NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

1033

RECEIVED 2280

DEC 18 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Nesbit-Walker Farm

Other names/site number: N / A

Name of related multiple property listing:

Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania ca.1700-1960

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

2. Location

Street & number: 173 Mulberry Hill

City or town: Canton Township State: Pennsylvania County: Washington

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___**national** ___**statewide** X **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___**A** ___**B** X **C** ___**D**

Andrea MacDonald Division Chief — December 8, 2015

Signature of certifying official/Title: — **Date**

PA Historical and Museum Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Nesbit-Walker Farm
Name of Property

Washington County, Pa.
County and State

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action 2-2-16

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: [x]

Public – Local [ ]

Public – State [ ]

Public – Federal [ ]

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) [x]

District [ ]

Site [ ]

Structure [ ]

Object [ ]

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	4	buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
2	5	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE / animal facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE / agricultural outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE / storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE / animal facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE / agricultural outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE / storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE VICTORIAN / Italianate

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:
STONE/sandstone;
WOOD/weatherboard; WOOD/log;
METAL/steel; ASPHALT
BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Nesbit-Walker Farm consists of a house, barn, and several other agricultural outbuildings surrounded by 17 acres of land. The core of the farm is a cluster of farmstead buildings on a small ridge, overlooking a valley. Most of the acreage is behind the house and barn, though it also extends down to include a strip of wet meadow area in front of the house and below the barn. The 1875 house (contributing; see photos #1-13, #25, and figure #2) is five bays wide, of wood frame, and is clad in drop siding. An I-house in form, it is 41'x 20' with an early (ca.1880) addition that is 30'x 11', all finished with vernacular Italianate-style details. Located about 200 feet south of the house, the 1845 log barn (contributing; see photos #14-20, #30, and figure #1) is constructed of round logs to create three bays of space (two log-crib hay mows flanking a threshing floor). It is 56'-6" wide and 25' deep. The other agricultural resources are non-contributing. One of these, in a field west of the barn, is a small, cubic, ca.1900, gable-roofed shed, 10'-3" x 14'-2", built using "box" construction (further explained below) (see photos #23-24 and #26-27). Bellow the barn is a ca.1940 gable-roofed hog house, 10'-1" x 24"-0", which was raised slightly on a concrete foundation in the 1980s to preserve it and convert it to stable space for horses (see photos #14, #22, and #29). The hog house is constructed of frame with vertical barn siding. A porch was added to it in the 1980s. The property's only counted structure (non-contributing) is a 5' x 16' ca.1939 wood frame corn crib with a gable roof and vertical sides consisting of vertical wood slats. The farm also has several newer non-contributing sheds built since 1981. These are small, the largest being a small pole barn used as a garage; it is 24' x 16' (not counting two or three smaller lean-to additions). Today, the fields are defined by fence lines, mostly constructed after 1981, to keep the land in agricultural use. The house retains integrity, down to the smallest details. The barn is unchanged in the upper level, except for minor removals and reinforcements. The barn's stable level was altered ca.1940 by adding a concrete block wall to enclose space that had previously been open below. As is typical for the stables of nearly all barns in this county, the design was apparently flexible from the beginning. It originally had a fence-like enclosure (in place of a solid wall or solid stable doors) on the forebay side. A lean-to shed, was added to the barn in the 1990s coming off of the north gable end wall. It has an earthen floor and was built with very little damage to the log walls. The nominated area of the Nesbit-Walker Farm consists of 17 acres containing the two contributing buildings (the house and barn), uncounted ruins of a springhouse, the four non-contributing agricultural buildings, and one non-contributing structure. Non-contributing agricultural buildings consist of the ca.1939 hog house, the ca.1900 box-framed shed, the ca.1980 garage, and a ca.1990 run-in shed (10'-0" x 20'-0"). The property also has several uncounted landscape features such as the historic ca.1880 picket fence encompassing the sloped front lawn and level backyard (dooryard) garden area, as well as more recent non-historic fences and three or four areas of

uncounted features built to accommodate horseback riding. The property retains integrity in the way the buildings and landscape relate to one another, conveying a clear sense of how they functioned together.

Narrative Description

The Nesbit-Walker Farm Landscape

The house and barn are part of a coherent landscape with patterns that were common in the area throughout the nineteenth century. The buildings are arranged around a prolific spring. Although the stone springhouse collapsed many years ago, the site of the springhouse is still marked by a square stone foundation in ruins through which water still actively flows (see photo #30). The house is surrounded by a rectangular domestic garden defined on three sides by a historic ca.1880 picket fence (see photos #1-3 and #25). Although the house occupies the eastern edge of a hillock whose top forms a large level dooryard garden or backyard area within the picket fence (see photo #25), the hillock occupies the center of an otherwise gently sloped bowl of land giving the house a clear relationship through lines of vision to the surrounding fields. The land rises from a wet meadow at the eastern property line to upland fields west of the house and barn. The rise from the spring to the house is a little steeper and higher than usual, resulting in the hillock, but the larger bowl-shaped terrain surrounding the hillock made it an appropriate place for the current farmhouse. Built in 1875, it is the second house known to have been constructed for the occupants of this tract, and it lies about 80 feet north of the site of the earlier house. The elevated location places the house at the center of the tract, in view of all the fields, with a generous and generally level garden as a backyard. The house is banked into the part of the land at the brow of the hill where the terrain begins to drop off toward the meadow to the east. From the front of the house, the topography drops down a steep slope to the meadow and the springhouse ruins (see photos #1-3, #22, and #25).

The ca.1880 picket fence encircles the large backyard and continues down the embankment beside the house, turning to follow the top of a low stone retaining wall, the eastern edge of the rectangular domestic area (see photos #1-2 and #22). It thus encloses a small front lawn, a place for ornamental and formal landscape elements marking the entrance to the house as seen at a distance from the main road (see photo #22). The north side of the picket fence had begun to fail by 1981, and it was removed and replaced at that time by a slip board fence as part of an upgrade to the farm fields for use as horse pasture (see photo #3). The pickets were salvaged and reused in repairing the other three sides — many of the vertical support posts and some of the stringers to which the pickets are fastened have had to be replaced at one time or another, but the pickets are all of older vintage as a result of this strategy, and they are also thus kept away from pastures where horses would damage them (see photos #1-2 and #25). The configuration of the retaining wall and picket fence on this slope, with the house behind, gives the house prominence as the centerpiece of a landscape and architectural composition in various views from the main road, with the barn off to the side to the south (see photo #22).

Within the tract's current bounds, almost all of the remaining land is gently sloped and conducive to plowing, for raising crops from grain to hay, and for use as pasture (see photos #22-24). The township road winds up the edge of the hill along the farm's southern boundary, giving the property as a whole a shape that is generally rectangular though it narrows at the west so that it also approximates a triangular shape. All the land in the nominated boundary is north of this road and generally bounded by it.

The driveway comes in on a right angle from Mulberry Hill, which itself begins at a "T" intersection a few hundred feet away, across the meadow; thus the farm lane parallels Rt. 18, the main north-south road that follows the Georges Run Valley. The gravel lane passes through a gate and past the barn on the upper side, then goes past the corn crib. Beyond the barn and corn crib, it turns to follow the long side of the picket fence. Another branch of this lane continues north along the east side of the picket fence, although this section is now a level path in the grass, by contrast to the sections of the lane that have been

paved for modern vehicular use. Just past the turn, the current driveway (the part of the old lane now paved with gravel) rises with the grade and passes a gate leading toward the kitchen. West of the gate, the lane extends along the north side of (and also passes through) the non-historic garage, a three-sided frame building with wood framing and unpainted vertical wood barn siding.

The location of the barn is lower than the house (see photo #22) and occupies a shorter section of hillside, which is more broken into terraces by comparison to the steeper face of the hillock at the site of the house. The land drops just enough at the barn to place the lower level, or stable, beneath the barn (see photos #14-15), halfway underground with the banked-side eave entrance almost at grade. However, access to the barn requires a steep but short wooden ramp (see photos #15-16). This siting located the stable, an area where water was needed for the animals, close to the former springhouse as well as in a logical proximity to the house. (The spring is convenient to, though downhill from, both the current house and an earlier log house that once stood approximately midway between the barn and the current house). The spring is only a few feet lower in elevation than the barnyard. There is also a second level area below the initial part of the barnyard, stepped down from the floor level of the barn but still slightly higher than the wet meadow. This area contains the hog house and a recently created riding ring, considered for this nomination as an uncounted landscape feature. Outside the domestic garden area, which contains several mature shade trees (see photo #25) and a strip of hornbeams (replacing climaxed locusts that had been formerly found along Mulberry Hill at the barnyard), the farm's land is almost all in use as pasture Part way up Mulberry Hill, there is a small grove of trees protecting a gully. A dense strip of trees was more recently planted in the former meadow and along the east property boundary both to shield the view of industrial intrusion and to comply with state-recommended streambank protection rules.

Not counting mature shade trees in the backyard and at some fence lines, the more heavily wooded areas are found just beyond the nominated boundary in at least two directions, to the south and west (see photos #24-26). Although the wooded areas are outside the nominated boundary, the contrast between open fields and dense woods helps to define the viewshed and separateness of the farmstead. The view east from the house looks across the Georges Run Valley toward other farms (see photo #23). Much of that land is still open, fenced, and maintained as hayland and/or pasture. It was once associated with relatives of the Nesbit family that lived on the family's larger agricultural tract, but the land across the valley is now separated from this farm by non-contributing industrial buildings, modern houses, and similar intrusions largely in the area between Rt. 18 and the meadow area that follows Georges Run.
The location of an earlier house and spring, near the barn, is known though not marked by any visible remnants of buildings (beyond a faint impression in the terrain and a flow of water). It is not far from the corn crib. The site is now part of a pasture, uphill to the southwest from the current bend in the driveway. The older (now-filled) spring was directly uphill from the still-active spring where the remnants of the stone springhouse are now (see photo #30). This placed it between the house and barn. The opening to the upper spring once included a small ravine in the landscape, but this was filled in by a former owner to keep lambs from drowning in it. Next to it, on the opposite side of the spring from the barn, is the site where the former log house stood. The arrangement of house, spring, and barn was similar to what is now apparent between the barn and the current house, but the house and the now-lost spring were thus closer to, and somewhat above, the barn.

The 1875 House
The house (contributing; see photos #1-13, #25, and figure #2) is a five-bay center hall I-house, facing east, constructed of wood frame with a side-gable roof. The ridge of the roof runs north-south. The house is approximately 32' x 43' in plan—originally 40' x 21', a shed-roofed 2-story addition measuring 11 feet by about 26 feet was added ca.1880; there is also a minor one-story extension, three feet deep,

similar to a one-story bay window added to the kitchen ca.1940. The house is located on a banked site that is steep enough that most of the front (east) side of the basement is exposed (see photos #1-2 and figure #2) while the west side is completely banked into the ground. The foundation incorporates dressed sandstone blocks in exposed areas of the east, north, and south walls, while coursed rubble is found at the banked back (west) wall and in the area hidden under the porch. The design of the stone walls thus reflects the care of the craftsman and a hierarchical use of the materials available. Above the basement, the exterior walls of the first and second stories of the original house were framed with hewn heavy timbers, joined with traditional mortises, tenons, pegs, and some diagonal braces. Sawn lumber was used in framing the partition walls that separate the center hall from the flanking rooms. The exterior walls of the addition built just a few years later, by contrast, were all balloon-framed using sawn lumber. The balloon framing of the addition uses ribbands (ledgers) to support the second story joists. The two parts of the house, however, match very closely in their finish details, suggesting that the addition was built only a few years after the main gabled form was completed. The roof surface is asphalt shingles and the walls are clad in original covelap wood siding. Three matching brick chimneys with corbelled tops rise from the roof, one centered on each gable end and the third rising from the center of the kitchen addition (see photo #3); the exposed part of the kitchen chimney rises much higher over the roof of the addition in order to clear the height of the nearby ridge of the gable roof over the main body of the house. The original form was about 40’ x 21’, until it was extended to the west (the ca.1880 kitchen addition), adding to the west slope of the roof along about 2/3 of its north-south length to make most of the house a saltbox shape (see photo #3 and figure #2). The addition is about 11’ wide, east-west. A very small second addition (the kitchen “bump-out”) was added ca.1940.

The original main part of the house was built in 1875, as indicated in a dated signature by the mason (named “Miller”) in mortar in one of the basement walls. The date is confirmed in an annotation on a historic Nesbit family photograph of the house in the possession of the current owner. The photograph was taken after the kitchen addition was added, but the notation refers to the initial construction, saying (in all capitals): “OUR HOME BUILT IN THE YEAR 1875” (see figure #2).

The façade is five bays wide with a deep porch across the center three bays. There are two east-facing windows in the exposed basement wall, the largest one lighting the original kitchen area at the southeast corner of the façade. This opening combines a door and a 6/3 window separated by a jamb (see photos #1-2, #13, and figure #2), apparently a design decision originally made to provide easy access and natural light into the cooking area of the cellar, the house’s original kitchen, where the base of the south chimney is configured as a walk-in fireplace (see photo #13). The corresponding window bay at the house’s northeast corner has a smaller opening with a 6-pane single sash, not quite in line with the window bays above (see photo #1). The first story and second story have wood siding with corner boards (as found throughout the exterior), and the windows are wood sash 6/6. Each façade window in the first and second stories has an original louvered shutter to each side. There is a center bay entrance in each (first and second) story of the façade, opening onto the porch. The center entrance (see photo #1) in each story marks the location of the center stair hall, the main organizing feature of the interior. The entrance bay has paired doors in the first story and a single door with a large light (a grid of panes) in its upper half in the second story.

The three-bay-wide, two-story, wood porch (see photos #1 and #2 and figure #2) is accessed by an eight-riser set of steps, about five feet in width, with no handrails. Four lightly-chamfered posts support the porch across the front edge of the design. Corresponding chamfered pilasters are affixed to the wall at the southwestern and northwestern corners of the porch. Sawn-work brackets are found at the top of the posts and pilasters, with the number of the symmetrically placed brackets varying by location. Both levels of the porch have cutout balustrades connecting the corner posts. The two center posts on the east side of

the porch are aligned to flank the wide set of stairs leading up from grade toward the centered entrance door. Wood piers divide the upper level balustrade into the same three bays across the front, corresponding to the posts below. The base of each of the posts along the front edge of the porch has an integral panel on each exposed face below the level of the handrail of the restored balustrade. The porch has a standard wood floor. The area below the porch is closed-in with vertical milled tongue-and-groove box-car siding. This design (the screen below the porch floor) was recently recreated based on the ca. 1875 historic image of the house (see figure #2). It has corner boards that are aligned with the posts above and ventilation slots along the bottom in accordance with what can be seen in the historic photograph. The porch had also begun to collapse before the recent rebuilding project. It was restored to the original detailing based on the historic photograph dated ca. 1875 (see figure #2) as the primary evidence for the restoration work. Some of the evidence of the original design also came from ghosting of missing elements and disassembled pieces found elsewhere on the property. The original materials had been modified so that the balustrade had solid panels in place of the cut-out pattern, and several other materials reflected alterations, but these features have now been restored to their earliest documented appearance.

The side elevations of the 1875 part of the house have the same original wood siding and the same trim details, but the windows are fewer. There is one south-facing window in each story in the original (1875) portion of the south-facing gable end wall, near the house's original southwest corner, including a small window in this corner of the cellar. In the portion of the south elevation added (extending the house to the west) in ca.1880, the south-facing side elevation details are almost identical to the detailing of the 1875 section although some of the ca.1880 trim details are slightly simpler and the ca.1880 windows are slightly shorter. One or two later details were also added in this area of the house in the twentieth century. The main twentieth century change was the addition of a small first-story "bump-out" section, almost a bay window, added ca.1940 as a shed-roofed extension to expand the kitchen. The south-facing wall of the bump-out has a double sash (wood sash, 6/1) bungalow-style window, sized and placed to fall above counter height on the interior. Above this is a 6/6 window, original to the design of the ca.1880 addition. All of the window openings with double sash (6/6) retain their trim and original louvered shutters. (The only windows without the shutters are the basement windows and the 6/1window in the bump-out addition to the kitchen). The overhang at the eaves is simple, with wide boards, no eaves returns, and no brackets. A very simple shed-roofed rear porch was also added later, and it was expanded in the 1980s with the addition of a low shed roofed extension to shelter a wood storage area. This porch consists of a simple shed roof on two square wood posts, with a sloped ceiling and no other embellishments, all on a concrete slab floor approximately at grade. Most of the current porch construction materials appear to be no older than the 1960s or 1970s. Near the corner of the porch are some remnants of the top of a well that once had a hand pump mounted over it, evidently a factor in the 1880s kitchen design and likely part of the logic of adding a porch here at some point after ca.1880.

The north-facing gable end of the 1875 part of the house is similar to the other exterior elevations except that it has only one window, a small one in the cellar near the house's northwest corner. The north-facing portion of the ca.1880 addition has no windows, in part because there is a boxed stair behind this wall. The house's west elevation consists of two sections. The 1875 section is the west wall of the parlor and of the bedroom above it, and this section has two 6/6 windows in each story, spaced so that there are two windows on the west side of each room just as there are on the east side. The ca.1880 section (southern 2/3 of the west wall) has two 6/6 windows in each story, widely spaced for one to fall at the center of each of the addition's two interior rooms per story. Also, in this elevation, at the house's southwest corner, is the kitchen door which is sheltered by the simple, shed-roofed, one-bay back porch as described above.

Throughout the exterior of the house are details reflecting the 1875-ca.1880 construction; they are also characteristic of a vernacular rendition of the Italianate style. This includes covelap, or "drop" siding, with plain corner boards. All the window and door openings have simple architraves with peaked lintels. Each lintel also has a thin strip of drip moulding, sloped in two directions in line with the peaked shape. All but one of the first and second story window openings have 6/6 double-hung wood sash, with louvered shutters, the sole exception being a small 6/1 bungalow window in the small addition added to the kitchen ca.1940 (see photos #4 and #8). All of the window openings with the 6/6 sash still have the original louvered shutters, which remain operable. The roofline is marked by modest overhangs on all sides. The roof of the house has no brackets or other ornamental flourishes (and did not from the beginning, as per the ca.1875 photograph). Instead, most of the ornament in this house's design was found in the porch (as recently restored) as well as the detailing of the window architraves.

Inside the house, the lowest level is a banked cellar built to contain a kitchen. It is mainly one large room beneath the 1875 part of the house, bisected by an open stairway, although there is evidence that there was once a partition wall next to the stairs making it two rooms. Under the adjoining ca.1880 addition, the basement area is a partially excavated space. The interior of the cellar shows a similar hierarchy of stone types as found in the exterior walls; in other words, the inner withe of the stone walls is rubble except around the entrance door and at the cooking fireplace where large blocks of dressed stone were used. The large blocks make the firebox opening a well-defined rectangular frame that was stable enough to serve its intended function for daily cooking and seasonal farm processing. The surround of the cooking fireplace had plaster over these blocks until recently when some of the plaster was removed because repointing needed to be done. About half of the surfaces of the rubble cellar walls—the southern half of the current space; the area that originally served as the kitchen—were plastered and still retain remnants of at least the base coat. The west wall of the basement has two niches built into the stone wall to serve as cupboards. The cupboards have paired board doors. The stairs that descend into the space from above are open, although a pattern in the ceiling plaster over the original kitchen area stops at the stairs, suggesting that there may have once been a partition wall on the north side of the stairs. An opening the size of a small man-door in the southwest corner cuts through the original west wall of the cellar and leads into the crawlspace below the ca.1880 addition. Only a limited part of the earthen floor in this area has been excavated. It was cut down to make the space tall enough to accommodate a water heater serving the kitchen and bathroom above.

In plan, the design of the house revolves around the main stairway and the formal center hall it occupies, placed just behind the center bay opening of the facade. Above the basement, the main stairway is part of a formally designed hall which connects all the original rooms of both stories and has a few embellishments that go beyond what is found in most other rooms.

On the first floor, the center hall contains the main stair (see photo #5), with a parlor to the north and a dining room to the south. The two-room kitchen suite is west of this, accessed by two openings in the west wall of the dining room, one into each ca.1880 first story room. The kitchen suite has a room to each side of a center chimney. In the four main rooms of the first and second story, each room has a fireplace centered in the gable-end wall (see photos #6-7 and #10-11). There is a chimney cupboard to at least one side of the chimneybreast in three of the four rooms, the exception being the parlor. The historic interior of the house is consistent throughout. All rooms have original plastered walls (except at the board wall of the ca.1880 boxed stair) with almost all rooms finished with matching trim. The four rooms flanking the center stair hall, two in each story (living room / parlor, dining room, master bedroom, and a second bedroom now considered a study) are treated almost identically. The four rooms in the kitchen addition are similar, though somewhat simpler in their detailing.

The center hall space is entered from the exterior by way of the paired front doors, and the first story rooms to the north (parlor) and south (dining room) are entered by way of doorways located just west of the entrance doorway. The stair begins as a west-bound flight of steps in the south half of the hall, next to the dining room doorway, and turning clockwise, it rises to a full-width landing, and it then turns again to the east with a final run of one-third of the steps. At the bottom of the main stairway, the handrail flares out slightly at the lowest tread to a lathe-turned newel post. The newel post has four stages of turned work above a diagonally set square base. There is an ornate plaster ceiling medallion just inside the main entrance door, near the bottom step, with a hanging light fixture at the center. The fixture is a former gaslight that has been electrified. Another electrified gaslight fixture with an even larger, more ornate plaster medallion is found at the center of the ceiling in the parlor (see photo #6).

The window and door openings in the parlor have lintels that have flat top surfaces. The parlor woodwork has a painted grain finish made to resemble curly or "fiddleback" maple. (The dining room and one of the bedrooms also have faux graining, but with a more ordinary grain pattern). The parlor, like the bedroom above it (now called the study), has stencil-painted borders at the top of the wall, a restoration after 1981 of an original feature discovered at that time by the current owners. In the parlor, the side casings of the windows extend to the floor, flanking a recessed panel below each window sill, a style of interior window trim sometimes found in parlor trim in this region. In the parlor and center hall, the door and window casings are the same on the sides and top of each opening and they are mitered in the upper corners.

The chimney wall of the parlor was built with an offset to each side of the chimneybreast. Since the 1980s, half-height bookcases were built to fit on each side of the mantelpiece. They match the mantelpiece in form and style, and match the firebox in height, but they are not attached. The parlor fireplace, like all but one of the others, has a painted wood mantelpiece, faux grained in keeping with the theme of the room. The mantelpiece (as in the other rooms) has a wooden fascia board supported visually by wooden pilasters at the sides of the firebox opening. The fascia board consists of two pieces of wood, one over the other. The parlor fireplace (see photo #7) has a segmental arch in the upper (outer face piece) of the fascia board (mimicked in the unattached bookcases found to the sides of the fireplace); this trim piece is scalloped at the other three fireplaces (see photos #6 and #10-11). The parlor fireplace, like all three of the other fireplaces in the 1875 main rooms, has a cast iron arch, a detail typically installed in this region to hold a coal basket. The parlor fireplace now also has a built-in cast iron stove.

The dining room walls contain four doorways, three windows, and two wall cupboards. The doorway in the northwest corner, located under the landing, leads to the north half of the kitchen addition, a space apparently designed for fireplace cooking or to serve as a small dining area; this doorway originally would have led outside. The doorway in the southwest corner of the dining room leads into the main part of the kitchen where the stove and cabinets are. The openings to the rooms all have four-panel doors, including the door to the parlor from the center hall, and there are similar doors, but paired, on the wall cupboards in two places in the dining room (a chimney cupboard in the southeast corner of the room, and a through-wall cupboard in the west wall shared with the kitchen). The four trimmed-out door openings and two wall cupboards, as well as three window openings and the south wall fireplace, in the aggregate, cover about half of this room's wall surfaces (see photo #7). The coal basket is still in place at the fireplace.

The dining room chimney cupboard has paired doors above and below a division at waist height. The second cupboard, the through-wall cupboard found on the west wall, is similar in design. The upper half of this cupboard has two opposing faces, one on the east (dining room) side of the wall, and the other face opening into the kitchen on the west side of the wall. The innovative cupboard design has paired doors on

both opposing wall faces. The doors open on both sides to the same shelves to allow food or dishes to be equally accessed from both rooms or passed through the cupboard.

The stairs to the cellar are beneath the main stair, but they are accessed by way of a doorway in the dining room (north wall, at the northwest corner of the room) that leads to a single run of stairs under the main stairway. Because of the way the stairs are situated, there is low headroom, and the top tread is wide, but only half as wide as the doorway leading to it; since the stairs do not turn as winders, the riser edge of the wide tread is perpendicular to the door, making the top tread serve as a half-size landing while half of the doorway opens over the next two treads below it. The treads of the cellar stairs are heavy planks of circular-sawn wood with highly visible saw marks.

By contrast to the parlor, the tops of the window and door openings in the other three original (1875) rooms, as well as the cupboards, are cased with peaked lintels. The peaked lintel boards found in these other rooms overhang the side casings at the upper corners. The peaked lintels have thin lines of sloped crown moulding emphasizing the peaked form in all cases (except in the kitchen addition, where each of the peaked lintel boards remains flat).

The details are similar in the rooms found in the ca.1880 kitchen addition. Peaked lintels were used in doorways and at windows, although the ceiling heights and window openings are shorter and the second story west wall windows are too close to the roofline to have the peaked lintel detail (see photos #3 and #12). In the addition, the peaked lintels are found without a top trim line (see photos #8-9 and #12), by contrast to the house's original rooms where this added touch is found throughout.

The kitchen addition consists of two first story rooms separated by a chimney with a stove thimble on its south side and a fireplace that opens into the north half of the addition. The south half of the kitchen is dominated by a large wood-fired cookstove. There is a wall cupboard on the east wall of this room, shared by the dining room (the cupboard passes through the shared wall). The only modern, wall-mounted cupboards in the kitchen are in the bump-out section of the south wall of the kitchen, added ca.1940. Where the two first story rooms of the kitchen addition come together, the doorway (which is open, with no door leaf) is a little wider than usual. The opening occupies the east half of the wall between the two rooms of the kitchen suite, and the lintel, which is nearly twice the width of that of a typical doorway, is detailed with two side-by-side peaks on each side of the wall. The north first story room of the kitchen addition also has a vertical bead-board wall on the north side of the room enclosing a back stair leading to the room above.

In the second story, the main center hall is similar in detail to the first story portion of the same hallway; however, the exterior door, leading out to the upper level of the porch has only one door leaf. The upper half of the door has a grid of vision lights (see photo #1). There is a bedroom to each side, with the north bedroom now used as a study, and the master bedroom being the one on the south side of the hall. Passing through the master bedroom (the room over the dining room), one can reach the ca.1880 kitchen addition by way of a doorway on the bedroom's west wall. There is a small bedroom or sewing room above the south room of the kitchen. The final bedroom, now used as a bathroom, is the north room of the ca.1880 addition. It is also the room at the top of the back stair. The north and south bedrooms of the ca.1880 addition are connected by a doorway. The two rooms are at the same level, but a little over a foot lower than the second story of the 1875 part of the house; as a result, there are a couple of steps at the doorway from the master bedroom to the south bedroom of the addition (the room now used as a sewing room). The chimney between the south and north rooms of the ca.1880 addition is only a flue in the second story, with no fireplaces.

Each of the bedroom chimney cupboards has a four-panel door hinged to one side. The south wall cupboards on both floors (dining room and master bedroom) are at the southeast corner, because there is a window at the southwest corner of each room. The north bedroom of the 1875 part of the house (now used as a study) is similar to the parlor in its detailing, with two windows symmetrically placed in both the east and west walls. However, the room has two chimney cupboards. The two cupboards are detailed differently. The chimney cupboard on the west side of the fireplace is enclosed in plaster walls, and is probably original. The one east of the chimneybreast is similar in size, but it has some wood boards surrounding the cupboard door casing and forming part of its enclosure. Like the door and casing, the boards are faux-grained. The east chimney cupboard looks like it may have been put in a year or two after the west cupboard, but in most respects it is identical in style and detailing and appears to be contemporary with the rest of the room. Like the fireplace in the parlor below, the fireplace on the north wall of this room now has a built-in cast iron stove. The master bedroom (south room) has similar detailing except that it has only one chimney cupboard, east of the chimney, and the woodwork throughout the room has been painted. The fireplace in this room, like that of the dining room below it, has a coal basket in the firebox. The room also has a doorway in the west wall, as mentioned above.

The two second story rooms of the ca.1880 kitchen addition have simpler interior detailing than that found in the 1875 rooms. Like the door and window casings in the kitchen spaces below, the openings in these two rooms have simple trim with a peaked form atop each lintel board, but without the extra strip of molding found in the peaked lintels of the 1875 rooms. The room at the top of the back stair has been converted to a bathroom by adding a bathtub at the center of the room and a toilet and wall-mounted sink on the south wall. The fixtures are old-fashioned items reused from earlier installations on another property. At the top of the back stairs, coming up in the north room (within the current bathroom) of the ca.1880 kitchen addition, there are two winder steps; the stairs rise to a half-wall, so that the enclosure (as seen as a beadboard wall on the first floor) only boxes-in the bottom half of the stairway. The second story rooms in the addition do not have fireplaces, although the chimney passes between the two rooms and the chimneybreast is apparent next to the door that connects the two rooms.

Aside from the main kitchen addition, built ca.1880, and the 2012 restoration of the front porch (partly to reverse minor changes made ca.1940), the only notable exterior change to the house was the addition of the small "bump-out" (almost a bay window), a first-story shed-roofed extension added ca.1940 to the south wall of the kitchen addition (see photos #4 and #8). The bump-out contains a single line of kitchen cabinets (wall cabinets and base cabinets) in the "Hoosier" cabinet style of the era — the originals here are indeed "Hoosier" brand; they were modified and restored to add a small hidden refrigerator behind one of the cabinet doors and to change the countertop, etc., ca.2000. The cabinets could not have been added all the way across this side of the room without the bump-out, because they would have interfered with the doorway to the dining room and required a change of window height. Without the bump-out, the base cabinets might have limited the work space available to someone preparing food as others walked by from the exterior to the dining room. The addition also allowed the kitchen to continue operating around a large wood-fired cook stove (see photo #9) that remains freestanding (not touching any walls or cabinets) at the face of the chimney that is centered in the kitchen addition. South of the chimney, the cook stove extends toward the center of the room and occupies approximately one-fourth of the original kitchen floor area. The bump-out was built with drop-siding, corner boards, and other details to match the remainder of the exterior (see photo #4). In association with adding the bump-out, other relatively minor changes may have been made at that time, such as the addition of the shed-roofed porch that shelters the kitchen door. The porch has a concrete slab floor. The porch roof rests on square wood posts, and the shed-roofed woodshed, with open sides, was added in the 1980s to the west side of the porch posts.

The 1845 Barn

The contributing barn is on a banked site, with the stable at the lower level facing east (see photos #14-20, #30, and figure #1). The building's footprint is 25'-2" x 56'-6", not counting a large overhang, 8'-9" deep (east-west), on the west side. Called the "hinter dach," this overhang is on the uphill side. The overhang is the full length of the building, sheltering the doors to the threshing floor and the rest of the barn's bank-side area. These dimensions also do not include the 12'x 25' lean-to addition added in the 1990s on the north side (see photos #14-15 and #30).

The bankside (west) wall of the barn is symmetrical, centered on a short wood ramp and a large pair of doors filling the center bay of the upper level. The bottom part of the wall consists of a short section (a little less than three feet tall) of concrete block above which are the exposed logs of two cribs (at the two hay mows). The concrete block section consists of the ca.1940 rock-faced style block under the south log crib and modern concrete block (added in the 1990s) under the north log crib. In the center bay, there is a wood ramp up to the threshing floor doors. Although only a short area of the concrete block wall is visible under the two log cribs to the sides of the ramp, there are four windows in it, two beneath each crib. These are not glazed but have solid doors with wood in a cross-buck reinforcing the face of what is otherwise a piece of plywood. The large doors serve as the west wall of the threshing floor area, or center bay. The doors are surrounded by a large hewn jamb. The door leaves are board doors consisting of vertical boards fastened to two horizontal rails per door leaf. A vertical stile, to which the horizontal rails are fastened, is hidden behind the boards at the hinge side of each door leaf when the doors are closed, but it serves as a giant hinge-pin, as it rotates in a round mortise in both the top jamb and in the threshold. In the flanking bays, the walls (of the two log cribs that serve as the hay mows) are exposed logs. The overhanging roof, or "hinter dach," in this area is supported on four hewn (squared) logs that extend nine feet from the southwest and northwest corner of each log crib. The logs forming the walls of the two cribs are round with V-notches at the corners. The west wall is extended to the north by the half-gable form of the west side of the lean-to addition at the barn's north side. This section of wall is wood frame clad in vertical barn siding, all constructed in the 1990s.

The south gable-end wall consists of the stable wall at the base, with the south log wall of the south hay mow above it as well as the frame south wall of the forebay. At the basement level, the south wall is constructed of ca.1940 rock-faced concrete block as found in the adjoining basement walls beneath the south crib. There are two 6-light barn sash windows near the top of the wall, and closer to the southeast corner, this elevation contains a Dutch door. The upper level has weathered, vertical wood siding over the log crib walls, and the same kind of siding continues up to the peak of the gable. About one-fourth of this wall is the forebay/granary area east of the south log crib; it is constructed of wood frame with unpainted vertical wood barn siding.

The east, or stable-wall-side elevation consists of rock-faced concrete block below the south crib (see photo #15), with an open area below the threshing floor (center bay) and north crib. There are four nearly square "dairy style" windows in the concrete block portion of the wall glazed with 6-light barn sash. North of the concrete block, the only enclosure containing the stabled animals on this side consists of wooden gates, sections of wooden partition, and other elements, without a solid wall or a secure door. The ca.1940 rock-faced concrete block found in the south half of the elevation gives way to a sizable opening (open, but gated) under the straw door of the threshing floor area; it remains largely open both in the center bay of this elevation and in the north half of the east wall, under the north crib and forebay. The open wall with fence-like enclosures was apparently a characteristic of the original design, extending across a large area of (if not all of) the east stable wall. The latter area (under the north crib) is enclosed only by a light frame curtain wall that does not completely enclose the area—it has two unglazed openings as windows, and the wall does not have a door or even turn the corner at either end; the curtain wall is in line with the outer (east) wall of the forebay. In the upper level, the east wall is the eastern side

of the forebay enclosure, constructed of wood frame with unpainted vertical wood barn siding. The east half-gable wall of shed on the north side of the wall is only barely visible from this side because the lean-to addition only comes as far forward as the back (log wall side) of the forebay.

The north gable-end wall is similar to the south wall, but most of it is now covered by the shed-roofed addition (described in more detail below). The shed-roofed addition has a dirt floor and minimal walls and partitions (to serve as animal stalls). Similar to the configuration of the south wall, about one-fourth of this wall is the forebay/granary area east of the north log crib; it is constructed (on all three sides of the forebay) of wood frame with unpainted vertical wood barn siding. The gable end at the top of the north wall, like that of the south wall, is covered in weathered, vertical wood siding.

The interior configuration of the stable area has been rebuilt several times. Within the area enclosed by the ca.1940 block walls are modern box stalls used for horses organized around a center aisle that parallels the ridge of the roof—the stalls were added ca.1981, replacing older dairy stanchions—with some remnants of earlier configurations. The box stalls consist largely of sections of gate-like frames with bars, horizontal boards, and similar materials fastened to a series of non-structural posts added in the 1980s. An older box stall constructed of pipes remains in the southwest corner. In the 1980s, when the stone props and piers supporting the northeast corner were actively shifting, the area under the north crib was excavated to lower the earthen floor to make the space tall enough for normal barn use; before this excavation, the stable area under the north hay mow was only tall enough for small animals such as sheep. The excavation was undertaken both to stabilize the barn structurally and to increase the useable area for larger animals and workers. The area (under the north crib) is now more open than the area within the ca.1940 concrete block enclosure under the south crib.

One kind of evidence pointing to an earlier layout is found in wood fasteners that are still in place at the ceiling framing. These formerly held the upper tenons of doors or gates, which once served in place of a stable wall. (The wooden fasteners originally had a similar purpose to that of the round mortises at the top and bottom of each upper-level har-hung door; however, in this case they are separate pieces, “peg eyelets,” joined into the east face of the top plate of the stable wall). As a result of the changes to the original stable wall and the area under the forebay, the original sill beam (where the “peg eyelets” are found) now appears and functions like a summer beam with respect to the space below. The original location of the stable wall below this sill plate beam, however, is apparent in how the joists it supports are treated: like many historic barns with forebays in Pennsylvania, the log joists are hewn on the top on the interior side of the line where the stable wall was originally located, retaining some bark on the sides, and they are hewn on top and bottom on the forebay side where they were originally exposed in the open area outside the stable.

These modifications in the stable area are typical of barns in the sheep raising areas of Pennsylvania because of the changes over time from mixed livestock up to the 1850s, such as a cow or two and a horse or two for domestic use, often with common sheep in large pens, to larger numbers of cows and horses by the 1850s and larger numbers of fine-wooled sheep by 1850-70, to dairy cows and/or horses after 1880.

Inside, the upper level of the barn consists of two log cribs, constructed of unchinked round logs (see photos #15-20). The corner joints are generally V-notched. The sill plate corners are actually lap joints (logs meeting at horizontal surfaces, apparently held together by pegs rather than seated into notches). The logs are oak and most still have bark. The two cribs are proportionally taller and narrower than what is seen in a number of other log barns in the county. Approximately 20 log barns are still standing in this county, although most are now not visible from the exterior due to siding or additions; in this county, however, there may have once been as many as 1,000 log barns. Three of the construction details were

once common but are now not. These include loose-laid split rails in place of fixed flooring in one of the hay mows (see photo #21 and figure #1), a deep roof overhang along the barn's upper eave side ("hinter dach," or rear roof overhang; see photos #14-16), and har-hung wooden hinges on the main barn doors (see photos #15-16 and #20). It is possibly the only remaining example of a barn with a "hinter dach" in the county or even state, and both the split rail flooring and har-hung hinges are almost as rare.

As is typical of three-bay banked barns in Pennsylvania in the era before machinery, the center bay was designed to provide a slightly more open work space for threshing and winnowing grain by hand, while the outer bays of the upper level were for storage of hay. The two log cribs flank the more-open threshing floor area (see photos #18-19). The threshing floor is further defined on the west side by the har-hung doors (see photos #15-16 and #20) in plane with the face of the logs, and on the east side by a forebay enclosed beyond the logs with sawn vertical wood boards of generally unpainted barn siding on three sides (see photos #17-18). Each of the two log cribs is open for the most part on the side toward the threshing floor. A large section of each log was cut away after the cribs were erected. Enlarging the openings made it easier to move machine-made bales into the mows. The enlargement apparently occurred in the mid-twentieth century when the machinery to make hay bales became available to this farm. Minor modifications like this were typically made in barns as the new technologies became available. Until baling caught on, however, enlarging the openings would have allowed loose hay to slide back out.[1] The change may have been made in several stages, as the lines of the openings are now uneven enough to suggest that they were not cut all at once (see photo #18). About four logs remain in an east-west direction at the top of each crib, serving as tie beams to tie the top of the east wall to the top of the west wall of each crib (see photo #18). A hewn tie beam is found above them, bearing on them, and mortised into the raising plates of the upper roof area. At the midpoint of the four logs, two courses of east-west logs are missing, creating a horizontal slot in the log assembly. This opening provided a place for the movable log joists of a flexible overmow where sheaves were placed to keep them dry until they could be threshed. The log at the base of the slot was the surface on which the moveable joists were intended to bear and slide as needed. Only two or three of the movable joists remain in place (see photo #18). The exterior log surfaces were covered over with vertical barn siding on the gable end walls. Some of the current siding on the south wall probably dates to about 1940, while the 1940s siding on the north wall was replaced in 2006 (see photos #14-15).

On the hinter dach (banked) side, the logs in the north crib had begun to move out of alignment by the 1980s. Pairs of 6x6 wood timbers were added at the corners of the north crib, in each case with one vertical 6x6 on each side of the log wall, fastened to each other by threaded steel rods passing through the wall at the gaps between the logs to realign and reinforce the construction (see photos #15-16). Some wire cable was also used at about the same time in related locations where it is barely noticeable. This is the only area where reinforcement of this type has been added to the historic design.

The forebay contains remnants of two former granaries (see photos #17-18). The older of the two was in the barn's northeast corner, and only a few remnants are still visible. The wall partition at the opening leading into the granary is still in place on the east side of a corner doorway as one enters the northeast granary area. The opening still has jamb elements, but it does not contain a door leaf. The main evidence beyond this wall is that several vertical lines of hewn studs are still affixed to the log walls to create a flat surface for the boards that formed the granary wall surfaces (the boards themselves are missing on the log

[1] Small, square bales emerged as an improvement over hand-pitching the hay in the late nineteenth century but did not become common until tractors became available, which occurred at a late date on this farm. Loose hay was still being pitched into the mows as late as the late 1940s, according to Laura Walker, who interviewed the prior owners after buying the farm in 1981.

wall sides of the space). The newer granary, in the barn's southeast corner, is better defined by a wood partition wall that has two doorways. It is built of machine-planed wood and appears to date from ca.1900. The evidence that the southeast granary was built later is found both in the newer vintage of the wood boards, and also in the slot left in the logs (two logs cut away) in the crib wall on that side, high in the wall, indicating that they had used this half at an earlier date as storage space for hay or straw. The slot appears to have been cut to allow loading hay from the mow into this part of the forebay; in other words, allowing the hay to pass through the slot when the south mow had been filled most of the way. (There is no corresponding slot of this kind in the east wall of the north crib, where the remnants of an older granary occupy the forebay). The doorways to the newer granary are framed with side and top jambs, but the sill of each opening is about two feet above the floor. In front of the granary partition, a trap door covers a set of modern stairs leading down to the stable. The stairs were added in 1981 by reopening a framed-out opening from a previous stairway that had been removed. One of the granary doorways overlaps with the trap door in plan. There are no door leaves at either of these granary doorways. Instead, a vertical groove in each side jamb allows boards to be inserted gradually as the grain area is filled. Some of these boards are still in the barn. Between and to the sides of these doorways, the entrance wall to the granary is composed of horizontal tongue-and-groove boards of milled lumber nailed in place. Similar boards remain in the other three sides of the granary space; despite not being used for many years, the granary is still mostly intact.

The floor of the barn's upper level varies from bay to bay. The threshing area (center bay) has a solid wood floor of large planks, worn from use. One hay mow also has a solid floor of sawn wood. The sawn wood is apparently not as old as the threshing floor, which is pegged in place and has boards that are hewn on the bottom; the threshing floor boards are apparently original to the barn's 1845 construction, by contrast to the newer sawn boards in the south hay mow floor. The other mow still has an older kind of floor consisting of loosely laid riven planks, essentially split rails, like those used in fences, placed without fasteners on the sills and over a series of log joists. The split rails are not full length, but instead overlap at one of the center joists (see photo #21 and figure #1). They are not easy to walk on when the mow is empty, but become stable when the mow contains at least a few inches of evenly distributed hay. This loose-laid system provided additional ventilation to keep the hay dry. It also saved the farm the cost and labor of sawn lumber and nails. In summer, when the hay on-hand was at its low point, the gaps between the split rail members may have also helped to keep the stable cool by allowing gaps to be opened to let warm air rise.

The barn has a significant roof configuration. Virtually all other extant Sweitzer barns today have the overhang only on the downhill side of the barn where it accommodates the construction of the forebay; in other words, the forebay fills the upper level space below the overhanging roof, extending the barn's upper level outward over the stable wall, sheltering part of the barnyard. In this case, the same kind of cantilevered framing was used in the roof construction on the upper (banked) side of the barn, opposite the forebay, creating a porch-like sheltered space (see photos #14-16). The overhang protected the logs on this side, and it was possibly intended to shelter other activities related to the uphill yard areas and fields that were further uphill. It may have provided a sheltered area for hay or sheaves to be placed temporarily out of the elements, as well as a run-in area for animals during storms, and/or a workspace for the farmer. The roof hangs out past the logs by almost nine feet. As mentioned elsewhere, the German name for an overhanging roof on this side is "hinter dach" (rear roof).

The two tall, narrow cribs rise to a longitudinal wall plate that ties the three bays into one structure and supports the upper rafters. The wall plate members are long enough to be made from two pieces of wood using scarf joints that are visible in the upper framing over the threshing area doors. The upper rafters are poles joined together in pairs, so that each meets a rafter from the opposite side at a pegged lap joint at the

ridge. There is no ridge beam or board, although a heavy piece of sheathing was added at each side of the ridge under the current metal roofing to serve the purpose of tying the rafters together.

A second set of rafters continues the same roof slope down below the longitudinal wall plate. The same kind of single-surface extended roof was used on both sides of the barn, but the lower rafters on both sides are separate, smaller poles, resting on an outer plate. They are sometimes now paired. They were "sistered" for reinforcement in a modern roofing project (during one of two roof replacements since 1981). They extend down to a "raising" plate at the top of the forebay and a corresponding "hinter dach" plate that is suspended over the open space of the eaves-side overhang. The lower plate on the hinter dach side is supported on four log tie beams that extend out from the log cribs. They are actually an extra-long log in each crib, laid into the log construction at the north and south wall of each crib and extending to the west. These four members cantilever out beyond the wall nearly nine feet, while gaining their counterbalancing end support from the top three east-west logs and the corresponding north-south logs (see photos #14-16). (The weight of sheaves in the over-mow would have also provided additional counterbalancing support in winter.)

The east-west tie beams at the base of the overmow slot, and correspondingly in the end walls, are bowed up slightly at the center of each crib, directly under the ridge of the roof. This appears to be the result of the eccentric weight on the west end of each beam, where the cantilevered section of each of the same four members supports the hinter dach. There were, until recently, one or two other known examples of this kind of construction in barns in the county, but they are no longer standing. Evidence of the use of hinter dachs has been observed in altered barns as well, based on the kind of distortion observed here in the upward bend in logs in the overmow joist slot: in some extant examples, as well as several now-demolished log barns, bowed timbers have been observed in the upper courses of log cribs in a configuration that appears to indicate that the distortion was caused by cantilevered tie beams that were later trimmed to eliminate the overhang (as seen here in uncut but otherwise identical members).

The forebay (see photos #17-18) appears to have been framed separately and fastened to the log part of the structure using hewn ties and pegged joinery. In other words, instead of having the extra long logs extending out to support the roof and forebay framing on this side of the log cribs (as they do on the hinter dach side), the structure is supported from below and only tied in to the log cribs with hewn members and pegged joints. Each tie is mortised into the forebay framework (the posts in the east wall of the forebay) at one end, but pegged onto the surface of a log in one or the other crib at the other end (see photo #18). In general, the forebay is framed from hewn members, joined by mortises and tenons, with some diagonal corner braces. The raising plate and wall structure on the forebay side, thus, derive their support in compression solely from the cantilevered floor below.

The shed-roofed lean-to addition was added on the north side of the barn in the 1990s providing additional stall-sized areas under-roof that could also serve as storage or for horses (see photos #14-15). As explained above, it is 12'x 25' in plan. It is sided with unpainted vertical barn siding and has three sliding doors on a track on its north-facing wall. This addition was partly built to protect weathered logs that were at risk of failing. It has a sloped dirt floor and consists of three spaces with openings facing north. Like the main part of the barn, it has modern roofing of ribbed sheet metal. It was constructed in a way that had minimal impact on the log walls.

Other Agricultural Buildings and Structures at the Nesbit-Walker Farm

North of the barn, between it and the house, is a non-contributing ca.1940, 5'x 16' corn crib (see photos #14 and #30) on a post foundation with slanted side walls of vertical slats fastened with wire nails. It has

a gable roof and a door in the north wall under the gable end, and there are also two small loading hatches high in the walls.

Below the barn to the southeast, the non-contributing ca.1940 hog house (see photos #14, #22, and #29), 10'-1" x 24"-0" in plan, is a one-story frame building with a gable roof. It is located at the south edge of the lower part of the barnyard, near the southeast corner of the property. The ridge of the hog house roof runs east-west. The roofing is modern ribbed sheet metal. The finish material of the building is unpainted vertical barn siding. The hog house originally contained four pens for hogs, but at some point, it was put to use as a chicken house (probably by the 1950s), remaining in that use until the 1980s. The building had been on a foundation that originally consisted of stones at the corners supporting the sill plate of the wood framing. However, by 1981, it had slipped off of these and the lower wall members were seriously deteriorated. The current owners rescued it by adding a concrete footing and raising the walls slightly, so that two or three courses of concrete block are now exposed as a foundation below the bottom sill plate of the walls. The owners also added the 5'-deep shed-roofed porch with metal roofing on the north side of the building to shelter the doors to the horse stalls that were also added at that time.

The non-contributing ca.1900 box-frame shed (see photos #23-24 and #26-27) is now unusual, both as an outbuilding type and as a kind of framing. It was designed with light-weight construction to be a multi-use auxiliary building that could be easily moved as needs changed on the farm. The building is 10'-3" x 14'-2" in plan. Located west of the garage and northwest of the house, at a three-way corner in the fence lines of three of the upper fields, it uses plank construction with no vertical corner posts or other support between the upper and lower plates of each wall (aside from the vertical siding itself). The heavy planks (approximately 1" thick), nailed to the lower wall plate and supporting the upper wall plate and roof, serve in place of posts and studs. The one-room building, with an unfinished interior, is supported on wood piers below the lower wall plate. Below the sill is a crawlspace area that remains open on all sides, about two feet tall from grade to the floor surface. The roof is gabled, with the ridge running east-west. Like the other outbuildings, the roofing is modern ribbed sheet metal with a red shop finish (in this case, installed in 2005). In the east gable-end, there is an open doorway. The south and east walls have window-like openings; however, the door and the window sash are now held in storage to prevent breakage by the horses. The interior has no current finishes but evidence of former wallboard remains. In most of the walls, the vertical, unpainted wood boards are the only finish on the exterior, but the east gable-end wall is clad in asbestos siding. There are remnants of electrical lines in the east-facing gable end. The building was moved here from another part of the original Nesbit farm in the 1930s and was again relocated from a site about 200 feet south of where it is now (just west of where the garage is today) by the current owners of the property after they built the garage in the 1990s.

The farm has one non-contributing shed built since 1981. It is a two-sided wood frame, shed-roofed run-in shed for horses within a field northwest of the house (see photos #23 and #28). Built in the 1990s using "pole barn" construction techniques, it is 10'-0" x 20'-0" in plan. Constructed of wood (unpainted) and metal roofing, it consists of a low-pitched shed roof on 2x6 rafters supported on six square posts (6x6s). The posts are reinforced with diagonal braces near the top. On the two enclosed sides, wood stringers span the posts. Sheets of painted plywood scored to resemble vertical barn siding (T111) are nailed to the stringers.

The garage (built in the 1990s) is near the house, uphill from the corn crib (see photos #23 and #25). It was designed to be "appropriate in-fill" with vernacular form, barn-siding type cladding, and a steep roof pitch. It consists of a central gable-roofed pavilion on eight posts with a lower, lean-to, shed-roofed wing extending from each gable end, plus an original lean-to-like extension in the west half of the main roof

form.[2] The main gable roof is oriented so that the ridge is north-south. This arrangement creates four bays open to the east, each of which is large enough for a modest-sized vehicle, although the center two bays (under the gable roof) have more clear space in each direction by a foot or two; the east-facing openings for vehicles are about three feet taller under the gable roof than they are in the neighboring lean-to garage bay. The posts for the center two bays (the gabled part) have diagonal braces at the top. The roofing is shop-painted ribbed sheet metal. All the bays are open on the side toward the driveway (east), with no garage doors — the building was designed to add sliding doors on a track at a later date. The south bay is actually separated from the driveway by a fence, and it thus serves as a run-in shed for animals in the pasture on that side. The center section has unpainted vertical wood barn siding on three sides (west, north and south). Although it is generally closed on these three sides, the southern half of the gabled section has a second opening on the west side leading back out the other side. This was designed to be a drive-through for the horse trailer. The lean-to on the north is also enclosed with unpainted wood siding on three sides. A tiny fourth lean-to, with no walls, extends from the back of the north-end lean-to and abuts the west-side lean-to, where it provides a sheltered space for lawn machinery. The gable-ends are all closed above the various walls and openings, except in the south lean-to, where the addition (lean-to) consists mainly of a tilted roof on posts; it is open on two sides

There is also a shed-like structure on the property, built to shelter a pile of logs rescued from a log house that had been dismantled on a property in another state. This low (four feet high), temporary structure has roofing over it and is supported on posts that extend to the ground, but it is not included in the resource count due to its small size and scale and temporary nature.

In addition to these sheds, the property has several small platforms, fenced areas, and similar elements that were constructed for use with horses. These are all treated as uncounted landscape features. The farm additionally has two water-related features (dating to before the end of the Period of Significance) which are also treated as uncounted landscape features. These are the foundation / ruins of the springhouse (see photo #30), northeast of the barn and southeast of the house, and the dug well, now capped-off, found just outside the kitchen entrance to the house. The well is 25’ deep and lined with stones, and the concrete slab capping it is 4’x4’. These two water features may relate to the decision to build the kitchen addition shortly after the main body of the house was completed, since the springhouse was down a steep hill while the well was next to the kitchen (with a pump then in place) and it provided a modern water source for cooking and domestic cleaning.

The springhouse foundation is approximately 7’- 9” x 8’- 6”. It consists of several courses of stone around a flowing spring. The stone coursing that remains is taller at the northwest and southwest corners, where the springhouse was banked into the hillside. At these corners, it remains about 10 courses in height. Low in the wall between the two tall corners, the rectangular opening allowing the spring itself to flow into the foundation footprint is still clearly marked by a stone lintel in a somewhat intact section of wall. Traces also remain of a series of stepped pools using the springhouse outflow. A log trough was fed by one of the pools. This trough, hollowed out from a single log, is still extant. It was recently discovered and rescued from its underwater location. It has been removed to another part of the property to shelter it from the elements, and it has been treated for preservation.

[2] The garage was originally built as a gable-roofed pole barn with a gabled form that has an extended roof form on half of one side, to which several lean-tos were added later. (The original part is 24’- 0” long x 16’- 0” at one gable end and 22’- 6” at the other meaning the gable roof extends 6 feet farther on one bay to the rear, the longer side being counted as the initial “lean-to”-like extension). The three additional shed-roofed lean-tos were added at different times: first the one to the south (10’- 0” x 16’- 0” in plan), then the one to the north (also 10’- 0” x 16’- 0” in plan), then the small lean-to at the northwest corner (10’- 0” x 5’- 6” in plan).

Statement of Integrity

The Nesbit-Walker Farm has a landscape that retains essential features of a farm that was once larger, plus two contributing built resources, the house and barn, from the 19th century. The property as a whole retains sufficient integrity to tell the story that the farm represents. The house retains integrity, including almost all windows, trim, decorative features, fixtures, paint schemes, and other elements from the Period of Significance (1845-ca.1880) in the exterior and within every room. Almost all of these features date to the construction of the house and/or of the major kitchen addition. The barn has integrity in the upper level log and frame elements as well as several very important, extremely rare details (namely, the hinter dach roof overhang, the split rail mow flooring, and the har-hung barn door hinges). As such, it has been cited as an important example in three or four books, studies, and other sources covering historic agricultural resources in Washington County, in Pennsylvania, and across the cultural region where Pennsylvania banked barns and the important Sweitzer subtype are found.[3] While there have been changes to the lower stable level, these are relatively minor and do not greatly diminish its integrity.

The continuing pattern of evolving circumstances at the Nesbit-Walker Farm did not result in very much compromise to the original design of either the house or barn, each of which now retains integrity. The house's ca.1880 four-room addition accommodated most of the later adaptations as needed, including the small ca.1940 addition just large enough to contain kitchen cabinets along one wall of a pre-existing room (the "bump-out" added to the ca.1880 addition). This helped to maintain the use of the wood-burning stove. Similarly, the plumbing fixtures added in 1981 into one former bedroom made it possible for the house to have an indoor bathroom with minimal change to that one room. Since then, almost nothing else in the house has been changed. The minor changes in the barn had a similar effect, including the expanded openings at the sides of the threshing floor to make the movement of hay more efficient, the concrete block enclosure of one side of the stable, the excavation of the low-height sheep area to full height, the addition of new stall partitions, and the addition of metal reinforcing rods and cables.

By contrast to most of the farms in the surrounding area, these buildings and associated landscape features survived and retained integrity as a result of the farm being reestablished under a new paradigm around 1940, that of a part-time farm/residence operated by families with another (outside) source of income. Therefore, the landscape surrounding the farm was adjusted down to this new scale after the Period of Significance, and it reemerged with a number of smaller agricultural buildings (the hog house, the corn crib, the box-framed shed, etc.) and other features (such as the current kitchen). In accommodating these twentieth century agricultural trends at a smaller scale, the farmstead's two contributing buildings came to be preserved.

Since 1981, Laura Walker and her husband Wickliffe have lovingly cared for the built resources and the smaller scale farm landscape that surrounds them, making minor adjustments to the property so they

[3] The barn is discussed in the summary report for a survey conducted by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1995. See: Jerry Clouse, *A Survey of Agricultural/Vernacular Architecture of Central and Southwestern Pennsylvania: With Particular Emphasis on the Barns of These Regions*. This survey became one of the main sources for revisions made in preparing the second edition in 2003 of Robert Ensminger's book, *The Pennsylvania Barn* (first published in 1993), which consequently has a discussion of the Nesbit-Walker Log Barn in the second edition. It was also shown in *Preserving Our Past*, a book on the historic architecture of Washington County. Also based on a survey, *Preserving Our Past* was first published in 1973. It has been featured in the New England publication *Equine Journal* and also has been included in several other surveys and publications. It was featured in the annual tour and tour guide for the 2014 meeting of the Historic Barn and Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania.

could raise sheep over a number of years, keeping horses as well, and then raising and boarding horses for a period. In their care, the integrity has remained in place. The minor additions and adjustments made since 1981 have helped to keep the farm in operation. Under the Walkers, the farm has continued to produce income sufficient to pay its own way, changing niche markets as rapidly as the county agricultural economy.

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.
- [x] 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.)

- [ ] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance
_1845-ca.1880_

Significant Dates
_N/A_

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
_N/A_

Cultural Affiliation
_N/A_

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary Paragraph

The Nesbit-Walker Farm meets the Criterion C Registration Requirements for the property type "Farm" as described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) *Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania, 1700-1960*. Specifically, the farm possesses the "physical characteristics that specifically reflect aesthetic, cultural, craftsmanship,... production values associated with regional agriculture and rural life (McMurry, page 150)," during the 19th century in the "Southwestern Pennsylvania Diversified

Agriculture and Sheep Raising, ca.1840-1960" historic agricultural region. The house, barn, and landscape embody those characteristics in terms of their layout and orientation, their decorative features, their design, and their reflection of 19th century production values. In addition, the barn is a "noteworthy example of a particular building type (McMurry, page 150)" that possesses significant design features due to its log construction, adaptability, organization of space, etc. Furthermore, as a resource "...notable for [its] construction or design (McMurry, page 150)," "…it factor[s] into the Criterion C significance of the property (McMurry, page 150)." Since the farm is significant for its 19th century design, its period of significance is confined to the 19th century, from 1845, when the barn was built, to ca.1880, when the farmhouse was completed.

Relationship to the MPDF for Agriculture in Pennsylvania

The Nesbit-Walker Farm meets the Registration Requirements for the property type "farm" under Criterion C in the Area of Architecture as presented in the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania, ca.1700-1960." It is central to the area discussed under "Southwestern Pennsylvania Diversified Agriculture and Sheep Raising." It has building components identified in the MPDF, including a 5-bay farmhouse that is characteristic of the region. The house follows a common model (I-house) that was then popular across the region, with flourishes reflecting fashion trends of the times, in this case the Italianate style. The style of the house reflects the trend to rebuild the residences on local farms in the fine-wooled sheep raising region after a sufficient cash economy emerged. It also reflects changes in cooking and heating methods adopted almost immediately after the house was completed, moving the domestic cooking facilities to a suite of rooms added to the rear to make space for a first story wood stove. This move also made the original basement kitchen more exclusively available for farm production; it is one of many local farm houses to have a cooking area in the basement that is distinct from the day-to-day kitchen on the first story. The farm also has an unusual log barn with features reflecting important steps in the evolution of log construction and banked barn design in Pennsylvania.

The farmstead was laid out with the house, barn, barnyard, and related exterior areas clustered around a spring overlooking a meadow, as was typical in this region. The land rises from the meadow at the eastern edge to fields that slope upward to the west so the tract has an over-all bowl-shaped form, as was the typical pattern in the sheep-raising region in the era when fine-wooled sheep that had to be watched from the house became ubiquitous here. The house and barn both have exterior features (e.g., doors and windows, sheltered areas, etc.), relationships to exterior spaces and the springhouse location, views, the picket fence, and other siting characteristics that tie them to the remaining landscape of the farmstead. These features were retained or reinforced as the current house was built to replace an earlier log house, as the acreage was reduced in size, and as the farm was reorganized for part-time agriculture after the Period of Significance when the house became primarily a residence for occupants who held jobs elsewhere beginning in the late 1930s. Although the acreage has been greatly reduced, the meadow has been divided by a property line and the springhouse is now in ruins, the original layout characteristics are still clear. The contributing resources in the farm (barn and house) relate to each other and to the various exterior areas around them, including the springhouse ruins around which the farmstead was organized by the 1870s along with the other uncounted landscape features.

This farm survived into the twentieth century, with diminishing acreage through partible inheritance and the sale of perimeter tracts, to become a residence and part-time source of income for a working family, a trend that has had relevance across the county for several generations. As the land features of the property evolved and were adapted, the farm's most significant resources, the barn and house remained in place almost without any major changes. The barn, though built at the close of the era of hand threshing and traditional log construction, exemplifies characteristics of earlier log barns and threshing barns that

are now seldom seen but were once common. It retains some specific details that are very rare examples of barn construction techniques, such as har-hung hinges (doors hung from round tenons at the top and bottom of each hinge stile); the round tenons rotate in round mortises in the sill below and in the top jamb member, a way of avoiding the use of strap hinges, which could pull individual logs out of the wall. It also illustrates several important concepts in the layout and design of a barn built for threshing grain, storing hay, and stabling animals. Its log construction represents a building tradition that met the challenges of the materials that were readily available on the farm to accommodate these agricultural functions as well as adjusting well to changing agricultural activities and family circumstances across time. The house is an example of several trends that developed by the 1870s in the design of farmhouses on rural properties in Washington County. These included the "I-House" form, as well as use of Italianate style details in the porch, siding, windows, fireplaces, center stairway, and other design elements.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Summary Property History

The property originally belonged to Andrew Swearingen who came to the area from Virginia in 1772. In the 1780s, Swearingen took up two tracts of land totaling over 500 acres in this area, straddling Georges Run in both Canton and Chartiers Townships, and by 1788 acquired Pennsylvania title on the basis of Virginia Certificates. He also acquired land in the next watershed to the east, in Chartiers Township, and he lived on that land. He held the two tracts on Georges Run as an investment until 1805 when he sold them to Joseph Nesbit. The smaller of the two tracts, containing 107 acres, was named "Drusilla." The larger tract, named "Canaside," consisted of 398 acres. The Nesbit-Walker Farm overlaps the Canaside-Drusilla line but is located mostly on the Canaside tract, west of Georges Run and, as a result, now lies wholly in Canton Twp.

Joseph(1), Jonathan(1), and John(1) Nesbit[4] were brothers who moved to Washington County by 1790. They were part of a substantial emigration of settlers who relocated from Cecil County in Maryland's northeast corner to Washington County at about that time. Joseph(1) purchased (or completed the purchase of) the Drusilla and Canaside tracts from Andrew Swearingen in 1805, and then almost immediately conveyed 119 acres to each of his two brothers, Jonathan(1) and John(1). The Federal Census of 1790 identifies a single Nesbit household in Chartiers Township with three adult males, one young male, and two adult females. The United States Direct Tax of 1798 (the "Glass Tax") lists Joseph Nesbit with 80 acres and a house in Canton Township, as well as 100 acre tracts in Chartiers Township for both John and Jonathan Nesbit. However, at this point, Andrew Swearingen, who still held the deeds, is not shown as owning any land in the Georges Creek watershed. It may well be that the transfer of property from Andrew Swearingen was a protracted affair.

This property was first developed into farms by the Nesbit family a generation before the barn was built. When the Nesbits arrived, most of the land was apparently not cleared and developed into useable fields nor even divided into working farms. At the time when Joseph Nesbit acquired the two Swearingen tracts and transferred 119 acres to each of his two brothers, most farms in the county consisted of between 100 and 400 acres each (although only a small portion of the average farm had been cleared and organized as working fields at this early date). Thus, by the first decade of the nineteenth century, the land had been divided into tracts that were presumed to be adequate but not large in size for this county by the standards

[4] To keep track of similar given names, the generation is included in parentheses.

of the day. Ruins of a stone springhouse and the faint trace of the location of the log house with its own dooryard spring, now filled, evoke the first occupancy.

The Nesbit-Walker Farm lies in the western part of the section conveyed to John Nesbit. John(1) Nesbit died in 1837, as a result of a fever, along with four other family members. His widow continued to work the farm with their remaining son until her death in 1843. That son, Robert(2), had lost his wife as well in the 1837 tragedy, but he had a surviving son, John(3) A. Nesbit. Subsequently, Robert(2) Nesbit remarried and had a second son, Robert(3) D. Nesbit.

John Nesbit's son Robert (2) is credited with building the log barn. ("R. Nesbit 1845" is carved in the har-hung door). The farm was further divided in 1860 to provide for both of Robert's sons. Robert's son John A. Nesbit built the present farmhouse in 1875 on a tract that was now about 71 acres in size. By at least 1876, members of the greater Nesbit family were beginning to add non-farm occupations, but John A. Nesbit lists himself in Caldwell's *Centennial Atlas of Washington County* as a "grain farmer and wool grower."

The farm changed boundaries, adding acreage and dividing the real estate between family members, several times in the nineteenth century. The building projects related to these changes. Apparently in anticipation of providing equally viable farms for both sons, Robert(2) bought an additional 34 acres in Canton in 1852. This was part of the tract of 71 acres that John(3) A. Nesbit acquired in 1860 just prior to his father's death in 1861. Robert(3) D. Nesbit acquired the other half of the property, the 71 eastern acres in Chartiers Township. Although John A. Nesbit married in 1865, built the house in 1875, and added onto the house soon after completing it, he died childless.

The landscape took shape between the construction of the barn and that of the house. Most farms in the area were set up with boundaries following ridges and the house and barn downhill in a bowl, next to a spring or other source of potable water. John Nesbit's original 119 acres did not perfectly conform to the model — his first portion of the larger family holdings was a long narrow strip bisected by Georges Run — but it incorporated the range of topography and land types needed in the creation of a competent farm, with uplands at both extreme ends of the tract and good visual sightlines for monitoring it all. A swath of land above and west of the house, furthermore, was heavily watered with diffuse spring seepage, forming haylands equivalent to an additional "meadow." By 1850, 75 of the 119 acres had been improved. In 1860, Robert Nesbit's land was divided among his two sons, and this part, including the log barn, went to John A. Nesbit. The land in this and another farm was redistributed with new boundaries; 34 acres were added to this tract, but the total acreage was reduced to 71, of which 66 acres were improved. The 1860 split had been carefully planned to include sufficient areas of each land type, and this eventually allowed the remaining 17 acres in the current parcel to serve as a microcosm of this system – a well-watered, fertile slope bounded by trees and ridges.

The 71 acre farm containing the Nesbit-Walker Farm was left by will to two sons of John A. Nesbit's half-brother Robert D. Nesbit. These nephews, Robert(4) and David(4) H. Nesbit lived on the farm together with their sisters beginning in 1910. By 1893, gas wells were being developed on adjacent Nesbit lands, and, before 1905, the coal rights were all sold off. All these reflect the beginnings of the shift away from pure agriculture and point up the interaction with industry characteristic of this locale. By 1927, the farm had made the transition to a residence surrounded by a part time farming operation, for domestic use and apparently as a second income. Electricity came to the farmhouse in 1931, which may have led to the kitchen "bump-out" remodeling project at about this time, though one informant has indicated that the actual construction of the bump-out was not done until later, under the ownership of the

Hillberry family.[5] In the next generation, the farm housed John A. Nesbit's half brother's grown children. At least one of the unmarried sisters maintained an off-farm job as a schoolteacher and then nurse. But the transition to part-time farming, with an influx of off-farm cash, was completed with the sale of the farm in 1939.

The farm was sold out of the Nesbit family for the first time (in 1939) when Homer A. Hillberry purchased it as a 65-acre tract. Hillberry was a foreman at the Hazel Atlas plant (glass factory) in Washington. He is believed to be the one who made the barn improvements (e.g., the concrete block enclosure of the stable), adding a small dairy in order to keep his son from being drafted. Hillberry also built a new hog house and corn crib, and he built the "bump-out" addition at the kitchen wall to modernize it (still the only area where surface-mounted kitchen cabinets and base cabinets have ever been installed).

The property remained in the Hillberry family's ownership until 1947 when it was purchased as a 57-acre tract by Alec and Ethel Bungard. The Bungard family used it as a residence until 1981. Alec Bungard had a full time off-farm job in Washington (as a steel mill worker) as well, but lived very frugally and did some farming here. The Bungards had a tractor, made hay, and kept hens. They also had a garden, a flock of Cheviot sheep, and often a horse and a milk cow for domestic milk and butter. For a time they also raised pheasants to sell to the Sportsman's Club for them to hunt. John, Alec's son, remembers collecting milkweed in the war years to be made into life jackets for the sailors.

In 1981, the Bungards sold the house, barn, and 10 acres of land to Laura and Wickliffe Walker, the current owners. The Walkers later acquired seven more acres of the adjoining land historically associated with the property. The remaining Bungard acreage is now separated from the Walker's tract by Mulberry Hill which defines the current southern boundary. Wickliffe also had an off-farm full-time job for many years, and Laura Walker ran the farm business. In some years, this meant keeping sheep as well as horses, but the Walkers eventually specialized in horses, teaching riding classes for a period and ultimately operating a facility for boarding horses owned by others. As a result, the hog house was modified to create additional space for horse stalls and there are some horse-related features in the fields and in the fence configuration behind the house. Apart from these minor additions and much needed maintenance (in parts of the farm where upkeep had been deferred), as well as essential mechanical upgrades, the buildings and landscape have remained almost unchanged in their care. Notably, they have also remained in agricultural use in the Walker ownership for the past 34 years.

A Typical Mix of Crops and Husbandry Pursuits for Washington County

Like almost all farms in Washington County, this was a mixed husbandry operation throughout the nineteenth century with an evolving emphasis on grain crops, then sheep and other specialties as the

[5] Since 1981, owner Laura Walker has conducted oral history interviews with the prior occupants of this farm and adjoining ones to collect information on the history of the farm since the 1930s. Members of the Mull family, Delsignore family, Hillberry family, and Bungard family have contributed information to this research. The Mulls lived as tenants here and on adjacent land. The Delsignore family had acquired 50 acres of the land that was originally Joseph Nesbit's adjacent tract. As an example, oral history shows that the "box-frame" building was moved several times as the property evolved, and it had an interesting history as a one-room residence before it was moved to this farm in the 1930s. It was originally located at the northeastern tip of John(1)'s 119 acres (the edges of this farm when it was larger, but now across Rt. 18 on the opposite side of the Georges Run Valley), land included in Robert D(3)'s acquisition near Welsh Road and the one room schoolhouse that served these farms. Dave Clark, an African American man who worked on the township roads lived in it until the road work was done, and he died there. Dominic Delsignore (born 1923) recalls that as a young boy, Dave Clark was the first black man he had ever seen. Dominic thinks the Nesbit boys moved the building to this farm on a truck in 1938.

family managed to develop them. The census data does not match perfectly, not only because the farm boundaries have changed, but also because the farm overlapped the township line for part of its existence. Additionally, the property was surrounded by the farms of other members of the same family, and they appear to have been sharing facilities among themselves or leasing fields out to others. In 1850, they were producing wheat, corn, oats, and some hay and had a valuable orchard. They had horses, cattle, and swine at that point, as well as sheep, but their numbers were almost all below average for this township. The situation was similar in 1880, although, by that time, they were above average in eggs, corn, oats, and potatoes and had two more milch cows than average. By 1927, this Nesbit family had more acres in wheat, oats, and hay than average for the township, but they remained below average in other categories. Interestingly, though, as the farm downsized, the numbers are only below average on the basis of comparing one whole farm to another. This farm appears well above average in a number of categories, in comparison to the rest of the township, especially livestock numbers, when the census statistics are divided by the total number of farm acres. The land was being used more and more intensively as the acreage decreased. Also, by 1927, another family was working some of the acreage associated historically with this farm, so those statistics are not actually attributed at that point to this property's owners. By the mid-twentieth century, the farm had shifted to a small-scale dairy, as the current owner learned in conducting oral history interviews with former owners / family members, other occupants, and neighbors.

The Nesbit-Walker Farm as it Evolved Gradually with Changing Trends

While the county's larger farms grew and adopted mechanization, and as they developed large dairies after 1880 (after the Period of Significance), the Nesbit-Walker Farm remained intact because it followed several subsequent trends on small-scale agricultural properties in the region: the primary sheep-and-grain system being variably augmented and then replaced with the addition of both an orchard and a corn-and-hogs enterprise, as well as a shift to dairy, sale of minerals, and also to smaller and part time farming. In more recent times, it has remained in operation by following the county trend toward niche enterprises and horses. It is an example of the kind of small farm that emerged with notable integrity from a larger farming context.

Gradually, this property became an independent small part time farm, providing a second source of income for a working family and preserving the landscape and an important barn as well as an 1870s house. A portion of the acreage, including a large garden area defined by a historic picket fence around the house, plus part of a larger meadow, several upland fields, and several other outbuildings have remained to illustrate not only the design aspects of the farmstead's layout, but also continuing agricultural activities. While the log barn suited the larger acreages when it was manually farmed at the time, the same barn was fully adaptable to modern intensive farming practices; it is also both fully utilized and economically viable today, serving the current 17 acres at present with almost no changes after the Period of Significance except in the stall arrangement of the stable.

Significance under Criterion C

The 1875-ca.1880 House

An Italianate Style I-House (in Summary)

The house is significant as an example of an I-House, one of the more common patterns used in farmhouse construction in this county and across the mid-western states in the second half of the nineteenth century. Essentially a category for one-room-deep, two-story, side-gabled houses, the I-House form was identified by cultural geographers in the 1930s as a trend (observed long after most of the houses of this type had actually been built) in farmhouses that appeared beginning in the mid-nineteenth

century in several states in the Midwest and in Louisiana.[6] The concept provided a way to categorize houses that were commonly seen in the landscape, but were usually simple vernacular representatives of styles that were better known from literature about larger or more complicated examples. The geographic relationship to Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa (the three states whose names led to calling these "I-Houses") is also relevant to Washington County and the surrounding area. The I-House form is one of several indications in the rural folkways and material culture of the Allegheny Plateau region in the southwestern counties of Western Pennsylvania that relate closely to migration from this area west into and across the Midwest. This geographic pattern supports the relationships between parallel and similar cultural and agricultural regions that developed along these routes. More recently, the I-House has been identified by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in the MPDF for "Historic Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania ca.1700-1960" as one of the components found on many farms in various agricultural regions across Pennsylvania.

In Comparison to the Varieties of I-Houses Found in Washington County

In Washington County, most of the I-Houses resemble this house in having a 2-story, 5-bay façade and a center hall flanked by one main room to each side in each story. Many are set into banked sites. They frequently vary in the ways the formal front section related to rear kitchen appendages ("T" or "ell" wings or shed rear extensions). The wing sometimes predates the front part of the house. In some sections of the county, three bay I houses (with a center hall) are also found, as well as four-bay farmhouses without a center entrance or any evidence of a center stairway in the façade (a sub-type of the I-House that is one bay narrower than what is seen at the Nesbit-Walker House).[7] In contrast to I-Houses, the county also has other farmhouse types, such as two-room-deep (or Georgian plan) farmhouses; most of these are two full stories, and as such, they comprise about 20% of the county's farmhouses.[8] The county also has many three-bay houses with the bay containing the stairs at one of the outside walls. Considering the diversity of these variations, the Nesbit-Walker House is a very good representative and an example of the prototype at the midpoint of a wide continuum of possibilities, the 5-bay I-House type initially built without a rear wing. A large number of houses fitting this description appeared in a short period of time on established farms in this county and nearby areas in the second half of the nineteenth century.

The Trend to Upgrade Houses on Older Farms as a Strong Cash Economy Emerged

Washington County I-Houses often reflect the way the farmhouse was upgraded on the typical local farmstead after the 1840s. The construction of a new house had a symbolic value as the aesthetic focal point of the property, but the upgrades also reflected newly available building materials, the impact of new transportation systems on building materials and methods, as well as fashions; an increased role for designers as well as pre-manufactured building parts; growing families; innovations in home heating and domestic cooking; and the opportunity to build more modern facilities for processing some farm goods in upgraded kitchen spaces.

---

[6] See: Fred Kniffen, "Louisiana House Types," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 26 (1936), and Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing, Key to Diffusion" *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 55 (1965).

[7] Three-bay I-houses are found especially in or near villages or towns that were urbanized by the 1870s, and four-bay I-houses (with no stair hall bay) are more common in the southeastern quadrant of the county.

[8] A common variation on the two-room deep house is a house type that is one story across the front and back, with a large enough roof form to contain at least two second story bedrooms with windows in the gable ends; these (the 1½ -story variation on the five-bay house) represent about 10-15% of all farmhouses in the county. The Nesbit family was clearly aware of the different possibilities for laying out farmhouses. One branch of the family built a 1½-story brick farmhouse on the next farm to the west. Another branch of the family continued to live in a large two story log house on an adjoining farm. And yet another built a single cell "cabin" of brick, soon enlarging it to a "hall and parlor" plan.

The trend to rebuild Washington County farmhouses in the middle decades of the nineteenth century reflects the maturation and evolving economy of a region that had been settled more than a half century earlier. The county was heavily developed as an agricultural system by the 1820s, but a large percentage of the farmsteads in the system were still organized at that point around log or stone houses built before 1800 when the region was an emerging frontier. While the initial emphasis was on grain production, the typical farm kept sheep to rotate on fields to maintain fertility. This eventually led to an emphasis on fine-wooled, pedigreed sheep. Substantial advances in grain-and-sheep farming kept the system stable and productive through the 1810s and 1820s, but the region's textile industry was less stable. Before the War of 1812, the price of grain was supported in part by international markets. During the war, domestic markets replaced the international trade. A need for textiles in the war era initially stimulated the construction of ambitious textile mills in various localities scattered around this region, but most of these failed by the 1840s. By the 1850s, these factors led to an emphasis on sale of livestock for cash. Making use of the well-developed early roads passing though the region (and other transportation systems, such as railroads and steamboat lines), drovers began buying flocks of sheep and other livestock to take west to new farms in the Midwest, plus Colorado, Texas, and other distant places. By the 1860s and 1870s, this gave the area more of a cash economy and the ability to rebuild the houses on many of the county's farms.

Improvements in transportation and the availability of cash, as well as the first steps in agricultural mechanization, led to rebuilding a large percentage of the houses and sometimes the outbuildings on the county's existing farms. In the first half of the century, the replacement houses were usually executed in brick (at least on the larger farms in the central areas of the county, while in some other parts of the county, frame construction was common by the 1830s). Before the Civil War, these houses were most often designed with strong vernacular Greek Revival-style details that embellished an otherwise plain appearance. The most visually dominant features were usually heavy lines at the edges of the roof (e.g., deep eaves with tall fascia boards and no brackets, and eaves returns at gable ends, etc.), as well as rectangular window and door openings accentuated only with shutters and rectangles of stone or wood serving as lintels.[9] After the Civil War, new transportation systems, such as railroads, made new materials available and connected the region more to outside aesthetic influences. In the second half of the century, the possibility of rebuilding in wood, often with balloon framing and usually with stock millwork, made a new house markedly more attainable in price. On many farms, the houses were rebuilt as soon as cash and materials became available. Most of the new houses were I-Houses with some elements of fashionable styles such as the Greek Revival or the Italianate. Upgraded houses from this era are more common along the more important roads followed by the drovers. This includes houses that were remodeled to have blended styles, as well as examples that almost exclusively retain the characteristics of a single building campaign, as seen at the Nesbit-Walker House.

Italianate Style Surface Details, Inside and Out, on the I-House Form

In its aesthetic detailing, the house, like most farmhouses of its time, represents a rendition of the Italianate style that is simpler than the models often held out as "textbook" examples. The features of the Italianate style are relatively subtle here: the windows are articulated with peaked architraves, a variation on Italianate-style window trim used on less expensive houses at the same time that segmentally arched over-window trim was common in more expensive examples.[10] The peaked-lintel architraves used in this

[9] The 1855 brick Wonsettler House at the Dager-Wonsettler Farmstead [NR2002] in Amwell Township, Washington County, Pa., is an example of one of these strikingly plain, brick Greek Revival-style I-Houses from before the Civil War.

[10] In some cases, the buildings with segmental arches and those with peaked lintels on square openings are documented to be alternate approaches offered by the same builders as a way to make similar houses available in different price ranges. John Blythe, for instance, built many less expensive copies in wood of the more-expensive

case are clearly accentuated by the shutters. The shutters are further distinguished in being louvered in all locations. The house has prominent overhangs at the edges of the roof, but brackets and other "gingerbread" are confined to the front porch. The Nesbit-Walker House has always had a well-developed Italianate style front porch. After years of declining condition — though only minor design changes were ever made — it was recently restored to match the earliest image of the house. The porch leads into the house by way of a double-leaf front door in the center entrance bay. Inside the doorway is a center hallway with a staircase that is typical of Italianate-style houses in the area. The house's interior trim also has peaked lintels at all the openings including chimney cupboard doors in three out of four rooms while the parlor and hall, the most public rooms, are trimmed with deeply molded casings that are mitered at the top corners. In all the other rooms, each lintel board overhangs the side trim, while the parlor and hall have the same profile on the top and sides mitered like a picture frame. The fireplaces all have wood mantelpieces that are also consistent with Italianate style houses in the area. The staircase and mantelpieces, though not reflective of costly construction, appear to have been made elsewhere, either at one of the larger planning mills in the local area or shipped by rail from an even larger millwork factory.

The Context of Italianate Style Architecture and Construction Trends in this County

Italianate-influenced houses appeared on farms, in the smaller towns and villages, and in other specific places across the county by the mid-1870s. Larger, more formal examples first appeared in this county in at least two documented projects in the early 1860s,[11] although the style was known at least as early as the 1850s or earlier in northeastern U.S. cities including Pittsburgh. The distribution of Italianate style buildings in the county is relatively well documented in *Caldwell's Centennial Atlas of Washington County* (1876). In Monongahela City, at the county's eastern edge, the style was associated with at least one planing mill, Valley Mills, where one of the owners, John Blythe, was practicing as an architect.[12] Blythe's larger buildings, usually constructed in brick, are discussed in detail in contemporary newspaper accounts. However, many smaller frame buildings with related but less complicated details have been attributed to him, as well. In these examples, the detailing often resembles the window architraves and other features found at the Nesbit-Walker House. Within and around Burgettstown, a smaller town than Monongahela City, Caldwell's *Atlas* illustrates a wide range of Italianate-style examples. A similar planing mill like Valley Mills may have been operating in Washington and/or Burgettstown at the time — the Nesbit-Walker House is on the road, now known as Rt. 18, connecting Washington and Burgettstown — perhaps with another architect or "master builder" acting as an owner/operator like John Blythe, developing and adjusting the designs to specific sites. A number of distinctive Italianate-style farm houses in the Caldwell's *Atlas* illustrations were located on farms and in the countryside between Burgettstown and Washington (12 miles north and 6 miles south of this house, respectively), the area where the Nesbit-Walker House is found.

---

wood-trimmed houses his wealthier clients had commissioned in the Monongahela City area. For further information on John Blythe and his influence in the eastern half of Washington County, see the National Register nominations for the Longwell House [NR1993] and Bethel AME Church of Monongahela City [NR2002].

[11] The first Italianate style building in the county was probably William Smith's "Iron Hall," built 1861, at the center of Washington, across the street from the courthouse. Notably, its cast-iron façade details were designed and produced elsewhere, but the local builder matched them in using biforate windows and other details in the construction of equally visible side elevations. The builder's name is known (Nelson Van Kirk), but, although he built several substantial buildings in the county in this era, none of the known sources on him refer to him as an architect, and some of his buildings are known to have been designed by others. The style was used three years later, in 1864, in the construction of a church in Cross Creek Village, not far from the Nesbit-Walker House. Other well-documented Italianate examples in this county date from the late 1860s or later. For example, an Italianate style town hall was built in Washington in 1869.

[12] National Register nominations for the Longwell House [NR1993] and Bethel AME Church of Monongahela City [NR2002].

Notably, several Nesbit family members were builders and/or millwrights at the time this house was constructed. William R. Nesbit and J.W. Nesbit are listed in the directory in Caldwell's *Atlas* as "carpenters and builders." A John Nesbit is listed as a millwright (a relative, but a different person from the John Nesbit who owned the farm at the time). It is quite possible that these family members are responsible for the carpentry reflected in this house.

The Kitchen in the 1875 Design and ca.1880 Re-Design of this House

The house has a couple of features that make it different from what the I-House form and Italianate style categorization suggest. For instance, it has a small, shed-roofed addition across the back, two small rooms on each floor with a roof that extends about two-thirds of the length of one slope of the original gabled form, similar to a catslide roof, creating an overall saltbox form. The rooms were added about 1880[13] to update the recently built kitchen facilities, and thus the kitchen space from the 1875 design was replaced.

Although the basement kitchen was apparently not satisfactory to the family for more than a few years, special accommodations had been made in the 1875 design to make it suitable for domestic cooking and probably also processing of farm goods. It has a large cooking fireplace and a window and door ensemble placed to provide light to the areas near the fireplace. The room was finished with two built-in wall cupboards (still in place) and the southern half of the cellar was plastered. Much of the plaster is still in place on the inner side of the exterior walls, but the partition and the ceiling plaster are missing.

The addition, on the other hand, appears to have been designed around updated ideas about how to accommodate cooking and food processing, as well as the incumbent source of heating. It has a chimney that was centered between the two small first-story rooms, with a fireplace to one side and a stove thimble and hearth for a stove to the other. By contrast to the braced timber-frame construction of the 1875 house, the addition was built with sawn lumber. All four rooms were finished with plaster and trim except for one wood-paneled wall containing a boxed stair in the north room of the first story. The thimble on the south side of the chimney accommodated a cook stove. Although the spaces are small by today's kitchen standards, and interrupted by a chimney and cookstove, this layout reflects an effort to design a functional and easily heated two-room suite by the standards of that time. It also reflects a trend to use wood cook stoves in this county, which were especially popular in local farmhouses from about 1880 forward. Near the cook stove location, a cupboard was built into the wall between the new kitchen and dining room. It opens from both sides and allows dishes to be passed from the kitchen to the dining room and back. The first story room in the other half of the kitchen addition (opposite the cook stove, on the north side of the chimney) may have been intended as a breakfast room or a second work space as part of a kitchen suite. The fireplace may have heated an area for a work table or small dining table in winter, not far from the warmth of the cook stove, when it was not necessary to heat the larger dining room. Above these kitchen-related spaces, the added spaces included two small second story rooms, possibly intended as bedrooms or work space (such as a sewing room). Bathroom fixtures were added into one of these rooms in 1981. This included a tub installed in the center of the room, plus a toilet and a wall-hung lavatory on the south wall, but otherwise only minimal changes were made to the room.

[13] The date of the addition is not well documented, but the stylistic similarities in the siding, windows, and trim indicate that it was almost contemporary with the larger house while the hidden framing indicates that a change in construction techniques occurred; the original frame house is constructed as a braced frame of rough timbers with mortise-and-tenon joinery, while sawn lumber and balloon framing were used in framing the addition. The two-sided wall cupboard with a pass-through opening in the wall between the kitchen and dining room is another clue, as it appears to have been created to mimic one of the original back windows of the house, possibly reusing the interior trim.

The Use of 6/6 Sash Windows after 2/2 and 1/1 Glass Sizes Were Available
While the addition reflects a move to improve the design to keep up with innovations almost immediately, the use of 6/6 sash windows is somewhat unusual in an Italianate style house by the mid-1870s because larger glass sizes, more in keeping with this style, were then readily available, at least in more urban parts of the county. The region was actually home to a number of glass factories producing blown cylinder glass at this time, though these were all along the rivers, 15 or more miles from this central part of the county. The window design may reflect the cost or limited availability of large glass sizes in the central part of the county (away from the rivers and factories); or, like the use of a braced frame in the main house, it may represent the carpenter's traditional conservatism.

Relationship of the House to the Site
Another important aspect of the architectural design of the Nesbit-Walker House is the way it relates to its site. The house was placed on a rise at the center of an otherwise bowl-shaped agricultural landscape. This gave it a prominent appearance from the main north-south road (now Rt. 18) which passes along the east side of Georges Run, thus across the valley from the house. The domestic sphere included the banked siting which made a fair-sized window possible in the original kitchen at the southeast corner of the basement. While the front of the house crowns a sloped lawn, adding drama to the view from across the valley, the backyard is nearly level. The hilltop location made it possible to see most of the farmland from the house's windows, an important consideration in the sheep raising region. This was because sheep naturally go uphill, and they were often intentionally pastured in upland fields, above the farmstead, in rotation with crops, in order to provide manure in areas that were difficult to reach with carted manure from the barn. These same areas were close to woodlots that harbored predators, and as a result, farmers kept an eye on the fields from the house if the property had the advantage of good sightlines. They also needed to watch the sheep in mating season to maximize the possibility of the ewes bearing young. Both the backyard and front lawn are surrounded by a picket fence, apparently added a year or two after the house was finished. It defines a domestic sphere with a high visual sense of order despite the contrast between the slope to the front and the level garden to the rear. The arrangement helped to hide the privy, on the fence line near the northwest corner of the house. The fence also helped to define the relationship to the site of the former springhouse, downhill from the southeast corner of the enclosed area. Similar domestic garden areas defined by picket fences are well documented on many of the farm drawings in Caldwell's *Atlas* (1876).

The 1845 Log Barn
Its Significance in the Area of Architecture as a Functional Design to Meet Agricultural Needs
The Nesbit-Walker Barn, built by approximately 1845, reflects the way handed-down ideas about construction and design shaped agricultural facilities, especially in the era before railroads. A surviving example of this building type, it is significant for architecture, for the functional way this building form meets the agricultural purposes of processing grain, housing animals, and seasonal storage of fodder under one roof. It was also adaptable enough to continue to meet those needs as the parameters of agriculture changed. Importantly, it shows how building materials available on the farm were used by the earliest generations of farm families (up to the 1840s) to build outbuildings that could accommodate these functions logically and efficiently while also having what was needed to adapt as circumstances changed.

Classic Example of Three-Bay Barn Design
The barn uses the traditional three-bay design of two cubic spaces (hay mows, which in this case are two log cribs) flanking a more open circulation and work area (the threshing floor) under a single roof that spanned all three bays and with a lower level stable that housed the livestock. This provided for a functional separation of the various ways the barn was used. For instance, it segregated the animals and

manure from the edible goods. The upper level was designed for processing and storing hay, straw, and grain and keeping them dry and clean. At the same time, the lower level provided the animals with a space that stayed reasonably cool in summer and warm in winter because of the banked location and because it was insulated by hay and other materials stored above. While it was critical that hay and grain remain dry in the upper level (to avoid generating heat that could become intense enough to cause fires), the lower level's doors and orientation to the sun and wind helped in the management of the moist environment caused by the animals. The design also separated both the animals and the animal fodder from specific areas set aside for special purposes, such as the granaries where concentrated reserves of wheat and other valuable grain were stored out of reach of farm animals and away from pests until needed.

The hay mows were designed to store loose hay in well-ventilated, cubic areas. In this barn, the hay was forked onto a "floor" of loose-laid wood (split rails) in each mow to maximize the airflow from below, just as the unchinked logs provided air flow from the four sides. The storage space provided in the hay mows was especially important in areas that experienced cold and snowy winters when the animals relied on stored fodder instead of daily grazing. The rails are still in place as the floor in one of the two mows.

The Form and Design Reflect the Barn's Most Important Functions

Between the mows, the center space of the barn provided a place for the farmer to thresh grain in the winter months after harvest. Sheaves were brought in after field-drying and placed overhead in a special expandable loft area called an overmow, still apparent in the upper reaches of the barn's center bay. A special wood floor (still in place) in the center bay provided a clean, tight surface for threshing the grain. Through winter, farmers used this sheltered area as a workspace, tossing down a few sheaves at a time from the overmow and methodically beating, or "threshing out," the grain with flails, tools with long handles and loosely tied heads designed to dislodge the dried grain from the stalks. Like most barns in Pennsylvania from the era of hand threshing, the Nesbit-Walker Barn has a "straw door" for tossing out straw after the grain has been removed, and it has other features to help in winnowing and other steps in the process.

The forebay design allows straw to be thrown out to be piled up for future use as bedding and to be integrated into the management of manure below without blocking the stable access. Although threshing and winnowing were mechanized on many farms about the time this barn was built, threshing barns pre-dating mechanization needed to be sited to capture wind, as well as to manage natural forces affecting heat and humidity and to offer some control of sunlight, rain, snow, and similar weather factors. One reason why this barn may have been sited north-south is that the prevailing wind is from the west. This means that the forebay area faces east, although the ideal orientation for solar effects may have been to face south. Though mainly sloped east-west, the site is also sloped north-south, so that the sun would have provided some heat at the south end of the stable. At the north end, however, the lower level was originally barely excavated and provided space that was only tall enough for sheep.

The lower level of a barn of this design contained the stabling and pens for the animals, originally reached through doors or gates in a wall at the back of the forebay overhang. Placing the animals at a lower level from the grain and hay allowed feed to be lowered gradually to the animals on a daily or as-needed basis, especially in winter. The banked siting created an area for animal stalls and pens that was half underground and thus remained at a moderate temperature and less exposed to wind and rain most of the year. Access to light and air on the south and east sides allowed the sun to warm the stable in winter, provided some shade to cool it in summer and kept it ventilated year-round. The design also accommodated the management of manure and straw. Straw could be stored near the stable, either in part of the barn's upper level, or in a pile near the manure, or both. An essential material for maintaining a

stable, it was also a byproduct of the grain threshing process. The straw was needed both for bedding in the animal stalls, where it also soaked up animal waste allowing it to be carried out to the manure pile, and also as a dry material added directly to the animal dung to keep the manure in balance as it "rotted" (composted). The building was built to accommodate these processes.

All of these activities and the related considerations about how materials moved in and out of the barn, how hay and straw were stored and used, how sheaves were stored, how grain was cleaned and stored, how the farmer worked in the barn through winter, and how the animals were accommodated below, are clearly apparent in this barn's simple log design.

An Example of Log Construction with Some Features Typical of Early Log Barns

While the construction of three-bay banked barns with forebays and the use of log construction are traditions that developed in earlier generations, over several centuries, this barn was built just when many of the factors behind the design were changing. This particular example reflects that these design and construction techniques, including processing grain by hand and using logs as available for construction, continued to be relevant right up to the moment when mechanization appeared. Log construction ceased to be popular in this county in the same decade that this barn was built. This example shows the continuation of traditional design based on hand-threshing, even though the era was ending. The three-bay design, on the other hand, remained extremely popular, as some parts of the design found new uses — threshing floors typically became repurposed as spaces to hold the threshing machine and/or other machinery or wagons; however, this example shows how the older forms were carried forward. It also shows that log-crib construction remained in use even though steam-powered sawmills, planing mills, railroads, and other developments had already made (or were about to make) more polished and efficient building materials readily available. Frame construction would soon become dominant just as new stone, brick, or log-crib barns would become rare.[14] Three-bay barn design remained popular for another century because of its flexibility, but the newer examples almost always used hewn frameworks, some sawn lumber, and sawn or planed siding after the 1840s.

This Barn Reflects Adaptability to Change, Especially Important to Barns in This County

Even though techniques for building new barns were changing, existing log barns like this one were adaptable to meet changing needs. The three-bay log construction allowed for a number of functional adjustments in response to evolving circumstances as the farming activities developed. An integral overhang, or "forebay," on the downhill side of the barn allowed the hay storage and grain processing to occur, and for the procedures to evolve, with minimal disturbance to the lower level where animals were housed.

This design was favorable to the increasing emphasis on livestock and forage-based farming in this county in the middle decades of the nineteenth century in part because it accommodated adjustments. Washington County farms may have seen more change in barn design over the years by comparison to some other parts of the state, as the area's farms evolved from an early emphasis on grain production to an emphasis on livestock. In the early era, a central function of the barn was hand threshing. Because a large portion of the county's farm land is sloped, the farms kept sheep to be rotated on the steeply sloped outlying crop fields. In the period when grain was the focus, the sheep were not necessarily stabled in the threshing barn, or even in any building, since the point of having them was to produce manure as well as some fiber for domestic use. Although the barns were often built with a stall or two for dairy cattle, and maybe one for a horse, the shift to a livestock emphasis first involved a need for open areas in the stable. As the flock numbers increased, the stables were used to pen large numbers of sheep either in an open

[14] The use of hewn timber, with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints remained popular in framing buildings as large as a barn, but sawn or milled lumber (used for things like siding) was a factor in the changing trends.

space or in large box stalls. In time, the sheep came to be segregated on many farms by gender or family in two or more buildings for breeding reasons. Eventually, the sheep-based system made the sloped outlying fields fertile enough to support an increase in livestock in general. The livestock emphasis led to keeping more horses and cows than ever, and this led to changes in the layout of the stable level of many barns, as seen in this barn. In this barn, as with many in the county, the stable wall was eventually moved to make more space for animals in the area under the forebay. In most barns in this county, the original stall configuration changed to open areas for sheep by 1850-1880, and then it was rebuilt later for cows and/or horses, as was the case here.

The Barn's Design and the Evolving Methods of Manure Management

As the emphasis on the larger barn-sheltered animals increased (as opposed to keeping common sheep, often kept outdoors in the fields), redistributing barn manure to the fields became more important. The highly valued manure and soiled bedding could be brought out of the barn, mixed with straw as needed, and composted to make new fertile topsoil to be distributed periodically back to the fields. This was more difficult in this county, because of the steep slope of the outer fields on most farms, than it was in some other parts of the state. With the overhang in place, over part of the barnyard, the flexible design initially made it more possible to control the amount of rain and other natural elements affecting the manure. Animals could also come and go past the manure pile to the stable doors, and they could find some shelter under the forebay when a sudden change in weather occurred. The expansion of the stable at the barn notably only enclosed this space below the forebay in stages and never completely.

The Log Form, the Forebay, and the Possibility of Other Shed Additions

As seen in this example, log construction was a highly flexible way to build the basic form of the barn. It made the hay mows the primary units and allowed them to be used in supporting other elements as needed. By contrast to the log cribs, the forebay was structurally an overhanging shed with walls made of sawn and/or hewn lumber. It made it possible to store grain and often straw inside the enclosure of the barn's upper level. The grain was most often kept in one corner of the forebay where exposure to the exterior air kept the bottom surface and at least two other sides of the "granary" as dry as possible. This was the least likely area to be attacked by pests because it was relatively dry and more difficult to reach from the ground. Another part of the forebay was often used as a straw shed. In this barn, both corner areas served as granaries at different times. Because of the structural support provided by the log-crib hay mows, the design could be adapted in many ways, including with other exterior additions. On some other barns (though not evidenced here until modern times), shed-roofed additions were added around these basic components to expand the stable or storage spaces, to create sheltered but open areas where animals could come and go under roof to avoid inclement weather, or to cover the manure and straw stockpiled outside the stable wall. The additions also protected the logs from the elements. As a result, the majority of the county's other log barns, in time, became hidden behind frame additions and other alterations, such as changes to doors and rooflines to create openings large enough to accommodate machinery, etc. The basic form is more visible here because only the forebay hid the logs in the original form, and only a small portion of the remaining log walls are covered today by other shed additions (a modern side shed added with minimal impact to the historic materials).

The Flexibility of the Log Framework

The barn is an excellent model of the basic elements of this flexible design. Although it has a forebay with corner granaries from two different generations, it does not have corresponding sheds to hide the log construction on the uphill side or end walls (aside from one modern side shed added after 1981). It also does not have run-in sheds, or manure sheds on the downhill side, or other evidence of such adjustments.

But it does have the basic design elements that allowed for the adjustments,[15] and the stable was expanded in more than one campaign to meet the farm's changing needs.

The Hinter Dach, Possibly the Last Remaining Example in Pennsylvania

Furthermore, in constructing the roof, the builders created flexibility on two sides of the barn, with an overhang on both the uphill and downhill eave sides (the downhill overhang being the forebay). The uphill overhang allowed for flexible use of the hay side of the barn (the clean and manure-free side through which fodder and grain were moved into the barn's upper levels). Although this overhang was important in the evolution of Swiss, German, and Pennsylvania barn designs, and it even has a name in the German language ("hinter dach," or "rear roof"), it is a very rare feature: this may be the last surviving example of a log barn with this feature in Pennsylvania.

The design resembles that of early prototypical barns identified in Switzerland and other parts of Europe where this kind of agricultural outbuilding evolved over many centuries. Robert Ensminger has traced many of the characteristics of banked barns in Pennsylvania, including those of much larger barns, both earlier and later examples, to Swiss prototypes where log construction was used to create similar-shaped hay mows, threshing floor areas, overhanging forebays, granaries (and stairs) in the forebay, and other related features. As Ensminger explains it, these construction techniques and design features were carried to Pennsylvania, and they gradually evolved into the large frame, stone, or brick barns still seen in Pennsylvania today. In the nineteenth century, Pennsylvania farmers identified certain barns in particular as "Sweitzer" barns because of certain traits in the way the forebay was appended to the rest of the design, reflecting a tradition that was understood to be of Swiss origin. In the second edition of his book, *The Pennsylvania Barn* (2003), Ensminger discusses this barn specifically in a short review of the diversity of barn types found in the counties at the state's southwestern corner.[16]

The barn was also studied in a survey conducted by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1995. The surveyor, Jerry Clouse, discusses the barn briefly in his survey report entitled *A Survey of Agricultural/Vernacular Architecture of Central and Southwestern Pennsylvania: With Particular Emphasis on the Barns of These Regions*.[17] The report describes the barn's unusual features, and although written analysis is not long or deep, a pen drawing was used depicting this barn alongside one other log barn and a stone house in a collage on the cover of the report. This survey became one of the sources for revisions made in preparing the second edition in 2003 of Robert Ensminger's book on *The Pennsylvania Barn*.

In the eighteenth century when this barn type was being introduced in Pennsylvania, a large number of barns across the state were constructed of log. Log construction was especially prevalent in the first generation of farm developments in the state's southwestern corner, an area that includes Washington County, beginning when the area was settled as tens of thousands of pioneer farmsteads between 1769 and about 1790. Washington County had over 1,000 nascent farms by the time of the 1798 United States Direct Tax, and the majority of these probably had rudimentary temporary shelters that were soon replaced with ground or banked two-level log barns. As the largely agricultural landscape of the county

[15] There is also some evidence of other traditional adjustments: angled holes in the sills in the south crib suggest that it may have had a drying rack, a feature found on log barns in Europe, but not known to have survived on any American examples.

[16] Robert Ensminger, *The Pennsylvania Barn*, 2nd edition, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003 (first published in 1993), pages 282-283.

[17] Jerry A. Clouse, *A Survey of Agricultural/Vernacular Architecture of Central and Southwestern Pennsylvania: With Particular Emphasis on the Barns of These Regions*, Harrisburg, Pa.: The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, September 1995, pages 107-108.

continued to develop throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, nearly all of the original barns were augmented and/or replaced by barns and buildings of other styles and types. This barn was built at the end of the era of both hand threshing and log construction, as discussed above. This barn reflects traditions introduced almost a century earlier which are now no longer represented by more than a handful of extant examples across the region and state. Several features suggest what would most likely have been found in the earliest examples of barn construction in the region, including round (unhewn) logs[18] (many still retaining bark in this case), split rail hay mow flooring, and the use of har-hung barn doors (doors hung on homemade wood hinges where the hinge stile of each door has a round tenon that turns in a round mortise in the top and bottom members of the jamb).

The Criterion C Significance of the Barn in Relation to Barns across Pennsylvania

Several features of the barn are found in no other examples in this county, and some may be unique across Pennsylvania. Some of the same features have been documented on lost examples or on other rare examples here or in the parts of Europe where the precedents of and prototypes for the Pennsylvania barn types have been identified. In this context, these now-unusual details are understood to be part of the larger evolution of barn design. As such, they are significant evidence of an early construction type and of certain specific techniques that illustrate key parts of the story of the evolution of barn design in Pennsylvania.

[18] Construction with unhewn, or round, logs was often seen as the precursor to a later replacement building using hewn logs. In the construction of log houses, early sources speak of round-log cabins that were later replaced by hewn log houses. In log house construction, the early round log examples, the ones properly called “cabins,” are now all long gone.

Figure #1
Historic (1981) Log Barn interior: clear view of split rail mow flooring, see photo 21. Camera facing north.

Figure #2
Historic photograph of farmhouse south elevation (left) and east façade (right): captioned "our home: built in: the year: 1875"; this photo used in porch reproduction, see photo #2. Camera facing northwest.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Barker, William J. *Map of Washington County, from actual surveys by James M Sherman and A R Day*. North Hector, NY: William J. Barker, 1856. Reprinted by Washington County Historical Society, ca.1982.

Beach, John Richard, *The Sheep Industry in the Upper-Ohio Valley, 1770-1973: A Geographical Analysis*. Doctoral Dissertation for the University of Pittsburgh, 1973.

Beach, John Richard, *Two Hundred Years of Sheep Raising in the Upper Ohio Area, with Special Reference to Washington Country, Pennsylvania*, Washington, PA: Washington County Commissioners, 1981.

Beers, S. N., and F. W. Beers, Civil Engineers, *Map of Washington County, Pennsylvania, from actual Surveys…*, Philadelphia: Published by A. Pomeroy & S. W. Treat, 1861.

Caldwell, J.A., *Atlas of Washington County, Pennsylvania*. Condit, Ohio: J.A. Caldwell, 1876.

Chartiers.com, "Heads of Family Census 1830" and various graveyard records, accessed at www.Chartiers.com , accessed in March 2015.

Clouse, Jerry, *A Study of Agricultural/Vernacular Architecture of Central and Southwestern Pennsylvania*, Harrisburg, Pa.: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, September 1995.

Commemorative Biographical Record of Washington County, Pennsylvania, Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co., 1893.

Crumrine, Boyd, *History of Washington County, Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: H.L. Everts & Co, 1882.

Doddridge, Joseph, (Narcissa Doddridge, and William Thomas Lindsey,) *Notes on the Settlement and Indian Wars of the Western Parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania*, Pittsburgh: 1912 edition of 1824 text.

Ensminger, Robert F., *The Pennsylvania Barn: Its Origin, Evolution, and Distribution in North America*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press; 2nd edition, 2003.

Ensminger Bob, "Variant Log Sweitzer Barns in Pennsylvania," *Timber Framing*, Volume 48, June l998.

Fischer, David Hackett, *Albion's Seed*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Halstead, Byron D, ed., *Barns, Sheds & Outbuildings*. NY: Orange Judd, 1881 (reprinted by Castle Freeman, Brattleboro, Vt.: Alan C. Hood & Co., 1994).

Kniffen, Fred, "Folk Housing, Key to Diffusion" *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 55 (1965).

Kniffen, Fred, "Louisiana House Types," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 26 (1936).

Interviews conducted by Laura Walker (owner of the Nesbit-Walker Farm) with former occupants, owners, and neighbors, conducted between 1981 and 2013, notes kept on the property in the possession of Laura Walker.

Marotta, Edward A., ed., *Washington County: The Second 100 Years* (especially chapter on "Agriculture" by Patrice M. Swihart) Washington, Pennsylvania: Washington County Commissioners, 1981.

Martin, Charles E., *Hollybush: Folk Building and Social Change in an Appalachian Community*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1984.

McDowell, James W. and John W. McDowell, Attorneys at Law, Abstract of Title (unpublished typescript), 70 acres and 11 perches [land of] John A. Nesbit, Canton and Chartiers townships, Washington County, PA. 11 July 1902.

McElwaine, Wilbur J., *United States Direct Tax of 1798 Tax lists for Washington County PA*, [(c) 1997], Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2008.

McMurry, Sally, "Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania, c1700-1960" (Context Statement) Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, undated, as posted on web site of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, web address: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pennsylvania%27s_agricultural_history/2584 (accessed 3 August 2015).

McMurry, Sally, "Southwestern Pennsylvania Sheep Raising and Diversified Agriculture" (Context Statement), Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, undated, as posted on web site of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, web address: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/document/827582/nar_sec11_southwest_pdf (accessed 3 August 2015).

McMurry, Sally, "The Pennsylvania Barn as a Collective Resource 1830-1900," *Buildings and Landscapes*, Volume 16, No. 1 (Spring 2009).

National Register nominations for Bethel AME Church House [Monongahela City, Washington County, Pa., NR2002], the Longwell House [Monongahela City, Washington County, Pa., NR1993], the Martin Farmstead [North Strabane Township, Washington County, Pa., NR1995], the Robert Parkinson Farm [Morris Township Washington County, Pa., NR2001], and the Thome Farm [North Strabane Township, Washington County, Pa., NR1997]

Necciai, Terry, "An Introduction to Folk Types & Cultural Geography of Washington County and Its Neighbors," Presentation to Pioneer America Society, 9 October 1999 (unpublished, copies of illustrated summary in possession of preparer and in possession of Nesbit-Walker Farm property owner).

Necciai, Terry A., *Building, Agriculture, and Development in Washington County Pennsylvania 1769-1950* (unpublished 2001 draft of context paper to summarize Washington County Townships Survey, as conducted [ongoing] by Washington County History and Landmarks Foundation).

Necciai, Terry A., RA, "Indiscriminate Location: The Geography of Organic Farm Boundaries," *P.A.S.T. (Pioneer America Society Transactions)*, paper presented at the September 2012 annual meeting of the Pioneer America Society, published (2013) in 2012 edition of *PAST*.

Necciai, Terry A., "The Pennsylvania Farm Landscape as a Cultural Resource," unpublished research paper developed under a Charles E. Peterson Fellowship from the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, 2011-2012.

Pillsbury, Richard, and Andrew Kardos, *A Field Guide to Folk Architecture of Northeastern United States* (Geography Publications at Dartmouth #8), Hanover, New Hampshire: Department of Geography, Dartmouth College, 1970.

Property survey made for Laura and Wickliffe Walker by Elmer Becker dated March, 1990.

Shoemaker, Alfred L., ed., *The Pennsylvania Barn*. Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center, Franklin and Marshall College, 1955 (later reprinted by Kutztown College, 1959) (contains photographs of other similar log barns, some now lost).

Township Warrantee (Land Patent) Maps from Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission web site, web address: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/land_records/3184 (accessed March 2015).

Walker, Laura, "The Other Barn in Southwestern Pennsylvania," oral presentation on meadow barns and other small secondary buildings appearing as sheep shelters in the region, Pioneer America Society Annual Meeting, Bardstown, Kentucky, 19 October 2001.

Washington County Court Records (Will Books, Deed Books).

Washington County History and Landmarks Foundation. *Preserving Our Past, Landmark Architecture of Washington County, Pa*. Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1975 (and 1996 edition).

Williams, Michael Ann, *Homeplace: The Social Use & Meaning of the Folk Dwelling in Southwestern North Carolina*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1991.

Zinsser, K., and Raymond M. Bell, *1783 Tax Lists and 1790 Federal Census for Washington County, Pennsylvania*, Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1988.

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 #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

__x_ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____N/A_____

---

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____17_____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: Longitude:

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [X] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17 Easting: 558959 Northing: 4454766

2. Zone: 17 Easting: 559415 Northing: 4454882

3. Zone: 17 Easting: 559487 Northing: 4454615

4. Zone: 17 Easting: 559019 Northing: 4454527

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries are shown on the attached map, drawn to scale, labeled with a scale in which 1" equals 160', and printed at the size required for this scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is based on the current property lines as recorded in the current deed and illustrated in tax parcel maps and similar documents. The boundary contains all the buildings associated with the farmstead during the Period of Significance. It also includes open land (domestic garden area, barnyard areas, and some inner fields) that date from the Period of Significance and convey the significance.

---

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Terry A. Necciai, RA
organization: Terry A. Necciai, RA, Historic Preservation Consulting
street & number: 400 Meade Street
city or town: Monongahela City state: Pennsylvania zip code: 15063
e-mail: losghello@aol.com
telephone: (703) 731-6266
date: March 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Nesbit-Walker Farm

City or Vicinity: Canton Township

County: Washington State: Pennsylvania

Photographer: Wickliffe W. Walker

Date Photographed: 10/2012 – 9/2013

Location of digital originals: 173 Mulberry Hill, Washington PA 15301

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 of 30 (PA_Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm_0001)
Farmhouse east façade. Camera facing west. Taken August 2013.

Photo #2 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0002)
Farmhouse south elevation (left) and east façade (right): two story porch reproduced from historic photo, picket fence, and stone retaining wall. Camera facing northwest. Taken February 2013.

Photo #3 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0003)
Farmhouse north (left) and west (right) elevations: rear yard, barn in background. Camera facing southeast. Taken February 2013.

Photo #4 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0004)
Farmhouse south elevation: detail of the one story 3' x 10' bump-out addition to accommodate unitized kitchen cabinets during kitchen remodeling ca 1930-1940. Camera facing north. Taken February 2013.

Photo #5 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0005)
Farmhouse interior, stair hall: original ceiling medallion, mahogany stair newel, rail and balustrade, heavily molded door frames grain-painted to imitate mahogany, under-stair paneling and rear door grain-painted to imitate oak, reproduced narrow stencil line. Camera facing west. Taken November 2012.

Photo #6 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0006)
Farmhouse interior, parlor: original ceiling medallion, heavy wood moldings, panels beneath windows, mantle and baseboards all grain-painted to imitate curly maple. Wall stenciling is a conjectural reproduction echoing ceiling medallion design, but with stencil color chosen from historic traces from a stenciled frieze. Camera facing north. Taken February 2013.

Photo #7 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0007)
Farmhouse interior, dining room: built-in china cupboard left of shallow working fireplace with coal basket, pass through cupboard to kitchen at right, woodwork is softwood grain-painted to imitate oak. Camera facing southwest. Taken November 2012.

Photo #8 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0008)
Farmhouse interior, kitchen: restored Hoosier brand cabinetry, original to the bump-out addition of ca 1930-1940, now adapted to conceal an under-counter refrigerator. Camera facing south. Taken February 2013.

Photo #9 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0009)
Farmhouse interior, kitchen: functioning vintage wood/coal cookstove. Camera facing northwest. Taken February 2013.

Photo #10 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0010)
Farmhouse interior, master bedroom: shallow working fireplace with coal basket. Camera facing south. Taken November 2012.

Photo #11 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0011)
Farmhouse interior, study: woodwork is grain-painted to imitate oak, closet to left of chimney, cupboard to right, stencil is an exact reproduction of the original. Camera facing north. Taken February 2013.

Photo #12 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0012)
Farmhouse interior, bathroom. Camera facing south. Taken December 2012.

Photo #13 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0013)
Farmhouse interior, cellar: from left to right, sink, window, door, large cooking fireplace. Camera facing southeast. Taken September 2013.

Photo #14 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0014)
Farmscape, barnyard: from left, hog house, barn showing recent lean-to (a traditional addition type) on north side to protect the logs, slipboard fence, and corn crib. Camera facing south. Taken February 2013.

Photo #15 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0015)
Log Barn west (left) and south (right) elevations: double crib barn, constructed of round logs, some with the bark on, vee notched corners, cantilevered rear roof extension, a “hinter dach.” Rock faced block foundation under the south end dates to about 1940, when a small dairy was installed in the stable. Camera facing northeast. Taken February 2013.

Photo #16 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0016)
Log Barn, west elevation: detail of plank ramp and two swinging doors to threshing floor, door of very wide vertical sawn boards, man-door now has modern metal hinges. Camera facing east. Taken February 2013.

Photo #17 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0017)
Log Barn, interior: remaining framing of original granary in forebay. Camera facing south. Taken October 2012.

Photo #18 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0018)
Log Barn, interior: log crib with opening into mow enlarged on right to accommodate square hay bales, pegged-on tie beam to forebay on left, second granary of milled tongue-and-groove boards. Camera facing southwest. Taken February 2013.

Photo #19 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0019)
Log Barn, interior: har hung doors. Camera facing west. Taken February 2013.

Photo #20 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0020)
Log Barn, interior: detail of upper hinge tenon of har hung door (few har hung doors remain operable across PA; unusual for doors of this type, the door is fully contained in a frame, and the frame is stabilized to the log cribs with flanking pegs, which reduces stresses and torque on the individual logs in the crib). Camera facing southwest. Taken February 2013.

Photo #21 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0021)
Log Barn, interior: detail of north crib mow floor of loose-laid split rails, sufficient for hay, difficult to walk on, economical of sawn lumber and nails (once common in early barns in southwest PA, few floors of this type remain). Camera facing east and down. Taken August 2013.

Photo #22 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0022)
Farmscape. Camera facing north-northwest. Taken October 2012.

Photo #23 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0023)
Farmscape: from left to right, recent livestock run-in shed, house in trees, temporary shed, recent garage, box-framed building, corn crib, barn. Camera facing east. Taken October 2012.

Photo #24 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0024)
Farmscape: box-framed building, pastures edged with wooded hilltops. Camera facing west. Taken February 2013.

Photo #25 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0025)
Farmscape: recent garage (a pole building but of traditional form) in relation to house, picket fence, and temporary shed with corn crib and barn in background. Camera facing southeast. Taken February 2013.

Photo #26 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0026)
Box-framed Building: east (left) and north (right) elevations (an unusual construction method in the region, and traditionally portable, this structure has been relocated around the farm several times). Camera facing southwest. Taken October 2012.

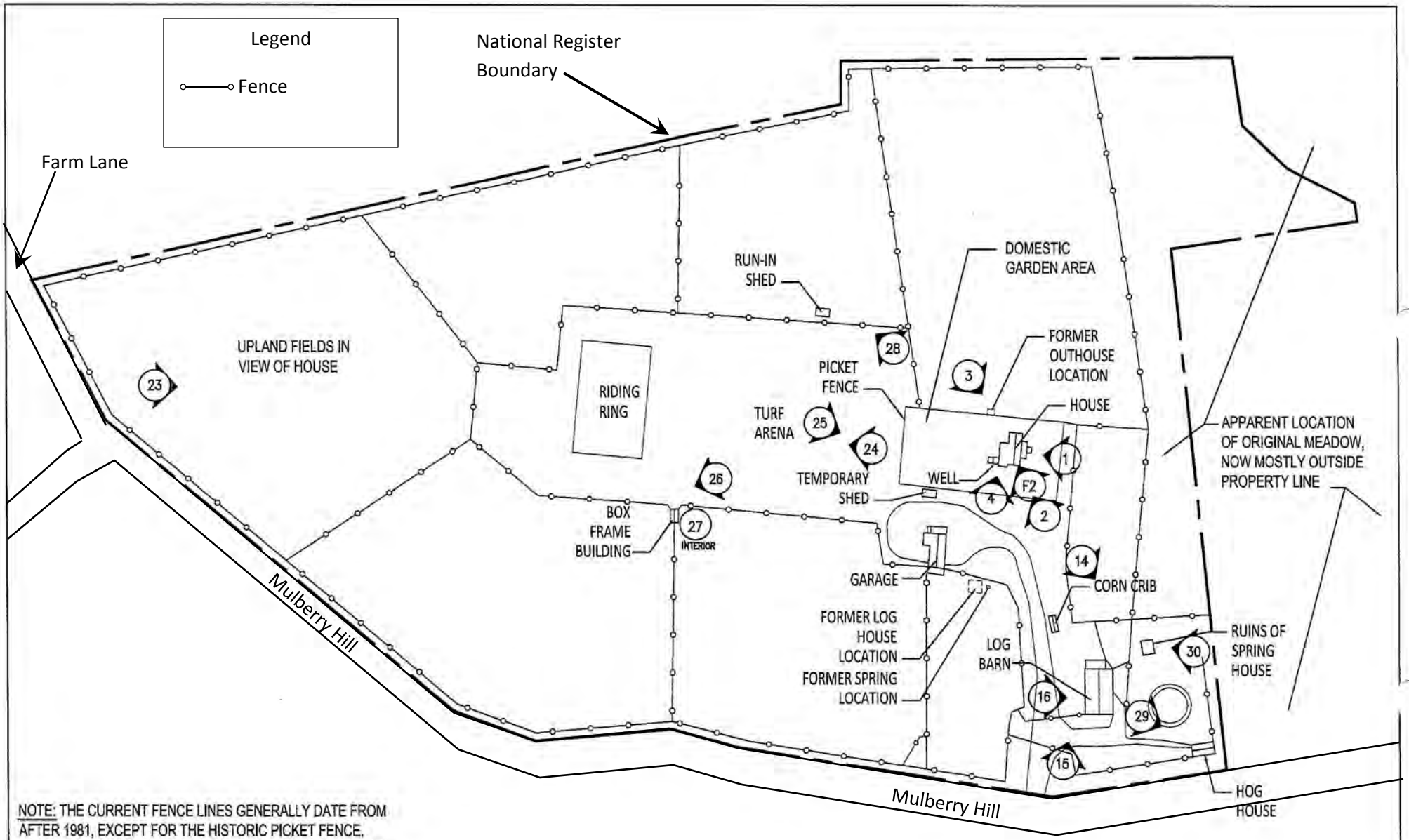
Photo #27 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0027)
Box-framed Building, interior detail: lacking studs and corner posts, only the siding supports the 2x4 top plate. Camera facing north-northwest. Taken October 2012.

Photo #28 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0028)
Recent livestock run-in shed. Camera facing northwest. Taken October 2012.

Photo #29 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0029)
Hog House, north (left) and west (right) elevations: posted shed "porch" roof and block foundation are recent additions to accommodate two horse stalls. Camera facing southeast. Taken February 2013.

Photo #30 of 30 (PA_ Washington County_Nesbit-Walker Farm _0030)
Springhouse ruins: small springhouse collapsed sometime after 1930, spring still flowing through a series of pools below, barn's north lean-to and corn crib in upper left. Camera facing west. Taken February 2013.

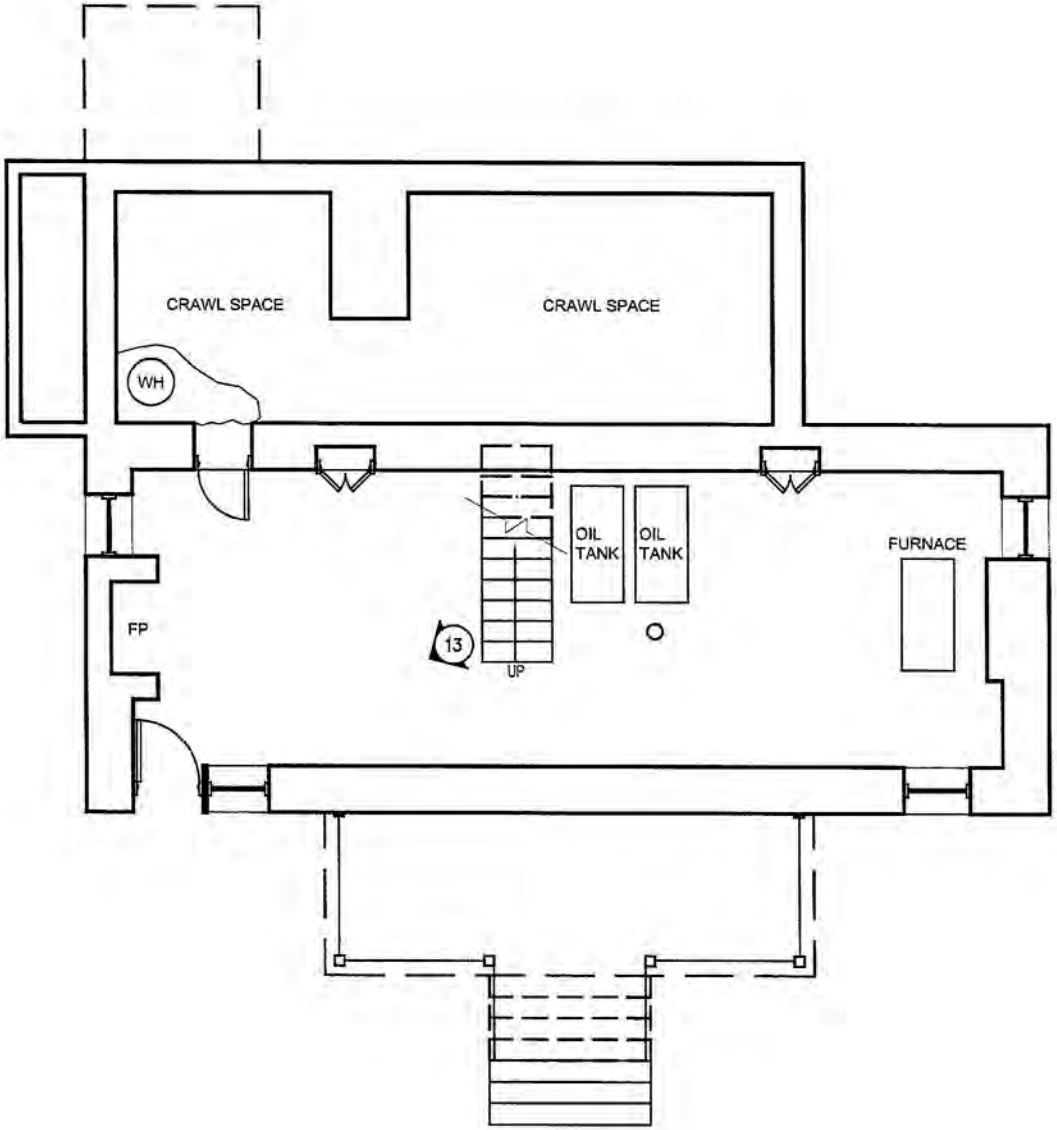
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



NOTE: THE CURRENT FENCE LINES GENERALLY DATE FROM AFTER 1981, EXCEPT FOR THE HISTORIC PICKET FENCE. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO REFLECT THE NATURAL LAY OF THE LAND, WITH A RISE AT THE CENTER INCLUDING THE TURF ARENA AND DOMESTIC GARDEN AREA, SURROUNDED BY A BOWL SHAPE THAT OTHERWISE SLOPES DOWN TO THE EAST.

Nesbit-Walker Farm
Washington County, PA

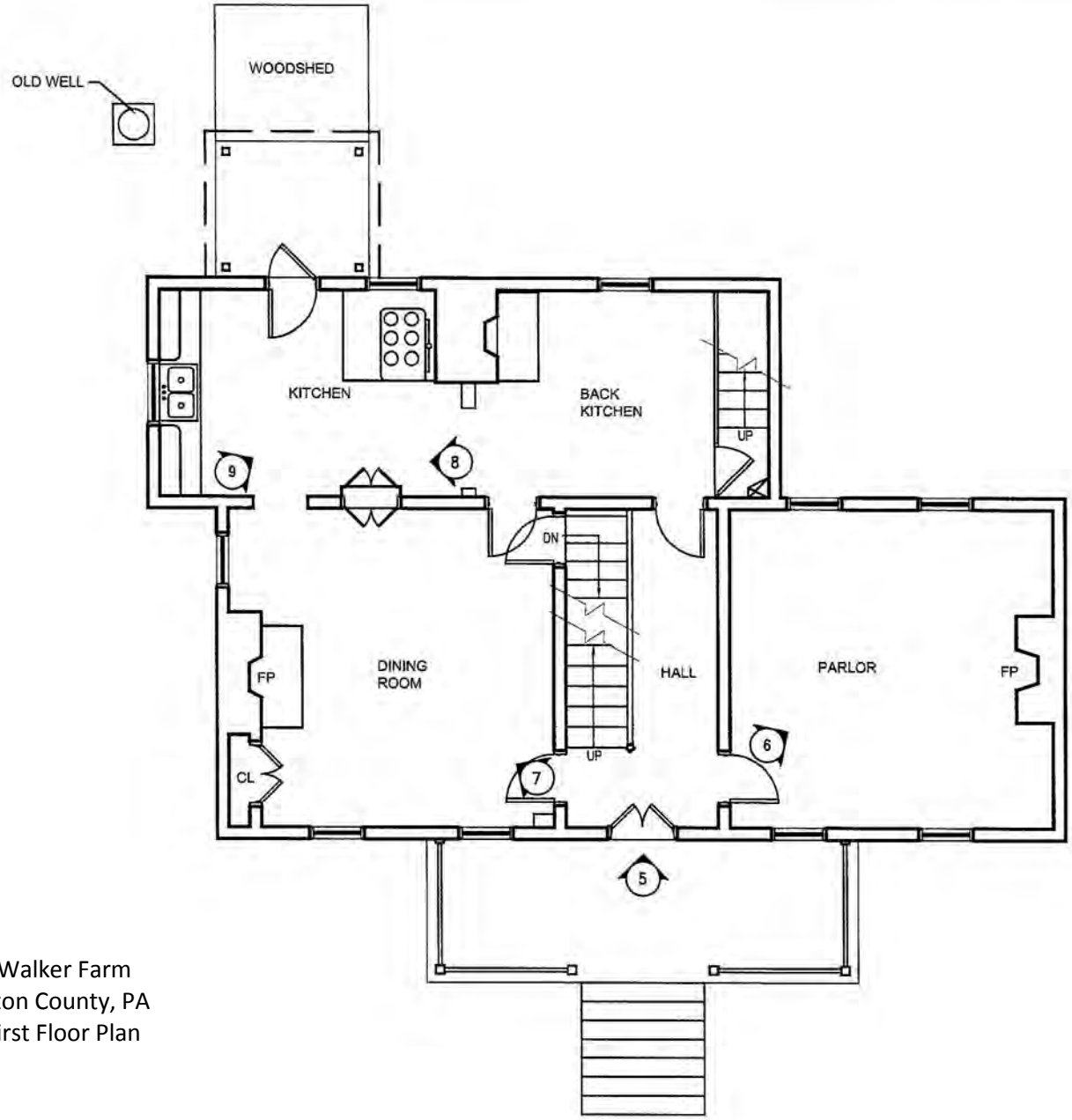
S1.0	TERRY A. NECCIAI, RA HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING 790 SOUTH FRONT STREET PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19147	DATE: November 13, 2013
SITE PLAN		DRAWN BY: Joy Ellen Bunch, AIA



Nesbit-Walker Farm
Washington County, PA
House Basement Floor Plan

0 1 2 3 4 8 16

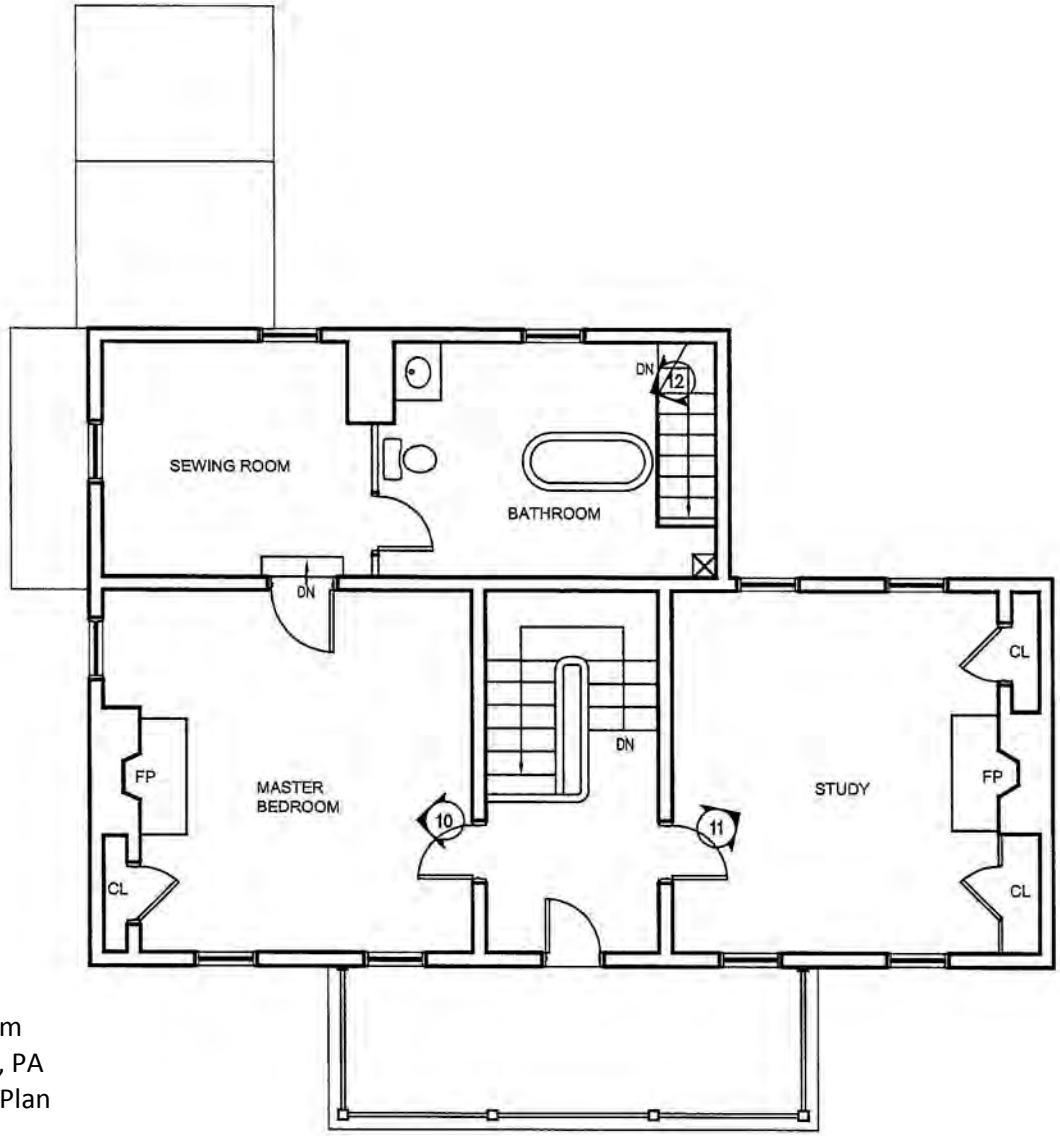
A1.0 CELLAR	TERRY A. NECCIAI, RA HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING 790 SOUTH FRONT STREET PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19147	DATE: November 13, 2013 DRAWN BY: Joy Ellen Bunch, AIA



Nesbit-Walker Farm
Washington County, PA
House First Floor Plan

0 1 2 3 4 8 16

A1.1 FIRST FLOOR	TERRY A. NECCIAI, RA HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING 790 SOUTH FRONT STREET PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19147	DATE: November 13, 2013 DRAWN BY: Joy Ellen Bunch, AIA



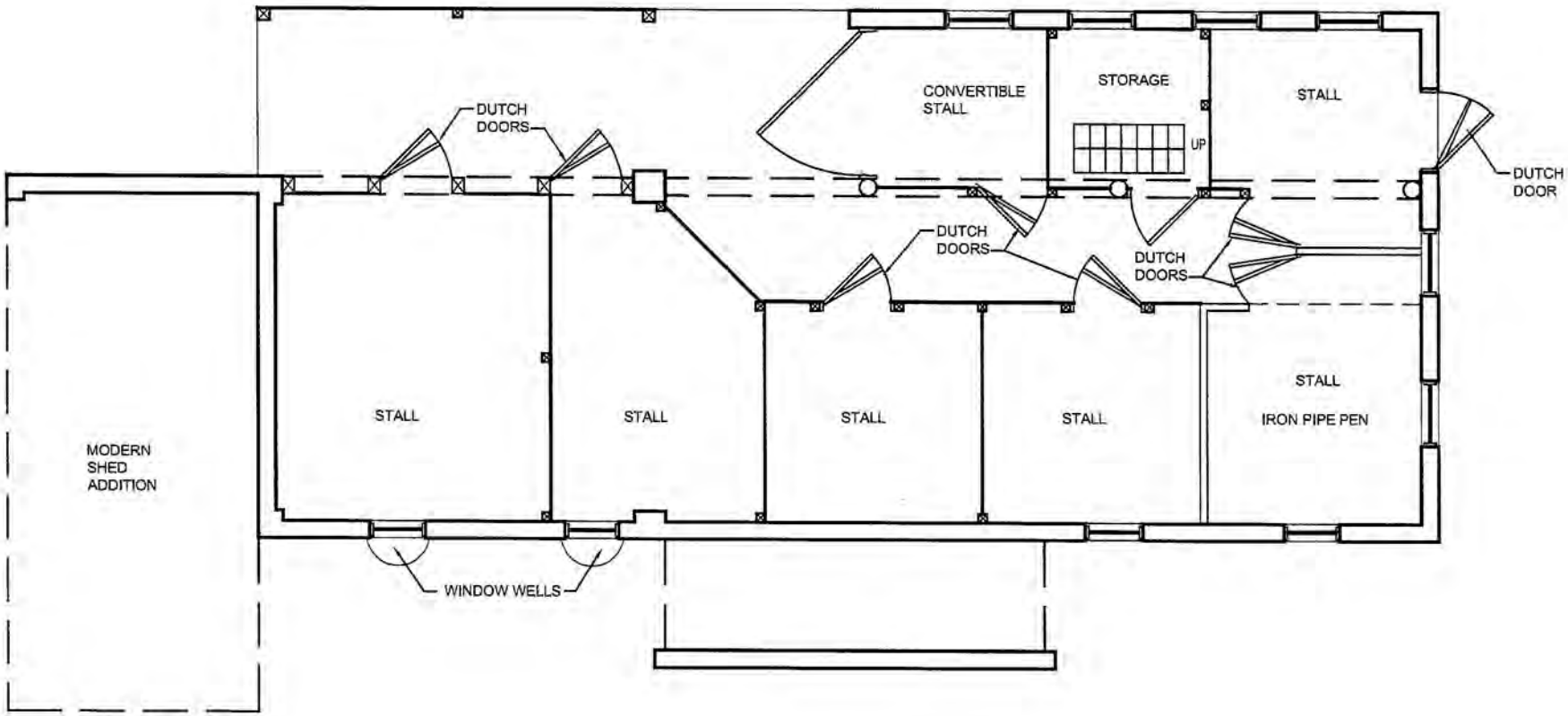
Nesbit-Walker Farm
Washington County, PA
House Second Floor Plan

0 1 2 3 4 8 16

A1.2
SECOND FLOOR

TERRY A. NECCIAI, RA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING
790 SOUTH FRONT STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19147

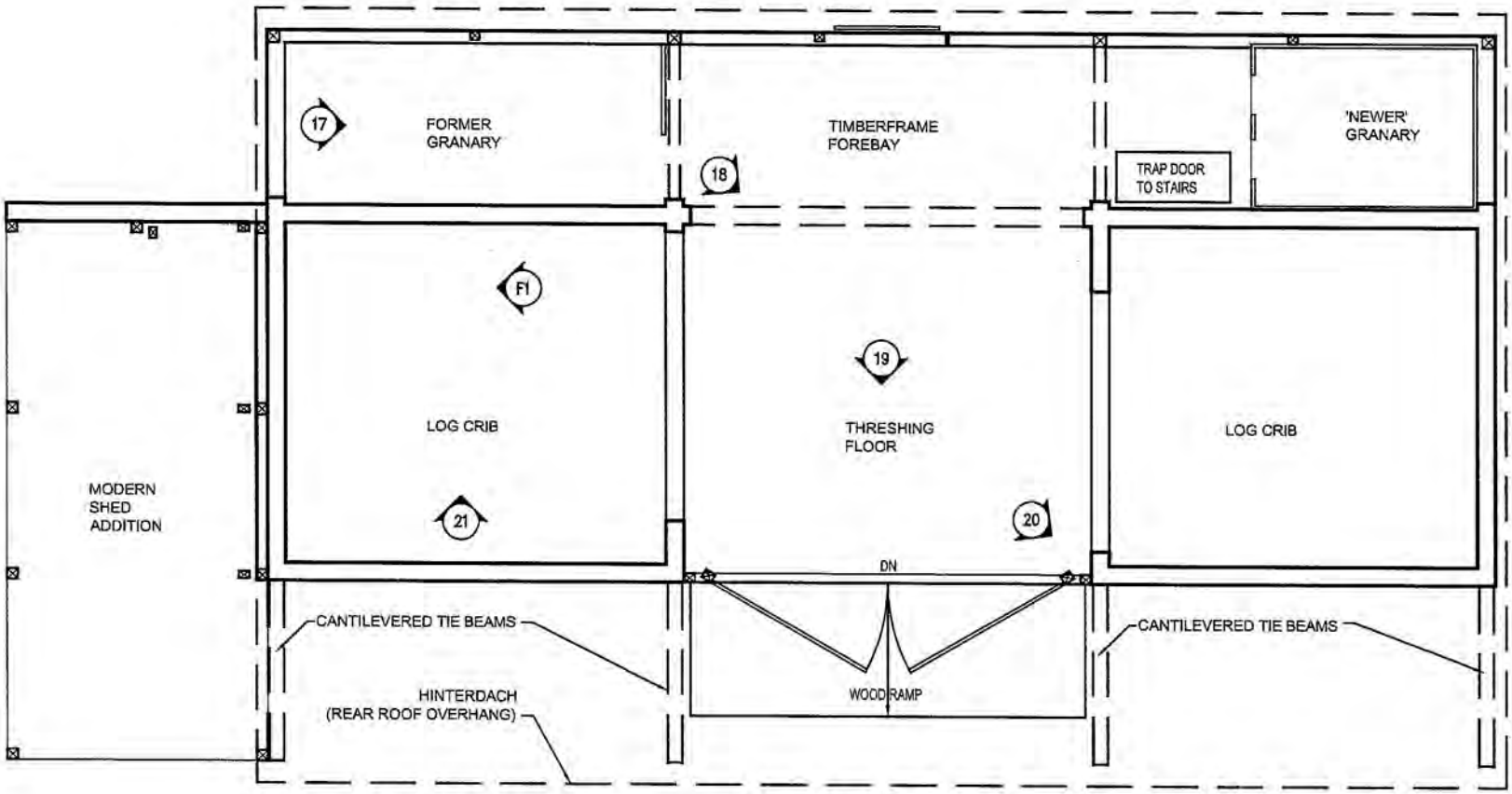
DATE: November 13, 2013
DRAWN BY: Joy Ellen Bunch, AIA



Nesbit-Walker Farm
Washington County, PA
Barn Lower level Floor Plan

0 1 2 3 4 8 16

B1.0 LOG BARN LOWER	TERRY A. NECCIAI, RA HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING 790 SOUTH FRONT STREET PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19147	DATE: November 13, 2013 DRAWN BY: Joy Ellen Bunch, AIA



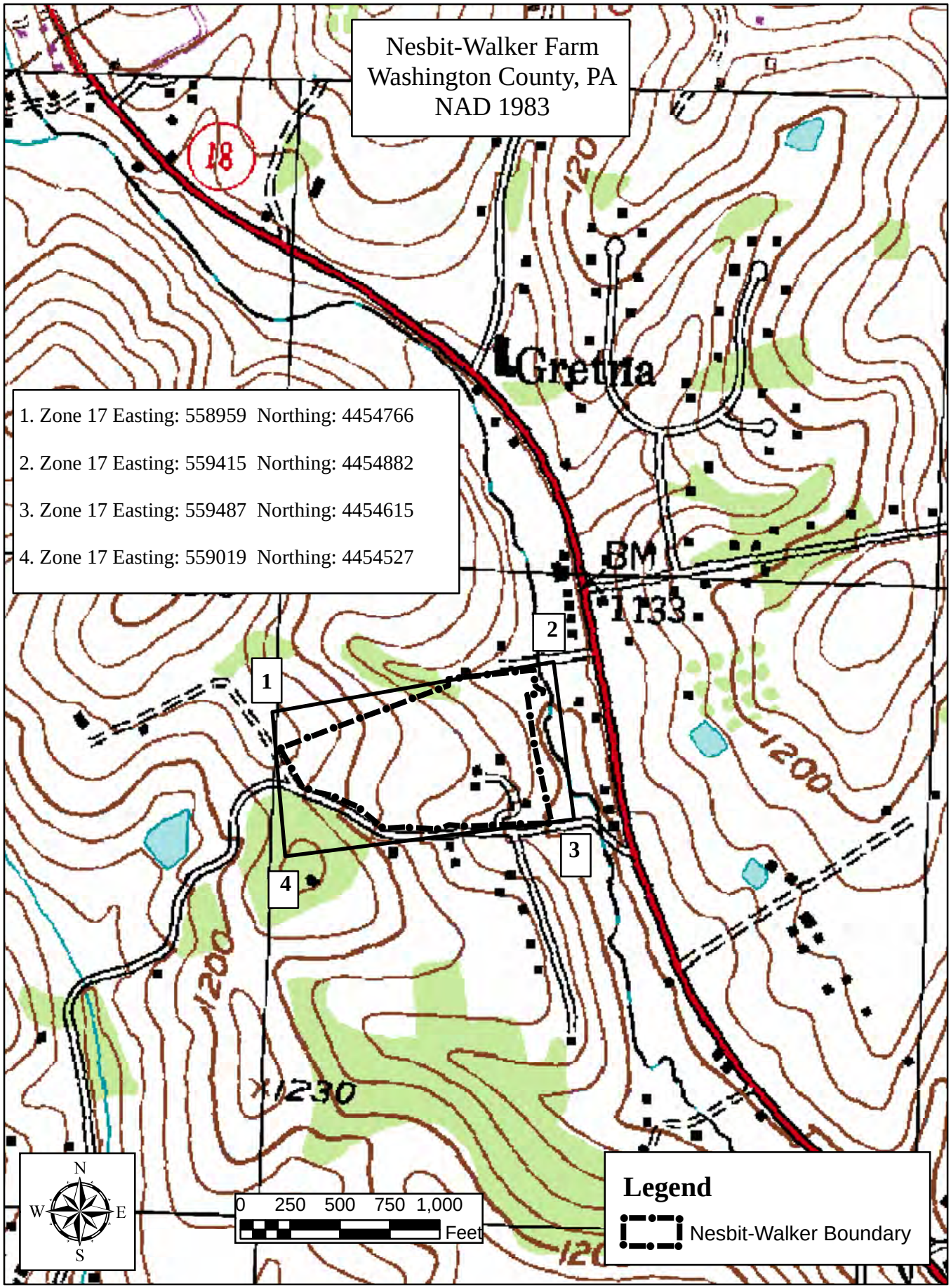
Nesbit-Walker Farm
Washington County, PA
Barn Upper Level Floor Plan

0 1 2 3 4 8 16

B1.1
LOG BARN UPPER

TERRY A. NECCIAI, RA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING
790 SOUTH FRONT STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19147

DATE: November 13, 2013
DRAWN BY: Joy Ellen Bunch, AIA


Nesbit-Walker Farm
Washington County, PA
NAD 1983
1. Zone 17 Easting: 558959 Northing: 4454766
2. Zone 17 Easting: 559415 Northing: 4454882
3. Zone 17 Easting: 559487 Northing: 4454615
4. Zone 17 Easting: 559019 Northing: 4454527
18
120
Gretna
BM
1133
1200
1230
1
2
3
4
N
W
E
S
0 250 500 750 1,000
Feet
Legend
Nesbit-Walker Boundary

DOC