

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

William Allison Residence

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Pa. Rte. 45, One mile west of Spring Mills

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Spring Mills

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

23rd

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

42

COUNTY

Centre

CODE

027

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John A. Green

STREET & NUMBER

R. D. #1

CITY, TOWN

Spring Mills

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

Bellefonte

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical Reflections of Centre County

DATE

1970, 1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Centre County Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN

Bellefonte

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William and Luranna Allison Residence is a three-story (the third story enveloped by the steep roof) brick house of Victorian Gothic inspiration built by Mr. William M. Allison prior to his marriage to Luranna B. Higman on June 2, 1880. The house was built by Mr. Allison as a wedding gift to his bride. The house stands today in excellent condition with relatively slight alteration. Four out-buildings remain on the property (a two-story, summer kitchen, a small barn, a carriage house, and a fruit cellar) and contribute to the charm and integrity of the setting.

The house in plan is basically rectangular measuring roughly 42 feet across the facade and 32 feet in depth. The facade, however, is irregular in plan with a recessed central entrance bay and a projected three-sided bay to its right. A foyer and impressive stairway form the focal center of the interior space.

The house was designed with a consistent emphasis on Gothic verticality and whimsy is effectively conveyed on the third story with the varieties of gable ends, bargeboards and windows. The eaves are punctuated with a suggestion of exposed rafters. Three shaped-brick chimneys rise from these steep slopes. Below, on the front of the house, the small entrance porch sits as if in a chasm. Its attenuated proportion and open tracery present an effective foil to the massive aspects of the house.

The interior of the house was divided into eleven rooms and a bath. Its principal effect derives from the extensive use of native walnut in the stairway, in tall sliding double doors, and in trim. The stairway begins perpendicular to the main entrance and turns counterclockwise with a slight spiral substituting for a landing. It is closed string with stair-ends containing long recessed oval panels with moldings. Transition from wall to ceiling on the first floor is afforded by gilt cornices of pole and banner design with stylized foliate bosses. The three original marble mantelpieces remain downstairs. The second floor features the upper foyer with double glass doors leading to the balcony and bedrooms with original built-in closets.

Allison added a two-story frame extension to the back of the house in 1890 providing additional kitchen space and servants' quarters. This addition deteriorated over the years and was torn away about ten years ago.

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William Allison Residence
Centre County, Pennsylvania

7

1

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Circa 1960 the little stoop to the left of the main entrance was removed, and the windmill was finally dismantled. The bank barn had been removed in the late 1940's. Other changes include the removal of the iron fence which surrounded the yard, and the elimination of tracery at gable ends and from the entablature of the side porch. There have been very few interior changes.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William T. Hallett, Arch.
William Allison, Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William and Luranna Allison Residence is a delightful example of rural American Gothic architecture. It was the first house in Centre County to be built with central heating and was furnished with every modern convenience. Nearly all materials used in the construction of the house are believed to have been furnished from the local resources of the Allison Farms. It is also an excellent example of the widespread influence of 19th century builder's guides. Mr. Allison copied almost exactly plans for a Gothic house printed in A. J. Bicknell's Detail, Cottage and Constructive Architecture, New York, 1873. Allison's only deviation from architect's William T. Halletts' drawings was the use of brick instead of clapboard siding.

William M. Allison (1850-1922) was a man with varied business interests and high stature in the Penns Valley region. His first business venture was the management of a woolen mill. Later he managed a grist mill at Spring Mills, supervised the extensive farming interests of his family, and entered the coal business. The Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania (1898) Describes Allison as a "substantial businessman, and an honored and influential citizen." Further, it says that he "believes in making the proper use of all the good things of life, and his elegant home near Spring Mills, one of the finest in Penn's Valley, is supplied with every possible convenience."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania. Chicago, J. H. Beers and Company, 1898.

Wilson, Patricia. Untitled report on the Allison residence prepared for John A. Green and concluded 1976. Bibliography

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 28,23,60 4,512,575,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE William K. Watson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

1976

STREET & NUMBER

Third and North Streets

TELEPHONE

(717) 787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

Nov. 1, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

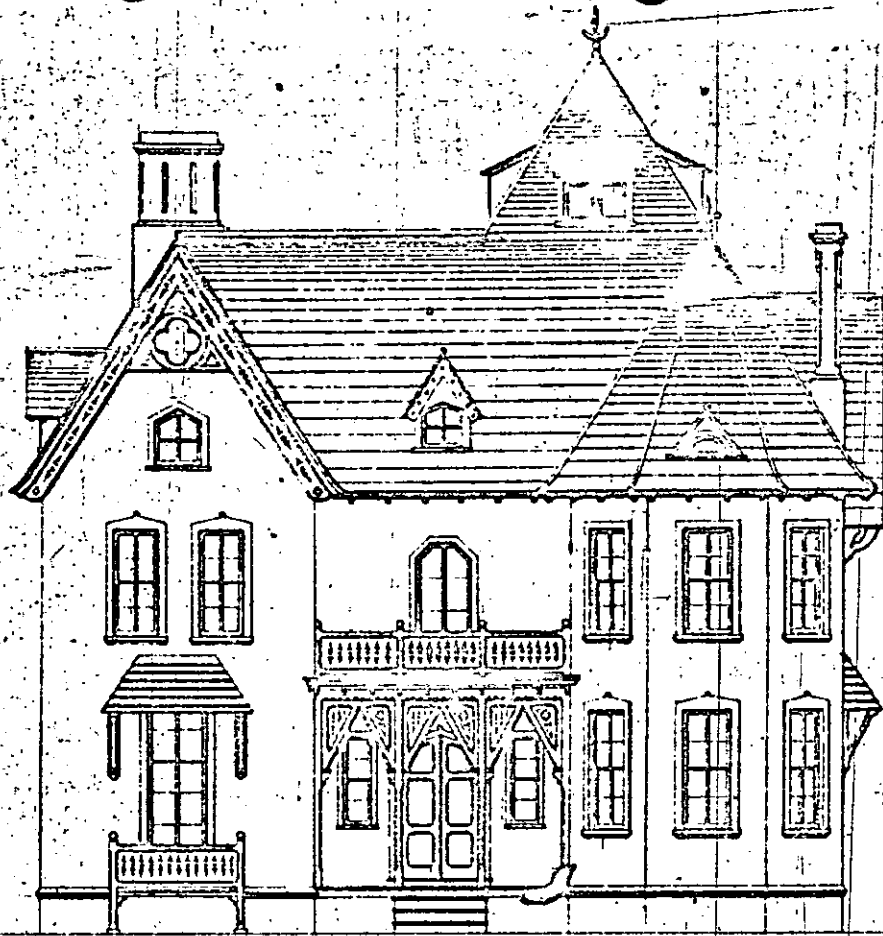
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

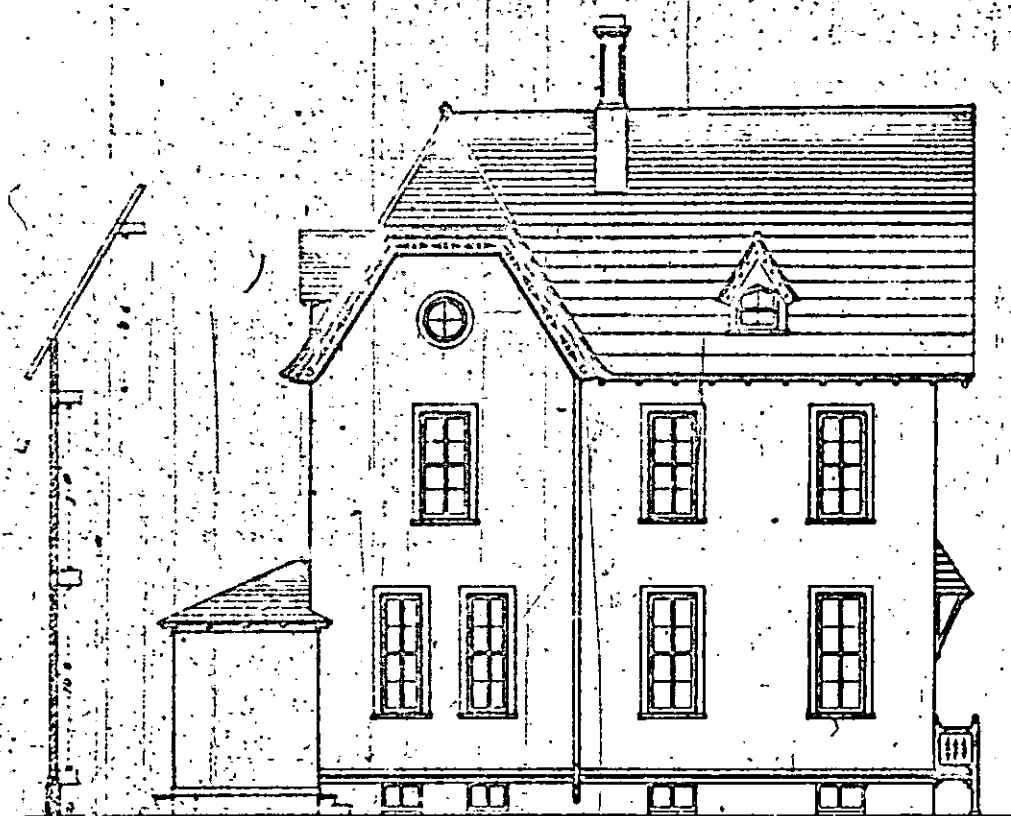


FRONT ELEVATION



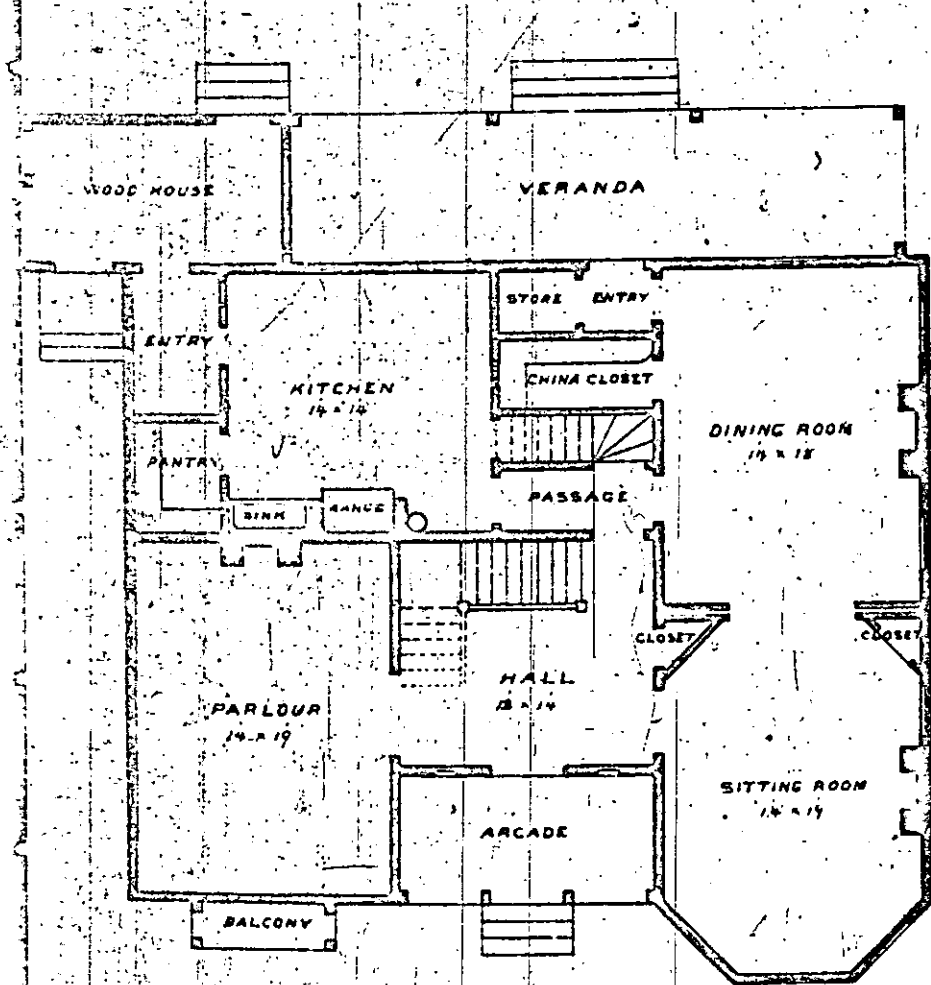
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Constructive Architecture. New
York, 1873.



SIDE ELEVATION

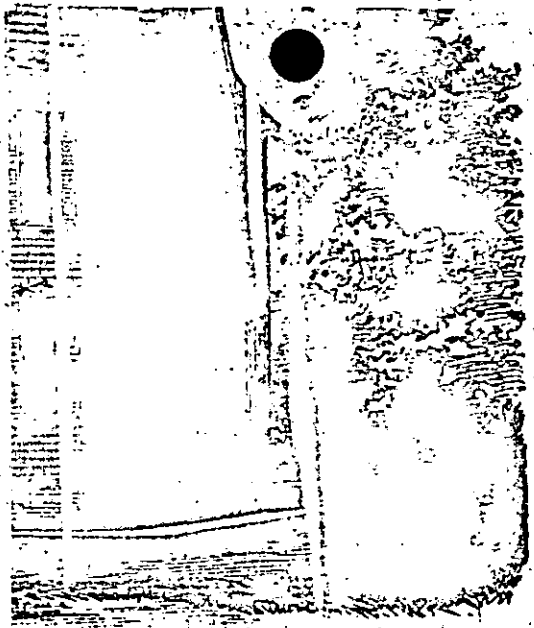




— FIRST FLOOR —

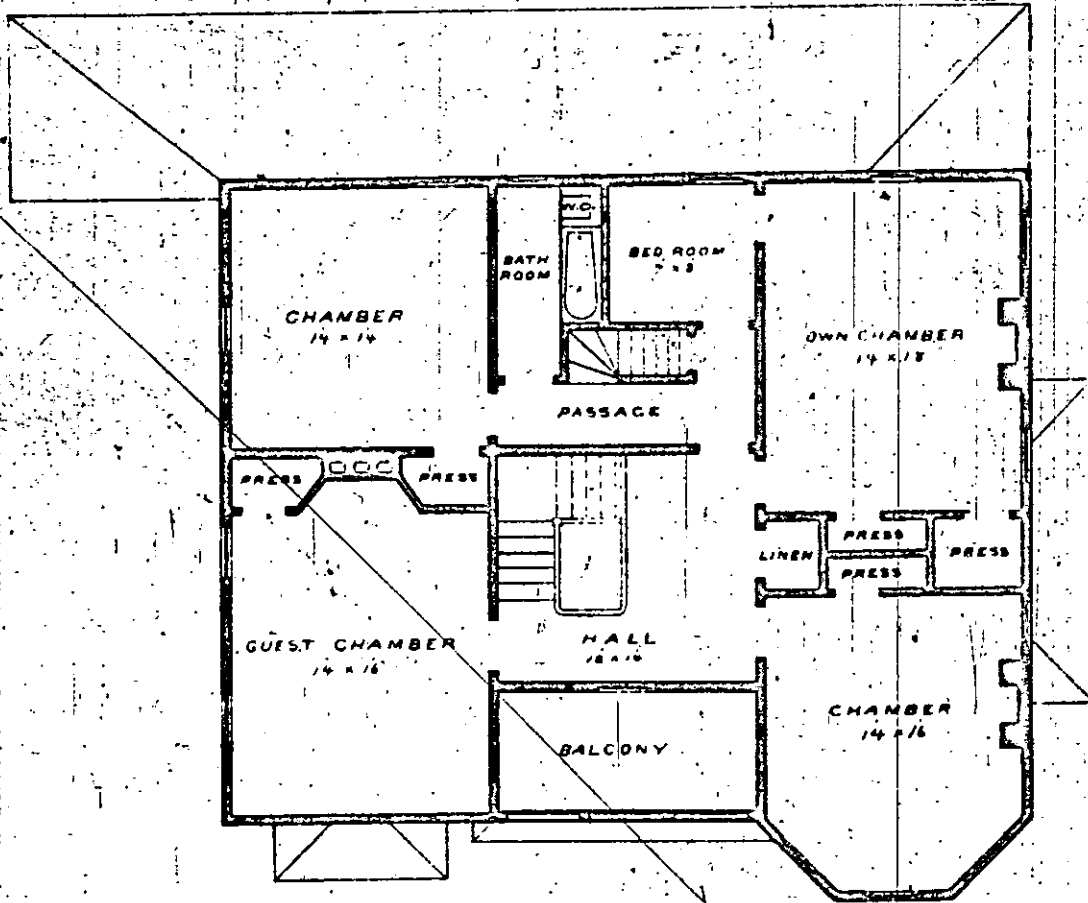
SCALE 1/8 IN. TO 1 FOOT

DE
DOMEST



FROM:

A. J. Bicknell. Detail Cottage and
Constructive Architecture. New
York, 1873.



— SECOND FLOOR —

SIGN IN THE
IC GOTHIC STYLE,

WILLIAM T. HALLETT, ARCHITECT,
NR III BROADWAY, N.Y.

5465 (NW)
(MINGOVILLE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF EN
TOPOGRAPHIC

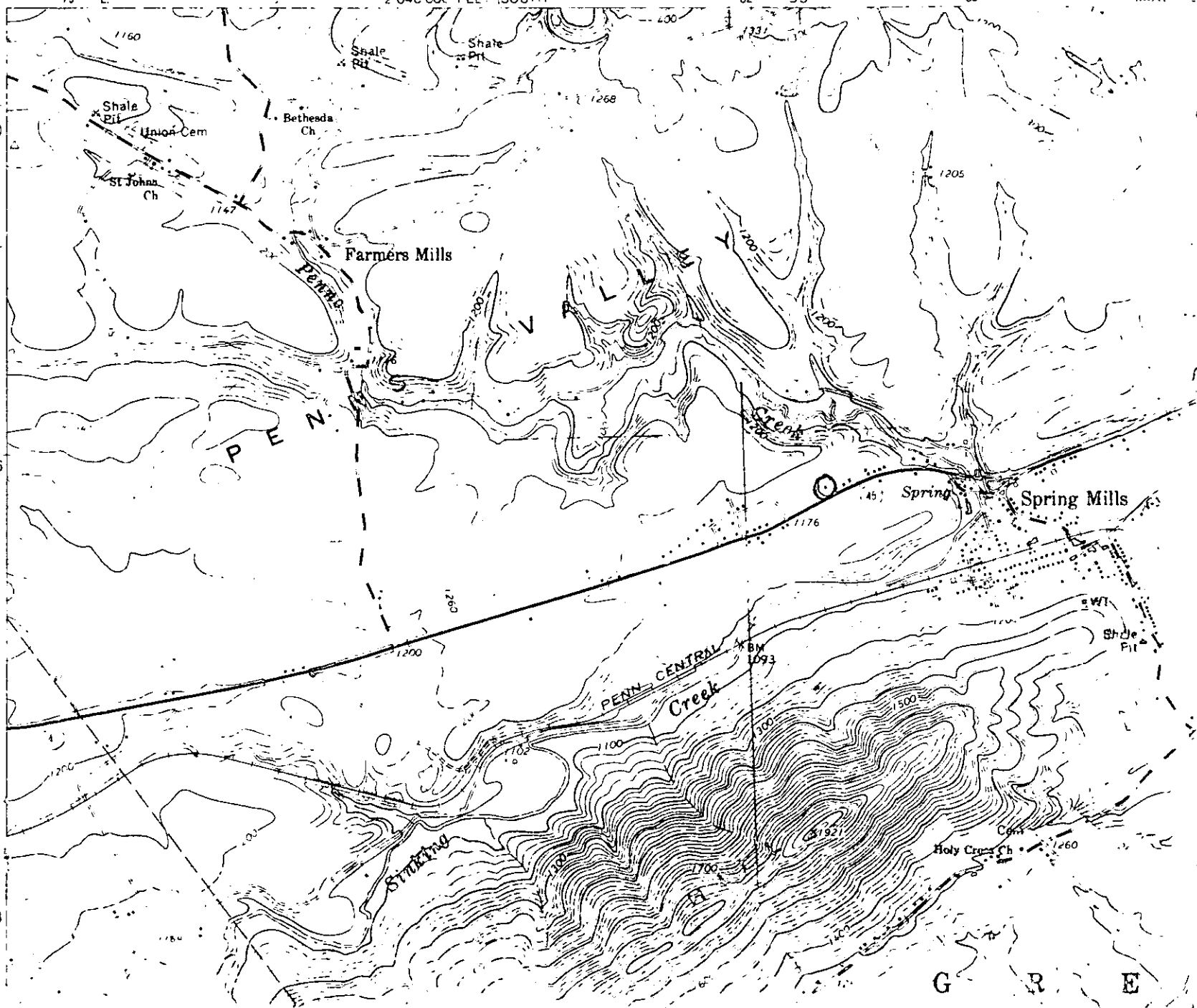
77° 37' 30" 279000m E 2 040 000 FEET (SOUTH) 282 35' 283 (M.A.)

560 000 FEET
(SOUTH)

4527000m N

4526

4524



Thru Logan Ridge
18/20/26/45/57/60
04/5/25/31/32/33/34/35

G R E