

1899
 VLR-6/20/89
 NRHP 1/10/91

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service
**National Register of Historic Places
 Registration Form**

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Walnut Grove Farm Historic District
 other names/site number 60-452

2. Location

street & number VA Route 609 1/5 of a mile southwest of intersection
of VA Route 609 and U.S. Route 760/11 N/A not for publication
 city, town Shawsville vicinity
 state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24162

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u> Total

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

A. Bryan Mitchell 9/29/89
 Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
 State or Federal agency and bureau

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

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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. _____
 See continuation sheet. _____

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. _____

determined not eligible for the National Register. _____

removed from the National Register. _____
 other. (explain.) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structures

Agriculture: animal facility

Agriculture: processing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structures

Agriculture: animal facility

Agriculture: processing

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone: limestone

walls brick

roof asbestos

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The house and outbuildings at Walnut Grove Farm are located in a grove of trees on the southeast side of U.S. Route 460/11. They are approached by a long drive, and are surrounded by wooden plank and picket fences and farm buildings. The extremely well preserved complex includes the main house (a rebuilding of a nineteenth-century structure in the early twentieth century), a log outbuilding that predates the house, an early twentieth-century concrete pergola structure, and six buildings that date to the early twentieth century: a brick dairy/smokehouse building, a brick office, a farm manager's house, two barns, and a frame garage. A contributing frame mill stands in a hilly region south of the central domestic and agricultural complex along with an early twentieth-century frame barn and a ca. 1930 frame tenant house.

The two-story main house utilizes the regionally traditional single-pile, center-passage plan, but incorporates an integral ell and offset lateral wing that dramatically increases its floor space. The three-bay principal facade features a central door flanked by sidelights on each floor with curvilinear tracery in the sidelights and transom. The six-over-six, double-hung windows have early louvered blinds and stone jack arches with keystones. The gable roof, covered with asbestos shingles, has a deep modillioned cornice above a Greek Revival-style stepped entablature with paterae at the ends and returns in the gables. Gabled dormers light the attic. The brick walls are laid in Flemish bond and feature brick quoins throughout.

A two-story pedimented porch is supported by paired colossal fluted Ionic columns of galvanized metal filled with concrete. The porch floor is mosaic tile with the words "Walnut Grove" laid in colored tile. A second-floor balcony supported on pressed metal consoles has a Chinese lattice railing. One-story porches are supported by similar Ionic columns on the front of the two-story west wing and in the angle of the ell. A lower two-story kitchen wing sheathed in weatherboard is attached to the south end of the ell, and a pyramidally-roofed stair tower rises on the west side. A one-story modern addition to the west of the ell contains an informal family room.

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
Agriculture

Period of Significance

mid-19th c. to 1940

Significant Dates

1910

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.

Walnut Grove Farm Historic District consists of a 330-acre livestock and dairy farm located on the South Fork of the Roanoke River. With its well-preserved domestic and agricultural farm buildings surrounded by original pasturelands and its outstanding Colonial Revival-style dwelling, the farm is an unusually intact example of an early twentieth-century farmstead that is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. While most of the farm buildings date from 1910 to 1930, earlier and later buildings on the farm extend the period of significance to reflect the continuous use of the property as a farm. The district is also eligible under Criterion A for its association with agricultural development, specifically livestock and dairy farming, in Montgomery County. Walnut Grove Farm is one of the county's best preserved livestock and dairy farms from the period 1910 to the 1930s, a period of intense development of such farms in the agricultural history of the region.

The land was patented by Ephraim Vause in 1748 and passed into the Madison family's possession in 1760. John Madison made his home here on the upper tract of his holdings along the South Fork. His son, Rowland Madison, conveyed the upper tract to his sister Elizabeth and to her husband Andrew Lewis in 1796. Jacob Kent and James White acquired the land in 1838 and an inclusive survey was made of the property, called the White House or Vause's Tract, which encompassed 1,200 acres. Jacob Kent lived at a site further up the Alleghany Turnpike but is said to have built a frame house at Walnut Grove in 1848 (Vest, p.2). The house that he built was described in 1938 as a two-story frame house of the same basic plan as the present house with three rooms and two halls.

The house passed through a variety of hands during the nineteenth century, and was owned by John Archer Langhorn in the late 1860s (Ellis). In the 1890s Captain David Harvey "Black" Barger bought the farm and is said to have remodeled the spacious house

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ellis, Mrs. Billie Northcross. Interview. March, 1988.
Orrick, Mrs. W. Interview. May, 1988.
Works Progress Administration. Vause's Fort survey form, 1936.

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

Acreage of property 330 acres

UTM References

A

117	556780	4114840
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

117	567980	4113260
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B

117	567760	4113810
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

117	567520	4112900
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property are defined by the boundaries of Montgomery County Tax Parcel number 84-A-4.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to include the historic farm property, the house and domestic space, the mill and surrounding landscape, and the fields fronting on US 460/11 that provide a visually intact setting for the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gibson Worsham
organization Gibson Worsham Architect date June 1989
street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs telephone (703) 552-4730
city or town Christiansburg state Virginia zip code 24073

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The house follows the regionally popular center-passage plan in which a room flanks the center passage on each floor. A secondary passage separates the dining room in the ell from the main section. An offset wing to the west opens out of the secondary passage. Both passages contain handsome open-stringer stairs with decorative brackets, turned balusters and newels, and paneled aprons.

The rooms feature turn-of-the-century mantels with Neo-Grecian detailing flanked by built-in presses in the west room and to the east of the mantel in the ell dining room. The interior doors have paneled reveals and Greek Revival trim with base blocks. The high baseboard has stepped moldings. Heat is provided by ornamental cast-iron radiators. The first-floor rooms have early twentieth-century plaster crown moldings with Greek Revival features.

The kitchen has been completely modernized, and a powder room was added in the west wing. A small bay window opening off the kitchen dates to the early twentieth century, while the one-story porch along the south end of the ell has been enclosed. The house is in an extremely well preserved condition.

The outbuildings are dispersed to the sides and rear of the house, but are held back well behind the front line of the house. A mid-nineteenth-century one-story log house stands to the rear. It has a stone firebox with an arched opening and a brick upper stack. A plain enclosed stair rises in the southwest corner. Plain exposed joists support the garret floor. The half-dovetailed logs have been somewhat damaged by exposure and insect attack. An early twentieth-century porch with columns shelters the single-bay north entry facade. In front of the log house and west of the kitchen wing stands a one-and-one-half-story brick combination smokehouse/dairy building that dates from the early twentieth century. A modern garage has been added to the west end.

To the southeast stands an elegantly detailed brick farm office. The office is a miniature of the main house, with a three-bay facade, returned denticulated cornice, and six-over-six double-hung sash windows with louvered blinds. The central entry is sheltered under a pedimented porch supported by fluted Doric columns. Brick walks, a modern lattice-fenced herb garden, a

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modern swimming pool and cabana, and ornamented plantings complete the carefully landscaped exterior.

A functioning farm complex, that includes a contributing 1930s bungalow (farm manager's house), a circa 1910 frame garage, two contributing frame barns, a noncontributing milking parlor, and a mid-twentieth-century noncontributing barn, is located to the east across VA Route 609. The entrance gates in front of the house, the porches on the log house and dairy, and a small pergola nearby are made of poured concrete and date from the house's reconstruction in the early twentieth century. The addition to the house and the added noncontributing pool and cabana do not appreciably detract from the historic character of the house as built in 1910.

East of the farm complex stands the Walnut Grove Mill which was used to grind feed for the farm's cows until the mid-twentieth century. The two-and-one-half story frame mill is built where a small creek meets a natural waterfall. The building may date from the mid-nineteenth century, as its three-bay form and height suggest, but the existing stucco exterior wall covering, roof, architectural detailing and perhaps the entire structure, date from the early twentieth century. The steel overshot wheel and much of the machinery remain intact. Nearby are a contributing one-story frame double-cell tenant house and a contributing frame barn (with paired silos) dating from the early twentieth century. Noncontributing resources in this area are a modern bridge and a trailer.

SUMMARY OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN THE WALNUT GROVE FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT:

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: early-20th-century Colonial Revival brick main house; mid-19th-century log outbuilding; early-20th-century brick farm office; early-20th-century brick smokehouse/dairy; ca. 1910 frame garage; ca. 1930 frame farm manager's house; 2 ca. 1930 frame barns; early-20th-century frame and stucco mill; ca. 1930 frame tenant house; early-20th-century frame barn with silos

NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: modern barn; modern milking parlor; modern pool cabana; modern trailer

CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES: early-20th-century concrete pergola

NONCONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES: modern swimming pool; modern concrete bridge

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drastically (Ellis and Orrick). Although sources differ, it is apparent from these sources and from the physical evidence that few elements of the earlier house were incorporated in the remodeling. Much of the interior trim resembles earlier Greek Revival work, but not all of it. The entire exterior shows no sign of an earlier structure although the 1938 source says the frame ell section is the relocated early kitchen. According to this same source, Captain Barger succeeded in creating a seamless new house out of the termite-damaged earlier structure (Vest).

A granddaughter of Captain Barger relates that Barger acquired the White House property from a Judge Dillard of Norfolk who had gained the land from the Langhorn family. Captain Barger then built the house in 1910. Captain Barger had made his fortune in railroading and coal mining in Bluefield, West Virginia, but was originally from Montgomery County, where Bargers had been prominent since the mid-eighteenth century. Barger lived in the large frame house of the same shape as the present house for some time. He decided to demolish the house due to the lack of amenities and severe termite damage. The frame kitchen was kept, and the new design was proposed by a Roanoke architect (Orrick).

The house has been through a succession of owners since the Bargers, including Marion C. Reynolds, who purchased it from Barger. Mrs. Reynolds was an informant for the 1938 Works Progress Administration survey. She claimed that Barger had added brick walls and the west wing to the existing house. The present owners have made a considerable effort to restore and care for the complex. Additions have been carefully kept in areas to the southwest of the ell and the west wing and are not visible from the grounds or public roads.

The 1910 house is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style of architecture with its two-story pedimented portico, gabled dormers, brick quoins, broad frieze and heavy modillion cornice, flared jack arches over multi-paned windows, and entrances with transoms highlighted with curvilinear tracery. The well-preserved outbuildings surrounding the house reflect the use of the property as a farm from the mid-nineteenth century to 1940. They include a small brick office built in 1910 in the architectural style of the house, a mid-nineteenth-century log outbuilding associated with an earlier house on the site, an early twentieth-century brick smokehouse/dairy, a ca. 1910 frame garage and concrete pergola, and two frame barns and a farm manager's house dating from the 1930s.

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To complete the entire picture of a large livestock and dairy farm from the period 1910 to 1940, another complex of agricultural buildings on the farm is included in the district. Located east of the house complex and closer to the river, it consists of an early twentieth-century frame and stucco three-story mill, an early twentieth-century frame barn with silos, and a ca. 1930 frame tenant house.

The farm in its entirety, including preserved pasturelands and grazing fields, represents a prosperous livestock and dairy farm from the period 1910 to 1940. These three decades saw the development of many such farms in Montgomery County and the region. The number of farms in the county was relatively low (1,230) in 1900, but in 1910 began a climb that peaked in 1935 at 2,158 farms. Most of these farms ranged in size from one to ninety-nine acres; however, livestock and dairy farms tended to be larger in size. The first thirty years of the twentieth century saw a growth in the dairy business because of the high price of milk and butter and better marketing facilities. Beef cattle farms also flourished, reaching a peak of 10,500 heads of cattle in 1930. Dairy herds peaked in 1940 with 6,300 head after steadily increasing since 1870 (For further discussion of Montgomery County agricultural history from 1910 to 1940 see Section E, page 78-80 of the historical context statements of the Multiple Property Nomination).

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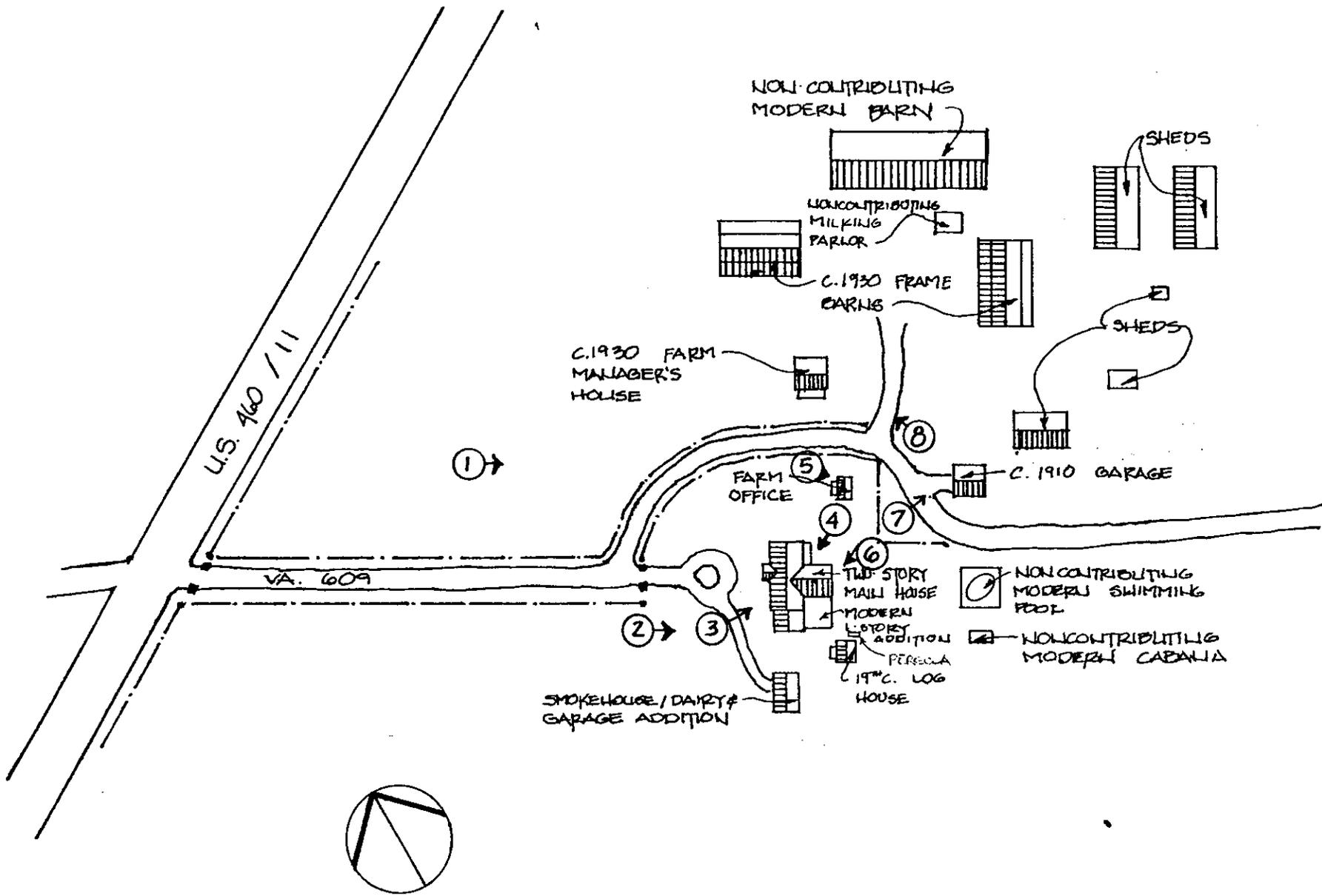
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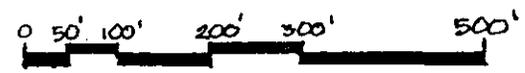
UTM References - continued

E 17566500 4113680



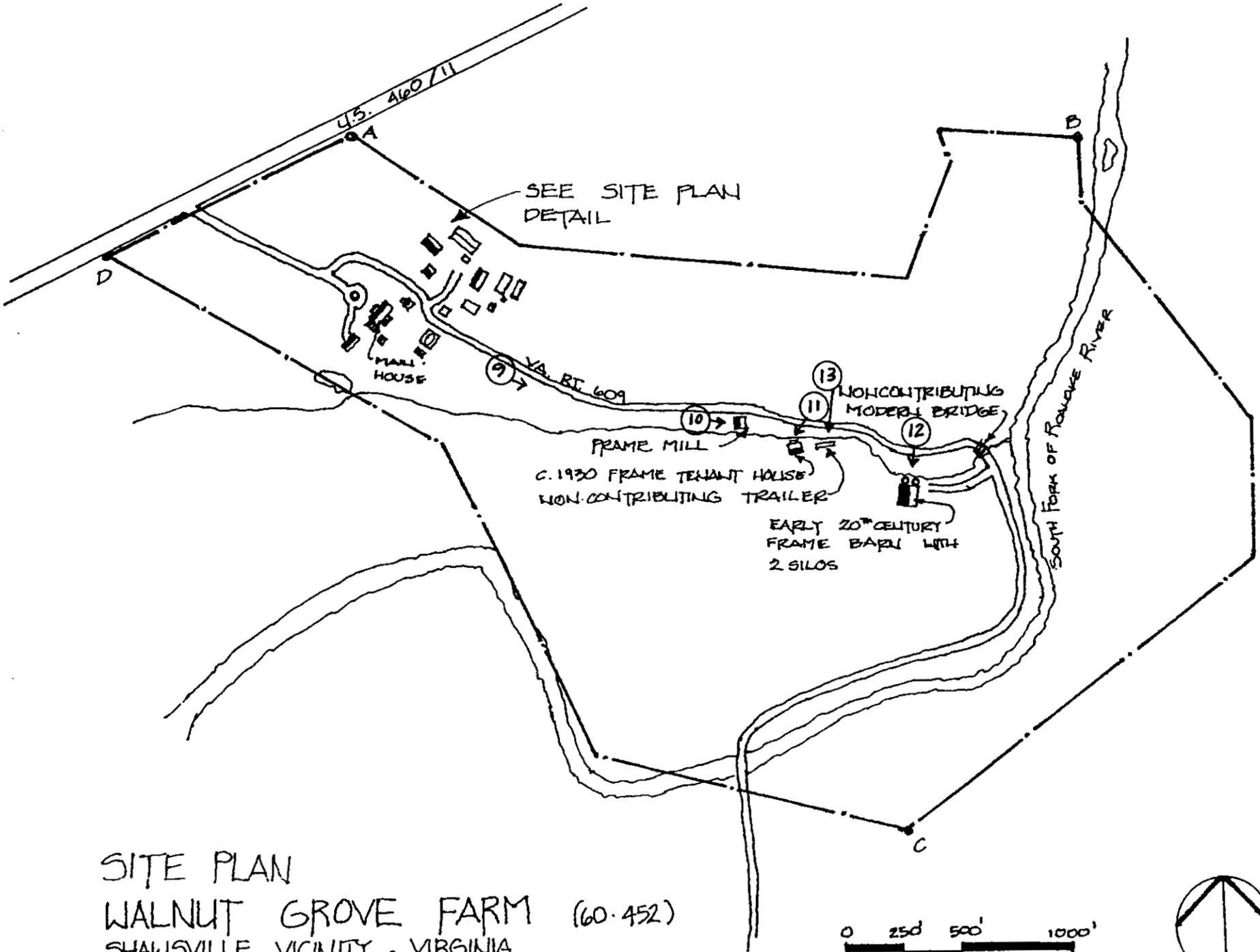
SITE PLAN DETAIL

WALNUT GROVE FARM (60-452)
 SHAWSVILLE VICINITY, VIRGINIA
 DECEMBER 1988, HAO
 MAP 1 OF 2

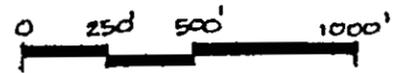


⑫ = PHOTO KEY (PHOTOS 9-13 ON MAP 2)

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SITE PLAN
 WALNUT GROVE FARM (60-452)
 SHAWSVILLE VICINITY, VIRGINIA
 DECEMBER 1988 ; HAO
 MAP 2 OF 2



(12) = PHOTO KEY (PHOTOS 1-8 ON MAP 1)

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