

VLR - 6/20/89  
NRHP - 11/13/89  
150-5024

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Kinzer, Michael House  
other names/site number 60-248

2. Location

at end of drive 1/5 mile south of VA Rt. 655, 1 mile east  
street & number of VA Rt. 624 N/A  not for publication  
city, town Blacksburg  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24060

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau  
Date 9/29/89

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th century: two-room-plan dwelling

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stuccowalls brickroof metal: tin

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The two-story, four-bay, two-room-plan dwelling is situated on the north side of a branch of Tom's Creek, facing east, several miles west of Blacksburg in the rolling agricultural land drained by Tom's Creek. The house is situated on a hill above the creek. It has a Flemish-bond brick principal (east) facade, and common-bond brick sides and rear. The walls are pierced by six-over-nine double-hung sash windows on the first floor. The first-floor windows are headed by splayed brick jack arches, and the wall is capped by a molded brick cornice. Exterior brick chimneys rise at each end. A pair of four-panel doors with transoms occupy the central bays, giving symmetrical access to the interior. The doors have paneled reveals. The interior features large Greek Revival-style mantels and an enclosed stair in the inside rear corner of the north room.

A two-story ell to the rear was added in the late nineteenth century or later. It features an enclosed porch on the south. Unpainted areas of the rear wall of the main house, visible in the ell, indicate that an earlier one-story ell was replaced by the present ell. The roof of the present one-story porch is old, but the columns and concrete floor are recent additions.

Four 1m<sup>2</sup> test units were excavated on the property around the Kinzer Farmhouse. The three squares around the house and one square in the area of a recently dismantled nineteenth-century smokehouse all indicated recent disturbance of the grounds around the structure. The current owners of the site noted that the previous owners had done a good deal of landscaping around the house, and had used the smokehouse as a garbage dump. Artifacts and stratigraphic information obtained from the test units supported this information.

The Kinzer Brick Kiln is located approximately 400 feet south of the house along a small creek. The remnant of this brickmaking facility consists of a mound of brick rubble underneath which are intact remnants of fire channels for firing the brick. The site is being impacted by animal trampling and the creek, which has eroded a portion of the feature.

 See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Industry/Processing/Extraction  
Archaeology: Historic Non-aboriginal  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

ca. 1845  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Michael Kinzer House is eligible under criteria A, C, and D. The house is a very well preserved example of a regionally popular house form. Four such houses are being nominated. The form is characterized by a two-room plan with equal-sized rooms reached by a pair of doors in a four-bay facade. The property contains a locally important brick kiln site, the subject of extensive archaeological testing as part of the project for this nomination. The kiln contains information about the historic occupation of the Kinzer House and its construction, and about a common short term industrial production facility from the period of significance.

The house was built in the second quarter of the nineteenth century for members of the Kinzer family. This date is suggested by architectural details. Family members maintain that the house was built in the mid-to late eighteenth century, when Michael Kinzer settled in the area. Research in tax records indicates that George, Jacob, and Christian Kinzer received five tracts from their father Michael's estate in 1833. A tract of 263 acres contained buildings valued at \$600 as early as 1824, when Michael Kinzer was the owner. After 1833 the taxes were paid by his sons. The tract of 263 acres retained improvements worth \$600, while another tract acquired buildings valued at \$200. In 1835-1839 George and Jacob were recorded as the only owners of the 263-acre tract. In 1840-1844 the two brothers are recorded as possessing two tracts (263 acres and 95 acres) each with improvements worth \$800. In the following year major changes were made so that the 263-acre tract showed improvements of \$2,500, a high value for the period, while the second tract showed no buildings. This probably represents the date of construction of the house. While Michael Kinzer's 1829 will exists, no will was recorded for George or Jacob, and while property passed between George, Jacob, and a George M. Kinzer

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Farvar, Emmie Ferguson. Old Virginia Houses: The Mountain Empire. p. 45

Koditka, George. "The Michael Kinzer House", paper for history class at V.P.I. (unpublished).

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre.

UTM References

A 

1	7	5	4	7	9	9	5	4	1	2	1	0	7	2	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at point A 390 feet south and 120 feet west of the southwest corner of the brick portion of the house, proceeding north 460 feet to point B, thence east 220 feet along a line to point C, thence south 440 feet along a line continuing to point D, thence 215 feet west to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries were chosen to include the house, the domestic-related space and archaeological sites.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gibson Worsham date June 1988  
 organization Gibson Worsham, Architect telephone (703) 552-4730  
 street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs state Virginia zip code 24073  
 city or town Christiansburg

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Prehistoric and Historic  
Resources of Montgomery County  
Kinzer, Michael House, 60-248

Section number 8 Page 1

---

during the mid-to late nineteenth century, it is not clear whether the house was included. The house first shows up in deed records in 1910, when George M. Kinzer conveyed to Charles Kinzer a tract of sixty-six acres (Deed Book 59, p. 387). The tract was said to be known as the "home farm" of George M. Kinzer. The house stayed in the Kinzer family until 1928, when it began a series of transfers at frequent intervals until the present owners acquired it in 1964 (Deed Book 88, p. 439 and Deed Book 248, p. 421).

The Kinzer Brick Kiln represents a type of scove kiln common until the mid-nineteenth century. It was almost certainly constructed to manufacture brick for the construction of the Kinzer Farm house. This extensively tested facility identified and recovered several hand-molded impressed center bricks from the mound, as well as two coal, brick, and rock-filled features which likely represent the remains of fire channels or pits for firing the brick. Although not possessing the integrity of some other archaeologically investigated kilns (see Geier et al. 1982), the kiln still retains several features reflecting the early brickmaking industry. Its association with the historic Kinzer House, and the fact that it is the only systematically investigated kiln in Montgomery County also underscores its significance.

The cultural context of the site is the mid-nineteenth century Anglo-American occupation. Data in terms of the brick rubble mound and intact subsurface features related to firing exist which indicate a possibly more temporary industrial facility than other investigated kilns. Post-depositional disturbances of this kiln may also serve as a model for researchers interested in similar effects on similar facilities. Since the site involves the manufacture of an architectural element, the bricks themselves provide information on contemporary architectural artifacts.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

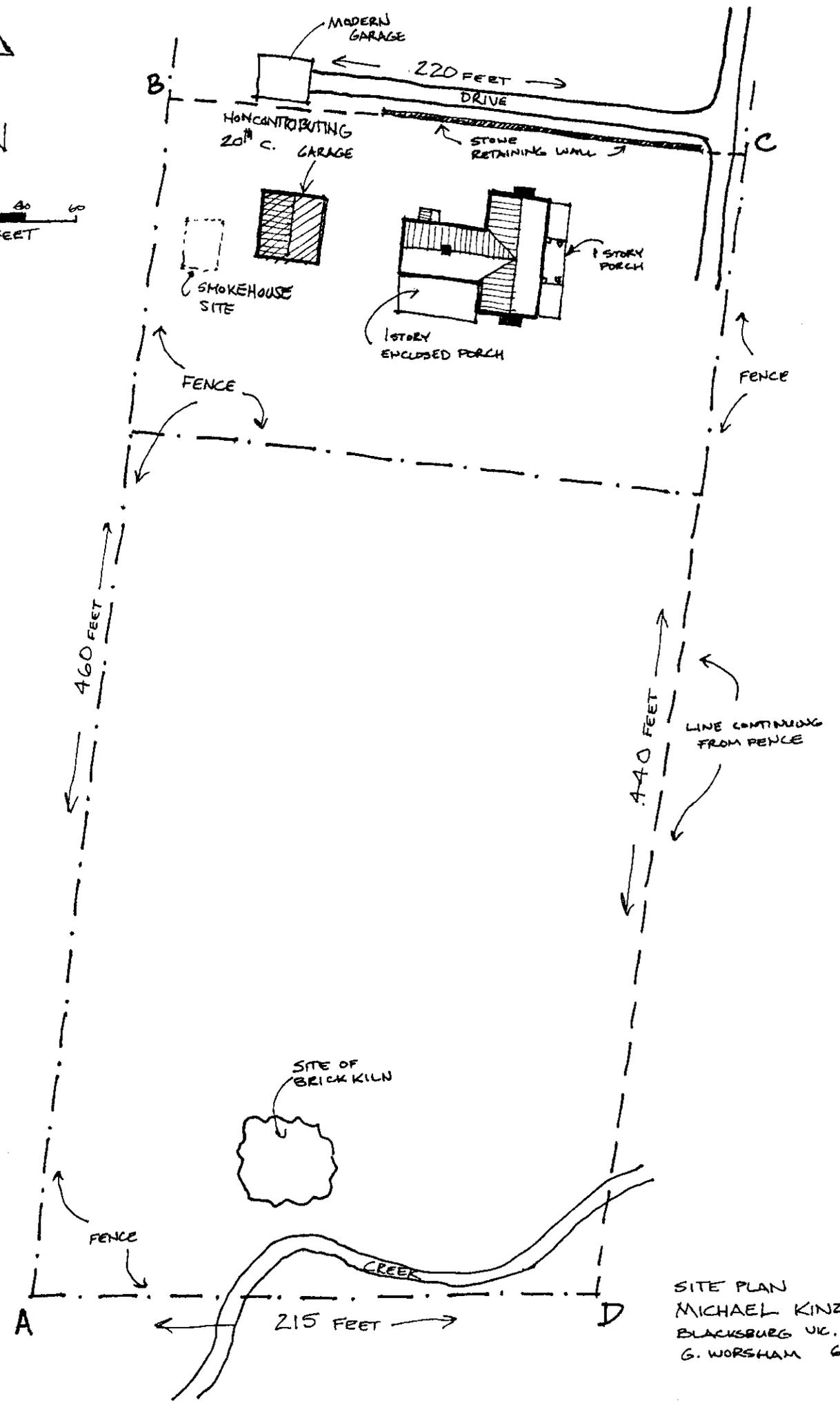
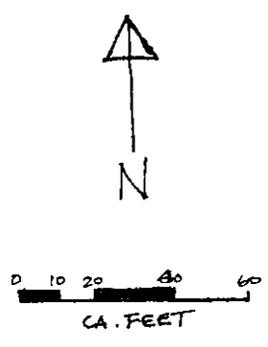
Prehistoric and Historic  
Resources of Montgomery County  
Kinzer, Michael House, 60-248

Section number 7 Page 1

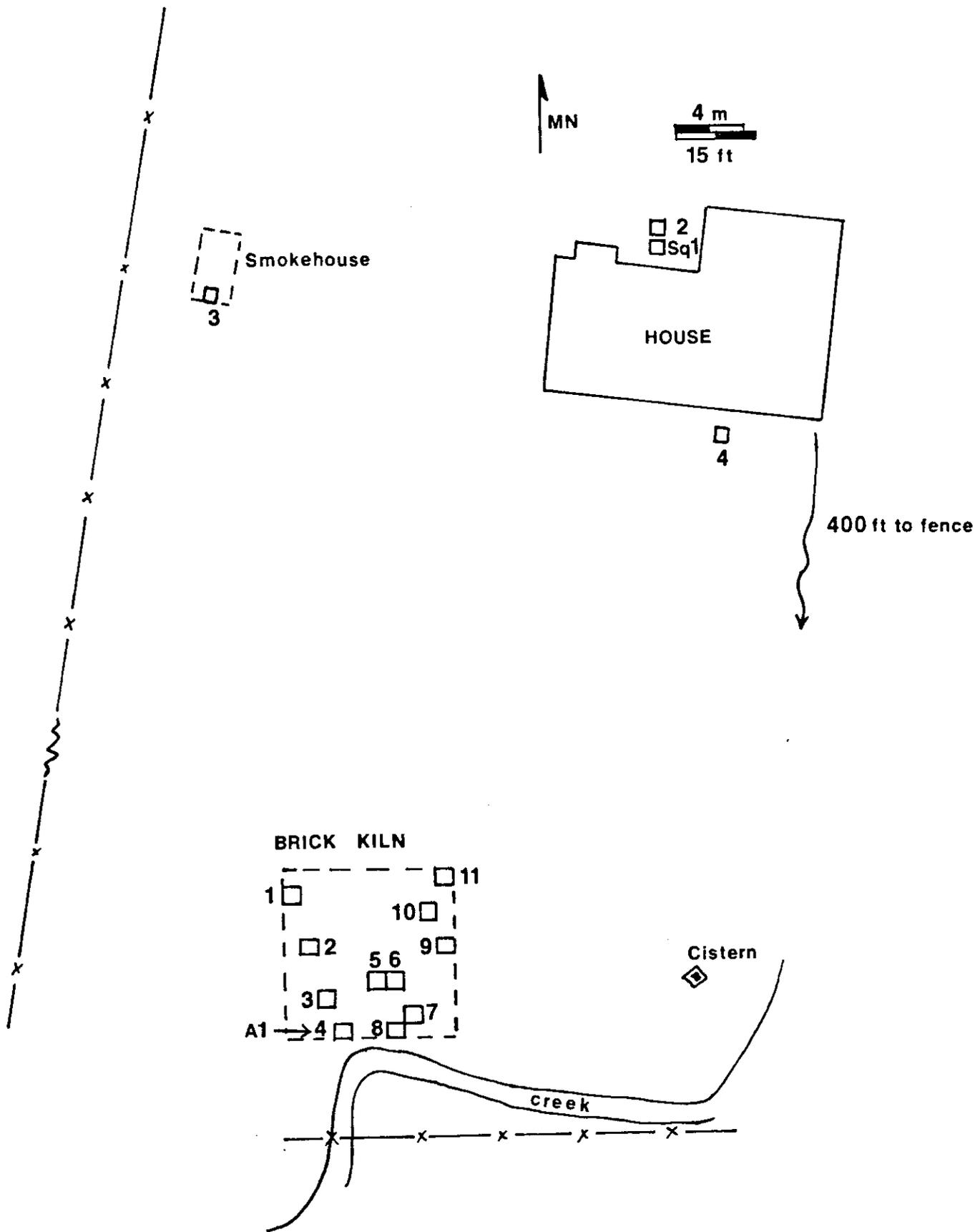
---

Eleven randomly selected 1m<sup>2</sup> test units were excavated in this area to locate remains of this brickmaking operation. The eight squares to the north of the mound produced few artifacts and, except for a few case bottle fragments and earthenware sherds, most of the artifacts from Squares 4, 7, and 8 were coal or poorly fired brick fragments. The brick mound ranged from 18cm thick (Square 7) to 26cm thick (Square 4). At the base of the mound in Squares 4 and 7, and 10cm below the surface in Square 8, dark feature stains containing concentrations of coal and brick fragments were identified. These features likely represent remains of fire channels for a clamp or scove kiln (Geier et al. 1982). Such kilns were temporarily constructed near a building site and near a suitable clay bank source for making bricks. This type of temporary kiln was common until the mid-nineteenth century, and by 1850 many brickmakers were using coal instead of wood in the firing process. Hand-molded impressed center bricks, several of which were excavated from the mound, were also commonly produced until the late 1800s (Guymon 1986). This information strongly suggests that this brick kiln was used in the second quarter of the nineteenth century to produce brick for the construction of the Kinzer House, and still contains many artifacts and intact features relating to this activity.

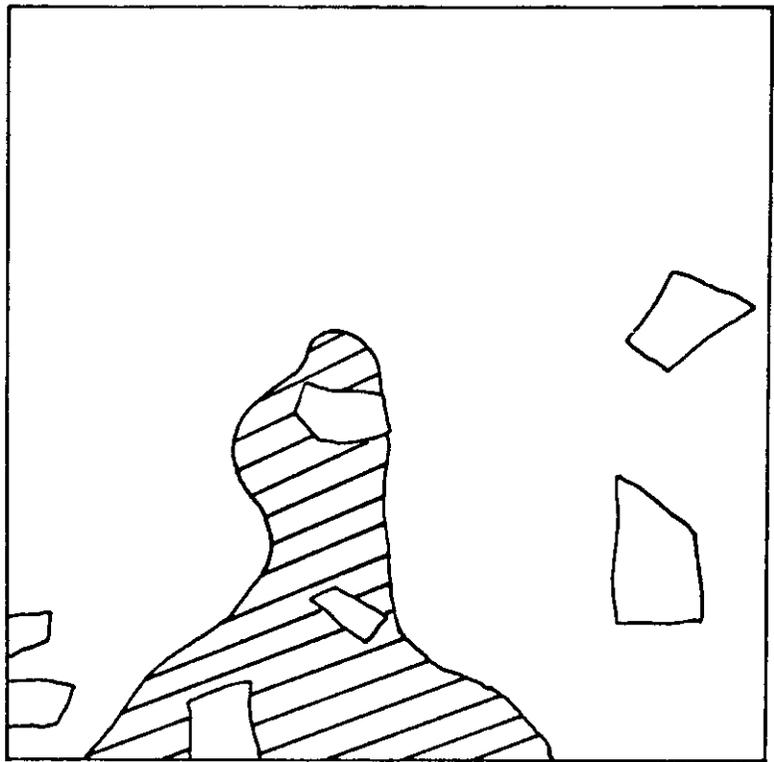
A frame garage stands to the immediate rear (west) of the house. Its mid-twentieth-century date makes it a noncontributing building.



SITE PLAN  
 MICHAEL KINZER HOUSE  
 BLACKSBURG VIC., VIRGINIA  
 G. WORSHAM 6/86

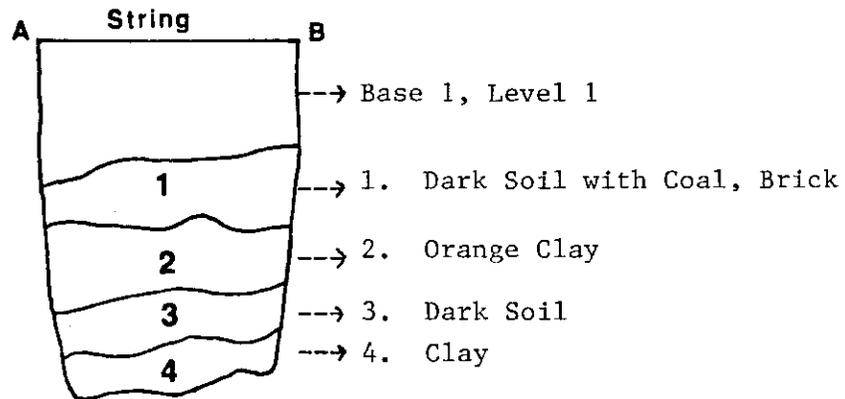
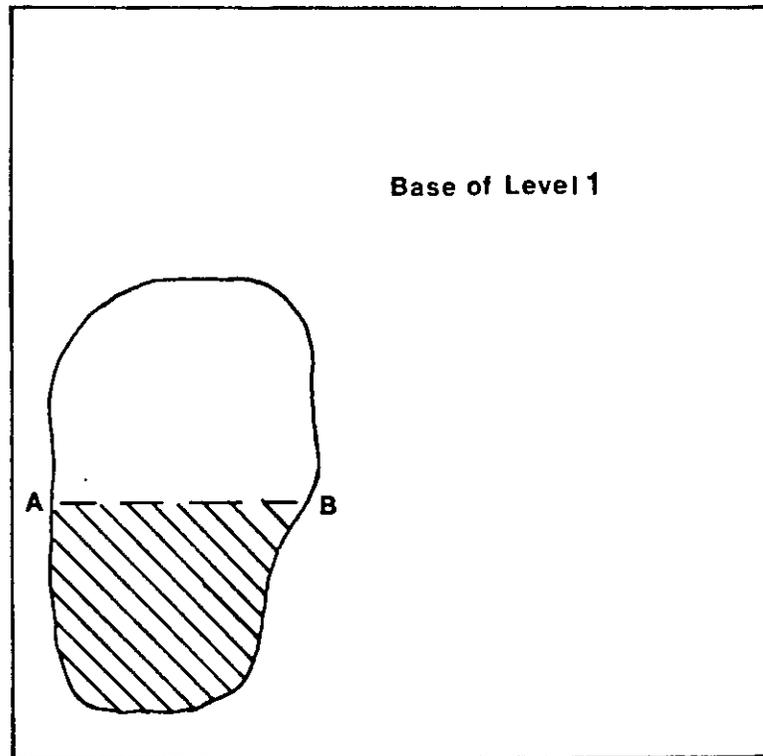


Kinzer Site test square locations.



-  Brick
-  Ash Feature

Square 4, Level 2 (approximately 20 cm below surface).



Square 8, Feature 1.