OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

LISTED ON:					
VLR NRHP	06/16/2011 08/18/2011				

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property					
historic name Mount Pleasant					
other names/site number DHR File No. 085-0072					
2. Location					
street & number 292 Hite Lane	N/A	not for publication			
city or town Strasburg	Х	vicinity			
state Virginia code VA county Shenandoah code 171	zip cod	e <u>22657</u>			
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: nationalstatewideX_local					
Signature of certifying official/Title Date					
Virginia Department of Historic Resources State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government					
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					

Ownership of Branchy						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)		Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)				
		Contributing	Noncontributi	ng		
X private	X building(s)	7	2	buildings		
public - Local	district	0	0	sites		
public - State	site	2	0	structures		
public - Federal	structure	0	0	objects		
	building(s) object	9	2	Total		
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a	pperty listing a multiple property listing)		ntributing resourd ational Register	ces previously		
N/A			0			
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)				
DOMESTIC/single dwelling	ng	DOMESTIC/single dwelling DOMESTIC/accessory building/garage				
DOMESTIC/accessory be	uilding/garage					
DOMESTIC/single dwelling	DOMESTIC/single dwelling/tenant house AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/ agricultural outbuilding/barn AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/not in					
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIS						
agricultural outbuilding/ba						
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIS						
processing/smokehouse	use					
TRANSPORTATION/roa	TRANSPORTATION/road trace					
7. Description						
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories fi	rom instructions)			
EARLY REPUBLIC/Fede	foundation: STONE/limestone					
		walls: BRICK				
		STONE	E/limestone			
		roof: METAL	_/tin			
		other: ASPHA	ALT			
		WOOD	/weatherboard			

Narrative Description

		Property		Shenandoah County, VA County and State
Name of Property County and State (Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)				
Su	mma	ary Paragraph		
Se	e co	ontinuation sheet.		
		ve Description ontinuation sheet.		
8. 5	State	ement of Significance		
Ap (Ma	plica	able National Register Criteria in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property nal Register listing)	G	less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.
	Α	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.		
	В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.		
X	С	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.		
_		a Considerations in all the boxes that apply)		
Pro	pert	y is:		
	Α	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.		
	В	removed from its original location.		
	С	a birthplace or grave.		
	D	a cemetery.		
	Ε	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.		
	F	a commemorative property.		

Mount Pleasant Name of Property	Shenandoah County, VA County and State				
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)					
ARCHITECTURE	Significant Person				
	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)				
	N/A				
	Cultural Affiliation				
	N/A				
Paris I of Circuit					
Period of Significance					
circa 1790 – circa 1930	Architect/Builder				
	Isaac Bowman				
Significant Dates					
circa 1790; 1812; circa 1930					
, ,					
Period of Significance (justification)					
The period of significance begins in circa 1790 with the construction date of the oldest section of the main house and ends in circa 1930, when major rehabilitation and renovations were completed.					
Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)					
N/A					
Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (pro applicable criteria)	ovide a summary paragraph that includes level of signficance and				
See continuation sheet.					
Nametica Statement of Similianna (analida et lacca	t and november and area of similiance)				
Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at leas	t one paragraph for each area of significance)				
See continuation sheet.					
Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)					
See continuation sheet.					
9. Major Bibliographical References					
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in	preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)				
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:				
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has be requested	een X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency				
previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency Local government				
designated a National Historic Landmark	University				
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Other Virginia Department of Historic Resouces,				
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Name of repository: Richmond, Virginia				

Mount Pleasant Name of Property	Shenandoah County, VA County and State			
Tains of Froporty				
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):DHR File I	No. 085-0072			
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property Approximately 107 acres (Do not include previously listed resource acreage)				
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)				
1 Zone Easting Northing 3 Z	Zone Easting Northing			
2 Zone Easting Northing 4 Z	Zone Easting Northing			
X See Continuation s	heet.			
Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the	property)			
See continuation sheet.				
Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were sele	cted)			
See continuation sheet.				
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title James C. Massey; Shirley Maxwell				
organization Massey Maxwell Associates	date April I, 2011			
street & number P. O. Box 263	telephone <u>540-465-4566</u>			
city or town Strasburg	state Virginia zip code 22657			
e-mail <u>masmax@shentel.net</u>				
Additional Documentation				

Submit the following items with the completed form:

• Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Sketch plan with photo locations

Mount Pleasant	Shenandoah County, VA
Name of Property	County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See continuation sheet.

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 18 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. fo the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Mount Pleasant is a large, brick-and-stone, Federal-style house built in 1812 on a high bluff overlooking Cedar Creek at the northeastern edge of Shenandoah County, three miles north of Strasburg. The main, five-bay, brick block is two-and-a-half stories high with a gable roof. It has a center-hall, double-pile plan. The four-bay, one-story southeastern wing, constructed of dressed-rubble limestone, was probably built before the main block, ca. 1790. It has a screened porch. On the northwest side of the main block is a large, two-bay, screened porch, ca. 1930. The house was thoroughly rehabilitated ca. 1930, at which time the front and rear entrances were reversed. It was rehabbed again ca. 1979 and is now in fine condition after recent repairs. There are a number of outbuildings and two contributing structures. In front of the house is a brick, pyramidal-roofed smokehouse, probably 1812 (contributing). To the southeast is a series of farm outbuildings: a large, frame, bank barn (contributing), ca. 1890-1900; a severely deteriorated frame chicken house (non-contributing), ca. 1920; a frame wagon shed/corncrib (contributing), ca. 1920; and, farther to the southeast, a frame tenant house (contributing) and a frame tenant-house garage (contributing), ca. 1920. An old well, no longer in use, with a circular stone wall and gable-roofed frame superstructure (contributing), ca. 1920, is in front of the house, near the southwest corner of the main block. Northwest of the main house is a substantial, brick, gable-roofed, one-story garage (contributing), ca. 1930. Farther northwest is a frame, gable-roofed goat shed with diagonal, chevron-pattern siding (non-contributing), 1990. Old maps show the original ca. 1790 road configuration (contributing structure), of which traces are visible near the wagon shed; the site plan accompanying this nomination shows the current roads as well as the original one.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Central Block, Exterior

The main, or center, block was built in 1812 in the Federal style, with fine architectural details. It is constructed of brick and is two-and-a-half-stories high, with central-hall, double-pile plan. The house originally faced northeast toward a bluff over Cedar Creek, and the original entrance lane rose up along the bluff to this side of the house. Around 1930, the main entrance was moved to the southwest façade, the original rear entrance. Evidence of this change is in the handsome main staircase, framed in the hall by an elliptical arch that rises from the original front of the house, where the principal rooms are located. This description is based on the current orientation of the principal façade and entrance. The main block is 51 feet, 10 inches by 34 feet, 2 inches, with a five-bay front; the front and rear walls are laid in Flemish bond, four courses deep on the first floor and three courses above. The end walls are in six-course common bond. The foundation is in dressed-limestone rubble, and there is a basement under the center hall and southeast rooms.

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Both the front and rear entrances have small entrance porches. The present (southwest) front has the larger one with two Tuscan columns and a pedimented roof, and brick steps and platform with a raised brick walkway across the front of the house. The smaller, rear (northeast) entry is shallower, also with a pair of Tuscan columns but with a gable roof over an arched ceiling. It too has brick steps and platform. Both porches were added in the extensive ca. 1930 rehabilitation and reflect the changed front-to-rear orientation. The original 1812 doorways remain, with a simple, arched transom in the Federal manner of six rays with swags between each ray. There are storm doors added ca. 1930. The doors on the front and back are original eight-panel doors with a vertical central bead to resemble two leaves. The windows are nine-over-nine, double-hung wood sash, original, with modern storm windows, with masonry jack-arch lintels on the first floor, and nine-over-six-light, double hung wood sash on the second floor, also with masonry jack arches. The cement jack arches were probably added in the ca. 1930 rehabilitation. The basement windows have plain brick jack arches. An exception is the second-floor front window lighting the interior stair landing, which is a triplehung wood sash of nine-over-nine-over-six lights, with the upper nine lights blocked off by the stairs to the attic. The second-floor rear central window was widened into two ca. 1930 windows to accommodate two new bathrooms.

The end walls have wide, interior, brick chimneys; the northwest end wall has no windows except a large circular one in one wheeled sash with radiating muntins around a central circle. The southeast end wall has original windows on the first and second floors at the south and east rooms, plus a second window with four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash added ca. 1930 to accommodate a new bathroom. The southeast attic has a central semicircular lunette flanked by quarter rounds to each side. The prominent and unusual northwest rear window was probably intended as a viewing point looking up Hite Lane toward the Valley Turnpike. The wood-framed gable roof is in standing-seam metal, installed 1999-2000. The front and rear sides have a deep, plain soffit with a Federal-style modillion-and-dentil cornice and are original to the house. The ends of the house have only a plain bargeboard.

SOUTHEAST STONE WING, EXTERIOR

The circa 1790 wing, a kitchen, is in dressed-rubble limestone 13 feet by 30 feet, 2 inches, and has a one-story, four-bay front-gable roof with interior stone chimney on the southeast wall. On the southwest front of the wing is an added late-nineteenth-century porch, enclosed with sash after 1964. The porch is 6 feet 11 inches deep across the length of the wing and has a shed roof. The stone kitchen front has two six-over-six, double-hung wood-sash windows and two six-panel doors. On the northeast rear are two six-over-six, double-hung windows and one six-panel door.

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NORTHWEST WING EXTERIOR

The wing is a large screened porch 14 feet, 2 inches by 32 feet, two bays wide by one bay deep, built as part of the ca. 1930 rehabilitation. The foundation is in dressed-rubble limestone; the floor is brick. There is a gable roof, covered with asphalt shingles. The enclosed end gable has a half-round window. Substantial brick piers divide the bays, and full screens exist between the piers. There are plain screen doors on all three sides. The porch is not connected to the main block of the house by door or passage.

INTERIOR, FIRST FLOOR

The plan of the main block is a traditional double-pile center hall with two rooms on each side. The ceiling is 11 feet, one inch high. The staircase rises from the original hall front toward the new front, with its landing at the front of the hall over what is now the main entrance. Flanking the 9 foot 11 inch hall at the original (northeast) front are the two principal rooms. To the right is the dining room, with a door to the kitchen. To the left is the principal parlor, the largest of the rooms. At the front of the hall, on the right, is a smaller room, a study or library; on the left behind the parlor is a small room, perhaps originally an office. In the twentieth century, it was outfitted with a small bathroom and designated as a servant's room. Each room, except the office/servant's room, has a fireplace with modern firebox, old brick hearth, and a fine Federalstyle mantelpiece. The house is well fitted with woodwork in the Federal style, showing some Shenandoah Valley influence, such as diagonal and chevron reeding, ball feet, and curved pilasters. The woodwork dates to the original construction period, although some may have been enhanced or augmented when the house was rehabilitated ca. 1930 or later. The dining room, for example, is the only room with a cornice, and the fireplaces are flanked with cupboards throughout the house—all features that could have been added, but there is no certain evidence to support that possibility.

Center Hall

The first-floor center hall original front (northeast) door, 46 inches wide, has eight panels topped by an arched transom. The present front door is similar, but without the transom. Inside, the hall is divided into two parts by an elliptical archway with pilasters, which appear to be original. The staircase is U-shaped, two runs with a landing and an open-string. There is no stairway to the basement below the main stairs. The hall flooring has wide boards, generally 5 ½ inches wide, with an old walnut finish. The boards appear to be original. The interior door trim is typical of the Federal period, with geometric reed work above the arched transom, curved and reeded pilasters, and a full entablature and cornice above the transom. The hall walls have a flat plaster wainscoting with chair rail, which extends up the staircase. The hall doors are six-paneled with delicate Federal trim. The fancy decorative iron box locks, handles, and key plates probably date from the ca. 1930 rehabilitation. The key plates are similar in style to fancy mid-eighteenth century Germanic work and out of character for a

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Federal-style house such as this. There are traces of earlier locks in the wood of some door frames. The box locks themselves are possibly from an earlier period, with modifications. This description of locks applies throughout the house unless otherwise noted.

Parlor

The formal parlor on the first floor is the largest room. It has a fine Federal mantelpiece flanked by large, paneled cupboards, which may have been added. At the front are a pair of windows with pilaster trim and fluted moldings and bulls-eye corner blocks. The mantelpiece has thin pairs of fluted columns and a base with balls supporting a large entablature and a small mantel shelf. The firebox has modern yellow firebrick, as do all rooms, now with plastered faces, and the original square-brick hearth. The wainscot and chair rail extend around the room, and the windows have angled recesses. The flooring is original 7-inch boards.

Dining Room

The dining room is on the right (northeast) at the front of the hall. It has a molded dentil cornice, the only room in the house so enriched, and it may date to the ca. 1930 rehabilitation. The flooring is ca. 1930, with narrow boards over the original. There is a fine mantelpiece and paneled wood wainscoting with molded chair rail. To the left of the fireplace is what appears to be an eight-panel door to the kitchen; however, the two top panels are affixed to the wall in order to match the height of the other doors.

Study/Library

On the right (southeast) side of the hall, adjoining the dining room through a connecting door, is a smaller room, a study or library. It has a fine Federal mantelpiece with fluted, engaged columns, an elliptical ray fan in the frieze and small elliptical carvings at the ends of the columns.

Office/Servant's Quarters

The west room on the first floor is a small room with one door from the hall, located under the stair landing. This may originally have been an office, but with the ca. 1930 insertion of a bathroom, it became what is identified on the 1979 floor plan as the servant's quarters. It originally had a fireplace that was removed for the bathroom addition.

Kitchen Wing

The right or southeast wing is one large room 13 feet by 33 feet, 2 inches, divided into a kitchen and a sitting area with a large stone fireplace. One of the printed plans shows a pantry between the two sections, which was removed by 1979. Such a long room with three exterior doors would presumably have been built as more than one room, however. The southeastern end has a large stone fireplace with a deep, stone hearth. There are cabinets on each side of the fireplace, probably added ca. 1930. The fireplace has a large mantelpiece with molded frame and a small mantel shelf. The doors are six panels, and the windows are six-over-six-light, double-hung sash which are modern replacements of originals. The flooring

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is 13-inch-wide boards, unusually wide. There is no access to the attic, although it is probable that one previously existed, possibly just a ladder and a hatchway. There is no interior stair to the basement. The kitchen portion of the room has modern counters and cabinets, probably installed ca. 1979. On the southwest (now front) side is a late-nineteenth-century frame porch that was enclosed after 1964.

INTERIOR, SECOND FLOOR

The main block of the house has a full second story, while the wings have only one story. The stairs rise to a center hall and then continue up to the attic. The rear of the center hall was partially cut off, ca. 1930, to form two bathrooms, each opening from the hall with a six-panel door. The original exterior window opening was widened to provide two narrow double-hung windows with six-over-four-light wood sash. Of the four second-floor bedrooms, the left rear (north) room is the principal one, the largest, and situated over the first-floor parlor. There is a fine Federal-style mantelpiece flanked by a pair of arched recesses, which were probably added ca.1930.

To the front of the principal bedroom, accessible by a connecting door, is a small bedroom or dressing room. It opens to the hall at the midpoint of the attic stairs, an inconvenient change of levels suggesting that the room was not intended for primary use.

On the right (southeast) side of the second-floor hall are two more bedrooms. Both have fireplaces with Federal-style mantelpieces. In the ca. 1930 rehabilitation, a bathroom and two closets were inserted between these two rooms, narrowing each bedroom and with a narrow window inserted on the exterior wall for the bathroom. Each bedroom has a window on the southeast side, giving each three windows rather than two as in the other bedrooms.

ATTIC

The attic is divided into three rooms, plainly finished with plastered walls and ceiling and rough, wide-board floors.

BASEMENT

There is a partial basement in the main block under the center hall and the southeast rooms. The basement walls support the walls of the rooms upstairs. There is no interior access to the first floor. Access to the exterior is only through a wide door on the southeast side of the house.

The room under the upstairs study contains a large oil furnace; the room under the dining room holds four large oil storage tanks. The center space under the hall is used for storage, and the rooms are connected to each other. There are small basement windows in the southeast and northeast rooms and evidence of a former fireplace in the south room.

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There is a full basement under the southeast kitchen wing, with access to the outside on the southwest side by a wide door under the added porch. It is used only for storage. The walls are of dressed-rubble limestone, and there are small windows with vertical wood bars. The two basements are not connected to each other.

UTILITIES

The house has town water service and electrical service; bottled propane gas is used for cooking. There is no sewer connection, but there is a large, brick-lined septic tank. Heat is by steam radiators fed by an oil furnace. Near the house is an old well, no longer in use. An above-grade cistern is at the east corner of the kitchen. Many of the lighting fixtures in the house appear to be from the ca. 1930 installation of full electric service.

OUTBUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Well (Contributing Structure)

In front of the house to the southwest is a non-functioning well (ca. 1900) with a circular masonry wall and open, gable-roofed frame cover.

Garage (Contributing Building)

The one-story, two-car brick garage and apartment is located to the northwest of the main house and architecturally related to the ca. 1930 work on the property. Facing southwest, it relates to the new road that replaced the steep road up the cliff to the farm complex and the house. The building is in good condition, and the interior is being rehabilitated in 2010-2011. There is an irregular bay front and a plain gable roof of asphalt shingles. It has a workshop on the left end, a two-car garage in the center, and a small apartment, presumably for a chauffeur, on the right. There are two interior brick chimneys--one for the workshop and one for the quarters. The brick walls are laid in seven-course common bond. There is a box cornice. The garage floor is concrete; the apartment floor is wood.

Smokehouse (Contributing Building)

To the south in front of the house is the former smokehouse (ca. 1812) in fair condition. It is 14 feet 4 inches square, constructed of brick on a stone foundation with a low, pyramidal roof and a brick chimney on the southwest rear. A modern four-panel door is on the northeast side, and shuttered windows are on the sides of the building. The walls are laid in six-course common bond, and there is a plain, box cornice. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. According to tradition, the smokehouse originally served as a fort; however, its small size makes this use questionable. Without evidence, however, it is also possible that the original use was a schoolroom or an outhouse.

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Barn (Contributing Building)

Southeast of the main house is a group of farm buildings, particularly a large, 40-feet-by- 60-feet frame bank barn with projecting forebay, built ca. 1890-1900. The barn is of heavy-timber-frame construction, sheathed in vertical boards, and has a standing-seam metal roof. The barn structure sits on a partial foundation of limestone. It is in fair condition.

Wagon shed/Corncrib (Contributing Building)

Near the barn is a frame wagon shed/corncrib combination, ca. 1920. It has a gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. On the southeast side is a pair of wagon doors to the left and a single door to the right on the corncrib side, which is supported on masonry piers. The structure is in fair condition.

Chicken House (Non-contributing Building)

Also near the barn is a small, frame, shed-roofed chicken house, ca. 1920. It has horizontal-board siding and asphalt-shingle roofing and is in ruinous condition.

Tenant House (Contributing Building)

Southeast of the farm complex is the small, frame, four-bay tenant house, constructed ca. 1920 by the Davison family when they sold the main house. It has a gable roof and two brick interior chimneys. The entrance door is in the left bay, in a lower section with a hipped roof, which was probably originally a porch. The horizontal board siding here is wider than in the rest of the house, and there is a vertical strip between the third and fourth bays, indicating an old addition. The roof is covered in standing-seam metal. The house is in good condition.

<u>Tenant House Garage</u> (Contributing Building)

In the yard to the front of the tenant house is a deteriorated, frame, gable-roofed, one-car garage.

Goat Shed (Non-contributing Building)

To the northwest of the main house and separate from the other farm buildings is a tall, one-story frame, gable roof, irregular bay, goat shed built in 1990. The roofing and part of the walls are corrugated tin. The end gable facing the farm lane is sheathed in diagonal boards forming a V-shape. A paneled door on the side of the shed is one large opening for the goats.

Original Road Trace (Contributing Structure)

A rutted and unpaved trace of the original road from Hite Lane that extended up the bluff from Cedar Creek to the farm yard and Mount Pleasant house is still partially extant.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The current 107 acres of Mount Pleasant constitute the core of the original Bowman property, which in early years varied frequently in its boundaries. The present acreage constitutes a definitive size, as an open-space easement was given to the Potomac Conservancy in 2006,

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with the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Mount Pleasant is located at the present southeastern end of Hite Lane (VA Route 825), off the historic Valley Turnpike (U.S. Rt. 11), at the northeastern edge of Shenandoah County. It is within the approved Town of Strasburg annexation area, but not vet annexed from Shenandoah County into the town as of 2011. Hite Lane is the original road to Mount Pleasant from the Valley Turnpike, descending steeply from the highway to bottom land at Cedar Creek. Cedar Creek forms much of the boundary on three sides of Mount Pleasant, comprising one of the long S-curves of the creek. The fourth boundary, to the northwest, is a wooded area rising sharply toward the Valley Turnpike and its commercial frontage. On the other side of Hite Lane to the north is a large, new, retirement community, under construction in 2011. Nearby on Cedar Creek is the historic Harmony Hall, the stone Bowman House (DHR File No. 085-0004), listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1968 and 1969, respectively; it is visible from Mount Pleasant. To the south, across Cedar Creek, is a property known as "the Island", a large, low farmland surrounded on all four sides by the creek, at the lower junction of which was the "Colonel Bowman Mill and House" shown on early maps of the area.

Hite Lane now ends before Cedar Creek on the private road that turns right into Mount Pleasant. Originally, Hite Lane continued straight to a ford at Cedar Creek, and there was a branch lane going up along the steep bluff to the Mount Pleasant property. It extended upward to the farm yard, with a branch turning back along the top of the bluff to the front of the house, which was built unusually close to the steep bluff. Traces of the road can be seen, and there were formerly steps that extended from the house down the bluff to the midpoint of the road. The road continues southeast from the farm group to the end of the property and the present tenant house. The present farm road, from the turnoff of Hite Lane, built ca, 1920, extends to the new southwest front of the house, the garage, and across the south of the house to the farm group. The present farmland is gently rolling between the turns of Cedar Creek and offers extensive views to the Massanutten Mountains and Signal Knob. The land on the northwest is wooded, blocking sight of recent commercial development along Route 11, leaving the property in a handsomely rural setting. After the new farm lane was built to the new front of the house, a large garden was created, probably ca. 1930, with a low garden fence to separate the garden from the farm land; only the brick piers remain of the fence.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Pleasant, 292 Hite Lane, is a handsome, Federal-style, two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, brick house with limestone foundation, constructed in 1812 on a bluff above Cedar Creek three miles northeast of Strasburg at the northeastern edge of Shenandoah County, Virginia. The brick main section of the house has a limestone wing on the southeast side, which is probably of earlier construction (ca. 1790). Mount Pleasant is locally significant under National Register Criterion C for its strong Federal-style architecture. Except for the addition of a ca. 1930 of a screen-enclosed porch at the northwestern end of the brick main block and another screened porch across the front (south) side of the stone wing, the exterior of the house is little changed from its construction. The front and rear entrances were reversed ca. 1930 to conform to a change in the access road to the house. The interior retains its original layout and exceptionally fine original woodwork. The farm once contained 1,200 acres located on both sides of Cedar Creek, the dividing line between what are now Shenandoah and Warren counties. The nominated property encompasses approximately 107 acres, all located in Shenandoah County. The site contains nine buildings, seven of which are contributing: the main house (contributing), 1812: a brick smokehouse (contributing), ca. 1812; a brick garage with apartment (contributing), ca. 1930: a large frame bank barn with forebay (contributing), 1890-1900; a tenant house (contributing), 1920; and a tenant-house garage (contributing) in poor condition, 1920;, and a frame wagon shed/corncrib (contributing), ca. 1920. There are two non-contributing buildings: a ruinous frame chicken house, ca, 1920, and a frame goat shed, 1990. There are two structures, both contributing: an unused well with circular masonry wall, ca. 1920, and a trace of the original road, ca. 1790. Except for the original road trace, all the contributing resources are in good to fine condition.

The period of significance begins in circa 1790 with the construction date of the earliest section of the dwelling and ends in circa 1930 when updates were made to the house.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Mount Pleasant, an imposing gable-roofed, five-bay, brick, Federal-style house overlooking Cedar Creek north of Strasburg, Virginia, was constructed in 1812 ¹ by Lt. Isaac Bowman (1757-1826), a veteran of the Revolutionary War and the Indian wars in the West. Isaac Bowman was a scion of the pioneering Shenandoah Valley Bowman family and a grandson of Jost Hite, who is credited with having brought the first groups of European settlers from the Rhine River region to the northern Shenandoah Valley.

Half a mile from Mount Pleasant, across a bend in Cedar Creek, is Harmony Hall, the stone manor house of Isaac Bowman's father, George Bowman. After George Bowman's death in 1768, Isaac, the youngest of George Bowman's six sons, lived with his mother, Mary Hite Bowman, at Harmony Hall.

In 1778 Isaac Bowman joined his older brother, Captain Joseph Bowman, in the Virginia regiment that had been formed to serve under George Rogers Clark in the Illinois campaign

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defending the Kentucky territory against British incursions from the north; he may have been present at the capture of Vincennes in 1779. Family tradition holds that Isaac Bowman was captured by Indians in November 1779 while traveling on the Ohio River. Accounts vary as to whether he was taken by Chickasaw or Illinois Indians and also as to whether he was escorting British prisoners from Kaskaskia to Williamsburg when he was captured or was accompanying a party of westward-bound settlers after his return from Ohio via Williamsburg. He spent several years in captivity before escaping (or being rescued—again, accounts vary) and returning to Fort Bowman in 1782.¹

For his services in the Indian Wars, he was awarded two land grants totaling several thousand acres in Indiana and Kentucky. Although he probably made occasional journeys to his western properties, his home remained in Virginia, where he continued to manage his family's extensive holdings. In addition to his farming operations, he built and operated a grist mill on Cedar Creek, supplementing or supplanting one nearby that had been built by his father.

Isaac Bowman, his first wife, Elizabeth "Betsy" Gatewood Bowman (1764-1790), and their young children lived with Isaac's mother at Harmony Hall. Betsy Bowman's early death at the age of 26 left Isaac with five children under the age of four years. His second wife, Mary Jane Chinn (1773-1830), was a sister-in-law of his friend and neighbor, Samuel Kercheval, the early historian of the Shenandoah Valley. Mary and Isaac produced eleven more children, bringing the number from both his marriages to a total of sixteen. The new brick house that 59-year-old Isaac Bowman built in 1812 was undoubtedly a better fit for his large family than Harmony Hall, and its fashionable Federal architecture was an appropriate reflection of his wealth and status in the new century.

Shenandoah County Land Records show that a spike occurred between 1810 and 1814 in the value of only one of the several tracts of more or less contiguous land owned by Isaac Bowman in Shenandoah County. Over the ensuing years, down to the present, that tract, containing 66 acres on Cedar Creek, consistently retains its higher value relative to the other tracts.

Isaac's will, written in 1824, reveals that the adult children from his first marriage had already received property from his land grants in Indiana and Kentucky or land in Shenandoah County before Isaac's death in 1826, and most had moved west to settle on their land. The older children also inherited proportional shares of the property, including slaves and their offspring, that Betsy Gatewood had brought to the marriage. Bowman's younger children shared the remainder of his estate. Isaac's son, Isaac Sydnor Bowman (1803-1866), inherited the Mount Pleasant farm.

The Civil War swirled around the edges of Mount Pleasant but did not directly touch it. Although the fords across Cedar Creek near the property were frequently used by both Union and Confederate troops, and troop encampments took place across the creek from Mount Pleasant, no military engagements occurred on the property itself.³

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After Isaac Sydnor Bowman's death in 1866, his daughter, Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Smith Davison), received ownership of Mount Pleasant.⁴ The 1885 map of the Davis Magisterial District in Lake's Atlas of Shenandoah and Page counties indicates that the property was owned at that time by J. S. Davison. The house remained in Davison family ownership until 1920, when the family sold the parcel on which it is situated to "a wealthy man from Pittsburgh" and moved into a new house nearby (now the Mount Pleasant tenant house). The Pittsburgh buyer installed plumbing and electricity in the house; however, he died only a year after his purchase, and it appears that the house was vacant for a number of years thereafter.⁵

In May 1927, the house and the surrounding 67 acres were purchased by Robert Otwell Haythe, a periodicals publisher from New York. Haythe, a native of Campbell County, Virginia, began an extensive rehabilitation and modernization of the house and grounds, while retaining the historical plan and architectural features of the house. Because of the sophistication of the rehabilitation, it seems likely that it was guided by a skilled restoration architect, but no evidence has surfaced to support this assumption. Haythe may have drawn on the experience of his neighbor, Francis Welles Hunnewell, a Massachusetts botanist who purchased Belle Grove, a 1797 stone mansion five miles away in Frederick County, in 1929. The Belle Grove restoration was directed by Horace Peaslee, a well-known Washington architect who specialized in the restoration of historic houses. There is no evidence, however, that Peaslee was involved in the Mount Pleasant rehabilitation.

Haythe probably also was responsible for the reorientation of the front and rear entrances of Mount Pleasant to conform to a change in the road leading to the house. The main entrance was originally on the northeast façade, facing Cedar Creek, and Hite Lane (now VA 825), the road from the Valley Turnpike (US Rt. 11), made a gradual ascent up the steep bluff before branching off into the farm yard and then turning past the front of the house. The road was changed to approach the southeast façade in1920, and the house entrances were reversed accordingly. A brick walk, platform, and garden were installed on the south side, enhancing the new entrance. Inside the house, a communicating door between the dining room in the brick section of the house and the kitchen in the stone wing--probably an earlier addition--may have been reworked during the Haythe rehabilitation to match the other, taller, dining room doors. Haythe also added a screened, one-story porch at the west end of the brick house. There is no door from the porch into the house.

In 1933 the Haythes sold Mount Pleasant to William P. Nininger. After his death, Margie A. Nininger took ownership of the house from 1947 until 1979, when she sold it to James A. and

Patricia H. Clevenger. It was sold again in 1981 to H. Hobson Stalnaker, whose widow, Caroline R. Stalnaker presently owns the property. In 2003 Mrs. Stalnaker placed Mount Pleasant's entire 107 acres under a rural open-space easement to the Potomac Conservancy.

Archeological study of the property might reveal the location of other eighteenth- and/or nineteenth-century buildings and structures and cast light on the activities of the Mount

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Pleasant farm and family life. For instance, while it seems likely that most or all of Mount Pleasant farm's field hands may have been housed at other locations, there probably were quarters for house servants near the house itself.

MT. PLEASANT ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The house has changed little since construction in 1812, except for the addition of the northwest porch wing and the two central entry porches, which reflect the reversing of front to rear of the entrances, constructed ca. 1930 as part of the rehabilitation of the property.

The original construction by Isaac Bowman in 1812 is well documented. Shenandoah County Land Records show that a spike occurred between 1810 and 1814 in the value of only one of the tracts of more or less contiguous land owned by Isaac Bowman in Shenandoah County. Over the ensuing years, down to the present, that tract, containing 66 acres (more or less) on Cedar Creek, consistently retains its higher value relative to the other tracts. The exterior of the main block of the house, two-and-a-half stories, center-hall, double-pile, executed in a restrained Federal style of the era, presents no difficult issues of analysis. However, the southeast kitchen wing, built in the traditional Germanic dressed-rubble limestone with a full basement and steep roof, is incompatible with the brick, Federal main block that it adjoins now through a connecting door from the dining room. It would be difficult to support this combination of materials as part of an integrated and sophisticated construction. It has often been regarded as having been built at the same time, however. But it is also probable that the stone wing was built before the main house. At that time it was not customary for kitchens or basements to be connected to the main part of the house, even if they adjoined it. In the Shenandoah Valley, as elsewhere, in an era of servants, separate kitchen buildings were not uncommon, even physically adjoining the main house, but unconnected. The crux of this argument, then, is that the building appears to be of a different period and that there was no necessary connection at this era between the kitchen and the main house.

An analysis of the stone wing suggests a two-room, hall-and-parlor house because of its dimensions 13 feet by 33 feet, 2 inches. It is too long for a single room but makes sense architecturally as a separate, two-room house with full basement and an attic high enough for sleeping. We believe it was erected prior to the construction of the main house and perhaps housed the family during planning and construction of the brick house. There is no basement interior access. There must have been an attic access, even if only ladder and hatchway, as the attic was a traditional sleeping space. There is no attic access now.

The floor construction in the wing is 13-inch boards on 4-inch-by-7-inch joists with a 51-inch-wide basement door to the exterior. These are features typical of the eighteenth century; by 1812, 13-inch boards were not in common use. By comparison, the floors of the main house are generally seven inches wide. The basement of the wing is not connected to the basement of the main house. There is no documentary evidence for this wing, its date or construction, but architectural tradition suggests that it is more typical of late eighteenth

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century Germanic work in the area, particularly the joists and very wide floor boards. While there is not evidence to ascribe a probable date, the construction date is estimated to be ca. 1790.

The main house appears to have been little, if at all, altered in the nineteenth century. There are no Italianate or Victorian features or ornamentation. Perhaps the most obvious change would have been to connect the first floor to the basement under the main stairs, but that has never to this date been done. As to the original construction, a 1979 sales brochure claims that the woodwork was "carved by Hessian prisoners of war"--an obvious impossibility here, but a common claim in the area and sometimes true, and there is no documentation for this claim.

In the twentieth century, there were two periods of rehabilitation at Mount Pleasant. The first occurred ca.1920, with the installation of basic utilities (water, electricity, and central heat) along with a new road arrangement directly accessing the old rear of the house, and the construction of a tenant house (documented date of 1920), when the Bowman family descendants sold the house but not the entire farm. The principal rehabilitation, though, was very thorough and professional and presumably done under an architect's guidance. It was carried out ca. 1930, during the 1927-1933 ownership by a wealthy New Yorker, Robert O. Haythe. This fits the pattern often seen in Virginia of wealthy northerners purchasing and restoring historic properties. Haythe was known to be a friend of Francis W. Hunnewell, who bought the 1797 Belle Grove (NHL) in 1929, the nearest prominent mansion. Belle Grove also underwent a restoration during the early 1930s, under the guidance of a noted Washington architect, Horace W. Peaslee, who was responsible for the restoration of several prominent Virginia and Washington, DC, properties. The quality of the work at Mount Pleasant is clearly indicative of an experienced restoration architect's presence. It would be only speculation to suggest that it was Peaslee, but it would be plausible, considering the friendship of Haythe and Hunnewell and the proximity of the two properties. An examination of the American Institute of Architects booklet, "Pioneers in Preservation: Biographical Sketches of Architects Prominent in the Period before World War II", suggests no other likely architect for this work.

The only documentation for the date of the rehabilitation is the date of manufacture incised on the three second-floor bathroom basins installed at that period: "12/22/26", proving that the basins and the three bathrooms containing them were not part of the 1920 installation of plumbing. In addition to these bathrooms, the ca. 1930 work included new windows for each bathroom, the installation of cast keystones to the windows of the house (they are clearly inserted rather than original, certainly widened for the new window/bath combination). The basement windows have plain brick jack arches. as the entire house probably did originally.

Other major changes were the entrance porches, at the front and rear of the center hall, as noted in the architectural description, which mark the front and rear reorientation of the house. As part of this change, brick steps and platforms and a raised brick walkway across the new

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southwest front were added to provide an adequately high ground level on this side. It is believed that the present oil-fired steam heat system was installed at this time as well as an enhanced electric and water supply, the water being pumped up from Cedar Creek.

The woodwork in the house appears to be largely original and thoroughly refinished in its present appearance. Some enhancements were probably made, including the dining room cornice, which is the only one in the house, and possibly the dining room wainscot. The dining room received a new floor of narrow boards over the originals. Probably also installed at this time were some or most of the cupboards and shelving beside the fireplaces. These may have been installed even later, for the pre-1979 sales brochure plan does not show them in place, although the floor plan shown in the brochure is not fully accurate.

The iron box locks and key plates in the house are discussed in the description, and the fancy Germanic key plates in particular are almost certainly not from this period, as they bear no relationship to Federal-period practice, although there is evidence that key plates of similar designs were used in the area during the eighteenth century, as illustrated in The Early Woodwork of Winchester. Not only is the design inappropriate, but the plates are thin and flat and give no evidence of having been made in a hand-worked manner. The iron box locks are less certain; they could be 1930s copies, as expert copies were encountered at this period, or they might have been reworked original locks, which is more probable.

The comprehensive ca. 1930 rehabilitation also included the 1930s screened porch addition and the two-car garage with apartment. The earliest known photograph of the house is from 1964 and shows the screened porch. The design and materials are common to other ca. 1930 work at the house.

Comparable Houses

There are very few comparable properties in the area. The closest comparable property is Spengler Hall (DHR File No. 085-0009), located on the Valley Turnpike (US Rt. 11), just south of Strasburg in Shenandoah County. It is included in the State and National Register-listed Strasburg Historic District (DHR File No. 306-0016). Like Mount Pleasant, it also sits on a bluff overlooking a stream; in this case the Shenandoah River. It was probably built in 1812, although some sources suggest a construction date of 1820. Like Isaac Bowman, Spengler was a Revolutionary War officer, and he would certainly have been acquainted with Bowman. Whether built at the same time or not, Spengler Hall is architecturally very similar: a two-story, five-bay, center-hall, double-pile house with Flemish-bond brickwork on the front and common bond on the sides. The primary difference is the rear kitchen wing, as opposed to Mount Pleasant's side wing. Except for the later addition of a large, bulky, Greek Doric entrance porch, the house has a number of features akin to those at Mount Pleasant. It has plain brick jack arches over the windows, such as Mount Pleasant probably had, and a plain, arched-transom doorway similar to the original one at Mount Pleasant. There is an arched

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door/window on the second-floor center front, looking over an extensive view of Strasburg to Signal Knob and the Massanutten Mountains. It is reported by the owner of Mount Pleasant that she was told there was a similar arrangement overlooking Cedar Creek on the original second-floor center front, but there is no documentation or physical evidence. Spengler Hall also has fine Federal woodwork, though not as elaborate as that at Mount Pleasant.

Belle Grove (DHR File No. 034-0002) in Frederick County, a National Historic Landmark, was built fifteen years earlier than Mount Pleasant, in a very different, formal, high-style design. Neither the design nor the plan resembles the traditions of the double-pile, center-hall house frequently found in the period. However, the stonework, a Valley tradition, is similar to that of the Mount Pleasant wing, and there is not, even to this day, an inside basement staircase.

The much earlier Hite/Bowman Harmony Hall (DHR File No. 085-0004) in Shenandoah County is architecturally unrelated, although it was Isaac Bowman's childhood home and within sight of Mount Pleasant, across a bend in Cedar Creek. Harmony Hall is in the earlier Germanic stone tradition of the northern Shenandoah Valley, despite its Anglo-influenced center hall. A later Hite/Bowman house, Long Meadows (DHR File No. 034-0031) in Frederick County, a State and National Register-listed property located a few miles away, was built in 1848 in a Greek-influenced Federal design and is not architecturally related to Mount Pleasant. Witham Farm, a Hite family house built ca. 1840 and now part of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, is also not architecturally related to Mount Pleasant.

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¹ Isaac Bowman's life story is recounted in *The Bowmans, A Pioneering Family* by John Wayland (Carrier, 1985), pp. 129-135.

² Samuel Kercheval acted as an executor of Isaac's estate, according to Isaac's will written in June 1824 and recorded November 1826. A copy of the will is appended to Wayland's history of the Bowman family as "a model of its kind".

³ "Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statemneet for Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park". Washington: NPS, USDI, 2008.

⁴ Interview with Caroline R. Stalnaker, the present owner, recounting conversations with Luella T. Davison, granddaughter of John S. Davison. February 25, 2005.

⁵ DHR survey form ca. 1970.

⁶ Shenandoah County Deed Book 112, p. 372.

⁷ The 1930 U.S. Census shows Haythe and his wife, Ethel were in residence at Mount Pleasant in August of that year. Although it is possible that some work had been done by the 1920 owner, extant physical evidence indicates that at least three of the bathrooms in the house were installed no earlier than the late 1920s.

⁸ Belle Grove, Washington, DC: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1968.

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Stalnaker, Caroline R. Interviewed by Shirley Maxwell at Mount Pleasant, February 25, 2005.

United States Federal Census, Fifteenth Census, 1930.

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GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATON

UTM COORDINATES

USGS Middletown Quad

1) 17 730 490 E 4320 420 N

5) 17 730 460 E 4320 020 N

6) 17 730 300E 4320 240N

(North American Datum 1983)

USGS Strasburg Quad

2) 17 731 400E 4319 340N

3) 17 731 200E 4319 240N

4) 17 730 320E 4319 780N

(North American Datum 1983)

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property comprises all of Shenandoah County tax parcel 25A 179, containing 106.82 acres; it is shown on a surveyor's plat by C. J. Rinker, Jr., October 5, 1979, located in Shenandoah County Deed Book, p. 802. A copy is appended.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire present farm of 106.82 acres and is the same property included in a conservation easement conveyed to the Potomac Conservancy. Three sides of the property are bounded by Cedar Creek and the fourth, to the northwest, by a steep, wooded hill abutting the rear of commercial and residential properties along the Valley Turnpike (US Rt. 11) and Hite Lane (VA Rt. 825).

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PHOTO LIST

Information common to all photos:

Name: Mount Pleasant

Location: Shenandoah County, Virginia

DHR File No.: 085-0072 Photo date: February 2011 Photographer: James C. Massey

Digital files stored at Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

0001

No. 1 of 16 photos Garage, looking north

0002

No. 2 of 16 photos House, looking north

0003

No. 3 of 16 photos House, looking west

0004

No. 4 of 16 photos Smokehouse, looking west

0005

No. 5 of 16 photos House, looking northeast

0006

No. 6 of 16 photos Barn, looking west

0007

No. 7of 16 photos House, looking east

8000

No.8 of 16 photos Wagon Shed/corncrib, looking northwest

0009

No. 9 of 16 photos House, study, looking southeast

0010

No.10 of 16 photos House, dining room, looking southeast

0011

No.11 of 16 photos House, kitchen, looking southeast

0012

No. 12 of 16 photos House, hall and stairs, looking southwest

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0013

No.13 of 16 photos House, parlor, looking northwest

0014

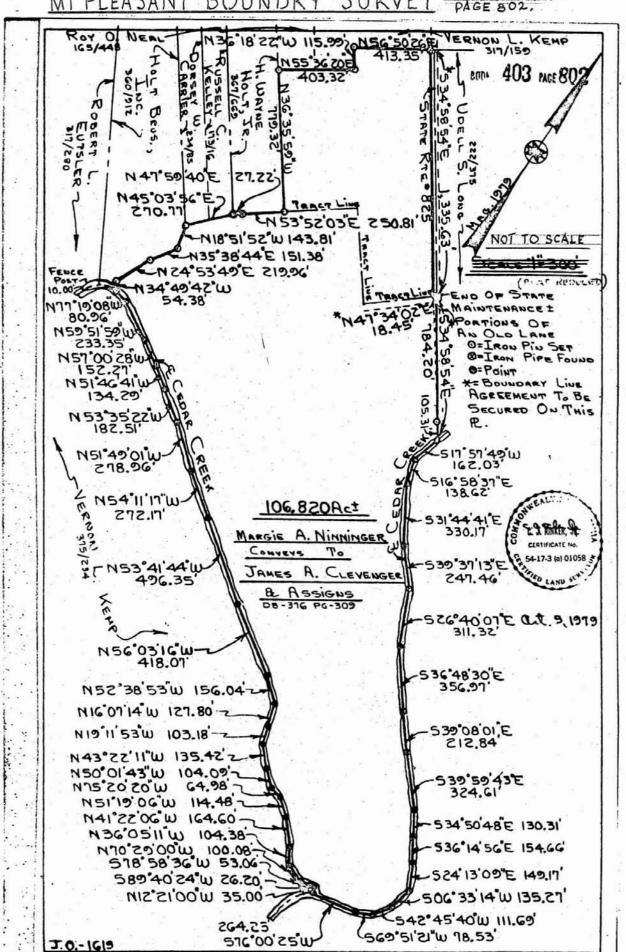
No.14 of 16photos House, principal bedroom, looking northwest

0015

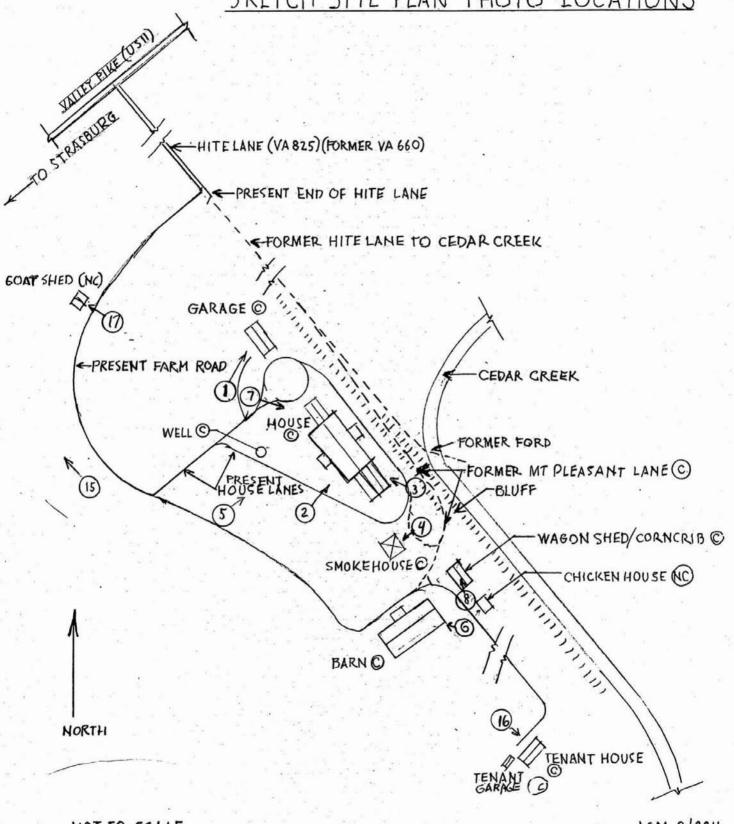
No.15 of 16 photos General view to wooded hill, looking northeast

00016

MT PLEASANT BOUNDRY SURVEY DEED BOOK 403



SKETCH SITE PLAN-PHOTO LOCATIONS



NOT TO SCALE

JCM 2/2011

