

EXP. 12/31/81

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only
received
date entered

1. Name

historic Boonecroft

and/or common Boonecroft

2. Location

street & number R.D. #2, Box 379 (on Oley Line Road (T440)) N/A not for publication

city, town Douglassville N/A vicinity of congressional district 6

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Berks code 011

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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Severin Fayerman

street & number R.D. #2, Box 379

city, town Douglassville N/A vicinity of state PA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berks County Courthouse

street & number 6th and Court Streets

city, town Reading, state PA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Berks County Historic Sites Survey
title (part of Pennsylvania Survey Program) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 (Berks County), 1982 (Pennsylvania) federal state county local

depository for survey records Berks County Conservancy - 960 Old Mill Road

city, town Wyomissing, state PA

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date 1720, 1733

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Boonecroft in Exeter Township, Pennsylvania consists of a log cabin site marked by fireplace and chimney remains and commemorated by a stone marker, a stone farmhouse with additions, a springhouse/guest-house, a smokehouse, a barn with garages, a picnic shelter and two farmponds.

The log cabin site (Photo #1) lies a couple hundred yards northwest of the main house and about one hundred feet from Oley Line Road (T 440). A chimney and fireplace constructed of rough fieldstone and in good condition remain as evidence of this site. Near the road lies a stone commemorative marker placed by the Historical Society of Berks County which reads as follows:

George Boone Log House Site
Erected 1720 by George 3rd and Mary Milton (Maugridge) Boone
Razed by the elements (except fireplace and chimney) in 1924
George Boone 3rd born near Exeter Devonshire England 1666.
Squire Boone his son was born in Bradnich Devonshire
England Nov. 25 1696
Settled on a farm 3 miles south of here where his son
Daniel Boone the - Kentucky Pioneer - was born Nov. 2, 1734
Stone House on this tract was built by
George Boone and his wife Mary 1733.

The stone farmhouse (Photo #2) is a two and a half story Colonial English style structure. It is constructed of rough-cut fieldstone (predominately limestone) with the corners of the building and its western chimney quoined with contrasting dark sandstone. It is gable roofed with slate shingles and brick chimneys at both ends. The eastern chimney is flush to the building while the western chimney partially extends from the facade with rough stone construction must below the ridge line. The original portion of the house is three bays wide and one bay deep, as exhibited on the southeast facade. The windows are 9/6 lights on the first floor and 6/6 lights on the second floor, double-hung with two panel shutters only on the first floor, and of plain features - as shown most clearly on the southeast facade (Photo #1 & #2). The northeast and southeast doors are plain featured and covered by hoods. A porch roof extends the entire length of the northwestern facade.

The most striking architectural feature of the main house is the addition to the northwestern side. This addition begins at the ridge line, developing a lesser sloped roof than the southern side, and extends to the roof line then vertically to ground level. It is constructed of the same type and size of fieldstone as the original section and provides two additional rooms. The original roof line and gable end returns are still evident. This addition creates a "saltbox" shape to the overall structure. The windows are predominately 6/6 lights. Unique narrow windows composed of multiple leaded glass panes are also featured in this addition (see Photo #7). According to a local restoration craftsman who worked on this property, a half-timbered wall separates this addition from the original core.¹

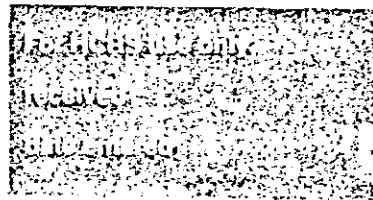
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The interior of the main house exhibits a number of early English features along with sensitive restoration efforts and appropriate furnishings. Of particular interest are the many doors of original fabric with 18th century latches and hinges (Photo #8). There are four fireplaces in the original section, one at each end of the structure and on both floors. The largest, with a massive lintel, is on the southwestern end of the first floor (Photo #9). The floor in the dining room (in the northeast section of the old addition) is composed of 12-14 inch black walnut planks. Within the attic diagonal pegging can be seen. Overall, the interior character of an early English Colonial building has been largely maintained and recently enhanced.

On the southern edge of the stone farmhouse is an addition built at a much later date than the main section. It is one story, of rough stone construction, gabled roofed with wooden shingles and no chimneys, and three bays wide by one bay deep.

To the southwest of the main house is a springhouse/guest house (Photos #3 & #5). It is joined to the main house by a recently constructed open passageway. This rough-stone constructed building is two and a half stories high and 4 bays wide by 2 bays deep. Quoins accentuate the building's corners. It is gable roofed with wooden shingles and chimneys flush at both gable ends. The windows are plain featured with 9/9 lights. Some are ornamented with three panel shutters. The entrance on the north side features a two light transom. The first floor is the springhouse and below ground level. According to accounts², this spring has flowed since the early construction of the main house. The second or ground level floor and the half story under the roof line are now used for guest accommodations. The extensive fenestration on three sides and the narrowness of the windows attest to the later construction of this building c. 1860.³ The spring flows from the western portion through a two-part walled canal or mill race approximately 50 feet long then through the ponds and the meadow to the Monocacy Creek.

Just west of the springhouse/guesthouse is a smokehouse (Photo #5). It is a one-story structure, and, as are the other buildings, it is constructed of rough fieldstone. It is gable roofed with two chimneys, one central and one at the end. The roofing material is red clay tiles characteristic of the Oley Valley. This structure contains an arched or behive oven and a smokehouse to the rear or western end.

The barn on the property (Photo #6) lies between the log house site and the main house complex. Due to collapsing roof support it was reconstructed in the mid 1900's. It is banked with lower stone construction and an upper section of vertical boards, and a gable roof with wooden shingles. The roof line is of three different levels, with the lowest level next to the road containing the garage. The lower level apart from the garage exhibits several early features such as horizontal wooden ventilators.

To the west of the smokehouse and north of the spring course is a picnic shelter. This shelter stands on the site of a tannery once operated by the early Boone family.

Extensive renovations to the property were done from 1944 to 1965. These changes emphasized the original fabric through the removal of stucco and other coverings and provided modern conveniences such as electricity and water. The integrity of the property was retained throughout this work.

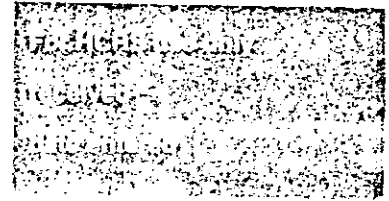
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Boonecroft is situated approximately ten miles east of Reading, Pa. in a rural setting. However, the township in which it is situated is among the fastest growing in Berks County. If this growth continues at its current rate of 35.9% (1970-1980), the setting which complements this outstanding site will be threatened.

- 1) Thomas Haas, Personal Communication, 11/18/81.
- 2) Mrs. John A. Beard, Homestead of George Boone, III, Built 1733 (Reading, Pa.: By the Author, 1965), page unknown.
- 3) Ibid.

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/		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1720, 1733 **Builder/Architect** George Boone, III

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Boonecroft in Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania is an excellent example of early Colonial English rural architecture and remarkable as one of the earliest English style structures beyond the Philadelphia area. It is, furthermore, historically significant as the homestead of the early Boone family in America - a family whose members were notable pioneers in our country's settlement.

The English immigrants to Pennsylvania initially settled in the Philadelphia area, as the result of the establishment of a place of refuge for Quakers by William Penn. Through treaties with the native indians, Penn formed three counties - Philadelphia, Bucks, and Chester - which extended from the Delaware River to the Blue Mountains, including what is now Berks County. Most of the early English settlers stayed in the Philadelphia vicinity, while only a few pioneers ventured into the further reaches of these original counties. German settlers, also seeking religious freedom and places to establish new communities, largely immigrated just north and west of the Philadelphia area. A cultural separation of settlement areas developed. However, amid those areas predominately settled by the Germans were a few isolated English communities. In these more remote areas the English were a minority but were also the political leaders due to the power of William Penn and his family. Such was the case for George Boone III who came to America via Philadelphia in 1717 and later ventured within the principally Germanic area of the Oley Valley and established Boonecroft.

George Boone III was a Quaker and it may be that, due to this affiliation, he was a friend of William Penn and was persuaded by him to emigrate. After living in the Philadelphia area (Abington and then North Wales) for about three years he finally settled in Oley Township, Philadelphia County, now Exeter Township, Berks County. He took out a warrant for land in Oley containing 400 acres in 1718, but this tract was not patented until 1734. In 1720, at the age of 54, he moved to the Boonecroft site where he built a log cabin. In this house he reared the last six of his nine children and established the home of the early Boone family.

In 1733 he built a stone dwelling near to his log cabin, but for some reason he and his wife never moved into this newer more expansive structure. Instead he turned over the stone home and some of the lands to his son James in 1734 and continued to live in the cabin. In 1738 the remaining homestead lands were later transmitted to his son James. The log cabin burned in 1924, leaving only a chimney and fireplace. This site is now commemorated by a large plaque erected by the Historical Society of Berks County in 1925.

The English Quaker and Germanic settlers built structures of strikingly similar simplistic design but with certain distinguishable differences. The early domestic architecture of the English was generally of a very human scale, with each space and element, as well as the juxtaposition of spaces, closely related to the individual. The Germanic domestic architecture, on the other hand, is more massive in character.¹ Differences were also

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apparent in floor plan and chimney placement. These differences can be readily seen in the vicinity of Boonecroft where its English features can be contrasted with the features of the remains of the early surrounding German settlement. Though the predominant material of the area is fieldstone, usually limestone, the smaller scale and more articulated features of Boonecroft readily give it architectural distinction. Such features include the small dimensions and meagerness of fenestration, contrasting quoins on both the corners of the main house and its chimneys, and its simple interior woodwork and moldings. This example of rural English architecture has retained its integrity and is even more unique because of its distance from the Philadelphia area at the time of its construction.

The Boone family, stemming from the initial settlement at Boonecroft, proved to be a remarkable family in American history. From its pioneering beginning in which George Boone III settled amid a predominately Germanic community, this family has epitomized the character of American settlers:

"The Boone Family gave generation after generation to the best interests of American colonization and citizenship. . . Not the sword and gilded snuff-box, but rather the musket and woodman's axe were the symbols of this rugged family of pioneers... In pioneer settlements, its members became part of the industrious, home-building element which has so largely determined the eventual character of our great western states."²

Members of the Boone family were among the first explorers and settlers in our country's westward expansion. It has been noted that:

"From this region [Boonecroft] have gone out Boones to the south, west, and northwest until now their descendents can be traced to almost every state from Pennsylvania and North Carolina to Missouri and Kansas and even beyond."³

This diffusion and exploration of the Boone family occurred quite rapidly, attesting to their strong pioneering spirit. A migration map of the family (Map #1) shows this movement as far as Missouri within the second and third generations of George Boone III.

The most nationally famous of the early Boone family is Daniel Boone - commonly known as the Kentucky frontiersman - who was the grandson of George Boone III. Also of note in later generations were Jesse Boone, son of Daniel and a member of the Missouri Legislature in 1820, and Alphonso Boone, Daniel's grandson and one of the early pioneers of Oregon who went there in 1846.

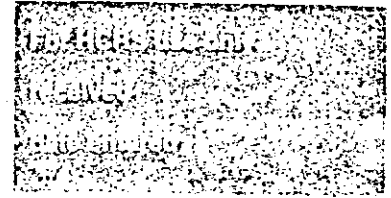
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For more than a century after the settlement of Boonecrott, it still remained the family homestead for the numerous and diffuse members of the Boone family. Descendents of George Boone III continued to own the property until the mid 1800's. This continuity created strong affiliations even among the far reaching pioneers of the family. Daniel Boone, as an example, returned twice to the area after his family left in 1750. Today the Boone Family Association, although centered in Seattle, Washington, continues to regard Boonecrott in Pennsylvania as the homestead of the Boone family in America.

Although Boonecrott is the ancestral home for the distinguished Boone family line which includes Daniel Boone and other notable pioneers, other Boone family historical sites have been recognized in Pennsylvania and the United States. Only a few miles south of Boonecrott is the Daniel Boone Homestead administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. This museum site, however, is more a restoration of 18th century Pennsylvania county life and the site of Daniel Boone's birthplace than the actual early homestead. In fact the only artifact left from the original log house is the foundation of the current stone structure. Several other, but unsubstantiated, sites have been attributed to Daniel Boone in Kentucky. A property in Defiance, Missouri, once owned by Daniel Boone's son, is recognized as where Daniel Boone died. Furthermore, local tradition states that a property in Chalfont area of Philadelphia was where Daniel Boone's father lived for a short while before coming with his father to Boonecrott. The integrity and authenticity of Boonecrott are greater than any other Boone family related sites.⁵

George Boone III left England for America because he sought new lands where greater freedom of action and expression could be obtained. His pioneering spirit led him even beyond the more familiar English dominated Philadelphia area to establish Boonecrott in a region where he was unusual by his religion and his architecture. But such bravery was not unusual in the Boone family. This spirit manifested itself throughout the family to such an extent that many early Boones contributed to the expansion and development of America. Boonecrott remained the homestead and proudly remains, very similar to its appearance nearly 250 years ago, as testimony to the pioneering spirit of this great family.

- 1) Eleanor Raymond, Early Domestic Architecture in Pennsylvania, (Princeton, N.J.: Pyne Press, 1931), Introduction.
- 2) Hazel Atterburg Spraker, The Boone Family (Rutland, Vermont: The Tuttle (Co., 1922) p. 17.
- 3) P.C. Croll, Annals of the Oley Valley (Reading: Reading Eagle Press, 1926), p. 25.
- 4) The first person outside the Boone family to own Boonecrott was Samuel Kaufman who built the existing springhouse c. 1860. Although George Boone III was a weaver by trade a tannery was established on the property at the site of existing picnic pavilion. This tannery was used by James Boone Sr. and his brother John, both sons of George Boone III. They ran the tannery together until about 1780 when John turned over all of his interest in the business to James Boone Sr. Whether the tannery business perpetuated in later family owners of Boonecrott is unknown. Existence of an early barn indicates a continuation of agricultural activities.
- 5) Information on other Boone related properties supplied by James Lewars, former acting administrator of the Daniel Boone Homestead, private communication 3/16/82.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- 1) Beard, Mrs. John A. Homestead of George Boone III, Built 1733. Reading PA: By the Author (Available at Berks County Historical Society), 1965.

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 25 acres.

Quadrangle name Birdsboro, PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	4	3	1	8	0	0	4	4	6	4	9	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

1	8	4	3	1	9	4	0	4	4	6	4	4	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

1	8	4	3	1	8	6	0	4	4	6	4	4	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

1	8	4	3	1	6	4	0	4	4	6	5	0	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property of Boonecroft, consisting of approximately 25 acres, contains all of the buildings described in Section 7 and is tightly defined by existing property lines, natural and visual features, Oley Line Road, and the Monocacy Creek. The nominated acreage

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title E. Garrett Brinton

organization Berks County Conservancy date 1/15/82

street & number 960 Old Mill Road telephone 215-372-4992

city or town Wyomissing, state PA

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 Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date _____

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

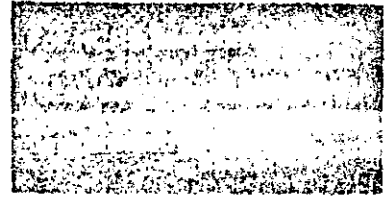
Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Boonecreek, Berks County

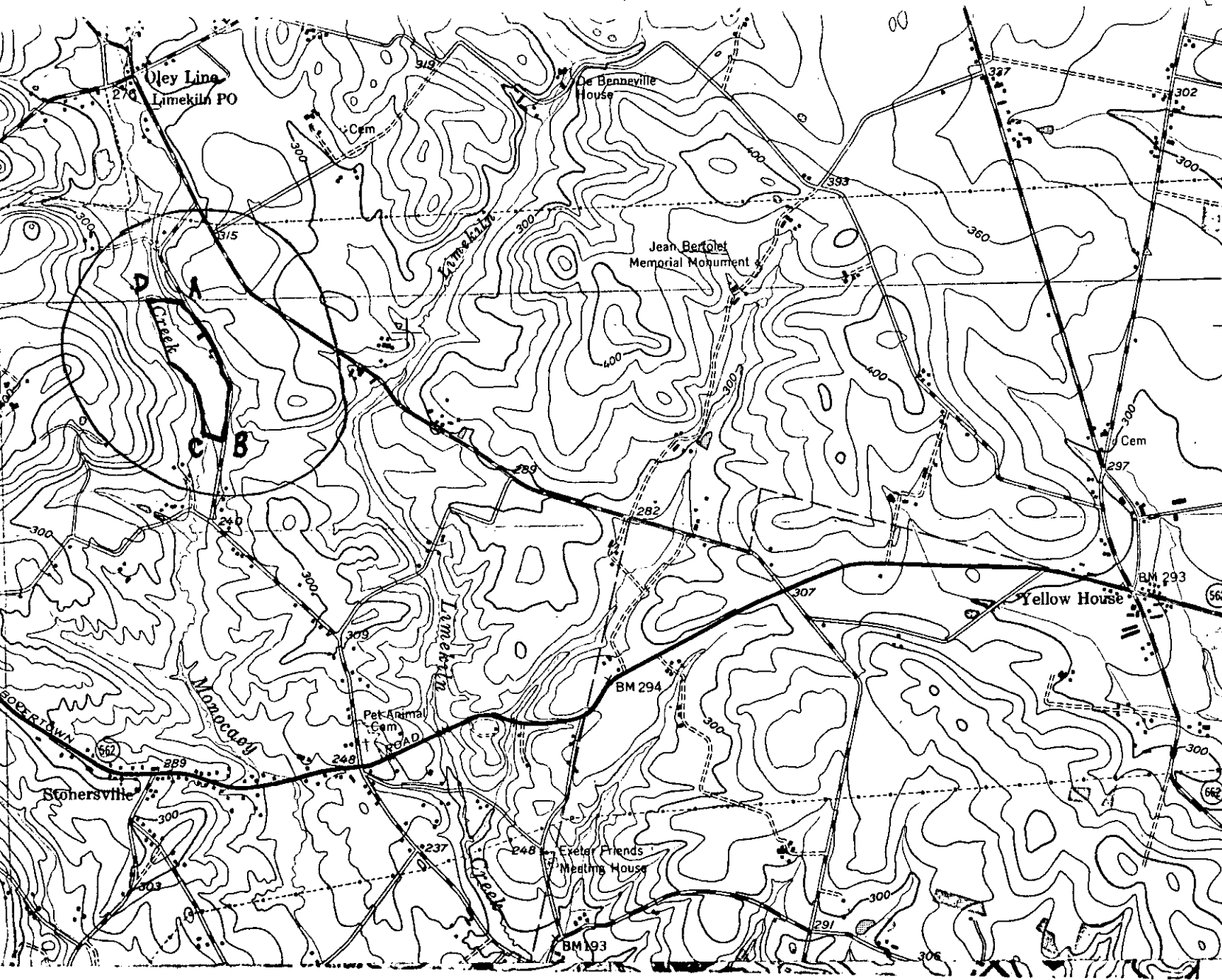


Continuation sheet

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- 2) Bertolet, Peter G. Fragments of the Past: Historical Sketches of Oley and Vicinity. Published by the Women's Club of Oley Valley, Oley, Pa., 1980.
- 3) Croll, P.C. Annals of the Oley Valley. Reading, Pa.: Reading Eagle Press, 1926.
- 4) Exeter Township. 225th Anniversary Publication. Published privately, 1976.
- 5) Haas, Thomas (Restoration Craftsman). Private communication, 11/18/81.
- 6) Lewars, James (Former Acting Administrator of the Daniel Boone Homestead). Private communications, November 1981.
- 7) Montgomery, Morton L. History of Berks County in Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Everts, Peck, and Richards, 1886.
- 8) Raymond, Eleanor Early Domestic Architecture in Pennsylvania, Princeton, N.J.: Pyne Press, 1931.
- 9) Spraker, Hazel Atterbury. The Boone Family. Rutland, Vermont: The Tuttle Company, 1922.



Boonecroft, Berks Coun
 Zone 18 A 2431800 N4464910
 B 2431940 N4464400
 C 2431860 N4464420
 D 2431640 N4465010

4465
 20'
 4465
 EARLVILLE 1.2 MI.
 BOYERTOWN 3 MI.
 (562)
 (562)
 (562)
 BOYERTOWN
 (BOYERTOWN)
 5864 1 SW
 S. 422) 4.5 MI. ↘

