

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

LISTED ON:	
VLR	09/22/2011
NRHP	11/22/2011

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name John Miley Maphis House

other names/site number VDHR File Number 085-5181

### 2. Location

street & number 56 Bell's Lane N/A not for publication

city or town Edinburg X vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Shenandoah code 171 zip code 22824

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

*McCarroll*  
Signature of certifying official

*September 29, 2011*  
Date

*Deputy Director*  
Title

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Name of Property

**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
- building(s)
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	<b>Total</b>

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

N/A

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/accessory building/wash house
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal shelter/barn
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal shelter/chicken house

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/accessory building/storage shed
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/not in use
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/work shed

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/Vernacular

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation: STONE: Limestone
- walls: WOOD: Weatherboard
- roof: METAL: Tin
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

John Miley Maphis House

Shenandoah County,

Virginia

Name of Property

County and State

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

See continuation sheet.

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**Narrative Description**

See continuation sheets.

Name of Property

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1856-ca. 1920

**Significant Dates**

1856 (construction date); 1894; ca. 1920

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

John Miley Maphis

**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 grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The years 1856-ca.1920 include the period from the construction of the house to the early twentieth century, when additional secondary resources were constructed.

**Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary) N/A**

John Miley Maphis House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

Shenandoah County,  
Virginia  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

See continuation sheets.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Narrative Statement of Significance** (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

See continuation sheets.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

See 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)

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency

John Miley Maphis House

Shenandoah County,  
Virginia  
County and State

Name of Property

previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 085-0933-0006

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 9.817 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) NAD 27

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>708 540</u> Easting	<u>4301 500</u> Northing	3	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>708 240</u> Easting	<u>4301 200</u> Northing
2	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>708 640</u> Easting	<u>4301 240</u> Northing	4	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>708 460</u> Easting	<u>4301 510</u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The property boundaries are those of Shenandoah County tax parcel 56A 18E, shown on the attached plat (see Additional Items), being the "Survey by Cameron G. Copp, Certified Land Surveyor, dated September 5, 1980", comprising Tract I and Tract II.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries include the entire extent of the Shenandoah County tax parcel (56A 18E) on which the John Miley Maphis House and its outbuildings, as well as the majority of the historically significant portion of the 1850s farm surrounding the house, are situated.

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/title James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell  
organization Massey Maxwell Associates date 06/26/2011  
Street & number P.O. Box 263 telephone 540-465-4566  
city or town Strasburg state VA zip code 22657  
e-mail masmax@shentel.net

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Photographs:**

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Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** John Miley Maphis House

**City or Vicinity:** Edinburg vicinity

**County:** Shenandoah

**State:** Virginia

**Photographer:** James C. Massey

**Date Photographed:** April 2011

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

1 of \_\_\_\_.

See continuation sheets

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

## 7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The John Miley Maphis House is a frame, two-story, gable-roofed, L-shaped, vernacular Italianate house constructed in 1856 on a high bluff overlooking Stony Creek and the village of Lantz Mill, in Shenandoah County, Virginia, approximately 2.5 miles west of Edinburg. The house has unusual, boldly scaled, grain-painted, late-Greek Revival interior woodwork. Originally part of a 17-acre farm, the nominated property consists of 9.817 acres. It contains four resources, all constructed within the period of significance from 1856 to 1920: the house, 1856 (C); a frame bank barn with forebay, ca. 1870 (C), that replaced one destroyed during the Civil War; a one-story frame wash house with gable roof and forebay, ca. 1900 (C); and a shed-roofed, frame chicken house, ca. 1920, (C) with horizontal- and vertical-board siding. The house and wash house are in very good condition; the barn and chicken house are in fair condition. Immediately surrounding the house, the site is landscaped, with mature trees and shrubs and a walkway leading to Bell's Lane, the original road leading out of Lantz Mill.

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### Exterior

The John Miley Maphis House is a frame, two-story, gable-roofed, L-shaped, vernacular Italianate house, located on a high bluff overlooking Stony Creek and the village of Lantz Mill, in Shenandoah County, Virginia, approximately 2.5 miles west of Edinburg.

The simple geometric lines with a minimum of elaborate decoration, including an unbracketed cornice, symmetrical massing, and low-gable roof with partial returns across the gable ends mark it as a rural version of the Italianate style.

The front (north), hall-and-parlor section is approximately 24 feet wide by 17 feet deep, and there is a two-story wing approximately 16 feet by 26 feet. Both sections are set on a rubble- limestone foundation. The north (front) portion has a three-bay front with a central entrance and a three-bay frame porch. The west side, comprising both portions, is four bays wide with one window in the front wing, two in the rear wing, and a three-bay frame porch with an entrance. Today this is used as the principal entrance. The south (rear) elevation is two bays wide, and the east side is in five bays, with an integral three-bay porch. There is one window in the front portion and three windows and one door in the wing.

The exterior is clad in weatherboards, four to five inches wide in the front, and four to six inches in the wing, making a wall about seven inches thick. There are five chimneys: one exterior, modern, cast-masonry-unit stack serving the parlor stove; and four brick chimneys. The front portion has two interior chimneys along the ridge on the west and east gable ends, which originally served stoves. There is a large, interior brick chimney in the wing on the gable ridge, serving fireplaces in the living and dining rooms and an exterior brick chimney on the south rear wall serving the kitchen fireplace.

The west side has a three-bay frame porch, 6-1/2 feet by 22 feet, on the rear wing. The porch, which appears to be a ca. 1900 addition or replacement, has round columns over square posts. The front (north) porch is approximately 6 feet by 23 feet. It has similar posts and column supports to those on the west-side porch and also appears to be a ca. 1900 addition, replacing an original porch. In the 1960s the north porch was rebuilt with a concrete pad and wrought-iron posts. In 2010, the wooden floor and the original columns, which were found on the property, were restored. The east side has an integral porch with mid-nineteenth-century posts. This porch is probably original. It measures 8 feet by 26 feet.

The two sections have gable roofs sheathed in standing-seam metal. The front roof is slightly higher than the rear wing. There are louvered ventilators in the gable ends but no dormers or windows. The front and wing roofs have molded box cornices with partial returns across the gable ends, with a smaller molded cornice on the rise.

The windows on the first floor in both sections have nine-over-six-light, double-hung, wood sash; on the second floor they contain six-over-six-light, double-hung, wood sash; all appear to be original to the construction of the house. They are covered with modern, aluminum, one-over-one-light, double-hung storm sash. The window sash have distinctive deep, narrow, slightly sloped muntins, conforming to the period of construction of the house, but with slight differences between those in the front and rear wings. Louvered wood shutters, not originally from this house, have been fixed in place beside each window.

The exterior door on the front is an old, not original, six-panel door with plain transom. In the rear wing are three doors, one to the west porch, an old but not original sash door and transom, and two to the east porch, with an old sash door in the kitchen and a solid. Old, six-panel door with closed transom from the dining room.

### Interior

There are two rooms on each floor of the front, hall-and-parlor portion and two on each floor of the wing. There are enclosed winder stairs in each portion. The interior trim is different in the front and rear sections, however. The four rooms in the front portion have remarkable, over-scaled Greek Revival trim of a character seen in the Lower Valley in the pre-Civil War era. It has original, artfully grained multi-toned, oak finish. Much of the trim survives in its original finish, including doors, door trim, window trim, panels below the windows, and baseboard. The large scale, however, is appropriate for a larger and higher room than the 8 feet 10 inches of the front wing of the house. It is very fine and distinctive woodwork of its type, and the original finish is believed to exist under some of the sections painted white in the modern era. This bold Greek trim is used on both floors of the front wing and is not limited to the living room or even the first-floor bedroom. This trim is not found in the rear wing, nor does the wing contain grained woodwork.

The Greek trim has large crossettes with outer moldings, as well as similar extensions at the base, plain, ten-inch-high baseboards, and wide pilaster trim to the windows, with deep reeding and paneled under-window reveals. The doors are both six-panel and two-vertical-panel with two-toned graining in the panels and different swirled brush strokes in the surrounding moldings. There are, however, no cornices, and the plainness of the high, unmolded baseboards is unexpected.

The living room fireplace has a Greek mantelpiece with a stacked mantel shelf and old, brick hearth. The rear wing trim is plain with a molded edge. There are plain baseboards, a chair rail in the dining room, and vertical-paneled interior doors. The fireplaces in both rooms of the rear wing have simple, late-Greek Revival mantelpieces and old brick hearths, but not as elaborate as in the front of the house. The board floors are four to five inches wide in the front and five to eight inches wide in the wing. They appear to be original. The hardware and locks are largely original. There is a fine, late 19<sup>th</sup>-century "New Welcome" parlor stove, made by the Richmond Stove Company, a leading Southern stove manufacturer.

The second floor has two rooms in each wing, both with enclosed winder stairs. There are no fireplaces on the second floor. There is a low attic crawl space accessed by a ceiling hatch.

There is no basement under the front portion of the house. The single basement room under the rear kitchen has a covered entry with stone steps and an old door. There is no access from the interior of the house.

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Name of Property

### Architectural Development

The house is in two distinct parts: a front hall-and-parlor section facing Bell's Lane and Stony Creek, and a wing facing west to the side and toward the barn. It is apparent from property tax records that there was no building here in 1854-1855, but the buildings are assessed at \$600 in 1857 "on account of new building", indicating an 1856 construction date. There are no changes in property value before the Civil War nor for some years afterward, except for a reduction that probably indicates the destruction of the barn in 1864. It is unlikely that there would have been construction during the war, when Maphis lost his mills and store, his barn, and his Confederate investments. Hence, it appears that both sections were built during the period 1856-1861. The similarity of the two sections appears at first glance to be somewhat considerable except, notably, for the distinctive Greek Revival trim in the front hall-and-parlor section. It is questionable, however, that both parts were built at the same time. There are other, less obvious trim differences--differences in window muntins and floor-board widths and differences in the size of the wing rooms. The relatively large room sizes in the rear wing in relation to those of the front rooms are not typical of a planned whole. It is probable, however, that the wing was added soon after the construction of the front section, possibly within a year, as there was no reassessment of the property in the tax records. The chimneys are a complexity, however. The front section has end-gable chimneys for stoves, and the chimneys may have been added later. The front working fireplace shown in the sketch plan attached is back-to-back with the dining room fireplace; however, the chimney mass in this combination is completely within the dining room wing, as seen in the attached floorplan and exterior photographs. This fact complicates the analysis, but it suggests that as part of the wing addition, the chimney was rebuilt larger to house the two fireplaces. An additional possibility, less likely, is that the rear wing was an existing structure which was dismantled and moved from elsewhere; the similarity of form makes this possibility unlikely. Furthermore, Maphis owned a sawmill, which might suggest the possibility of his having on hand a leftover frame or parts, unsold or unpaid for, that could have been used in this house. Perhaps even the elaborate Greek Revival trim might have been similarly acquired, since it is remarkable in such a small house.

The east porch has been partially closed in to accommodate a modern bath. It is entered through original doors from the dining room and first-floor bedroom, which originally opened to the porch, as shown on the attached floorplan.

### Site

The Maphis House faces north, close to the graveled, one-lane-wide Bell's Lane, on a steep bluff high above Stony Creek and the town of Lantz Mill. There is a generous yard to the west, closed by the post-Civil War bank barn, and to the south by a wide chicken house. To the south rear of the house is the wash house; beyond this, according to the current owners, there was an outhouse, of which no trace remains. The farm portion lay to the wider, south section, a part of the nine-acre plus plot, but it is now grown to shrubs and trees. The house and property have a front picket fence with a gate for vehicle entry. A walk with large, limestone steps leads to the front porch from a pedestrian gate facing the road. There is an unusual series of narrow, concrete walkways around the house from the entrance walk to the east side porch, from the rear of the porch around the back, south toward the wash house, and west toward the chicken house. Such a network is an uncommon site feature in rural houses in this area. Its date or dates are not known, but it most likely dates to the early twentieth century. Landscaping consists of mature trees and shrubs, with a grass lawn to the south and west of the house.

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The John Miley Maphis House is a frame, two-story, gable-roofed, L-shaped, vernacular Italianate house constructed in 1856 on a high bluff overlooking Stony Creek and the village of Lantz Mill, in Shenandoah County, Virginia, approximately 2.5 miles west of Edinburg. The house has unusual, boldly scaled, grain-painted, late-Greek Revival interior woodwork. Originally part of a 17-acre farm, the nominated property consists of 9.817 acres. It contains four resources, all constructed within the period of significance from 1856

to 1920: the house, 1856 (C): a frame bank barn with forebay, ca. 1870 (C), that replaced one destroyed during the Civil War; a one-story frame wash house with gable roof and forebay, ca. 1900 (C); and a shed-roofed, frame chicken house, ca. 1920, (C) with horizontal- and vertical-board siding. The house and wash house are in very good condition; the barn and chicken house are in fair condition. Immediately surrounding the house, the site is landscaped, with mature trees and shrubs and a walkway leading to Bell's Lane, the original road leading out of Lantz Mill.

### Secondary Resources

The barn (C), ca. 1870, replaces one destroyed in the Civil War "Burning" of 1864. It is a bank barn with entrance from the east and a projecting forebay on the west. The barn has a heavy-timber frame, with vertical and horizontal board siding and a standing-seam-metal gable roof. There is a large, double-leaf, sliding entrance door on the bank side. A ground-level entrance to the three interior stalls is under the forebay. The foundation is dressed-rubble limestone.

The chicken house (C), ca. 1920, is in two sections with horizontal wood siding and vertical-board siding and a sloped shed roof covered in standing-seam metal. The eastern section rear wall has been removed, revealing the nesting racks for the chickens still in place. There is a partition between the two sections with a door and a door to the outside. There are several small, closed-in windows. The foundation is stone piers at the west end.

The wash house (C), ca. 1900, is a small, frame, end-gabled structure with a projecting hood over the door. The interior is unfinished. The roof is standing-seam metal; the foundation is mass concrete.

## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Miley Maphis House is located 2.5 miles west of Edinburg in Shenandoah County, Virginia. It is a two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed, frame, vernacular hall-and-parlor farm house built in 1856 along simple Italianate lines, with notable late-Greek Revival interior woodwork. The rear wing appears to have been added soon after the construction of the front of the house, probably before 1862. The house is situated on high ground above the south bank of Stony Creek, across the creek from the village of Lantz Mill. As the home of a prosperous miller and merchant, the Maphis House contributed to the development of the bustling pre-Civil War milling community of Lantz Mill and played a role in 1862 Civil War engagements at Lantz Mill, as well as in the "Burning", Union General Philip Sheridan's campaign of destruction in the Shenandoah Valley in the fall of 1864. It is architecturally significant under Criterion C as an excellent, virtually unaltered example of a type of hall-and-parlor houses that were widespread in Shenandoah County in the mid- to-late nineteenth century. It is distinguished by its unusual, boldly scaled, grain-painted, late-Greek Revival interior woodwork. Originally part of a 17-acre farm, it now consists of 9.817 acres. The nominated property contains four resources: the house, 1856 (C); a frame bank barn with forebay, ca. 1870 (C), that replaced one destroyed during the Civil War; a one-story frame wash house with gable roof and forebay, ca. 1900 (C); and a shed-roofed, frame chicken house, ca. 1920, (C) with horizontal- and vertical-board siding. The house and wash house are in very good condition; the barn and chicken house are in fair condition. The farm and house were sold out of the family upon the death of Elizabeth Maphis in 1894.

### Historical Background

The John Miley Maphis House was constructed in 1856<sup>1</sup>. Built on high ground overlooking Stony Creek and Bell's Lane to the north, with the village of Lantz Mill to the east, it was the home of John Miley Maphis, a prosperous mill owner and merchant in Lantz Mill.

Buoyed by the coming of the railroad in 1859 and a surge in population, Lantz Mill (also known at various times as Lantz's Mill and Lantz Mills) had become a small but bustling center of rural industry by the mid-nineteenth century, boasting a grist mill, saw mill, rifle factory, and general store, as well as carpentry, woodworking, and basket-making shops.<sup>2</sup> In 1856, John Miley Maphis (1818-1889), the son of a long-established Shenandoah County family, and his wife, Elizabeth Coffelt Maphis (1828-1894), purchased approximately 17 acres of farm land from their neighbor, Jacob Lantz. Maphis, a former school teacher, or his builder probably designed the small, three-bay, hall-and-parlor house, as it is of a simple, vernacular type commonly found in the area.<sup>3</sup> The house did, however, incorporate distinctive, bold Greek-Revival interior woodwork in the living room, the adjacent small chamber, and both bedrooms on the second floor.

An examination of differences between the two portions of the house suggests that the wing was constructed separately from the front, hall-and-parlor portion (see Section 7, Narrative Description). The construction almost certainly would have taken place before 1861, when frequent exchanges of fire between Federal and Confederate encampments on opposite sides of Stony Creek would have made building difficult or impossible -- a two-story wing of nearly the same dimensions was added on the south side. The wing, which contained a dining room and kitchen on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second floor, lacked the elaborate decorative features of the front portion of the house, but it provided valuable space for the Maphises and their five children, as well as assorted other, apparently unrelated, people who lived with them at various times. At the time of the 1860 Federal Census, the latter included Samuel Funkhouser, a "clerk", who may have been employed at Maphis' store in Lantz Mill or at his grist or saw mill, as well as a ten-year-old "house girl" (not a slave, but a white child named Bridget Sullivan)<sup>4</sup>.

At some point, many of the architectural features on both floors of the north portion of the house were grain-painted to resemble wood, and extensive areas of this painting are still visible today. Since the 1870 Federal Census lists Maphis' 17-year-old daughter, Emma, and her 22-year-old husband, Jacob Brown, a "painter", as residents near her parents' home<sup>5</sup>, it is possible that the painting in the front rooms of the house was done by Jacob around this time, although the woodwork itself appears to date from the 1850s.

During the Civil War, Lantz Mill supplied Confederate forces with food and other goods. The village population was staunchly pro-Confederate, and a number of its young men enlisted in the famed Laurel Brigade (also called the Shenandoah Rangers), Company C, 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, which guarded Lantz Mill from Union troops that established encampments on the north side of Stony Creek in 1862. Residents of the village “were compelled to spend most of their waking hours in the back yard. . . and there was danger of a stray bullet entering a window at any time.”<sup>6</sup> The Maphis House itself was in the line of fire between the Union snipers on the north side of the creek and Confederate defenders on the south side. A bullet from one of the hostile exchanges remains embedded in an interior stairwell wall on the northeast side of the house. According to local lore, the house served as a makeshift surgery for casualties, and discolorations on the upstairs floorboards, thought to be bloodstains, are attributed to that use of the rooms.<sup>7</sup>

John Maphis, who was in his mid-forties during the war and who had an unspecified physical disability that prevented him from serving in the Confederate army, was nonetheless an outspoken Southern sympathizer. When Union General Philip H. Sheridan’s forces set out to destroy the capacity of the Lower Shenandoah Valley to support the Confederacy, the mills and barns of the village, including those belonging to John Maphis, were burned. Maphis’s home, unlike that of his more affluent and influential neighbor Jacob Lantz, was spared.<sup>8</sup>

With his mills and barn destroyed, and having suffered heavy losses in Confederate bonds, Maphis was financially ruined by the war and was never able to recoup his fortune. In 1877 he sold the house and surrounding land to his wife, Elizabeth, for \$805, presumably to protect it from his creditors. The deed of sale specifies that “It is expressly understood that this land is conveyed to the said Elizabeth Maphis as her sole and separate estate and not liable to the debts and liabilities of her husband. . .”<sup>9</sup> After the war, Maphis found work as Assistant Supervisor of the the nearby Orkney Springs Hotel and later became supervisor of roads for Shenandoah County.<sup>9</sup> He died in 1889, and following Elizabeth’s death in 1894, the house and farm were sold out of the family.<sup>10</sup>

The three Maphis sons, Joseph Luther Maphis (b. 1859); Charles Gilmore Maphis (1865-1938); and Samuel Wellington Maphis (b. 1868), were all prominent and successful citizens of Virginia, but none of them continued to live in the family home after they reached adulthood. Charles G. Maphis became a prominent secondary-school educator, director of the summer school of the University of Virginia, and a prime mover in the implementation of Virginia’s Williams Act, which provided loans to fund a massive school-building initiative in the Commonwealth in the 1910s and 1920s.<sup>11</sup>

Between 1894 and 1987, the John Miley Maphis House and farm passed through a number of different owners, including some long-time neighbors of the property.<sup>12</sup> In 1987, it was purchased by Ann Cottrell Free and Elissa Blake Free of Washington, D.C. Ann Cottrell Free (1916-2004), a Richmond-born journalist and author who often worked for the humane treatment of animals, was the first woman Washington correspondent for the New York Herald Tribune, the Chicago Sun, and Newsweek magazine, covering war-time Washington. Later, she was a special correspondent for the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Administration in China and for the Marshall Plan in Europe.<sup>13</sup>

The John Miley Maphis House is now owned in trust by the Trust U/W of Ann Cottrell Free, of which Elissa Blake Free is trustee.

John Miley Maphis House

Shenandoah County,

Virginia

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Name of Property

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County and State

Cursory archeological study conducted on the property between 1993 and 1996 by Virginia Commonwealth University<sup>14</sup> suggests that more intensive investigation of the site might yield valuable information regarding prehistoric Indian burial mounds reportedly near the John Miley Maphis House. In addition, archeological investigations might reveal the location of former buildings on the site, as well as yielding information about domestic material culture and the Civil War.

**END NOTES**

1. Shenandoah County property tax records in the Shenandoah County Courthouse, Woodstock, Virginia. The construction date is based on the fact that property tax was first paid on the improved property in 1857, including an assessment of \$600 for a "new building"; previous years' tax records (1850-56) examined show no building on property.
2. The History of Edinburg, Mary Ann Williamson and Jean Allen Davis (Edinburg Heritage Foundation, 1993), p. 21.
3. The History of Virginia, Vol. V, Virginia Biography (NY: American Historical Society, 1923), pp. 26-27.
4. U.S. Federal Census, 1860, Shenandoah County, VA, Lantz Mill District, page 177.
5. U.S. Federal Census, 1870. Madison Township [Lantz Mill Post Office], Shenandoah County, VA, p. 6.
6. The History of Edinburg, pp. 71-72.
7. Recorded interview with Joseph Miller, local historian, conducted by Elissa Free, January-February 1988. Transcript in Free archives and in Shenandoah County, Library, Shenandoah Room.
8. The History of Virginia, Vol. V, Virginia Biography, p. 27.
9. Shenandoah County Deed Book 23, p. 295, Shenandoah County Courthouse, Woodstock, VA.
10. Ann Cottrell Free, Elissa Blake Free and William Ward Nooter, "History of the John Miley Maphis House at Lantz Mill, VA", March 10, 1997. Typescript in Free archives and in Shenandoah County, Library, Shenandoah Room,
11. John W. Wayland, A History of Shenandoah County, Virginia, (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1927), p. 545.
12. Ann Cottrell Free et al., op. cit., p. 6.
13. Patricia Sullivan, "Ann Cottrell Free Dies; Washington Journalist" The Washington Post, October 31, 2004.
14. Virginia Commonwealth University Study File 93-1226-S.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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Shenandoah County Deed Book 4, p. 109, Shenandoah County Courthouse, Woodstock, VA.

Shenandoah County Land Records, 1856-1857.

Sullivan, Patricia, "Ann Cottrell Free Dies; Washington Journalist". The Washington Post, October 31, 2004).

U.S. Federal Census. 1860. Lantz Mill District, Shenandoah County, VA.

U.S. Federal Census. 1870. Madison Township [Lantz Mill Post Office], Shenandoah County, VA.

Virginia Commonwealth University Study File 93-1226-S.

Wayland, John W. A History of Shenandoah County, VA. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1927.

Williamson, Mary Ann and Jean Allen Davis. The History of Edinburg. Edinburg Heritage Foundation, 1995.

Name of Property

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Name of Property: John Miley Maphis House, VDHR File Number 085-5181  
City or Vicinity: Lantz Mill vicinity  
County: Shenandoah County  
State: Virginia  
Name of Photographer: James C. Massey  
Date of Photographs: May-June 2011  
Location of original digital files: Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
2801 Kensington Ave., Richmond, VA 23221

### Photo # 1

VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_JohnMileyMaphisHouse\_0001  
North façade, camera facing south

### Photo #2

VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_JohnMileyMaphisHouse\_0002  
West (left) and south elevations, camera facing northeast

### Photo #3

VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_JohnMileyMaphisHouse\_0003  
West elevation of wing, camera facing east

### Photo #4

VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_JohnMileyMaphisHouse\_0004  
East elevation, camera facing northwest

### Photo #5

VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_JohnMileyMaphisHouse\_0005  
Dining room, camera facing northeast

### Photo #6

VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_JohnMileyMaphisHouse\_0006  
Dining room, winder stairs, camera facing northeast

### Photo #7

VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_JohnMileyMaphisHouse\_0007  
Bedroom door, second floor, camera facing west

### Photo #8

VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_JohnMileyMaphisHouse\_0008  
New Welcome parlor stove, camera facing west

### Photo #9

VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_JohnMileyMaphisHouse\_0009  
Wash house, camera facing southeast

### Photo #10

VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_JohnMileyMaphisHouse\_0010  
Barn, camera facing southeast

John Miley Maphis House

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Name of Property

Shenandoah County,  
Virginia

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County and State

Photo #11

VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_JohnMileyMaphisHouse\_0011

Chicken house, south elevation, camera facing northwest

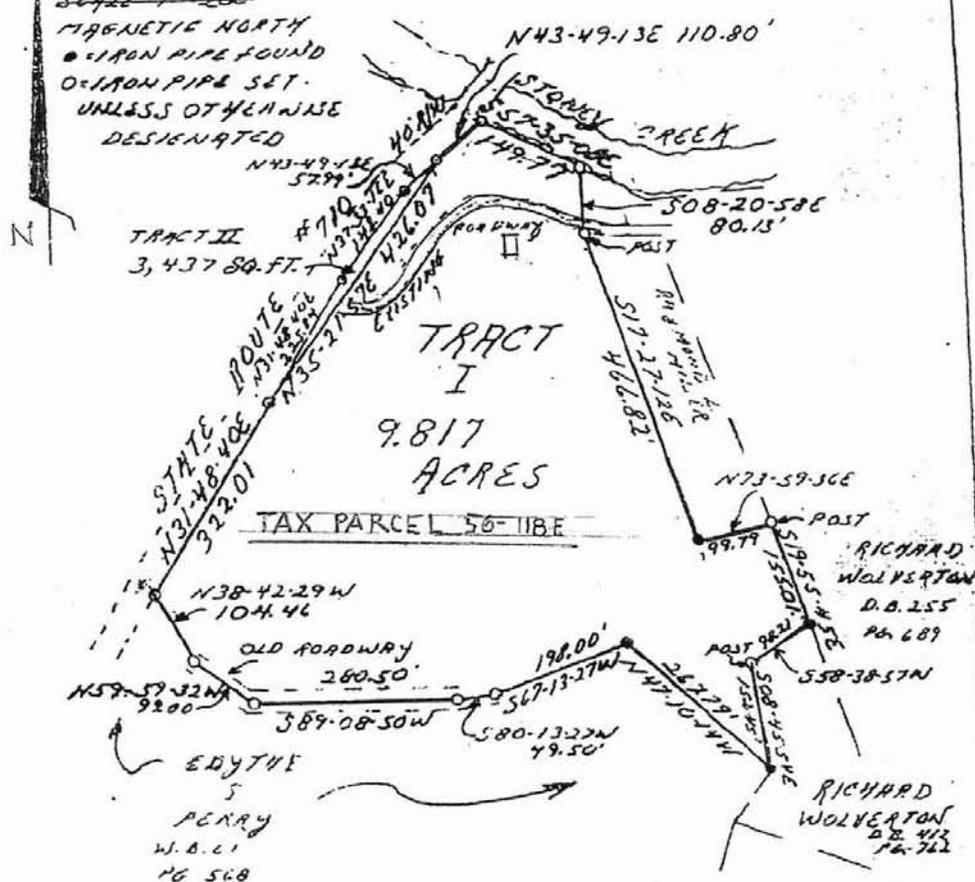
Photo #12

VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_JohnMileyMaphisHouse\_0012

Property view from Bell's Lane, camera facing east

**BOUNDARY SURVEY**

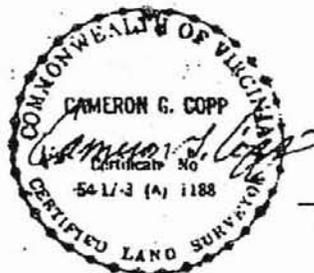
DATE: SEPT 5, 1980  
 SCALE 1"=200'  
 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 • IRON PIPE FOUND  
 ○ IRON PIPE SET  
 UNLESS OTHERWISE  
 DESIGNATED



PLAT OF TRACT I, A 9.817 ACRE TRACT OF  
 LAND AND TRACT II, A 3,437 SQ. FT. LOT

TRACT I BEING A PORTION OF THE FLOYD HUTCHESON  
 ESTATE AND TRACT II BEING A PORTION OF THE  
 DAVID R. RUNION LAND LOCATED AT LANTZ FALLS  
 IN MADISON MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, SHENANDOAH  
 COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

NOTE: TRACT II IS TO BE  
 ADDED TO THE CONTIGUOUS  
 TRACT I (SEE SMALL  
 ADJUSTMENTS IN  
 BOUNDARIES UNDER  
 ADJOINING PROPERTIES  
 SECTION 3-4-F OF THE  
 AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE  
 CO. SUBDIVISION LAW

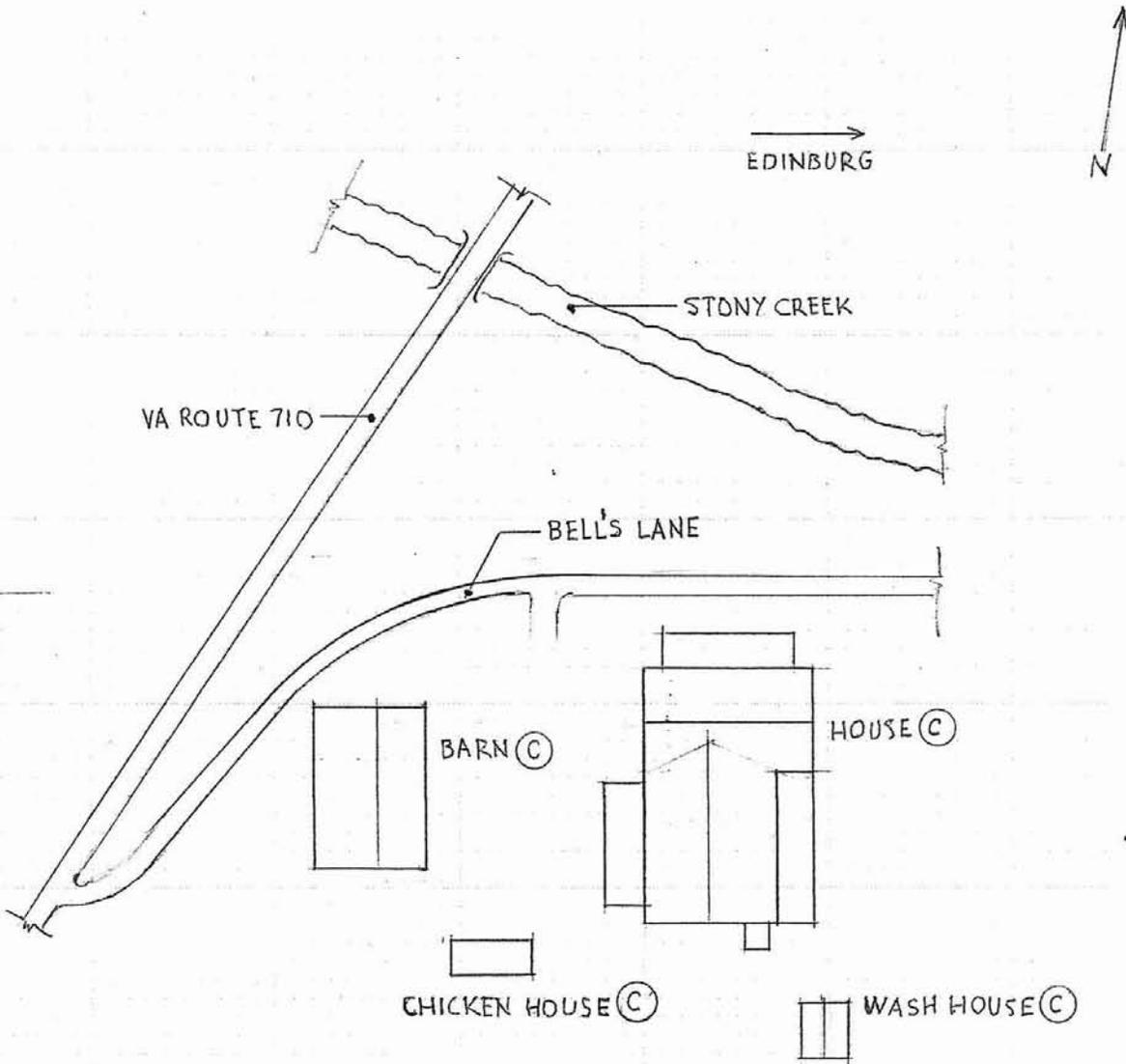


DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SHEN. CO. OFFICIAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 SURVEYED BY  
 CAMERON G. COPP  
 128 W. COURT ST.  
 WOODSTOCK, VA

JOHN MILEY MAPHIS HOUSE  
SHENANDOAH COUNTY VA.  
085-5181

ADDITIONAL DATA 1

# SKETCH SITE PLAN



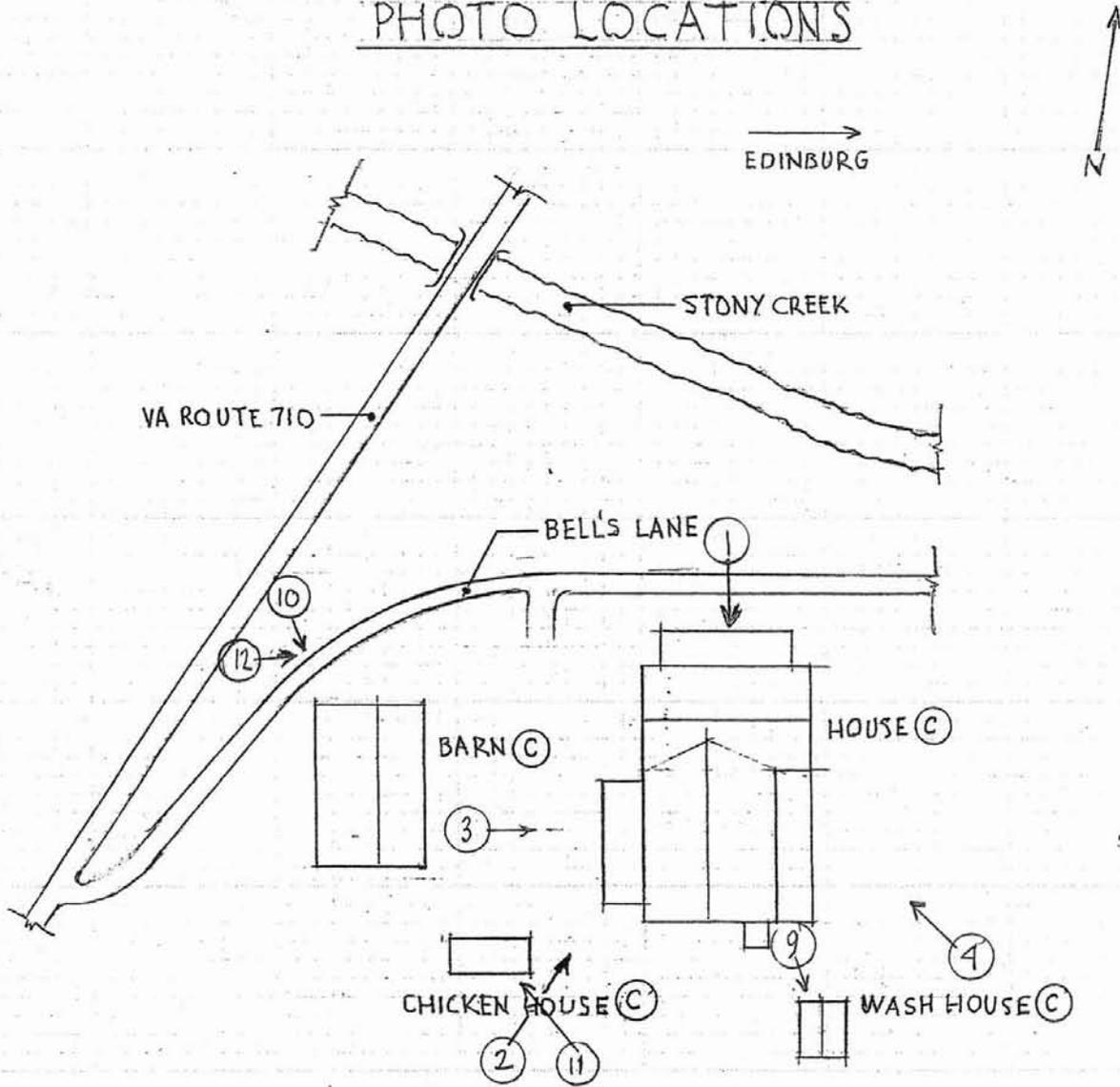
NOT TO SCALE

JCM 6/11

JOHN MILEY MAPHIS HOUSE  
SHENANDOAH COUNTY VA.  
085-5181

ADDITIONAL DATA 1

# SKETCH SITE PLAN PHOTO LOCATIONS



NOT TO SCALE

JCM, 6/11

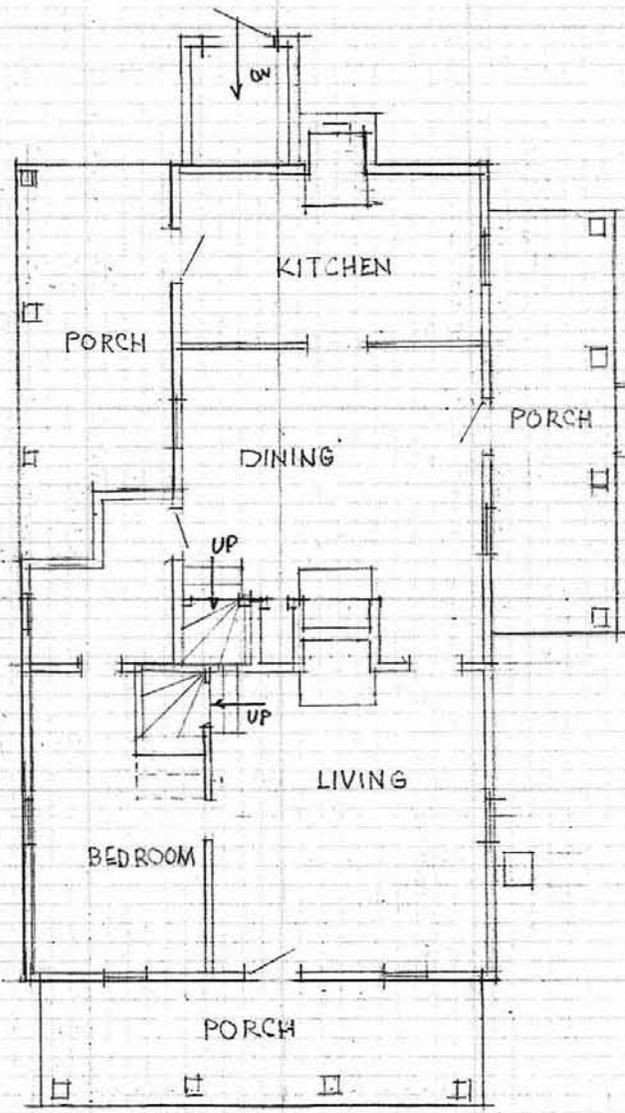
JOHN MILEY MAPHIS HOUSE  
SHENANDOAH COUNTY VA.  
085-5181

ADDITIONAL DATA 3

SKETCH PLAN FIRST FLOOR

SCALE:  $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 10'

JCM 6/11



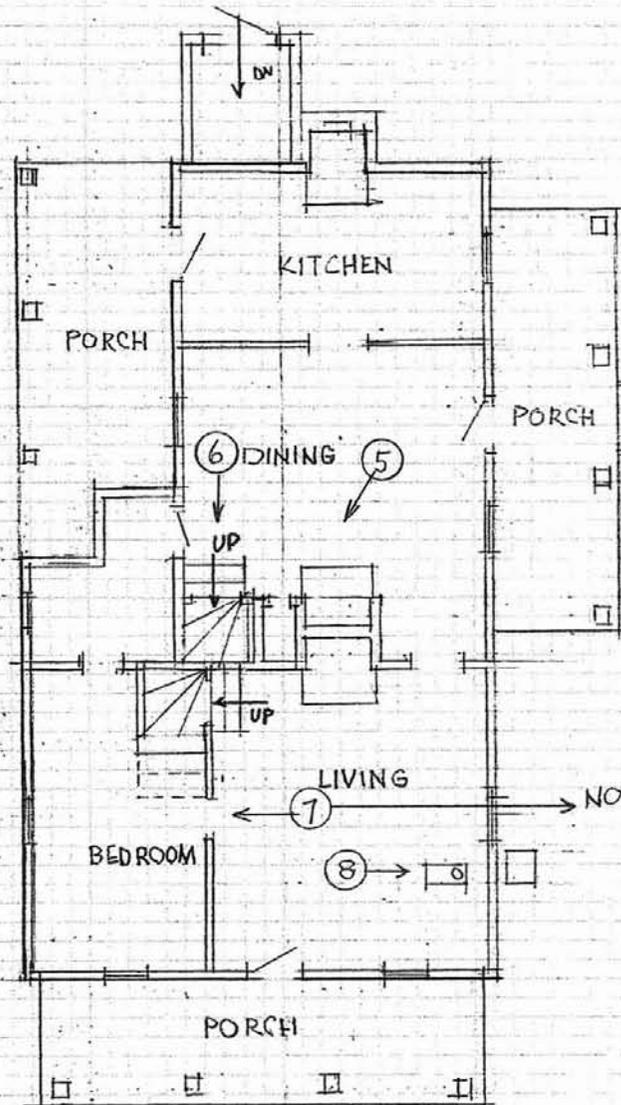
JOHN MILEY MAPHIS HOUSE  
SHENANDOAH COUNTY VA.  
085-5181

ADDITIONAL DATA 4

# SKETCH PLAN FIRST FLOOR PHOTO LOCATIONS

SCALE:  $\approx 1"=10'$

JCM 6/11



NOTE: 7 IS THIS LOCATION  
ON 2ND FLOOR

JOHN MILEY MAPHIS HOUSE

085-5181

SHENANDOAH CO., VA.

EDINBURG QUAD :

1) 17 708 540 E :

4301500 N :

2) 17 708 640 E :

4301240 N :

3) 17 708 240 E :

4301200 N :

4) 17 708 460 E :

4301510 N

NAD 1983

5261 | SW  
(CONICVILLE)

