

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 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 Sharpenstone Farmstead other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 98 E. Mill NA not for publication city, town Washington Township vicinity state NJ code 034 county Morris code 027 zip code 07853

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked), public-local, public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 6, Noncontributing 4 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects, Total 6.

Name of related multiple property listing: stone houses and outbuildings of Washington township. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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 (checked) 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 (checked) meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature], Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO, Date: 3/9/92.

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: (checked) 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:)

Entered in the National Register: [Signature] 5/1/92. Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / single family

Agricultural / outbuilding storage

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / single family

Agricultural

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls stucco, clapboard

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located well back from Route 24 on a large, agricultural property in the fertile, gently rolling South Branch valley, the Sharpentine Farmstead is an assemblage of stone and frame buildings ranging in date from the early 19th to the mid 20th century. It is sited just east of a small creek flowing northward to the South Branch. The linearly massed, stone and frame house, built in three sections, is surrounded by park-like grounds with mature trees and shrubs. Grouped behind it is a linear range of three small stone domestic outbuildings. Some distance to the east stands a large stone and frame English barn, a frame wagon house, a modern tenant house, and several small sheds. Set amidst open fields and woodlands with scattered farmsteads and modern dwellings, the farm retains a rural setting, although just a short distance north of the modern commercial development along Route 24 outside of Long Valley.

House:

The central portion of the south-facing house is a stuccoed stone, 1 1/2-story, block which exhibits well-preserved Federal style detailing suggestive of a c. 1800-30 construction date. It has an asymmetrical, "salt-box" profiled gable roof, west gable-end interior chimney, double-pile side-hall plan, and raised basement which gives it a two-story appearance on the front. To the east is a frame, 5-bay, 4-room-plan section whose height, depth, and roof profile correspond to those of the main block and which apparently also dates to the early 19th century. It has a west gable-end chimney and a bank cellar, but the latter is not nearly as exposed above grade as is the main block basement. To the west of the main block is a frame 2-story addition with simple Colonial Revival detailing built in the 1940s.

The dwelling's most notable original exterior features are the main block's Federal style cornice and entry treatments. The box cornice is delicately molded and has a denticulated frieze element. The fanlighted upper entry has architrave outer trim with shoulder blocks and fluted key block, 6-panel door (delicately molded recess panels) with elbow lock, and matching paneled reveals. The contem-

See continuation sheet

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 N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

1800 - 1870

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

The Sharpenstine Farmstead is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C for several reasons. Retaining a large complex of mostly stone 19th-century buildings, the farmstead provides a notable illustration of the area's vernacular building practices in that era. In form, construction and detailing, the stone buildings are representative of Washington Township's early stone architecture. The house exemplifies such local practices as the combination of materials and linear expansion, and is of particular interest for its unusual salt-box profile. The main block is also rare local example of the 1 1/2-story, side-hall-plan type and retains notable Federal style detailing. Despite 20th-century alteration, the English barn remains a good example of its type and is of note for its gambrel roof, whose proportions are associated with the east Jersey culture region; only two early Washington Township barns have such roofs. Built by the descendants of one of the area's early German settlers on a lands owned and occupied by the family since the mid 18th century, the house and barn are evidence of the acculturation of Washington Township's German population over several generations.

The Sharpenstine Farmstead is located at the southern end of the Budd/Allen tract, an 1,804-acre property occupying the fertile lowlands along the South Branch to the north of German Valley. Its site is part of the 455-acre parcel settled by Herman Bitzer as early as 1750 and subsequently acquired by John Peter Sharpenstine. There were two John Peter Sharpenstines, father and son, and the latter (1746-1826) probably was the purchaser. The elder Sharpenstine (died 1760) was already settled on the 210-acre farm to the south (part of the Logan tract) when he received his title deed in 1749.¹ Upon the death of the younger Sharpenstine in 1826, a 154-acre farm including the subject farmstead was inherited by his son David Sharp (1786-1864).² In his 1853 will, David Sharp devised the property to eight of his children; in 1865, six of the heirs conveyed

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 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:
Washington Township Historic Preservation Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 22.42 Hackettstown, NJ Quad

UTM References

A | 1 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
C | 1 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 0 |

B | 1 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
D | 1 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 0 |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The entire property in Washington Township known as Block 28/Lot 6.01

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property encompasses the lands remaining of the farm historically associated with the farmstead.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis Bertland, Director
organization Bertland Associates date September 1991
street & number 20. Box 11 telephone (908) 689-6356
city or town Port Murray state NJ zip code 07865

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porary, gabled, 1-bay entry porch, reached by a long flight of steps, has a returned cornice detailed like the main cornice above, barrel-vaulted ceiling, paired front colonettes, crude thin pilaster-like elements at the rear, and a square-spindled railing.

Other exterior features of the main block include flush raking eaves, 6/6 and 9/9 sash windows with architrave trim, and a central front ground-story entry with board-lined reveals and modern Dutch door. The clapboard-clad east wing has a simple box cornice, mostly 9/6 sash and 3-light eyebrow windows with plain trim, and an inner-bay front entry with Victorian glass-and-panel door. The wing's flat-roofed Victorian front porch (now screened) has a box cornice and turned posts.

Inside, both historic sections of the house retain considerable early fabric including plaster walls and ceilings, random-width flooring, molded door and window trim, panel and batten doors, and several fireplaces with mantels.

The main block basement has a front kitchen with timber-linteled fireplaces and two rear rooms, of which the one to the west has a corner fireplace with pilastered mantel. Other features include architrave door trim, 6-panel doors, and an enclosed, straight-run staircase in the front room. On the first story the main block has a front parlor with fireplace, smaller rear room with corner fireplace, and a side hall, the rear of which is partitioned as a small chamber (now divided into a passage and bathroom). Instead of rising to the attic the hall stairs descend to the cellar, and the stairwell has been floored over and partitioned for a closet. The attic is unfinished and reached from the east wing. The first-story front parlor features symmetrically molded door and window trim with corner bull's eyes, paneled window reveals, and a large mantel with reeded pilasters, symmetrically molded inner surround, and paneled frieze block. Other first-story fabric includes architrave trim, 6-panel doors, and a simple mantel in the rear room.

The east wing cellar is divided into three rooms by stone partitions; the southwest room has a timber-linteled fireplace with crane. On the first floor of the wing the southwest room retains the most early fabric. It has a large brick fireplace with simple Georgian mantel, and simply molded woodwork including chair rails and baseboards. The northwest room, converted into a modern kitchen, contains an enclosed staircase along its west wall which has

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a batten door; the two east rooms retain some early woodwork and several Victorian 4-panel doors. The wing attic features two small front chambers which have been remodeled in modern times as living quarters accessed from a doorway and staircase in the east gable end.

Outbuildings:

Just northwest of the house is a range of three domestic outbuildings of coursed rubble stone structures and early/mid 19th century date. The westernmost structure is a 1-story, 2-bay out kitchen with large timber-linteled fireplace (stack removed), Victorian batten door, modern roof & cement floor, and iron-grilled front window (the two rear windows are blocked up). In the middle is a 1 1/2-story, 3-bay out building (a work shop or possibly an ice house) with boxed overhanging eaves, batten-doored central south entry, flanking 6-light windows, two low rear openings with modern batten doors, batten-doored west gable loft entry, stuccoed interior, hewn loft floor joists & plank flooring, and concrete main floor. At the east end stands a 1 1/2-story gable-fronted out building (probably a smoke house originally, but now converted into a furnace house with new brick chimney) with a loft entry and low entry below, both with batten doors.

The barn complex to the east of the house is dominated by a stone 3-bay gambrel-roofed English barn, which probably dates to the early 19th century and was enlarged to the east with a 2-bay extension some years thereafter. Of coursed rubble stone construction with early ridge pointing, it features segmentally arched lintels above both central wagon entries. The west wall is of clapboard-clad frame construction of the the first story, as is the south wall of the extension. The interior framing members are mostly hewn. In the course of adapting the barn for dairy use in this century a floor was inserted at loft level and several of the framing members were removed and/or modified. A red wash remains on the original pointing of the main block's east wall, now an interior partition.

Other outbuildings include a frame, 1 1/2-story wagon house of 19th-century date with gable-end entries, a side-wall lean-to appendage, novelty siding, and modern doors and several mid-20th-century structures: a frame, 1-story, garage/equipment shed, a concrete-block milk house and adjoining silo, a frame 1-story, tenant house (built in 1948), and a frame and concrete block shed.

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their interests to the other two, Lambert B. and Nathan S. Sharp, as tenants-in-common.³ In 1903, the widow of Lambert Sharp sold one half of the property, including the farmstead, to William Schoenheit. Thereafter, the property changed hands several times until title was acquired by the present owner.⁴

Notes:

¹ Theodore Frelinghuysen Chambers, Early Germans of New Jersey, Dover, NJ: Dover Printing Company, 1895, page 145, 146a, 147, & 489.

² Ibid. page 489.

³ Morris County Deeds, Book D-7, page 501; J. Lightfoot and Sam. Geil, Map of Morris County, New Jersey, 1853; Frederick W. Beers, Atlas of Morris County, New Jersey, New York: Beers, Ellis, and Soule, 1868.

⁴ Morris County Deeds, Book D-17, page 356, Book S25, page 271, Book O-31, page 323, Book U-31, page 281, Book A-36, page 568, Book B-36, page 151, and Book 2610, page 449.

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Sharpenstine Farmstead, Stone Houses & Outbuildings
MPS, Washington Township, Morris County, NJ

Major Bibliographic References

Beers, Frederick W. Atlas of Morris County, New Jersey.
New York: Beers, Ellis and Soule, 1868.

Chambers, Theodore F. The Early Germans of New Jersey. Dover,
NJ: The Dover Printing Company, 1895.

Morris County Deed Records, Clerks Office, Court House,
Morristown, NJ.

Lightfoot, J. and Sam Geil. Map of Morris County, New Jersey.
1853.

Robinson, E. Atlas of Morris County, New Jersey. New York: E.
Robinson, 1887.

Washington Township (Morris County, New Jersey) Stone Building
Survey. Washington Township Historical Commission, 1991.

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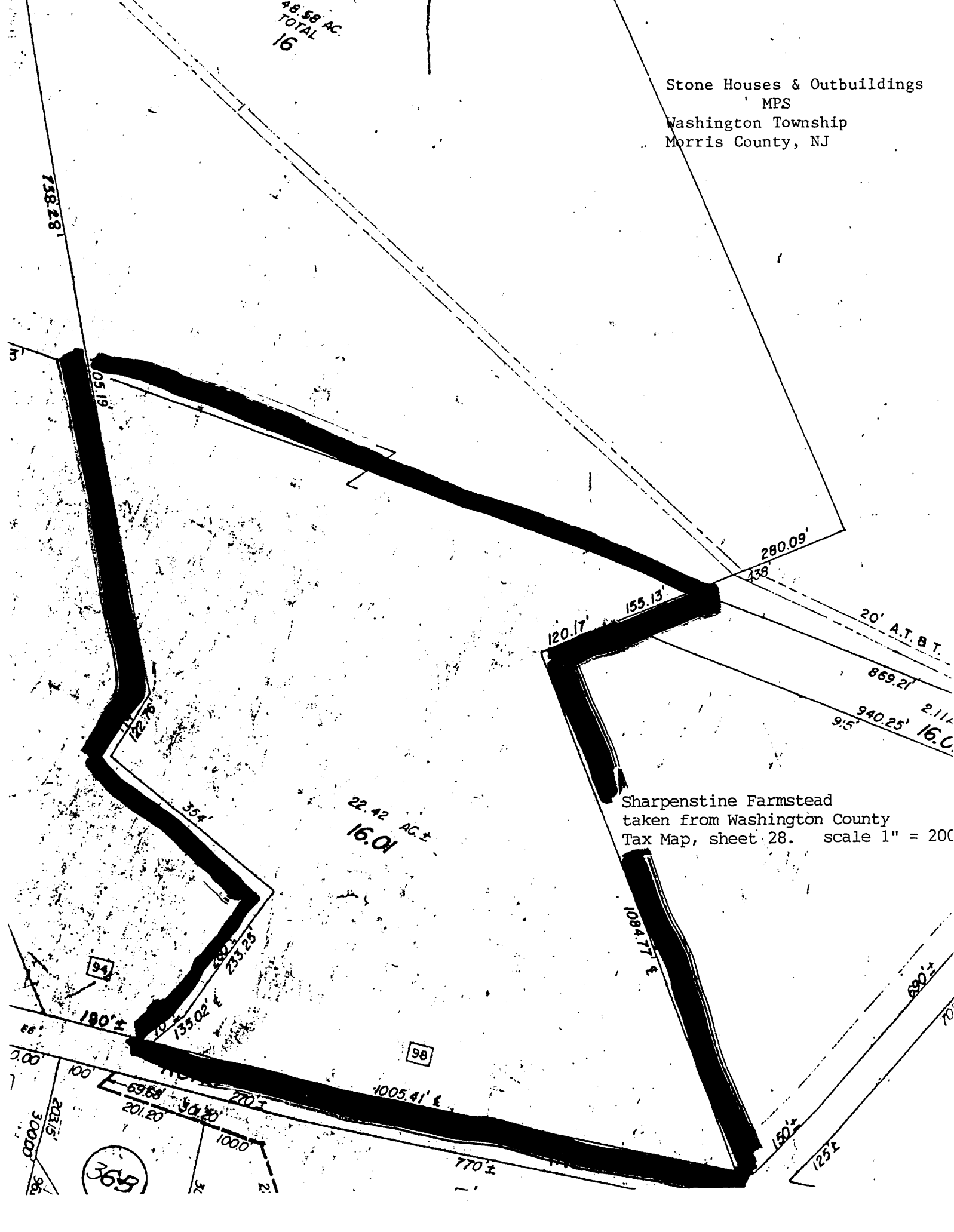
Photographic Identification:

The following information is the same for all of the photographs submitted with the nomination:

Name:	Sharpenstine Farmstead
Location:	98 East Mill Road Washington Township, Morris County, NJ
Photographer:	Dennis Bertland
Date of photographs:	Spring/Summer 1991
Negative repository:	Bertland Associates, Box 11, Port Murray, NJ 07865

48.58 AC.
TOTAL
16

Stone Houses & Outbuildings
MPS
Washington Township
Morris County, NJ



22.42 AC.±
16.01

Sharpenstine Farmstead
taken from Washington County
Tax Map, sheet 28. scale 1" = 200'

20' A.T. & T.

869.21'

940.25' 2.11'±
9.5' 16.0'

94

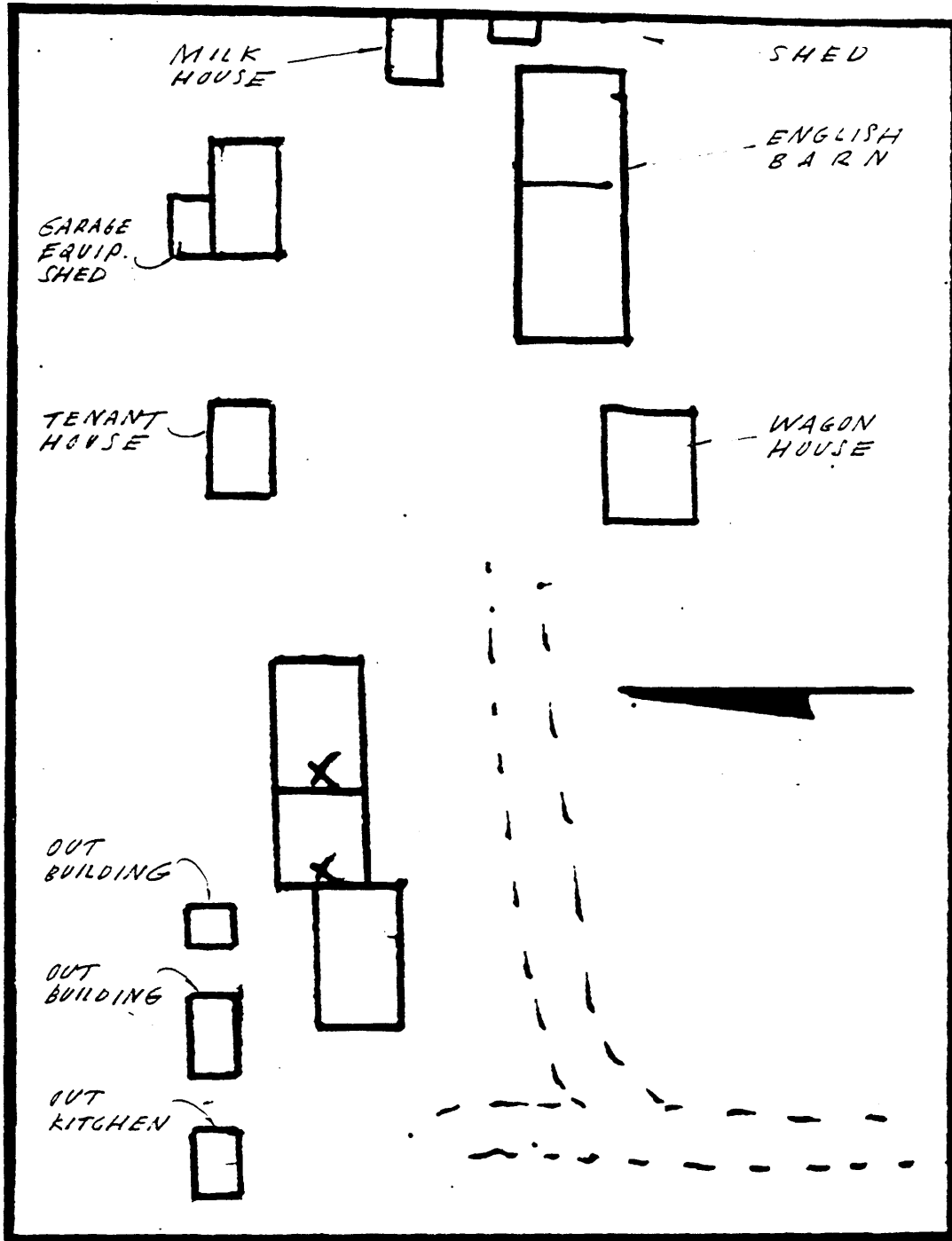
98

369

SHARPENSTEIN FARMSTEAD

SITE PLAN

NOT TO SCALE



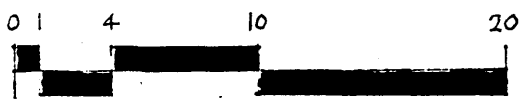
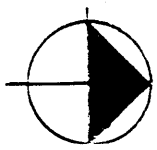
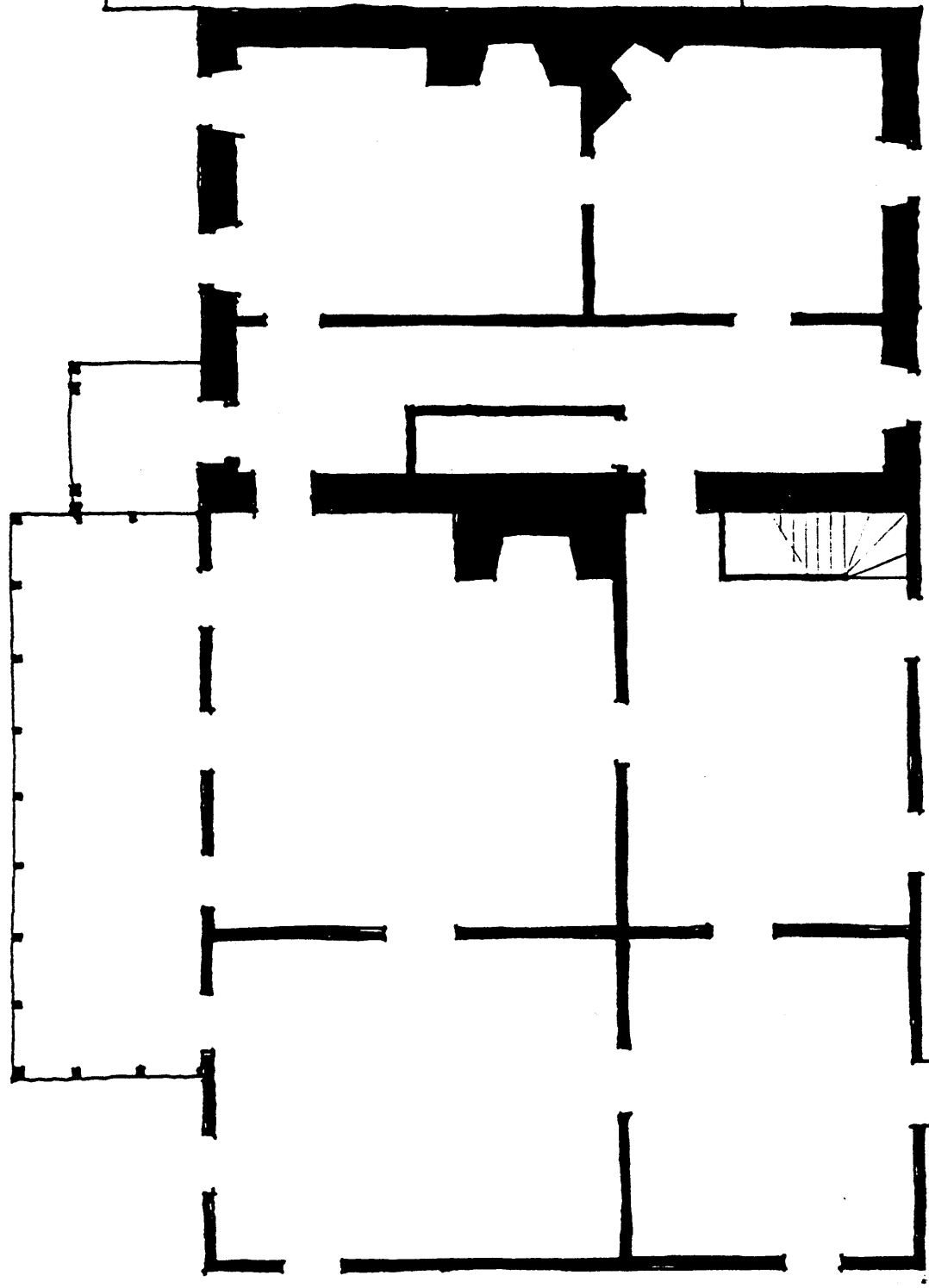
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Morris County, NJ

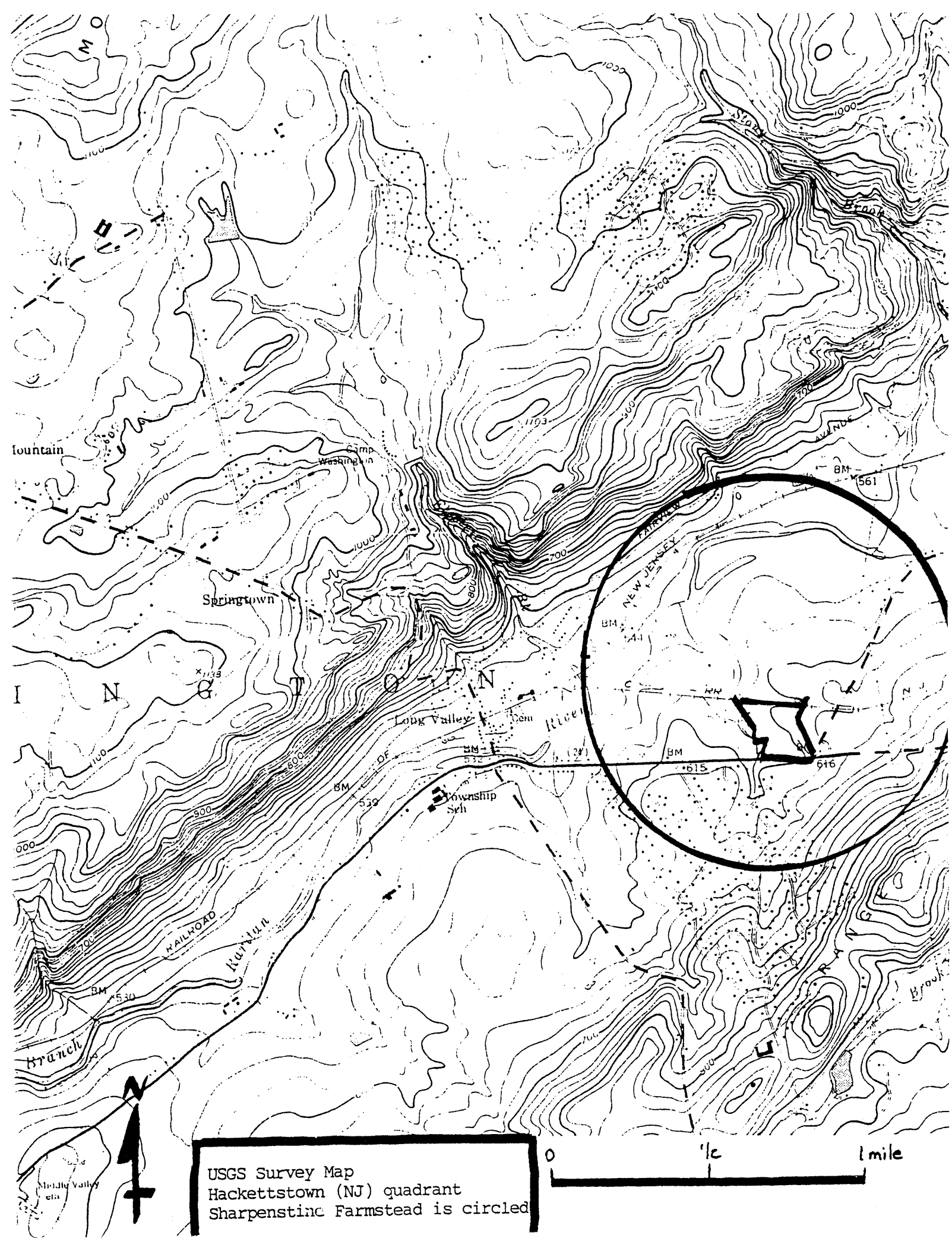
PLANS

SHARPENTEIN HOUSE

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Stone Houses & Outbuildings MPS
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USGS Survey Map
Hackettstown (NJ) quadrant
Sharpenstine Farmstead is circled

