

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received

APR 25 1988

date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic See/Ward House

and/or common The Old Brick House

2. Location

street & number U S Route 219/250 na not for publication

city, town vicinity of Mill Creek

state West Virginia code 054 county Randolph code 083

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. James E. Wallace

street & number PO Box 644

city, town Elkins vicinity of state WV

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Randolph County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Elkins state WV

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title na has this property been determined eligible? na yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The See/Ward House is located on a small rise to the east of present US Route 219/250. The house itself is located on a rise along with a barn, and the site of a former historic barn. The property is bisected by a farm road that runs east west and drops off a shelf to the east of the house. Below this shelf, the old turnpike road was located. This would put the house to the west of the original road. This is evidenced by the observed front facade of the house, which is currently utilized as a rear porch. The original rear facade faces the new road and hence, is now the front.

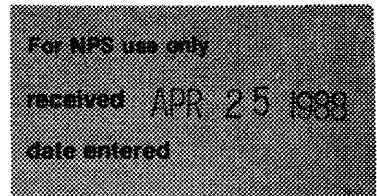
The property contains a few trees on the grounds proper, and slopes to the south, where the creek runs and crosses US 219/250. There is a fence line, though no fence, to the south of the house approximately twenty feet. The buildings on the nominated property include the house, a modern concrete barn, non contributing; a well; a small shed/outhouse; and the location of the former historic barn. The timbers from the structure of the barn still remain in the location, and there is some evidence of the outline as well as stone piers, but the site is overgrown most of the year. No archeological investigations have been done to date and no archeological sites are considered part of the nomination.

The house is a two story brick I house with a gable roof. There is a front porch of one story and a rear one story porch that has been half enclosed to form a kitchen. The brick is locally made fired clay with Flemish bond on the front, or east elevation, and five row common bond on the others. The front elevation contains a brick water table with bullnosed bricks and there is a corbeled belt course at the second floor level. There are interior end chimneys on the north and south elevations. The south elevation has two attic windows flanking the chimney. There are no other openings in the south or north elevations. The roof is metal, though not original. The house is three bays wide. the windows have flat jack arches and are one over one sash. There is a central door in each of the east and west elevations. The doors have flat transoms. There is a small rake board on the gable ends that is flush with the facade. The cornice on the side elevations is a stepped box with little ornamentation.

The porches have non-original square posts. There is no skirting or other ornamentation. The spandrel panels at the sides of the

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shed porch roofs are enclosed with a contemporary coved siding. The kitchen enclosure is likewise sided with cove siding. The foundation is coursed rubble stone. The overall appearance of the house is that of a very simple austere Federal Style structure.

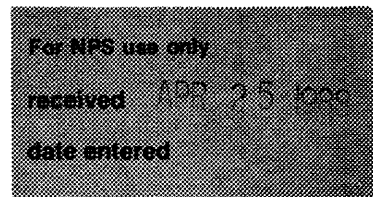
The interior floor plan is a central entrance with flanking rooms. The wall to the north of the entrance does not exist, thereby making the parlor a larger room than the dining room. In the west corner of each of the two main rooms are enclosed stairs to the second floor. The second floor is a similar plan, with the stair to the attic in the north west corner.

The north room on the first floor is the original parlor. The ceiling is non-original plaster board. The south, east and west walls have original paneled wainscotting and chair rails with wallpaper above on plaster walls. The entire north wall is paneled with a fireplace in the center. Above the fireplace is a paneled overmantel. This has a center panel, which may have contained a mirror at one time or was painted. The raised portions of the panels are fluted engaged pilasters with simple crowns. The shelf above the fireplace opening is supported by paneled engaged pilasters and has dentils beneath it. The crown molding to the ceiling contains a small egg and dart motif. On the east side of the fireplace there is a built-in cupboard with an elephant ear surround. The cabinet is divided into two with a carved keystone at the center. The upper portion of the cupboard contains two glazed doors with ten panes each. The lower portion contains a single panel in each door. To the west of the fireplace, the stairs are enclosed in a similar paneled wall. Beneath the stairs is a small closet with a cross and bible paneled door. Three risers extend into the room, the rest are behind another cross and bible door. The trim around the doors is a quirked ovolo on a plain band with a corner bead. There are paneled returns on the windows.

The south room on the first floor is the original dining room. It is very similar to the parlor. It also has paneled wainscotting, chair rail and full paneled wall in the fireplace wall. The door to the second floor stairs in the south west corner of the room is the same as in the parlor. There are differences in the detailing of the fireplace. It contains a paneled overmantel, though it is not fluted or pilastered. The mantel shelf is a built-up cove molding with dentils. This is reflected in the ceiling molding. The firebox is exposed and contains a large shelf stone. To the east of the fireplace is a window with a recess and paneled returns. Within the returns, there are storage closets. The window was originally a door,

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though it has been altered for quite some time and the paneling and trim appear to be original.

Hardware on the doors leading up from the first floor also appear to be original hand forged items. The hinges are H-L hinges and the thumb latches are Suffolk design with spade cusps. They are attached with forged nails.

On the second floor the finishes are much more simple. The walls are plaster with a simple chair rail. The mantels in the fireplaces are simpler with built-up coved shelves and quirked ovolo surrounds. Floors in the second floor are original random width wide painted pine.

The door to the attic is similar to the first floor doors, though not as decorative. It is a simple flush panel with hand forged hardware.

The attic is unfinished.

The other buildings on the site are utilitarian farm structures. The barn is not significant and is a contemporary gambrel roofed concrete block structure. The shed/outhouse has vertical board siding and is approximately 6 feet square.

The site contains approximately 3 acres.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

Buildings	-	2	(house, shed)
Structures	-	1	(well)
Site	-	<u>1</u>	(old barn site)
Total	-	4	Contributing resources
Noncontributing*	-	1	(modern concrete barn)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1801

Builder/Architect Thomas Bradley

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The See/Ward House is significant as an extant example of an early brick residence in Randolph County; as a good example of the Federal, or Adamesque, style of architecture; for its association with a prominent family in the early politics and settlement of Western Virginia, West Virginia, the Sees; for its association with a prominent family in the development of Randolph county, the Wards; for its association with Washington J. Long and David Goff both of whom served in the Va. Assembly; and for its association with the Civil War in Randolph County. These statements will be further developed in the following paragraphs.

The See/Ward House is a good extant example of an early residence in Randolph County. Records in the county Courthouse date the structure to Michael See Jr. He acquired the land in question from William Seymour on August 28, 1801. At that time he commenced construction of the brick residence. His wife was Catherine Baker, the granddaughter of Colonel John Nicholas Baker. An interesting side note concerns Baker, who owned the land on which Independence Hall in Philadelphia was constructed. It was leased to the government for 99 years, at which time, 1850, the Harts, Bakers and Sees attempted to recover it, but were unsuccessful. At the time of construction of the house there were very few settlers in the area. The county was formed in 1786 and this portion of Harrison County's population in 1785 consisted of 135 white property owners. Indian raids in the area are reported to have ceased in 1792, and the militia's strength is listed as 174 in that year. Adjacent Beverly, former county seat of Randolph was chartered in 1790 and named for Beverly Randolph, mother of Edmond Randolph, Governor of Virginia 1786-88. Its population in 1830 was 184. As can be seen, very few people lived in this region at the time. Elkins, the current county seat was incorporated in 1890 and named for Stephen B. Elkins. It became the county seat in 1898. Tygarts Valley was named for David Tygart who settled in the Mill Creek vicinity in 1753. The majority of the buildings in the surrounding area and historic structures in the vicinity date from the late 19th Century to early 20th century when Mill Creek was an important milling center in the lumber industry of Randolph county. In 1910, Mill Creek was the "second" city in Randolph County with a population of 910. This is all presented to illustrate the point that most of the development of the area antedates the construction of the See/Ward House by at least 50 years. This house, therefore, is a rare surviving example of very early settlement architecture in the county.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3

Quadrangle name Mill Creek, W.V.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	5	8	9	3	0	1	0	4	2	8	1	6	5	1	8	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing														

B

Zone	Easting			Northing														

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state na code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Gioulis Historic Preservation Consultant

organization na date December 1987

street & number 612 Main St. telephone 304.765.5716

city or town Sutton state WV 26601

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/21/88

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patricia Andrews

date 8/25/88

Keeper of the National Register

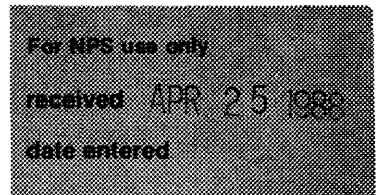
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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As an architectural statement, the house is a very good example of the Federal Style. This style was popular in the United States from ca 1780 to ca 1820. In Western Virginia it is most popular in the period 1800-1820. There are a number of examples in other regions in West Virginia dating from that time period, particularly in the vicinity of Charlestown, Martinsburg and Harpers Ferry. These areas were very much influenced by the architecture of Tidewater Virginia and nearby Maryland. The slightly later dates of significance in Western Virginia are a result of the geographic distance from the centers of population in the country at the time. The style is characterized by planar masonry surfaces, shallow sloped gable roofs, flat jack arches over openings in the facades, Flemish bond on principal facades, and a central hall with flanking rooms floor plan. Interior characteristics of the style include, chair rails and wainscoting in major rooms, paneled walls and fireplace mantels with overmantels and flanking built-in cabinets or storage areas, and quirked ovolo and beaded trim detailing. The house contains all of these details as will be further explained in the description of the property. For the purposes of this discussion, a superficial examination of the building reveals Flemish bond brickwork on the front of the structure, which is actually the current rear elevation, due to a rerouting of the historic turnpike road; flat jack arches over the doors and window; paneled walls in the dining room and current living room; paneled overmantels in the fireplaces in the dining and living rooms as well as classical detailing such as dentils and modillions and fluted columns or pilasters; and the basic two over two with central hall floorplan that is the standard of the style. The house, therefore, is a very good example of the Federal Style and retains much of the detailing and characteristics of that style. In fact, there are examples of hand forged hardware on the doors of the paneled walls that are original to the construction of the house.

The See family was a very prominent family in the development and settlement of Western Virginia in the latter part of the 18th Century and up to the civil war in the 19th Century. Michael Jr. the original owner of the house was the son of Michael See, from Hardy County. His brother, Adam was a delegate to the Virginia Legislature in 1798, 1801, 1810, 1815-16, 1823, and attended the constitutional convention of 1830. Subsequent to that convention, at a meeting in Beverly, March 10, 1830, the delegates from Western Virginia voiced the opinion that they preferred to divide the state rather than ratify the Constitution. This is an early indication of the troubles to come during the Civil War. Adam See was admitted to practice law in 1793.

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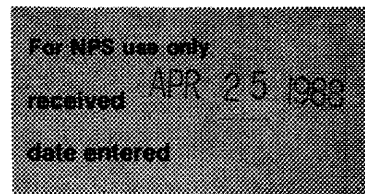
Michael See is listed as a "non-military patriot" from Hampshire County in the Revolutionary War. Michael was the County Assessor for Randolph County in 1830 and a Justice of the Peace in 1820. Charles C. See, son of Adam and nephew of Michael Jr., acquired the property from his uncle in 1838, was a county assessor in 1850, and Justice of the peace in 1839. He also was Captain of the Militia in 1828. One of Michael See Jr.'s sons, who was born and raised in the house was Noah, born 1815. He was the father of T.J.J. See, a noted astronomer. In W.L. Webb's Brief Biography and Popular Account of the Unparalleled Discoveries of T.J.J. See Noah appears in a photograph of the Randolph County house. Charles C. was also an attorney as was his father.

Charles C. See died in 1852. He resided in the house and owned it up to his death. Other influential persons in county and state politics are then associated with the house. After his death the estate was administrated by David Goff. Goff was a prominent man in Randolph and Barbour County politics. He was Prosecuting Attorney in 1829 and 1835; Superintendent of Schools, 1853; Justice of the Peace, 1830; Prosecuting Attorney, 1835; and a member of the Virginia Legislature in 1849. One of his most important associations is as the uncle of Senator Nathan Goff. As administrator he was significant in the future of the house and the property was transferred to Washington J. Long. Long, Charles' cousin, was in control of a large part of the property in the Valley through his role as co-administrator and was also in the Virginia Legislature in 1846. From here there appears to be a bit of speculation on the property, but it transfers from Long to Harman Snyder, then to Jesse C. Ward in 1860. Ward sold the land to George Ward in 1869 and it has remained in the Ward family ever since.

The Ward family is a prominent older family in Randolph County. They came to the county in 1788 and Sylvester was a trustee of Beverly, then county seat, in 1790. They appear as prominent citizens in the county and in the Civil War. George left the area at the start of the war and joined the 18th Virginia Cavalry. After he left, the house remained vacant, as his family moved to Valley Bend. Heresay has it that it was used as a camp by the Union Army. They were camped at a nearby cemetery and church, 1/2 mile distant. As is commonly the case, the house is reported to have been used as a hospital during the war. It is also reported that the roof burned at the time. There are indications of the roof fire, as the current structure is not original to the building. This can be seen in the attic at the location where the rafters join the roof plate, where pockets exist from previous rafters. There are also smoke stains from a

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fire on the masonry at the cornice line in the attic. The replacement does not appear to be recent as the construction technique employed in the rafters utilizes mortice and tenon joints with pegs and a numbering system for the rafter halves. This is common to the mid 19th Century and may support the replacement of the roof at that time as well as a fire.

The house is located on the Stanton to Parkersburg Turnpike, which was chartered in 1840. During the Civil War, the turnpike was the major route east and west for both sides of the conflict. It served as the focus for many engagements in and around Beverly and Randolph County. The Official Records contain many reports of skirmishes, battles, and movements through the area and Tygarts Valley, as well as maps of the vicinity. Included in these are numerous scouting reports. Among the more famous participants in the vicinity are Col. Imboden and Wm. L. Jackson who attacked Beverly with 4000 troops in April of 1863. They were met by Col. George R. Latham, 2nd West Virginia Infantry, 5 miles south of Beverly. This engagement would have taken place very close to the location of the See House. It is obvious that the area received much attention during the war and saw much activity. Though not specifically mentioned in the reports, the See/Ward House was located in the center of all of this activity and it is probable that if it were vacant, it would have been utilized in some capacity.

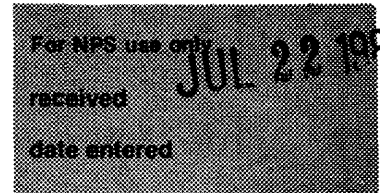
After the war, Ward moved back into the house and lived there till his death. His wife and heirs continued to farm on the property and develop the land. The Wards are one of the more prominent farming families in the Valley in the latter half of the 19th Century and owned much acreage. Mill Creek developed in the last half of the century as a center of transportation for the lumber industry, which boomed around 1910. There were, and still are, a number of mills in the area which serviced the industry. The railroad came to the Valley in 1889 when it connected to Elkins. In 1891 it connected to Beverly and Belington, then to Huttonsville to the south three years hence. Throughout this development, the Wards maintained the farm and their large land holdings.

Criteria of Significance

- Meets Criterion C.
- Meets Criterion B.

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Continuation sheet See-Ward House, WV

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Agriculture as an area of significance

The preparer marked the nomination blank for agriculture as an area of significance because of the property's long standing use as a farm, as referenced briefly in item number 8, page 4, paragraph 2. The State Historic Preservation officer agrees that the nomination does not fully justify the designation of agriculture as an area of significance due to the brevity of data presented, and supports deletion of agriculture as an area of significance.

Photo number 4 depicts the See-Ward House in an idyllic setting on level valley land, an unusual circumstance for West Virginia farms. The West Virginia SHPO reserves the right to amend the nomination at a future date should new or additional information surface which lends support to agriculture as an area of significance.

Military as an area of significance

It is clear from documentation presented in Item number 8, pages 3 and 4, that the house derives its greatest military significance from events, of which the house was part, centered in the Tygarts Valley during the Civil War. These events are discussed in Item number 8, page 3, paragraph 2, and page 4, paragraph 1.

See - Ward House, Mill Creek Vicinity, Randolph Co., W.V.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

History of Randolph County, Dr. A.S. Bosworth, 1916.

The Inter-Mountain, Elkins, WV June 8, 1976

New and Comprehensive Gazeteer of Virginia, Joseph Martin, 1835

Official Records of the War of The Rebellion

Randolph County Deedbooks

The Randolph Enterprise, June 1976

Semi-Centennial History of West Virginia, James Morton Callahan, 1913

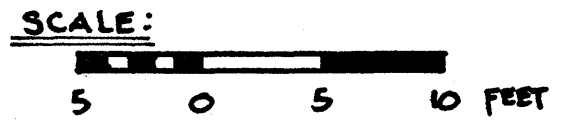
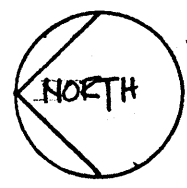
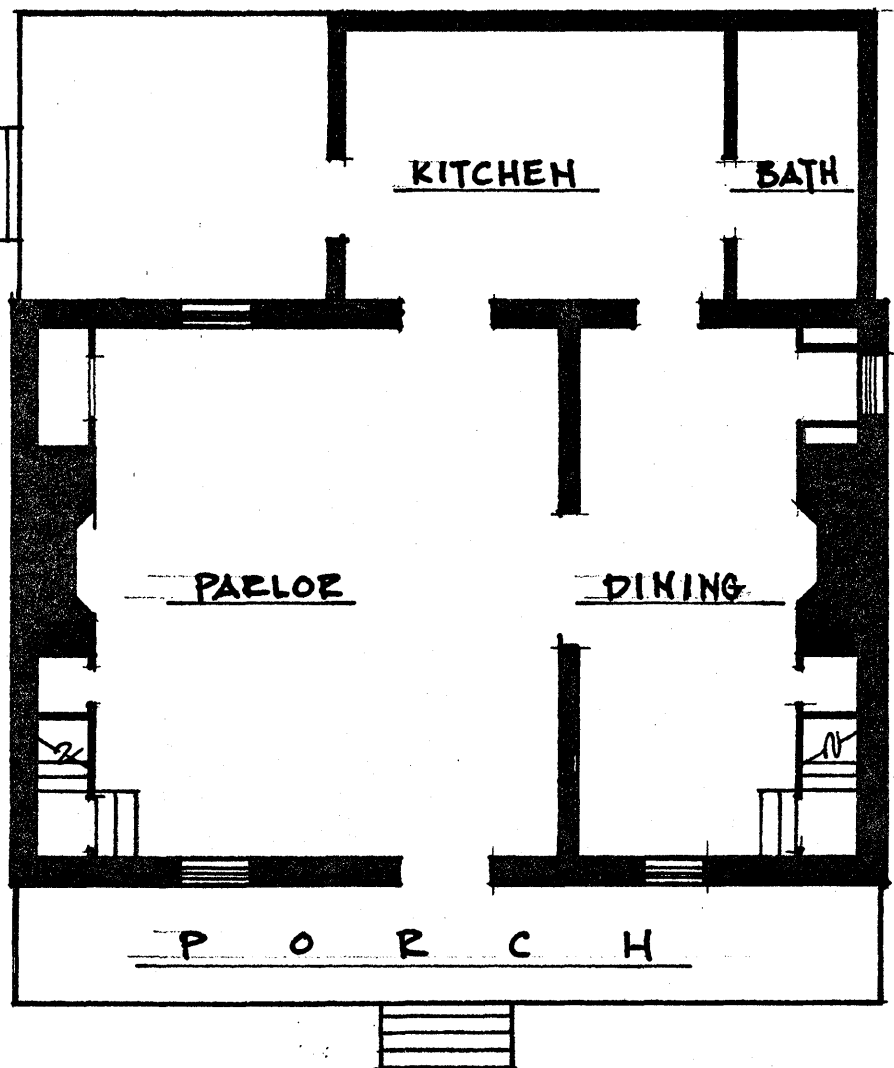
West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia, Richwood, WV 1976

West Virginia Historic Properties Inventory Form, Cecelia Ward Wallace, January 5, 1987

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

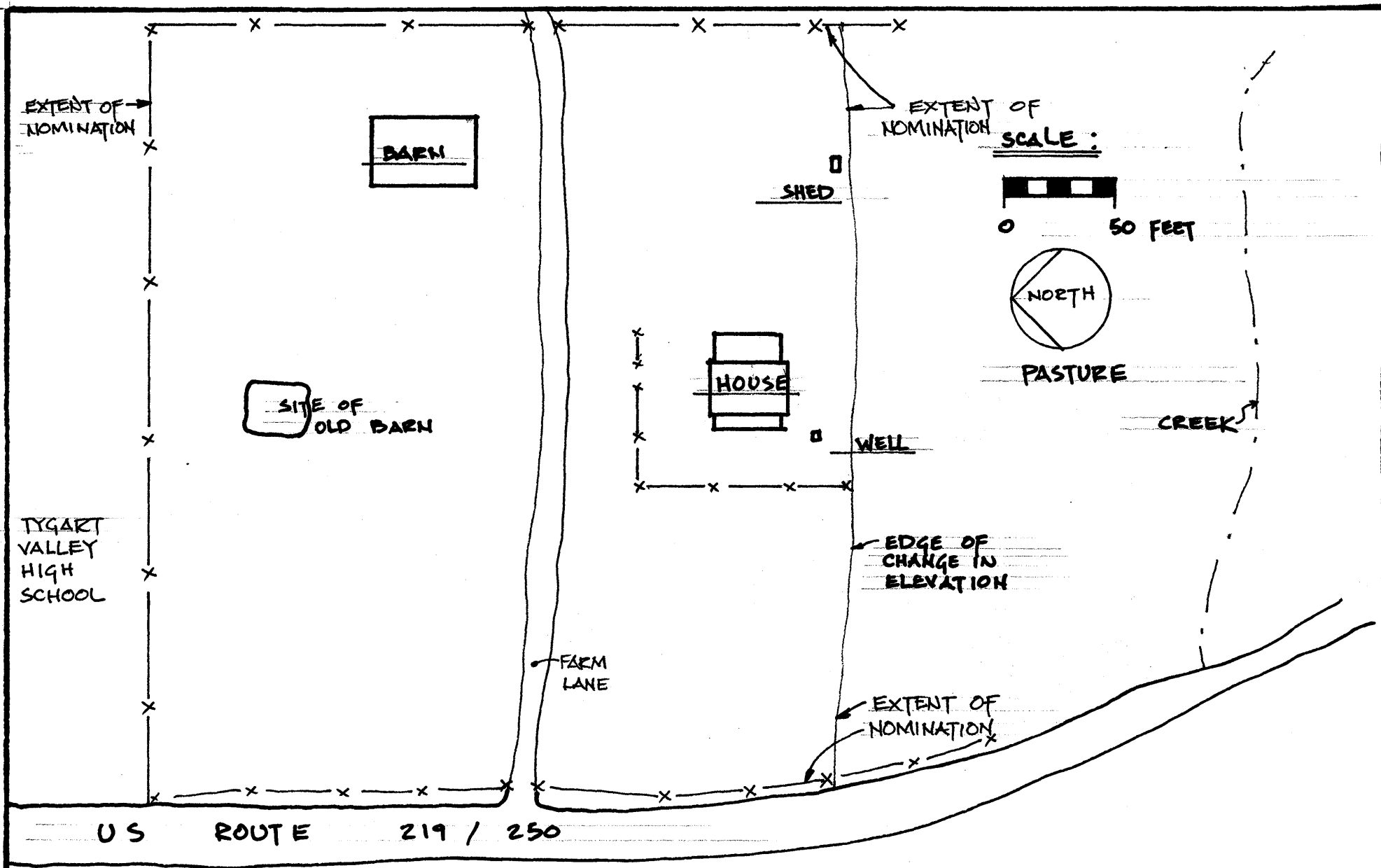
Beginning at a point on the east side of US Route 219/250 at the intersection of the property boundary line of the Tygart Valley High School; thence east 350 feet to a wire fence; thence south 310 feet to the edge of a slight hill which drops in elevation at an old fence line; thence west 350 feet to the east side of US Route 219/250; thence north 310 feet running along the east side of the road to the point of beginning.

The boundaries include the small rise, or hill, where the house itself is situated. They encompass the barn, historic barn site, and small outbuilding and sites of possible historic outbuildings that are immediately related to the house proper. The boundaries follow property lines on the north, which is the contemporary Tygart Valley High School, and fence lines or geographic features in the other directions. The Road on the west forms a boundary for the property also.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SEE / WARD HOUSE MILL CREEK, RANDOLPH CO., WV
MICHAEL GIOLIS - DECEMBER 1987



S I T E P L A N

SEE / WARD HOUSE

MILL CREEK RANDOLPH CO. WV

MICHAEL GIOLIS

DEC. 1987