

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

DELISTED 3/19/01

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).

1. Name of Property

historic name Murdock, Elijah, Farm other names/site number 60-547

2. Location

1/3 mile northwest of VA Route 643, one mile north street & number of US 460 underpass city, town Yellow Sulphur state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24073

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes sub-rows for Contributing and Noncontributing resources.

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. Signature of certifying official Virginia Department of Historic Resources Date 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. 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Domestic: secondary structure
Agriculture: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Domestic: secondary structure
Agriculture: agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: hall-parlor plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone: limestone
walls wood: weatherboard

roof metal: tin
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The two-story, three-bay, hall-parlor-plan dwelling with a two-story log and frame ell faces south along the Wilsons Mill Branch. It is located to the west of the mid-1850s Yellow Sulphur Turnpike in the hilly area along the edge of the New River Valley Plateau. The region was known as the crest of the Alleghany Mountain in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The house is the result of two building campaigns: one in which the log pen and ell were erected and another in the late nineteenth century when the ell was enlarged and the entire structure was sheathed in plain weatherboard. A fine collection of outbuildings includes a frame washhouse and a log double-pen drive-through corncrib, as well as the site of a smokehouse.

The house has late nineteenth-century siding and a cornice with returns in the gable end, as well as two-over-two sash windows. The house has two stone chimneys with brick upper flues; one rises at the west end of the house and the other at the north end of the ell. There are added late nineteenth-century porches on the south and west sides. The west porch has been enclosed but incorporates an integral frame pantry situated at the north end off the kitchen. The interior of the front section is well preserved with a larger first-floor room (hall) to the west and a similar unheated room (parlor) to the east. The hall has wainscoting with molded chair rail and beaded baseboard, vertical board walls and board ceilings (papered over), and a pilastered mantel with projecting end blocks in the frieze and a molded shelf. The enclosed stair rises in the parlor from the hall along the stud partition wall. The two-story ell incorporates a one-story log room separated from the main section by an enclosed breezeway, indicated by a change in level in its stone foundation. The coursed-rubble stone chimney on the ell is of wide dimensions and was originally of one-story height, with an added corbelled brick stack.

The contributing outbuildings are located to the west of the house and include a washhouse of weatherboarded frame construction with a wide external brick chimney on the north end, a double-crib log corncrib with central drive-through, vertical

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
Archaeology: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

ca: 1825 - 1900

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 Elijah Murdock Farm is significant under criteria C and D as an important group of structures demonstrating the evolutionary change typical of farmhouses and their outbuildings in the region during much of the nineteenth century and because it contains intact subsurface features and artifact deposits relating to nineteenth-century site use. The hall-parlor house and outbuildings take typical regional vernacular forms and date from the period of significance (1825-1900). There are less than fifteen such houses of similar form that clearly date from before the mid-nineteenth century, although from all periods there are fifty-three hall-parlor houses, forty of which are log. This well-preserved house incorporates an early ell, but it was expanded and the whole structure sheathed in plain weatherboard around the turn of the present century.

The last owner of the farm before its acquisition by Montgomery County is the present life tenant Ralph Brookman, who recounts that the property was built by Elijah Murdock and that a John Murdock was born there in 1818. The house appears to date from around 1825 or later, but may have remained partially finished on the interior and the woodwork added in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Deed and census research have not conclusively established the original owner of the tract. In 1830, Elijah Murdock, Jr., twenty-nine years old, lived on a farm worth \$600. His wife was named Rebecca and they had one child. In 1830, Elijah Murdock, Sr. purchased a 441-acre tract from Daniel Hornbarger, described as adjoining the land of Charles Taylor but without mentioning any watercourse (Deed Book M, p. 189). Since the farm is located nearly on top of the eastern continental watershed, this might explain this unusual omission. Elijah Murdock, Sr. also owned numerous tracts on Crab Creek to the west. By 1850 Elijah

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Montgomery County Deed and Land Books.

1830 and 1880 Census Schedules.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

221 Governor Street

Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre.

UTM References

A 17 5525310 41113480
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point A on south side of drive, 3/10 mile west of VA Route 643 1/2 mile southwest of the crossing of the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks at Yellow Sulphur, proceeding west 200 feet to point B at a line corresponding to west wall of corn crib, thence 150 feet north to point C, thence 200 feet east to point D, thence 150 feet south to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to include the farmhouse, outbuildings, and landscape features associated with the domestic-related space.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gibson Worsham

organization Gibson Worsham, Architect

street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs

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date June 1988

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National Park Service

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Prehistoric and Historic
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board siding, and pole rafters, and a board-and-batten-sided frame outbuilding with brick foundation and shed addition. The early stone foundation of a springhouse survives to the west of the house, adjacent to a stone retaining wall for a small pond or basin. Archaeological testing was concentrated around the farmhouse. The site is grass-covered and surrounded by trees, and subsurface features are largely undisturbed.

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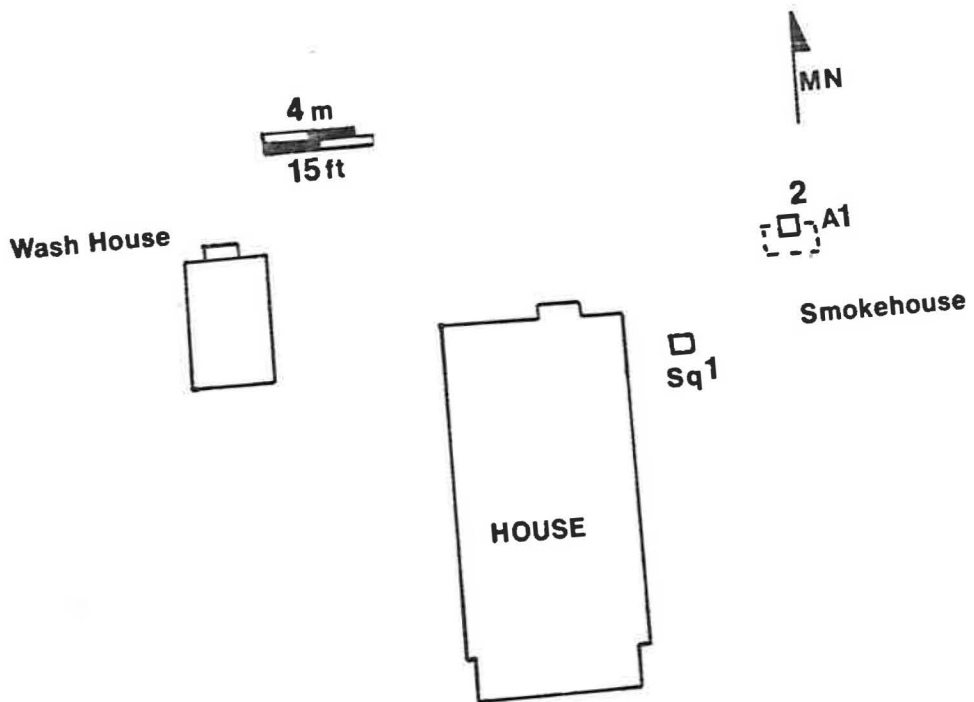
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Murdock, Sr., was aged sixty-six and living with his son "Wiley" Murdock. Eldridge H. Blair purchased the farm from John A. Murdock's heirs in 1947 (Deed Book 152, p. 418) at a special commissioner's sale. Murdock had died intestate in 1929. Ralph Brookman purchased the farm from Blair later that year (Deed Book 153, p. 56) and owned it until the 1970s, when he sold the farm to the county for establishment of a landfill and recreation park, retaining life tenancy. It is hoped that the farm can be preserved by the county in conjunction with the park as a historical exhibit.

This site is an excellent example of a relatively undisturbed historic farmstead. The significant archaeological deposits predominately relate to the nineteenth-century occupation and use of the site. Although only limited test excavations were conducted around the house, undisturbed artifact-bearing zones were identified near the kitchen and in the location of a previously removed smokehouse. Foundation remnants of this latter structure were also identified. The range of artifacts (late eighteenth through the twentieth century) recovered, as well as the smokehouse feature remains, suggest that site integrity is very good. Accordingly, the probability of locating functionally specific artifact assemblages around other outbuildings is high.

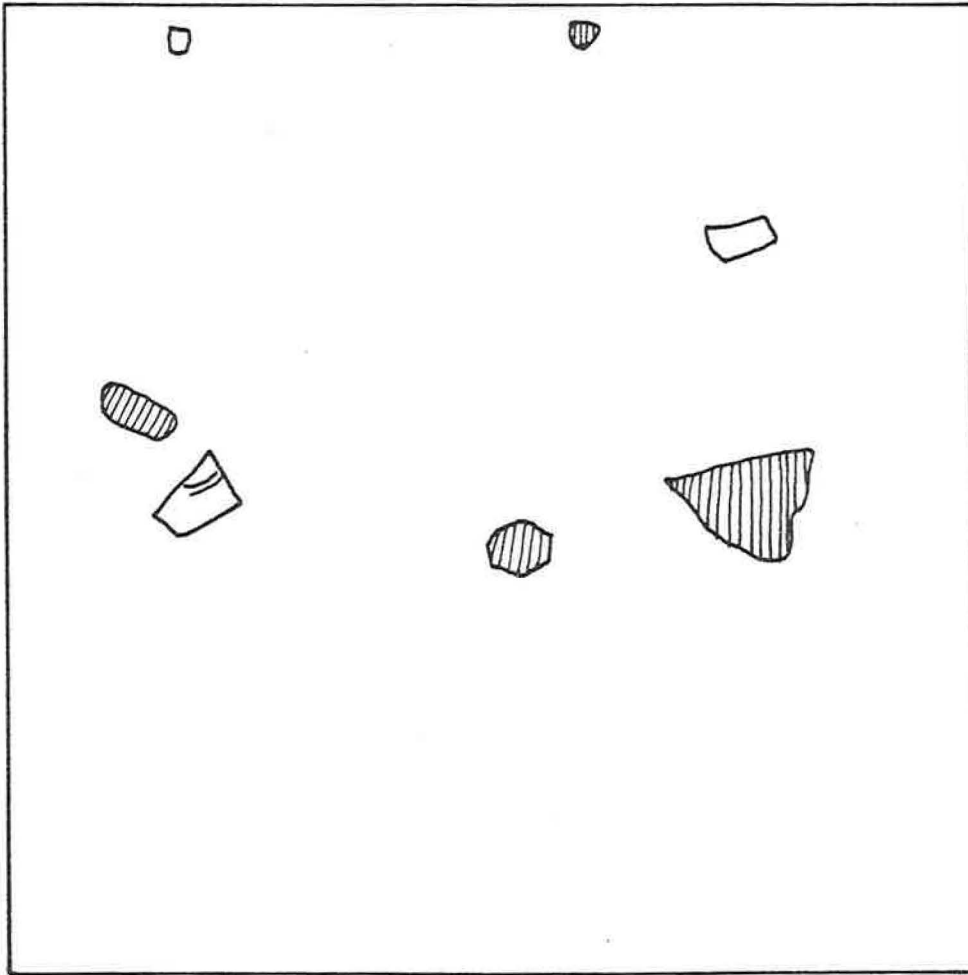
A range of artifacts representing a number of activities was recovered from the two test units. The ceramic artifacts, however, were the most diverse, representing a wide range of temporal periods. The co-occurrence of late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century ceramics in the same excavation levels indicate gradual soil buildings around the site with some limited post-depositional disturbance by bioturbation. However, major recent disturbances of soils are not indicated. The frequency of kitchen-related material culture remains in the areas tested suggest that other functionally specific artifact assemblages can be located through subsurface testing around the barn and washhouse.

Thus, a good chronological record of ceramic change is preserved at the site. There is also a high probability of identifying other intact subsurface features and functionally specific artifact deposits.



Gravel Drive

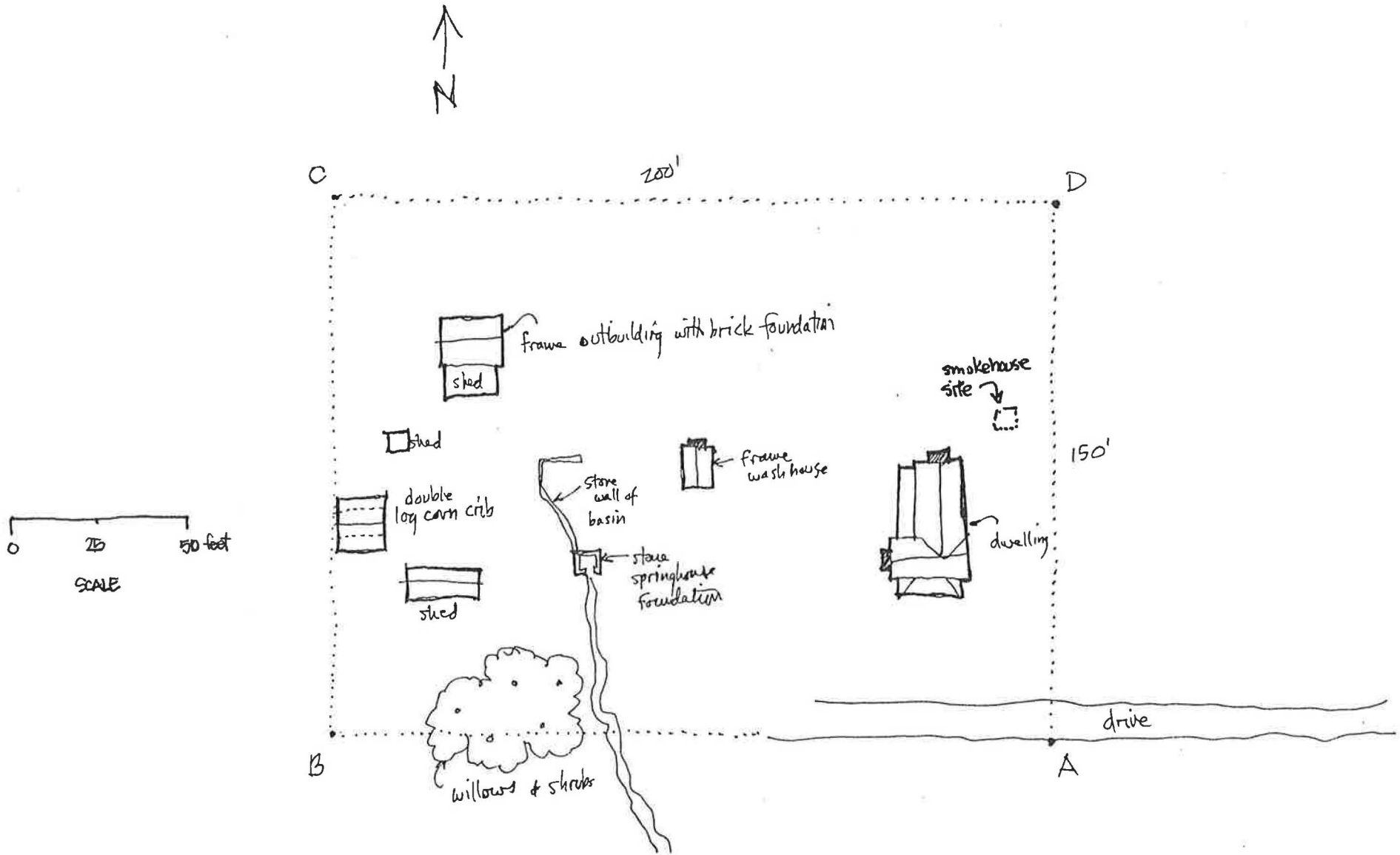
Elijah Murdock Farm test square locations.

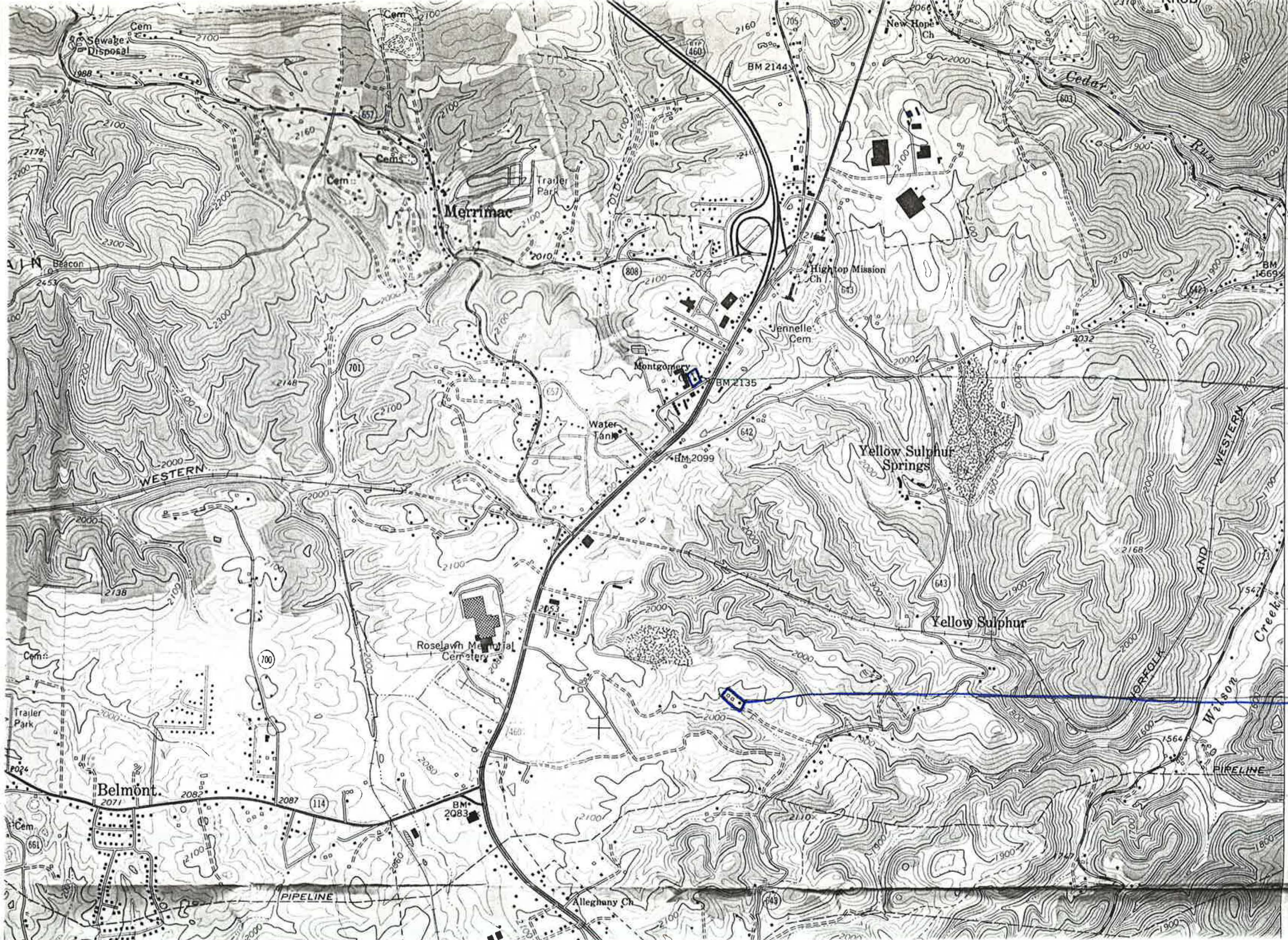


-  Sherd
-  Rock

Square 2, base of Level 2, Elijah Murdock.

60-547
Elijah Murdock Farm





4117
4116
4115
4114
4113

ELLETT 0.3 MI.
(IRONTO)
4958 III NE

MIDWAY PRIMITIVE
BAPTIST CHURCH
17 552300 4115200

ELIJAH MURDOCK
FARM
10' 17 552570 4113455