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

VLR Listed: 6/15/1994
NRHP Listed: 8/16/1994

OMB No. 1024-0018

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 **Maiden Spring**

other names/site number **VDHR File No. 92-02**

2. Location

street & number **NW sector of jct. SR 609 with SR 91** not for publication **N/A**
city or town **Pounding Mill** vicinity **x**
state **Virginia** code **VA** county **Tazewell** code **185** zip code **24637**

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.)

Hugh C. Miller — 6/24/94
Signature of certifying official — Date

Director, 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

✓ ___ 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): ___

Edson H. Beall for — 8-16-94
Signature of Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)
- _x_ private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)
- ___ building(s)
- _x_ district
- ___ site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	0	buildings
2	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
11	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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:		Sub:	
DOMESTIC		Single dwelling	
		Secondary structure	
AGRICULTURE		Agricultural outbuilding	
		Agricultural field	
EDUCATION		School	
LANDSCAPE		Natural feature	

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:		Sub:	
DOMESTIC		Single dwelling	
		Secondary structure	
AGRICULTURE		Agricultural outbuilding	
		Agricultural field	
VACANT/NOT IN USE			
LANDSCAPE		Natural feature	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
OTHER: Central-passage-plan

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
- foundation STONE: Limestone
- walls WOOD: Weatherboard
- roof METAL: Tin
- 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)

_x_ 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.

_x_ 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)
AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1769-1926

Significant Dates 1769
1838
1926

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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
_x_ State Historic Preservation Office
__ Other State agency
__ Federal agency
__ Local government
__ University
__ Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property __600 acres__

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	438420	4099200	2	17	438770	4099900
3	17	439080	4099210	4	17	439140	4099210

_x_ See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title **Gibson Worsham, Architect**
organization _____ date **February 2, 1994**
street & number **3145 Yellow Sulphur Road** telephone **703-552-4730**
city or town **Christiansburg** state **VA** zip code **24073**

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 **R. T. Bowen and others, % R. T. Bowen, Jr.**
street & number **Route 1, Box 133** telephone _____
city or town **Pounding Mill** state **VA** zip code **24637**

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.

Summary Description

Maiden Spring Farm is located in Bowen's Cove, a valley in a rugged part of Tazewell County, 12 miles southwest of Tazewell in mountainous Southwest Virginia. The house occupies a hill near the center of a cleared valley and overlooks the hollow into which the locally well-known Maiden Spring flows from a cave mouth, forming a large creek. The house is surrounded by landscaped grounds, agricultural buildings, and six hundred acres of farm and woodland. The house is a two-story, five-bay, frame, central-passage-plan dwelling that appears to contain an earlier frame dwelling as an ell. The barns and other farm buildings are grouped to the north of the house. The house faces State Route 609, the main road through the cove. The road, which bisects the farm, runs from east to west about 100 yards south of the house.

The features associated with the domestic component of Maiden Spring include the house (classified in the resource count as a contributing building) and the nearby meat house (contributing building), slave house (contributing building), and summer kitchen (contributing building). Features associated with the agricultural component of the farm include the horse barn (contributing building), the stock barn (contributing building), the hen house (contributing building), and the granary/corncrib (contributing structure), while additional related features include the source of Maiden Spring (contributing site), the cemetery (contributing site), and the schoolhouse (contributing building).

Narrative Description

The house at Maiden Spring is a large, frame, two-story building. The main section was built in 1838. The roof is gabled, with metal shingle roofing. A two-story, exterior, brick chimney with high, narrow shoulders stands at each end of the main block. The house stands on a coursed rubble limestone foundation. The box cornice features an

elaborate, continuous, applied guilloche element on the fascia, and is supported by a dentil molding and closely-spaced, projecting, mutules with guttae. The plain weatherboard walls were covered with vinyl siding of a similar width in recent years, but the decorative trim was not covered or damaged. The windows are single-hung sash windows with nine-over-nine lights on the first floor and six-over-nine on the second.

The principal facade of the house, which faces south, is pierced by five openings consisting of four windows and a central door on each floor. Both entries have flanking sidelights and a transom with diagonal muntins forming small diamond-shaped panes. Two fluted Tuscan columns support each floor of a two-story, pedimented portico that shelters the central entries. The columns are well-proportioned replacements dating from a restoration campaign in the 1980s, during which the rest of the structure was carefully repaired. This restoration included the guilloche molding in the pediment, the mutules, and the decorative sawn vertical board railing. The railing incorporates the four suits of cards-- diamonds, hearts, spades, and clubs-- in an interlocking design. Modern cellar vents light the basement below the western window bays.

The west facade, as is common in large antebellum houses in western and southwestern Virginia, is treated as a secondary entrance facade with a porch. Examples include Springdale, Pulaski County (VDHR file #77-33) and Santillane, Botetourt County (VDHR survey #11-32, both listed in the National Register). The western facade is made up of the gable end of the main section of the house and the west wall of a lower, north wing. This secondary front is dignified by a central, two-story portico that is almost identical to the south portico with a door on both floors. Although the roofline and west chimney present a broken silhouette, the central porch almost succeeds in creating the illusion of a second five-bay front. The gable end of the main section is treated as a pediment, and windows flank the chimney on both floors. The original basement entry steps and door are located to the south of the west chimney.

The east side of the house is treated very differently from the west. Perhaps because visitors would not have originally approached from that direction, the gable end is treated very simply and a pair of garret casements flank the chimney. The simple rake board is extended to the north to form the continuous roofline of the enclosed north or rear porch, which originally continued along the east side of the entire north wing as well. No windows light the east ends of the rooms in the main section of the house.

The north or rear of the house is treated very simply. A large brick chimney rises on the end of the north wing. A small stone springhouse on the north end of the wing was built in 1926 from stones salvaged from the stone chimney of a log building. The one-story springhouse was later adapted to serve as a freezer. There is no visible trace of troughs or water systems. Water was conveyed to the springhouse by a pipe from the water ram that still pumps water from Maiden Spring to the house. A small enclosed porch gives access to the stone room and to the present kitchen of the house.

The interior of the main section contains, on the first floor, single rooms to each side of the central passage. These first-floor rooms all contain plastered walls and ceilings, flat-paneled wainscot, ovolo molded base, and early-twentieth-century narrow floorboards. The chair rail features a bullnose top and a quirked ogee at the bottom.

The parlor to the west contains the most elaborate, painted woodwork. It is entered through a door centered in the partition between the parlor and the passage. The windows and doors are surrounded with trim on which a pair of quirked ogee moldings face each other at each side and a bolection, formed of two similar ogees, rises in the center. The corners are joined with bull's-eye corner blocks and the door trim includes base blocks. The room contains several early features, including mid-nineteenth-century brass curtain rods and a brick hearth. Wide double doors of unpainted oak between the parlor and the north wing were added in 1926, when a dining room was created there.

The trim in the passage and east room is similar but simpler in keeping with the less formal nature of the rooms. Door and window surrounds consist of a quirked ogee architrave, a secondary quirked ogee, and an inner bead. The east room also contains mid-nineteenth-century turned wood curtain rods, contrasting with the brass rods found in the parlor. The west room is entered through a door just inside the south entry. The west mantel has a late Federal form, with applied, turned half-finials on the end blocks above paired fluted colonettes and a deep breakfront shelf supported on Greek Revival-era flattened-profile moldings. The mantel is similar to that in the parlor, with a reeded board under the shelf and an inserted coal grate. The two north openings are both doors. The eastern opening has trim matching other work from the late nineteenth century, and was added to provide access to a child's room, now removed, at the end of the rear porch. It undoubtedly replaced a window. The western opening has trim identifying it as an early door.

The passage contains an open-stringer stair that begins just north of the door to the east room and proceeds north to the rear wall. It turns west along a landing and proceeds south to reach the second floor. The stair is equipped with turned newel posts, two square balusters per step, and scrolled end brackets. A separate shorter flight north from the landing, leading to the second floor of the enclosed rear porch, was added in 1926. An early door below the landing also leads onto the former porch, but on the first-floor level. The woodwork in the passage, unlike that in the rest of the house, retains a nineteenth-century grained finish. The stair is equipped with a flat-paneled skirt. A door below the landing gives access to what was originally a closet. Since the early twentieth century this space has contained a stair to the basement.

The north wing is said, by family tradition, to be an earlier log house to which the main section was added. It was much altered in 1926. The thickness of the walls indicates that, while the visible floor structure might be said to consist of hewn logs, the plastered walls are undoubtedly constructed of the more expensive framed timber.

The form of the frame wing is rectangular, with its west wall parallel to the west wall of the parlor. The east wall, however is located several feet to the east of the east wall of the parlor. Prior to 1926, the north wing was divided into two spaces, a secondary passage with stair and a large dining room to the north. Family tradition indicates that the stair gave access not only to the second floor but to a dining area in the basement, and accommodation of this stair could explain the original extension of the basement from the main section under the passage. The stair to the basement in the front passage was probably added in 1926 when the earlier stair was removed.

In 1926 the partition between the rooms was removed and a new dining room created just north of the west parlor, while the remaining part of the north end room was partitioned off to form a kitchen. A built-in china press protruded from the dining room into the kitchen. A small passage was added at the east side of the dining room inside the original ell walls. The double doors leading from the parlor into the present dining room were added at the same time.

As a result of the changes in layout, fragments of the finishes of the former passage and north room remain in the kitchen and small east passage. The kitchen and passage retain sections of flat-panelled wainscot and doors with trim matching that in the front rooms. The fireplace that survives in the north wall of the kitchen heated the previous north ell room. The large late-Federal-style mantel features paneled end blocks and pilasters, a plain central tablet, and a molded breakfront shelf. The door to the exterior east of the north mantel and the east door from the east passage onto the enclosed porch are both early features. While the trim and six-panel doors differ slightly in detail from the doors in the main section, they are alike in style and form. The door trim features an outer architrave molding in the form of a quirked ogee and bead, a secondary quirked ogee, and an inner bead.

The porch on the east side of the north wing apparently incorporated an early room or pantry on the north end. The

bath fixtures, added in 1926, were placed in a room that retains an early entry on the south and early window on the east with details corresponding to those found in the rest of the house. A small enclosed stair was added at the same time rising from the kitchen along the north wall of the bathroom. The remaining section of porch was enclosed with a door and windows dating from 1926 to form a sitting room.

The basement of the house was located originally only under the west room, but in the early twentieth century was extended under the passage in order to accommodate the added stair to the first floor. The stone walls surrounding the basement project several feet under the north wing and the former north or rear porch. What appears to be a bulge in the floor of the dining room caused by the north basement wall is said to be an intentional feature dating from 1926. The ell floor was several inches higher than the west room floor and the floor was sloped down in the south side of the dining room to avoid the need for a step at the new doorway between the rooms.

The unusual discontinuity between the foundation and the framing above might seem to point out some alteration in the fabric of the house, but as suggested above, may have simply been a feature of the original design to accommodate the original stair. This might imply that the entire house, including the porch and ell, was built at one time, as the woodwork, for the most part, would seem to indicate. There is no sign that the basement was constructed for a preceding house, given chimney locations and the framing for the floor above. A beam spans the north wall of the main block and the joists of the west room, passage, and north wing are let into it.

The second floor of the house features a floor plan almost identical to that of the first floor. The two bedrooms in the main section open off the central passage and feature similar late-Federal-style mantels with paneled pilasters and end blocks and molded breakfront shelves, flat-paneled wainscoting, original random-width flooring, plastered walls and ceilings, and molded baseboards. Door and window trim consists of an outer and secondary quirked

ovolo and an inner bead. The baseboard is topped by a quirked ogee. A seam in the wainscot indicates that there was previously a door in the north wall of the east room giving access to the now-enclosed porch.

The second floor of the north wing, like the first floor, appears to have been much altered. The fireplace in the north end retains its late-Federal-style mantel with grooved pilasters and end blocks. The remaining trim is slightly different than that of the same floor in the main section, in that it features only an outer architrave, consisting of a quirked ovolo and bead and an inner bead. The floor plan resembles that of the first floor, except that the partition between the small north room and larger space between it and the main section appears original. This is confirmed by the survival of an early enclosed winder stair to the garret, which rises from a small passage at the east side of the wing along the partition toward the west. The stair's details seem to indicate that the stair dates to the same period as the early mantels and trim.

The now-vanished secondary stair in the first-floor north passage rose to a wide passage, referred to by family members as "the open room." An early door from the small passage gives access to the enclosed rear porch. The porch contains the stair from the first floor in the north end, an intervening bathroom added in 1926, and an enclosed sleeping porch occupying the remaining space to the east wall of the main section. While most of the alterations were made in 1926, the north room has been rehabilitated in recent years, losing much of its historic character. As mentioned above, in 1926 a small stair was added connecting the stair landing in the main section with the enclosed sleeping porch.

The garret over the north wing contains an unfinished storage area with an asymmetrical roof that was built to cover both the wing and the porch on its east side. It is possible that this roof replaced an earlier one which sheltered only the north wing, but evidence of such a change is not apparent. The main house and ell feature common rafter roofs. While it seems very possible, as family

tradition suggests, that the north wing was an earlier house to which the main section was added, little about the woodwork or details would seem to confirm this idea.

The outbuildings grouped to the immediate north of the house include a frame meat house, constructed in the early twentieth century of circular sawn members after the destruction of a former meat house in a windstorm. Adjacent and to the east of it, and forming a row along the farm road passing north of the house, stands a substantially remodelled, square, frame building identified as a slave house by family tradition. It was occupied by servants until the 1930s. The chimney, now gone, was located on the west end. To the northwest of the house stands a long, one-story, weatherboarded structure identified by the family as an antebellum summer kitchen. The building features a hewn frame, a louvred vent and door with narrow, ovolo exterior trim on the east front, added metal sheathing on the west, and a garage door on the north. The building was converted for use as a garage, and its interior heavily altered, in the early twentieth century.

Immediately to the east of the kitchen stand three farm structures, a granary/corncrib, henhouse, and horse barn. The buildings all date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries and feature circular-sawn framing, rectangular forms, and gables aligned in an east-west direction. The horse barn has a central aisle flanked by stalls. A cemetery is located to the southwest of the farmyard. The unfenced area contains several grave markers including finely-carved marble tablets and a draped obelisk.

The most interesting agricultural building on the farm stands farther to the north on a hill. The large barn, in very good condition, appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century or earlier. It is constructed of hewn, pegged mortice-and-tenon members arranged in a rectangular form eight bays long and three bays wide and measuring approximately sixty by twenty-six feet. The first floor contains a six-foot-wide, lateral, raised platform. It functioned, according to the owner, as a "feedway," and

apparently divided the barn into two groups of stalls, now opened into long pens. The feedway is supported on early log sills, and up-and-down-sawn studs line each side and give some added support to the loft floor above.

The area to each side of the feedway was apparently originally subdivided into three major spaces by cross sills and up braces at the third post from each end, as indicated by mortices in the side and feedway sills and in the side posts. These may have been further divided into stalls. The east wall now contains opening to the side pens, but mortices in the side sills indicate they originally extended across this end as well, so the entry must have been on the much-rebuilt west end, or, more likely, the horses or other stock must have been required to step over the sills to enter the stalls through separate exterior doors giving access to each stall. Above the stall level is a large loft supported on hewn beams and up-and-down-sawn intermediate joists supported on hewn and up-and-down-sawn ledgers between the side posts.

The fact that the intermediate loft floor joists are hewn only in the bays flanking the third post from each end may indicate that there was a raised loft floor elsewhere or a cross aisle in the center two and/or end bays at one time, but it is difficult to determine the significance of this anomaly of construction since there is no other evidence of a longitudinal cross aisle or drive-through. At the top of the side walls, which extend well above the loft floor, large hewn beams span the loft at each end and at the third post from each end. These intermediate beams correspond in plan to the sills on the lower level that subdivided the side pens. The beams are held in place by mortices and by added iron straps. Diagonal braces extend from the loft floor beams to the wall posts at the same points. Common pole rafters nailed to a ridgeboard rest on a hewn top plate.

The six hundred acres of land around the house is divided by wire fences into smaller named units called boundaries by the owners. While not universal in the region today, this appears to have once been a popular term (see

the National Register form for Smithfield, Russell County, Virginia, VDHR survey file #83-12). The boundaries are usually given names either descriptive of their geography, vegetation, or historic use. The boundary to the southwest of the house is called the Evergreen because its sheltered slope causes its grass to remain green through the winter, while adjoining boundaries are known as Spring Hill Pasture, Spring Hill Meadow, Hugh Young Meadow (named after an adjacent landowner and son-in-law of Rees II), Flood Bottom, and Sugar Camp. The mountainous pasture to the south is called the Mountain Boundary, while the fields to the north of the house are known as the Big Field and Mill Hill, and the wooded land beyond, in a bend of Maiden Spring Creek, is referred to as the Point. The copious water source known as Maiden Spring is located in a deep hollow east of the house, where it issues from a large cave in a rocky bluff.

In the Spring Hill Pasture, on the east side of State Route 91, stands a small frame building used in the late nineteenth century as a schoolhouse. According to the present owner, the one-story structure was built on the site of an earlier school and originally consisted of one room and two small porches. Rees Bowen V purchased the building when it was abandoned in the early twentieth century and divided it into three rooms for tenant use. Three mid-to-late-nineteenth-century tenant houses are now vanished. One stood in the Mill Hill Boundary above the mill pond, another in the boundary known as the Point, and another in the field known as the Evergreen. Family members say they were each located near springs for convenience in securing water.

Along State Route 604, which follows Maiden Spring Creek north of the house a portion of the creek has been dammed to form a mill pond for a now-vanished mill. The mill was once run by the Barns and Copenhaven families; a small section of land where the mill was once located was purchased by Rees Bowen V around 1940-45. It may have been the same mill owned by Rees Bowen II before his death in 1827 (see Narrative Statement of Significance). The nearby community (not included in the boundaries of the nomination) includes several houses and a nearly ruined general store.

Statement of Significance

Maiden Spring Farm is one of the finest and most intact antebellum farms in Tazewell County. The two-story frame house features elaborate carved exterior woodwork, two-story pedimented porches, and well-preserved interiors. Associated with the house are a group of outbuildings, agricultural buildings, and landscape features dating from the later eighteenth century to the early twentieth century, including a hewn frame barn, possibly dating to the mid-nineteenth century, and an apparent late-eighteenth-century field system. The architectural refinement of the main house and the survival of associated outbuildings give the property local architectural significance under Criterion C of the National Register. The rare surviving barn and field system gives the farm, which demonstrates historic patterns of farm use, significance under Criterion A in Agriculture.

Historical Background

Maiden Spring has been the home of the Bowen family for seven generations. The first Rees Bowen (1737-1780) was the son of John and Lilly McIlheny Bowen who had moved from Pennsylvania to the present-day Rockbridge County area. John Bowen's parents were Welsh Quaker immigrants.[1] Rees Bowen I was named for his paternal grandmother, Rebecca Rees.[2] He is said to have settled at Maiden Spring with his wife, Levisa Smith of Augusta County, and one slave woman on a grant of 880 acres obtained in the 1760s.[3] Records show that two tracts of 430 and 400 acres were surveyed for John Bowen, heir of Rees Bowen, in 1783, by Walter and Robert Preston. The 400-acre tract lying on Maiden Spring Fork, in the Cove, was certified to have been assigned to Rees Bowen by John Deleany and to include his improvements "by actual settlement in the year 1769."[4]

Rees Bowen I is credited with discovering the well-known prehistoric pictographs located near the summit of nearby Paint Lick Mountain (listed in the National Register, VDHR file #s 92-07 and 44-TZ-13).[5] Family tradition holds that while exploring a tributary of Clinch River, Bowen had come upon a young doe grazing by a place where a "bold stream bursts out of the rocks at the base of a mountain." He shot the doe and named the place Maiden Spring in honor of her.[6] Other members of his family settled in the region. Rees Bowen I is the subject of many stories of his strength and successful fighting style.[7]

His original house (no longer standing) is said to have been built in 1769 about a mile from the present house at Maiden Spring and on another farm.[8] The ell of the present house is said by family tradition to contain a house built three years later by Rees and Levisa Bowen. This building, with an added pallisade, served as one of three forts guarding the Upper Clinch River area during the American Revolution.[9] (No trace of log walls are evident, however, in a close inspection of the house.) The fort was attacked by Indians in the same year.[10]

Rees Bowen and his brother William were scouts on the Upper Clinch River in 1774.[11] In the same year Rees Bowen served under Captain William Russell at the Battle of Point Pleasant.[12] His wife, Levisa Bowen, is the subject of a romantic pioneer-era story.[13] While the men were away from the fort in 1776, she observed Indian tracks. She suggested that the women dress as men and mount guard all night, averting an attack.

A road was ordered viewed from Washington County to the "Rich lands" upon the Clinch River in 1777. It was one of a group of five roads connecting outlying areas with the court-house authorized at one session of the county court. Viewers of the road were to be James Fowler, "Rice" Bowen, David Ward, and William Bowen. The road was to pass from the Rich lands by the Maiden Springs to the Laurel Fork Gap.[14] Rees Bowen I continued to serve in the war effort. He was an ensign in the militia under the command of Arthur Campbell, who was in charge of the Maiden Spring Fort, in

1777-8. He led, with the rank of lieutenant, a company of volunteers to the Battle of King's Mountain, where he was killed on 7 October 1780.[15]

With the death of Rees Bowen I, his house and land was occupied by his wife and the second Rees Bowen. According to family tradition, after the death of John Bowen, the eldest son, Maiden Spring passed to the second Rees Bowen. Family tradition states that north of the ell of the present house was a log house built by Rees Bowen I. During the tenure of Rees Bowen II and his wife, Rebecca, a second log addition was made, creating a according to family tradition, a dogtrot form, connected by a breezeway, and it would appear from his will (see below) that his mother continued to occupy the original part. Family tradition holds that the second log section is the present ell.[16]

In 1820, the first year for which the value for improvements is indicated in the land books, Rees Bowen was taxed on a 464-acre tract at Maiden Spring, on which he had buildings worth $800. At this time no other landowner in Tazewell County had buildings worth more than $600, except David Whitley on Clinch River, who had buidings worth $1000. This value did not change during his lifetime, although the main tract of his farm decreased to 374 acres by 1825.[17] After Rees Bowen II's death in 1827 the value of the house and other buildings is very difficult to trace.

Rees and Rebecca Bowen reared three daughters, Lilly (married Rees B. Duff), Levisa (married Hugh Young), and Elizabeth (married Rees Ward). Family tradition states that Rees Bowen II died in 1827 while on a trip selling horses in North Carolina. Rees Bowen II's will was made in 1818 and left "the new end of my dwelling house" together with 100 acres adjoining the house, including his grist mill, to his wife. The remainder of the farm went to his daughters, and his wife's share was to go to them after her death.[18] After his death in 1827, family tradition says the two parts of the house were inhabited by his mother, Levisa Smith Bowen and his wife, Rebecca. Rebecca Bowen remarried in 1829 and moved away.

After the death of Levisa Smith in 1834, her share of the property was divided among Rees Bowen II's daughters. His brother, Henry Bowen, purchased, in 1835, the shares of Lilly Bowen Duff, Elizabeth Bowen Ward, and Rebecca Bowen Cowan, totaling 260 acres. Hugh Young received 60 acres.[19] Henry Bowen's son, Rees Tate Bowen had previously purchased the remaining portions of the farm from the heirs in 1834.[20] It appears his father purchased the remainder for him. The 60-acre parcel retained by Hugh Young, Levisa Bowen's husband, is apparently remembered in the name Hugh Young's Meadow applied to a "boundary" of land south of the house (see map).

Rees Tate Bowen (1809-1879) married Louisa Peery, member of a prominent Tazewell County family. He had attended Abingdon Academy, was appointed a brigadier general in the state militia, and served as a Tazewell County magistrate, Like his father and one of his sons, he served in the Virginia House of Delegates. His term was during the Civil War and lasted from 1863 to 1864. He was elected as a Conservative to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1873 and served one term. In a speech of 1875 he protested the Reconstruction-era Federal military occupation of Louisiana under Sheridan. His principal occupation was that of farmer.[21]

It would appear that Rees Tate Bowen built the present main house at some date after his consolidation of the property. Family tradition holds that the main part of the house was added in 1838 to an existing section, which became part of the ell. The physical form of the interior woodwork and elements of the plan point to this date.

In 1850 Rees T. Bowen, farmer, aged forty-two, and his wife, Louisa, aged thirty, had a household of eight children and personal property worth $40,000.[22] Agricutural census schedules for that year show that Bowen held a total of 700 acres of improved land and 3,300 acres unimproved, worth $40,000, an identical holding, in size and value, to his brother, Henry S. Bowen. The Bowen brothers each held the county's most valuable tracts of land, not all, however, at the Maiden Spring location. Since Rees T. Bowen and his brother, who lived very near each other, showed almost

identical numbers in every category in the census it would appear that they had divided a commonly farmed landholding into halves. Rees T. Bowen grew a variety of crops, but concentrated on cattle and sheep. He and his brother shared fourth place in the county in number of cattle with 250 each (the highest number of cattle was 360). The value of each brother's livestock, $5,850, was third in the county. The Bowen wealth in land and livestock was exponentially higher than that of the majority of Tazewell County's citizens. Most farmers in 1850 held only a few horses, milk cows, sheep, swine, and other cattle on land worth less than $1,000. Only fourteen other landholdings exceeded $10,000 in value and only one other of these held property worth more than $20,000.[23]

In 1860 Bowen held fourteen slaves between the ages of one and fifty, seven males and seven females. He owned real estate worth $73,375.00 and personal property valued at $33,940. His children were listed as Thomas, age twenty-one, a farmer, and Jane, Henry, Reese T., William E., Harriet, all in school and Maria, age 7, the youngest (his wife had died in 1853). Also resident with him was John Carter, an illiterate farm laborer, aged 23.[24]

During the Civil War, Confederate troops camped on the Maiden Spring Farm. A camp was established in the fall of 1862 in the Sugar Camp boundary. This was an advanced position in the defense of the salt works in Saltville, Virginia, and the lead mines in Wythe County, Virginia. The Camp was referred to as "Camp Bowen" in the Civil War diary of Captain Edward O. Guerrant, Company E, 1st Battalion, Kentucky Mounted Rifles, First Brigade, Army of Eastern Kentucky under General Humphrey Marshall.[25] On 30 September 1864 an estimated 5,000 to 8,000 Union troops under the command of General Stephen Burbridge made camp between the homes of Colonel Henry Bowen and General Rees Tate Bowen.[26]

The house and its furnishings still show evidence of the army's occupation, in particular a bullet hole in the north ell door and a portrait slashed by a sword. According to family tradition, one of the Bowen daughters was annoyed when Union officers entered the home and demanded to be fed. While they ate, she took two of their firearms to the attic

and dropped them between the walls of the house. Realizing that the guns were missing, one of the officers slashed the portrait of Col. Henry Bowen and his granddaughter which is still located in the entrance hall. The Guerrant diary asserts that "the Yankees had taken all of General Bowen's negroes, horses, and cattle, etc., and greatly abused and damaged his property."[27]

According to family tradition, Maiden Spring was also the location of the first post office in Tazewell County and served as a distribution point long before an official post office was established. U.S. Postal Service records indicate Maiden Spring ("originally established as The Cove") first served as the location of a post office in 1833. The name was changed to Maiden Spring in 1840 when Rees T. Bowen was appointed postmaster. He and his brother, Henry, and son, Thomas, and other neighbors took turns serving in the position. The post office was discontinued on July 18, 1866, but reestablished on June 5, 1872. It was permanently discontinued on April 18, 1873.[28] A small community grew up downstream of the spring in the late nineteenth century. A general store (still standing in poor condition) was located northeast of the house on land outside the nominated property. A school was built to the southwest of the house on the main road (part of the nominated property). A mill, operated by the Bowens, was located near the present concrete mill dam on the eastern edge of the nominated property.

Another family tradition asserts that the post office was housed in the old part of the log house, where Levisa Smith Bowen lived after the death of her husband. The post office building was used as a kitchen during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, before the creation of a kitchen in the north end of the ell. It was situated immediately north of the main house and family members remember the two dwellings being connected by a covered passage. The kitchen was demolished in the early twentieth century and stones from its large chimney were salvaged to create a springhouse in 1926.[29] This stone room later served as a refrigerated room attached to the north end of the ell.

The Bowen household in 1870 included Rees T. Bowen, with personal property valued at $6,610, his daughter and housekeeper, Jane, and his sons Henry, Rees T. and (William) Edward, farmers with individually listed land and personal property values. Also part of the household were five black employees, Frank Jones, aged twenty-two, and John Robertson, aged eighteen, and David Crowley, age twenty, laborers, and Annie Brown, aged twenty-one, and Lydia Brown, aged eighteen, domestic servants.[30]

Agricultural census schedules indicate that the families that produced the greatest agricultural wealth in 1850 continued to lead the county in 1870. In that year Rees T. Bowen held 800 improved and 800 unimproved acres valued at $30,000. He had replaced slave labor, at least in part, with hands earning a combined annual wage of $1,000. He continued to grow small quantities of a broad range of crops, including wheat, rye, peas and beans, and hay, but, like his neighbors, chiefly grew corn. He produced a wide variety of other agricultural products, including wool, butter, cheese, wine, and maple sugar, and was one the most diversified of Tazewell County's farmers, although cattle remained his principal source of income. His farm, the fifth highest in land value, garnered the third highest total product in Tazewell County (his brother Henry now had the county's fourth most valuable tract and the highest product value).[31]

General Rees Tate Bowen's son, Rees Tate Bowen II (1845-1917), inherited the farm after his father's death in 1879. He and his wife, Mary Ann Crockett, member of a prominent Wythe County family, left the farm to their son, Rees Tate Bowen III (1878-1964), who married Mary Cecil Ward of Tazewell County. In 1926 they made the principal changes which the house has undergone in the twentieth century. The L-shaped rear porch was enclosed, adding a bathroom, sitting area, and sleeping porch. Hardwood floors were added on the first floor and doors cut between the ell, the rear porch, and main house. The passage in the ell and the wall which separated it from the former north ell room were removed. A new dining room was located just north of the main section and a new indoor kitchen was created in the remaining space to the north.

The old schoolhouse, located southeast of the house, was purchased from the school district in about 1900 and converted for use as a tenant house. Rees Tate Bowen III also purchased the site of the nearby mill and the mill pond in the early 1940s.[32] Since that time his son and grandson, both named Rees Tate Bowen, have made very few changes. The original decorative exterior woodwork has been carefully retained. The two main porches have been accurately restored and the outbuildings maintained.

One of the property's most important features is the preservation of a system of named field enclosures known as boundaries dating from the nineteenth century. The inclusion among these boundaries of Hugh Young's Meadow indicates that some of them date at least from the 1830s, when Hugh Young received a sixty-acre tract (see above). The survival of boundary names is perhaps an important clue to regional agricultural practice. While other farmers in the immediate region continue to use the term boundary, including the Smith family, at Smithfield in Russell County (VDHR file #83-12), the boundary names are a rare survival in the larger context of Southwest Virginia. The mixed agriculture pursued at the farm during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries is reflected in the names used for boundaries. These include such terms as pasture, field, new ground, and meadow (see Section Seven for more information).

Notes

1 Goodridge Wilson, "Frontier Woman Had Good Preparation for Role," Roanoke Times, 31 July, 1972, n.p.

2 Wilson, "Frontier Woman."

3 Charles B. Coule, Wilburn Waters, 1879, reprinted in Lewis Preston Summers, History of Southwest Virginia, 1769-1800 (Kingsport, Tennessee: Kingsport Press, 1929) 1573-4.

4 Copies of surveys in collection of Irene Bowen Wendell.

5 Gordon Aronhime, "Historic Home May Be 'Most Unique in Virginia,'" Bristol Herald-Courier, 14 August, 1977, C-1.

6 Wilson, "Frontier Woman."

7 Goodridge Wilson, "The Men of the Frontier," Roanoke Times, n.d., n.p., in collection of Irene Bowen Wendell.

8 Aronhime.

9 Arthur Campbell, letter to Daniel Smith,, 1774, quoted in Aronhime.

10 Campbell.

11 William C. Pendleton, History of Tazewell County and Southwest Virginia (Richmond, Virginia: W.C. Hill Printing Co., 1920) 288.

12 Aronhime.

13 Anne Bowen Smith, personal communication, 1993.

14 Summers, 969.

15 Aronhime.

16 Irene Bowen Wendell, personal communication, 1993.

17 Tazewell County Land Books, 1820-1827.

18 Tazewell County Will Book 1, 239.

19 Tazewell County Deed Book 6, 219.

20 Tazewell County Deed Book 6, 205-6, 216.

21 C. Bascom Slemp, compiler and T.W. Preston, ed. Addresses of Famous Southwest Virginians (Bristol, Virginia-Tennessee: The King Printing Co., 1939) 283.

22 U.S. Population Census Schedules, 1850.

23 U.S. Agricultural Census Schedules, 1850.

24 U.S. Population Census Schedules, 1860.

25 Captain Edward O. Guerrant, "Diary," 1860s, ms at Crab Orchard Museum, Tazewell, Virginia, 1179.

26 George Dallas Mosgrove, Kentucky Cavaliers in Dixie (Jackson, Tennessee: McCowart-Mercer Press, 1957) 197, 204, 210, and "The Battle of Saltville, Virginia," Blue and Gray Magazine (August, 1991) 57.

27 Guerrant, 1179.

28 Melody Selvage, Research Associate, Office of the Postmaster General, letter to Irene Bowen Wendell, 15 August, 1991.

29 Wendell.

30 U.S. Population Census Schedules, 1870.

31 U.S. Agricultural Census Schedules, 1870.

32 Wendell.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References

E 17/439360/4098330
F 17/439720/4098210
G 17/439760/4097830
H 17/439010/4097270
I 17/439230/4096910
J 17/439010/4096960
K 17/439020/4096650
L 17/438670/4096660
M 17/438630/4097140
N 17/438820/4097330
O 17/438810/4098240
P 17/438660/4098830

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is described as follows: Beginning at a point delineated by UTM reference point A 17/438420/4099200 on the south bank of the Little River, proceed northeasterly along the river bank to a point delineated by UTM reference point B 17/438770/4099900, thence southeasterly along the bank of the river to a point delineated by UTM reference point C 17/439080/4099210, thence easterly to a point delineated by UTM reference point D 17/439140/4099210 on the western right-of-way of State Route 91, thence southerly along the western right-of-way to a point delineated by UTM reference point E 17/439360/4098330, thence eastsoutheasterly to a point delineated by UTM reference point F 17/439720/4098210, thence southerly to a point delineated by UTM reference point G 17/439760/4097830, thence southwesterly to a point delineated by UTM reference point H 17/439010/4097270, thence southeasterly to a point delineated by UTM reference point I 17/439230/4096910, thence westnorthwesterly to a point delineated by UTM reference point J 17/439010/4096960, thence southerly to a point delineated by UTM reference point K 17/439020/4096650, thence westerly to a point delineated by UTM reference point L 17/438670/4096660, thence northerly to a point delineated by UTM reference point M 17/438630/4097140, thence northeasterly to a point delineated by UTM reference point N 17/438820/4097330, thence northerly to a point delineated by UTM reference point O 17/438810/4098240, thence northnorthwesterly to a point delineated by UTM reference point P 17/438660/4098830, and thence to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries include the farm complex and the system of named fields or "boundaries" that have historically been associated with Maiden Spring.

All photographs are of:

MAIDEN SPRING
Tazewell County, Virginia
VDHR File Number: 92-2
Gibson Worsham, photographer

All negatives are stored with the Department of Historic Resources collection at the Virginia State Library and Archives

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Southeast (front) facade of main house from southeast
NEG. NO.: 13087-27
PHOTO 1 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Northeast (side) elevation of house from northeast
NEG. NO.: 13087-26
PHOTO 2 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Detail of southeast (front) porch from southeast
NEG. NO.: 13088-13
PHOTO 3 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Detail of northwest porch from west
NEG. NO.: 13088-19
PHOTO 4 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Mantel in east room from west
NEG. NO.: 13088-05
PHOTO 5 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Mantel in west room from east
NEG. NO.: 13088-01
PHOTO 6 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Stair in passage from southwest
NEG. NO.: 13088-02
PHOTO 7 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Detail of stair in passage
NEG. NO.: 13088-03
PHOTO 8 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Interior of main entry door on southwest front
NEG. NO.: 13088-04
PHOTO 9 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Mantel in present kitchen
NEG. NO.: 13088-07
PHOTO 10 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: view from northwest of horse barn, henhouse, and granary
NEG. NO.: 13087-23
PHOTO 11 of 16

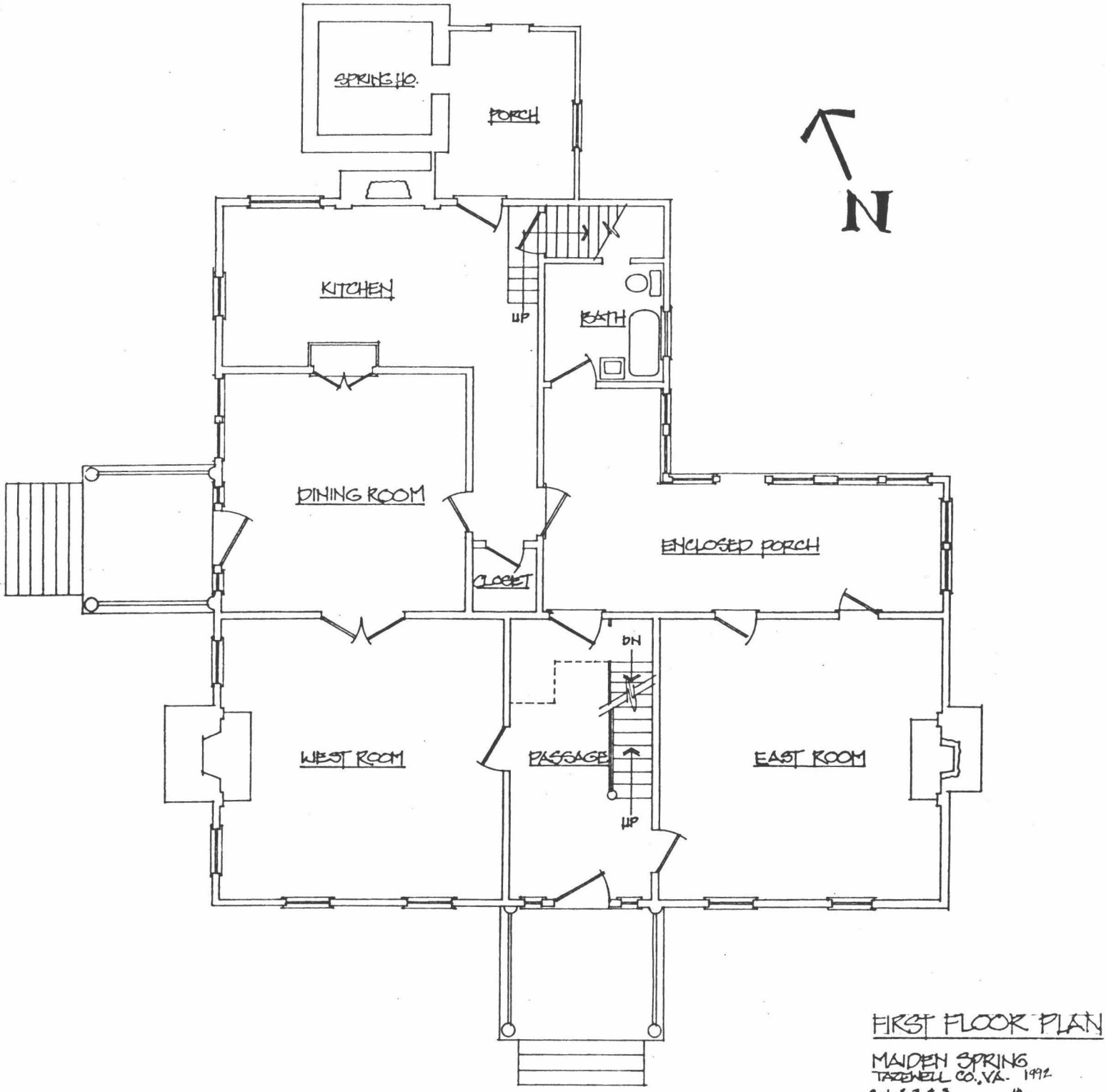
DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Southeast corner of summer kitchen from southeast
NEG. NO.: 13087-24
PHOTO 12 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: South front of slave house from south
NEG. NO.: 13087-28
PHOTO 13 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Southwest elevation of barn from southwest
NEG. NO.: 13087-21
PHOTO 14 of 16

DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Barn framing detail
NEG. NO.: 13087-18
PHOTO 15 of 16

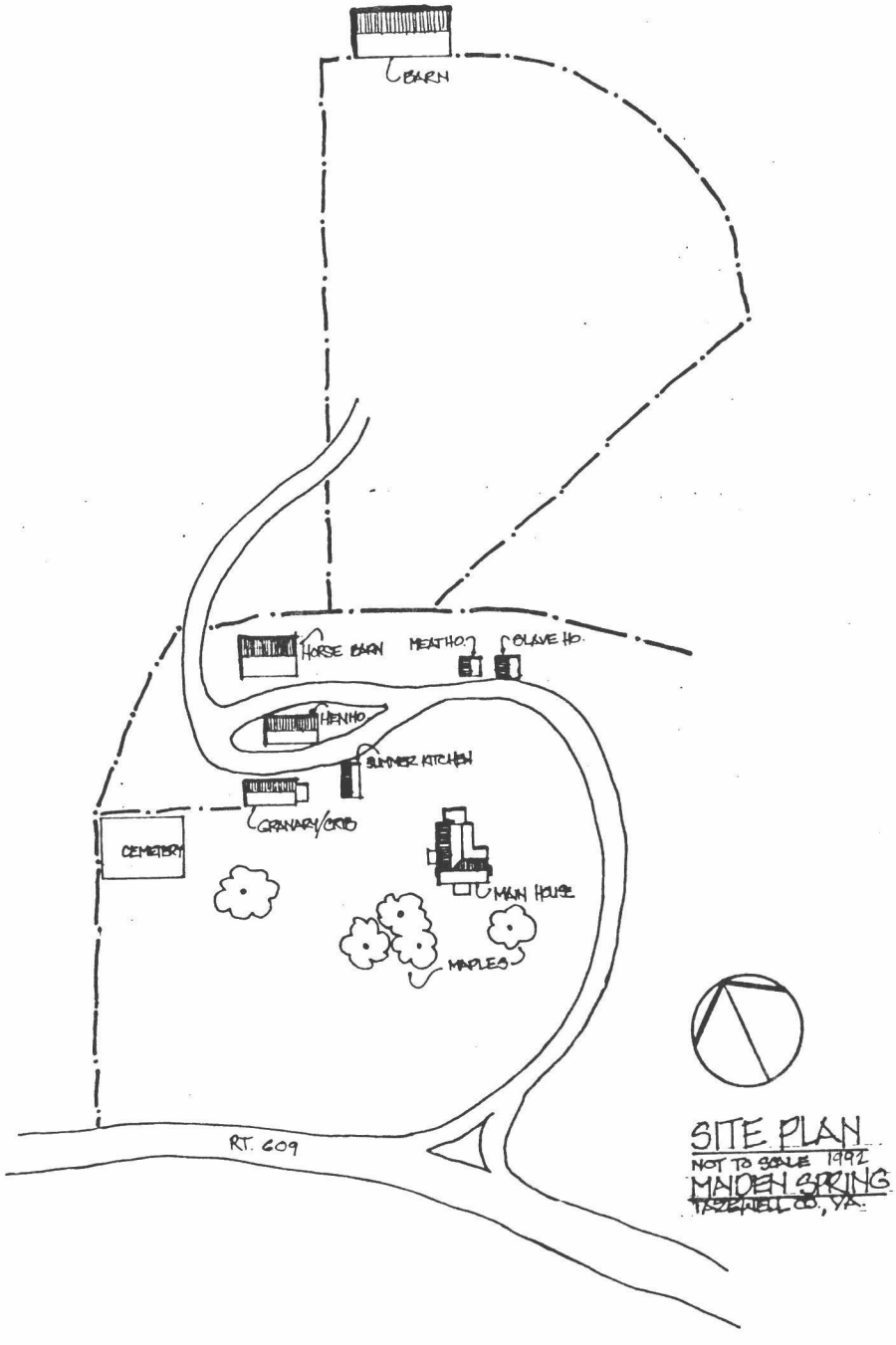
DATE: July, 1992
VIEW OF: Southwest corner of tenant house (relocated schoolhouse) from southwest
NEG. NO.: 13087-30
PHOTO 16 of 16



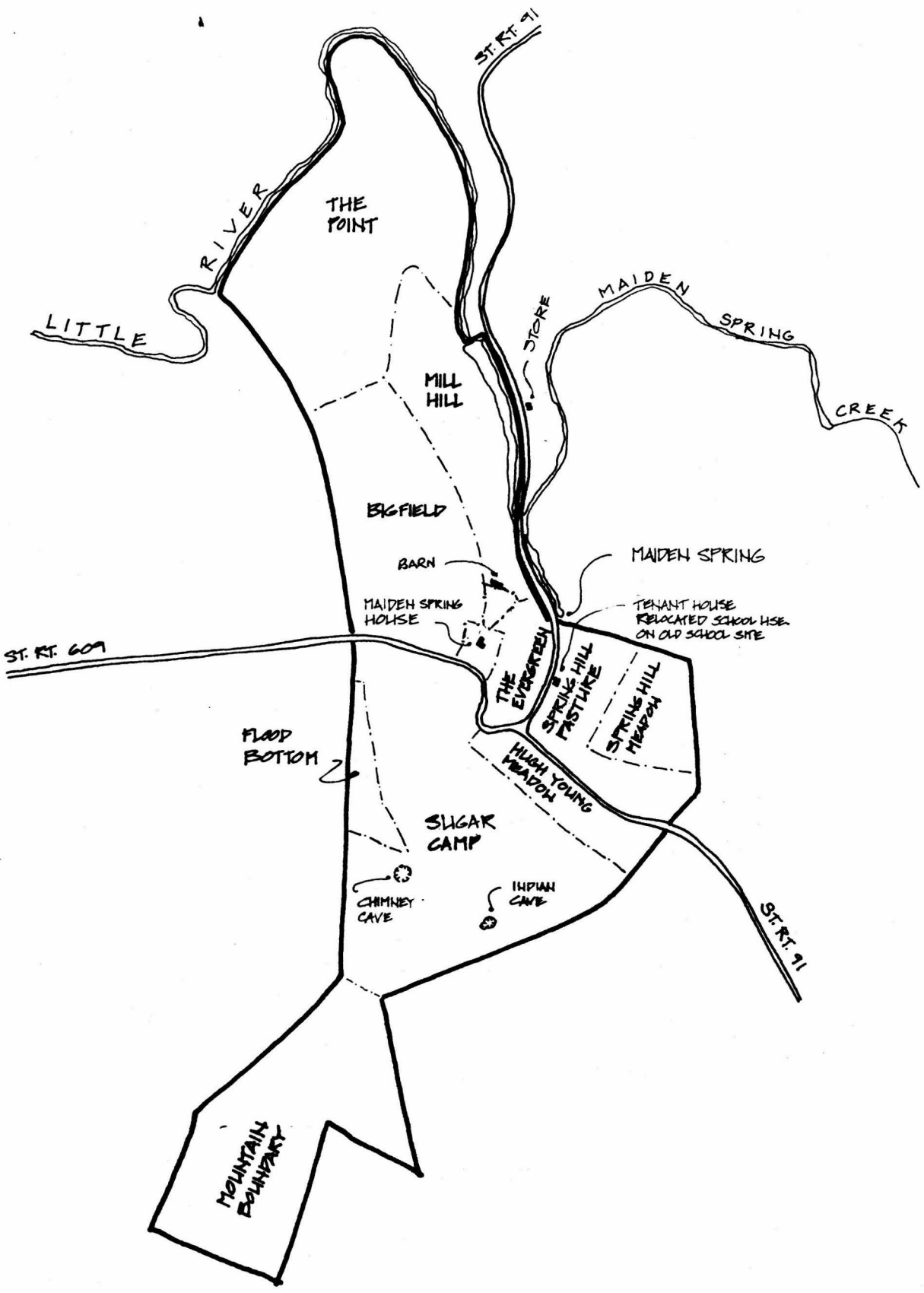
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

MAIDEN SPRING
TAZEWELL CO., VA. 1992

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FEET



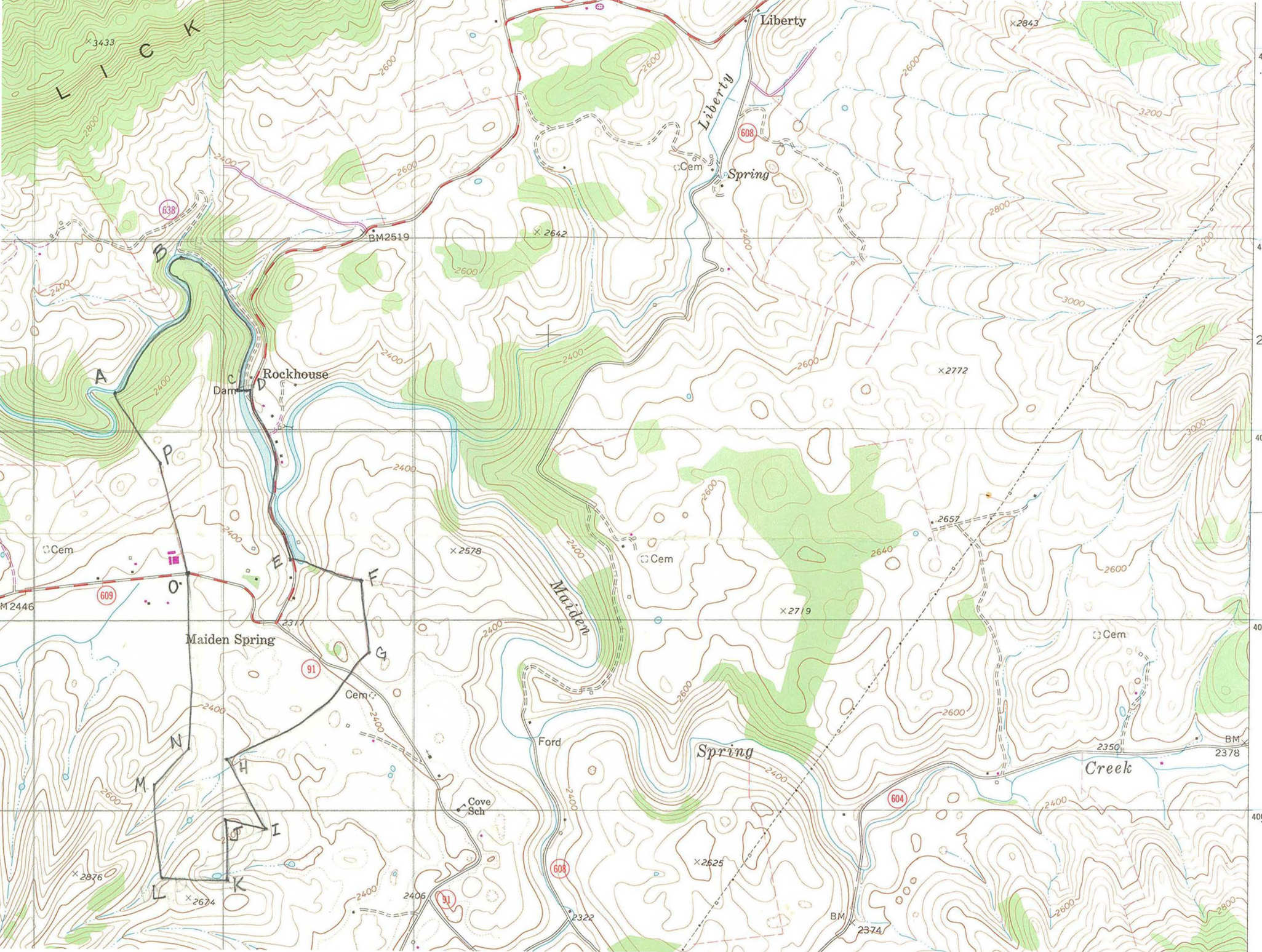
SITE PLAN
NOT TO SCALE 1992
MAIDEN SPRING
TAZEWELL CO., VA.



MAIDEN SPRING

TAZWELL CO. VIRGINIA

1992
not to scale



MAIDEN SPRING
TAZEWELL CO. VA
UTM References:

A	17	438420	4099200
B	17	438770	4099900
C	17	439080	4099210
D	17	439140	4099210
E	17	439360	4098330
F	17	439720	4098210
G	17	439760	4097830
H	17	439010	4097270
I	17	439230	4096910
J	17	439010	4096960
K	17	439020	4096650
L	17	438670	4096660
M	17	438630	4097140
N	17	438820	4097330
O	17	438810	4098240
P	17	438660	4098830