

417

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

RECEIVED

MAR 7 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

historic name: "Adaland"
other name/site number: Modisett Mansion

2. Location

street & number: Co. Rt. 77/5 Off St. Rt. 76 (Fox Grape Run)
city/town: Berryberg vicinity: X
state: WV code: WV county: Barbour code: 001 zip code: 26349

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet.)

William C. Janssen
Signature of Certifying Official

2/24/95
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____ Date _____

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 Keeper	Date of Action
<u>Edson H. Beall</u>	<u>4.14.95</u>

Entered in the National Register

Adaland
Name of Property

Barbour Co., WV
County and State

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s) ___ object
- district
- site
- structure

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>3</u>	_____	TOTAL

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Commerce/Trade/Business: Office

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

Foundation Stone
Walls Brick

Roof
Other

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

Name of Property

County and State

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is: N/A

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics and Government

Period of Significance

c. 1868-1945

Adaland
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Significant Dates

1868
1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Modisett, Augustus; Robinson, Ira E.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

James Daver Corder, Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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Bibliography

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

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository: West Virginia University

Adaland
Name of Property

Barbour Co., WV
County and State

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: 17 acres approximately

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>580360</u>	<u>4339460</u>	2	<u>17</u>	<u>580400</u>	<u>4339190</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u>17</u>	<u>580440</u>	<u>4339360</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>580200</u>	<u>4339160</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
5	<u>17</u>	<u>580100</u>	<u>4339400</u>				

___ 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: Rosemary C. Withers; Darlene Ford

Organization: _____ Date: December, 1994

Street & Number: 906 Maple Avenue Telephone: (304) 265-1870

City or Town: Grafton State: WV ZIP: 26354

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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)

Adaland
Name of Property

Barbour Co., WV
County and State

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Property Owner
=====

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

Name: Anker Energy Corporation

Street & Number: 2708 Cranberry Square Telephone: ()

City or Town: Morgantown State: WV Zip: 26505

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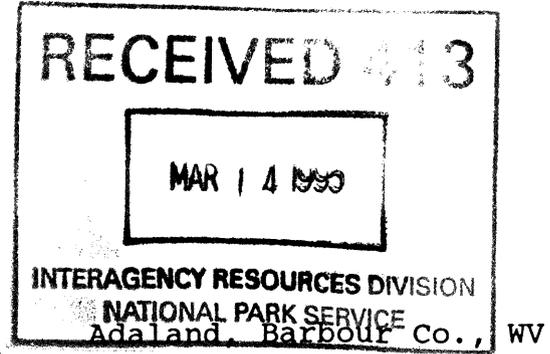
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1



High on a hill that overlooks WV State Route 76, near Philippi, stands Adaland. Built circa 1868, the Greek Revival-style, L-shaped brick structure is two stories high. The front elevation is divided between five bays containing double-hung windows with six over six panes. Two-story pilasters also define the house's Greek Revival style. Centered in the facade is a Greek Revival doorway with a rectangular transom and side lights.

The foundation is constructed of cut fieldstone. The bricks that make up the bearing walls were fired on the property. The wood for the trim and staircases, which is black walnut, is thought to have been cut on the property. The front porch entrance and the floor of the double porch were redone with red quarry tile over cement soon after April 1920 at the request of Judge Ira Robinson. The single hall doors which exited onto the piazza were also redone during this time to match the front door with full transom and side lights.

There are twelve interior rooms. These include four bedrooms, two libraries, two parlors, a living room, a dining room, a kitchen and a maid's room. Around 1920 two bathrooms were added to the second floor. There is also a closet which is about the size of the maid's room. Two additional rooms have access only from the piazza. These are the first story breakfast room which contains the cistern, and the second floor handyman's room which contains a sink (probably added around 1920).

The floors are hardwood but most of the rooms on the first floor (including the hall) and the two major bedrooms on the second floor were covered with a composition and asbestos tile that was popular in the 1920's. The house is graced with elegant wood (black walnut) trim that has never been painted. The trim averages 10-12 inches for the floor boards and 1-2 inches for the cornice trim. The staircases, both for those on the inside and those which connect the floors of the exterior 2-tier porch, are in excellent condition and appear never to have been painted.

The house was most recently used as an office. The alterations that were made to convert the house for office use were completed for the most part in the late 1970s and appear easy to remove. The ceilings on the first floor and in the two major bedrooms were lowered using metal framed grids with 2x4 drop-in fiberglass ceiling panels. The walls in the two major bedrooms have also been covered in particle board and cork.

The adjacent carriage house, a contributing resource, was added soon after the house was built (probably in 1872). It has a simple hipped roof with ornate cornice line and Italianate-style brackets with larger paired brackets in the corners. It matched the cornice line and brackets of the main house which are now covered in contemporary soffits. The second floor outside walls are covered in wood shingles. The two garage doors were earlier converted to overhead spring and track assemblies.

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Section number 7 Page 2 Adaland, Barbour Co., WV

The walls of the stairwell and all of the upstairs were done in lathe (a simplified tongue and groove which was usually covered in plaster) and at some point shellacked. The walls are in beautiful condition. All four rooms have the walls done in lathe; however, the kitchen has been modernized with paneling and cabinets.

A third contributing resource is a large frame late 19th century barn that stands approximately 300 ft. northeast of the main brick house. This structure provided the farm with essential space for storage and protection of farm animals. The gable-roofed building stands close to the property's farm lane entrance. The total of contributing resources within the nominated boundary is three.

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Section number 8 Page 1 Adaland, Barbour Co., WV

Historic "Adaland" mansion is significant under Criterion B for its association with Augustus Modisett, a locally prominent 19th-century landowner; it possesses additional significance under the same criterion as the primary property associated with Ira Robinson, a historically prominent early 20th century West Virginian. Under Criterion C Adaland embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style of architecture, remaining one of the best preserved examples of the style in Barbour County, West Virginia. The period of significance for Adaland begins with the construction of the main house, c.1868, and extends to 1945, the year marking the height of Robinson's participation, as a retired person, in local civic affairs.

Between 1750 and 1760, three Modisett brothers came to America from England. Their names were Euriah, Charles and Brooks. It appears that they were descendants of Zachery Mothershead, who was one of the first two assemblymen of Maryland.

Charles married Frances Bryns. Charles and wife lived in Prince William County (now Fauquier), Virginia until 1782. They then moved into Harrison County, Virginia. That area is now a part of Barbour County, West Virginia.

According to the Harrison County Deed Records, Charles and Frances bought 400 acres of land on Fox Grape Creek on August 16, 1807 from John and Ann Thompson. This property was part of a land grant Thompson and his brothers had received in 1799.

Uriah Modisett, one of eleven Modisett siblings, inherited the family property upon his father's death. The estate was settled in 1830 in Harrison County, Virginia. Frances had predeceased her husband.

Uriah and his wife Joanna sold 443 acres to one of their nine children, Augustus. This was not recorded until 1864, possibly due to the Civil War (Deed Book 8, pg. 333). Augustus wanted his house built high on a hill so it would be seen by those living around it. The construction of the house dates sometime between 1868 and 1872, with some of the finishing touches not completed until around 1880. Augustus referred to his home as the "house on the hill" or as the "Modisett Mansion."

The carpenter foreman was James Daver Corder, who was married to Mary Modisett, daughter of A.R. Modisett, uncle of Augustus. The labor used in construction of the main portion of the house was that of emancipated slaves. Slave quarters remained standing on the property until torn down sometime around the 1940s.

Augustus was a farmer, businessman and politician. He was known to be highly educated but there are no known records as to where he completed his education.

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Section number 8 Page 2 Adaland, Barbour Co., WV

During the civil war, Augustus decided he did not want to serve his country when he was drafted. As was the custom at that time, he could choose to hire someone to serve in his place. Augustus and Harvey Woodford hired John and James Moots to take their place. The Moots were paid \$1800.00. On their way to Wheeling to enlist, the war ended and they came home. The Moots brothers kept the money and never served a minute in the service.

Augustus served as Sheriff of Barbour County from 1866 through 1869. At this time, the office of Sheriff was very prestigious. In 1875, Augustus was instrumental in starting the Masonic Lodge organized in 1870. Augustus died on February 26, 1881 and was buried in the old Cole/Modisett cemetery close to his parents and about 1/8th of a mile from his "house on the hill." He was later disinterred and moved to Mary's Chapel.

Ira Ellsworth Robinson was born in Taylor County in 1869. His parents were also from that area. His father, William, was born on Taylor's Drain in Barbour Co. and his mother, Mary Sayre, was born at Pleasant Creek, which is about four miles from Taylor's Drain.

Robinson graduated from Fairmont State Normal School in 1889 with honors. He studied law at the University of Virginia in 1890. He was admitted to the bar on February 18, 1891.

In 1892 Ira married Ada Sinsel of Grafton. Her father, Arthur, was born near Pruntytown, Taylor County, and educated at the old Pruntytown College. Her mother, Hannah See, was a direct descendent of the famous Warwicks of England.

Robinson began his law practice in Grafton. He became Prosecuting Attorney of Taylor County from 1897 to 1900. He was the regent of the State Normal Schools from 1901 to 1907.

The lawyer served as State Senator from 1902 to 1904. In 1907, when the justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court resigned, Judge Robinson was appointed to replace him by Governor William M. O. Dawson. At the general election a year later, November 8th, 1908, he was elected to continue in that status. Judge Robinson made his mark in two dissenting opinions, one of which antagonized the large mine owners. Robinson's opinions were cited in When Civil Law Fails, a book published in 1939 by Professor Rankins.

During this time he was also treasurer of the State Industrial School for Boys. In 1913, he was unanimously chosen by the regents of West Virginia University to be Dean of the College of Law. Though he decided against serving, he was made a member of the faculty and delivered special lectures on "Appellate Procedures and Professional Ethics."

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Section number 8 Page 3 Adaland, Barbour Co., WV

He resigned as Chief Justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court in 1916 to run as the Republican nominee for the Governorship of West Virginia. He was defeated by John Jacob Cornwell, a Democrat from Hampshire County. It was said the ire he raised among the large mine owners contributed to his defeat. Robinson, nevertheless, maintained close ties to the coal and timber industries.

During his career, Robinson served as President of the Kingwood National Bank. He wrote many articles that appeared in prestigious legal publications. He made a number of significant addresses before the American Bar Association.

After being named by President Calvin Coolidge, Judge Robinson was a charter member of the Federal Radio Commission and held the chairmanship for two years. He served the commission from 1929-1932. He was also special assistant to the Attorney General of the United States for a time.

Judge Robinson purchased the Modisett Mansion in 1920. He renamed it Adaland, in honor of his wife and daughter. He devoted much of his time at Adaland to farming and livestock grazing, although he maintained a law office with an extensive library on the second floor. Judge Robinson also used Adaland for entertaining many people, local and famous. When the Robinsons were away, the Mick Stanesbury family lived in the large house and cared for the estate.

Judge Robinson resumed his law practice in 1936. He was associated with Rupert A. Sinsel in Philippi. He was the founder of the Barbour County Historical Society in 1941, and served as it's president until his death in 1951.

Criterion C

Adaland is an elegant local example of Greek Revival architecture. The style is uncommon to the area; it illustrates in its stately setting the prominence of the first owners. Augustus Modisett wanted the very best for his "House on the Hill."

The L-shaped, 2-story red brick mansion is a good example of the late Greek Revival style in rural West Virginia. The east elevation, containing the main entrance, is a formal statement of symmetry that is dominated by a trabeated doorway with rectangular overlight and sidelights. Above the center-bay entrance is a three-part window. The north elevation is equally impressive. Here a two-tier porch occupies the angle of the house's L plan. This significant, well-preserved feature is highlighted by exterior staircases at the first and second story. The presence of the two-tier gallery is regarded as a highly significant

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element of design; it is a throwback to earlier old Virginia house plans of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Notable examples of two-tier gallery design survive in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. Adaland has elicited additional interest for its formal design. The house's hipped roof and the presence of pilasters at the front elevation have been viewed as late Georgian-style elements. There is general agreement among observers that the house is the work of a master builder or architect.

Historic photographs show Adaland with cornice brackets. These were removed but can still be found in the attic. There were once four pedimented roof dormers, another reference to the Greek Revival style. The dormers were removed sometime in the 1970's. The cornice line and Italianate brackets are repeated on the Carriage house. Adaland remains Barbour County's principal example of the Greek Revival style. Extensive planning is now underway for the restoration and adaptive reuse of the historic property.

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Adaland, Barbour Co., WV

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of three buildings centrally located within a 17-acre polygon that occupies an entire hill. Beginning at the farm lane entrance off Co. Rt. 77/5, the boundary runs 400 ft. northwest in a straight line; thence 700 ft. west in a straight line; thence 800 ft. southeast in a straight line; thence 600 ft. east in a straight line; thence 600 ft. north in a straight line to the point of beginning.

Justification

The nominated property consists of a tree-shaded hill that is essentially contained within the 1400 bench mark that surrounds the hill. The boundary of the buildings, farm land, and oak shade trees form an ensemble that is nearly circular, thus conforming to the historic core of Adaland's traditional setting.

National Park Service

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Section number 9 Page 1 Adaland, Barbour Co., WV

Bibliography

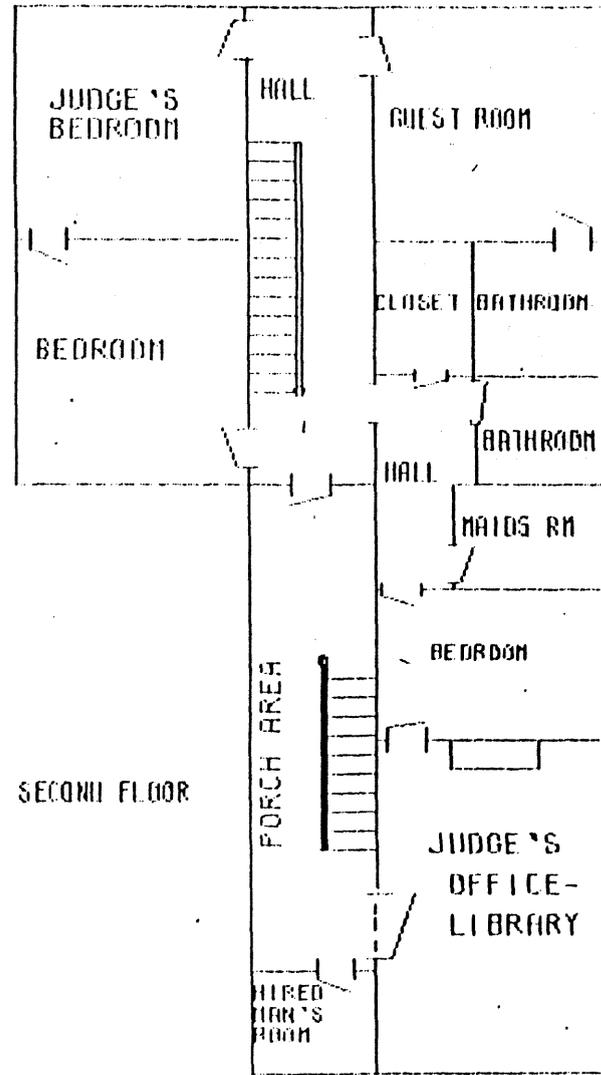
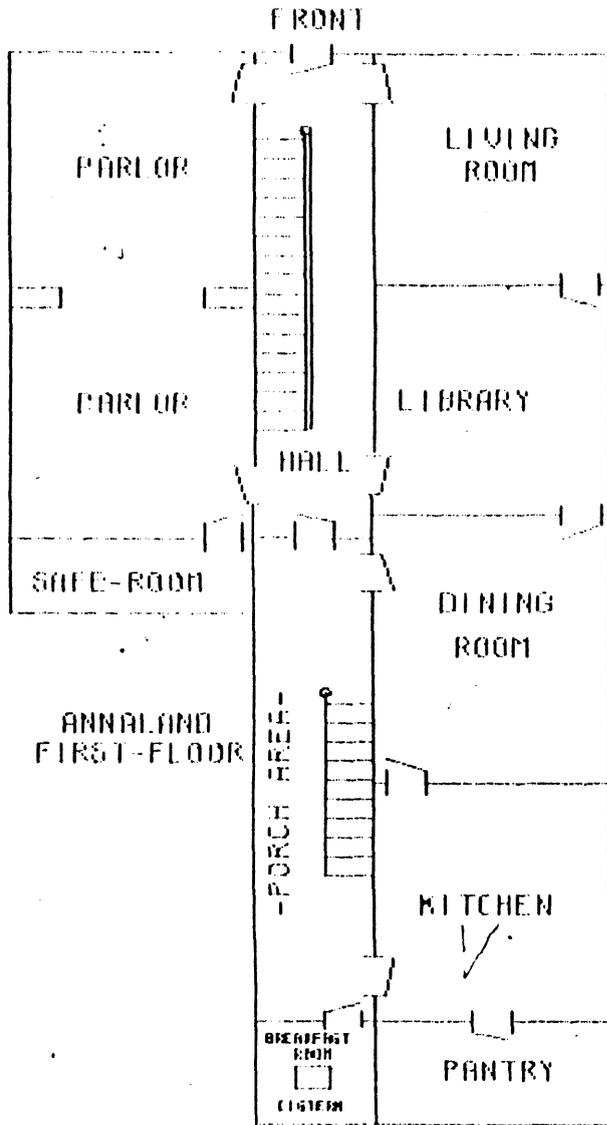
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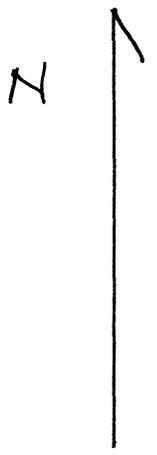
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ADALAND, BARBOUR COUNTY, WV

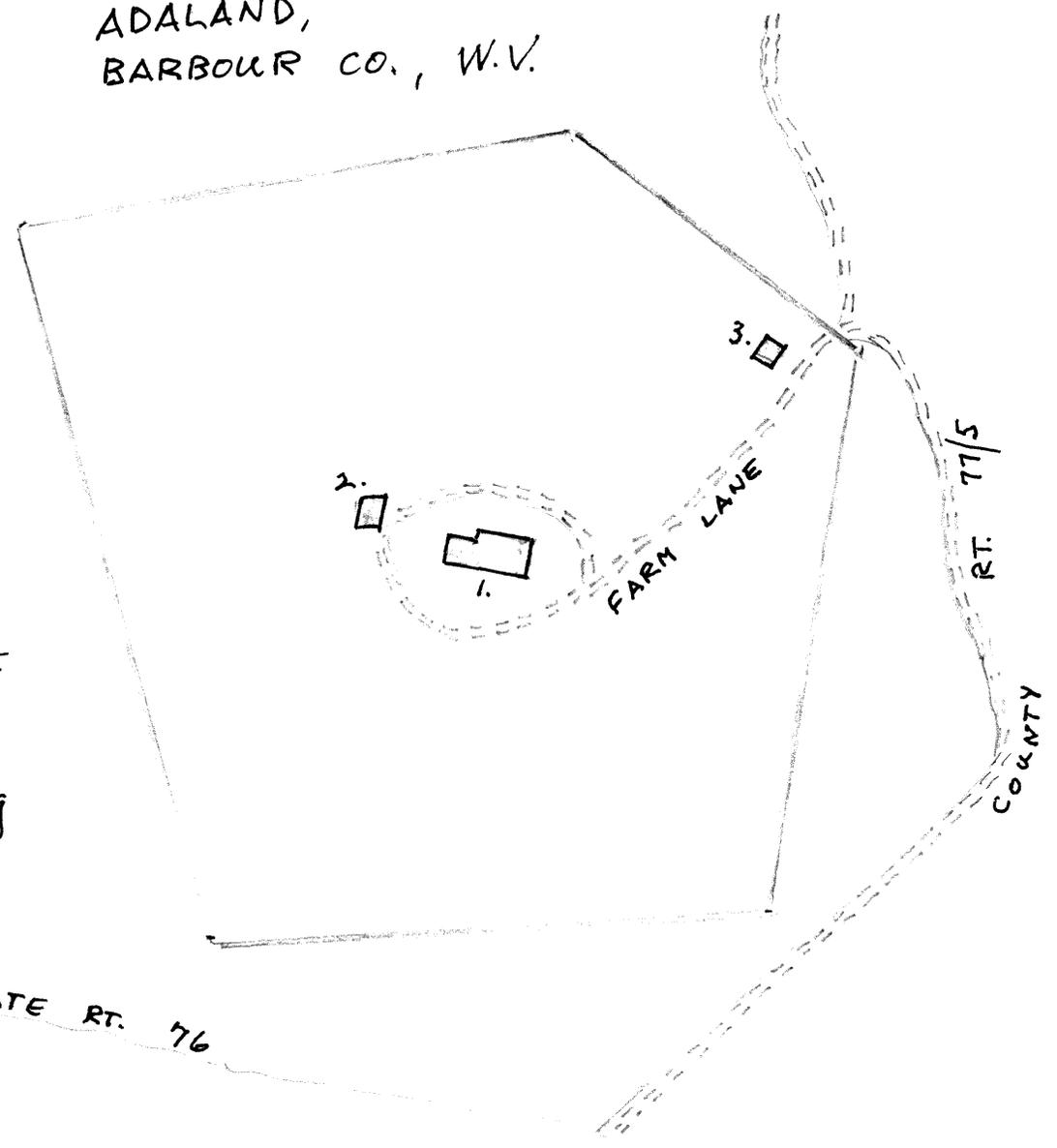


ADALAND,
BARBOUR CO., W.V.



- 1. ADALAND
- 2. CARRIAGE HOUSE
- 3. BARN

□ = contributing
— = boundary



1 INCH = 200 ft. approx.

TO
76/119