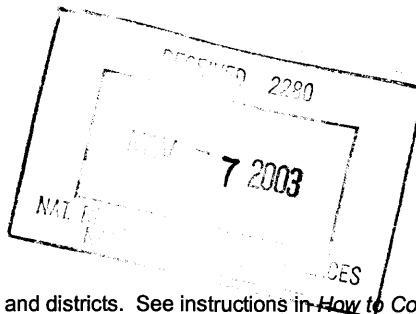


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rockledge

other names WA-I-142

2. Location

street & number 13535 Foxfire Lane not for publication

city or town Hagerstown vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Washington code 043 zip code 21742

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

10-31-03
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- 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 the Keeper

12/18/03
Date of Action

WA-I-142 Rockledge
Name of Property

Washington County, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	4	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/ SUBSISTENCE/
agricultural outbuilding

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

foundation STONE/limestone
walls STONE/limestone
BRICK, WOOD
roof WOOD
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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Rockledge

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Section 7 Page 1

Description Summary:

This two-story limestone farmhouse stands on a hill overlooking the Little Antietam Creek. It was built in three stages in the early 19th century. To the rear of the house is an attached frame summer kitchen, probably dating from the late 19th century, with the original cooking fireplace with stone and brick chimney and a root cellar below. An enclosed frame porch, now a kitchen, dates to the 1950s. A small brick smokehouse is located several yards north of the east-facing dwelling. A stone springhouse is set in the hillside just above the creek.

General Description:

Rockledge is a two-story limestone farmhouse situated on a hill northeast of the Little Antietam Creek, about one half mile south of the village of Leitersburg. The early 19th century building faces east, where an old road was once located. Currently Foxfire Lane provides access to the west end of the site. The four and one-third acre property slopes gently around the house, then drops steeply to the creek. Large shade trees are spaced around the house. The area is landscaped with evergreen shrubbery including azaleas and boxwood, and patches of vinca groundcover.

Two original outbuildings are found on the property. A brick smokehouse stands about 12' north of the house, and a stone springhouse is set in the side of the hill near the creek. A wooden plank bridge crosses the creek. Also on the property are three modern garages located north and west of the house. A small log cabin with a stone chimney has recently been constructed southwest of the house. The garages and log cabin do not contribute to the significance of the resource. An old log house located close to the creek was demolished in the mid-20th century.

Three stone sections form Rockledge. The three-bay original structure is joined by a two-bay addition to the south, forming a five-bay center-hall façade with an interior chimney at either end. The third stone section extends westward from the center of the rear of the house. This section has a porch along the south side and an exterior stone chimney at the west end. The side walls were raised from one to two stories in brick construction in the mid-19th century. An attached, frame, one-story summer kitchen was added to the northwest corner of the third stone section. The summer kitchen's exterior stone chimney at the west gable end features brick shoulders and a brick stack. A porch shelters the entrance on the north side. A two-story shed-roofed frame addition enclosed the area between the stone sections and the summer kitchen in the 1950s.

Each section of the house, except the shed-roofed frame addition, is covered by a gable roof. Wood shingles sheath the roof and stone foundations underpin all parts of the house. The building's 6/6 sash windows and paneled shutters are modern reproductions. With few

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exceptions, the window frames are pegged and trimmed in original ovolo molding. Two long, narrow stones span each window head.

The original main entrance to the house, reached by a set of stone steps, opens into a stair hall. A dining room is located to the right, or north, of the hall, and a living room is to the left, in the first addition. A door at the back of the hall leads to the second addition, a former kitchen now used as a den. The stair rises along the south wall of the hall. The first landing is divided in half, into two triangular steps. Simple straight newel posts with tapered caps, straight balusters, and a curved handrail form the balustrade. The step ends are undecorated. A door opens into a closet under the back of the stair.

A stone fireplace centered in the dining room's north wall is flanked by a window to the right and a cupboard to the left. The current owners built this cupboard as well as a window seat running along the northeast corner and under the two windows of the east wall to provide storage. These units are finished with raised panels compatible with the original woodwork. The fireplace had been rebuilt with modern firebrick, and the Hunsbergers restored the stone jambs and added a simple surround and shelf. A door in the west wall opens into the northwest frame addition. The northernmost window in the front (east) wall was originally a door.

The living room's south end fireplace retains its original tall plastered Rumford firebox. A reproduction surround, shelf, and raised paneling were built to replace a mantel that was not original. A window is located to the left of the fireplace and a built-in bookcase was added to the right. Another window is located at the south end of the west, or back, wall. Both front windows were once doors.

On the second floor, one bedroom is located above the dining room and one above the living room. These bedrooms do not have fireplaces and were apparently heated by wood stoves. The fenestration pattern matches the first floor.

Board and batten doors, some original and others reproduced to match, are found throughout the house. Beaded boards were recently added to the interior of the front six-panel door for insulation and security, as was often done in the late 18th and early 19th century. A three-pane transom tops this door. Interior architraves in the two front sections of the house are trimmed with reverse ogee moldings with a beaded edge. Several windows are finished with ovolo moldings. The living room's south front window may have been the last to be converted from a doorway, as it features mid-19th century Greek ogee trim. Raised panel wainscoting has been added to fill the wall space between the beaded baseboards and chair rails that encircle the rooms. The original floors are intact: oak in the original house, pine in the addition.

The den once served as the kitchen. Its south wall has a central board and batten Dutch door with an attached window to the west and another window to the east; there are two corresponding windows at the second floor level. A window is located to the right of the fireplace. The large stone firebox has been reduced in size and finished in brick. The exterior chimney rises two stories, tapering to a brick stack above the attic level. Four-pane attic

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windows flank the chimney. A door in the north wall leads into the frame addition, which contains the present kitchen. The second floor bedroom is reached by the main stairway. The den was built against the juncture of the two front sections. Architectural evidence suggests that the former kitchen may incorporate elements of a preexisting structure.¹

The frame addition and the summer kitchen are covered with board and batten siding. The addition's western door leads to an entry hall, then into the summer kitchen. The second floor of the addition has been divided into two bathrooms and a bedroom.

The summer kitchen has an entrance and window on the north wall, and one window on the south wall. This building's main level as well as the "cave" or stone-walled root cellar below can be reached through the addition's entry hall. A stone cistern once adjoined the cave's north wall. The original stone cooking fireplace is intact. The summer kitchen's walls appear to be of lightweight frame construction, probably dating from the second half of the 19th century.

The only cellar other than the cave is located under the southern two-thirds of the first stone addition. It is reached through a trap door in the den's porch floor. A small single pane window lights the cellar's south wall. The chimney's stone relieving arch is topped with carefully cut voussoirs. Remnants of two wooden storage shelves are found in this space. Floor joists visible in the cellar are logs flattened on two sides. There is a narrow crawl space under the rest of the main part of the house. The den section's joists rest directly on a sandy base.

The attic stairway rising from the main hall is enclosed in boards. The original south stone gable wall in the attic was removed when the first addition was built. Part of a board scantling wall remains in its place. Rafters in both sections are mortised, tenoned, and pegged at the apex and do not have collar beams. A four-pane window and a vent are located in the north gable end, and another vent is located in the south gable end. Bent-over wrought nails in the rafter feet where the addition abuts the den section indicate that this area was roofed and exposed to the outside before the den was raised to a full two stories.

Rockledge retains significant original material and has been restored with woodwork appropriate to the period. The house is maintained in excellent condition. The Hunsbergers rebuilt the stone walls of the springhouse and added a gable roof. Its door is located in the east wall. The spring flows from the north embankment through the south wall. The 8' x 8' brick smokehouse stands on a stone foundation and is covered with a pyramidal roof. Its door opens in the south side. The rafters retain the original meat hooks.

¹ Heavy, pegged window and door frames with ovolo trim are typical of service buildings in the region during the period.

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 pattern of our history.
- B** Property 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)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1800-1879

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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Summary Statement of Significance:

Rockledge is significant under Criterion C for its architecture, exemplifying the limestone architecture typical of rural Washington County in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The abundant limestone resources of the Cumberland Valley defined a vernacular building tradition that was specific to the region. Rockledge retains sufficient integrity of design, material, and construction to stand as a representative example of this regional building tradition. Unlike the majority of surviving limestone houses of the period, which are relatively large buildings constructed in a single building campaign, Rockledge was built in three sections during the early 19th century; this process of enlargement reflects the economic status of the owner. The limestone sections are joined by an attached frame summer kitchen, probably dating from the late 19th century, with the original cooking fireplace with stone and brick chimney and a root cellar below. An original stone springhouse and brick smokehouse complement the building. Three modern garages and a recent small log cabin do not contribute to the significance of the resource. The site retains its rural setting above the Little Antietam Creek. The period of significance begins c. 1800, the approximate date of construction of the earliest elements of the resource, and extends through the period of Peter Bell's ownership of the property, by which date (1879) the buildings appear to have substantially achieved their present configuration.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Rockledge is located on a farm that originally included parts of the 18th century tracts "Wife's Fancy" and "Burkett's Lott." The site includes a winding section of the Little Antietam Creek. The Smithsburg- Leitersburg Road and Bowman's Mill, both in use since the late 18th century, adjoin the property to the southwest. This area has been settled since the 1760s. The village of Leitersburg was developed ½ mile north of Rockledge in 1815.

"Burkett's Lott" was granted to Christopher Burkhart (various spellings) in 1755. In 1791 Ludwig Bruicker, "farmer," sold 60 acres of "Burkett's Lott," 51 acres of "Wife's Fancy" and 6 acres of "Resurvey on Burkett's Lott" to Henry Walter, "gunsmith," for 475 £. Bruicker bought the last tract from Burkhart just a week before this sale, but it is unclear when he acquired the other two tracts. The farm remained essentially intact through the 1950s, with the exception of minor transactions. To resolve conflicting land claims, this tract, as well as neighboring properties, was resurveyed in 1792. Walter substantially improved the property before he sold it to Andrew Bachman for 1,008 £ in 1803.

The 1803 Tax List for the Upper Antietam Hundred cites Andrew Baughman as owner of a 118 acre tract called part of "Wife's Fancy." His valuation included 4 horses, 2 cattle, and a number of sheep and hogs, in addition to household furniture. According to Herbert C. Bell's

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History of Leitersburg District, Washington County, Maryland, Bachman was a farmer and blacksmith.

Bachman also may have improved the tract before he sold it to John Mentzer Sr. for 1,300 £ just two years later in 1805. Mentzer, born in 1765 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania of German parents, came to Washington County in about 1790. He married Catharine, daughter of Henry Solmes, who owned the adjoining farm until his death in 1799. Catharine and John sold her half of the farm she inherited to her sister Margaret Bell in 1800. The Mentzers, members of Jacob's Lutheran Church, farmed the land and raised six children. The two main sections of Rockledge appear to date from the period of Mentzer's ownership.

The settlement of John Mentzer's estate in October, 1822, indicates that he was a prosperous farmer and businessman. His property included horses, cattle and hogs, and he raised wheat, rye, oats, hay, corn, flax, hemp, and hops. His inventory lists a wide variety of tools, building materials, and farming equipment, as well as blacksmith's tools, a cider press, and an apple mill. The house was well-furnished, and Mentzer's literacy is indicated by two lots of books. Mentzer owned one slave. A list of forty debtors to his estate indicates that the entrepreneurial Mentzer took advantage of his agricultural profits to become a lender to his neighbors.

John Mentzer Jr., born in 1795, inherited the farm upon his father's death in 1822. He married Catharine Beaver and raised ten children at Rockledge. Mentzer served as an officer in Jacob's Church and was described in Bell's *History* as being successful in business. He sold the farm to Peter Bell in 1841 for \$6,970.50.

Peter Bell's grandfather, Capt. Peter Bell, was a German immigrant, an early settler of the Leitersburg area, and a Revolutionary War soldier. Bell's father, Frederick Bell, was an especially successful and well-educated businessman. Peter Bell, born in 1795, married Juliana Leiter and raised six children. He was a farmer and, according to Herbert C. Bell's *History*, "a Democrat in politics and a member of the Lutheran Church."

Bell's trustees sold Rockledge to Emanuel (Immanuel) Martin in 1879. The final major construction appears to date from the period during which Martin owned the property. The Martin family farmed the tract until 1941. Immanuel lived elsewhere and his son Henry operated Rockledge, which he purchased after his father's death. Henry Martin, born in 1842, married Mary E. Webb. Bell's *History* describes him as a Lutheran and Republican. One of his six children, Harry, took over the farm. After Harry Martin's death Rockledge passed through four owners until the 4.33 acre parcel containing the primary buildings was sold to the Hunsbergers in 1965.

The original section of Rockledge shows a Federal influence with its side hall, single parlor plan. The addition created a center-hall plan that is a typical form repeated in farmhouses throughout the 19th century. All parts of the house are well-built but modestly finished. The

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reverse ogee molding is typically found in the Leitersburg area in the 1810s, often as an interior trim used in conjunction with exterior ovolo moldings.

Rockledge is a significant example of a vernacular limestone building constructed in sections, not built as one large structure, as were nearby houses of the same era, such as WA-I-148 Little Valley (1803), WA-I-157 The Andrew Bell Farm (1800), and WA-I-200 Stone House southeast of Leitersburg (circa 1800). This dwelling represents a successful farmer who enlarged his residence as his fortunes allowed, until the building was of a substantial size.

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Major Bibliographical References:

An Illustrated Atlas of Washington Co., MD. Philadelphia, PA: Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson, 1877.

Bell, Herbert C. History of Leitersburg District, Washington County, MD. Published by the Author, 1898.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968.

Schooley, Patricia. Architectural and Historic Treasures of Washington County, Maryland. Keedysville, MD: Washington County Historical Trust, 2002.

Tax Assessment of 1803; Mentzer Family File. Western Maryland Room, Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.

Washington County Land and Estate Records, Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD.

Williams, Thomas J. C. A History of Washington County, Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968.

WA-I-142 Rockledge
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.33 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Merry Stinson, Architectural Historian

Organization Architectural Consultant date Oct. 2002

street & number 21412 Leiter St. telephone _____

city or town Hagerstown state MD zip code 21742

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name William and Sylvia Hunsberger

street & number 13535 Foxfire Lane telephone _____

city or town Hagerstown state MD zip code 21742

Paperwork Reduction 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. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries for the nominated property are those for Map 26, Plat 241, Washington Co. Tax Assessment, as described in Land Records Liber 429 Folio 310.

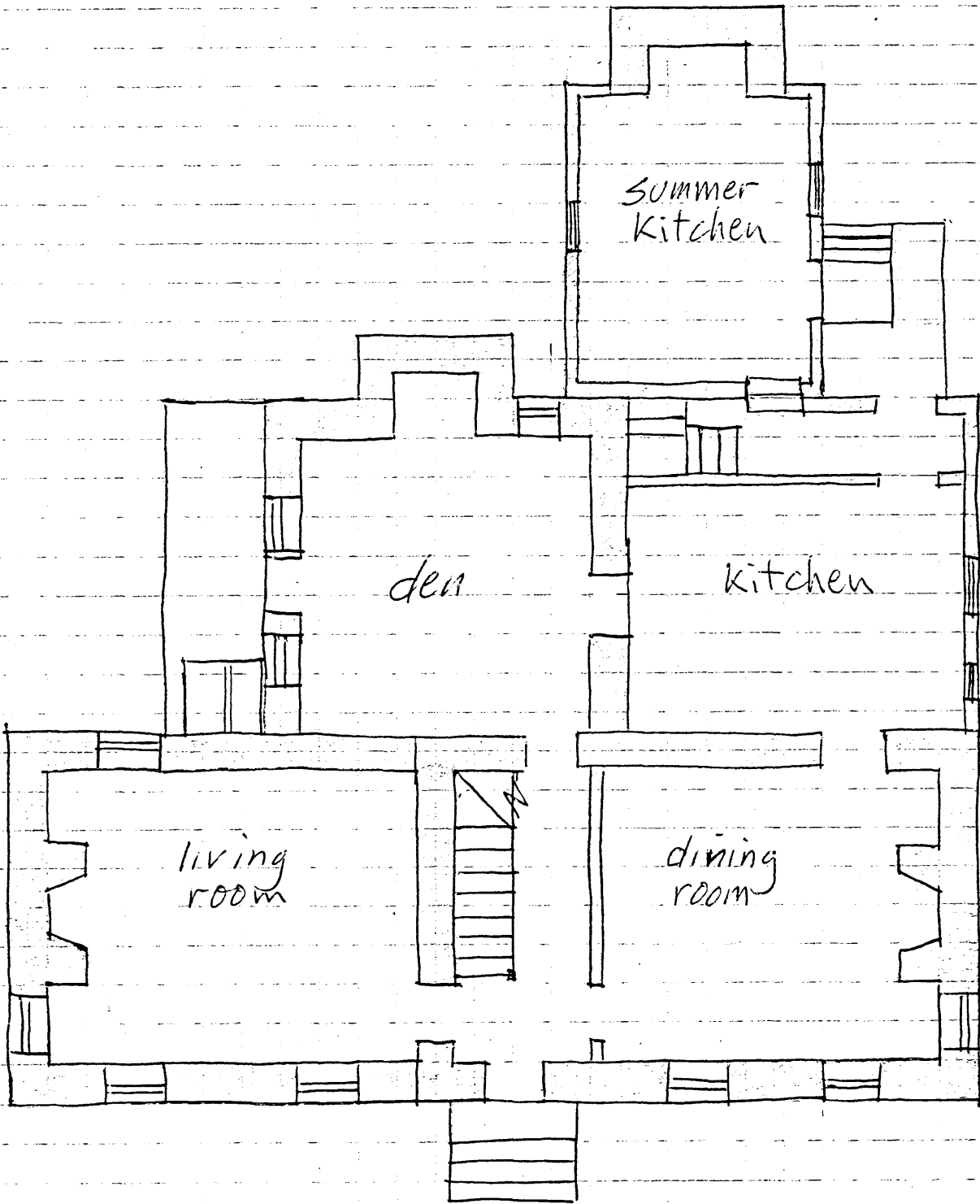
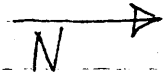
Boundary Justification:

The nominated property comprises the total parcel historically associated with the resource. All extant buildings in this farm complex are located on this parcel.

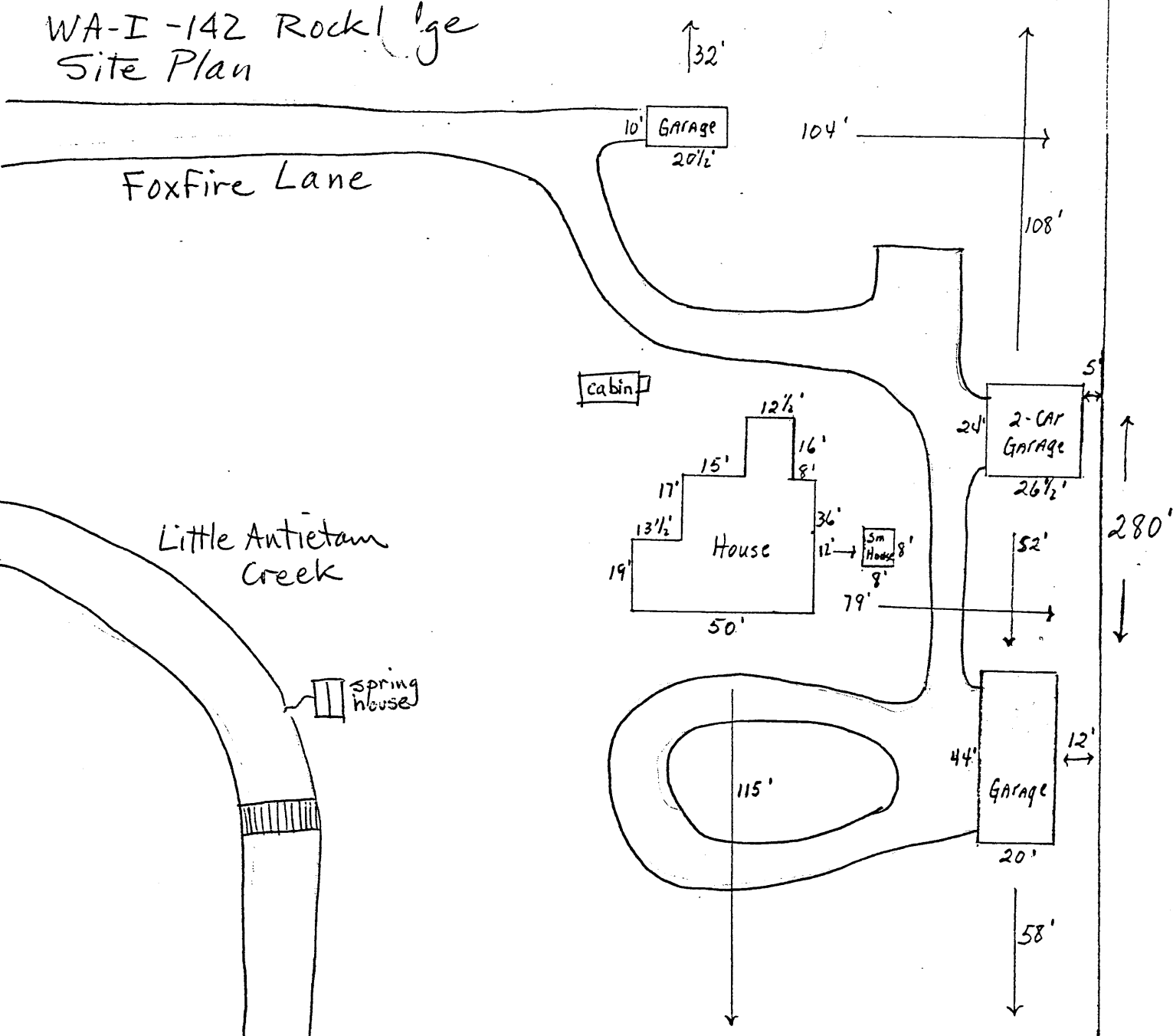
WA-I-142 Rockledge

Merry Stinson Oct. 2002

approx. scale $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$



WA-I-142 Rockledge
Site Plan



← 585' →

drawn by Sylvia Hunsberger
amended by Merry Stinson Oct. 02 N
1" = 40'