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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OCT 20 1988

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Falling Spring; Morgan's Grove  
other names/site number Falling Spring Complex

2. Location

street & number State Route 480  not for publication  
city, town Shepherdstown  vicinity  
state West Virginia code 54 county Jefferson code 037 zip code 25443

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 10/11/88  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 2/15/89  
 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:) \_\_\_\_\_  
for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling  
 secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling  
 Education - research facility  
 conservation

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal; Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone rubble  
 walls brick, stone

roof composition shingle, tin  
 other

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Falling Spring complex includes the large brick house called Falling Spring, its dependencies, and two springs. The Morgan's Spring is housed beneath an old stone springhouse, and the Bubbling Spring is identified by the foundations of an ancient springhouse. Adjacent to Morgan's Spring is the Old Stone House, considered to be among the three or four oldest houses in West Virginia. The complex is historically related; each of the components is an integral part of the grounds associated with Morgan family settlement and development of the land near Shepherdstown. Shade trees, shrubbery, and natural formations add to character and ambience of the closely associated buildings and structures. Following is an inventory of contributing resources:

**1. Falling Spring (Building, C)**

Among many fine old oak trees, on a prominent rise, stands Falling Spring, a white stucco 2½-story house built on a raised, cut limestone foundation. The house is of brick and limestone construction with a stucco veneer.

Rising to the main floor level, on the north side, is 14-foot wide stairway, with a balustrade that continues around the 18-foot wide by 46½-foot long porch.

The 2-story roof of the north portico is carried by four white Ionic, plain shaft masonry columns that are 2½ feet thick at their base, standing on square pedestals, and two pilasters which repeat the Ionic order. The columns support a triangular pediment with dentil molding. A lunette is centered in the tympanum.

The north facade is symmetrically treated with 4 twelve-over-twelve windows on either side of the 1st and 2nd floor doorways.

The second floor doorway enters onto a small balcony with a wood floor and iron grillwork.

All three north doorways, basement, first and second floors, are trabeated and are designed with sidelights. The first and second floor doorways have rectangular overlights.

On the south facade is a nine-foot wide stairway with a railing that continues around the 12-foot by 44-foot-long porch, which is above a raised basement. The seven feet high "crawl space" is covered with lattice-work screen.

See continuation sheet

OCT 20 1988

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Falling Spring

A 20½-foot wide portico is supported by six white stucco, plain masonry Ionic columns; two paired columns are on the porch level on either side of the stairway, and two columns, standing on 6-foot high pedestals support a porte-cochere over the driveway.

Interior description - ground floor (raised basement)

Entrance doors north and south open into a center hallway with open stringer steps to the first floor, on the southeast wall.

Four entrances off the hallway on the west and east sides open into four rooms of approximately 16 feet square; each room has fireplaces, of which two are closed. Each room has one "French style" window, about 3 feet square, opening to the crawlspaces under the porches.

The north doorway has sidelights of eight original panes.

First floor

As with the ground floor and second floor, there are four doorways leading to rooms east and west. Two doorways on the west wall lead into a double drawing room, with open fireplaces, and two "French style" windows; and 12/12 windows on the north and south walls.

The dining room features wainscoating and chair rail, an open fireplace, a north-facing 12/12 window, and paired "French style" windows on the east side.

A 11' x 17' library to the southeast may be entered from the hallway or by the dining room; it has a closed fireplace and a 12/12 window overlooking the screened porch.

During the 1920's renovation, a doorway was created on the northeast corner of the dining room, leading to the pantry/kitchen wing. The kitchen has an open fireplace.

All window sills throughout the house are one foot deep, except for the third floor and kitchen.

Doors on the first and second floors are "cross and bible", with fluted side panels.

OCT 20 1988

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 3

Falling Spring

Second floor

A four-foot-wide open-well stair, with two flights to the second floor and third floor, is ornamented with two designs of fretwork/brackets; the newel post, balusters, and rails are cherry.

The 24' x 17' master bedroom is on the west side of the hallway. There is one open fireplace, and one closed one.

Third floor

The third floor center hallway has three doorways; one to the west bedroom and east bedroom, each 12 by 19 feet; the third door enters into the large attic area created by the roof over the north portico. One can see ten rafters that reach up to another attic space over the bedrooms. Rafters are joined with pegs, and are numbered.

**2. Meat House (Building, C)**

About 22 feet from the east side of the main house is a meat house built on a cut limestone foundation. The old, original "dinner bell" perches at the top of the pyramidal roof. The four brick walls are nine feet high, are pierced with diamond patterned vents, and are decorated with a "saw tooth" cornice. A wisteria covered walkway, from the meat house to the main house, is supported by a colonnade of ten white-plastered brick columns. The entrance to the meat house is covered by a slate gabled roof with dentil molding, supported by two white-plastered brick columns.

**3. Japanese Garden (Structure, C)**

Approximately 75 feet south of the main brick house is the Japanese garden, built in the early 20th century by Mrs. M.H. Crawford. It consists of low rubblestone walls, low plantings, oriental statuary, and stone lanterns. The Crawfords were the first non-Morgan owners of Falling Spring; she travelled extensively abroad.

**4. Garage (Building, C)**

Southwest of the main house, about 242 feet, stands a four-car cut limestone garage with a second floor and a slate roof. c.1930. The building is designed to conform to the architectural character of the complex.

OCT 20 1988

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 4

Falling Spring

**5. Bubbling Spring (Structure, C)**

This spring, approximately 250 yards northeast of the main brick house, is identified with a low rectangular limestone foundation that is the only remaining part of an ancient springhouse. The Bubbling Spring and Morgan's Spring are part of the larger clear water springs underlying the property.

**6. Old Stone House (Building, C)**

Built about 1734 by Richard Morgan, the 1½-story limestone rubble house is the oldest building on the property. A single gabled dormer is offset on the roof's front elevation. Stone flat arches and handsome corner stones are ornamental features of note. The building houses offices of the Conservation Fund, owner of Morgan's Spring.

**7. Morgan's Spring (Site, Building C)**

Rubble limestone walls and gabled metal roof distinguish the springhouse at Morgan's Spring. It was here in 1775 that riflemen gathered to begin the famous Beeline March of the American Revolution. The building was restored by the Conservation Fund. A bronze plaque, commemorating the Revolutionary War event, is attached to the facade. The building and spring are owned by the Conservation Fund. The spring is counted as a building (springhouse) and a site (locus of a significant historic event).

**8. Cottage (Building, C)**

To the Southeast, 150 feet from the main house, is a six-room cottage, which was converted from a log structure - possibly from the slaves' quarters as there is a reference to a log house used by slaves. There are six 12/12 windows. The main entrance is protected by a slate gabled roof with dentil molding.

**Threats to Falling Spring**

Jefferson County's population is rapidly growing as West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle attracts new residents from the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area. There seems to be no end to the little pre-fab housing and cluster housing developments popping up everywhere in the county. Acreage adjacent to, or perhaps upon Falling Springs land itself, has recently been "eyed" by speculators and developers. Because of the importance of the Falling Spring buildings, sites, and structures and nearby fields and woods - all that is left of the original Richard Morgan lands - this National Register nomination is prepared as a planning tool to address the growing threats to historic Falling Spring.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1734 -1930

1734

Exploration/Settlement

1775

Military

c.1837

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Richard Morgan; Jacob Morgan;  
William Morgan

Architect/Builder

Stuart H. Edmonds, c.1900

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Falling Spring is part of a complex of related buildings, structures, and grounds associated with the settlement of the lower Shenandoah Valley and Jefferson County, once part of Berkeley County, West Virginia, and Frederick County, Virginia. Falling Spring shares added significance as home to the Morgan family that played prominent roles in the county's early political and military affairs. Morgan's Spring, a part of the nominated complex, is the location of the old stone house, one of the oldest buildings in West Virginia and beginning point of the legendary "Beeline March" of the American Revolution. "Falling Spring" itself is one of the county's, and eastern West Virginia's, most significant high-style architectural landmarks.

Falling Spring, completed by 1837 (construction may have begun as early as 1831), stands on one of the oldest and most historic places in Jefferson County, West Virginia. The tall, four-columned portico faces north to the old Shepherdstown-Kearneysville toll road (now 480) one mile south of Shepherdstown. In a letter dated June 21, 1837, one Henry Bedinger wrote: "I remained at Jacob Morgan's who resides in his elegant new house built about fifty yards west where the log barns of our sister's stood."

Richard Morgan, first to settle on the property, called it "Falling Spring" because of the crystal clear spring which "gushed and rippled through the entire farm . . ." As legend has it, an Indian chief was killed on the spot where one of the springs is - his heart still pumps up little black pebbles, and the spring is called "Bubbling Spring". The other spring on the land is the famous "Morgan's Spring" the rendezvous point for the Virginia Riflemen who started from there on their famous "Beeline March" to Boston on July 17, 1775. Ambler and Summers reference this event in their West Virginia, The Mountain State, p. 68:

Within a week after the first call of the Continental Congress for riflemen reached Virginia, Captain Hugh Stephenson, of Shepherdstown, and Captain Daniel Morgan, from near Winchester, each enlisted a company and set out for Boston. They left Shepherdstown in July, 1775, and reached their destination the following month. They were the first troops from south of the Potomac to join the Continental Army.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See attached sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 25 acres approximately

**UTM References**

A 18 | 257820 | 4367180  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 18 | 257480 | 4366940

B 18 | 257820 | 4366930  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 18 | 257480 | 4367180

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

See attached sheet

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

See attached sheet

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Diana Suttentfield, property resident; Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian  
 organization W.V. Dept. of Culture and History date August 12, 1988  
 street & number Cultural Center telephone 304-348-0240  
 city or town Charleston state W.V. zip code 25305

OCT 20 1988

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2

Falling Spring

The first Morgan to come to Jefferson County was Richard Morgan. He was granted several thousand acres of land by King George I and Lord Fairfax. Morgan sold some of this land to Thomas Shepherd, who later founded Shepherdstown. As a prosperous man who came here from New Jersey, he added to it by buying and selling land and running at least one mill. He built several homes; one, at the Morgan Spring, is known as the Old Stone House. Built in 1734, it is one of the oldest houses in West Virginia. When Morgan died he willed 2,500 acres to family. It was his grandson, Jacob Morgan, who built Falling Spring, just several hundred yards from the Old Stone House. (Richard Morgan is also known for having served in the French and Indian War from 1754-1758).

Jacob Morgan, 1781-1855, built Falling Spring approximately two hundred yards west of the Old Stone House, on or near where the "great log barns" of the old house once stood.

But before he became a builder and returned to the land to farm, Jacob became a successful merchant and owned several trading vessels - a business that kept him away from home a great deal of the time. It is believed that Jacob traded from Alexandria, Virginia. Known facts are that his first wife, Anne Harris Thompson, was from Alexandria. They were married in 1812 and she died in 1816. Jacob's second wife, Mary Jaquelin Smith, was also from Alexandria and they were married in 1826. Jacob is listed in the 1820 Alexandria Census.

Jacob retired from shipping and came back to Shepherdstown, where he "seems to have been a big-hearted, public spirited man, and to have done much for the community of Shepherdstown". He did become involved in politics - in 1835 he was an unsuccessful contender to the Virginia House of Delegates. The 1850 Census lists him as a farmer (his property was worth \$30,000), and he owned seven slaves. Jacob died in 1855.

His eldest son, William, inherited Falling Spring.

William was active in the Civil War; as a captain he and his company joined the Confederate Army and while he served in the war, the war came to Falling Spring.

Falling Spring was easily reached by highways and consequently many troops from both armies often passed through, camping out in the woods; some were seeking food, while others plundered. William's young son, Augustine, related many years later that he remembered his mother having to go and plead to retrieve the family's one horse.

Battles were all around and at the fight at nearby Fountain Rock, William Morgan was promoted to Colonel. He became the first head of the Shepherdstown Cavalry Company, which was the first to reach Harper's Ferry at the time of John Brown's Raid. This company was afterwards incorporated with the 1st Virginia Cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart.

OCT 20 1988

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3

Falling Spring

By the close of the war Morgan, who had won the confidence and admiration of the whole regiment, had led almost every brigade of cavalry in the army of Northern Virginia. He also saw gallant service with Ashby. During the war, Morgan was in over 300 skirmishes and battles; fourteen horses were killed from under him, the last falling at Appomatox.

"Bullets rained a tattoo upon our roof", remembers young Augustine. The house was struck several times by large shells. Two are still in the walls. One is embedded in the west wall and the one in the east wall near the roof came to rest there after it glanced off the meat house roof.

As the war raged around Falling Spring both Yankee and Confederate soldiers sought refuge there, including General John B. Gordon, and later, General Custer and his troops camped out in the woods. ("Blue blisters", stains in some of the old trees, came from the bullets dissolving, the current owner was told several years ago, when some of the old trees had to be cut down).

After the war, Colonel Morgan formed the Ashby Memorial Association. Later, he was sent as a delegate to the convention which framed the constitution of the new state of West Virginia. Still later, he was elected deputy sheriff of Jefferson County, and held that office for twenty years.

On June 7, 1904 Falling Spring left the Morgan family as it was sold to Dr. M.H. Crawford. Crawford added two columns to the North portico to make it more in proportion to the main house. It is believed that architect Stuart H. Edmonds, from Winchester, Virginia orchestrated this addition; in the early 1900's he redesigned the columned portico for "Bellevue", Henry Shepherd's farm, designed Miller Hall for Shepherd College, and designed "Popidicon", a large handsome house near Shepherdstown. Mr. Edmonds liked round windows, and there is a frosted glass, round window that is in the sunroom, an addition to the house, mentioned later.

Falling Spring is a house of exceptional quality in Jefferson County. Its commanding position above the surrounding country lent it considerable prestige. The dominant character of the house on its site is due in part to the high foundation at the front elevation which is further emphasized by the two-story, tetrastyle Neo Classical Revival portico, a superb example of turn-of-the-century design. The temple front was added to enlarge an existing two-columned portico. The rear entrance is beneath a one-story portico, which functions as a porte cochere. Both porches present the structure with a classical air, although the Federal style of the main block of the house survives intact. This includes a steeply pitched roof with double interior end chimneys coupled by a common parapet.

An uncommon and interesting feature of the house in Jefferson County is the stuccoed facade which appears to date from an early period. Current evidence seems to point to placement of the wall treatment before the turn-of-the-century renovations.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OCT 20 1998

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4

Falling Spring

Falling Spring is an important high-style house that defies strict stylistic categorization. Early classicism, neo-classicism, federal, and Georgian elements are all present.

The Crawfords who traveled extensively designed the Japanese Garden, about 150 yards from the house, and perhaps some of the stones used in that garden wall came from foundations or other buildings from the old farm. In the early years of Falling Spring, there was a blacksmith shop as well as several other shops and sheds near to where the garden is today. Historic archaeology potential on the property may be excellent.

On November 27, 1927, Dr. Crawford sold Falling Spring to Dr. G. Morison, who added the sun porch over the south portico, and did many needed repairs.

On July 1, 1930, Mr. P.P. Steptoe bought the farm. The Steptoes built the screen porch on the south side, and built the pantry/kitchen wing. At the time the kitchen wing was built the old carriage house became a cottage.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Skinner bought Falling Spring in 1949, and sold it to Mrs. Thomas Hastry in 1962. Mrs. Hastry is the stepdaughter of Hiram Bingham (1875-1956), U.S. Senator from Connecticut, 1925-33, and finder in 1911 of the fabled lost city of the Incas, Machu Picchu. In 1966 Mrs. Hastry sold the Morgan Spring, Old Stone House, and land to John Beasley, keeping about twenty-five acres around the main house, which includes the Bubbling Spring.

Period of Significance

The Falling Spring complex has a colorful history spanning nearly two-and-a-half centuries. The period of significance, however, is confined to the period 1734-1930, during which the Morgan holdings evolved from the Morgan's Spring Stone House (1734) to the main house (c. 1837) and its related secondary buildings. All the while the two major springs continued to influence the development of the property. With c.1930 minor additions to the main house and grounds, little construction has occurred since at Falling Spring to directly affect the house and buildings.

OCT 20 1988

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2

Falling Spring

Bibliography

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Ambler and Summers, West Virginia: The Mountain State. Prentice Hall, 1958, p. 68.

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Jefferson County Historical Society Magazine: Volume 1, page 54, 1935

" " " " "Falling Spring", by Nannie Moss Steptoe  
Volume , pages 1943

" " " " "Rendevous of Stephensons Virginia Riflemen"  
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" " " " Volume IX, page 4, 19

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" " " " "My Ride to the Barbecue", by Alexander Robinson Boteler (written in 1860)  
Volume , page 13

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

OCT 20 1988

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

Falling Spring

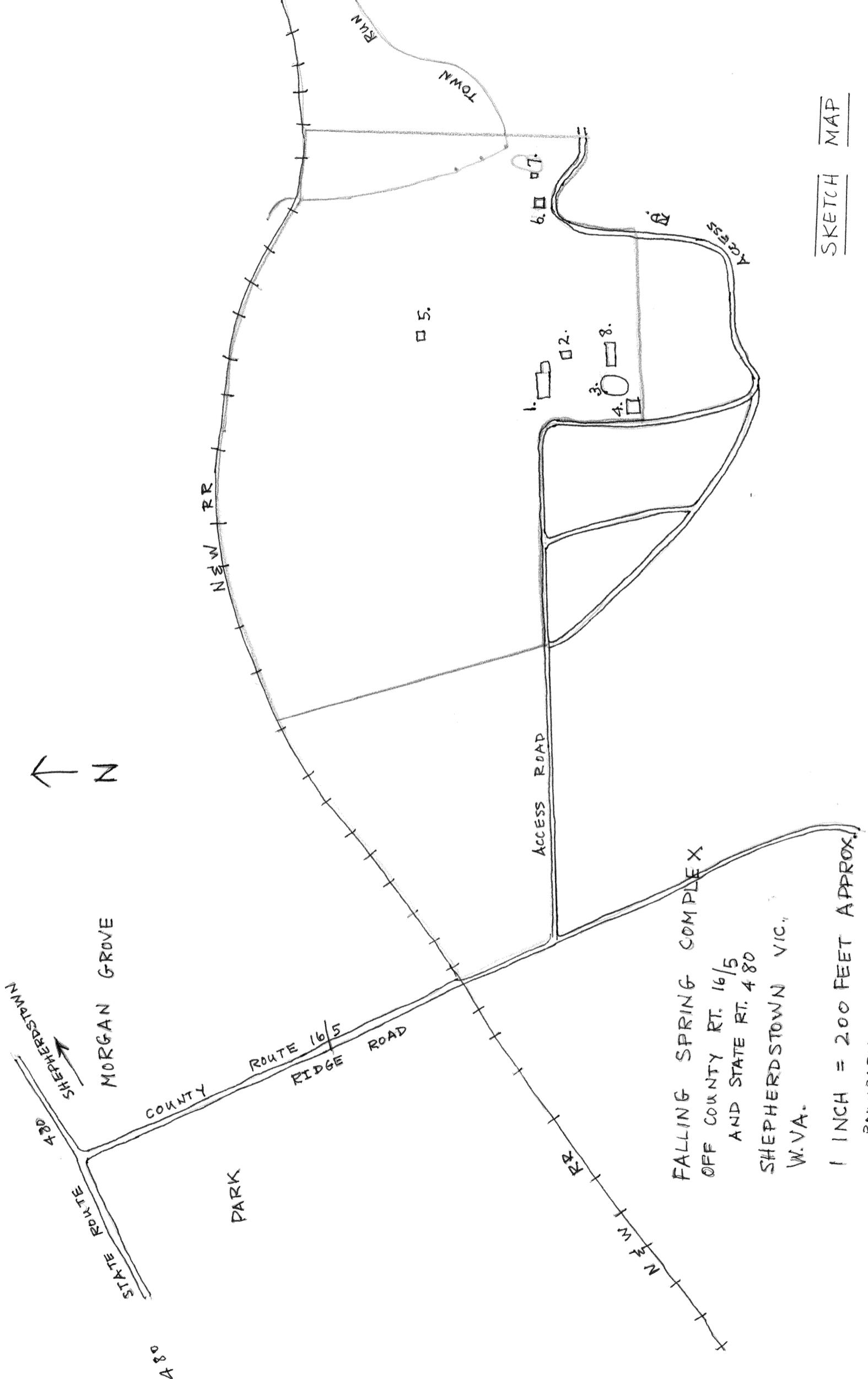
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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area consists of acreage bounded on the north by the south right-of-way of the N & W Railroad track, by a straight line approximately 500 feet long between the railroad line and the first forks of the access road, thence in a straight line approximately 400 feet along the north edge of the access road, thence in a line along the east edge of the access road in a southerly direction approximately 200 feet, thence in a straight line intersecting with the rear wall of the garage and extending about 200 feet in a straight line to a point of intersection with the east and south edge of the access road, extending along the edge of said road to its point of terminus approximately 75 feet east of the spring house, thence in a straight line due north approximately 525 feet to the point of intersection with the N & W Railroad right-of-way to enclose the eight contributing resources, grounds, woods, and pastures.

Justification

The nominated parcel provides a core acreage within which the historic Morgan House, dependencies, springs, and related grounds are positioned. Important to the ensemble is the pasture and woods north of the Falling Spring house. This acreage lies below the house and is a significant part of the historic setting of Falling Spring.



FALLING SPRING COMPLEX  
 OFF COUNTY RT. 16/5  
 AND STATE RT. 480  
 SHEPHERDSTOWN VIC.,  
 W.VA.  
 1 INCH = 200 FEET APPROX.  
 — BOUNDARY

SKETCH MAP

OCT 20 1964