saw the older kitchen partially removed with the fireplace needing to be rebuilt, and a pantry and garage were added to the rear. The two-bay garage section as well as the older brick kitchen is also covered with

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board and batten and has a gabled seamed metal roof and concrete foundation. The center rear porch has been enclosed with glass walls, and the courtyard paved with brick.

The interior of the inn was almost entirely devoted to public use when it was first constructed. The post office and general store were located on the north side and the dining area on the south side, with a ladies parlor and overnight rooms on the second floor. The basic floor plan of the inn is intact today, although some of the narrow bedrooms on the second floor have been expanded. The interior woodwork is all hand grained.

One could enter the general store through the front outside left corner door or from the interior hallway. The merchandise was displayed on shelves, encircling the room and even across the windows. Against one wall were bins for grain and vegetables. The post office cubicle for Fowlerstown projected out between the two north fireplaces, and had wooden walls and a doorway. In the 1880's a drug store was added to the rear of the room. The general store was dismantled in 1964 and moved to Meadowcroft Village where the store had been recreated in the village. The center front door leads to a wide hallway with the winding open stairs and wainscoting located near the rear of the hall. To the left two doors lead into what was the general store but today is one of the dining rooms. The room retains the two fireplaces which alternate with three windows. The moulding which is plain with incised lines is intact but a new door has been added to the east wall to reach the modern kitchen. From the hallway two doors also lead to the right into the original parlor and dining room. The reveals for these openings have a four panel surface. Large double wood paneled folding doors can divide the two rooms. The old dining room near the rear of the inn has had the fireplace enclosed and is the only room in the house that has had its wooden floor replaced, c. 1900. The room still has the high baseboards, panels under the window and a chair rail. The front parlor retains its curved fireplace mantel, and elaborate woodwork with roundel corner blocks and undulating mouldings for the window and door openings. A door off the rear of the dining room leads into the old kitchen ell.

The spindle stairs and curved newel post lead to the second floor which originally had eight narrow rooms. Some of the doors retain the numbers over the entrances from its early hotel days. The front right room has a ladies parlor sign over the door and has a unique rabbit ear trim on the window and interior mouldings. The fireplace mantel has three panels below the shelf with side fluted pilasters. The stairs continue to the attic floor with a small room on the north side and the rest being an open space with angled ceilings.

On the first floor level a door under the stairs leads to the cellar tavern room. This was originally a dirt floored cellar which only exists under the center and north sections of the inn, the south side having only a crawl space. In 1965, the level of the floor was lowered by removing

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approximately 18" of dirt to create additional room for the restaurant bar. The hand hewn beam ceiling/floor joists are original. The cellar walls on three sides is the sandstone foundation of the inn. The interior section on the south side is unexcavated dirt under the south side of the house.

Also on the property are three extant contributing outbuildings built by the Fowlers for their farm and dairy use at the turn of the century. These buildings include the well house, chicken coop, and privy. The well house is a small gabled beveled clapboard building with rolled asphalt roof and sandstone step for the south side doorway. The building, located at the front right corner of the inn, encases a open bricked well. The rectangular chicken coop is on the east side of the cottage and is one story in height with beveled clapboard siding. It has a shed rolled asphalt roof with a plank door on the north side. The privy is no longer used but rests in the north yard. It is a gabled frame structure with three holes and small potty.

The nineteenth century buildings at the Drover's Inn, known historically as the Inn at Fowlerstown, reflect a time of expansion for Brooke County and the northern panhandle as travelers were moving west and inns and businesses were springing up to serve the needs of the public. The Fowler's investment in the property in the 1840's and their entrepreneur ideas saw the site develop from a single log house to a small complex of buildings and businesses.

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Drover's Inn and its surrounding buildings are being nominated under National Register Criterion A for its association with the development of Fowlerstown along the Wellsburg and Washington Pike, and Criterion C for the architecture of the Greek Revival inn and the inn's significant outbuildings. The period of significance extends from 1820, when the Starr family constructed the log home later acquired by the Fowlers and still standing on the property, until 1938 when the post office and general store run by the Fowlers in the inn was closed.

The Drover's Inn and its outbuildings are located along an area of the Washington Pike previously called Fowlerstown. This small village had a local impact on the development of the Washington Pike and eastern Brooke County. The location of the Fowlers grist mill, inn, general store and post office, as well as the small businesses established across the pike, provided a service for the local settlers.

William Fowler settled the area in the late 1790's coming from Baltimore, Maryland. The property extended from Rabbit Hill Road to Fowlers Hill Road to Cross Creek. Although no evidence exists it appears that the land was deeded through the land grant process as a result of participation in the Revolutionary War, as were most of the tracts of land in this area. "Relatives of the family say that William Fowler was a Baptist preacher on Sunday and made whiskey all week".¹ William Fowler originally settled on the Steubenville Road, now known as Rabbit Hill Road which runs along the west side of the property. The house he constructed is still standing and is owned by Earl Fowler, Jr. William's son, John Fowler, operated a grist mill on Cross Creek at the end of Fowler Hill Road.

Many of the early settlers of Virginia's northern panhandle were veterans of the recent American Revolution. The pioneers, unsatisfied with the existing rough trail from Catfish (now Washington, PA) to Charles Town (now Wellsburg, WV) eventually laid out a road to help ease the expansion. This road eventually became the Wellsburg and Washington Turnpike. In 1821, the Wellsburg and Washington Turnpike Company applied to the state of Virginia for funding for construction of a toll road to further enhance the traveler's journey. "The road was fourteen feet wide made of crushed limestone eighteen inches deep with two feet of crushed sandstone on either side. Where it was possible there was a nine foot clay road on either side for use in summer to protect the animal's hoof from the stones of the pavement."² "The cost of the entire project was \$18,783.33, eleven thousand of the amount having been raised locally and the balance paid by the state of Virginia."³

John Fowler saw the area growing and in the early 1840's purchased the 72-acre tract of land owned by Richard Starr, which also included the log house that stands across the driveway from the Drover's Inn. Richard Starr obtained the same 72-acre tract of land from the Callendine family in eight separate parts. This occurred because Martin Callendine, the father, had died without a will and the property was subsequently divided into eight parts among the remaining family members. The deeding to

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Richard Starr took place during the years from 1833 to 1834. Martin Callendine was deeded the property on November 11, 1826. The road map of 1822, which is included in THE HISTORY OF THE WELLSBURG AND WASHINGTON TURNPIKE by Frank and Dorothy Chapman, lists the log house as the Starr Cabin and shows it obviously occupied.

Shortly after the property was purchased by Fowler and before construction of the inn was started a small frame cottage was constructed by Robert Douglas as a honeymoon present to his wife, Mary Fowler, the daughter of John Fowler. In years to follow Robert Douglas built another home across the pike from the cottage, and their cottage was sold to the Craft family. In 1833, when the existing highway (WV State Route 27) was built the cottage was bought by the State of West Virginia from the Craft family and deeded back to John Fowler in payment for land lost when the new road was cut through his property.

John Fowler saw the need to provide lodging for travelers along the turnpike and in 1848 began construction of the inn. The construction of the inn was completed in 1851 and was opened to travelers. The architecture of the brick inn is Greek Revival in style, with an outstanding front doorway with fanlight and transoms. The gable ends have triple windows with side lights that is sometimes seen on c. 1850 houses in the northern panhandle. The interior of the home is intact with the family parlor and communal dining room and kitchen. In 1878, a post office and general store were opened on the first floor of the inn to serve the thriving community of Fowlerstown which had sprung up around the inn.

The thriving general store and post office served as a hub of the community of Fowlerstown which was a natural stopping place between the state line and the town of Wellsburg. Other businesses that became a part of Fowlerstown were a drug store, referred to as the saloon, operated by Veasy Fowler, a deaf mute. Across the pike from the inn Robert Douglas built a shop where he made repairs on buggies and wagons for travelers and farmers. John Fowler had also moved the grist mill from Cross Creek to the V formed by the junction of Steubenville Road and the Washington Pike, where it was now being powered by a steam engine.

As time went on the Wellsburg and Washington Pike saw improvement. In 1933, the pike was paved by the State of West Virginia, which drastically changed the look of the road. A great deal of the bends and curves in the road were eliminated and in doing so new right-of-ways were formed and property lines were redefined.

By this time the inn at Fowlerstown was no longer taking in overnight travelers, but the upstairs rooms were being used for people interested in longer terms of stay. The post office and general store was closed about 1938 and the inn became the private residence of the Fowler's. In the 1960's the inn was vacant for a period of years due to the fact that Carrie Fowler had been moved to the Eastern Star home in Millwood, WV.

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The barn and some of the furnishings in the post office, general store, and log cabin were removed from the property in 1964 and moved to the Meadowcroft Village near Avella, PA. A year later Mary Marko purchased the property and began to restore the inn. It was renamed the Drover's Inn after the early travelers on the pike. The Drover's was opened as a restaurant in 1967, using the area that once housed the general store and post office as its first dining room. Later the entire first floor was restored for a dining area. In 1968, the basement which was originally a fruit cellar before being used for coal was converted to a tavern. The floor level in the cellar being lowered about 18" for standing height. Mary Marko operated the Drover's Inn until 1986, when she retired. At that time Mark and Karen Cooper, along with their children, took over the business and have continued to operate the facilities as a restaurant and tavern.

The Drover's Inn is a local landmark in Brooke County representing the early days of transportation over the mountains to the Ohio River. A remnant of the Wellsburg and Washington Turnpike, which went through Fowlerstown, is the gravel driveway and parking lot next to the inn. The present inn and the outbuildings represent the development of the Fowler's entrepreneur ideas and the small village that once served the surrounding district in eastern Brooke County.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Frank and Dorothy Chapman, THE WELLSBURG AND WASHINGTON TURNPIKE,
(Wellsburg, WV, 1975), p. 1.

²Ibid., p. 3.

³Ibid., p. 4.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chapman, Frank and Dorothy. THE WELLSBURG AND WASHINGTON TURNPIKE,
Wellsburg, WV, 1975.

Deed records, Brooke County Courthouse, Wellsburg, WV.

Interviews with Mary Merka, previous owner, by Mark and Karen Cooper.

Interviews with Earl Fowler, Jr., descendant of William and John Fowler,
by Mark and Karen Cooper.

Interviews with George Hedges, grandson of Measy Fowler, by Mark and Karen
Cooper.

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PHOTO INFORMATION

LOCATION: Drover's Inn
1001 Washington Pike, S.R. 27
Wellsburg, WV
Brooke County, West Virginia

PHOTO CREDIT: Joe Vincent

DATE: July 1992

NEGATIVES: Mark and Karen Cooper, Drover's Inn

Photo 1 of 10: State Historical Marker
Camera looking west along WV S.R. 27

Photo 2 of 10: West Facade of Drover's Inn
Camera looking northeast

Photo 3 of 10: North Facade of Drover's Inn
Camera looking east

Photo 4 of 10: West Facade of Log House and Drover's Inn
Camera looking East

Photo 5 of 10: South (L) and East (R) Facade of Log House
Camera looking Northwest

Photo 6 of 10: North Facade of Log House
Camera looking South

Photo 7 of 10: South Facade of Log House
Camera looking North

Photo 8 of 10: North and West Facades of Wellhouse and Frame Cottage
Camera looking East

Photo 9 of 10: East Facades of Frame Cottage and Chicken Coop
Camera looking West

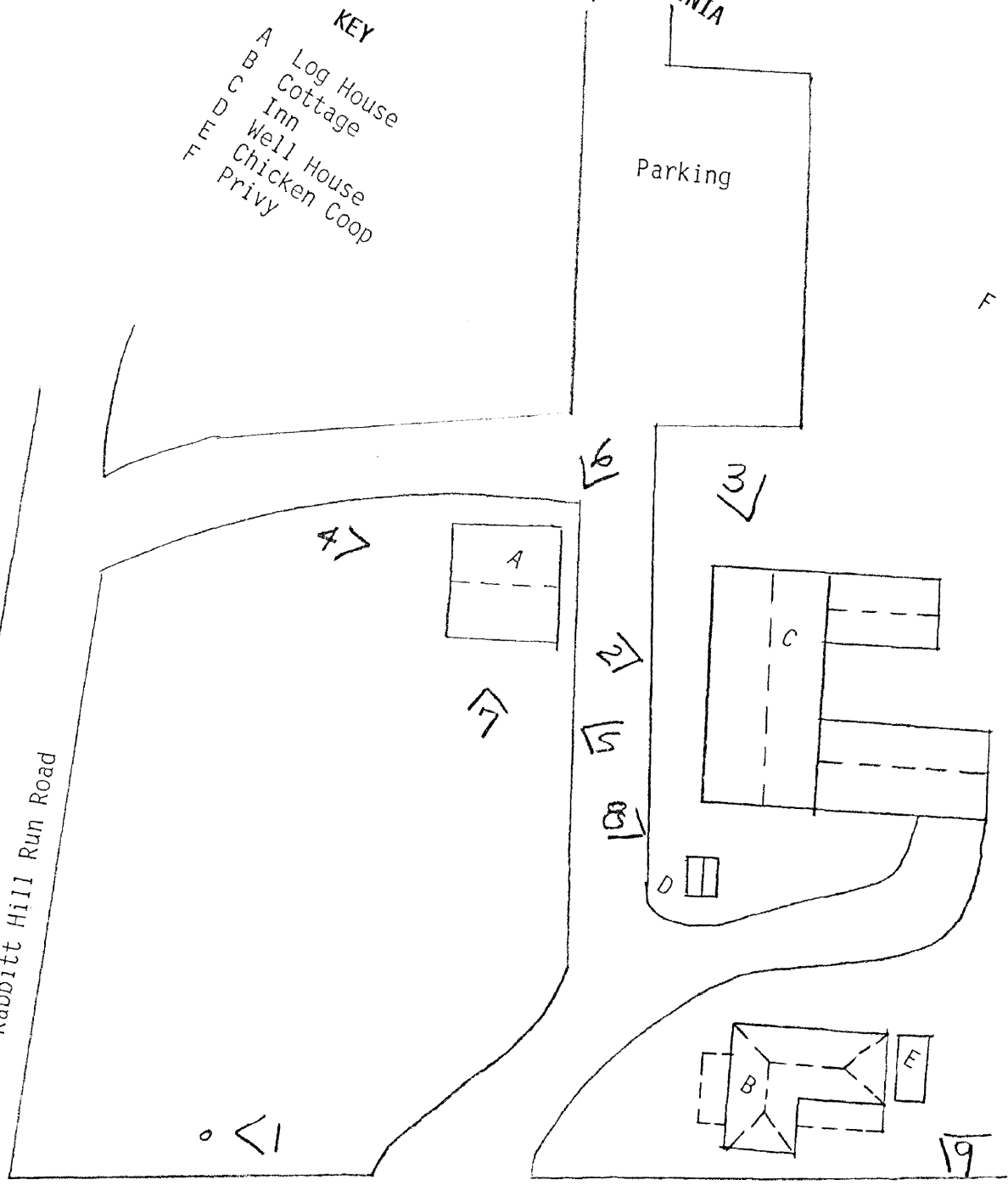
Photo 10 of 10: South Facade of Privy
Camera looking Northwest

INN - RSTOWN
E COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
SKETCH AND PHOTO MAP

- KEY
- A Log House
 - B Cottage
 - C Inn
 - D Well House
 - E Chicken Coop
 - F Privy

Rabbitt Hill Run Road

Parking



Washington Pike

State Route 27