

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 an 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 The Renick Farm

other names/site number Renick, William Farm

### 2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 219  not for publication

city or town Renick  vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Greenbrier code 025 zip code 24966

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

William G. ...  
Signature of certifying official/Title

3/7/96  
Date

State of 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 the 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

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

William Renick House  
Name of Property

Greenbrier Co., West Virginia  
County and State

### 5. Classification

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

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>Six</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>Six</u>	<u>0</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**

None

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture: Farmhouse

Agriculture: Agricultural Outbuildings

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Farmhouse

Domestic: Secondary Structures

Agriculture: Agricultural Outbuildings

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 18th century colonial (earliest stone section)

Early 19th Century Federal

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Native limestone; brick

walls Native limestone; brick

roof Wood shingles; standing seam metal

other \_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

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

Governor Beverly Randolph of Virginia granted William Renick title to 400 acres of land at Falling Springs along the Seneca Trail about 12 miles north of Lewisburg. The grant date was May 29, 1787. The area at the time was known as West Augusta.

On this land William built a fine house of native limestone taken from the land. The house was started by a local German immigrant stonemason named Christopher Foglesong in 1787 and completed in 1792. Foglesong had recently constructed a house for John Stuart and, after the Renick, constructed the Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg, along with stonemason John Brown.

William Renick House  
Name of Property

Greenbrier Co., West Virginia  
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:

- 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.)

**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 file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # WVA-116
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

**Period of Significance**

1787 - 1815

1814 - 1867

**Significant Dates**

1792

1825

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Renick, William

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Christopher Foglesong 1787-1792

Conrad Burgess 1825

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Library of Congress, Washington, DC

William Renick House  
Name of Property

Greenbrier Co., West Virginia  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of Property 9.183 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

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

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

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 Dr. Paul D. Marshall, AIA

organization Paul D. Marshall & Associates, Inc. date December 18, 1995

street & number 915 Breezemont Drive telephone 304-343-5310

city or town Charleston state WV zip code 25302

**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 Michael G. Campbell

street & number P.O. Box 67 telephone 304-497-3599

city or town Renick state WV zip code 24699

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Property: William Renick House  
County & State: Greenbrier Co., West Virginia

The William Renick House is in the Colonial Georgian style of architecture. It has five bays across its front and is two bays wide. There are wide interior chimneys in each end of the building flanked at the attic by small rectangular windows. The existing side gable roof is wood shingles and it is likely that this same type covering was used originally. Windows are nine over six sash arrangements, set in heavy frames and accented with stone jack-arch lintels. The exterior doors are heavy paneled wood doors and the main entrance has a glazed transom. Windows have exterior wood shutters at this time and an earlier photograph, made by Historic American Buildings Survey photographer Richard Cheek in 1974, clearly shows shutter hardware.

The same 1974 photograph also shows a shed addition across the rear, which remains today, and an inappropriate hip roof entrance porch supported on small stone piers. The porch was removed during recent restoration work.

William had his stonemason install an interesting feature as the building approached eave height. He had wooden blocks with holes drilled in them, set flush with the stone walls as nesting places for Purple Martins, a bird species which feeds on flies and mosquitoes, and returns to the same nest year after year. There are six blocks on each side and four at the ends.

Upon his death William Renick bequeathed his beloved house to his favorite niece Rebecca, the oldest daughter of his brother Robert. When William's wife Sarah died in 1806, Rebecca who was 15 years of age at the time, moved into her uncle's home and kept house for him until his death in 1815.

William Hamilton Renick, grandson of William's brother Thomas, returned to Greenbrier County (his place of birth) from Clarke County, Ohio where he had recently mustered out of the Ohio Militia after service in the War of 1812. He renewed acquaintance with Rebecca, his first cousin, once removed. After a short courtship they were married on December 21, 1814. They were to become the parents of nine children.

In 1825 Rebecca and William Hamilton started a new brick addition at the northwest end of the stone house. The addition was designed in the Federal style of architecture using the same side gable roof profile of the stone house but having a higher, steeper roof than the original building. The roof is covered with standing seam metal sheet. The addition is dominated by a two-story temple form entrance portico with closed gable end, plaster-covered brick columns in the Doric Order and Chinese Chippendale decorative railings. The gable pediment is decorated with an arch moulding embellished with a large keystone element. Windows, as in the stone house, have a nine over six sash arrangement, doors are paneled, with the second floor porch door having a transom over the head, and the first floor entrance having a circle head transom.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Property: William Renick House  
County & State: Greenbrier County, West Virginia

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Both parts of the house have been expertly restored. The early photographs indicated considerable original fabric remaining in 1974 both for repair and for use as a basis for reproducing missing parts.

The interior of the William Renick stone house was fitted with cherry wood trim except for floors which are locust. There are architectural cupboards, with doors of handblown glass beside each limestone fireplace. The interior doors are all equipped with large rim locks with stirrup handles. The cherry staircase rises from the entrance to second floor bedrooms and a third floor sleeping loft.

Woodwork for the William Hamilton Renick addition was elegantly fitted by a well-known local carpenter/cabinet maker, Conrad Burgess. Mr. Burgess performed his carpentry skills in many of Greenbrier County's finest buildings. In the Renick addition he carved a sunrise under the staircase, a sunburst in the ornate mantle, bulls-eye corners for window and door casings, cherry architectural cupboards beside the great fireplace, door paneling, over-door treatment and the entrance on the porch was trimmed with ball-and-reed molding.

Included in the property are several outbuildings: A contributing 1901 wood barn with metal roof; a 1980's garage and farm equipment shed; the 1840 smoke house which was moved to its existing position from its original location near a cave approximately ¼ mile from the house; two fenced corrals and a silo of mid 1970's; and a mid 1970's covered shed adjoining the silo. The land forms around the farm buildings consist of open grazing areas with a few trees and considerable limestone outcroppings. The front boundary (southeast) of the property is U.S. Route 219, the old Seneca Trail; the south-west boundary is Route 9; the northwest boundary is a wooded ridgeline; and the northeast boundary is a fence with an adjacent farm.

United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Property: William Renick House  
County & State: Greenbrier Co., West VirginiaStatement of Significance:

The nominated property meets the National Register criteria in two ways. There is excellent clarity of articulation regarding two distinct generations of architectural style and expression. The Georgian style of architecture dominated the English colonies from 1700 to about 1780 and locally to about 1830. The original stone house is an outstanding example of Georgian simplicity and symmetry. The 1825 brick addition is attributable to that wide ranging era of transitional architecture which began with the influence of English architect Robert Adam and culminated in the development of romantic styles such as Greek and Gothic Revival and Italianate, to name a few. The resemblance of the William Hamilton Renick addition to a North Carolina wood house of the same early Classical Revival period is remarkable.

Aside from the noteworthy display of stylistic architecture it is important to understand the value of William Renick to the significance of the property. William, his brother Thomas, John Stuart, and William Hamilton came to the Greenbrier Valley in 1769 to begin a resettlement of the area. The two Renick brothers settled in what was then known as West Augusta about 12 miles north of Lewisburg, and erected a stockade fort for protection from Indians. The brothers had been taken captive by a raiding party of 60 Shawnee warriors on July 24, 1757. They remained in captivity for 8 years in Ohio. When taken, Thomas was 9 years old and William was 12. Thus when they moved from Staunton to the Greenbrier Valley they were still young men.

William served as an officer in the local militia in expeditions against Indians, and was later (1783) elected high sheriff of Greenbrier County. In 1799, in an effort to improve cattle quality in his section of the country, William acquired six purebred English bulls and six purebred English heifers. He made five of the bulls available to farmers in the area at no cost. His generosity is said to have made major improvements in the area stock over the next 40 years.

William Hamilton Renick and Rebecca parented nine children, all born at the house. Their third son, James Henry (1818) inherited the house upon the event of William Hamilton's death in 1867. James and his wife Mary were the parents of six children. During the Civil War James Henry Renick had served as an officer in the Commissary Department under General Robert E. Lee, buying cattle and horses for the Confederate Army. James Henry died in 1897 leaving the house to his second son James Harry. James Harry married a lady from Kentucky who was so homesick, James moved the family to Kentucky where he became a very successful cattleman.

In 1912, 125 years after William Renick obtained his 400 acre grant at Falling Springs, James Harry Renick returned to Greenbrier County and sold the farm at public auction. This ended Renick family ownership.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number            Bibliography Page   1  

Property: William Renick House  
County & State: Greenbrier Co., West Virginia

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McAlester, Virginia and Lee A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf New York 1984

The Journal of the Greenbrier Historical Society. A Collection of Ruth Woods Dayton's Greenbrier County Photographs. Volume V Number 4 McClain Printing Compnay Parsons, West Virginia 1990

Historic American Buildings Survey. HABS No. WVA-116 W.Va. 13-RENI Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 2

Property: William Renick House  
County & State: Greenbrier Co., West Virginia

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The property lies along US 219 (The Seneca Trail) on a northeast/southeast, northwest/southwest axis. At the property's front US 219 runs from southwest to northeast and its right-of-way is the front boundary. The southwest corner of the property occurs at the intersection of US 219 and Greenbrier County Route #9 and the property line follows Route #9 to the tree line of a ridge running northeast from the county road. This ridge property line intersects the fence line of the next farm, northeast of the Renick farm. The fence line ends at the US 219 right-of-way. See maps.

Boundary Justification:

The National Register Boundary begins at a point fifty feet southwest of the existing entrance driveway off U.S. Route 219; the boundary follows U.S. 219 northeast for 500 feet; then northwest on a line perpendicular to U.S. 219 for 800 feet; then southwest on a line parallel to U.S. 219 for 500 feet; then southeast on a line perpendicular to U.S. 219 800 feet to the beginning.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1Property: William Renick House  
County & State: Greenbrier Co., West Virginia

The photographer for all photos is Paul D. Marshall, AIA. All photos are copies of photographs. Except for photographs #1 and #7, all copies are of information furnished by the Owner of Renick House. Photo #1 is of a USGS survey map and Photo #7 is a copy of a HABS photograph taken in 1974 by Richard Cheeks.

All photographic copies were made on December 22, 1995. The original of Photo #8 was taken in 1974; the original of Photo #8 was taken by Owner in the early 1980's.

Negatives of photographs submitted in the Nomination are located in the office of Paul D. Marshall & Associates, Inc., 915 Breezemont Drive, Charleston, West Virginia.

Photograph No. 1: This is a USGS Survey Map locating the property.

Photograph No. 2: This is a Greenbrier Valley Soil Conservation document showing roughly the entire property boundary.

Photograph No. 3: This is an aerial view of the Renick farm looking southwest showing the relationship to Spring Creek. U.S. 219 can be seen in lower left corner and Spring Creek watercourse is shown as an oxbow directly above the house in the photo. The Owner had lightly drawn his property line on the photograph. An interesting feature of the photo is how clearly the sinks are defined in the landscape.

Photograph No. 4: An aerial view of the property looking east showing the relationship of the property to the Greenbrier River. Like Spring Creek in Photo 3, the Greenbrier is an oxbow.

Photograph No. 5: This aerial photograph is looking northward showing the buildings as they face U.S. 219.

Photograph No. 6: A good detail of the Renick farmstead looking south clearly showing the rear shed addition to the original 18th century stone house and the relationship of the 1825 addition. It also shows light-colored limestone outcroppings and a good definition of out-buildings.

Photograph No 7: Richard Cheek, a HABS photographer, documented the existing condition of the house in 1974. A wooden covered porch had been added and clearly was in a state of deterioration, and the 1825 addition was showing signs of neglect and deterioration.

Photograph No. 8: The southeast facade of the Renick House after its restoration in the 1980's. The restoration seems to be faithful to period detailing. Stone has been repointed, columns re-plastered, roofs appropriately covered, and woodwork restored.

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Photographs  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

William Renick House  
Greenbrier County, West Virginia

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Photograph No. 6

3. Copy Photographer: Paul Marshall
4. December, 1995
5. See Photograph No. 1
6. Copy of aerial detail photograph looking southwest. Original photograph furnished by Owner.

Photograph No. 7

3. Copy Photographer: Paul Marshall  
Original Photographer: Richard Cheek - HABS
4. December, 1995; Original Photograph - October, 1974.
5. Copy Negative at Paul D. Marshall & Associates, Inc. Negative of original photograph in HABS File, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.
6. Copy of 1974 HABS photograph. Note inappropriate porch on stone building.

Photograph No. 8

3. Photographer: Paul Marshall
4. December, 1995
5. See Photograph No. 1
6. Photograph of southeast facade (front) of building in present, restored condition.

Photograph No. 9

3. Photographer: Paul Marshall
4. December, 1996
5. See Photograph No. 1
6. Photograph of barn, constructed Circa 1901. Photograph is looking west-northwest.

Photograph No. 10

3. Photographer: Paul Marshall
4. December, 1996
5. See Photograph No. 1
6. Photograph of 1980's garage and farm equipment shed. Photograph is taken looking northeast.

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Photographs  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3

William Renick House  
Greenbrier County, West Virginia

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Photograph No. 11

3. Photographer: Paul Marshall
4. December, 1996
5. See Photograph No. 1
6. Photograph of smokehouse, circa 1840 looking northeast. Smokehouse is not on original site according to property Owner. It was originally sited about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile southwest of existing site.

Photograph No. 12

3. Photographer: Paul Marshall
4. December, 1996
5. See Photograph No. 1
6. Photograph of 1970's silo and 1980's corral and shed. The photograph was taken looking northeast.

Photograph No. 13

3. Photographer: Paul Marshall
4. December, 1996
5. See Photograph No. 1
6. Photograph of rear elevation of Renick house looking southeast. The low shed kitchen addition behind the stone house dates to circa 1830's.

Photograph No. 14

3. Photographer: Paul Marshall
4. December, 1996
5. See Photograph No. 1
6. Photograph of northeast wall of stone building first floor sitting room showing original wood mantel and cabinetwork.

Photograph No. 15

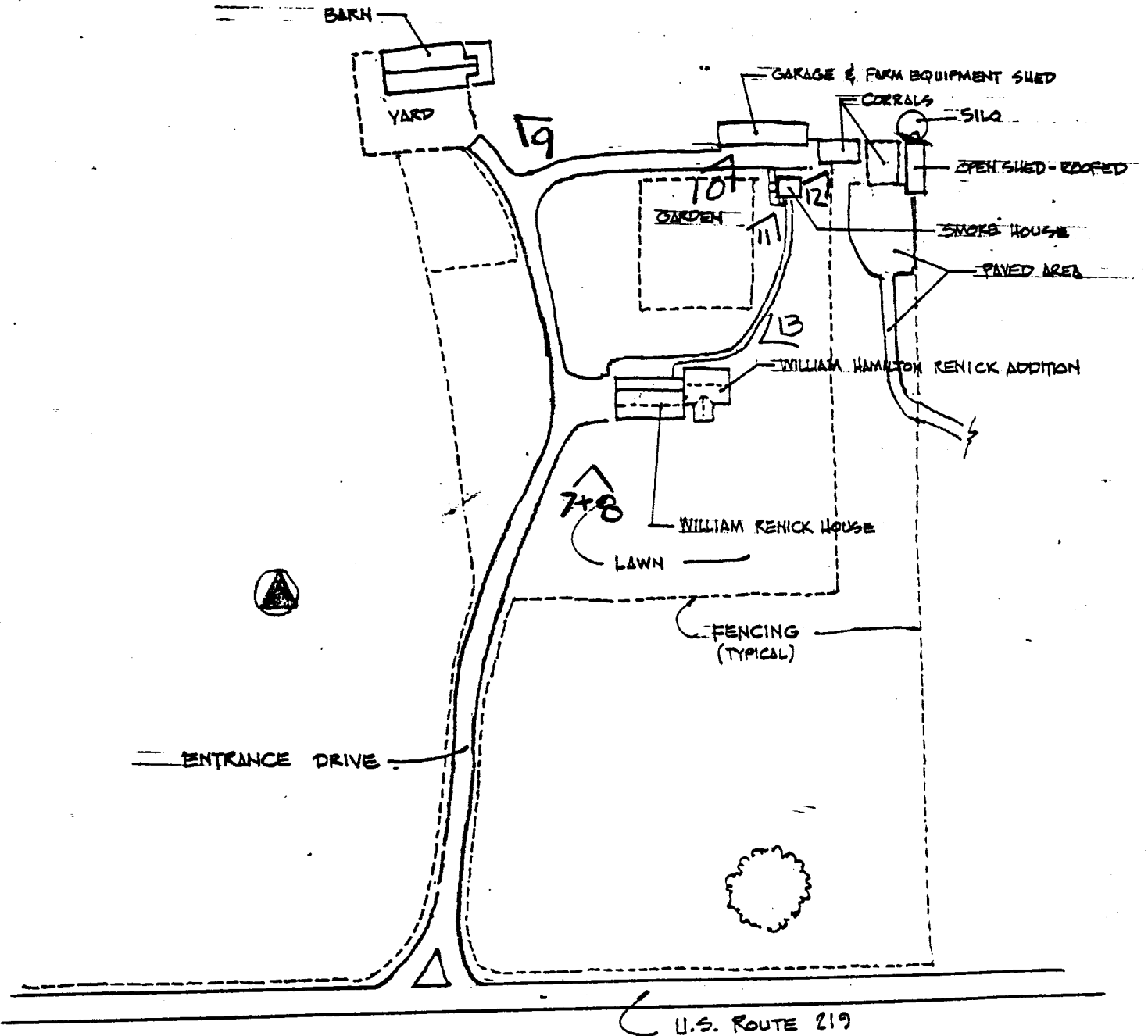
3. Photographer: Paul Marshall
4. December, 1996
5. See Photograph No. 1
6. Photograph of original center stair of stone building, looking north, northwest.

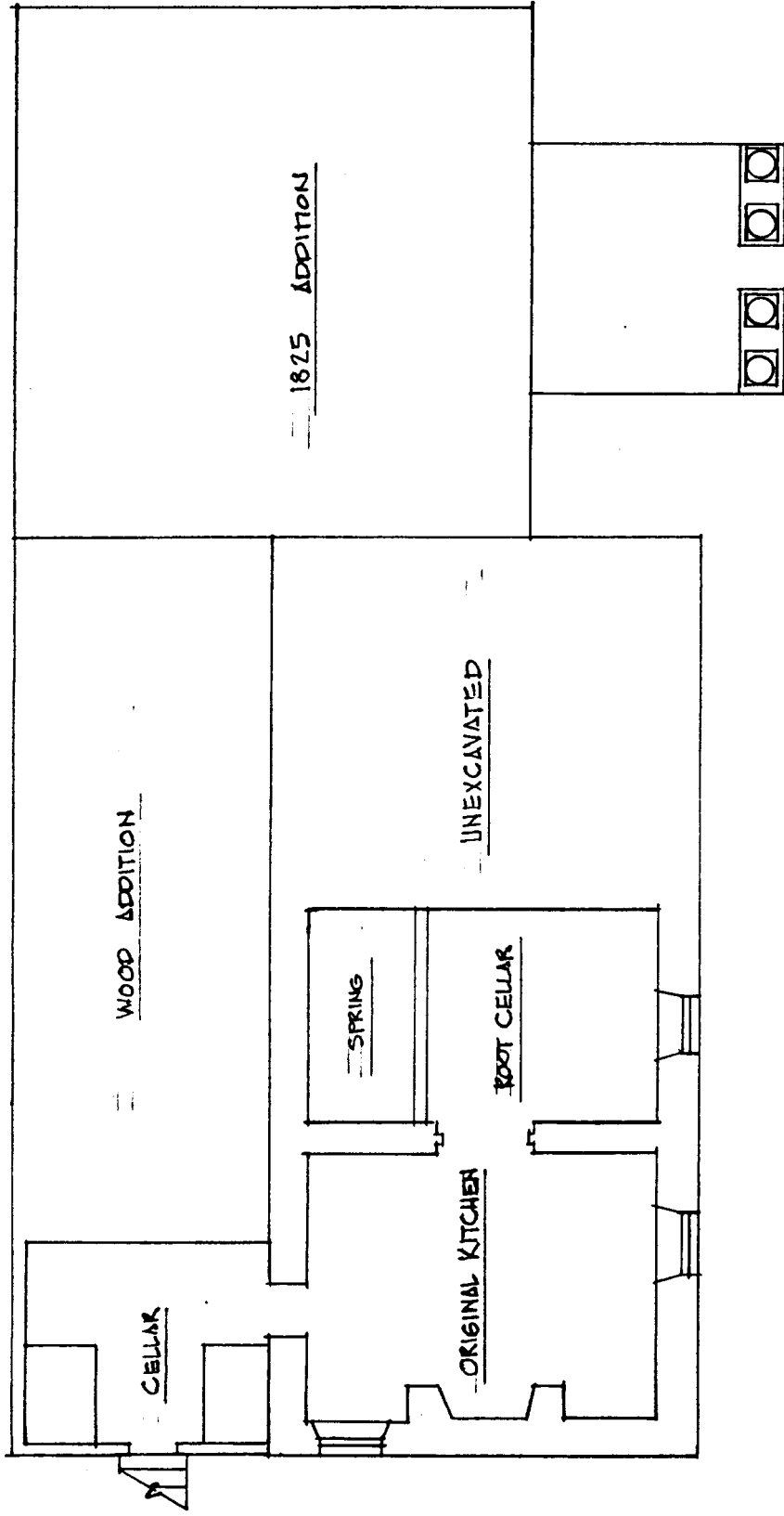
SKETCH PLAN

WILLIAM KENICK HOUSE

WEST VIRGINIA - GREENBRIER COUNTY

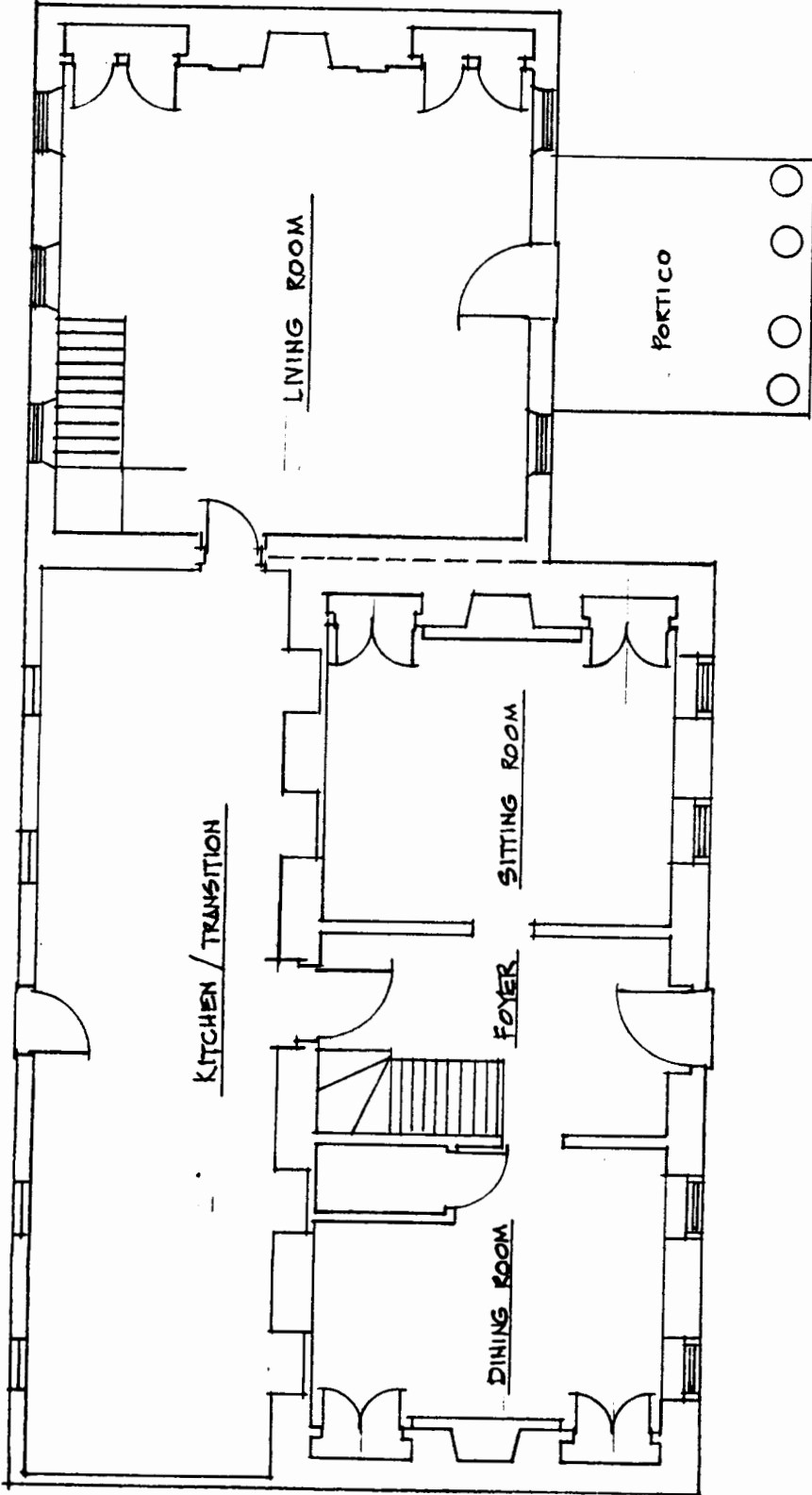
PHOTO MAP





BASEMENT LEVEL SKETCH      NO SCALE

WILLIAM RENICK HOUSE  
GREENBRIER COUNTY WV 2.1996

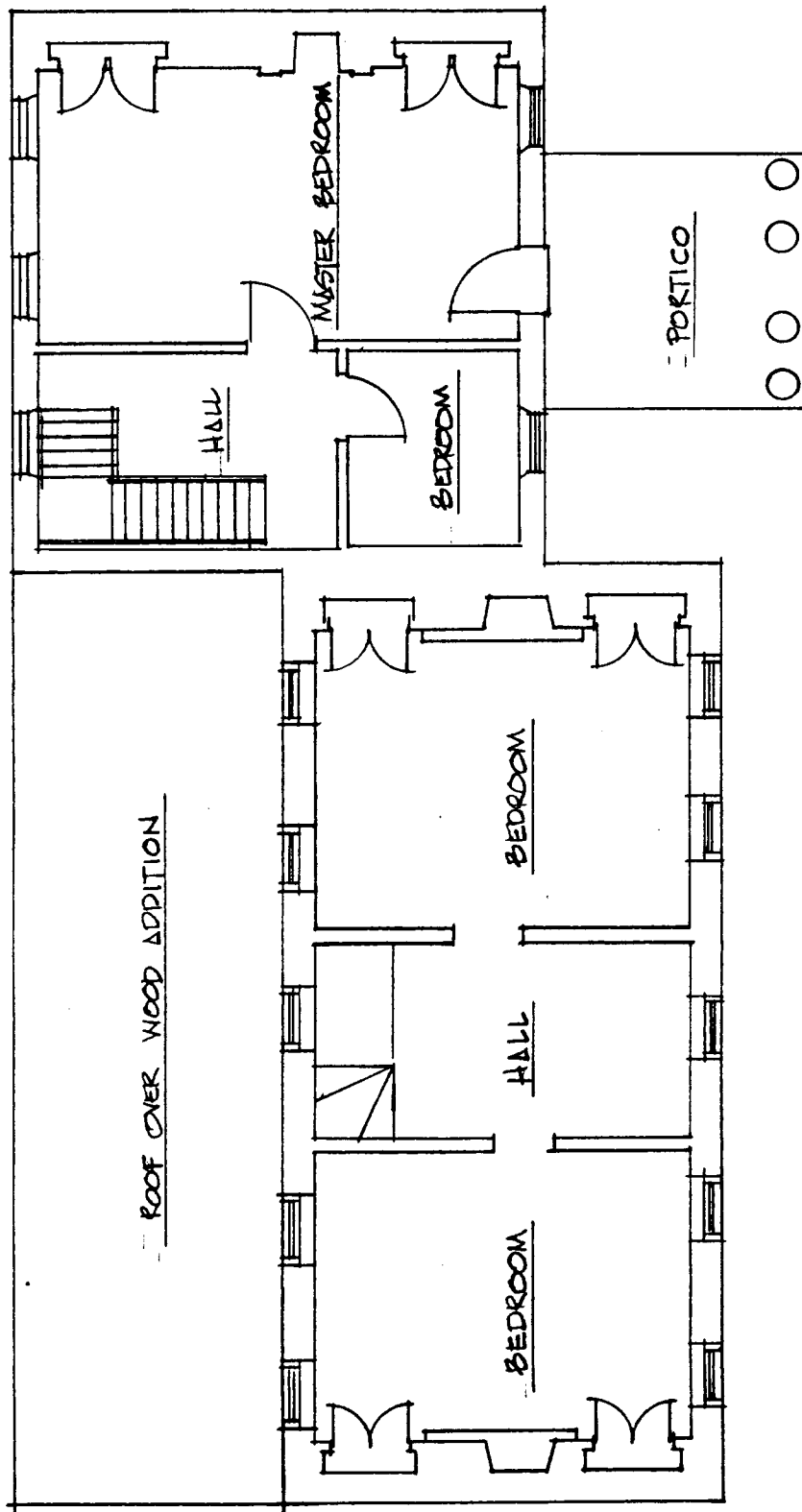


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

No SCALE

WILLIAM RENICK HOUSE

GREENBRIER COUNTY, WV 2.96

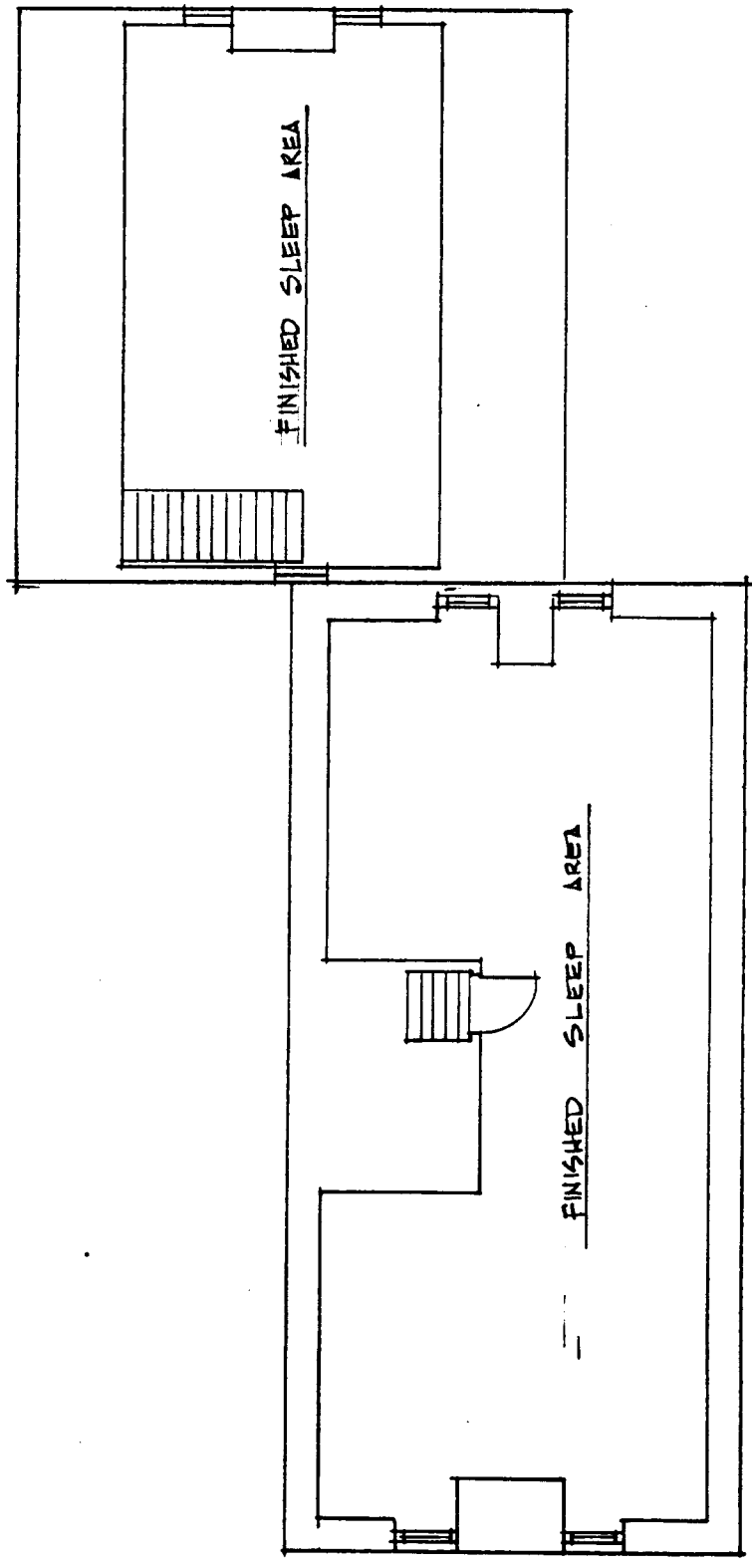


No SCALE

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

WILLIAM RENICK HOUSE  
 GREENBRIER COUNTY, WV 2.96



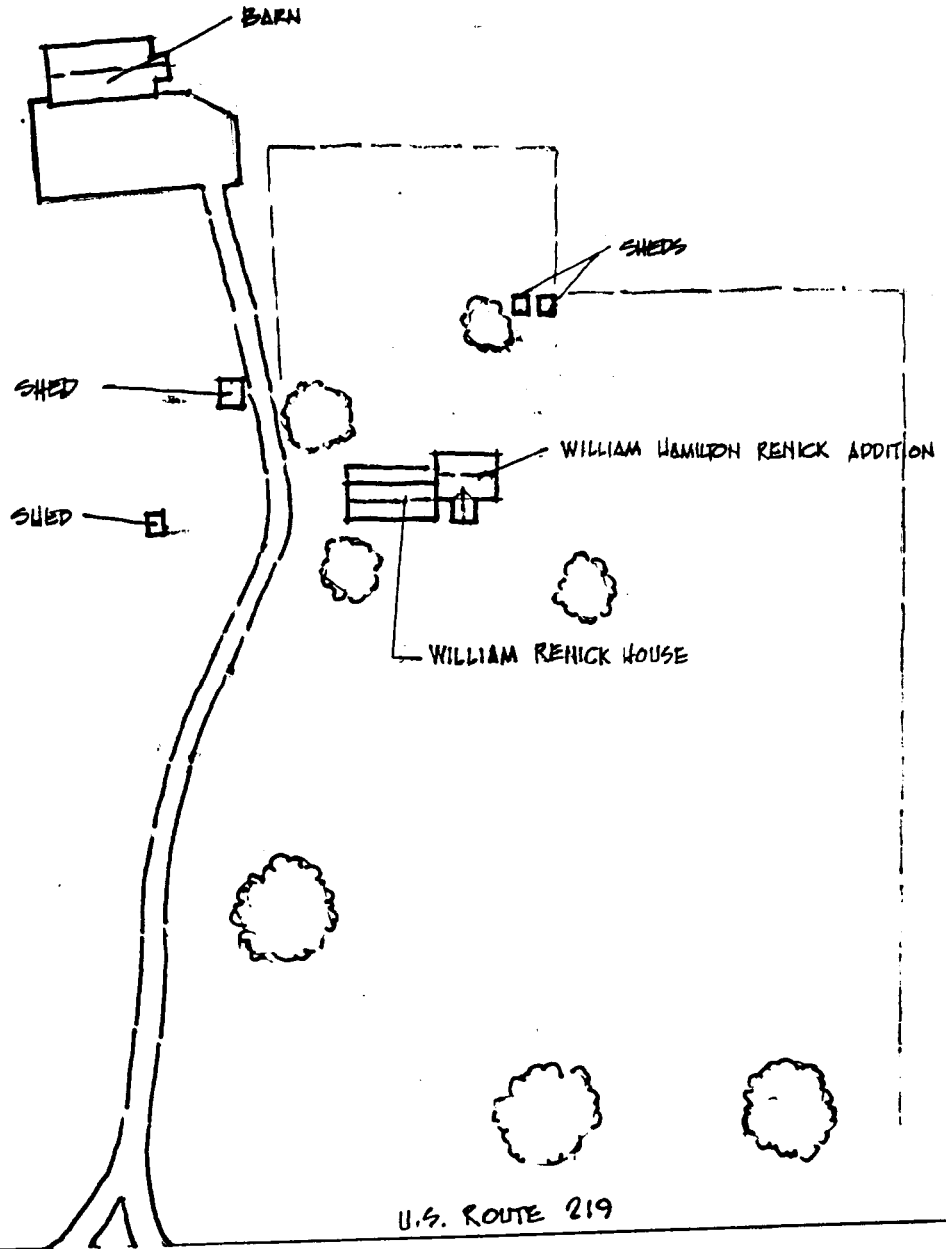


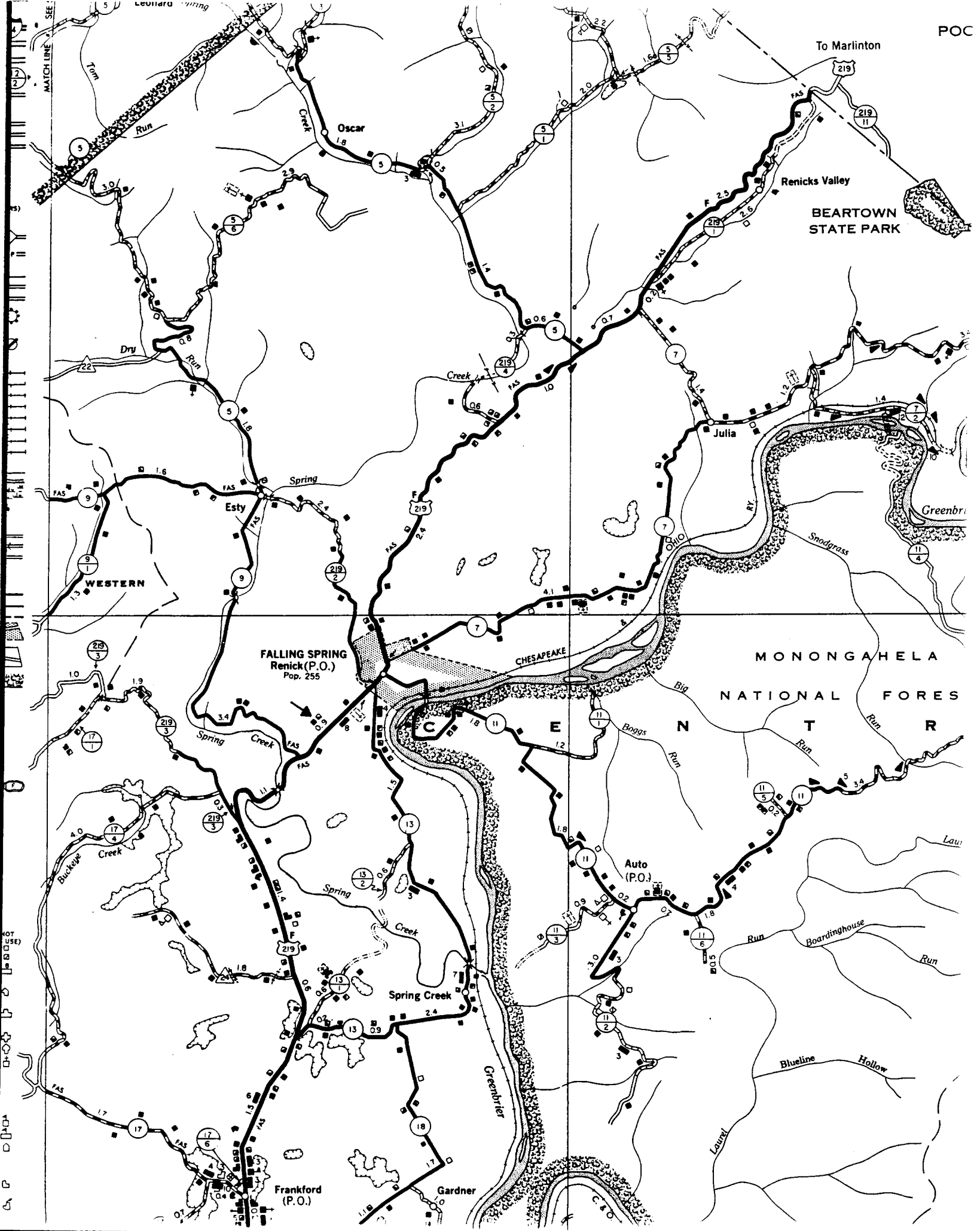
THIRD FLOOR PLAN      NO SCALE

WILLIAM RENICK HOUSE  
GREENBRIER COUNTY, WV 2.96

SKETCH PLAN

WILLIAM RENICK HOUSE  
WEST VIRGINIA · GREENBRIER COUNTY





To Marlinton

Renicks Valley

BEARTOWN STATE PARK

FALLING SPRING  
Renick (P.O.)  
Pop. 255

MONONGAHELA  
NATIONAL FOREST

Auto (P.O.)

Frankford (P.O.)

Gardner

MATCH LINE

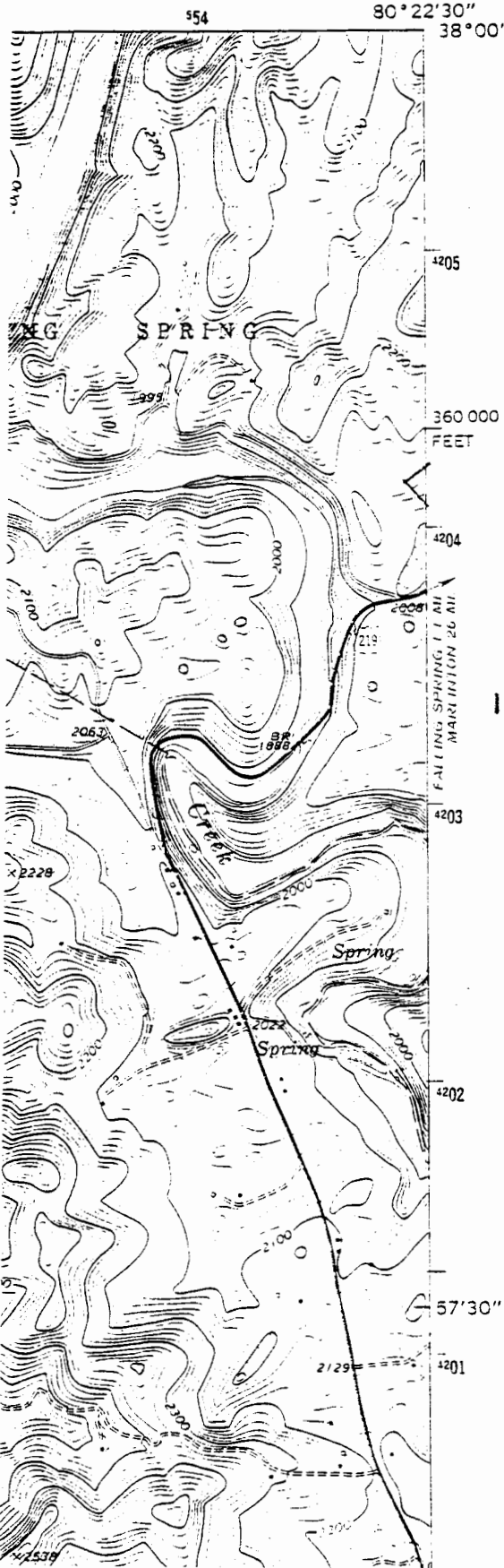
NOT TO BE USED

WESTERN

WILLIAMSBURG

WILLIAMSBURG QUADRANGLE  
WEST VIRGINIA-GREENBRIER CO.  
MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1/4 WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS 15' QUADRANGLE

4980 III  
(LOBELIA 1:62 500)



RENICK, W.M.  
HOUSE  
17 555000  
4204170

ANTHONY QUAD

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

4980 III  
(LOBELIA 1:62 500)

