



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 095-5449

1. General Property Information

Property name: Parks-Cole House
Property address: 38522 Widener Valley Road
Chilhowie vicinity
Zip code: 24319

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Washington County

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):
Building x Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 8.95

Setting (choose only one of the following):
Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural x

Briefly describe the property's overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

The farm and farmhouse are situated in the Widener Valley of rural southeastern Washington County; 5.6 miles south of the Town of Chilhowie, on the east side of Widener Valley Road (Rt. 605); 0.23 miles south of the junction of Rafferty Road (Rt. 871). The farmhouse is the closest building to the road, set back only about 65 feet. Positioned between 30 and 285 feet north-northeast of the house are a number of frame agricultural buildings: a barn, granary, corncrib, chicken house, and vehicle shed, as well as a limestone springhouse. About 20 feet off the southeast corner of the farmhouse is a frame meathouse. The Widener Valley is part of the Great Valley of Virginia. Nearby to the south and east are the Virginia Highlands of the Blue Ridge and the state's tallest mountains including Whitetop in Grayson County and Mt. Rogers in Grayson and Smyth counties.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Queen Anne

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: _____

If the builder is known, please list here: _____

Date of construction (can be approximate): c. 1900 (house) - c. 1930 (secondary resources)

Inventory of Resources

1. House (single dwelling)
2. Meat house
3. Springhouse
4. Vehicle shed/Garage
5. Granary
6. Corncrib
7. Chicken house
8. Barn

Narrative Description

1. Farmhouse

The Parks-Cole House is a 1 ½-story weatherboarded frame building with complex massing and late Victorian Queen Anne stylistic details. It is built on a coursed limestone foundation and has a tall hip-roofed central section with a gabled dormer in front, and four lower gable-roofed extensions: two on the front, one on the west side, and one to the rear. The entire house has fairly new V-crimp sheet-metal roofing with ridge caps. A three-bay one-story shed-roofed porch spans 2/5 of the front elevation. It has turned wooden posts and a spindle frieze. Emerging from the roof of the central block are two substantial corbeled brick chimneys. The first-story windows are two-over-two sash and the upper half stories are lighted with small two-light windows in the gable fields. The house interior is very well preserved with original doors, trim, fireplaces, mantels, staircases, flooring, etc. The house originally had one bedroom downstairs and one upstairs, a large kitchen, a parlor, and living room. Later, an addition to the rear of the house was constructed with an additional bedroom and a kitchen below. A bathroom was added to the back porch, possibly around that same time. Its original footprint (without rear additions) including the front porch measures 38 by 30 feet and its interior measures 1,822 sq. ft.

2. Meat House

Located 20 feet off the southeast corner of the farmhouse, the meat house is an approximately 12-foot square frame building with an elongated extension of the roof in the front (north) elevation facing the farmhouse. Inside is one tall first-floor room and a small loft, each enclosed with a batten door. Likely built in the 1920s or 1930s, it is insubstantially constructed of diagonally braced corner posts connected by two-inch beams between them, without the use of studs. The exterior cladding provided additional structural strength. This method of construction was efficient in its use of materials and was very common for small domestic and agricultural buildings during the period.

3. Spring/Spring House

The one-story pipe-fed springhouse is located about 30 feet off the northeast (rear) corner of the house. It is a small square building of coursed limestone blocks with the gable roof extended roof in front covering an additional small area with a poured concrete deck into which an water pump is mounted. A very small concrete-block shed extends out from the covered area. There is but one small window, in the north gable end. Inside the building are descending wooden and concrete steps leading to concrete water troughs and numerous wooden shelves for food storage. The door is of the late Victorian style four-panel variety like those found throughout the farmhouse. On the building's rear (north) elevation is an iron water pipe emerging from the springhouse wall which fed into a rectangular concrete water trough.

4. Vehicle Shed/Garage

The vehicle shed stands just north of the springhouse, on the north side of the farmhouse. It is a one-story frame building with vertical board cladding and a sheet-metal-clad front-gable roof. Off the building's southwest corner is a very small shed extension.

5. Granary

The one-story frame granary, likely built in the early 20th century, is located about 135 feet north of the house, among other agricultural buildings. It is set on limestone-block piers at the corners and has a sheet-metal-clad front-gable roof--extended in front, diagonal-board cladding on all sides, a centered stacked-panel front door on the front (south) elevation--reached by a flight of four wooden steps, and three small square apertures: one centered on each side elevation and one centered within the front gable. Some of the diagonal boards on the side elevations extend to help support the roof's front overhang and provide some additional shelter. Within the building are a single large first-floor space, the walls finished with pine or cedar boards, an exposed-joint ceiling, three approximately four-foot-tall grain bins (possibly cedar) along each side wall and a ladder-stair at the rear of the room that leads to a loft with very limited headroom, the walls finished with narrow pine boards.

6. Corncrib

Located just 12 feet east of granary, which is a very similar building, the corncrib was also likely built in the early 20th century. The building has a central drive-through bay flanked by narrow, diagonally slatted cribs, the lower parts of which are further clad with sheet metal. Instead of an open front gable like the granary, the corncrib has an enclosed, weatherboarded front gable.

7. Chicken House

Located 150 feet north-northeast of farmhouse, the 30 x 16-foot one-story frame building was likely built around the mid-20th century. It rests of intermittent concrete block piers, is clad with vertical boards, and has a front-gable roof. The interior has a gravel floor and two built-in rows of hen hutches running the length of the north side wall.

8. Barn

Located approximately 240 feet north of the farmhouse, the hay/livestock barn, probably built around the same time as the farmhouse, c.1900, is a frame building constructed of a combination of square-hewn timbers, sawn lumber, and round wooden poles, with vertical-board exterior cladding and a front-gable roof from which many sheet-metal panels are now missing, exposing the interior of the barn to the elements. The building has a footprint measuring 45 by 32 feet, a side-to-side drive-through bay at the rear (north) end of the building, and two floor levels inside: livestock stalls beneath a hay mow. Like many former hay/livestock barns in the area, by the 1960s it was converted to use as a burley tobacco curing barn, and tier poles were added for hanging the tobacco leaves.

4. Property's History and Significance

The ca. 1900-1901 Parks-Cole Farm has a commodious Late Victorian farmhouse, limestone springhouse, and frame granary, as well as a number of other 20th-century farm buildings. With the exception of the dilapidated barn, all of the resources are well-preserved vernacular examples of their types. Intact collections of domestic and agricultural buildings on small family farms are increasingly becoming rare in Southwest Virginia. The Parks-Cole Farm property appears to be eligible under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture and Criterion C in the area of Architecture/Craftsmanship. Washington County real estate tax records date the house to 1901.

Historical Background

Best known locally as the "Parks Place", the house was built for Wiley Crawford "WC" Parks (1866-1953). As recorded in each census during his lifetime, Parks was chiefly a farmer by occupation, but owned several businesses through the years including a farm with a small dairy, and a store (095-0328) down the road in the Murrayfield community of Washington County. He also had a milk hauling route for the Pet milk plant in Abingdon.

Born in adjacent Grayson County, Virginia, to parents F. B. and Margaret J. Parks, Wiley would marry Lucy Ella Roberts (b. 1870-1960) in 1887 (in Grayson County) when he was about 20 years of age. The couple had six children (four boys and two girls): Victor H. Parks, Demie Parks, Fred C. Parks, Maud Parks, Harry R. Parks, and Clyde Parks.

The house originally had one bedroom downstairs and one upstairs, a large kitchen, a parlor, and living room. Later, an addition to the rear of the house was constructed with an additional bedroom and a kitchen below. A bathroom was added to the back porch, possibly around that same time.

The next owner/occupant of the house was his daughter, Demie Parks who lived there until sometime in the 1970s. She, too, kept the farm, growing fruits and vegetables. Later, the house was rented out for a while, then stood vacant for about 10 years. In 1984, it was acquired by one of the Parks heirs, Mark Cole and his wife, Leta, as part of Demie's estate. Mark's grandmother was Maude Parks, one of WC's two daughters.



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_WileyC.Parks_&_wife_orig_owners



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_undated_historic_photo

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: x Public\Local _____ Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: _____

organization: _____

street & number: 38522 Widener Valley Rd

city or town: Chilhowie state: VA zip code: 24319

e-mail: _____ telephone: _____

Legal Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

• • Signature required for processing all applications. • •

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: n/a

Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title: Mike Pulice, architectural historian

organization: DHR Western Regional Office

street & number: _____

city or town: Salem state: _____ zip code: _____

e-mail: michael.pulice@dhr.virginia.gov telephone: 540-387-5443

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: Public\Local _____ Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet)

name/title: Mark Allen and beta S. Cole

organization: _____

street & number: 38522 Widener Valley Rd

city or town: Chilhowie state: VA zip code: 24319

e-mail: wfda926@gmail.com telephone: 276.685.3209

Legal Owner's Signature: Mark Allen beta S. Cole Date: 5/3/2023

• • Signature required for processing all applications. • •

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: n/a

Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

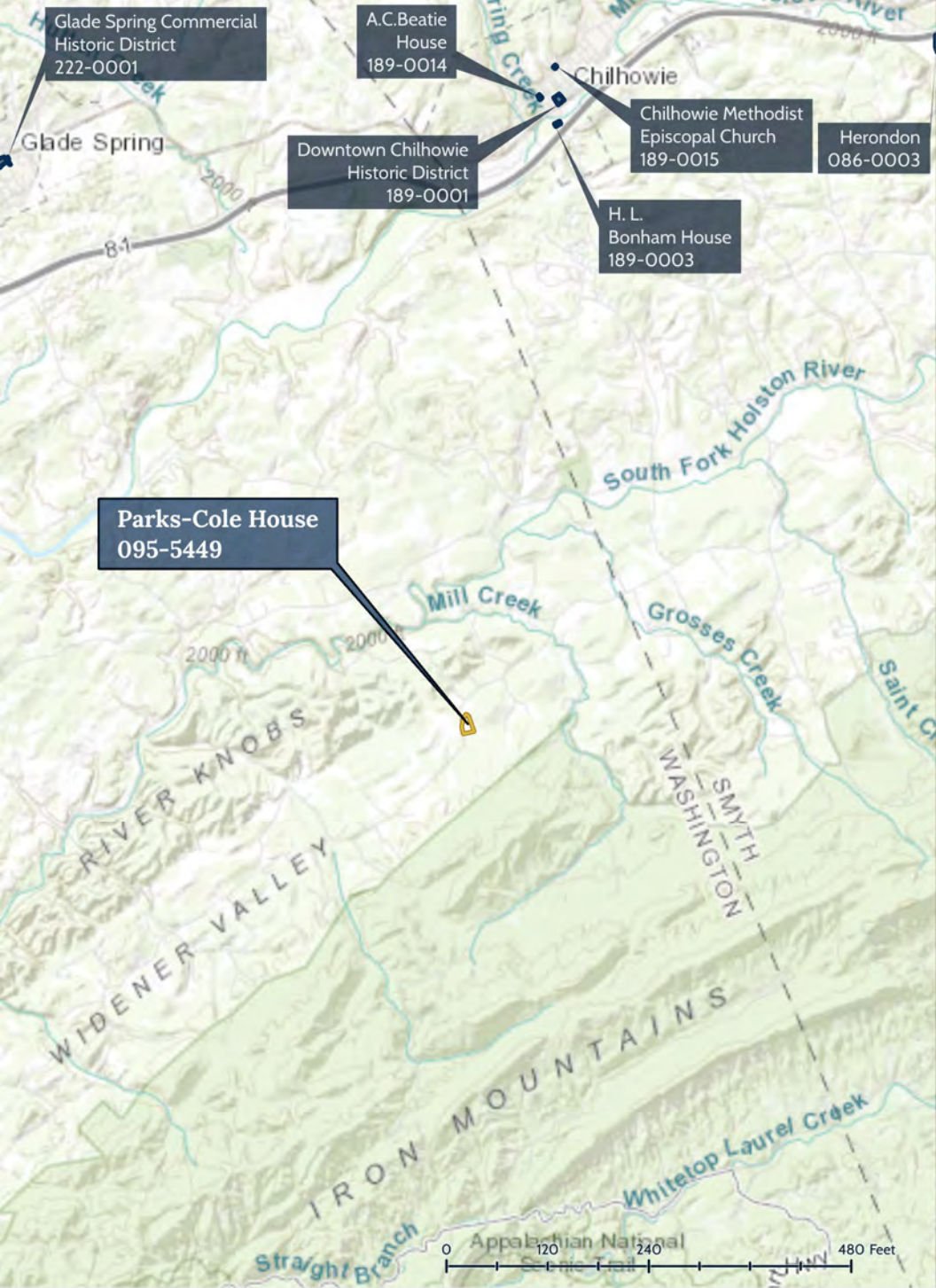
name/title: Mike Pulice, architectural historian

organization: DHR Western Regional Office

street & number: _____

city or town: Salem state: _____ zip code: _____

e-mail: michael.pulice@dhr.virginia.gov telephone: 540-387-5443



Parks-Cole House
Washington County, Konnarock Quad
DHR ID: 095-5449

Created By: D. Bascone 4/28/2023
 Sources: VDHR 2023, ESRI 2023, VDOT 2023, VGIN 2023
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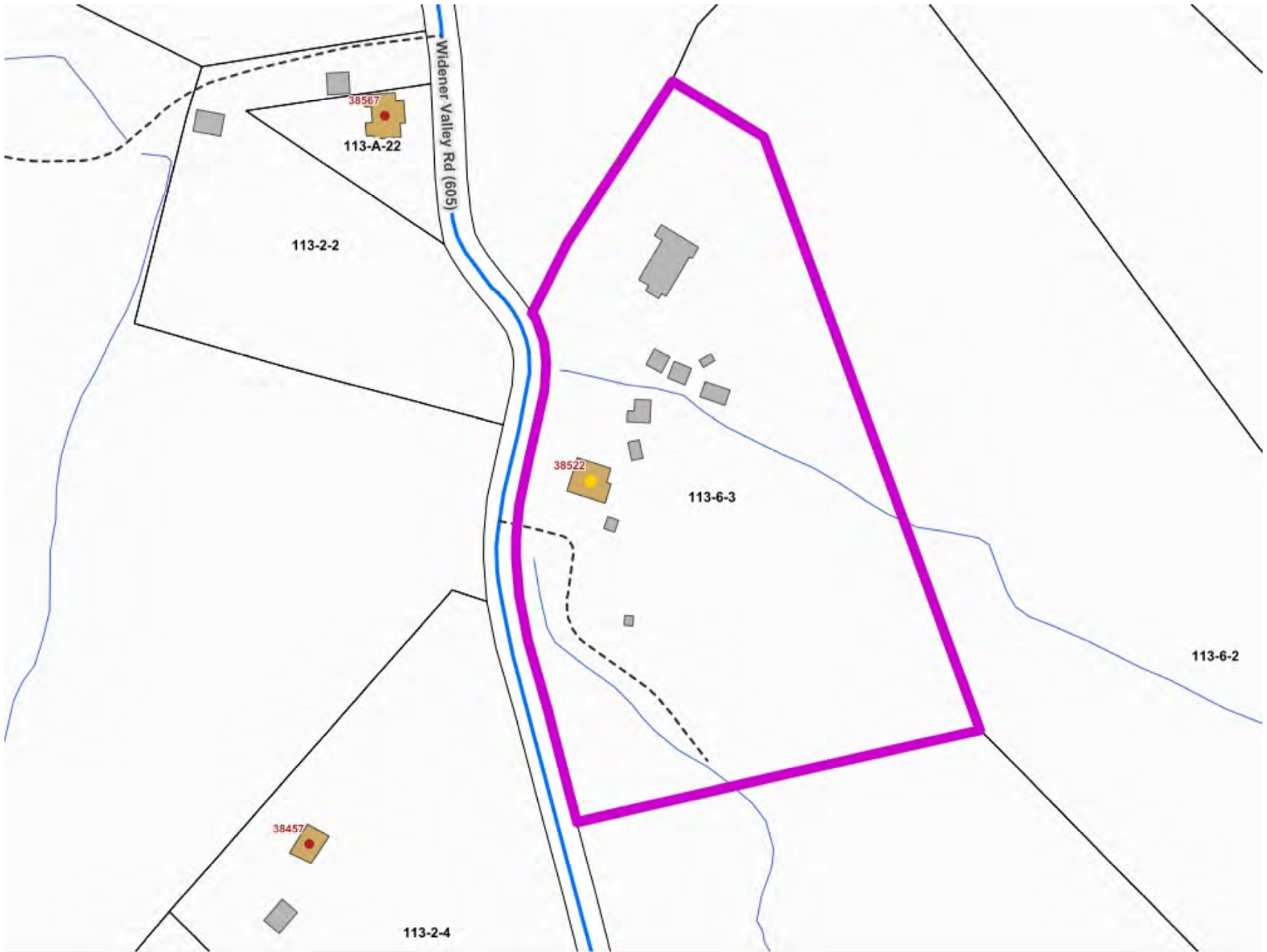


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095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_looking_E-NE



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_looking_E-SE



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_looking_NE



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_looking_S-SW



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_looking_S-SW_alt



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_looking_E



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_house_1st-flr_front_hall



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_house_1st-flr_front_hall_alt



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_house_1st-flr_front_parlor_door



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_house_1st-flr_front_parlor_E_wall



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_house_1st-flr_front_parlor_E_wall_alt



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_house_1st-flr_rear_rm_cabinet



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_house_1st-flr_rear_rm_chimney_detail



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_house_1st-flr_rear_rm_finishes



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_house_1st-flr_rear_rm_looking_N



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095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_house_1st-flr_south_front_room



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_house_1st-flr_stair



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_house_2nd-flr_bedroom



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_ag_bdgs_looking_N



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_ag_bdgs_looking_N-NE



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_ag_bdgs_looking_SE



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_barn_drivethrough_01



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_barn_drivethrough_02



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_barn_drivethrough_03



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_barn_drivethrough_inscription



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_barn_exterior_detail



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_barn_interior_01



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_barn_interior_02



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_barn_interior_03



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_barn_looking_NW



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_chickenhouse_interior



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_chickenhouse_interior_alt



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_chickenhouse_looking_E-NE



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_corncrib_&_granary_looking_NW



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_corncrib_looking_N-NE



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_garage_&_springhouse_looking_SE



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_granary,corncrib_&_chickenhouse_looking_NE



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_granary_1st-flr_bins



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_granary_1st-flr_bins_alt



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_granary_1st-flr_stair



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_granary_2nd_floor



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_granary_looking_NW



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_meathouse_looking_SE



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_meathouse_N_elevation



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_meathouse_interior_corner



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_springhouse_&_garage



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_springhouse_looking_N-NE



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_springhouse_looking_N-NE_alt



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_springhouse_looking_SW



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_springhouse_water_trough



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_springhouse_entry



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_springhouse_well_pump



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_springhouse_interior



095-5449_Parks-Cole_Farm_2023_springhouse_interior_alt