

VLR-12/1/99 NRHP-4/3/00

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bowman Farm  
other names/site number VDHR site no. 033-0283

2. Location

street & number 1605 Cahas Mountain Road (SR 742) not for publication N/A  
city or town Boones Mill vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Franklin code 067 zip code 24065

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. Catherine Kussner 2/15/2000  
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
\_\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

**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)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
AGRICULTURE	animal facility
AGRICULTURE	storage
FUNERARY	cemetery

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
FUNERARY	cemetery
VACANT/NOT IN USE	

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Georgian
- Victorian
- Craftsman

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Stone
walls	Brick
roof	Metal
other	Wood

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past fifty years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

Ca. 1833-1923

**Significant Dates**

Ca. 1833

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** approximately 700 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	587430	4108180	3	17	587360 4105520
2	17	588200	4107880	4	17	586690 4106410

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	<u>J. Daniel Pezzoni</u>	date	<u>September 20, 1999</u>
organization	<u>Landmark Preservation Associates</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 464-5315</u>
street & number	<u>6 Houston St.</u>	zip code	<u>24450</u>
city or town	<u>Lexington</u> state <u>VA</u>		

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	<u>Carey F. Garst</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 483-5264 x235</u>
street & number	<u>1605 Cahas Mountain Road</u>	zip code	<u>24065</u>
city or town	<u>Boones Mill</u> state <u>Virginia</u>		

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Bowman Farm  
Franklin Co., Va.

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## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### Summary

The Bowman Farm occupies the southern flank of Cahas Mountain, an outlying peak of the Blue Ridge and Franklin County, Virginia's highest mountain. From a low point of about 1,600 feet on Cahas Mountain Road (SR 742) at its southern end the nominated parcel rises to the Cahas Mountain ridge at 3,571 feet elevation. The relatively gentle slopes at the south end of the parcel are mostly cleared, presently in pasture but historically mixed pasture, cropland, and apple orchard. The steep forested slopes of Cahas Mountain comprise a majority of the nominated parcel's 700 acres--a ratio of cleared to wooded acreage that approximates the historic character of the farm. The farm is drained by the headwaters of Little Creek and the North Fork of the Blackwater River, both tributaries of the main branch of the Blackwater River which is in turn a tributary of the Staunton (Roanoke) River.

The Bowman farmhouse incorporates as a rear wing a two-story brick dwelling dating to the 1830s. The south-facing original section features a hall-parlor-plan interior with late Georgian styling and a hinged partition that could be raised to open the downstairs for religious worship. Appended to the east gable-end of the original house is a two-story center-passage-plan frame section dating to about 1900, with weatherboard siding, a Craftsman front porch, and Victorian interior details. Both sections have metal-sheathed gable roofs and, inside, wooden floor boards and plaster wall and ceiling finishes. The house was sensitively rehabilitated in 1999. Near the house stand three nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century farm buildings including a double-crib log bank barn, a mortise-and-tenon frame barn of unusual form, and a granary. Approximately a tenth of a mile south of the house and barn complex lies the Bowman family cemetery containing soapstone and marble monuments from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (Note: the following discussion of the Bowman farmhouse is based in part on a site visit by the author and in part on a description and analysis by Edward A. Chappell.)

### Inventory

1. Bowman House. Ca. 1833; ca. 1900. Contributing building.
2. Log barn. Mid-19th c. Contributing building.
3. Frame barn. Mid-19th c. Contributing building.
4. Granary. Early 20th c. Contributing building.
5. Cemetery. Late 19th/early 20th c. Contributing site.

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Franklin Co., Va.**

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**Description (continued)**

**House Exterior**

The original brick section has a Flemish-bond front (south) elevation and four-course American-bond gable ends and rear (north) elevations, all painted brick red. There are molded brick cornices on front and back. The west gable end has an interior chimney, whereas the east end has an exterior chimney (now covered by the ca. 1900 addition). One-story shed-roofed front and rear porches, probably from the turn of the twentieth century, were replaced in kind during the 1999 rehabilitation. These have turned posts and balusters. The three-bay front and rear elevations have center doorways with modern wooden doors with glazed upper panels. Windows are six-over-six double-hung sash of pegged construction. Both doors and windows have jack-arched heads. This section has a brick foundation.

The ca. 1900 frame section has interior brick chimneys, a foundation of granite fieldstones, and one-over-one windows. Centered on the front of the roof is a decorative gable vertically sheathed with narrow boards with sawtooth lower ends, and formerly with a diamond-shaped vent. The decorative work is repeated in a matching gable on the front of the one-story hip-roofed porch. The porch stands on Craftsman supports that consist of Doric columns on tall brick pedestals with concrete caps. The front entry features a modern six-panel wood door in a historic surround with beaded trim, four-light sidelights, and a two-light transom.

The most recent sections of the house date to the 1999 rehabilitation. A one-story gabled frame kitchen was added to the west gable end of the brick section, replacing an earlier but not as extensive kitchen of brick construction that had fallen into disrepair. The kitchen has weatherboard siding, single-light and one-over-one windows, and French doors opening onto the front porch of the original section. The other substantive addition is a two-story bathroom in the south angle of the original and ca. 1900 sections featuring a two-story bay window. This replaces a ca. 1900 appendage with an enclosed room on the first story and a porch on the second.

**House Interior**

The most significant feature on the interior is the vertical beaded board partition between the two downstairs rooms of the original brick section. The sections of the partition above the chair rail swing up into the space of the smaller room (the parlor) and fasten with hooks to rings mounted on the ceiling. The sections swing on plates that may connect to butt-like hinges hidden above the plaster ceiling. When lifted, the lower sections of the partition and a central doorway remain in place (the doorway has a molded surround and a six-panel door hung on strap hinges with oval

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**Description (continued)**

terminals. Historically, lifting the partition sections linked the two rooms visually and facilitated their use for worship services.

The original section interior is detailed in the Georgian style, which is most evident in the design of the mantels. These have simple architrave surrounds outlined with molding strips and surmounted by shelves with bed moldings. The mantel in the first-floor parlor is a modern reconstruction. The fireplaces have flat lintels or are segmental-arched with brick linings. A boxed winder stair next to the parlor fireplace rises behind a four-panel door and has a railing above with rectangular-section balusters and newels with decorative tops. A stair on the other side of the upstairs fireplace rises to the attic. Other features of the original section include hanging rails, wrought door latches (some, according to Ed Chappell, with "brass knobs and springs, 'bean' handles, and flaps for bar lifts").

The ca. 1900 section has a center-passage stair with turned newels and balusters and matchboard spandrel sheathing. Doorways have reeded surrounds with turned corner blocks and molded base blocks; similar trim is used to frame the mantles, with the addition of shelves and bed moldings. Where the original mantel was missing a modern one was constructed with similar form and appearance.

**Farm Buildings**

The farm buildings, which are no longer used, stand in a group of three to the northeast of the house. The largest of these is a gabled double-crib log barn of bank barn form; that is, sited to take advantage of the natural slope so that both the upper and lower levels are accessible from ground level. At the core of the barn are two log hay mows, the "cribs," constructed of crudely v/saddle-notched oak logs (many with the bark left on) and separated by a central drive-through and threshing floor. Numerous openings have been cut into the crib walls to facilitate the loading and unloading of hay; most of these openings have jambs that are cut-nailed to the log ends, although some, presumably the original openings, have pegged jambs. Overhead are log pole common rafters that are lapped and pegged at the ridge and that support corrugated metal roofing. Above the central drive-through cross stout timbers with a center opening, perhaps for lifting heavy equipment through to an upper storage area. Surrounding the barn core on all four sides is a shed extension with hewn framing members and vertical-board siding attached with cut and wire nails. A concrete ramp leads up to a track-hung door at the north end of the drive-through.

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**Description (continued)**

The drive-through floor is surfaced with stout planks that are cut-nailed to hewn log floor joists. These massive joists extend the entire width of the barn under the drive-through, cantilevering on the up-slope and down-slope sides; under the cribs the joists are staggered so that they extend on either the up-slope or down-slope sides but not on both. The log construction of the cribs continues underneath to form animal stalls with mangers and pegged door jambs. The area under the central drive-through is enclosed with vertical boards and with hewn vertical members mortised into sills and plates. The barn stands on a stone foundation with concrete augmentation.

Next in size is a hewn frame barn of unusual form and construction. The barn core is formed by a cage-like construction of tall uprights that are mortised and pegged into sills and plates. Beams extend across the bottom of the structure and a single beam and metal rods extend across the top for lateral reinforcement. Some circular-sawn uprights replace the original hewn members, and the structure was raised a couple of feet above the original plate level by the addition of circular-sawn timbers. The gabled roof of circular-sawn, light-frame, common rafter construction (not original to the barn) supports corrugated metal roofing and a hay fork rail suspended from the ridge (the hay fork itself is missing). Surrounding the barn on three sides is a shed extension of hewn construction; on the eastern and fourth side is a circular-sawn heavy-frame drive-through supported on a poured-concrete retaining wall (the barn abuts a bank on this elevation). The north and south side extensions contain mangers and feed alleys with overhead hay mows at their west ends. The west extension has a cut-nailed board floor and an overhead mow. The barn has slatted vertical-board siding and it stands on granite footers.

Located between the log and frame barns is a granary of wire-nailed circular-sawn frame construction indicating a date of construction after 1890 and likely in the early twentieth century. The granary has a corrugated metal gable roof, vertical-board siding, and a foundation constructed of piled granite boulders at the corners and a continuous fieldstone wall supporting a center joist. The interior contains grain bins and a horizontal board lining that extends partway up the wall.

**Cemetery**

The Bowman family cemetery lies to the south and downhill from the farmhouse. The small rectangular plot contains about a dozen marked graves and is enclosed by an early-twentieth-century post and wire fence. The oldest inscribed memorials are the crude soapstone headstones of Daniel Sr. and Catherine Bowman, which were probably made by an area resident with only limited stoneworking ability. Between the two headstones (which have smaller footstones) is a

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**Description (continued)**

professionally manufactured marble monument dedicated to both Daniel and Catherine and carved with a twining vine motif. The graves of Daniel Jr. and Hannah Bowman are marked by simple marble headstones, as are the early-twentieth-century graves of other family members, adults and infants.

**Integrity Statement**

The Bowman Farm possesses a high degree of integrity. The farm landscape exhibits the mix of cleared and wooded land that characterized it during the period of significance, and there are few modern intrusions within its large and picturesque viewshed. The farmhouse, now in the final stages of a sensitive rehabilitation, retains all its character-defining exterior and interior features, most especially the hinged partitions associated with the home's use for religious worship. Two significant additions have been made to the house: a two-story wing tucked into the angle between the frame and brick sections of the house, and a one-story kitchen off the west end of the brick section--both additions replace deteriorated wings in the same general locations. The farm buildings too retain their character-defining features, although water damage has resulted from blown-off roofing and general exposure. A small frame outbuilding (perhaps an office) with weatherboard siding and a gable roof, and a shed stood near the house in 1977; these have since disappeared. Two ruinous twentieth-century frame outbuildings--one a garage--located between the frame barn and the farmhouse were removed during the early phases of the 1999 rehabilitation. The cemetery, although overgrown at the time of survey, is periodically cleared of underbrush and its memorials are in good condition.

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**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Summary**

Located high on the southern slopes of Franklin County's Cahas Mountain, the Bowman Farm commands sweeping views of the Blue Ridge and the Blackwater River valley. The property is associated with the lifeways of a religious sect known as the Brethren or German Baptists; according to tradition, local Brethren used the 1830s Bowman farmhouse for worship. Architectural evidence for this use survives in the form of hinged partitions that were raised to open up the interior for services. The brick house with late Georgian-style interiors was built for Daniel Bowman Sr., who was influential in the Brethren community. Daniel Bowman Jr., a Brethren leader like his father, added a frame front to the original house about 1900. Near the farmhouse stand a double-crib log bank barn and an unusual mortise-and-tenon hay barn; farther off is a family cemetery with crudely inscribed soapstone monuments. Together with the cleared and wooded farmland that ascends to the peak of Cahas Mountain, these resources comprise a Blue Ridge farmstead of historic interest and scenic beauty.

**Applicable Criteria**

The Bowman Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the religion area of significance for design features of the Bowman farmhouse--the hinged partitions--associated with its use as a place of worship by a local Brethren congregation. Only one other National Register-listed Virginia house--Rockingham County's Yount-Zigler or "Tunker" House--shares similar features and historic context. The property is also eligible under Criterion A in the agriculture area of significance for its nineteenth-century farm buildings, including a double-crib log barn and an unusual frame barn, and for the integrity of surrounding agricultural acreage. The property is eligible under Criterion C for architectural features associated with its use as a place of worship. The period of significance extends from circa 1833, the year tax records suggest construction of the original section of the Bowman farmhouse by Daniel Bowman Sr., until 1923, the death date of Daniel Bowman Jr., like his father a prominent member of the local Brethren congregation. The property is eligible at the local level of significance. The Bowman Farm adjoins the Cahas Mountain Rural Historic District, which was listed in the state and national registers in 1996.

**Acknowledgments**

A number of individuals and organizations assisted in the preparation of this report. Foremost among these was the owner of the property and the nomination's sponsor, Carey F. Garst. The nomination relies in part on historical research conducted by Mr. Garst and on an architectural

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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

survey and analysis conducted by Edward A. Chappell, director of architectural research at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Others who provided assistance included architectural historian Anne Carter Lee, and Anne Beckett, Suzanne Durham, June Ellis, John Kern, John Salmon, and Marc Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

**Historic Context**

The Bowman Farm stands on land that was acquired by William Toney as early as 1774. In 1825 Bendexter Toney and his wife Jane sold a portion of the acreage to Daniel Brough (or Brugh, a resident of Botetourt County), who the following year sold 370 acres to Daniel Bowman Sr. (1795-1883). Bowman was a minister and elder with the Church of the Brethren, a Baptist sect that originated in Germany about 1700. In the early eighteenth century a group of German Baptists emigrated to Pennsylvania; by about 1760 they had settled permanently in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley; and about 1765 a congregation of Brethren, as the sect became known in America, was established near the headwaters of Franklin County's Blackwater River not far from the Bowman Farm. "They became good neighbors and exemplary farmers," Franklin County historian J. Francis Amos has written, "with particular aptitudes for animal husbandry and as orchardists." Franklin County's Brethren distinguished themselves from antebellum Southern society through their pacifism and aversion to slavery, and they also differed in their cultural attitudes. As Franklin County historians John and Emily Salmon have written, "The early Brethren advocated the simple life, with an emphasis on plainness, humility, neatness, and wholesome living." Brethren philosophy is reflected in the sect's material culture, as discussed below in the architectural analysis section of this report.<sup>1</sup>

According to tax records, no improvements existed on the Bowman Farm at first, although some form of rudimentary dwelling would have served for Bowman, his wife Catherine Naff Bowman (1796-1878), and the couple's young family, assuming they lived on their property. The Franklin County land books for 1833 record "\$370 added for Improvements" on the property, a figure that rose to \$500 in 1840. These figures probably indicate the construction of the original two-story brick section of the Bowman farmhouse. At the time, as comparison with other entries for improvements in the tax records suggest, the Bowman farmhouse would have ranked among the

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<sup>1</sup> Lee; Franklin County Deed Book 11, pp. 162 and 595; Salmon and Salmon, *Franklin County*, 188-190; and J. Francis Amos, "Preface," in *Bicentennial Reflections*, 1.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

most costly dwellings in its area.<sup>2</sup>

The Bowmans made their livelihood from farming. In 1860 Daniel Bowman's farm encompassed 150 improved acres and 750 unimproved acres. Bowman practiced mixed agriculture, raising a variety of livestock including horses, milk cows, cattle, sheep, and swine and crops including corn, wheat, rye, and oats. The 1850 and 1860 censuses record no tobacco grown on the farm, although in 1879 the family devoted an acre to the production of 700 pounds of the leaf. The farm produced large crops of hay, stored no doubt in the substantial mows of the nineteenth-century barns. Examination of the federal census slave schedules suggests that the Bowmans did not own slaves, in keeping with Brethren views. Farm labor would likely have been provided by family members, other kin, and neighbors.<sup>3</sup>

The economy of the Bowman Farm depended in part on utilization of the farm's forested mountain acreage. The Bowman cattle and swine foraged in the woods, and until the decimation of the chestnut in the early twentieth century the trees produced nuts that were gathered and transported to the Kinsey & Bernard Store in the nearby Maggodee Creek valley for rail shipment. The coming of the railroad in the early 1890s stimulated exploitation of Cahas Mountain forests for lumber and tan bark. Rail access also enhanced the profitability of orchard production. The south end of the Bowman Farm lies near the 1,500-foot elevation considered optimal for apple growing in Franklin County, and as early as 1879 Daniel Bowman's one-acre orchard with fifty bearing trees produced 500 bushels of apples valued at \$100, one of the larger crops in the area. Orchard production continued in the twentieth century.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Franklin County tax records; Ikenberry and Eikenberry, *History and Genealogy of Peter Eichenberg Family*, 319.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. census 1850, 1860 and 1880 farm and slave schedules. The 1850 Franklin County slave schedules are very faint and in most instances illegible. The 1860 schedules are also faint and about 30% of names are illegible, but no Bowmans, Daniel Bowman's family or otherwise, appeared as slaveowners in the approximately 70% of legible surnames for the Southwest District of Franklin County, the Bowman Farm's enumeration district. A close examination of court records may provide more information on the question of Bowman family slave ownership.

<sup>4</sup> Pezzoni, "Cahas Mountain Rural Historic District."

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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

After Daniel Bowman Sr.'s death in 1883 his heirs deeded their interest in the farm--then 520 acres in extent--to Daniel Bowman Jr. (1837-1923). Like his father before him, Daniel Jr. was active in the Church of the Brethren, serving as an elder and minister. In 1923 a relative wrote: "He was an interesting speaker, and was always listened to with the best of interest. He was one of the best 'fireside preachers' I ever saw, and wielded a wonderful influence in the community." He was also a founding member of the Bethlehem Church of the Brethren, built nearby in 1873. (Presumably religious use of the house ceased at this time.) It was during Daniel Jr.'s ownership that the present frame front section of the house was built, before 1906. Daniel Jr. married Hannah Flora (1839-1904) in the mid-1860s, and together the couple raised seven children to maturity. A son, Jacob S. Bowman (b. 1879), bought out his siblings after their father's death and farmed the property into the second quarter of the twentieth century.<sup>5</sup>

The farm was acquired by local apple-grower Fred Garst in the early 1970s and transferred to the Garst family orchard business, Occaneechi, Inc. (Occaneechi earlier rented the property). The apple trees planted on the farm during the period have since declined and been removed. In the 1970s the farmhouse was used by a commune. Carey F. Garst, Fred Garst's son, purchased 5.1 acres surrounding the farmhouse and other buildings in 1998. The rest of the nominated parcel, including the cemetery and cleared and wooded land, remains in the ownership of Occaneechi, Inc. Carey Garst is completing a sensitive rehabilitation of the farmhouse and hopes to operate it as a bed & breakfast.<sup>6</sup>

**Architectural Analysis**

Both the domestic and agricultural resources of the Bowman Farm have notable architectural characteristics. The original section of the Bowman farmhouse belongs to a small class of Virginia dwellings that have architectural features associated with their use for religious worship, and the Bowman property is only the second such house associated with Church of the Brethren worship to be nominated to the state and national registers. The other is the Yount-Zigler or "Tunker" House in Rockingham County, built in phases about 1800. Like the Bowman

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<sup>5</sup> Franklin County Deed Book 37, p. 209; Ikenberry and Eikenberry, *History and Genealogy of Peter Eichenberg Family*, 319; unattributed 1923 obituary of Daniel Bowman Jr.; and Garst, "Bowman House."

<sup>6</sup> Franklin County Deed Book 269, p. 656; Carey Garst personal communication.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

farmhouse, the Yount-Zigler House has hinged partitions that could be hooked to the ceiling in order to convert the home's downstairs rooms into a larger space for worship. Only the upper halves of the Bowman partitions hinge, however, whereas in the Yount-Zigler configuration the entire partition from floor to ceiling swings up. According to tradition, seating in the Yount-Zigler House was segregated by sex, with women worshippers on one side of the partition line and men on the other. It is not known whether a similar practice was followed in the Bowman farmhouse.<sup>7</sup>

Other, more subtle aspects of the material culture of the Bowman Farm may reflect the Brethren influence. The interior of the original section of the Bowman farmhouse is notably plain. At the time the house was built the Federal style was popular in northern Franklin County, as it was elsewhere in western Virginia. In local Federal mantelpiece form--a focus of stylistic attention--the style was often expressed with projecting pilaster and frieze elements, elaborately compounded moldings, and intricate surface treatments such as reeding. The Bowmans' neighbors John and Susan Boon, who had a large brick house built at the northern foot of Cahas Mountain in 1820, had such expressive Federal-style mantels installed in their home. The Bowman mantels on the other hand are simple and planar in appearance, with architrave forms more akin to the Georgian style, which would have been considered out of date in the 1830s. The impression of plainness--even stodginess--presented by the Bowman interiors may relate to Brethren proscriptions against ostentation. Franklin County historians John and Emily Salmon have commented on the simplicity of Brethren churches from the mid-nineteenth century.<sup>8</sup>

The simplicity of the Bowman farmhouse carries over to the family cemetery. The headstone of Daniel Bowman Sr. (d. 1883) is a modest rectangle of pockmarked local soapstone crudely inscribed with Bowman's Christian name spelled "Danl". The headstone of Catherine Bowman (d. 1878) is nearly as plain, but with a peaked top as a concession to mainstream tombstone design of the era. The Bowman family may have felt unable to afford finer memorials during the

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<sup>7</sup> Hill and Fishburne. "The Tunker House."

<sup>8</sup> Pezzoni, "Cahas Mountain Rural Historic District;" Salmon and Salmon, *Franklin County*, 190. The Salmons also wrote: "The principle of simplicity no doubt applied to Brethren domestic architecture as well, although identifiable examples in Franklin County have not survived." Fortunately the Bowman farmhouse does survive, and its interior treatments confirm the Salmons's speculation.

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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

period of economic dislocation after the Civil War, or perhaps the vernacular character of these tombstones is an intentional expression of humility. Whatever the reason, later generations of the family appear to have been embarrassed by the soapstone memorials. Between the two stones they placed a professionally made marble monument with a double-arched tympanum inscribed Mother and Father above a twining vine motif. Other, later memorials observed in the cemetery are also professionally carved from non-indigenous marble.

The Bowman Farm's two nineteenth-century barns also deserve mention. The double-crib log barn is a type once common in Franklin County and other areas of western Virginia but increasingly rare as agriculture evolves and as old buildings are replaced with new ones or simply allowed to deteriorate. The adjoining Cahas Mountain Rural Historic District is known to have had at least one barn of similar form and construction in the past. The Bowman log barn is also a bank barn, with both its upper and lower levels accessible from ground level--a form that ultimately derives from the German-speaking areas of central Europe and that was transmitted with Germanic settlement from Pennsylvania through the Shenandoah Valley to northern Franklin County. The Bowman log barn is therefore another cultural expression, with the Bowman farmhouse, of German ethnicity.<sup>9</sup>

The context for the Bowman frame barn is more difficult to identify. The single, cage-like, open-sided cube at the core of the barn, lacking evidence of levels or other subdivisions, may have served for loose hay storage, as suggested by the mangers and feed alleys that flank it on two sides and the wagon drive-through on its east side, from which the barn would have been loaded with the aid of the overhead hay fork. In this respect the barn resembles one half of a large frame central drive-through barn like the antebellum example at Kentland in Montgomery County, which features upper-level hay mows with open sides. It is also possible that the barn sheltered some form of specialized farm equipment; Daniel Bowman Sr. owned a half-interest in a cider mill at the time of his death in 1883. Whether the Bowman frame barn derives from a specific type, perhaps with an ethnic aspect like the log bank barn, or whether it is an invention inspired by other barns but not developed from them directly, is at present unclear.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid. Ed Chappell has described the Bowman log barn as a representation of "Germanic-Scotch-Irish-Anglo cultural melding in Pennsylvania and the South" (letter, Edward A. Chappell to Carey Garst, August 24, 1998).

<sup>10</sup> Pezzoni, "Architecture of Kentland," 56-57; Franklin County Will Book 19, p. 508.

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**UTM References (continued)**

- 5. E585960 N4106540
- 6. E585780 N4107290
- 7. E586450 N4108020

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated parcel corresponds to Franklin County tax map 25 parcel 14 and includes a 5.1-acre parcel contained within the boundaries of parcel 14 for a total of 700 acres. The nominated parcel is depicted on the Callaway Quadrangle USGS map that accompanies the nomination, and a portion of the nominated parcel encompassing several of the contributing resources is included as Exhibit A.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated parcel utilizes existing property lines to encompass all known contributing resources associated with the Bowman Farm, as well as associated forested and cleared agricultural land contained within the tax parcel to which the nominated parcel corresponds.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

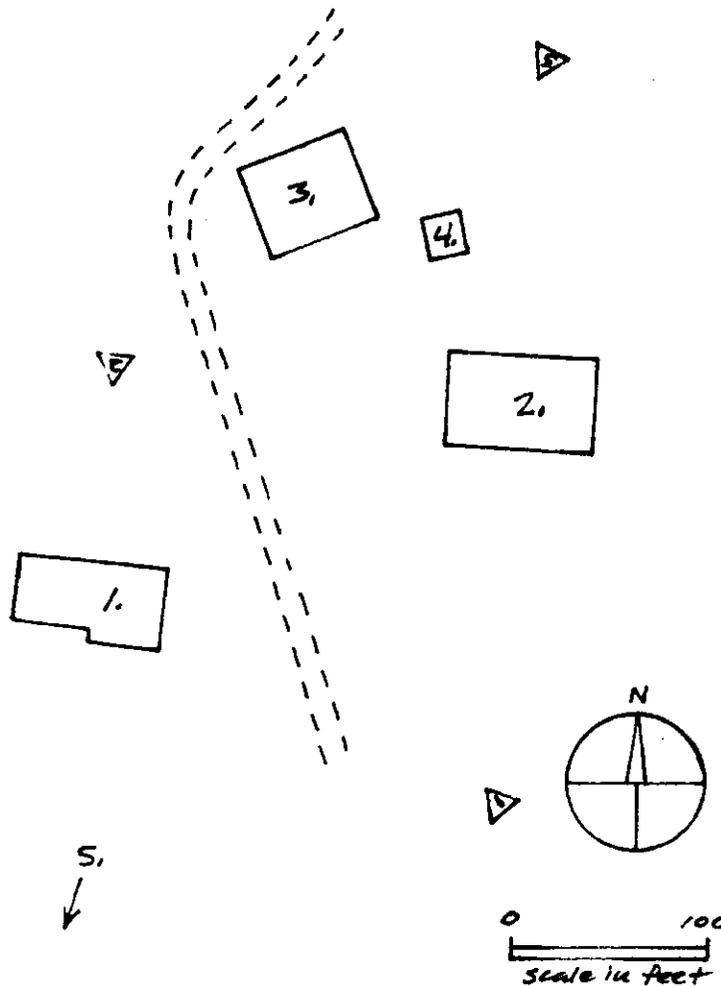
1. 1. Subject: Bowman Farm (same for all photos)  
2. Location: Franklin County, Virginia (same for all photos)  
3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos)  
4. Photo date: July 1999 (same for all photos)  
5. Original negative (VDHR # 17652) archived at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond (same for all photos)  
6. Description of view: Overall view of farm. View looking northwest.  
7. Photograph number appears at beginning of entry (same for all photos)
2. 6. North elevation of house. View looking south.
3. 6. First floor of original section of house showing hinged partition (left side raised).
4. 6. Mantel in first-floor south room of ca. 1900 section.
5. 6. Farm buildings with house in background. View looking south.
6. 6. Lower level of log barn, south or down-slope elevation.
7. 6. Daniel Bowman headstone in cemetery.

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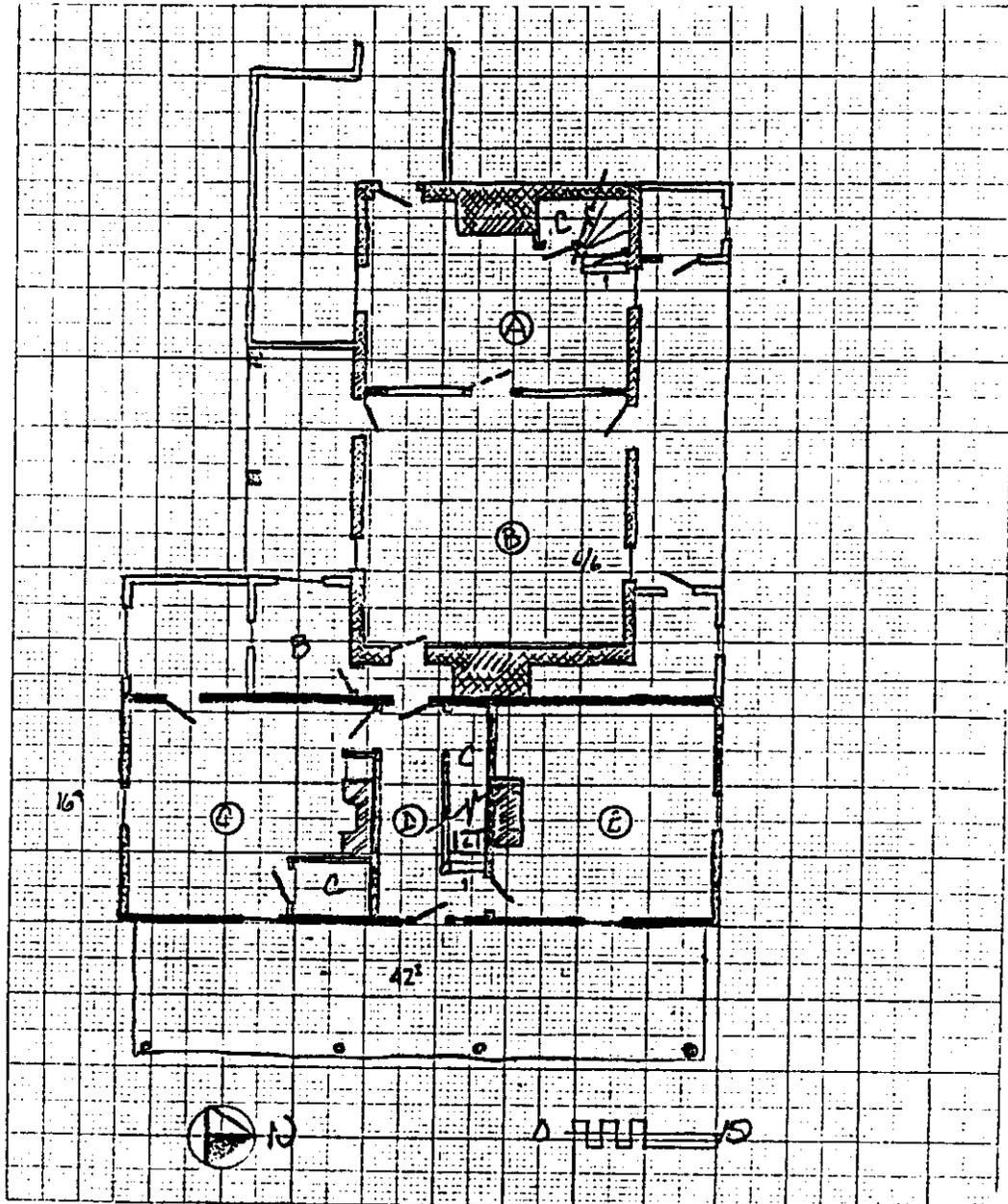
**Exhibit A: Detail of the Bowman Farm nominated parcel. Scale: 1" = 100.' Resources keyed to inventory. Placement and scale of resources approximate. The direction of view and number of nomination photographs indicated by triangular markers. Exhibit adapted from a plat by Philip W. Nester dated October 27, 1998.**

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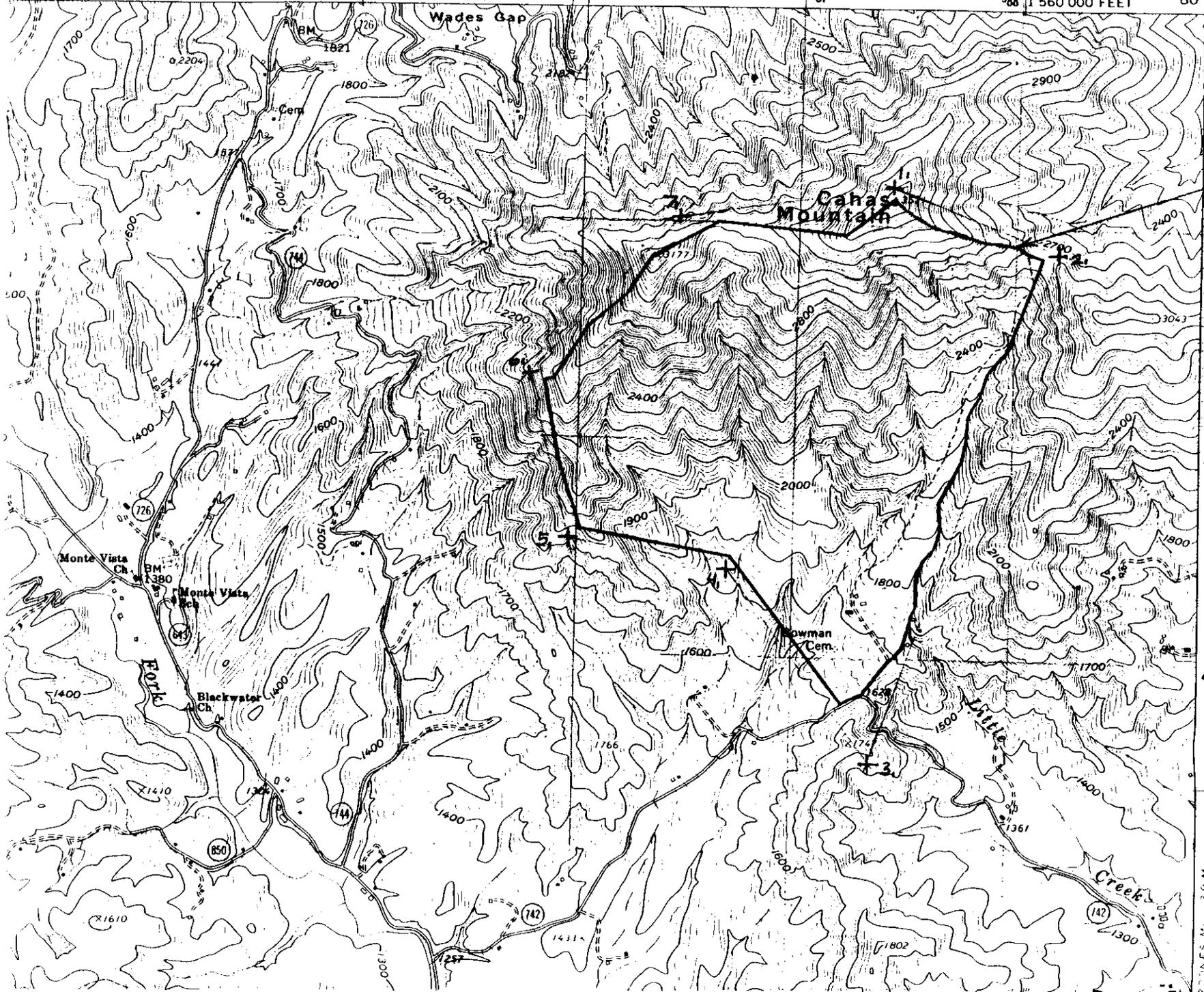
Dec 9/20/77

Exhibit B: Bowman farmhouse, first-floor sketch plan by Dell Upton, 1977. Original 1830s brick construction indicated by cross hatching; ca. 1900 frame construction indicated by solid black. Scale and north shown.

5058 III NW  
(GARDEN CITY)

584 585 2'30" 586 NAFF 2 MI 587 588 1 560 000 FEET

80°00'  
37°07'30"



290 000  
FEET

- Bowman Farm  
Franklin Co., Va.  
VDHR file no. 033-0283  
UTM coords (zone 17):  
1. E587430 N4108180  
2. E588200 N4107880  
3. E587360 N4105520  
4. E586690 N4106410  
5. E585960 N4106540  
6. E585780 N4107290  
7. E586450 N4108020

4108

4107

4106

3000000 FEET  
1:25000