

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Leiby, Jacob Farm

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Route 143

not for publication N/A

city, town Virginville (Perry Township)

vicinity N/A

state PA code PA county Berks

code 011 zip code 19526

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private (checked)
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
district (checked)
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing: Agriculture in Berks County: 1700-1945

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Agriculture: storage
Agriculture: agricultural outbuildings
Industry: attractive facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Agriculture: storage
Agriculture: agricultural outbuildings
Industry: attractive facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular Federal House
Pennsylvania Bank Barn

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls stone, wood
roof tin
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This property consists of a farm and a quarry that are historically connected with Jacob Leiby, the man who developed them during the years 1829 to 1884. The farm is a unique complex, a showcase for the "blue stone" of its adjoining quarry. All buildings - houses, barns, wagonshed, bakehouse, walls, walks, posts, and water ways - are constructed of this rock which is a type of layered sandstone quarried in long slabs. During the mid 1800's, the quarry supplied building stone throughout this region of the county. Today the 92 acre farm is used for general crop production. Its full complement of buildings remain intact and in good condition. It occupies a hilly site on Route 143 along the west bank of the Maiden Creek, where passers-by marvel at the workmanship of the well-matched buildings.

Inventory of resources:

Farmhouse: Built in 1829, datestone Jacob & Hana Leiby. Constructed of cut stone from Leiby quarry of yellow, tan and blue colors. Federal plan, 2.5 stories, five bays wide, two bays deep, with two story rear wing having a sloping shed roof. House has 6/6 sash, tin gable roof, end chimneys. Rear wing has upstairs porch on south side, chimney at west end. House sits high on its foundation and has basement windows along front facade and doorway on south gable end. The basement was formerly used as a summer kitchen.

Blacksmith shop/tenant house: Constructed of cut stone from Leiby quarry. Two bays wide, one bay deep, 1.5 stories banked at gable end, tin roof. This building originally served as Jacob Leiby's blacksmith shop. Later it was used as a school. Currently it is a residential unit.

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Leiby, Jacob Farm

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Barn: Standard Pennsylvania bank barn, constructed of stone from Leiby quarry, with tin roof. Upper gable is frame with vertical board siding and arched window at peak. Forebay wall has painted hex signs. Interior framing has three bents and standard roof truss. Barnyard has remnants of stone wall and a stone watering trough.

Wagon shed: Constructed of cut stone from Leiby quarry. 1.5 stories with storage loft reached by exterior stairway at banked north side. Lane from road to barns, fields and cemetery passes north of tenant house, wagon shed and barn and features a high stone retaining wall cut into a steep slope where there was an orchard.

Cider House: Constructed of cut stone from Leiby quarry. One story, gable roof. Front gable wall with stone parapets and projecting shelf. This building formerly housed a cider press; currently used as a woodshed. Rear wall is open to accommodate loading and unloading of truck.

Quarry house: Banked, 3.5 stories at road level. Cut stone walls, four bays wide. Basement level doors at south elevation. First floor entry at west side with door onto slab stone porch or balcony at east side.

Contributing Structures

Bakeoven: Constructed of cut stone from Leiby quarry. One story, chimney centrally located at front of oven. Slate roof, frame entrance room. Contains smokehouse.

Ground cellar: Built of cut stone from quarry. Double stone vaulted storage rooms, side-by-side, at different depths below ground. Depth controlled the temperature. Used for apples and vegetables.

Large stone and earthen dam is located across the road along the Maiden Creek.

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Sites

Cemetery: Wall made of large cut stone slabs. Contains tombstone monument of Jacob and Hannah Leiby in German language. Lane to cemetery and beyond lined with long retaining wall of stone. Other walls on property of stone slabs.

Quarry: Source of the Leiby "blue stone". Excavated from hillside with opening onto Route 143 directly south of the Quarry house.

Non-contributing building

Equipment shed: Frame construction, board siding, two stories with gable roof. Built 1940's.

Non-contributing structure

Corn crib: Modern wire corn crib, cylindrical in shape with metal roof.

The contributing resources date from c. 1829-1940. The house and and domestic buildings are sited near the road, facing east, overlooking the Maiden Creek. The bakeoven and double ground cellar are directly south of the house. To the rear of the house is the garden with its stone fence posts, and beyond this is the cider house. The former blacksmith shop is north of the house along the road. The farm lane passes north of the blacksmith shop/tenant house accessing the stone wagon shed and barn ramp. Beyond the barn it divides to go left, to the fields, or right, to the woods and the cemetery plot. The farm fields retain their use as cropland, although there formerly had been considerable orchard and pasture land. The orchards were most likely planted on the sloping fields north of the farmstead buildings.

The quarry is located north of the farmstead along Route 143 with its quarryman's house on the north side, closer to the road. The house is cut into a steep bank, as is the quarry which has its floor at road level. The stone runs in horizontal layers and is a dark blue or gray color. According to the owner of the farm, Norman Sunday, the quarry stone changed color as the excavation proceeded, with the first stone having buff or gray colors, similar to that in the farmhouse, and the later stone becoming darker. This is one way in which the buildings can be dated.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

1829-1940

Significant Dates

1829

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Leiby, Jacob

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

The Jacob Leiby Farm is significant in the areas of agriculture and architecture under Criteria A and C. It is representative of the farms in northern Berks County where shaly soils and rolling hills predominate. It is an excellent example of a farm property whose buildings date from the c. 1829-1840 period, all built by the same man using the products of his farm quarry, and all extremely well constructed with stone laid in horizontal courses. Not only the buildings, but other structures that might normally be built of wood, were constructed of stone by Leiby. Fence posts, water troughs, and water channels were stone, as were paths, shelves, steps, porches, and edging for the garden beds. Although Leiby designed his own cemetery monument, his whole property is his monument.

In Building Stones of Pennsylvania, 1932, Ralph Stone writes of this property, "Perhaps the most extensive use of stone in buildings on any farm in the county is on the west bank of Maiden Creek just north of Virginville. The Leiby farm buildings are built almost entirely of gray, black and buff weathered stone from an old quarry nearby. A tablet over the door is marked 1829. An interesting feature of the house, huge barn, and five other buildings is the size of the sandstone slabs, many of which are several feet long. The wall in front of the house is capped with single stones 8 inches thick, 24 to 26 inches wide, and up to 20 feet long. The paths are paved and the garden beds are outlined with thin slabs so very long as to be extraordinary."

See continuation sheet

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Leiby, Jacob Farm

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The Leiby family settled in Greenwich Township in the mid eighteenth century. Jacob, George and Frederick Leiby are listed on the 1759 tax list. It was a later-generation Jacob Leiby, who started the quarry business in 1825 and gave his name to the type of stone that he excavated and sold widely for building construction. This stone was a sandstone member of the Martinsburg shale formation. "Leiby blue stone" was noted for its color, its cutting and shaping qualities, and especially for the size of the slabs that could be extracted. Leiby used his farm, on which the quarry was located, as a showcase for the different types of buildings and structures that could be constructed with his stone. He chose some of the more impressive stones cut from his quarry to build his farmstead, walls, and walks. He was also a blacksmith, and of course he built his smithy on his farm. He apparently was a very hard worker and a good salesman, for "Leiby Stone" is found throughout the upper Maiden Creek region in foundations and stone buildings. After his death in 1884 the quarry ceased operation.

Later generations of the Leiby family operated the farm in the ensuing years. Isaac Leiby was owner from 1884 to 1908, and Jacob Leiby (III) from 1908 to 1939. During this time it was a general crop and livestock farm. It also featured orchards on the hillsides, and produced cider from its apple crop. In 1957 the property passed from Leiby ownership, first to Steven and Ruth Hudock, and in 1984, to Norman Sunday, the present owner. The property has remained a working farm throughout its history.

This farm is comparable to many other Berks County farms in the type of buildings and the pattern of organization, the Pennsylvania German self-sufficient farmstead of the c. 1829-40 period. It is exceptional for its integrity and its association with one family and one remarkable man, Jacob Leiby. It is unique in the workmanship exhibited in the construction of all its principal buildings and the fact that the stone used in them came from its own quarry.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Berks County Conservancy Agricultural Survey and Multiple Property Nomination:

"Agriculture in Berks County 1700-1945," 1991

Montgomery, Morton L. History of Berks County in Pennsylvania, 1886, p. 1063

Sunday, Norman, owner, Interview 1991

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Berks County Conservancy

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 92

UTM References

A 1,8 | 42,58,6,0 | 4,48,7,6,5,0
 Zone Easting Northing

C 1,8 | 42,58,5,0 | 4,48,6,8,6,0

B 1,8 | 42,52,0,0 | 4,48,7,3,1,0
 Zone Easting Northing

D 1,8 | 42,53,0,0 | 4,48,7,2,9,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Phoebe Hopkins, Administrative Director

organization Berks County Conservancy date June 1991

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

city or town Wyomissing state PA zip code 19610

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Leiby, Jacob Farm .

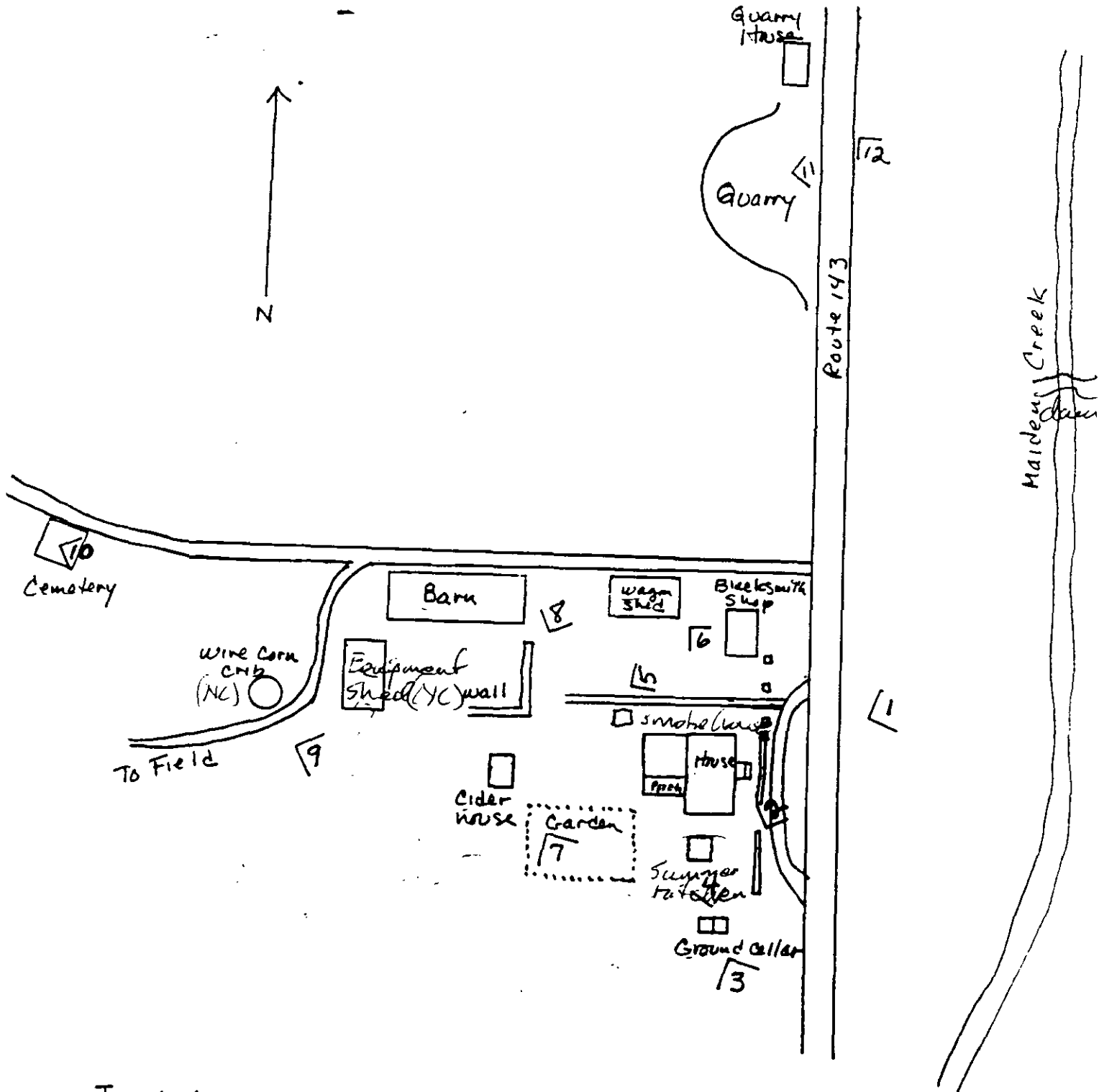
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property comprises the farm property owned by Norman Sunday and the quarry property owned by Douglass Smith. It is bounded by fence rows along the southern and northwest property lines, by Route 143 along the northeast section and parallels the Maiden Creek on the east. It is described in Berks County Deed Book volume 1857, page 50.

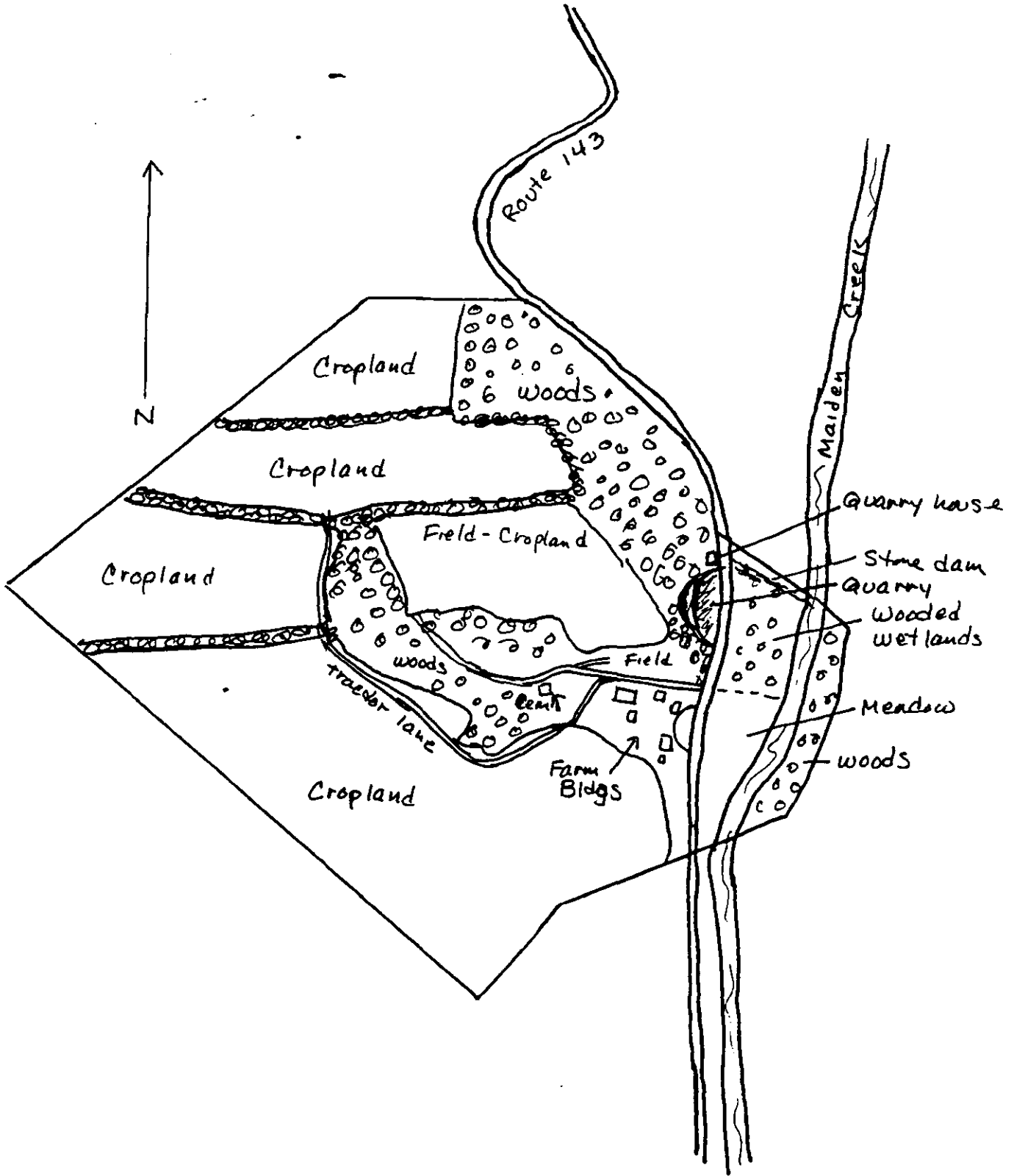
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is drawn to comprise the farm and quarry owned by Jacob Leiby during its period of significance. The boundary has not changed, other than the four acre quarry property being subdivided recently. Both farm and quarry are included as both are important to the nomination.

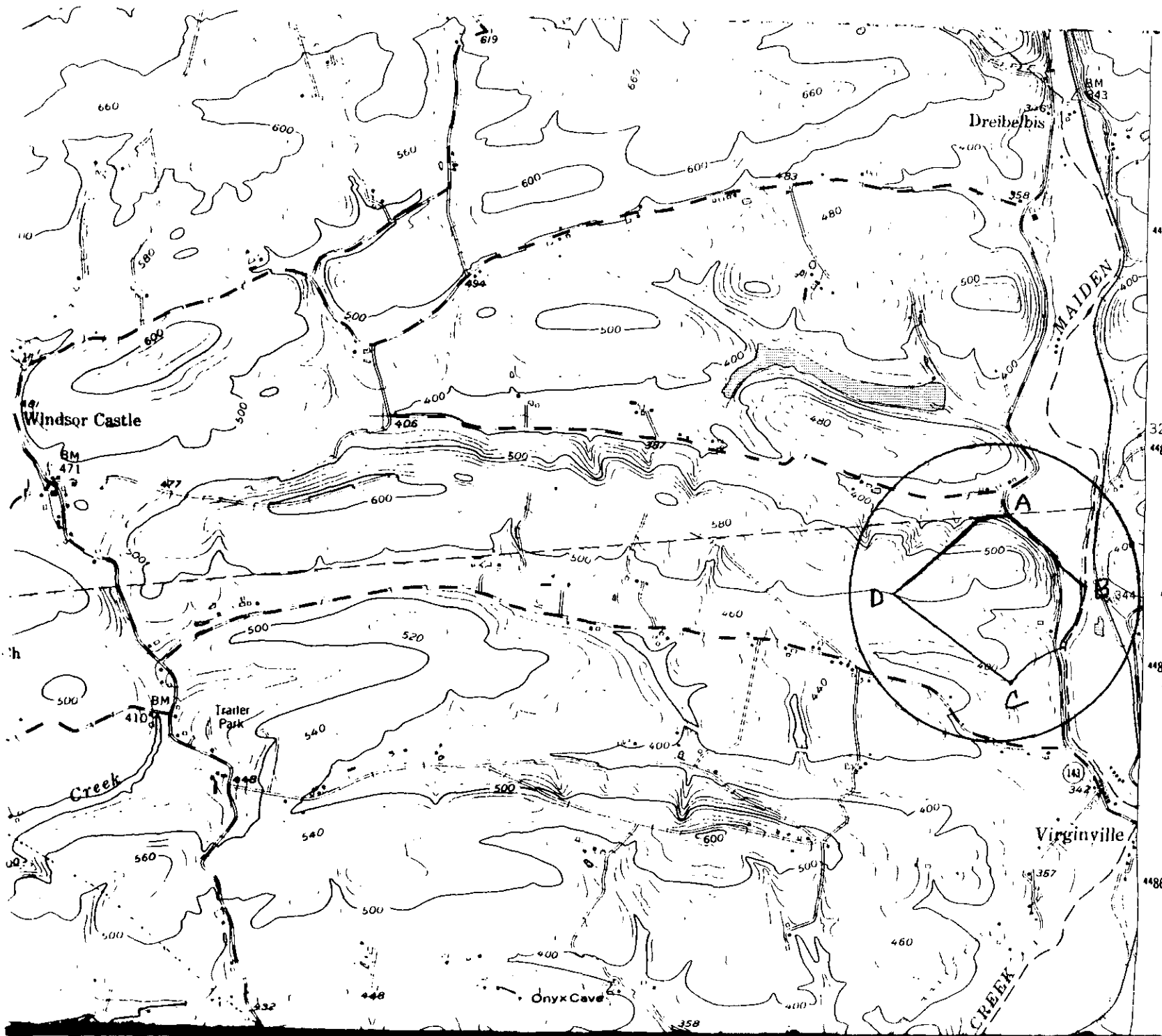


Jacob Leiby Farm Site Plan and Photo Views

NC - Non-contributing
 → Photo View



Jacob Leiby Farm Plan, Berks County, PA



Leiby, Jacob Farm
 Berks County
 Hamburg Quad
 Zone 18

- A 425860 4487650
- B 425200 4487310
- C 425850 4486860
- D 425300 4487200