

## ABSTRACT

Title of Final Project: ANTIETAM FARM, NATIONAL HISTORIC  
REGISTER NOMINATION

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Master of Historic Preservation  
2023

Final Project Directed By: Dr. Donald W. Linebaugh  
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Antietam Farm is a historic vernacular farmstead located south of Sharpsburg in Washington County, Maryland. The farm, set in an agricultural area of high historical interest, reflects the development and events in this part of Washington County. David Showman acquired 200 acres in 1842 and built the farmhouse ca. 1844. The house has Federal and Greek Revival elements, contrasting with the German vernacular farmhouses in the region. Sharpsburg and the surrounding area were the location of the 1862 Battle of Antietam. Following the Battle, the house was the headquarters for Union General Ambrose Burnside and the Union Army's 9th Corps. President Abraham Lincoln visited the Antietam battlefield and met with Burnside at this house. Some 70,000 Union troops occupied the region for an extended time, devastating the region's agriculture and farms. Over the last three decades, the owners have carefully restored the farm to its mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century appearance. The result is a property whose historical significance, integrity, and contributing resources make it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

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NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER NOMINATION FOR ANTIETAM FARM,  
SHARPSBURG, MD

by

Brianna Candelaria

Master's Final Project submitted to the Faculty of the Historic Preservation Program of the  
University of Maryland, College Park, in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Historic  
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2023

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2023

This work is dedicated to my mother, who led by example and showed me that I could  
accomplish anything I set my mind to.

Mary Lou Perin

1943-2021

“When I speak of her,  
speak not with tears,  
for thoughts of her should not be sad.  
Let memories of the times we shared  
give me comfort,  
for my life was richer  
because of you.”

- Author Unknown



## Acknowledgments

This project is the culmination of a two-year journey that I never expected to take. The individuals who assisted me in this endeavor have my thanks and gratitude. Dr. Donald W. Linebaugh provided his wisdom and humor, and Dr. Dennis Pogue was the reason I came to UMD in the first place. The program's professors opened a whole new world to me. My outstanding colleagues filled these past two years with laughter and warmth and continue to impress me. Sylvia and Dennis Frye graciously allowed me to use Antietam Farm for this project. They spent many hours showing me around, answering my questions, and helping with research. My friends encouraged me to continue when it got tough. And finally, my wonderful husband and daughter sacrificed so much so I could do this. Without you, this never would have happened.

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## Chapter 1: Introduction

This paper examines the historical significance and integrity of Antietam Farm, a mid-19th-century farmstead located outside Sharpsburg, Maryland, to determine its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Antietam Farm was part of a large estate owned by the Showman family, whose real estate holdings comprised over 700 acres, a sizable property for Western Maryland. The farmstead is in an agricultural area of high historical interest because of its connection with the 1862 Battle of Antietam. Part of the Antietam Iron Furnace land holdings in the mid-18th century, the property exemplifies Washington County's economic shift from its initial settlement and establishment of local industry to becoming an agricultural giant by the mid-19th century.

The farmstead consists of a ca. 1844 brick farmhouse, bank barn, and wagon shed. The house has Federal and Greek Revival elements and contrasts with the earlier German vernacular farmhouses prevalent in the area. The Pennsylvania style bank barn is a common style in Washington County. This barn is considered the largest in the area, measuring 45 x 100 feet. The barn was modified during its life span by adding a milking parlor and other elements suitable to a dairy operation in the 1960s-1980s. The Showman family was one of the largest landholders and enslavers in Washington County. The farm represented the family's economic success with its acreage, output, and large house and farm structures.

The town of Sharpsburg and the surrounding fields and farms were the location of the 1862 Battle of Antietam. Union General Ambrose Burnside made Antietam Farm his headquarters after the Battle in late September and early October 1862, and the Union Army's 9th Corps camped around the house. The adjacent road (now called Mills Road) connected to

another Showman farm where Union General George McClellan had his headquarters. After the conflict, Abraham Lincoln visited the Antietam battlefield and met with Burnside and McClellan at the two farms. Like almost every farmer and citizen in Sharpsburg, the Showman family suffered the loss of grain, livestock, and other resources as the massive Union Army encamped around the town.

Antietam Farm and its original 220 acres was sold to James Snyder in 1905. Snyder's heirs sold it in 1920 to the Mills family. Under their care, it became a successful dairy farm for almost 60 years. The current owners purchased the farm in 1988. Since then, the house and the farm structures have undergone extensive rehabilitation and restoration to return Antietam Farm to its mid-19th-century appearance as much as possible. Even though it has shrunk from its original 220 acres in 1842 to its present-day 85 acres, the land remains a farm, just as it has over the previous 180 years, and continues to exemplify the agricultural economy of Washington County, Maryland.

### **Problem Statement:**

While Antietam Farm is significant for its association with the Civil War Battle of Antietam, this event reflects just a few short weeks in its much longer history. The entire history and story of the farm have yet to be told or considered, particularly how it fits within the region's historical, architectural, and agricultural context. What is the site's broader significance, and is it eligible for the National Register? Compared to other farmsteads in the area, does it possess the historical significance and physical integrity to warrant its nomination to the National Register?

### **Research Questions**

1. What is the structure's architectural style, and how does it fit into the broader architectural context of farmsteads in the area? Does the difference tell us about the area's changing settlement patterns, demographics, and architecture?

2. What is the historical significance of the house/property?
3. How does the site demonstrate changing land use from ironmaking to agriculture? Is the change significant to the area and the country?
4. Is the house/property significant outside its brief place in the Battle of Antietam?
5. After the Civil War Battle of Antietam, was Burnside's occupation of the residence distinguished by a significant event beyond the house's use as his headquarters?
6. How was Antietam Farm impacted by the Battle of Antietam and its subsequent use by Burnside after the Battle?
7. How did the farm and house change after the Battle?

### **Methodology Statement**

The methodology adopted for this National Register nomination employed a multi-method approach comprising four distinct but interconnected processes. This approach allowed for the comprehensive and in-depth examination of the architectural and historical significance of Antietam Farm, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century, upper middle-class farm in Washington County, Maryland. The four stages of the research process are as follows:

1. **Survey of Similar Buildings:** A comparative analysis was conducted by surveying similar farmsteads within a seven-mile radius of Antietam Farm. Examining farmhouses and outbuildings with similar architectural styles and historical context, made of the same materials, and built within the same time helped place Antietam Farm within the geography and culture of Washington County, MD. This survey collected data on building features, materials, and historical backgrounds. The information gathered was utilized to establish a baseline understanding of the period's architectural trends and historical significance.

2. **Site Visits:** On-site examinations of Antietam Farm were conducted to gain a deeper understanding of the farmstead's architectural details and spatial configurations. Site visits involved observation, photographic documentation, and sketching of architectural elements to facilitate a thorough analysis of the building design, construction techniques, and preservation status.
3. **In-depth Historical Research:** Archival research was conducted to explore the historical context of the farmstead. Primary and secondary sources, such as historical documents, maps, photographs, and scholarly publications, were consulted to trace the farm's history through generations of ownership, assess its agricultural output and socio-cultural significance, and examine its military influence. This process provided a broader understanding of the farmstead's place within Washington County and its contribution to the area's cultural heritage.
4. **Interviews with Subject Matter Experts:** Semi-structured interviews were conducted with subject matter experts, including historians and the farm's current owners. These interviews provided additional insights into the architectural and historical significance of the farm and its inhabitants.

Data collected during all four stages was synthesized and analyzed to develop a comprehensive understanding of the historical and architectural significance and integrity of Antietam Farm. This multi-method approach ensured the connections between the findings. It provided a richer, more holistic insight into the research questions. Obtaining consent and ensuring confidentiality were addressed throughout the research.



## Chapter 2: National Register Nomination

Antietam Farm  
Name of Property

Washington County, MD  
County and State

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: Antietam Farm  
Other names/site number: Gum Tree Farm, Frieze Farm, WA-II-371  
Name of related multiple property listing. N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & Number: 3724 Mills Road  
City or town: Sharpsburg State: Maryland County: Washington  
Not for Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part, 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria

\_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ D

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet \_\_\_ the National Register Criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title:

State of 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

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Private: ☒

Public – Local ☐

Public – State ☐

Public – Federal ☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box)

Building(s) ☒

Structure ☐

District ☐

Object ☐

Site ☐

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register None

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling  
Agriculture/barn  
Agriculture/wagon shed  
   
   
   
   
 

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Single Dwelling  
Agriculture/barn  
Agriculture/wagon shed  
Agriculture/equipment shed

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Section number 7 Page 2**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FederalGreek Revival**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation-Stone; Dwelling Walls-Brick, Barn  
Walls-Brick and Wood, Porches-Wood**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**

Antietam Farm is located along Mills Road in a rural setting about four miles south of Sharpsburg, in Washington County, Maryland. The farmstead consists of a ca. 1844 Federal/Greek Revival brick, two-and-one-half-story, five-bay, vernacular style dwelling on an 11-acre parcel of land on the western side of Mills Road, with a noncontributing, open five-bay frame equipment shed located south of the home. The contributing farm structures, including a

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mid-19th-century wagon shed and a brick and frame Pennsylvania bank barn, sit on 74 acres on the eastern side of Mills Road. The current owner of the farm bought the property in 1988 and set out to rehabilitate the house and return it to its mid-19th-century appearance. The house has had only four owners and was updated through the years to reflect current design trends. The rehabilitation has followed the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines for restoring historic properties. Because no pictures existed of the house's interior or exterior during the mid-19th century, much research went into the restoration. Reproduction elements were copied from originals found on the property, and nearby houses provided clues for adding period details. The owners employed master woodworkers, glaziers, and plasterers over the 30-year restoration effort. Many of the house's original features, including doors, window shutters, shutter dogs, columns, pilasters, and a fireplace mantle, were found on the property and reused. The farm buildings have had the modern silos removed, and modern additions have been covered with period-correct materials in keeping with the historic viewshed. The house is located in a setting of rolling hills, pastures, and deciduous trees along the slope of Red Mountain. The property is in excellent condition, has remained in the exact location over the last 180 years, has preserved the historic viewshed around it, and maintains its ability to convey a sense of its history and association with the Civil War Battle of Antietam and mid to late-19<sup>th</sup>-century agriculture in this part of Washington County, MD.

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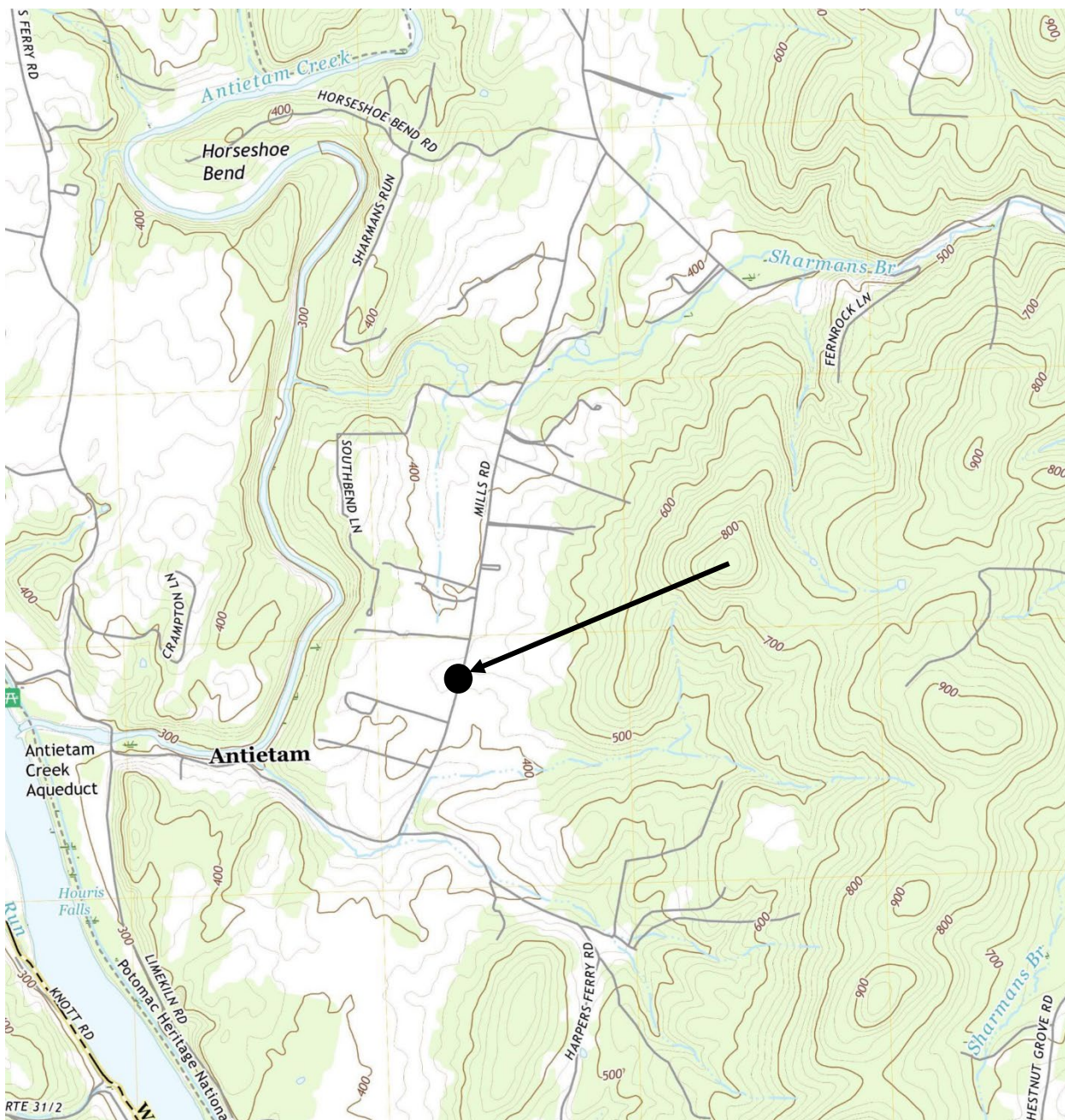
Section number 7 Page 4

Figure 1. USGS Map with the location of Antietam Farm.

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Section number 7 Page 5**Narrative Description**

Antietam Farm's dwelling is a brick, two-and-a-half story, five-bay, double-pile structure with a side-gabled, metal roof. The moderately pitched roof has a slight overhang and a cornice in the front with corbelling and brick dentils. The walls are 7/1 common or American bond, and the building sits on a raised basement of uncut, irregularly coursed stone. The structure has paired interior end brick chimneys on both the north and south gables; brick corbelling decorates the chimney top. Extending from the south gable is a two-story, open wooden porch with a hipped metal roof and plain railings.

The formal main entrance is in the front (east) façade in the middle bay. It is framed by a reconstructed single-story, single-bay, Greek Revival porch with a hipped roof. The porch rests on a stone foundation identical to the main house. The doorway opening has a brick jack arch above a seven-light transom. A four-pane sidelight borders each side of the eight-paneled door, and two simple square pilasters with capital and base trim frame the doorway opening. An unadorned entablature tops two square Doric columns supporting the porch roof. A plain oval railing connects the pilasters and columns with moderately spaced, unadorned square spindles.

The symmetrical fenestration of the façade includes four six-over-six, double-hung sash windows on the first story, two on each side of the central entrance, and five six-over-six, double-hung sash windows on the second story. The first-story window openings have extended



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brick jack arches above them, with smaller brick jack arches above the second-story window openings. All windows are framed with original wooden shutters, held back with replica shutter dogs copied from an original found on site. Piercing the raised basement are four original, square ventilation windows aligned with the first-floor windows.

The dwelling's north elevation has paired interior end chimneys of common bond brickwork. There are six symmetrical window openings. The first story has two six-over-six, double-hung sash windows with jack arches and original wooden louvered shutters with shutter dogs on either side of the chimneys. On the second story, two six-over-six, double-hung sash windows with jack arches and original wooden louvered shutters with shutter dogs are directly above the first-story windows. Two single, six-pane windows with brick jack arches are placed above the first- and second-story windows in the gable. The raised stone foundation is revealed to a fuller extent as the ground level falls away towards the back of the structure. One six-over-six, double-hung sash window with wooden paneled shutters pierces the stone foundation, aligned with the windows to the right of the chimneys.

The west elevation (rear) reveals the full two-and-a-half-story height of the house, with the foundation and basement fully exposed. The common bond brickwork continues, and the rear cornice mirrors the corbelling and brick dentils on the façade. Six asymmetrically placed window openings are set in a three-bay configuration. The exposed basement has four openings (window, door, window, window). The first and fourth bays are vertically aligned with the windows above

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them; all are six-over-six, double-hung sash windows with paneled shutters. The door into the basement area is board and batten with sizeable wrought iron strap hinges. The first floor has three six-over-six double-hung sash windows with paneled shutters on the first and third windows. The far left and right window openings align vertically with the windows below. The middle window has no shutters and is out of alignment horizontally with the rest of the first-story windows. This window appears to have initially been a door that led to a staircase.<sup>1</sup> The second story has three six-over-six, double-hung sash windows with paneled shutters. The window openings align vertically with the windows below, but the middle window opening is out of alignment horizontally with the rest of the second-story windows. The back of the side porch extends from the right side of the house and is covered in weatherboard.

The south elevation is dominated by a three-story, four-bay wooden porch with stairs running from the basement level to the first floor and from the first floor to the second. The left bay of the porch is enclosed with weatherboard siding. A six-over-six, double-hung sash window with paneled shutters pierces the exposed stone foundation on the far right. A paneled door leads into the basement on the far left. The first-floor level of the porch has three asymmetrical openings. A panel door with nine lights in the upper portion of the door is set on the far left below a four-light transom. A six-over-six, double-hung sash window with louvered shutters is

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<sup>1</sup> Dennis Frye, Personal Interview, Sharpsburg, MD, April 8, 2023.

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asymmetrically placed between the door on the left side of the porch and a six-panel wooden door on the right side. A wood paneled door leads into a storage room in the first bay of the porch. The second-story openings follow the alignment of the openings on the first story (door, window, door). The door on the far left has nine lights on the upper portion. There is a six-over-six, double-hung sash window with louvered shutters to the right of the door and a paneled door to the right of the window. The porch columns on the first floor are spare and unadorned. The porch columns on the second and third floors are chamfered, and the railing is the same as on the front porch. Above the porch roof, a small six-pane window pierces the center of the paired interior end chimneys; the chimney is corbeled at the top. The porch is original to the house's design.

The bricks making up the dwelling walls and part of the barn are hand-made and likely fired on-site just west of the house. One area has yielded brick remnants and whole bricks. Some of the bricks on the house show glazing. Several places on the outside walls, especially around door and window openings, indicate the brick was painted red with white penciled joints. The main entrance door and several interior doors are grained to look like oak or birds-eye maple and are original to the house. About 60% of the windowpanes are original to the house.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Dennis Frye, Personal Interview, Sharpsburg, MD, April 8, 2023.

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Across Mills Road, the Pennsylvania bank barn is a bent frame, double brick outshed, frame structure with a metal roof dating to the same period as the main house (ca. 1844). At 100 x 45 feet, it is the largest of its kind in the area.<sup>3</sup> Single and double outshed barns are numerous in Washington County with construction dates ranging between 1790-1860.<sup>4</sup> The upper portion of the barn was for hay and grain, while the lower portion housed livestock. The outsheds on the north façade are made of brick. They functioned as granaries that were accessible from the threshing floor in the interior of the barn and the ramp on the outside. Both brick outsheds have decorative ventilation openings. The gable ends of the barn are wood. The interior features a bent frame, with the threshing floor separated into three sections. The louvered windows are original to the structure. A non-period one-story concrete addition is attached to the east side of the barn to house livestock. The forebay of the barn is open and has its original doors and hinges. After 1951 however, the forebay was extended, and a milking parlor was added to the west side of the barn.

Further south of the barn is a cattle feeding station with a metal roof and the remains of three silos that were removed. Northwest of the barn is a two-bay, wood wagon shed with a

<sup>3</sup> Dennis Frye, Personal Interview, Sharpsburg, MD, April 8, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Robert F. Enslinger, *The Pennsylvania Barn: Its Origin, Evolution, and Distribution in North America* (Baltimore, SC: JHU Press, 2003), 95.

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metal roof, also from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. All the farm outbuildings sit within a 74-acre pasture and are accessed via a wooden gate from Mills Road.

The first-floor main entry door is grained to look like oak and is original to the house. The first- and second-story floor plans make the house's symmetry apparent. A center passage and stairway divide the four first-floor rooms. The more formal rooms (dining room and formal parlor) are located at the front of the house, while the more informal (kitchen and back parlor) are at the rear. All the first-floor rooms open to the center passage; doors also directly connect the two rooms (front and back parlor) on the northern side of the house and the two rooms (kitchen and dining room) on the southern side of the house off the center passage. The north wall is 8" thick brick covered with plaster. The opposite wall is 6" thick and is frame construction with plaster on lath. The first and second-floor center passage flooring is unfinished and is blind-nailed, tongue and groove pine that ranges in size from 4-6" wide. Doors leading from the passage to the dining room and front parlor and the doors between the front and back parlor are painted to simulate birds-eye maple. Fireplace mantles in the parlors and dining room are painted to simulate marble, while the kitchen fireplace mantle is plain. The hallway, kitchen, and parlor floors are blind-nailed, tongue and groove pine and original to the house.

The main staircase is open from the first to the second floor and rises along the southern (left) side of the center passage. Unadorned balusters support rounded hand railings. The newel post is topped with an ornamental ball. The stairs, balusters, and newel posts are all pine and

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stripped of paint; the riser ends are undecorated. A landing with a window separates the lower and upper staircases. The second-floor rooms mirror the first floor and open into the center passage but do not connect internally. The two southern-facing rooms have doors that lead out to the porch. At the head of the stairs is a modern bathroom. All the second-story rooms have fireplaces. All floors are unfinished blind-nailed, tongue and groove pine.

A closed set of stairs rises from the second floor to the attic. Graffiti on the stairway wall is visible, though hard to make out. The attic is made up of two rooms of unequal sizes. An attached wooden ladder provides porch roof access through a window on the southern wall. The attic reveals the roof framing assembled with common rafters, bridle joints, and half-lapped collar ties. Roman numerals on some rafters indicate scribe rule construction. Some minor archaeology around the house has yielded slate fragments. This and the nailers suggest that the original roof was probably slate. The paired interior end chimneys on the north and south gables lead to ten fully functioning fireplaces, each with its separate flue. The eastern chimneys have three flues each, and the western chimneys have two. Each room within the house has its own fireplace.

The interior basement comprises four rooms, two large and two small. The internal walls are original plaster-covered brick, while the exterior walls are original plaster-covered stone. The floor is poured concrete. A steeply pitched open stairway descends from the first floor, set beneath the main staircase on the first floor. The southern basement room contains an original

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fireplace, a closet, and a door exiting underneath the porch on the southern wall. There are two windows on the west wall and entrances to two smaller rooms on the east side of the house. The fireplace is large, indicating that this was likely the kitchen. The original trim in this room includes wainscoting around a portion of the walls and trim around the windows. A small modern bathroom has been added underneath the stairs. The smaller rooms each have a small ventilation window on the upper east wall. The northern basement room contains an original fireplace and a window on the north side of the room, two small ventilation windows on the upper east wall, and two full-size windows on the western side. This room is much plainer than the southern room, with no trim and just a wood lintel above each large window.

A white picket fence surrounds the house except for the rear. The fence ends at the back of the house on the west side. There is a small modern gazebo (non-contributing) behind the house. On the south side, a fieldstone patio extends from the house's foundation wall to just beyond the porch overhang. A flower garden is enclosed on the south and east sides by a low, dry-laid stone wall; a walkway extends southwest from the patio to the picket fence. A small flowering ornamental tree is adjacent to the house on the north side. South of the house is a modern, open five-bay shed.

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A survey of similar farms built between 1820-1860 was conducted to contextualize Antietam Farm within the area's broader architectural and social framework, using the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) database. Farms within a seven-mile radius were examined with Antietam Farm as the center point. The area included comparable small towns - Sharpsburg, Keedysville, Rohersville, Burkittsville, and Knoxville. Since Washington County, MD has many historic resources, the survey area was constricted due to time limitations and location. Antietam Farm's history also includes a strong connection with the Battle of Antietam, so the battlefield and its farmsteads were included in the historic resource comparison. Over 870 historic resources were examined to find similar farms and structures to Antietam Farm.<sup>5</sup>

The survey provided information on farms' architecture, materials, and age and looked into the agricultural wealth of the Sharpsburg area. The number of large farms with well-constructed dwellings indicated that many farmers in Washington County would be considered middle to upper-middle-class. Further analysis from other sources revealed that the wealth these farms possessed was demonstrated in agricultural output, acreage, livestock, the total value of farms, and in some cases, the owning of enslaved workers.

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<sup>5</sup> Brianna Candelaria, *A Cultural Landscape Study to Determine Eligibility of a Local Farm Under Criteria C for the National Register*, (Sharpsburg, MD, 2023).



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Within the seven-mile radius, 55 farms of 20 acres or more were built between 1820 and 1845. Non-brick and partial brick houses were removed from the survey, bringing the number down to 28. Dwellings with modern additions, thereby reducing their historic integrity, were eliminated, bringing the survey number to 17. Of those 17, four dwellings were three bay, one was four bay, and one was six bay. The remaining 12 did not meet historical significance through one or more of the seven areas of integrity criteria as defined by the National Register. Out of 55 farms, only four farms were found to be the most like Antietam Farm in terms of integrity, area, age, material, and architectural style.<sup>6</sup> Mount Airy and the Hoffman Farm, both National Register properties, and the Pry and Sherrick Farms, both contributing structures to Antietam National Battlefield (Table 1). According to their National Register nominations, all four farms are good representations of the area's vernacular architecture. All four farms are within three miles of Antietam Farm, all have brick dwellings constructed between 1820 and 1845, and all have/had large bank barns and extensive acreage. Each house has elements of Georgian/Federal architecture. Three of the farms' dwellings have Greek-Revival aspects, and all four houses have features that are indicative of period architectural trends with local building traditions (Table 2).<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Brianna Candelaria, *A Cultural Landscape Study to Determine Eligibility of a Local Farm Under Criteria C for the National Register*, (Sharpsburg, MD, 2023).

<sup>7</sup> Lisa Pfueller Davidson and Catherine C. Lavoie, *Buildings of Maryland* (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2022), 357

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*Figure 3. Mount Airy (Grove Farm. Courtesy of the MD Historical Trust.*



*Figure 2. Hoffman Farm. Courtesy of John Banks' Civil War Blog.*



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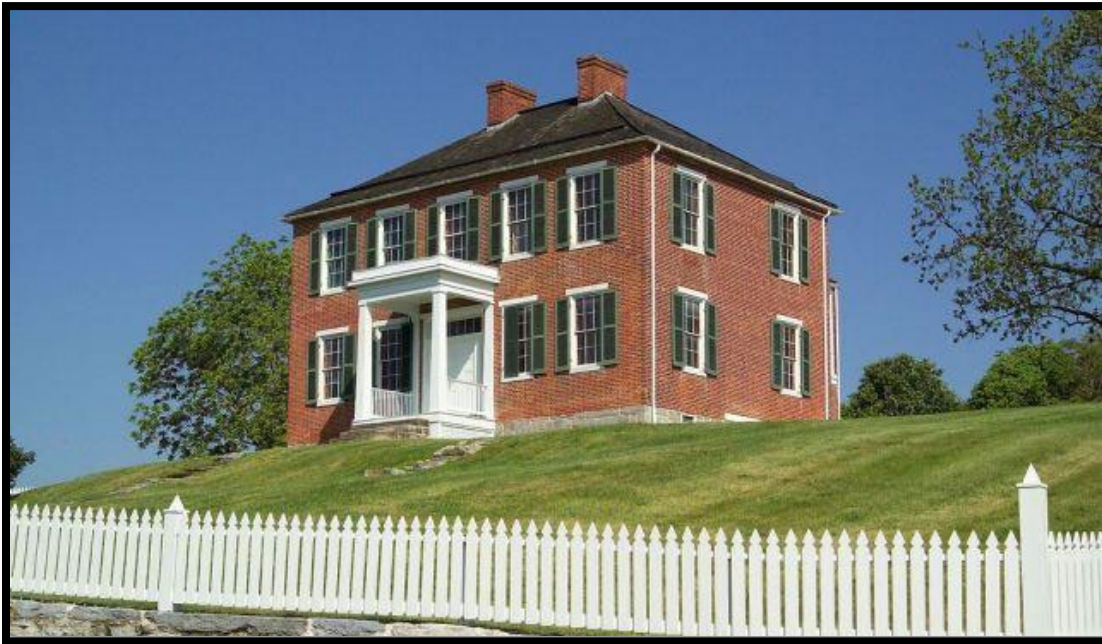
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*Figure 4. Philip Pry Farm. Courtesy of NPS.*



*Figure 5. Sherrick Farm. Courtesy of Preservation Maryland.*

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Table 1: Similar Farms to Antietam Farm within a Seven Mile Radius<sup>8</sup>

	<b>Mt. Airy (Grove Farm) WA-II-469</b>	<b>Hoffman Farm WA-II-251</b>	<b>Sherrick Farm WA-II-355</b>	<b>Pry Farm WA-II-334</b>	<b>Antietam Farm WA-II-371</b>
<b>National Register Status</b>	On the National Register	On the National Register	Contributing Structure to Antietam NB	Contributing Structure to Antietam NB	N/A
<b>Type of House</b>	L-shaped	Single Pile with two-story extension	Rectangular block	L-shaped	Rectangular block
<b>Date Built</b>	1820	1840s	1830s	1844	1844
<b>Building Material</b>	Brick	Brick	Brick	Brick	Brick
<b>Bond Type</b>	Flemish and Common	Common Bond	Flemish and Common	Flemish and Common.	Common Bond
<b>Chimney type</b>	Two internal chimneys, two interior-end chimneys.	Two gable end chimneys, one in center	Two interior chimneys and a paired interior-end chimney	Three interior chimneys, one interior-end chimney	Paired interior-end chimneys
<b>Stories</b>	Two	Two	Two and a half	Two	Two and a half
<b>Outbuildings (non-modern)</b>	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -century frame barn with metal roof ventilation	Frame bank barn with a cantilevered forebay with shed extension	Brick summer kitchen, the barn is gone.	Frame bank barn with a cantilevered forebay with shed extension	Bank Barn with two outsheds and wagon barn.

<sup>8</sup> Brianna Candelaria, *A Cultural Landscape Study to Determine Eligibility of a Local Farm Under Criteria C for the National Register*, (Sharpsburg, MD, 2023).

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Table 2: Architectural Elements of the Five Farms

Farm Dwelling	Georgian Architectural Elements <sup>9</sup>	Federal Architectural Elements <sup>10</sup>	Greek-Revival Architectural Elements <sup>11</sup>	Vernacular Architectural Elements <sup>12</sup>
<b>Mount Airy</b>	- Five bays on front façade - Hipped Roof	- Five bays on front façade - Windows aligned vertically and horizontally in symmetrical rows - Elliptical fanlight - Double Sash Windows		- Side attached, two story kitchen wing with tiered inset porches - Perpendicular ell w/ double porch - Gable and hip roofline
<b>Hoffman Farm</b>	- Five bays on front façade	- Five bays on front façade - Windows aligned vertically and horizontally in symmetrical rows - Side-gabled roof - Double Sash Windows	- Entry porch with Doric style columns - Front door with transom and sidelights	- Side attached, two story kitchen wing with tiered inset porches - Built over a spring in the cellar
<b>Sherrick Farm</b>	- Five bays on front façade - Hipped roof	- Five bays on front façade - Windows aligned vertically and horizontally in symmetrical rows - Side-gabled roof - Double Sash Windows	- Entry porch with Doric style columns - Front door with transom and sidelights	- Built over a spring in the cellar - Built into a hill - Double gallery - Gable and hip roofline
<b>Pry Farm</b>	- Five bays on front façade - Hipped roof	- Five bays on front façade - Windows aligned vertically and horizontally in symmetrical rows - Side-gabled roof - Double Sash Windows	- Entry porch with Doric style columns - Front door with transom and sidelights	- Perpendicular ell w/double porch - Gable and hip roofline
<b>Antietam Farm</b>	- Five bays on front façade	- Five bays on front façade - Windows aligned vertically and horizontally in symmetrical rows - Side-gabled roof - Double Sash Windows - Cornice emphasized with moldings and dentils	- Entry porch with Doric style columns - Front door with transom and sidelights	- Double story porch on south side of house.

<sup>9</sup> Virginia McAlester and Arcie L. McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, 201

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, 218-219

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, 247-248

<sup>12</sup> Lisa Pfueller Davidson and Catherine C. Lavoie, *Buildings of Maryland* (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2022), 357

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Tables 1 and 2 show how Antietam Farm fits within and compares to the local vernacular architecture identified by the comparable farms. Antietam Farm is a true representation of this region's upper-middle-class organic style. Like the others, the house and farm buildings were most likely built by local artisans and builders rather than professional architects. The materials used to build Antietam Farm and the other farms were locally sourced. Wood for framing, clay, and sand for bricks, springs, and landforms were all incorporated into the building process. Most historic houses in Washington County are a mix of architectural styles. However, the simplicity of their design reduces the characteristics of any identifiable style. Antietam Farm and the four comparable farms display far more distinctive traditional and vernacular architectural elements than many of their counterparts. The building of these farms directly responded to the specific needs of larger families and the inclusion of enslaved workers in the household; because more land required more labor. This was a society settled in its agricultural practices. Antietam Farm, Mount Airy, Hoffman Farm, the Pry Farm, and the Sherrick Farm represent their owner's economic and social standing through their location, culture, history, and identity.

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Section number 7 Page 20**Restoration of House and Barn**

When the current owners purchased Antietam Farm in 1988, the house had been modernized over the years according to then-current styles. For example, a four-bay Victorian porch was added in 1915, spanning the front (east) elevation. The southern porch was rebuilt at that time using modern materials. There was evidence of water damage in the northeast corner of the house, and lightning had struck the north gable chimneys in the 1930s, damaging the brick, and repairs were made with Portland Cement. The original windows were covered by one-over-one storm windows and left like that for decades. The framing around most of the windows had rotted, and the glazing on the old windows was almost non-existent. The interior of the house was no better. The doors between the kitchen and the dining room on the first floor were removed and replaced with French doors. Central air conditioning was added with ductwork insulated with asbestos and hidden by faux walls snaked around the house. The ceilings were lowered and covered with square tiles, and linoleum covered the original pine floors. In many rooms, wallpaper covered the ceiling and the walls; in others, fir strips were placed over the original plaster walls and covered by wood paneling. The trim work around the doors on the first floor had lost its definition due to numerous layers of paint. An ornate wire fence surrounded the site, and a hog barn and chicken coop were located directly to the west of the house.

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The restoration included removing all the faux walls and the central air conditioning duct work with its asbestos insulation. The linoleum tile was removed, and the pine floors found underneath were sanded and left unfinished. Layers of paint were removed from around the trim work, which was brought down to the original wood and then repainted. The wallpaper on the ceiling and walls was carefully removed to leave as much plaster intact as possible. The wood paneling and fir strips attached to the plaster walls were painstakingly separated. All walls in the house are plaster-on-lath or plaster-on-brick and whitewashed. Where needed, the plaster was repaired. The ceiling plaster was removed and replaced with drywall. Drywall was also used around plumbing and electrical elements.

Many original architectural elements, such as pilasters, columns, doors, window shutters, shutter dogs, and a fireplace mantle, were found in the outbuildings and under the front porch. The storm windows were removed from the original windows, which were then carefully removed from the frame. Master glazier Don Buck rebuilt and reglazed 26 windows. Great care was taken to ensure that the original glass remained intact. If replacements were needed, it was done with historic glass. The shutters found in the outbuildings were cleaned, repainted, and hung on the east and north elevations of the house. Replicas were made of the original shutter dogs and placed below the shutters. The original front door, with its faux oak graining and hardware, was found in nearly perfect condition in the hog barn. All that was needed was to clean and hang it. The original doors between the kitchen and the dining room were found in the



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chicken coop with their hardware intact. Three of the four fireplaces in the house had their original mantles. The fourth mantle was found in the barn, cleaned, and placed in the rear parlor, where it fit perfectly.

The 1915 Victorian porch was removed and replaced with a Greek Revival-style portico which was carefully researched for style and construction techniques by examining similar style porticos in the area, including the Sherrick House on the Antietam Battlefield. Both original pilasters to the portico were found under the old porch. They were stable enough to be used in the reconstruction. The original portico columns, also found under the porch, were too deteriorated for reuse and were used as patterns to build new ones. The replacement columns were hand cut, planed, and joined using cut nails like the originals. The portico's roof was modeled after a style of the same period found in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century architectural guide, *The American Builder's Companion*, by Asher Benjamin. The book also provided details for the exact proportions of the different moldings and the size of the entablature. Archaeology had located the original portico's foundation helping to place the reconstructed porch in its original location. The result is a historically accurate portico that blends harmoniously into the front of the house.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Sylvia Frye, "A Restoration Challenge," *Ranger: The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers* 5, no. 7 (Fall 2000):5

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The massive porch on the southern end of the house is original to the house's design. The original porch columns were logs covered with a faux exterior to resemble a Tuscan column and were found under the Victorian porch. When the front porch was replaced in 1915, the side porch was rehabilitated with concrete columns and a 6" concrete pad. In 1997, the porches were rebuilt with a retaining/footer wall at the north end and stone-faced concrete blocks on the south end. The 1997 support columns are of a squared Tuscan design, made of wood to enclose steel supports. The storage rooms within the weatherboard section of the porch are also a modification later than the house's construction date. Evidence shows that a first-story door was relocated for the kitchen and moved from the basement to its present-day first-floor location. Some of the latticework over the four basement openings was original. They were repainted, while new ones were recreated using the originals as a pattern. One of the small interior shutters on the basement openings is original. The other three were copied from the original. The fence surrounding the house has been rebuilt. The pickets and posts are taken from a 19th-century design book and made of Spanish cedar to resist rot and insects.

A new roof was placed on the bank barn, and the foundation shored up. Three large silos were removed. The cement block exterior of the 1950s milking parlor is covered with parging, a period-looking stucco-like material to provide a more historic look. Several outbuildings in poor condition were removed, including the hog barn and the chicken coop behind the house.

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The restoration of the house, which began in 1988 and continues today, has restored many of the house's original features, including doors, mantles, and shutters. The most extensive restoration work was removing interior additions that hid the original plaster walls, pine flooring, and original trim work. Removing the 1915 front and side porches and replacing them with more period-appropriate materials and styles has improved the house's historical integrity. Repairing the windows, crumbling and damaged brickwork, repointing the basement, and repairing the plaster walls on the interior were all done using master craftsmen. The effect of the work has been to enhance the house's historical integrity and return the landscape as much as possible to its mid-19th-century appearance. Antietam Farm continues as a working farm, and some modern intrusions have been added, including the equipment shed just south of the house and the concrete and forebay additions to the bank barn. The farm's acreage has diminished, and the area has been built up with new development. However, because of the farm's 85 acres, strategically placed trees, and the nature of the land with its rolling hills, the rural character and viewshed remain intact

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of Construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or History.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from the 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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture  
Architecture  
Military

**Period of significance**

1842-1905

**Significant Dates**

1842-1905, 1862

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

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## Statement of Significance

Antietam Farm demonstrates historical and architectural significance under National Register Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, Antietam Farm has local and state historical significance for its association with agricultural development in Washington County as the area grew from initial settlement into the primary wheat-producing county in Maryland by 1860. Raleigh Showman, who owned Antietam Farm at the time, was one of the largest landowners in Sharpsburg, with over 700 acres. Additionally, he enslaved 12 workers, the most of any person in Sharpsburg.<sup>14</sup><sup>15</sup> In 1862, the Showman's faced the full brunt of the aftermath of the Battle of Antietam. Antietam Farm was used as the headquarters of Union General Ambrose Burnside after the battle, as a meeting place for President Lincoln and Burnside, and as the encampment site for 12,000 men of the Union Army's Ninth Corps. The Showman family owned Antietam Farm for 63 years, from 1842-1905. Despite three subsequent owners since then, much of the farm survived intact and continues to function as an agricultural property into the present day. Under Criterion C, Antietam Farm is an excellent example of regionally distinctive construction. The house, wagon shed, and barn all date from ca. 1844. The house illustrates the changing style from Federal to Greek Revival, including boldly delineated windows, side lights, transoms around door openings, and intricately molded woodwork. However, the house also represents the conservatism apparent in Washington County, MD, through its lack of intricate Greek Revival elements, such as a heavily pedimented gable end.

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<sup>14</sup> "1860 Agricultural Census," United States Department of Agriculture, accessed January 31, 2023, [https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/census\\_year/1860-census/](https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/census_year/1860-census/).

<sup>15</sup> E. Amt, *Black Antietam: African Americans and the Civil War in Sharpsburg* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2022), 12

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The large brick and frame Pennsylvania bank barn with its chestnut timber frame is one of the largest in Washington County, representing the Showman's wealth. However, it was also built with the prevalent conservatism in the area, with little ornamentation except for brick ventilation work on the outsheds.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

European settlement of Maryland's western frontier, beyond South Mountain in Frederick County, began in 1732 when Charles Calvert, Fifth Lord Baltimore, opened the area with the advertisement, "We being desirous to increase the number of honest people within our province of Maryland and willing to give suitable encouragement to such to come and reside therein."<sup>16</sup> With the advertisement came a promise of 200 acres of land to anyone settling between the Potomac and the Susquehanna.<sup>17</sup> The influx of prospective settlers was initially slow. Much land was held in warrants or purchased by wealthy speculators who resided in the eastern part of the colony. Those settlers who came to western Maryland, specifically Washington County, were largely Scotch-Irish or German immigrants who initially came to Pennsylvania. Finding much of the good fertile land already taken beyond Philadelphia to the western frontier, they followed the Great Wagon Road west and south. The road began in Philadelphia as a primary route for settlers

<sup>16</sup> Thomas J. Williams, *A History of Washington County, Maryland: From the Earliest Settlements to the Present Time, Including a History of Hagerstown* (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968), 20

<sup>17</sup> "Antietam National Battlefield National Register Nomination," National Park Service, accessed April 21, 2023, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/66000038>.

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moving west and south. It ran westward towards Gettysburg, PA, turning south toward Hagerstown, MD, and then crossed the Potomac River. The road is mentioned in some of the early land patents in Washington County. In 1736, Richard Sprigg patented "Piles Grove" or "Piles Delight," just north of Sharpsburg. The survey certificate from 1734 states, "... beginning at a White Oak near a small branch and near a large spring... about a mile from a road called the Waggon Road..."<sup>18</sup>

In 1739 John Moore, a speculator, acquired 300 acres of prime river bottom land along the Potomac River through a special warrant. It ran between the mouth of Antietam Creek to where modern-day Route 34 crosses the Potomac into West Virginia. According to historian Ted Ellis in *Roads of Colonial Western Maryland*, this was one of the prime pieces of land in the area, with the Wagon Road crossing the Potomac within its boundaries.<sup>19</sup>

Prospective settlers following roads south and west would have traveled through Antietam Creek's valley, and many stayed in the area. By 1754, a Lutheran Congregation was established at Antietam.<sup>20</sup> As mentioned above, most settlers were tenants on land owned by speculators. These tenants, primarily German, established agriculture in this area. Early farmers like Joseph

<sup>18</sup> "Antietam National Battlefield National Register Nomination," National Park Service, accessed April 21, 2023, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/66000038>.

<sup>19</sup> Ted Ellis, *Roads of Colonial Western Maryland* (Middletown, DE2019), 41

<sup>20</sup> "Antietam National Battlefield National Register Nomination," National Park Service, accessed April 21, 2023, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/66000038>.



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Chapline, a planter from the eastern part of Maryland, attempted to grow tobacco, but the crop was not suited to the soil or the weather. In fact, Chapline's unsuccessful tobacco fields would later serve as the outline of lots for Sharpsburg, the community he established in 1763.<sup>21</sup> While tobacco failed, the early German settlers planted grain which thrived in the Antietam Valley, and mills needed to grind the grain were soon established along the banks of nearby creeks. Stull's Mill along the Antietam and Witmer Mill along Beaver creek were in operation by 1739.<sup>22</sup>

Settlement stalled with the French and Indian War. Many of the region's inhabitants fled east of South Mountain and then returned at the war's end.<sup>23</sup> In 1763, Joseph Chapline founded the town of Sharpsburg, three miles east of the Potomac River, where 1765 ferry service started between Maryland and Virginia. By 1768 German settlers were establishing themselves in Sharpsburg. New roads connected Frederick, Shepherdstown, Sharpsburg, Keedysville, and Elizabethtown, now Hagerstown. Those roads would connect with Baltimore. The 1783 U.S. Tax Assessment lists 20 flour mills along the Antietam drainage; by 1790, there were 23 mills. According to Susan Trail, "Eastern Washington County, with its large mills along Antietam

<sup>21</sup> "Antietam National Battlefield National Register Nomination," National Park Service, accessed April 21, 2023, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/66000038>.

<sup>22</sup> Susan W. Frye, "Evolution of mill settlement patterns in the Antietam drainage, Washington County, Maryland," (Master's thesis, College of William and Mary - Arts and Sciences, 1984), 38, <https://dx.doi.org/doi:10.21220/s2-ce0b-rb67>.

<sup>23</sup> "Antietam National Battlefield National Register Nomination," National Park Service, accessed April 21, 2023, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/66000038>.

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Creek, probably represented the most advanced stage of market integration in the county.”<sup>24</sup> It can be argued that the Antietam Valley’s agricultural and milling growth in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century was directly linked to the Baltimore market.<sup>25</sup> To support the number of mills in the Antietam drainage, grain production would need to be high.<sup>26</sup> The Sharpsburg area also boasted another industry, iron. In 1763 Joseph Chapline, along with partners and investors, developed the Antietam Iron Works at the mouth of Antietam Creek.

<sup>24</sup> Susan W. Frye, "Evolution of mill settlement patterns in the Antietam drainage, Washington County, Maryland," (Master's thesis, College of William and Mary - Arts and Sciences, 1984), 38, <https://dx.doi.org/doi:10.21220/s2-ce0b-rb>, 67.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, 46

<sup>26</sup> "Antietam National Battlefield National Register Nomination," National Park Service, accessed April 21, 2023, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/66000038>.

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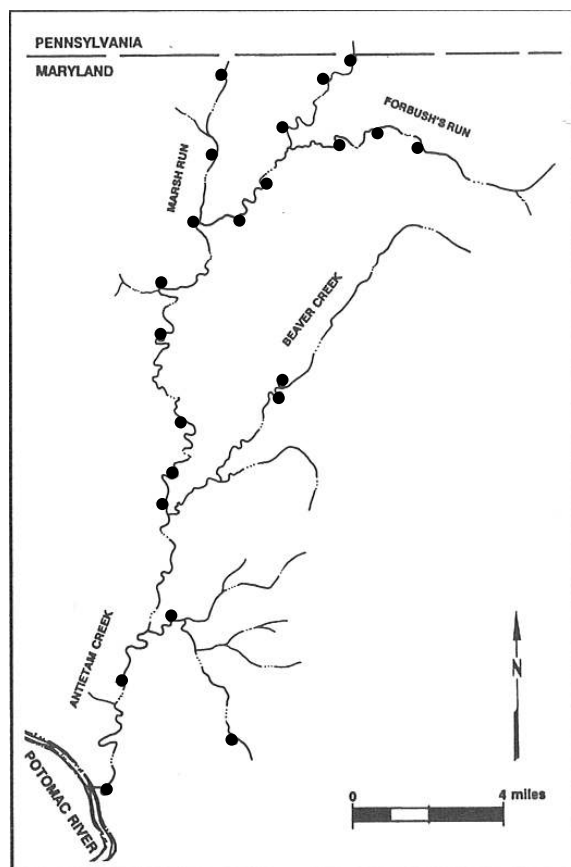


Figure 6. Flour mills listed in 1783 tax assessment (Drawn by Anne S. Beckett).<sup>27</sup>

**Antietam Iron Works and the Further Development of Agriculture**

The Village of Antietam (not to be confused with Sharpsburg) was located at the mouth of Antietam Creek, along the Potomac River. There, on land that Chapline owned, the first furnace

<sup>27</sup>Susan E. Winter, "Mill Settlement Patterns Along the Antietam Creek Drainage, Washington County, Maryland," *Spatial Patterning in Historical Archaeology: Selected Studies of Settlement*, 1994, 74.

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and forge were built and operated.<sup>28</sup> Resources (wood and ore) needed to make pig iron, the main product at the time, were obtained from the vast land holdings that Chapline and his business partners owned in the vicinity. The furnace was sold to Samuel and David Hughes before the Revolutionary War broke out and supplied cannons to the Continental Army during the War. George Washington wrote,

Upon consulting General Knox, it is our opinion that the contract with Mr. Hughes for the thirty eighteen-pounders should be renewed, as the cannon are absolutely necessary, and it does not appear that they can be procured from any works so soon as from his...<sup>29</sup>

At the War's end, Samuel Hughes ended production at the Antietam Iron Works and left for eastern Maryland. Between 1786 and 1805, the furnace at the mouth of Antietam Creek ceased functioning. The 1794 map of the area only shows a forge operating.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>28</sup> "Antietam Iron Furnace Site and Antietam Village National Register Nomination," National Park Service, last modified June 26, 1975, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/75000149>.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid

<sup>30</sup> Griffith, Dennis, James Thackara, and J Vallance. Map of the State of Maryland laid down from an actual survey of all the principal waters, public roads, and divisions of the counties therein; describing the situation of the cities, towns, villages, houses of worship and other public buildings, furnaces, forges, mills, and other remarkable places; and of the Federal Territory; as also a sketch of the State of Delaware shewing the probable connexion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays," *Library of Congress*, 1794, <https://www.loc.gov/item/76693265/>.

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Figure 7. Map of Sharpsburg area in 1794 showing the Antietam Iron Forge. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

In 1805, the whole of the Iron Works went up for sale, along with over 7,000 acres of land. Purchased by John McPherson in 1806, the Iron Works began operation again, and an 1808 map shows the site as having a furnace, forge, and gristmill.<sup>31</sup> The operation on Antietam Creek continued to grow as other businesses joined in using the waterpower of the creek. A nail factory was established in 1831 with twenty-five nail-making machines and a small rolling mill. During

<sup>31</sup> "Antietam Iron Furnace Site and Antietam Village National Register Nomination," National Park Service, last modified June 26, 1975, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/75000149>.

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this time, over 250 people were employed at the furnace, including several dozen enslaved men.<sup>32</sup>

At the same time the iron industry was growing in the region, an agricultural boom was in progress. Central Maryland became the "breadbasket of the state." By 1810, the state was the third largest flour-producer in the country, with Washington County leading the way.<sup>33</sup> The Hagerstown *Torch Light and Public Advertiser* stated in the March 31, 1831, issue,

There are in Washington County upwards of sixty-four flour mills: those of the first class, manufacturing 10,000, and those of the lowest, say 500 barrels per annum. We are told that the average of the whole would not be high at 3000 barrels. In this estimate the grist works for the consumption of the county is not included, but the flour sold by the barrel in our towns and villages is. With the latter deduction from the above statement it is believed that we send annually to market 130,000 bbls. Being one fifth of all the flour inspected in Baltimore. The purchase of wheat in Hagerstown alone, disburses \$1000 per day during the year.<sup>34</sup>

Between 1790 and 1860, Baltimore's population increased by 200,000 people. During the same period, Washington County's population also grew, exceeding 16,000 new inhabitants when little to no growth occurred in the eastern counties.<sup>35</sup> There is a direct connection between

<sup>32</sup> Edie Wallace, "Slave Resistance at Antietam Iron Works," Tolsons Chapel, last modified May 14, 2019, <https://tolsonschapel.org/2019/05/14/slave-resistance-at-antietam-iron-works/>.

<sup>33</sup> "Antietam National Battlefield National Register Nomination," National Park Service, accessed April 21, 2023, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/66000038>.

<sup>34</sup> "The Torch Light and Public Advertiser 10 Mar 1831, Page 2," Historical Newspapers from 1700s-2000s - Newspapers.com, accessed May 14, 2023,

<sup>35</sup> "Antietam National Battlefield National Register Nomination," National Park Service, accessed April 21, 2023, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/66000038>.

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the population growth in Baltimore and Western Maryland and the expansion of agriculture in Washington County. The addition of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad allowed transportation of the county's goods to eastern markets.

The Antietam Iron Furnace experienced financial difficulties throughout the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Luckily for the ironworks, it had acreage, which, while no longer suitable for harvesting trees needed to fire the furnace, was ideal for agricultural purposes. The ironworks began to sell off their land to cover their debts. Additionally, the old landowners were dying off. Their vast tracts of property were sold or divided among their heirs. These two circumstances brought about a new type of wealthy landowner, a farmer whose prosperity came from working the land and not just owning it.

**Enslaved Workers and Agriculture in Washington County**

As the economy in Washington County moved from frontier settlement to agricultural powerhouse, the number of enslaved workers grew, but compared with Maryland's eastern counties, Washington County's enslaved population was not large. It peaked in 1820 at 3,201.<sup>36</sup> By 1842, when the property that would become Antietam Farm was purchased by David Showman, the enslaved population stood at 2,546.<sup>37</sup> The census records for David that same year

<sup>36</sup> "Legacy of Slavery in Maryland: Maryland Census Data 1820," Legacy of Slavery in Maryland, accessed May 14, 2023, <https://slavery.msa.maryland.gov/html/research/census1820.html>.

<sup>37</sup> "Legacy of Slavery in Maryland: Maryland Census Data 1840," Legacy of Slavery in Maryland, accessed May 14, 2023, <https://slavery.msa.maryland.gov/html/research/census1840.html>

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indicated that the family held 12 enslaved workers.<sup>38</sup> The 1850 census shows 2,090 people were enslaved in Washington County.<sup>39</sup> Of those, 89 were in the Sharpsburg area, with 17 farmers and millers listed as enslavers.<sup>40</sup> The 1850 agricultural schedule for David reveals that he had over 500 acres in cultivation with many animals. His farm was valued at over \$26,000.<sup>41</sup> The slave schedule for that year shows that David Showman enslaved 14 workers, far more than the average in Sharpsburg.<sup>42</sup> Obviously, the Showman's wealth in land and agricultural output was reflected in the number of people the family kept in bondage. David died in 1858, leaving most of his estate to his eldest son Raleigh. By 1860 the number of enslavers in Sharpsburg had grown to 24 holding 86 enslaved workers. Raleigh and his brothers enslaved 12 workers, the largest number in Sharpsburg. Raleigh's extensive landholdings in 1860 totaled over 700 acres according to the 1860 agricultural schedule and was the second largest in the Sharpsburg district. The number of enslaved people owned by the Showman brothers was necessitated in their minds by their landholdings. The ages of the Showman's enslaved workers ran from age 3 to age 60,

<sup>38</sup> "1850 Agricultural Census," United States Department of Agriculture, accessed January 31, 2023, [https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/census\\_year/1850-census/](https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/census_year/1850-census/).

<sup>39</sup> 1850 Slave Schedule, [https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8055/?count=50&residence=\\_sharpsburg-washington-maryland-usa\\_6806&fh=1400&fsk=MDsxMzk5OzUwI](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8055/?count=50&residence=_sharpsburg-washington-maryland-usa_6806&fh=1400&fsk=MDsxMzk5OzUwI)

<sup>40</sup> "Antietam National Battlefield National Register Nomination," National Park Service, accessed April 21, 2023, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/66000038>.

<sup>41</sup> "Legacy of Slavery in Maryland: Maryland Census Data 1850," Legacy of Slavery in Maryland, accessed May 14, 2023, <https://slavery.msa.maryland.gov/html/research/census1850.html>.

<sup>42</sup> 1850 Slave Schedule, [https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8055/?count=50&residence=\\_sharpsburg-washington-maryland-usa\\_6806&fh=1400&fsk=MDsxMzk5OzUwI](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8055/?count=50&residence=_sharpsburg-washington-maryland-usa_6806&fh=1400&fsk=MDsxMzk5OzUwI)



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which demonstrated family groupings.<sup>43</sup> Research providing more information on the Showman's and their enslaved workers should be continued beyond this point as possible information exists in the Washington County Deeds.

**The Showman Family 1842-1905**

David Showman was already a prosperous local farmer when he bought the land that became Antietam Farm in 1842. He purchased 255 acres from the Antietam Ironworks for \$13,931.67, payable in two installments, one in October and one in December.<sup>44</sup> The Showman family had been landowners in the area since 1783 when John Showman (David's grandfather) purchased 330 acres of land called Showman's Forest, located next to the Antietam Ironworks and on the wagon road heading from Jacob Hess' Mill to Harpers Ferry on the Potomac River.<sup>45</sup> David's father George purchased a tract of land in 1807 called Showman's Purchase.<sup>46</sup> It is evident from the numerous Showman transactions in the Washington County real estate records between 1813 and 1863 that the Showman's and purchased and sold property regularly. For example, there are 45 transactions relating to David Showman alone between 1813 and 1858,

<sup>43</sup> 1850 Slave Schedule, [https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8055/?count=50&residence=\\_sharpsburg-washington-maryland-usa\\_6806&fh=1400&fsk=MDsxMzk5OzUw](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8055/?count=50&residence=_sharpsburg-washington-maryland-usa_6806&fh=1400&fsk=MDsxMzk5OzUw)

<sup>44</sup> Washington County Deeds WCDB zz:670 and 690

<sup>45</sup> "Tracey Patent/tract Index and Map Locations For Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties,, Msa\_scm13085-0226," Mdhistory.net Index.html, accessed May 14, 2023, [https://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/tracey\\_fr\\_wa\\_cr/html/msa\\_scm13085-0226.html](https://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/tracey_fr_wa_cr/html/msa_scm13085-0226.html).

<sup>46</sup> Ibid

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when he died. These records include deeds, mortgages, bills of sale for animals, and enslaved workers.

In 1824, David Showman purchased a portion of his father-in-laws's estate. David's wife, Keziah, was the daughter of Solomon Dedie, who had previously bought land from the furnace. David, Keziah, and her family lived in a large stone house on Dedie's property. Upon Solomon's death, he appointed his executors to sell the land for \$50 an acre. If the land couldn't be sold, then it should be rented out in terms of 2-years.<sup>47</sup> Evidently, no one was willing to pay Dedie's price as it was nine years after Dedie's death that David purchased his father-in-law's acreage for \$32.75 an acre for 255 acres.<sup>48</sup> He, Keziah, and their five children, Eliza, Alfred, Upton, Otho, and Raleigh, made the large stone house that sat on the property their home. The 1840 census confirms this, with the Showmans living under one roof with seven family members and 12 enslaved workers. Three of Showman's sons were listed as between 20-29.<sup>49</sup> The 1850 census shows that the Showman family still lived under one roof. David owned real estate valued at \$26,000. His son Raleigh who was 37, had real estate valued at \$15,000.<sup>50</sup> Even though the

<sup>47</sup> "Last Will and Testament of Solomon Dedie," FamilySearch.org, accessed May 14, 2023, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YMX-DYJ?i=191&wc=SNYZ-16F%3A146536101%2C150058501&cc=1803986>.

<sup>48</sup> Washington County Deeds HH 201

<sup>49</sup> "1840 Agricultural Census," United State Department of Agriculture, accessed January 31, 2023, [https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/census\\_year/1840-census/](https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/census_year/1840-census/)

<sup>50</sup> "Agricultural and Manufacturing Census Records of Fifteen Southern States for the Years 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 [microform] [Maryland] : United States. Bureau of the Census. : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming :

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Showmans are recorded on the same property, it is surmised that Raleigh was living at Antietam Farm by 1850. It is hard to reconcile that Raleigh had real estate valued at such a sum in 1850 without using Antietam Farm as his headquarters, and it seems likely that Antietam Farm was built for him.

David Showman died intestate in 1858, leaving an estate of 700 acres to his daughter and four sons. Upton Showman also died intestate in 1858, and his interest in the estate went to his three brothers and sister. In 1859, Eliza, David Showman's daughter, now married, conveyed her part of the estate to her three brothers – Raleigh, Alfred, and Otho.<sup>51</sup> The 1860 census shows Keziah Showman, David's widow, owned real property valued at \$7,350 and personal property valued at \$1,000. Raleigh Showman, aged 46, had real estate valued at \$31,510 and personal estate valued at \$6,665. Otho Showman, who is also listed as living in the same house as Keziah, shows no real estate or personal property according to census records.<sup>52</sup> Keziah and Otho lived at the Home Farm adjacent to Antietam Farm. At the same time, it is believed that Raleigh lived at Antietam Farm.

Internet Archive," Internet Archive, accessed May 1, 2023, <https://archive.org/details/mdu-histmss-057648/page/n33/mode/2up>.

<sup>51</sup> Susan Frye, *History and Architectural Analysis of the Mills House*, (1988), 2

<sup>52</sup> 1860 Agricultural Census," United States Department of Agriculture, accessed January 31, 2023, [https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/census\\_year/1860-census/](https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/census_year/1860-census/).

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The 1850 and 1860 Agricultural Schedule for Sharpsburg reveals the wealth of the Showman family and the combined resources of the Home Farm and Antietam Farm. Between 1850 and 1860, the Showman farms almost doubled in value, with much of the increase coming from livestock and the production of Indian corn, butter, and hay. This paralleled Washington County, whose 1850 agricultural census indicated over 159,851 acres of improved land and less than half of that in unimproved land. The cash value of farms was over \$8 million, eclipsed only by Frederick and Baltimore counties.<sup>53</sup> The output of Washington County's farms was constantly in the top three of all Maryland counties in terms of value, livestock, and grain production. Wheat, rye, wool, milk cows, horses, swine, hay, and butter all played an essential role in the county's agricultural economy.<sup>54</sup> By the 1860 agricultural census, improved land had jumped almost 20% to just under 200,000 acres, while the cash value of farms rose to nearly \$12 million.

<sup>53</sup> "Agricultural and Manufacturing Census Records of Fifteen Southern States for the Years 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 [microform] [Maryland], 5

<sup>54</sup> Ibid

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Figure 8. 1859 Map of the Sharpsburg area with D. Showman's land (Antietam Farm and the Home Farm) highlighted.

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Table 3: 1850 and 1860 Agricultural Schedule for the Showman Family.<sup>55</sup>

	1850 Agricultural Schedule David Showman	1860 Agricultural Schedule Raleigh Showman
Improved Acres	500	520
Unimproved Acres	200	180
Cash Value of Farm	\$26,000	\$38,860
Value of Farming Implements	500	500
Horses	15	28
Milk Cows	12	20
Other Cattle	50	120
Sheep	60	130
Swine	40	90
Value of Livestock	1500	3465
Wheat, Bushels of	3000	3000
Rye, Bushels of	100	150
Indian Corn, Bushels of	800	2000
Oats, Bushels of	100	100
Wool, lbs of	300	600
Irish Potatoes, lbs of	100	300
Value of Orchard Products by the \$		20
Butter, lbs of	300	1000
Hay, Tons of	8	75
Clover Seed, Bushels of	10	15
Value of Animals Slaughtered	400	810

Raleigh married Elizabeth Piper in November 1860 after the 1860 census. She was the daughter of Henry Piper and Elizabeth Keedy of Sharpsburg. No census records indicate where

<sup>55</sup> "Agricultural and Manufacturing Census Records of Fifteen Southern States for the Years 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 [microform] [Maryland],

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Raleigh and Elizabeth lived or who with before 1870. The couple lost an infant son in early 1862, and Elizabeth was again pregnant by September of that year.

On September 17, 1862, war came to Sharpsburg, disrupting the orderly and seasonal flow of life for its citizens. Confederate General Robert E. Lee made his stand around the town to salvage his Maryland campaign. Union General McClellan's Army of the Potomac attacked Lee's left flank in and around Miller's cornfield north of town in the early morning of the 17th. According to one observer, "every stalk of corn in the northern and greater part of the field was cut as closely as could have been done with a knife, and the slain lay in rows precisely as they had stood in their ranks a few moments before. It was never my fortune to witness a more bloody dismal battlefield."<sup>56</sup>

The battle continued throughout the day as casualties mounted on both sides. Over 22,000 men were wounded, killed, or missing in action when the fighting ceased that night. The next day, both armies buried their dead and began the arduous task of caring for their wounded. Finally, on the evening of September 19, Lee and his army slipped across the river to Shepherdstown, Virginia, leaving the Union Army and the inhabitants of Sharpsburg to deal with the horrors left behind.

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<sup>56</sup> "Antietam," American Battlefield Trust, accessed May 5, 2023, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/antietam>.



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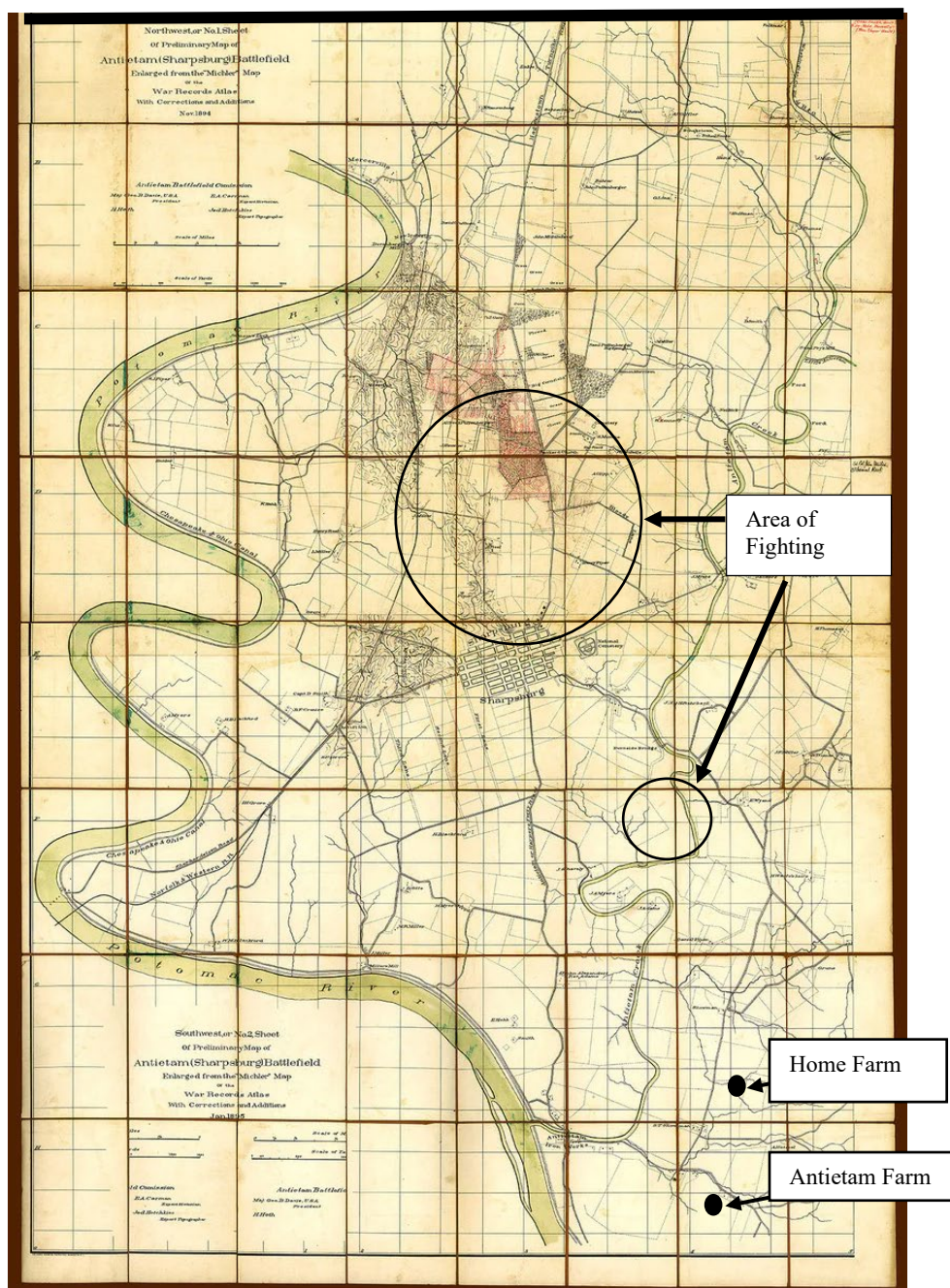
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Figure 9. Map showing the location of the Home Farm and Antietam Farm and the area of fighting at Antietam. Courtesy 1894 War Records Atlas.



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Antietam Farm was too far away from the fierce fighting to be directly affected by it. However, the Home Farm and Antietam Farm residents would have heard the sound of the Battle. Antietam Farm, however, was impacted tremendously by the aftermath of the Battle. Contingents of the Union Army spent at least two weeks in the Antietam Valley while the hospitals caring for the wounded and dying of both armies lingered on for six months. Due to logistical issues, supplies, including food, shoes, clothing, medicine, and blankets, did not arrive for the Union Army after the battle. On September 22, Union General McClellan wrote,

The entire army has been greatly exhausted by unavoidable overwork, hunger, and want of sleep and rest. When the army recrossed the Potomac the means of transportation at my disposal was inadequate to furnish a single day's supply of subsistence in advance.<sup>57</sup>

In addition to the supply issues, new reinforcements increased the strain on supply lines. Over 12,000 men of the Union Army's IX Corps camped along Mills Road and surrounding Antietam Farm, helping themselves to the bounty around them. In his book *When Hell Came to Sharpsburg*, author Stephen Cowie states,

Based on the losses reported, McClellan's army allegedly shot down so many farm animals after the Battle that Sharpsburg's citizens may have wondered if skirmishing had returned to the area. For example, William M. Blackford claimed the loss of 66 head of livestock, which were taken by the 'Pennsylvania Corn Exchange Regiment, Martin's Battery, and others.' Blackford testified that the AOP's 'supply trains did not get up for a couple of days, and during that time they used this stock as rations for the soldiers... all these animals were butchered on my premises and fed to the troops.'<sup>58</sup>

<sup>57</sup> Steven Cowie, *When Hell Came to Sharpsburg: The Battle of Antietam and its Impact on the Civilians Who Called it Home* (SC: Savas Beatie, 2022), 166-167

<sup>58</sup> Ibid, 177

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The Showman's Home Farm and Antietam Farm were one mile apart along Mills Road. The Home Farm, where Keziah Showman and her son Otho lived, became Union General McClelland's headquarters after the Battle, while Antietam Farm, the home of Raleigh and Elizabeth Showman, became the headquarters of General Burnside. *The History of the 35<sup>th</sup> Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers 1862-1865* recollected,

On the twenty-sixth we moved by way of the Ironworks to the more level ground on the east side of the Antietam and went into regular camp near a brick house, making shelters of rails and corn stalks. Our first grand review of the Ninth Army Corps was held October 3, in the fields north of our campground, the President, Lincoln himself, riding past, accompanied by Generals McClellan, Burnside and others – all smiling and apparently on the best of terms with each other.<sup>59</sup>

Edward O. Lord, the historian of the Ninth New Hampshire, wrote,

Since our last Battle we have been leading a rather quiet life as far as outward demonstrations go and have done more to perfect ourselves in discipline and drill than in six weeks previous. We can now do some things on the line 'right smart,' as the natives say here. President Lincoln has been here for two days. Night before last he was at Burnside's quarters, distant about twenty rods, and last night at McClellan's.<sup>60</sup>

Lord also reminisced about the scene around Antietam Farm's house and looking north.

As far as the eye could reach the fields were dotted over with white tents... Near the several camps were the baggage and supply trains, the wagons arranged in line with military precision, and surrounded by a circle of noisy, hungry mules... In the neighboring wood were the numerous camps of the cavalry. Under the soft, white light of the moon the scene

<sup>59</sup> United States. Army. Massachusetts Infantry Regiment; 35th, *History of the Thirty-Fifth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, 1862-1865: With a Roster* (Boston, MA: Mills, Knight and Co., 1884), 57

<sup>60</sup> Edward O. Lord, *History of the Ninth Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers in the War of the Rebellion* (1895), 152

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took on a touch of romance which was not wholly lost when the campfire burned brightly and each tent displayed its bit of candle.<sup>61</sup>

Civilians in and around Sharpsburg who lost resources to the Union Army during and after the battle presented claims to the Federal government for compensation. Raleigh Showman presented a claim for Antietam Farm and the Home Farm showing his losses. It detailed the amount of damage/losses incurred because of the 10-day encampment by Union troops under General Ambrose Burnside's command, September 24 to October 6, 1862. Claim No. 3; Record Group 94, F-1182 itemized the losses:

531 panels post and rail fence @ \$1.50 each	\$ 796.50
2556 panels worm fence @ \$ .80 each	\$1644.00
20 acres clover seed @ \$6.00/bushel	\$ 820.00
20 acres timothy pasture @ \$3.50/acre	\$ 70.00
184 acres of clover pasture @ \$2.00/acre	\$ 368.00
100 acres deprived of seeding @ \$6.75/acre	\$ 675.00
30 Locust Trees	\$ 30.00
100 bushels wheat destroyed in straw @ \$1.40/bushel	\$ 140.00
2 large gates destroyed	\$ 70.00
Lumber & Sawmill taken away	\$ 25.00
30 bushels stone coal for blacksmith's shop	\$ 15.00
250 shingles @ \$1.00/for 100	\$ 2.50
1 ½ acre of timber destroyed by signal corps	\$ 30.00

Otho Showman testified in 1877 that "184 acres of clover was pastured by beef and cattle belonging to the army. ... the animals belonging to the cavalry were also turned in upon it and

<sup>61</sup> Leslie Clark, *Research Notes*, (SC, 2005).

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that it was entirely consumed.”<sup>62</sup> The claim said the Raleigh Showman owned and lived on the farm from which property was taken in October and November 1862 and that the farm was about 250 acres, of which 200 acres was cleared and under fence.

On April 15, 1876, an affidavit from Jacob F. Miller and Daniel Piper, neighbors of Raleigh Showman, stated that General Burnside’s command encamped on the farm of Raleigh Showman and that the farm was situated some two miles from the battlefield.<sup>63</sup> Showman also claimed damages on other tracts of land he owned, including the Farry Tract, farmed by tenant Alfred Hoffman, and another parcel of about 400 acres tenanted and farmed by Martin Slifer. These other claims included:

15 acres of corn @ \$ .40/bushels per acre  
21 Hogs @ 223 pounds each  
24 Shoats @ 60 pounds each  
1 sow and piglets  
26 Fat Sheep  
38 Cords of Wood @ 2.50/cord<sup>64</sup>

Raleigh Showman’s claims totaled over \$8,000. His settlement from the U.S. Treasury was just \$1,422.84 when it came in 1879, 16 years after his death.<sup>65</sup>

<sup>62</sup> Steven Cowie, *When Hell Came to Sharpsburg: The Battle of Antietam and its Impact on the Civilians Who Called it Home* (SC: Savas Beatie, 2022), 253

<sup>63</sup> Dennis Frye, *Showman Family Claims*, (National Archives, SC, n.d).

<sup>64</sup> Ibid

<sup>65</sup> Treasury Settlement # 5487, National Archives

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In the winter and early spring of 1863, a typhoid epidemic swept through Sharpsburg due to mixing human waste and decaying bodies with groundwater. Local doctor A.A. Biggs kept a diary of his patients. The journal notes that on March 29, 1863, Raleigh Showman was taken ill and treated with “calomel, colchicum, phosphate, ammonia, cal et opii, and turpentine, none proved effective. Raleigh Showman succumbed to illness on April 8, leaving his pregnant wife, Elizabeth Piper Showman.”<sup>66</sup> Elizabeth gave birth to a son, Raleigh Showman, on May 13, 1863. It is not known if Elizabeth continued to live at Antietam Farm after her husband died. The 1870 census shows her living with her parents. Her brother-in-law Otho appears to be living with his brother, Alfred at another location, not Sharpsburg. Both are listed as farmers. Her brother-in-law Otho Showman’s death in 1877 led to an equity case between Elizabeth, remarried by that time, and the remaining Showman brother Alfred and his wife. The Showman estate at that time was valued at over \$81,854. The estate was divided into three parcels, the first to Alfred and his wife as their property, the second to Alfred as a life tenant, and the third to Elizabeth’s son Raleigh Showman. Antietam Farm and 173 acres formed part of Alfred’s life estate.<sup>67</sup>

Alfred Showman died in July 1904, leaving his estate to his wife, Caroline, and their four children. His heirs felt that the estate was too complex to be divided equally and petitioned the

<sup>66</sup> Steven Cowie, *When Hell Came to Sharpsburg: The Battle of Antietam and its Impact on the Civilians Who Called it Home* (SC: Savas Beatie, 2022), 339

<sup>67</sup> Susan Frye, *History and Architectural Analysis of the Mills House*, (1988)

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court to sell the land and divide the proceeds among themselves. Antietam Farm and its 173 acres were put up for sale in 1905. The *Hagerstown Mail* public sale advertisement stated,

The first parcel being all those lands lying along the public road running from Sharpsburg to Harper's Ferry, about three miles south of Sharpsburg and one and a half miles from the C & O Canal, adjoining the lands of Raleigh Showman and part of the lands which passed under the last will of Otho Showman. This track contains 173 acres more or less, of limestone lands and is in a high state of cultivation. The improvements consist of a large brick dwelling containing ten rooms, a brick and frame bank barn 45 x 100 feet, wagon shed, corn crib, icehouse, smokehouse, and other necessary outbuildings. There are also two tenant houses on the farm. The lands are well watered, there being an artesian well, a never failing spring of water with spring house and another good well and the lands lie along the Antietam Creek.<sup>68</sup>

**Snyder Family 1905 – 1920**

James Snyder purchased Antietam Farm in 1905. He was a lifelong citizen of Sharpsburg and a well-respected businessman in grain and coal, according to the 1910 census.<sup>69</sup> Snyder held the contract for building the road from Antietam Station to the National Cemetery in Sharpsburg and had a similar agreement for the National Cemetery in Fredericksburg, VA.<sup>70</sup> He also built

<sup>68</sup> *Hagerstown Mail*, February 17, 1905, xx, <https://newspaperarchive.com/hagerstown-mail-feb-17-1905-p-4/>.

<sup>69</sup> Thomas J. Williams, *A History of Washington County, Maryland: From the Earliest Settlements to the Present Time, Including a History of Hagerstown* (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968), Vol 2 p 845

<sup>70</sup> Brian Downey, "The Antietam Observation Tower and the Birth of the Park," *Antietam on the Web*, December 1, 2018, <https://behind.aotw.org/2018/12/01/the-antietam-observation-tower-and-the-birth-of-the-park/>.

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the tour roads around what would become the Antietam National Battlefield.<sup>71</sup> Mr. Snyder left the farm to his children, who sold the now 270-acre parcel to Noah Mills in 1920 for \$13,000.

**Mills Family 1920-1988**

Noah Mills, a veteran of World War 1, was born near Sharpsburg in 1889. According to the 1930 census, he is listed as a farmer and employed other workers. He began a successful dairy operation at Antietam Farm, which his descendants continued. In 1947, Noah and Mabel Mills put the farm, now called “Frieze Farm,” containing 261.09 acres of land, into a trusteeship with other parcels of land they owned.<sup>72</sup> In 1957, Mabel Mills, now a widow, granted joint tenancy to her son George.<sup>73</sup> In 1967, George’s wife Alice was also added as a joint tenant.<sup>74</sup> Then, in 1975, Mabel, George, and Alice established a partnership called “Gum Tree Farms.”<sup>75</sup> In 1983, Earl E. Mills and his wife Kimberly bought into the partnership for \$112,600.<sup>76</sup> Mabel Mills is not listed in this deed, as she died in 1979.

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<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> Washington County, MD Deeds, Liber 242, Folio 390-391

<sup>73</sup> Washington County, MD Deeds, Liber 331, Folio 451-454

<sup>74</sup> Washington County, MD Deeds, Liber 460, Folio 595-596

<sup>75</sup> Washington County, MD Deeds, Liber 597, Folio 710-717

<sup>76</sup> Washington County, MD Deeds, Liber 737, Folio 854-856

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Section number 8 Page 27**Dennis and Sylvia Frye**

1986 the remaining Mills family ended their partnership in Gum Tree Farms. In July 1988, they sold 220 acres and improvements to developer Richard Willis for \$310,000.00. Later that year, he sectioned off part of the property that contained the brick house and 11 acres of land and sold it to Dennis Frye. The Frye's purchased an additional 74 acres across Mills Road in 2004, including the original wagon shed and bank barn that were part of Antietam Farm. The Frye's currently raise beef cattle. Antietam Farm has remained a farm since David Showman first bought it in 1842.

**Historical Integrity**

**Location:** Antietam Farm sits on the original 255 acres that David Showman bought from Antietam Iron Works in 1842. The land surrounding the farm remains in agricultural use though the parcel has shrunk to 85 acres. The house is on its original footprint on the west side of Mills Road, and the barn and wagon shed are in their original location. Therefore, Antietam Farm maintains its historical significance through its high integrity of location.

**Design:** The overall design of Antietam Farm remains that of a working farm. The farmhouse sits on one side of Mills Road, with the farm buildings on the other. Many farms in Washington County, MD, are separated in such a way. The outbuildings that used to exist, such as the chicken coop and the hog pen, have been torn down due to poor conditions. However,



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those remaining structures still provide the principal elements that illustrate the farm's design.

The Pennsylvania Bank Barn, with its timber frame, brick outsheds, and large size, conveys the purpose of the farm. Modern intrusions have been removed, such as the three silos that stood just south of the barn, and the concrete block milking parlor has been covered with a stucco-like material which gives it a period feel. The wagon shed matches the barn and provides a sense of unity about the farm buildings. The farmhouse's design and appearance reflect its original mid-19<sup>th</sup> century construction, floorplan, Federal/Greek Revival style, and the addition of local vernacular elements. All the buildings that make up Antietam Farm retain a high level of design integrity, and modern intrusions are limited, thereby conveying its historical significance.

**Setting:** The setting of Antietam Farm has changed little over the past 180 years. The original parcel the farm sat on has shrunk from 220 to 85 acres. Those acres, however, provide the same viewshed as they did between 1842-1905, and the 85 acres comprise Antietam Farm's heart. The land is still agricultural in its use with pasture and fields of corn and grain. Cows and horses graze in the fields. The farm's modern intrusions have been eliminated as much as possible. While there are more houses on Mills Road, the lay of the land and the topographical features remain the same. Though there are no early photographs of Antietam Farm, the 1951 aerial photo indicates that the spatial relationship between the land and the farm buildings

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remains the same as during the significance period. Antietam Farm retains its ability to convey its historical significance through the high integrity of setting.



*Figure 10. 1951 aerial photo of Antietam Farm. Courtesy of Dennis and Sylvia Frye.*

**Materials:** Much of Antietam Farm's materials remained in the house and the barn. The farmhouse's original brick exterior walls, interior plaster walls, doors, mantels, trim, floors, and structural elements remained hidden behind modern materials. The Pennsylvania bank barn had its original brick outsheds, timber framing, louvered windows, summer beams, doors, and

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hinges. In many cases, original doors, columns, pilasters, and window shutters were still on the farm, though spread throughout the various farm buildings and under the porches. Much work went into removing many of the modern improvements within the house, including the air conditioning duct work, tile floor, paint, wallpaper, and wood paneling. This was done to return the house to its mid-19th-century appearance. The original windows were retained, reglazed, and repainted; historic glass was used when panes needed replacing. The walls were repaired, replastered, and whitewashed. A small amount of drywall was placed around electrical outlets and plumbing. The porches were replaced with more sympathetic materials to the mid-19th century. Therefore, the materials are primarily original and can convey that the Antietam Farm dwelling and barns retain a moderate to a high level of integrity of materials.

**Workmanship:** The workmanship of the original elements for the farm was done so well that it is apparent today. The original trim, floors, mantelpieces, brickwork, plasterwork, and joinery are all evidence of master craftsmen. The work restoring the farm also involved master craftsmen, including glaziers, plasterers, and carpenters. For restoration purposes, originals provided patterns for reproduced elements. The goal was to ensure that the Secretary of the Interior's Standards were followed during the restoration. So many original elements were left that little had to be reproduced. The barn, house, and wagon shed have survived 180 years due to the quality built into the buildings. Therefore, the farm maintains its historical significance through its high integrity of workmanship.

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**Feeling:** Antietam Farm appears suddenly on Mills Road as a rise in the land hides it. The viewshed remains rural, as does the agricultural feeling of the farm, likely much the same as it did when the Showmans lived here. Modern intrusions are not apparent. Since the Battle of Antietam plays such an important role in the history of Sharpsburg, one cannot help but imagine what might have occurred at this spot during September of 1862. Antietam Farm connects the agricultural past and present in this area. Antietam Farm's buildings and viewshed lend a strong evocation of the past, contributing to its historical significance through high integrity of feeling.

**Association:** Antietam Farm's use as a working farm provides a strong association with its past as an agricultural endeavor. The landscape around the buildings has mostly stayed the same providing expansive views of agriculture and livestock. The house sits in pride of place along Mills Road, appearing today much like it did in the past as a dwelling of a wealthy middle-class farmer. Therefore, historical significance is evident through the high integrity of association.

Antietam Farm's dwelling demonstrates a strong historical significance through all seven areas of integrity as outlined in the National Register. The farm structures have had some modern additions, but many were either removed or hidden from view. Therefore, the integrity of setting, association, design, location, workmanship, materials, and feeling remain intact within the working area of the farm. Thus Antietam Farm meets the requirements for physical integrity as outlined in the National Register under Criteria A and C.

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**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:**

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 85

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(Enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 39.416785 | Longitude: -77.722258 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

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**Or**  
**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

**West Side of Mills Road – Farmhouse**

Beginning at a point in the center line of Mills Road, said point being located South 75 degrees. 19 minutes East, 312.07 feet and South 15 degrees 02 minutes 57 seconds West, 100.00 feet respectively from the end of the second line of the lands conveyed to George A. Mills and Alice E. Mills, his wife, and Earl E. Mills and Kimberly L. Mills, his wife, to Richard A. Willis by deed dated July 8, 1988, and recorded in Liber 882, folio 436, among the Land Records of Washington County, Maryland. Thence continuing with the center line of Mills Road South 15 degrees 02 minutes 57 seconds West, 244.32 feet to a point, thence leaving said road and running along the remaining lands of Richard Willis (Liber 882, folio 436) North 75 degrees 03 minutes 52 seconds West, 800.00 feet to an iron pin set, thence along the same North 20 degrees 07 minutes 31 seconds East, 598.21 feet to an iron pin set, thence along the same South 75 degrees 03 minutes 52 seconds East 800.00 feet to the place of beginning; CONTAINING 11.09 acres of land, more or less.

**East Side of Mills Road – Barn, Wagon Shed, Pasture**

BEGINNING at a post along the East side of Mills Road, said post being located at the end of the third (or South 75 degrees 19 minutes East 330.00 feet) line of the lands conveyed by George A. Mills and Alice E. Mills, his wife and Earl E. Mills and Kimberly L. Mills, his wife to Richard A. Willis by Deed dated July 8, 1988 and recorded in Liber 882, folio 436 among the Land Records of Washington County, Maryland, thence running with the fourth through the fourteenth lines of the above-mentioned deed South 84 degrees 55 minutes East 173.8 feet to a post, thence South 66 degrees 01 minute East 131.4 feet to a post, thence South 88 degrees 32 minutes East 785.53 feet to a post, thence North 4 degrees 54 minutes East 110.38 feet to a post, thence South 75 degrees 12 minutes East 307.0 feet to an Oak Tree, thence South 77 degrees 26 minutes East 277.0 feet to an Oak Tree, thence North 5 degrees 00 minutes West 18.0 feet to a post, thence South 73 degrees 49 minutes East 281.04 feet to an Oak Tree, thence South 71

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degrees 41 minutes East 322.9 feet to a post, thence South 74 degrees 38 minutes East 434.62 feet to a point, thence South 17 degrees 06 minutes West 914.76 feet to an old corner fencepost, thence along lands heretofore conveyed by Richard A. Willis to Ronald Ingram and wife, North 77 degrees 06 minutes 58 seconds West 879.00 feet to an iron pin set, thence along the same South 9 degrees 36 minutes 52 seconds West 217.12 feet to an iron pin set, thence along the same North 75 degrees 59 minutes 04 seconds West 1094.3.7 feet to an iron pin set, thence along the same South 18 degrees 53 minutes 00 seconds West 296.67 feet to an iron pin set, thence along other lands of Ronald Ingram and wife South 18 degrees 53 minutes 00 seconds West 346.31 feet to an iron pin set along the northern marginal line of Harpers Ferry Road, thence with said Harpers Ferry Road, North 59 degrees 49 minutes 00 seconds West 88.29 feet to a post, thence along the same North 73 degrees 52 minutes 00 seconds West 229.56 feet to a post, thence along the same North 80 degrees 03 minutes 00 seconds West 98.46 feet to a post, thence along the same South 84 degrees 34 minutes 00 seconds West 180.00 feet to a point, thence along the same South 89 degrees 22 minutes 00 seconds West 266.48 feet to a point, thence South 62 degrees 30 minutes 00 seconds West 51.64 feet to a point at the intersection of Mills Road, thence along or near the center line of Mills Road North 22 degrees 26 minutes 30 seconds East 149.65 feet to a pin nail set, thence along the same North 26 degrees 18 minutes 46 seconds East 157.72 feet to a point, thence along the same North 24 degrees 55 minutes 31 seconds East 453.21 feet to a point, thence North 26 degrees 17 minutes 23 seconds East 228.25 feet to a point, thence North 23 degrees 36 minutes 41 seconds East 355.50 feet to a point, thence North 15 degrees 02 minutes 57 seconds East 244.32 feet to a point, thence North 15 degrees 02 minutes 57 seconds East 100.00 feet to a point, thence leaving said road and running South 75 degrees 19 minutes 00 seconds East 17.93 feet to the place of beginning, containing 74.45 acres of land, more or less.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The current boundary of property owned by Sylvia and Dennis Frye and within the boundary of the original Antietam Farm acreage.

**11. Form Prepared By**

**Name/title:** Brianna Candelaria

**Organization:** University of Maryland – College Park

**Street & number:** PO Box 484

**City or town:** Sharpsburg **State:** MD **Zip code:** 21782

**e-mail:** themulegirl@yahoo.com

**telephone:** 301-660-1800

**date:** 05/04/2023

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*Photo 1. East-facing (front) facade of Antietam Farm dwelling. Author Photo 05/07/2023.*



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*Photo 2. North-facing face of Antietam farm dwelling. Author Photo 05/07/2023.*

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*Photo 3. West-facing (rear) facade of Antietam Farm dwelling. Author Photo 05/07/2023.*



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*Photo 4. South facing facade of Antietam Farm dwelling. Author Photo  
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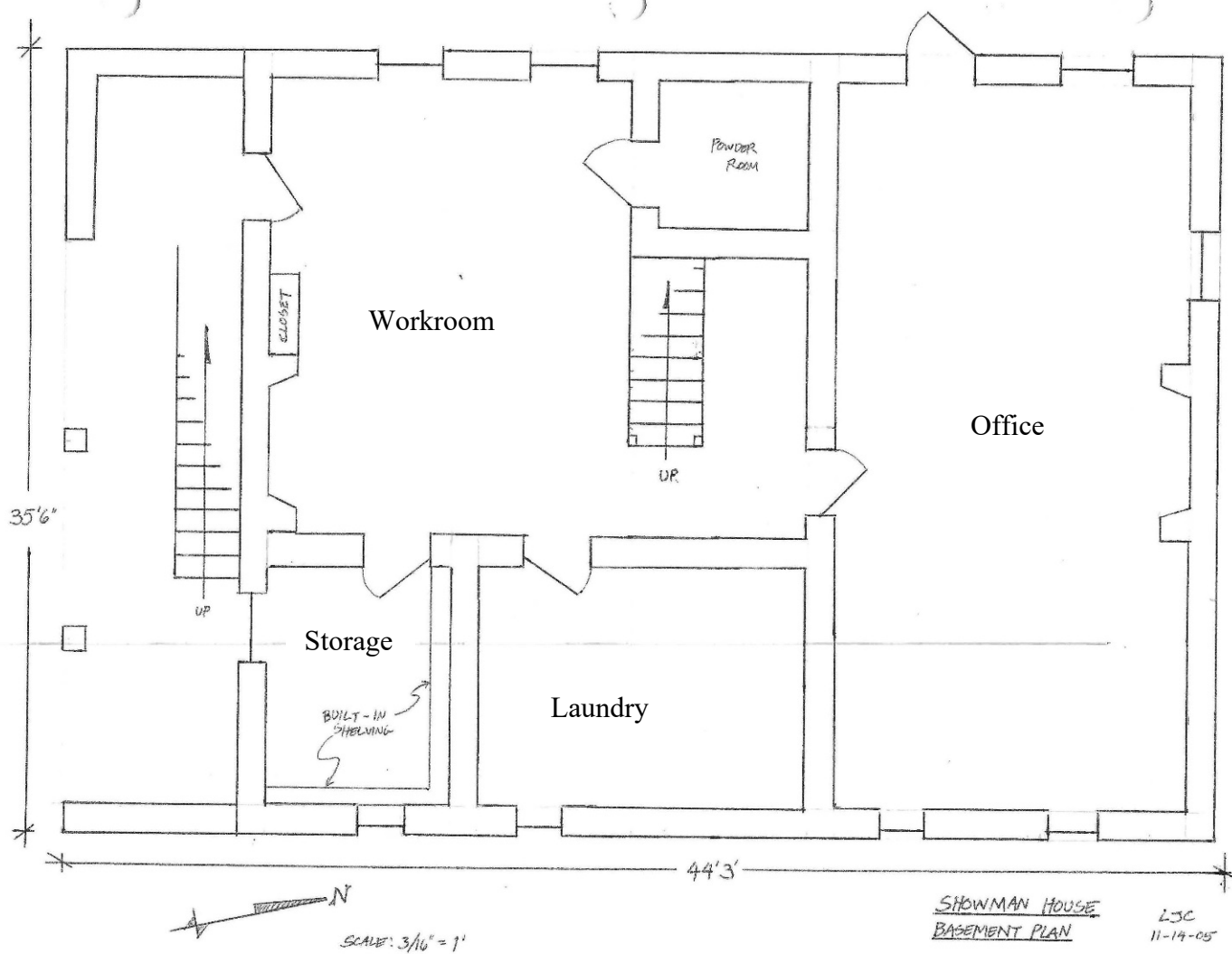


Photo 5. Basement floor plan of house. Antietam Farm house plans courtesy of Leslie Clark.

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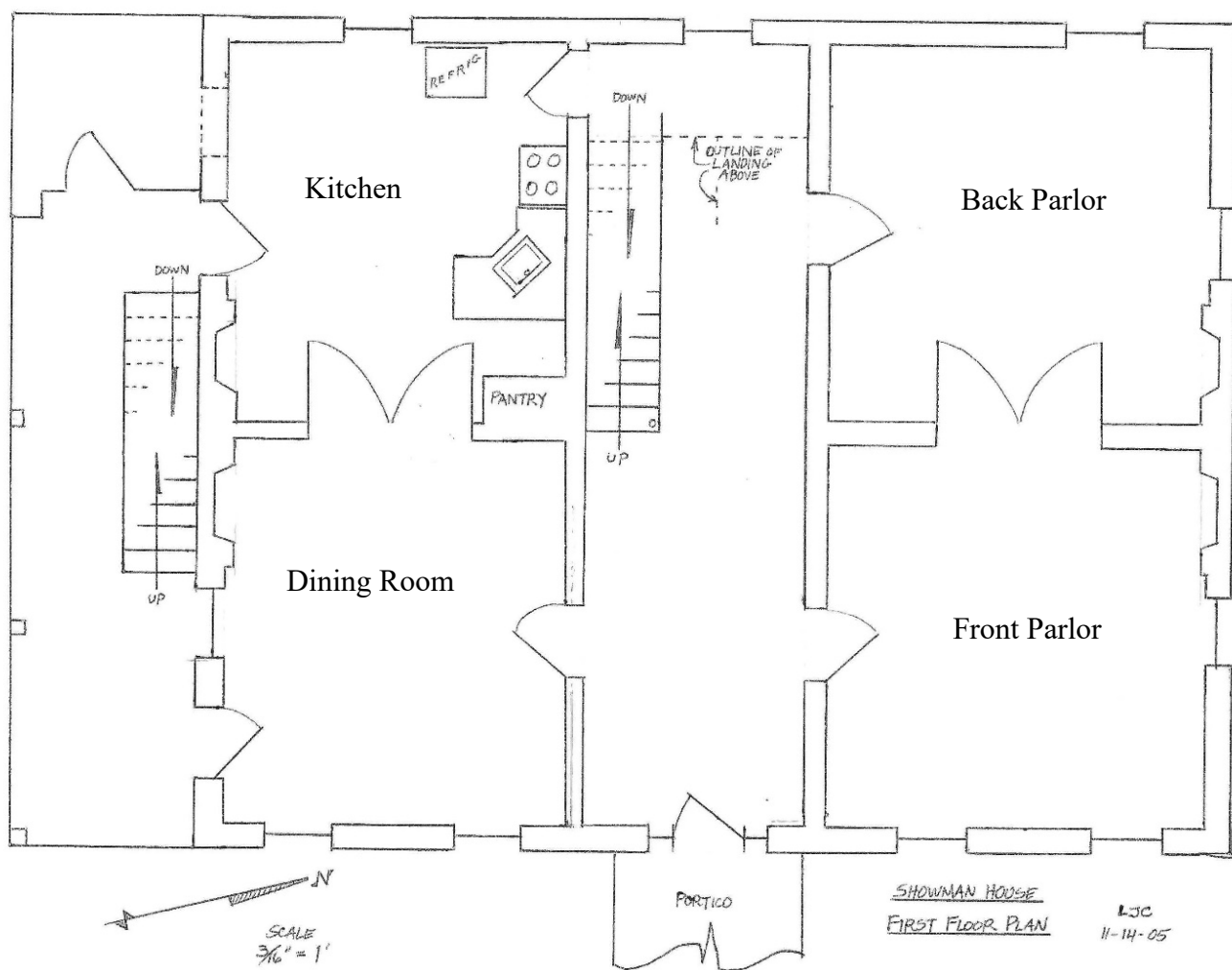


Photo 6. First floor plan of house. Antietam Farm house plans courtesy of Leslie Clark.

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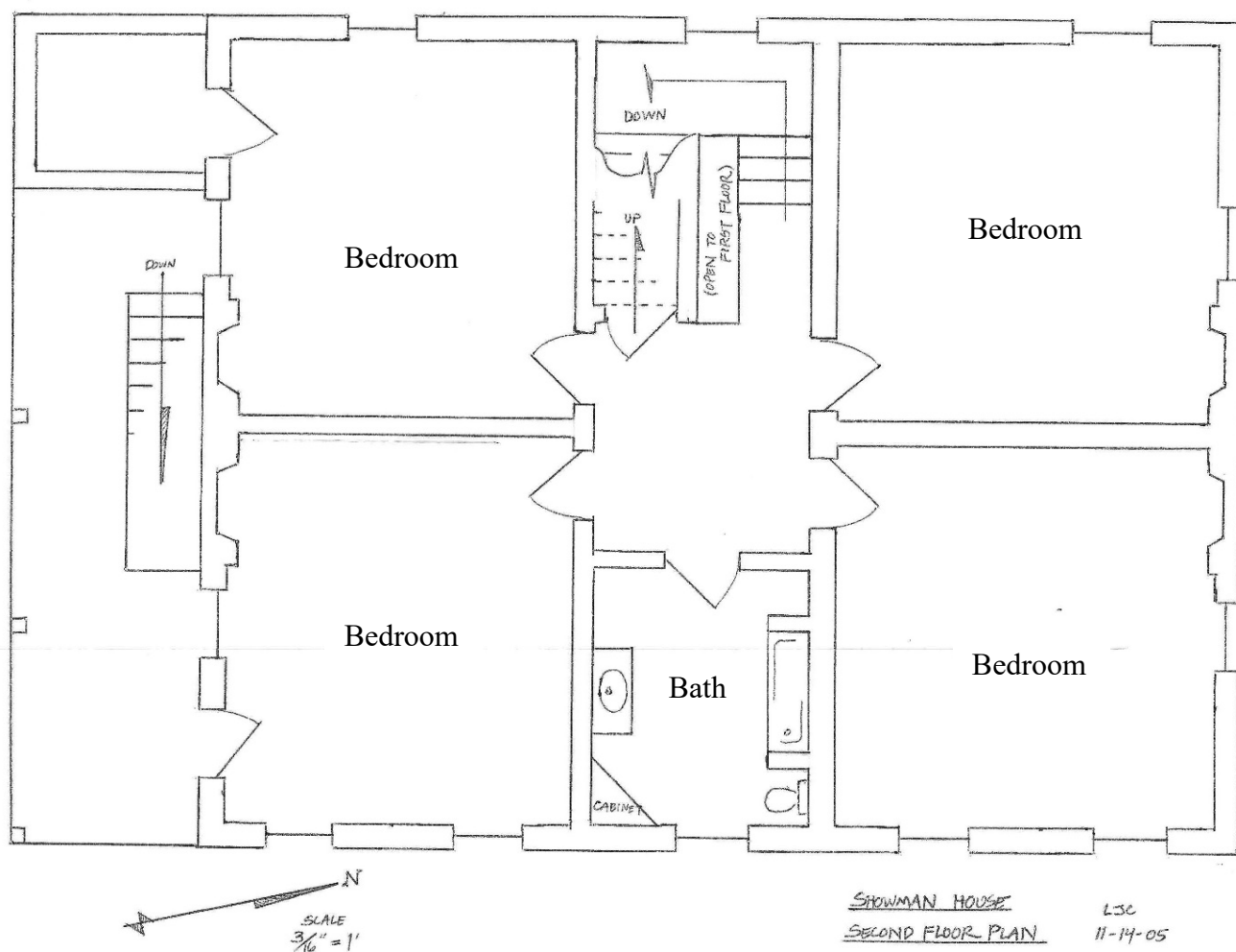


Photo 7. Second floor plan of house. Antietam Farm house plans courtesy of Leslie Clark.

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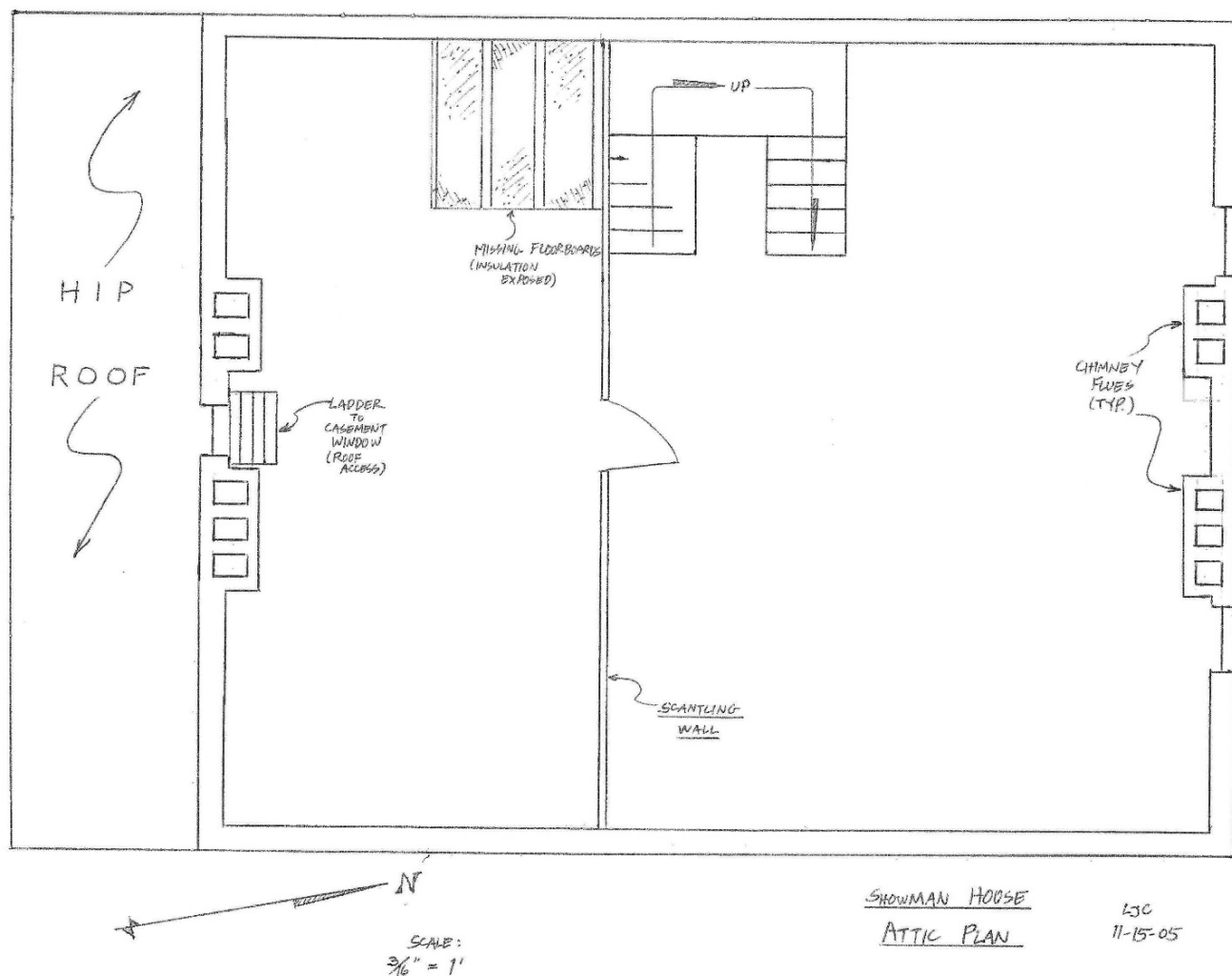


Photo 8. Attic View. Antietam Farm house plans courtesy of Leslie Clark.



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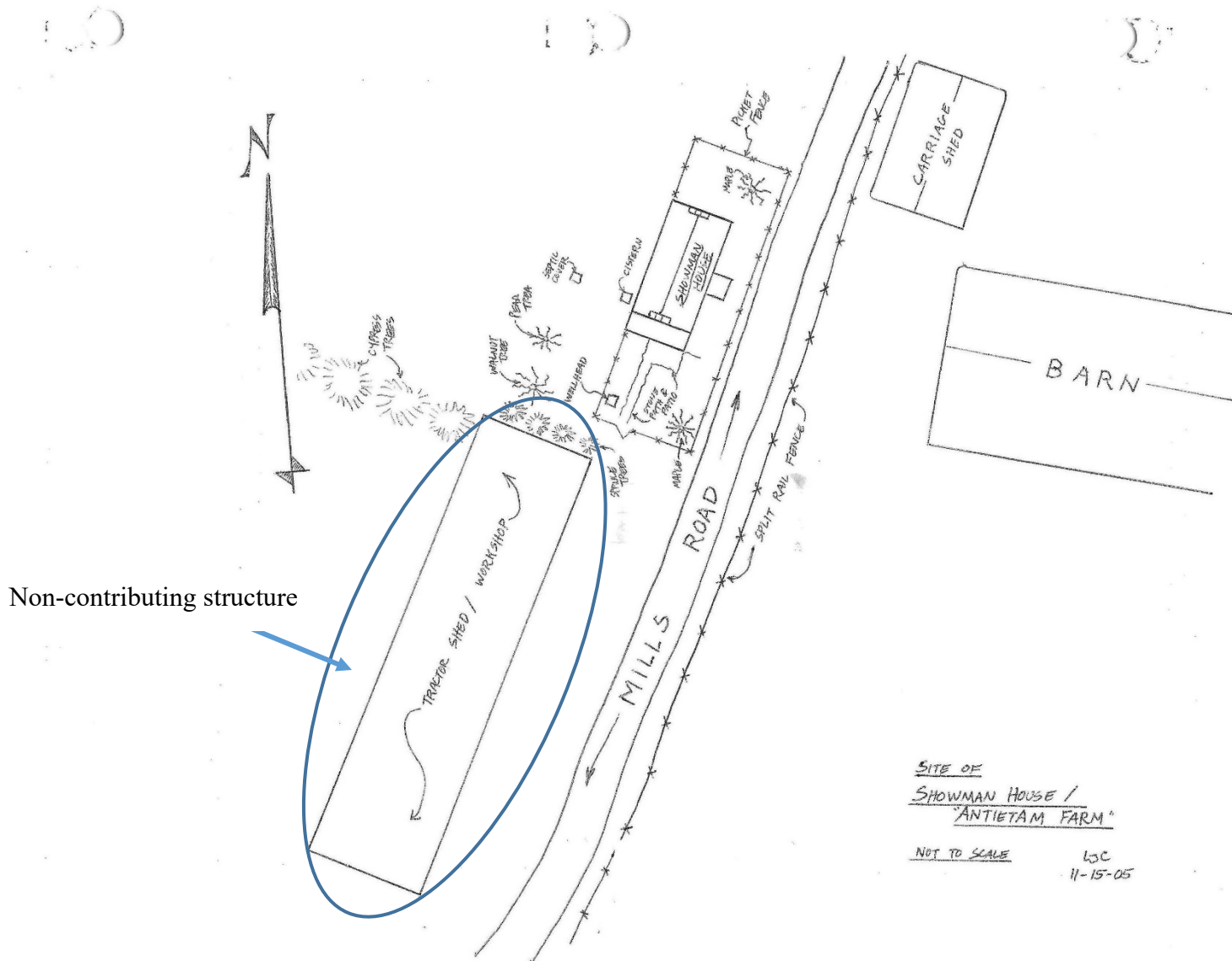


Photo 9. Site plan for Antietam Farm. Courtesy of Leslie Clark.



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*Photo 10. Mills Road heading North. Author Photo 05/07/2023.*

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*Photo 11. Mills Road heading South. Author Photo 05/07/2023.*



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*Photo 12. Antietam Farm dwelling and viewshed facing South. Author Photo 05/07/2023.*

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*Photo 13. Viewshed from Antietam Farm dwelling facing West. Author Photo 05/07/2023.*



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*Photo 14. Portico and main entranc. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*

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*Photo 15. Workroom in the basement. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*



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*Photo 16. Office in the basement. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*

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*Photo 17. Center Passage of dwelling facing West. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*



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*Photo 18. Center Passage facing East. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*

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*Photo 19. Current kitchen. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*



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*Photo 20. Current dining room. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*

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*Photo 21. Rear or back parlor. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*

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Photo 22. Front parlor. Author Photo 04/08/2023.



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*Photo 23. Center passage stair to landing. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*

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*Photo 24. Landing to second floor. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*

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*Photo 25. Second-floor bedroom. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*



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*Photo 26. Second-floor bedroom. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*

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*Photo 27. Attic Roof Framing. Author photo 04/08/2023.*



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*Photo 28. Attic Roof Framing. Author photo 04/08/2023.*

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*Photo 29. Attic Roof Framing. Author photo 04/08/2023.*



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*Photo 30. Attic Roof Framing. Author photo 04/08/2023.*

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*Photo 31. Wagon shed. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*



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*Photo 32. Back of double-outshed bank barn. Author Photoe 04/08/2023.*

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*Photo 33. Oushed with ventilation openings. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*



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*Photo 34. Covered forebay of bank barn. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*

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*Photo 35. Side of the barn facing West. Author Photo 04/08/2023.*



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*Photo 36. South side of farmhouse in 1988 before restoration. Photo by Dennis Frye.*

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*Photo 37. East side of farmhouse in 1988 before restoration. Photo by Dennis Frye.*

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*Photo 38. Farm outbuildings in 1988 before restoration. Photo by Dennis Frye.*



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*Photo 39. Center passage facing East before restoration in 1988. Photo by Dennis Frye.*

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*Photo 40. Dining room before restoration in 1988. Photo by Dennis Frye.*