

VLR-6/20/89 WRHP-2/1/91

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name McDonald, Joseph Farm

other names/site number 60-235

2. Location 3/5 mile NW of junction of VA Route 685 and VA Route 657 at end of Spur Road
street & number on E side of VA Route 657 N/A not for publication

city, town Price Fork vicinity

state Virginia coda VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24060

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Heath C. Miller
Signature of certifying official

10 Dec 1990
Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other. (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwellingDomestic: single dwellingDomestic: secondary structuresDomestic: secondary structuresAgricultural/Subsistence: agricultural
 outbuildingsAgricultural/Subsistence: agricultural
 outbuildings**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Other: hall-parlor planfoundation stone: limestonewalls wood: weatherboardroof metal: tinother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Joseph McDonald Farm is an early and well preserved agricultural complex. The main house is a two-story, log, hall-parlor house of unusually substantial dimensions. It was made into a center-passage house by the addition of a frame ell on the south elevation of the original house and a new entrance oriented the house to the east. The original house seems to have faced north towards Tom's Creek. The three-bay, V-notched, log house retains many of its original features in spite of several additions and alterations.

The house appears to have been sided with plain weatherboards at the time the first ell was built (circa 1850) and has the same molded exterior door and Greek Revival flattened ovolo exterior window trim throughout. There are beaded corner boards on the main house and ell. The north front has a symmetrical three-bay fenestration pattern and a mid-nineteenth-century two-panel door flanked by six-over-nine double-hung sash windows with early louvered blinds. Both stone chimneys on the original house survive. The two-story east chimney has a single pair of shoulders, but the west chimney is double-shouldered. Both chimneys are narrow and shallow.

The large (20'6" by 31'6") original house contained two rooms on each floor; the larger of the two rooms being at the west end of the house. The interior is plastered, which may have been done originally, but most likely was a result of the work done when the first ell was added (circa 1850). The early mantel in the large room is of the shelf and architrave form. Much of the interior woodwork, including the mantel, is grained to look like fine wood. The original stair rose between the two rooms. The stair opened into the larger room and rose through the smaller room. It was removed, probably in the mid-nineteenth century when the ell with a new staircase was added. On some of the interior doors there remains early hardware consisting of a wrought iron latch mechanism which, according to the owner, was made by the blacksmith of the farm. A basement is reached through a door on the building's west end beside the chimney. The stairs to the door have been enclosed by a frame gabled

 See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca.1800-ca.1908

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Joseph McDonald Farm (listed under the same name, 60-235 in the 1986 reconnaissance-level survey and as Green Hill in a 1973 survey) is an important early nineteenth-century, two-story, log, hall-parlor house that was altered in the mid-nineteenth century by the addition of an ell to create a center-passage house. The house is situated on Tom's Creek in a hilly area west of Blacksburg in the western part of Montgomery County. The house is eligible under criterion C as an early example of the hall-parlor form. It is one of few known dwellings surviving from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. From a total of fifty-three examples of this form recorded in the county in 1986 (of which forty were log), only three, all of log, clearly date to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Fifteen were recorded from before the Civil War, of which all but five are of log. It appears that the McDonald House is earlier than the Adam Wall House (also being nominated) to which it is similar in scale. The alterations of the McDonald House in the mid-nineteenth century are instructive of the way in which a family altered their home to meet changing needs and expectations. The survival of the log kitchen, springhouse, corncrib, cabin, and other later outbuildings make the property extremely valuable in illustrating the changing uses of the domestic and agricultural space associated with the house during the period of significance. It is the county's finest collection of early outbuildings.

Bryan McDonald brought his family from Great Britain to Delaware in 1686; his son, also named Bryan, moved to Botetourt County, Virginia "about 1745" (Kegley p. 239). Joseph McDonald, born in New Castle, Delaware on April 4, 1722 (Floyd McDonald p. 2), sold 142 acres of land in Botetourt County to William Preston on February 8, 1763 (Deed Book # 11, p. 215); however, he and his family stayed in Botetourt County for several years after that;

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Augusta County Deed Books, pre 1776.

Kegley, Mary B. and F. B. Early Adventurers on Western Waters, Vol. I; Orange: Green Publishers, 1980.

McDonald, Floyd E. and Ella T. Information relating to the Bryan McDonald family; San Francisco, California, Frank V. McDonald, Pacific Bank, 1983.

Montgomery County Deed Books, post 1776.

Montgomery County Land Books.

Turner, C. A. Jr., "Methodism in Blacksburg: 1798-1948." Blacksburg, Virginia, 1948.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than four acres.

UTM References

A 17 546610 4119920
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Boundary Description

Beginning at point A 140 feet west and 35 feet north of the northwest corner of the house, proceeding east 205 feet to point B, thence south 100 feet to point C, thence east 125 feet along a line corresponding to the corner of the fence to point D, thence south 100 feet along an imaginary line to point E, thence west 130 feet along a line corresponding to the south wall of the frame barn to point F, thence north 100 feet along the east side of the drive to point G, thence west 105 feet to point H, thence See continuation sheet west 75 feet to point I, thence north 83 feet to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to include the domestic and agricultural-related space near the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth W. Martin, Historian

organization Gibson Worsham, Architect date July 1988

street & number Yellow Sulphur Springs, Route 2 telephone (703) 552-4730

city or town Christiansburg state Virginia zip code 24073

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bulkhead. The foundation is coursed limestone rubble and has two vents on the north facade.

At some point during the mid-nineteenth century, a major two-story frame ell was added to the house. This created a secondary facade facing east. The addition included a passage with an open-stringer stair and provided access to both of the rooms in the original house and to a new parlor to the south. The room is served by a brick shouldered chimney on the south end of the ell. The second-floor windows in the ell have six-over-six sash double-hung windows with original louvered blinds.

The east wall of the house has an asymmetrical facade with two windows to the south of the door and one window and a chimney to the north. The central entry into the ell passage is sheltered by a small porch with unusual sawn decorative brackets. This porch is seen in a historic (circa 1890) photograph of the house.

A third building campaign added a two-story wing onto the west side of the ell. Dating from 1908, the wing houses a kitchen on the first floor, the first to be located within the house. Prior to this date, a two story V-notched log kitchen to the west of the house was used. Still surviving, the early nineteenth-century kitchen has exposed logs on the exterior, whitewashed log interior, plain exposed joists, and a projecting log plate. It has a rubble foundation and stone chimney with brick shoulders and flue. Paired windows in each gable light the garret. The east and west doors are equipped with batten doors.

Other early to mid-nineteenth-century outbuildings include a V-notched log springhouse to the southwest of the house with a batten door and projecting log plate. Inside there is a concrete trough which is fed by a pipe from a spring box on the hill to the south. A one-story V-notched log house lies to the west of the kitchen. At one time it is said to have housed a relative. It has stone piers, a beaded batten door, molded window trim on the exterior, and six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The building, which may have originally housed slaves, also has a stone chimney with a collapsed brick top. Directly to the northeast of the small log house is a frame structure with board-and-batten siding and a wood shingle roof. Linked to the log house by a porch, it appears that another frame section with weatherboard siding and a standing seam metal roof was added

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later.

Three contributing agricultural outbuildings stand in a group to the immediate southeast of the domestic complex. The oldest of these is a double-pen log corncrib with a central drive-through flanked by narrow corncribs. An adjacent frame structure housed a hammer feed mill. Nearby stands an early twentieth-century frame barn with vertical board siding and a standing seam metal roof, and a modern noncontributing silo.

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Joseph's son, William, being born in Botetourt County in 1766. Joseph purchased 455 acres on Tom's Creek from Jacob and Sarah Harman in 1768 (Deed Book # 14, p. 261), and Joseph's next child, Elizabeth, was born that year in Montgomery County. Joseph started a very successful farm and operated linseed oil, powder, and grist mills, a tannery, and a blacksmith shop (Floyd McDonald p. 2). Most of Joseph's children moved west to Kentucky and Tennessee except for Bryan and Jonas. Bryan, the eldest, received 142 acres from his father in 1796 and another seventy-eight and one-half acres in 1800. Jonas McDonald (born 1771) also received seventy-eight and one-half acres in 1800. This 157-acre tract along with thirteen acres given to John McDonald, was part of a 170-acre tract bought by Joseph from Jacob Harman (Kegley pp. 187-188). Bryan died in 1802, and his wife and children moved to Logan County, Virginia (McDonald p. 3). By 1802 his older brothers and sisters, including John, had moved west. This left Jonas as the only descendent in the area.

While it is possible that the house was built by Joseph McDonald in the latter years of the eighteenth century, it is equally likely that it was built by Jonas McDonald after he was given the land in 1800. It is still possible that Joseph lived in the house until he died in 1809, nine years after he divided his land among his children and seven years after the only other remaining child, Bryan, died. Tax records show Joseph's last two hundred acres going to Jonas in 1813. Jonas is said to have been a well respected man, having a knowledge of science and medicine (McDonald p. 5). He was also an important member of the Methodist congregation in the area. Jonas assisted in the building of the first Methodist church in Blacksburg, and is said to have had many camp meetings at the house and farm, frequently having the preacher stay at the house. According to family legend, a Reverend Green Hill from North Carolina gave a particularly stirring service on the property and the family then named the house and farm "Green Hill" in his honor (Turner p. 6). Jonas McDonald married Elizabeth Foster, the daughter of Charles Foster, a captain in the Revolutionary War and a state legislator. Jonas died February 6, 1856 and his wife died two years later, leaving six sons and four daughters (McDonald pp. 4-5).

Jonas McDonald's son, Fechtig McDonald, born on September 26, 1819, was the next owner of the McDonald Farm. It is possible that Jonas was responsible for the addition of the ell that

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created the center-passage house. But it seems more likely to have been built by Floyd shortly after he inherited the property. Floyd died on February 9, 1893 and the property was then transferred to Charles Black McDonald, born on October 11, 1860. It was Charles who was responsible for the third addition off of the ell in 1908. The property then passed to James Richard McDonald and then to his son James Lewyn McDonald.

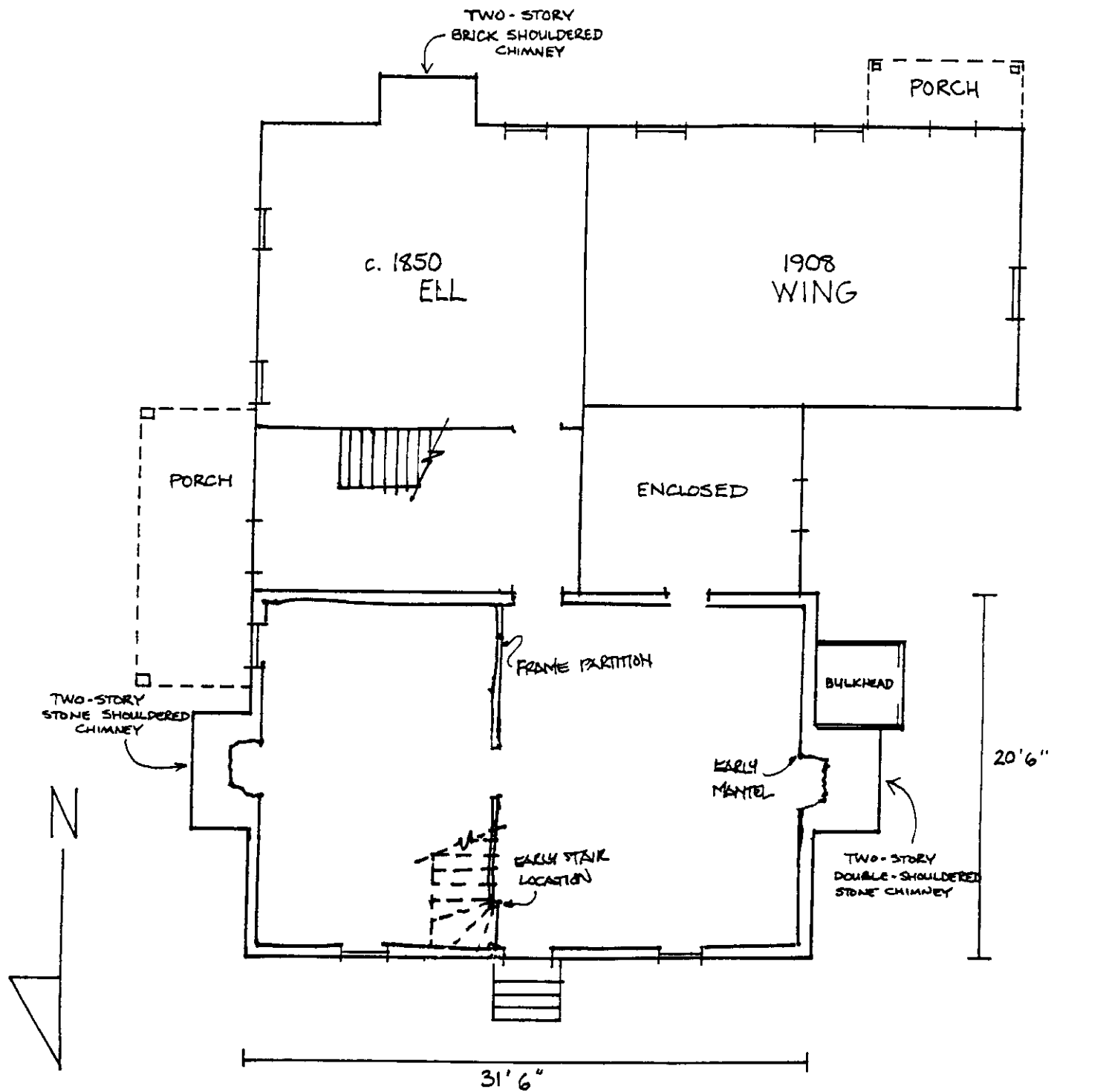
60-235

JOSEPH McDONALD FARM

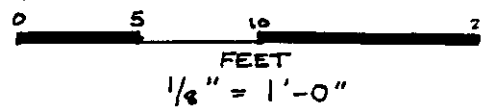
MONTGOMERY CO., VIRGINIA

G.W. D.P. 4/25/86

DRAWN BY K.M.



INTERIOR NOT TO SCALE



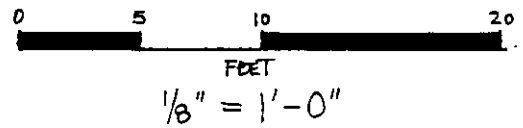
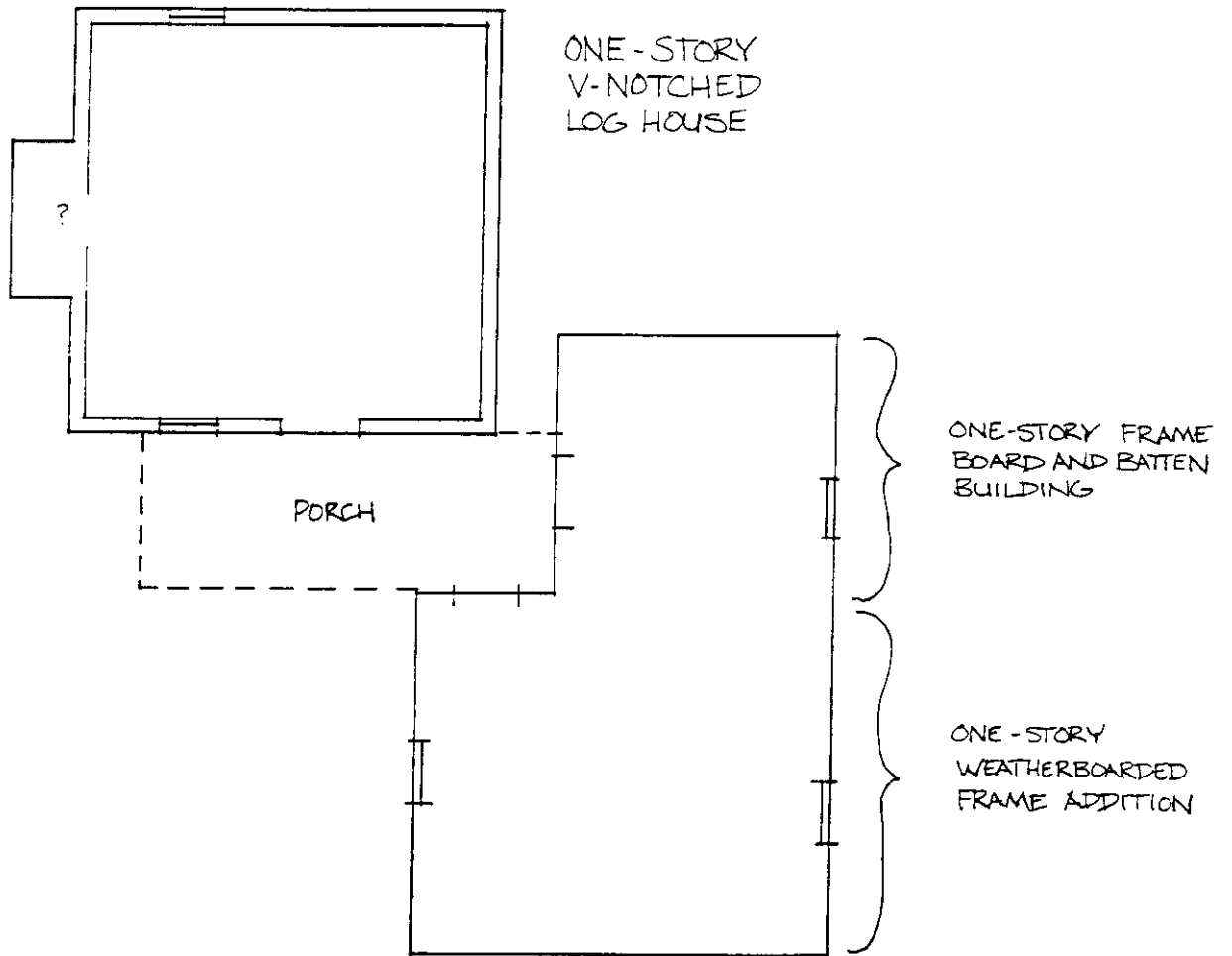
60-235

JOSEPH McDONALD FARM

MONTGOMERY CO., VIRGINIA

G.W. D.P. 4/25/86

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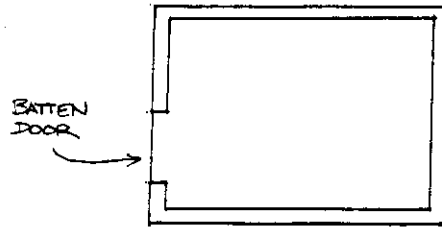
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JOSEPH McDONALD FARM

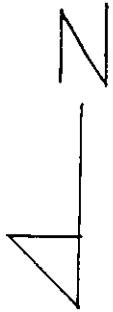
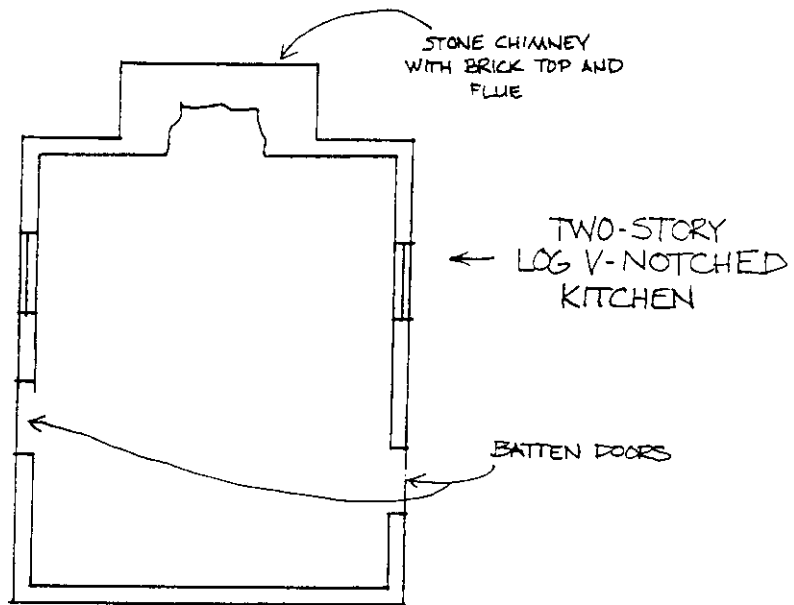
MONTGOMERY CO., VIRGINIA

G.W. DP 4/25/86

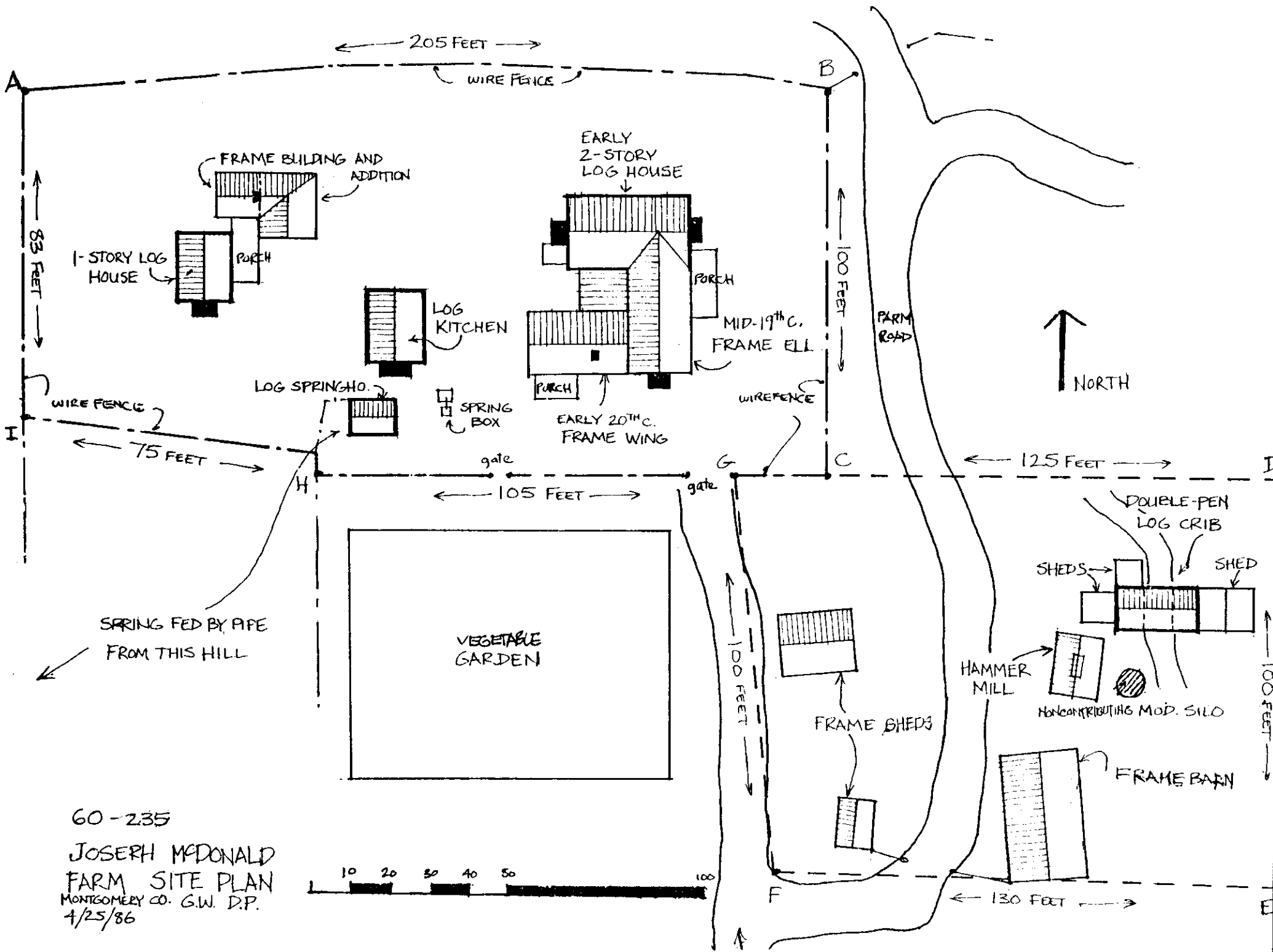
DRAWN BY K.M.



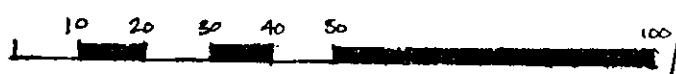
V-NOTCHED LOG
SRRING HOUSE



FEET
 $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$



60-235
 JOSEPH McDONALD
 FARM SITE PLAN
 MONTGOMERY CO. G.W. D.P.
 4/25/86





MICHAEL KINZER
HOUSE
17 547995 4120720

WALNUT SPRING
17 545266 4120080

JOSEPH
MCDONALD FARM
17 546660 4119920

EVANS HOUSE #2
17 546290 4116490

PRICE'S FORK HISTORIC DISTRICT
17 544900 4118010
17 545235 4118148 4118
17 545300 4117915
17 544920 4117615 12'30"

ADAM WALL HOUSE
17 547190 4117900

LINKOUS-KIPPS HOUSE
17 548002 4117835

LONGSTOP 4 MI.

4120

4119

4117