

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Miller, Henry, House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 200' E of Mossy Creek; S side of State Route 42; .1 mile E of intersection of State Routes 747 and 42.

CITY, TOWN

Mossy Creek

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Augusta

CODE

015

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. & Mrs. Wayne S. Eberly

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 213

CITY, TOWN

Bridgewater

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22812

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Augusta County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Staunton

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1976, 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission - 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Henry Miller House, a large stone and brick building set on a rise in the rolling farmland of northern Augusta County, was built in the late 18th century by ironmaster Henry Miller and added to in the mid-19th century.

The original portion of the house is a two-story, coursed-rubble stone block with an ashlar facade, which consists of a square, four-bay, double-pile section with a three-bay, single-pile wing attached in such a way as to present an unbroken seven-bay facade to the road. This entire section has a gable roof on the double-pile end, while the wing, formerly gabled as well, is now joined to the 19th-century ell with a hipped roof. There is a stone interior end chimney at either end of the house. Almost all of the windows have original or early 9/6 sash except for the attic windows, which have 6/6 sash, and the windows at the west end of the single-pile wing, which have large 6/6 sash that were installed when the ell was built. Plain stone jack arches are used over all of the windows in the original house; several of those windows have original louvred blinds hung on strap hinges. An early one-story porch supported on six squat, masonry Tuscan columns stretches the length of the facade.

The house is set on its knoll in such a way as to provide grade entry into the basement. Consequently the brick ell, laid in five-course American bond, is three full stories from the basement floor to the eaves and has its principal entry at basement level. The entry is sheltered by a porch supported on four attenuated recessed-panel Tuscan piers. Covering the ell is a gable roof, and there are two interior chimneys, one on the end and one near the center.

The original section of the Miller House has a side-passage plan with corner fireplaces in the main block and a single room in the wing. Edward Chappell has argued convincingly that the passage, which occupies half of the area of the main block, betrays the house as an amalgamation of English Georgian ideas with the traditional German Flurkuchenhaus.¹ In this view, the present passage replaces the German küche, a kitchen which also served as the principal family gathering place.

The ell is divided into two rooms--a small, narrow one situated behind a larger one and separated from it by an intervening stair to the basement.

The basement consists of finished rooms under the original wing and under the ell, which contains the 19th-century kitchen. The latter has a subterranean dairy. Dirt-floored storage bins occupy the space under the main block of the original house.

Most of the surviving decoration in the Miller House is confined to the main block of the original house, with the exception of a mantel in the wing. The latter consists of an architrave surround with a raised-panel frieze containing three brackets supporting a plain shelf.

The front left (northeast) room on the first floor has a paneled chimney piece with a single large rectangular panel over a long narrow one. Flanking the chimney piece is a composition consisting of a tall panel over a short one extending from the baseboard to the cornice. There is no early decoration in the southeast room.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Henry Miller House in northern Augusta County is a rare and carefully crafted example of a large, late 18th-century Shenandoah Valley residence. In addition to its age, excellent masonry, and handsome decoration, the house is significant for its reflection of the process of acculturation of German building practices to the predominantly English culture of Virginia. The house was built by Henry Miller (d. 1796), an important figure in the early industrial history of western Virginia and the founder of the Mossy Creek iron furnace.

In partnership with Mark Bird, a fellow native of Berks County, Pennsylvania, Miller purchased 212 acres of land on Mossy Creek from Adam Stephen of Berkeley County (now West Virginia) in 1774. Several months later Miller and Bird entered into a partnership agreement for "carrying on the act misterey and business of Iron Masters."

The Mossy Creek furnace produced iron bar, stoves, kettles, cooking pots, axes, picks and, during the Revolution, cannons, cannonballs and small arms. The business soon prospered, and in 1778 Miller bought out his partner, who had never left Pennsylvania, for 15,000 pounds Pennsylvania currency. For the remainder of his life, Miller continued to add to his holdings which included a home tract eventually totaling 1150 acres.

Both architectural evidence and local tradition suggest that Miller built his stone house in the mid-1780s. The three-room, side-passage plan of the main block, as Edward Chappell has shown¹, reflects the adaptation of the Continental three-room house model to an English Georgian plan common elsewhere in Virginia. Certainly other aspects of the house support this contention. The four-bay facade of the main block, the multiple exterior entrances on several levels, and the attic stair to the auxiliary storage space above the collars all resemble Continental practices more than English traditions. This Germanic use of the voluminous house space for storage and work as well as for "living" continued to affect the builders of the mid-19th-century ell, who utilized two entry levels and a subterranean dairy there.

Miller died in the spring of 1796, and his widow and six children divided the estate. To his son Samuel was delegated the management of the ironworks, at "a reasonable salary," on behalf of all of the heirs. By 1814 Samuel Miller was sole owner of the home tract (valued at \$15,000 in 1820) and the ironworks.

Samuel Miller died in 1836, and his heirs sold five tracts of his land, including the 1150 acres and the ironworks, to Henry Keneagy of Augusta County. In 1838 Keneagy in turn conveyed the property to his father, John Keneagy, a resident of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, who gave the entire holding to his daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Augusta County Deed Books 20, 23, 38, 60, 65.

Land Books 1782-1860.

Will Books 1A, 2A, 14.

Chappell, Edward A., Jr. "Cultural Change in the Shenandoah Valley: Northern Augusta County Houses before 1861." Master's thesis, University of Virginia, 1977.

Clem, Gladys. "Old Homes of Augusta County," Augusta Historical Bulletin, Vol. 7. No. 2, Fall 1971, page 49. (see continuation sheet #2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	6 7 2 3 0 0	4 4 4 7 0 9 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 200' N of State Route 42, 750' ENE of intersection of State Routes 747 and 42, and 4000' WSW of Long Glade Creek; thence extending 650' E; thence extending 600' directly S across State Route 42; thence extending 650' W to E side of said route; thence extending N 600' along said side of said route and across said route to point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

February 1978

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE FEB 21 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Henry Miller House, Augusta County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

The energetic, single-run stair in the passage has a closed string, molded banister, and urn-shaped newel and balusters. The banister and newel are echoed in the chair rail which is carried upstairs.

In the second-floor northeast room is a chimney piece similar to that in the room below it. Remaining in the filled-in fireplace is an early 19th-century cast-iron stove which was probably made at Miller's Mossy Creek iron furnace. An original unsupported molded shelf survives in the southeast room on this floor.

The large open attic of the main block contains a stair leading up to the collar beams, a common feature in Continental houses. This stair gave access to an upper storage level created, when the demand for space was greatest, by laying loose boards across the collars.

One of the two remaining outbuildings is a two-story, one-cell rubble stone kitchen of uncertain age, located behind the house. It has a brick chimney and has been heavily altered. The two-story, three-bay, single-cell springhouse across the road has also suffered alterations. It has been raised in height several times to accommodate changes in the road grade. An office or other heated facility occupied the upper story, accessible at grade from the road, and the springhouse facilities are in the ground story, set one or two steps below the rear grade.

Other buildings on the property located within the area being nominated include a late 19th-century frame bank barn complex and a modern concrete-block buggy shed next to the house.

¹Edward A. Chappell, Jr., "Cultural Change in the Shenandoah Valley: Northern Augusta County Houses Before 1861" (Master's thesis, University of Virginia, 1977).

DU

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Daniel Förrer (d. 1868) of Page County. They apparently operated the manufactory until the time of the Civil War.

The present owners of the Henry Miller House are Mr. and Mrs. Wayne S. Eberly, who have owned it approximately one and one-half years.

du/VDS

¹Edward A. Chappell, Jr., "Cultural Change in the Shenandoah Valley: Northern Augusta County Houses Before 1861" (Master's thesis, University of Virginia, 1977).

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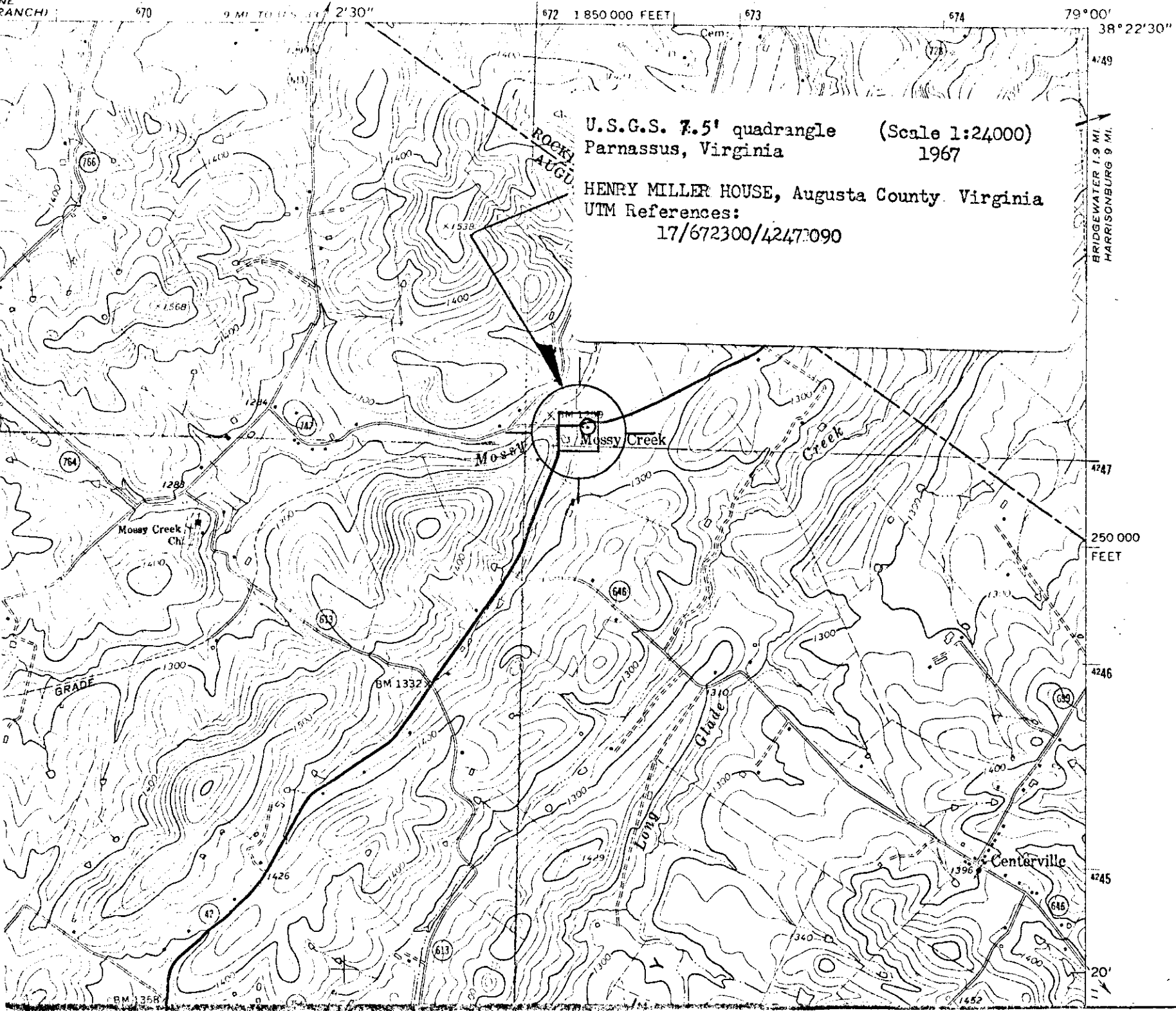
CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Peyton, J. L. History of Augusta County, Virginia. 2d ed. Bridgewater, Va., 1953.
Strickler, Henry M. A Short History of Page County, Virginia. Harrisonburg, Va.,
1974.



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (Scale 1:24000)
Parnassus, Virginia 1967

HENRY MILLER HOUSE, Augusta County, Virginia
UTM References:
17/672300/4247090

ROCKY
AUG.

Mossy Creek

Creek

Mossy Creek

Long
Glade

Centerville

BRIDGEWATER 1.9 MI.
HARRISONBURG 9 MI.

250 000
FEET

20'