

VLR-9/17/97 NRHP-12/11/97

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 Jackson Blacksmith Shop

Other names/site number DHR File No. 37-163

2. Location

Street & number 2558 Blacksmith Shop Road not for publication N/A

City or town Goochland vicinity X

State Virginia Code VA County Goochland Code 075 Zip 23063

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.)



10/17/97
Date

Signature of certifying official
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 _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register removed from the National Register
 See continuation sheet other (explain): _____

 determined eligible for the National Register _____
Signature of Keeper

 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register Date of Action _____

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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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: Specialty Store: blacksmith shop

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Vacant/not in use Sub: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other _____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation n/a _____
roof tin _____
walls wood _____
other _____

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.)

- 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 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Industry _____
Ethnic Heritage/Black _____

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Period of Significance ca. 1932-1947

Significant Dates 1932

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation African-American

Architect/Builder G. Wilson Jackson, Sr.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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: Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.83 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
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1	17	244040	4	181060	2
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3			4		
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See continuation sheet.

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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: Mrs. Marie Mabry

Organization: Jackson Blacksmith Shop date May, 1997

Street & number: 2572 Jackson Shop Road telephone (804)556-4309

City or town Goochland State VA zip code 23063

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 Mr. Jeffery Mabry and Mrs. Marie Mabry

Street & number 2572 Jackson Shop Road telephone (804)556-4309

City or town Goochland state VA zip code 23063

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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CONTINUATION SHEET

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7. Summary Description

The Jackson Blacksmith Shop located in Goochland County, Virginia, is a single story shed-type building erected in 1932 as a working shop for performing black smithing, a trade still in demand at that time. The 16' X 24' rectangular, pole structure represents a practical method of construction.

Architectural Analysis

The Jackson Blacksmith Shop, located one mile south of Sandy Hook on U.S. Route 522 in Goochland County, Virginia, is a single-story, rectangular building erected in 1932. This simple structure was built by George Wilson Jackson, Jr. with the help of his father and other family members to provide basic shelter in which to carry out his black smithing trade. The 16' x 24', gable roof shed was constructed with pole beams set in an earthen foundation with boards attached vertically to make all four side walls. The lumber was cut at a nearby sawmill belonging to the Ragland family. The five/twelve pitch roof consists of galvanized metal covering 1' x 6' boards. The four interior walls are unfinished with beams exposed. The structure's earthen floor was the material of choice because it was readily available as opposed to concrete, brick, and other materials which had to be purchased and involved a longer construction time. A wooden floor was not suitable because of the use of fire inside the building. The structure represents a practical method of construction that utilizes materials that were readily available, economical, and required a short construction time.

Due to the wear the building sustained from age, smoke, heat, and sulphur deposits from the coal fire, the shop underwent replacement of the tin roof and the side boards in 1995. Though the side boards had to be replaced, the basic structure and configuration of the building are still in tact. Just as when the shop was built, the Jackson family once again turned to the Ragland family to supply lumber for its blacksmith shop.

The building has two doors and three windows made from the same type board as the sides. The 7'6" x 7'4" front door was added in 1995 to enclose an existing opening in order to protect the building's irreplaceable contents. George Jackson, Jr. was helpful in providing information while he was making the repairs to the building in 1995. When enclosing the opening, it was good to know he had originally left the opening with the intention of adding a door later but changed his mind when someone said to him "if you treat people all right, you won't have any trouble." He never found that anything was missing the entire time he operated the unlocked shop from 1932 until he retired in the 1970s. By 1995, however, things were different. It was quite necessary to add the door and lock the building to safeguard its contents, which include the anvil, blower, forge, and special hand-made hammer among other items. The cladding is new, but the basic structure of the building is still in tact.

At the heart of any blacksmith shop is the area containing the anvil and forge. This is where iron is heated and shaped. The forge is a hearth on which a fire is built. The forge in this shop was made from rock found on the property. A draft or air supply is needed to produce a coal fire with the intense flame and heat required for black smithing. The draft is provided by a manufactured, hand-powered blower purchased in 1915. One oddity about this shop is that it has never had a chimney to vent the smoke from the forge. An experienced smith can make a fire with little or no smoke; any smoke generated rises and exits through the cracks between the boards.

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The anvil is an old piece of cast iron, which once weighed 175 pounds. It shows wear from long use, worn with grooves ½ inch deep on which many horse shoes and iron pieces have been shaped--resulting in a reduced weight of 172 pounds. This anvil is well over 130 years old. It is the one George Jackson's maternal grandfather was using when he saw Richmond burned during the Evacuation Fire of 1865.

The shop contains shelves, working tables, and a tool cabinet used mainly for woodworking. Although a blacksmith primarily works with iron, a good shop needs the tools and equipment to support some wood working activity. An ax forged from iron is of little use without a good wooden handle. Kept on one of the tables is a special hammer made by Jackson's paternal grandfather on a mainly day during slavery when work was slow. The uniqueness of this hammer is its claw, which is extended and braced back to the handle, apparently designed to reduce stress at the point where handle-breaks are likely. The hammer is well over 130 years old and is still in good shape. It seems as though it could take another 100 years of use.

The shop houses many other iron tools of interest such as horseshoes, rakes, punches, old wheels, plows, axes and hoes, with handles made of timber cut from trees that were on the property.

8. Statement of Significance

When the horse was the primary mode of transportation, and when most farm tools were crafted by hand, the Jackson Blacksmith Shop was among the many that were found in the community. The last Jackson Shop, built in 1932, is the only blacksmith shop remaining of the many that once were scattered throughout Goochland County and the region. Three generations of the Jackson family have operated blacksmith shops in Goochland County, Virginia.

Historical Background

The Jackson Blacksmith Shop is eligible under Criterion A because the shop has been a part of events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. No community in America wanted to be without a blacksmith's shop, and very few were. Americans were intent on securing the services of a blacksmith without having to travel too far. If a community did not have a smith who had set up shop nearby, it was not uncommon for land incentives to be offered to lure a smith who had set up shop nearby. (Watson, p. 94). Without a shop close by, the very survival of the community was at risk (Andrews, p. 2). The year's crops could not be raised with no place to go to have essential tools repaired and horses and mules shod. These are the very activities that were performed at the Jackson Blacksmith Shop since its opening in 1932 and at other shops operated by the same family in the same general area since at least 1880.

The practice of this trade for several generations illustrates the history of ethnic and cultural minorities starting with Henry Jackson, who learned this trade as a slave and passed it on to his son and grandson, keeping it alive for over 130 years. It is an unusually good representative of its type since it is the only surviving blacksmith shop in the region. Like the service station of today, the blacksmith shop was where travelers and farmers came to get their horses shod, and to get their farm tools, buggies and wagons repairs.

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Though this last surviving blacksmith shop in Goochland County was built in 1932, its beginnings go back much further. This tradition started in the family before the Civil War with Henry Jackson, born ca. 1830. He passed the trade on to his son, George W. Jackson, Sr. who then passed the black smithing skills and traditions on to his son, George W. Jackson, Jr. All three of these blacksmiths, who shaped objects from iron, were also farriers, who shod and cared for the feet of horses. They practiced black smithing in several shops on or near the site of this blacksmith shop.

Henry Jackson was born into slavery in Virginia around 1830. Upon the bankruptcy of his master, he came to Goochland after having been sold to a county resident. He worked in a blacksmith shop about two miles west of the present shop on what is now known as Whitehall Road. He was unable to gain ownership of the property there, leading him to purchase land in 1880 at the corner of State route 607 and U. S. 522, where he built a blacksmith shop. This earlier blacksmith shop was located about 400 yards east of the present site. Henry made and repaired tools, fitted shoes for horses, and made household items such as irons, nails, pots, etc. At this site, a thriving black smithing and farrier business was operated by Henry Jackson. Thus, present day State route 607 took the name, "Jackson Shop Road." Henry started to train his oldest son, Wilson. Henry worked well into old age, dying on December 31, 1919. Henry's grandson, George, Jr. started to work in this shop at the age of 12.

Wilson operated at least two shops during his black smithing career. He was Henry's eldest son, born in 1876. He opened his first shop at Old office, located at what is now know as Fairground and maidens Road in Goochland. He worked shaping iron and shoeing horses and mules. He left Old Office and in 1915 converted an old store building into a shop. This building once stood very close to the present structure (approximately 15 feet). His father's (Henry) shop was still in operation 400 yards away. He worked at both shops. As Wilson became more and more experienced, he could do almost anything that involved working with iron. As Wilson got older and his health began to decline, he was unable to continue the hard labor of black smithing. So he opened and managed a country grocery store. The grocery store was adjacent to the blacksmith shop, allowing him to manage both the shop and the store. Wilson died in December, 1956 at the age of 80. Wilson's brothers also were blacksmiths.

George Jackson (born in 1902) operated the last family blacksmith shop. After beginning black smithing at age 12 in his grandfather's blacksmith shop, he had the present blacksmith shop built in 1932. As the need for black smithing services began to diminish and blacksmith shops began to close, it became more difficult to find a place to have black smithing work done. Many former smiths had sought other types of work such as the repair of automobiles and factory jobs. (Watson, p. 104). Work continued, however, at George Jackson's shop. As a result, not only did residents from other parts of Goochland travel to this shop, but customers came from Louisa, Powhatan, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Cumberland and Charles City. In addition, operators of saw mills from several other regions called on George to travel as far as Maryland and North Carolina to shoe horses and repairs their tools.

As the need for black smithing began to fade, George kept busy by making leather items, shoeing horses and making truck bodies. A master blacksmith and craftsman, who knew his trade well, George Jackson must have been destined to be a blacksmith since both his maternal and paternal grandfathers were smiths. He retired in the early 1970s after 59 years of black smithing. George, now (1997) age 95, never complained of the hard work of black smithing. He still perks up when a conversation comes up about his black smithing days.

At the grand re-opening of the shop on June 4, 1995, a certificate of recognition was presented to the family by the Goochland County Historical Society. Also, the shop was recognized by the Black History Museum and Cultural

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Center of Virginia. The family was also awarded a certificate of commendation by the General Assembly of Virginia.

Since June, 1995, the history of this shop has been shared with over 4,000 persons, including school and church groups. Articles about the shop have been featured in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, the *Goochland Gazette*, the *Richmond Free Press*, and *Field Day of the Past*. Displays and demonstrations were set up in both 1995 and 1996 for the Down Home Reunion, sponsored by the Electra Folklore Society, the Museum of the Confederacy's centennial bazaar, Goochland Day activities in 1996, the Goochland High School 1996 Black History Month display, and featured on the 17th annual Goochland House Tour sponsored by the Goochland Historical Society.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Andrews, Jack. *The Edge of the Anvil*. (Skip Jack Press, Ocean City, Md:1991)

Watson, Aldren A. *The Village Blacksmith*. (Thomas Y. Cromwell, Co., New York: 1968)

Interview with George W. Jackson, Jr., the last entrepreneur blacksmith of the family

Interview with Robert D. Jackson (b. Nov. 5, 1910), George's brother who was a helper in the shops

Goochland County Deed Books, Goochland County Clerk's office

Goochland County Planning Office

Census Records, Commonwealth of Virginia

Goochland Branch of the Pamunkey Regional Library, Map of Goochland County.

10. Geographical Data

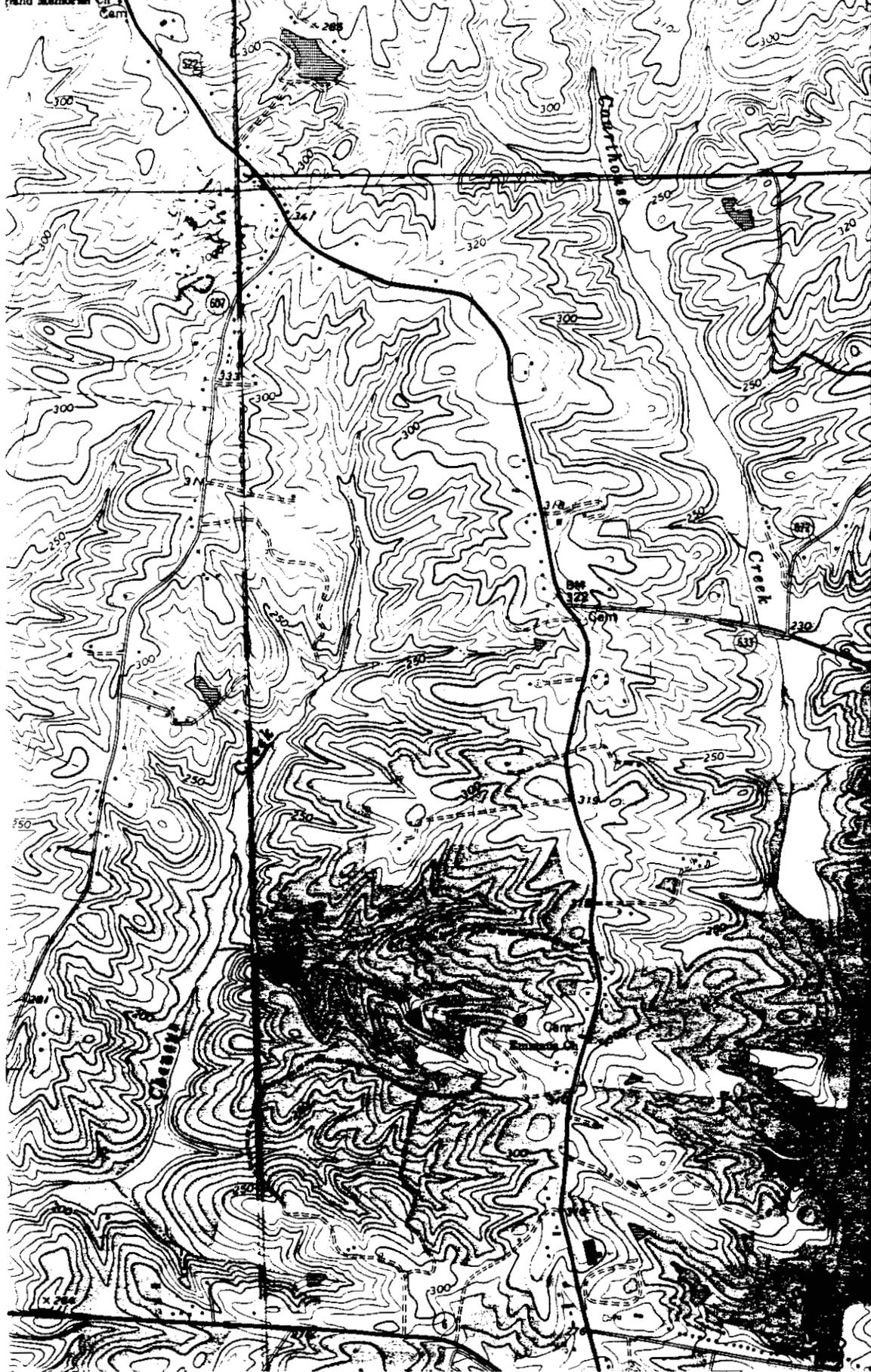
Boundary Description: The Jackson Blacksmith Shop property is identified by Goochland County tax parcel number 30-17-2.

Boundary Justification: The area nominated includes the shop building and the land that has historically been associated with the building.

GOOCHLAND QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5459 IV SE
(DABNEY'S)

5' 2 MI. TO U.S. 250 245 2 180 000 FEET 77° 52' 30" 37° 45'



JACKSON BLACKSMITH
SHOP
N 17 4 31 060
E 17 24 340

4180
510 000
FEET

4179

4178

42' 30"

4177

4176