

VLR-6/20/89 NRHP-11/13/89

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Wall, Adam, House other names/site number 60-233

2. Location

street & number West side of VA Route 657 1/2 mi. south of VA Route 685 not for publication N/A city, town Price's Fork vicinity Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 sip code 24060

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official Virginia Department of Historic Resources Date State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is.

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: hall-parlor plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof METAL: tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Adam Wall House is a two-story, five-bay, log center-passage house. The present plan was apparently created by the insertion of a partition into an unusually large hall-parlor log house. The house incorporates a two-story frame ell which was originally separated by a one-story breezeway from the main house. It is situated among a group of twentieth-century farm buildings in the gently rolling agricultural land west of Blacksburg. The house has a coursed-rubble foundation, a five-bay facade incorporating six-over-nine sash double-hung windows in the outer bays, low doorways with glazed doors in the central bays flanking an entry door with a transom, sidelights, and mid-nineteenth-century detailing. The second-floor fenestration, however, is characterized by three irregularly spaced six-over-six sash double-hung windows.

The house is sheathed with beaded weatherboard and features a box cornice with bed mold as well as a beaded rake board. Two-story brick chimneys rise at each end of the house. A one-story porch supported by chamfered square posts with molded caps and added brick bases spans the entire principal (north) facade. The front of the house below the porch is sheathed with beaded vertical flush board. A two-story gabled ell projects to the south and, until recently, had a partially standing one-story stone chimney with a brick extension making it two stories in height. The ell, which has a lower eave than the house, is built of frame; evidence in the weatherboard and on the interior during recent remodeling efforts indicates that the original ell took the form of a one-story frame semi-detached kitchen with a large stone fireplace. The heavy braced frame structure was altered in the late nineteenth century when a second story was added and the original breezeway incorporated into two first-floor rooms. Surviving evidence indicates that the building was constructed with exposed corner posts cased with a beaded board that projected into the interior. The walls and ceilings are sheathed with beaded tongue-and-groove boards. The ceiling joists do not appear to have been exposed and have a hewn finish. The south end wall bears evidence of up-and-down-braces mortised into the eight-by-eight hewn corner posts. The top plates of the original structure were located several feet above the floor of the original ell.

On the interior of the log section, a log partition divides a large west room from a smaller east room. A mid- to late nineteenth-century board-and-batten partition inserted in the large room created a central passage. The east room contains a Federal period mantel with a central tablet and end blocks. The tablet is ornamented with an elliptical sunburst, the end blocks have reeded panels, and a deep molded shelf is located above. A similar mantel with molded shelf, but without the central tablet or the reeding, survives in the second-floor room above. The first floor is plastered and features a horizontal flush wainscot with molded chair rail above. The mantel and chair rail in the west room have been removed. The second floor contains an intact east room with

See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance  
ca. 1850

Significant Dates  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

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

The Adam Wall House is significant under criterion C as an unusual example of the regionally popular hall-parlor form which, although altered, incorporates a very large floor plan and many well-preserved early features. The house is similar in age and size to the Joseph McDonald House (60-235, also part of this submission). The Wall House measures thirty-nine by twenty-three feet. It is one of few known dwellings surviving from before 1840 . From a total of forty log examples of this form recorded in the county in 1986, only ten were dated from 1825-1860. Of those this is one of the earliest and certainly the largest. The five-bay facade is unique in the county and among known structures in the region; the other log hall-parlor houses all have three-bay facades. The alterations of the house to form a center-passage dwelling in the late nineteenth century are instructive of the way in which a family altered their home to meet changing needs and expectations. Together with its log outbuilding, the house and domestic space surrounding it illustrate the uses of such space throughout the period of significance.

Family tradition identifies the house as the eighteenth-century home of the Wall family who settled in the region during that period. The house, as it stands, however, seems to represent the product of a building campaign of the second quarter of the nineteenth century, probably after Adam Wall acquired it. Certain features of the main structure might suggest that it is an altered earlier building, but most of the evidence points to the early nineteenth-century date. It appears to have been built as a two-story hall-parlor house of very unusual size with an original or slightly later frame kitchen connected by a breezeway. Evidence uncovered during recent rehabilitation work indicates that the log section was built in one campaign, and its five-bay first-floor facade gives every indication of being integral to the original structure.

Adam Wall (1790-1860) purchased 417 acres on Stroubles Creek from Jacob Price and Hiram Price in 1835 (D.B. L, p. 445). Price excluded "one pole square" at the meeting house spring, alluding to the Lutheran church site adjoining Jacob Price's land. This small tract was sold in 1806 to John Wall and Michael Surface, elders of the "Lutheran Calvinist Church" on Tom's Creek, by the executor of William Preston, honoring a promise made before 1755 by James Patton (Kegley, Vol. 1, p. 268-9). At the time of Wall's purchase, Jacob Price had buildings on his part of the acreage worth \$200.00. The same improvements appear on Wall's tax records the following year. His previous

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Kegley, Mary B. and Frederick B. Early Adventurers on the Western Waters. Vol. 1.  
Orange: Green Publishers, Inc., 1980.  
Montgomery County Deed and Land Books.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A 

1	7
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5	4	7	2	2	0
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4	1	1	7	8	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point A on the south side of a drive 1/10 mile west of VA Rt. 657 and 1/2 mile south of the intersection with VA Rt. 685, proceeding south 150 feet to point B, thence west 132.5 feet to point C, thence north 150 feet along the east side of the drive to point D, thence east 132.5 feet to point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to include the house, outbuildings, and domestic-related space.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gibson Worsham  
organization Gibson Worsham, Architect date February 1988  
street & number Yellow Sulphur Springs, Route 2 telephone (703) 552-4730  
city or town Christiansburg state Virginia zip code 24073

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7. Description (Continued):

beaded vertical boards sheathing the walls and with beaded ceiling boards. The west room was subdivided in the late nineteenth century. An open-stringer stair rises in three flights to the second floor at the rear of the center passage, but physical evidence indicates that the upper flight of the stairs incorporates an earlier enclosed winder stair entered by a door in the east room that now gives access to a closet below the present stair. The lower flight of stairs with its squared balusters and chamfered newels apparently was added when the center passage was created.

The cellar of the main house features a large room to the east that contains trimmed log joists and no evidence of a fireplace. A log sill runs the entire length of the rear (south) wall. A partitioned room at the west end contains concrete troughs added in the twentieth century for cooling milk that were originally fed by a water ram. The roof structure in the unfinished attic, like the cornice and siding on the exterior, shows no sign of addition or alteration: half-lapped common rafters with collars support the roof, and evidence in cut joists and rafters in the center of the structure suggests that a central chimney was planned to rise along the west side of the log central partition. If it actually did exist, no evidence can be found of it in the lower floors or in the basement framing or floor. The rafters are supported on six-inch-wide false plates and the lowest sheathing board was nailed with rose-head nails. Access to the upper sheathing boards was not possible. In the gable ends of the garret, shims nailed under weatherboard have hand-headed nails already in them from a former location, while the siding is attached with machine-headed nails.

The rear of the log section includes a blocked window and door opening into the former breezeway and early beaded boards on the exterior. A staircase rises in the center of the ell enclosed with beaded vertical boards. A porch was constructed at an early date along the west side of the ell and included a later enclosed pantry or bathroom at its south end. A large brick cistern was located below this porch. The porch has been removed in a recent remodeling campaign. In the twentieth century, a small two-story addition containing bathrooms was added to the west end of the log structure. As a part of the rehabilitation campaign, the front porch was enclosed, but the new walls were held back behind the posts and scalloped porch ornament.

The immediate domestic space is enclosed by a fence and the grounds are shaded by cedar and locust trees. A pair of maples flank the front walk. A contributing log meathouse or smokehouse stands to the immediate southwest of the house. A modern noncontributing garage stands to the west, and a noncontributing trailer is located in the southwest corner of the nominated property.

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National Park Service

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8. Statement of Significance (Continued):

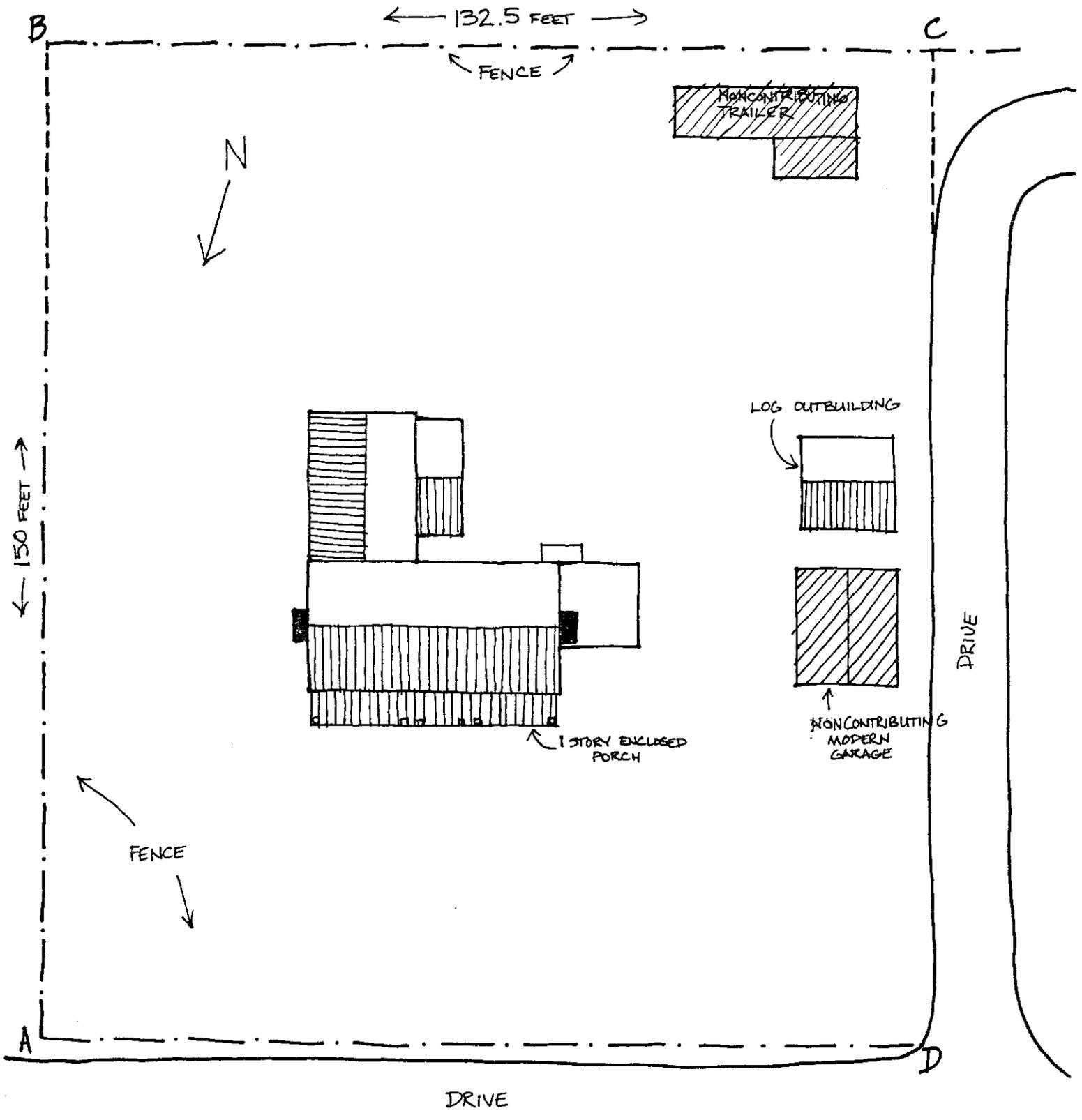
holdings in the area (158 and 162 acres on Tom's Creek) show no improvements. In the 1847-1849 tax records no improvements are registered, but in 1851 his home tract (now 409 acres) shows \$1000.00 in buildings, indicating some improvements since 1837. Adam Wall was sixty in 1850, as affirmed by the census of that year. His wife Elizabeth, and children, including son Floyd, and relative Harvey Wall (thirty-one, listed as a teacher) shared his household. In 1858 Wall split his estate between his son, Alexander Floyd Wall, and daughter, Ellen E. Evans. His son received a portion including the house where Adam resided, but the elder Wall retained the house and five acres for his own use, as well as the orchard spring. The house and land remain in the Wall family's possession today and is in active use as a dairy farm.

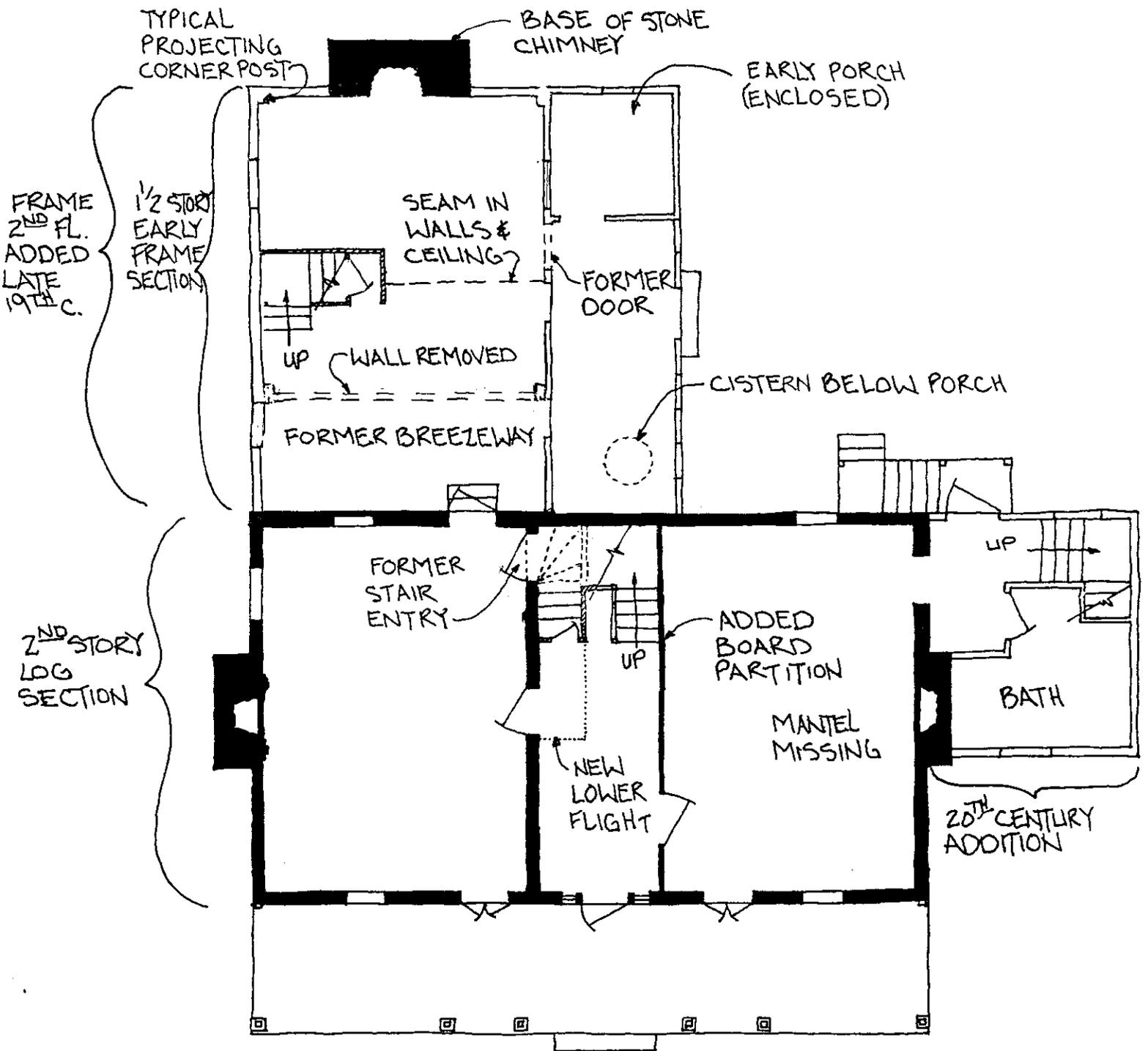
60-233 ADAM WALL HOUSE

G. WORSHAM

10/87

K. MARTIN





Adam Wall Farm  
 Site 60-233  
 First Floor Plan

WALNUT SPRING  
17 545260 4120090

JOSEPH  
MCDONALD FARM  
17 546660 4119920

EVANS HOUSE #2  
17 546290 4118490

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

ADAM WALL HOUSE  
17 547190 4117900

LINKOUS-KIPPS HOUSE  
17 548002 4117835

WHITETHORN  
17 548685 4117940



4858 11 NE  
(RADFORD NORTH)