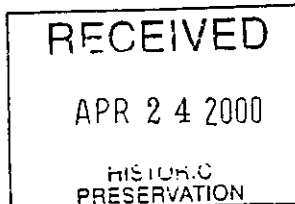


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 an 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 Gordon, George W., Farm

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 333 Mary Hoge Road, .3 miles SW of Gordon Hill Rd. not for publication

city or town Franklin Township and Whitely Township vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Greene code 059 zip code 15370

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

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 certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper _____	Date of Action _____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other. (explain:)	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
12	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
12	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facilit

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

foundation Sandstone

walls BRICK

roof OTHER: synthetic slate

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.)

- 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.
- 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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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

1879-1949

Significant Dates

1879

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Gordon, George W., Fa
Name of Property

Greene County, Pennsylvania
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 252

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 17 | 5715010 | 4411400 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | 17 | 572220 | 4412150 |

3 | 17 | 5712710 | 4411690 |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | |

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 Terry A. Necciai, RA, principal

Terry A. Necciai, RA, Historic

organization Preservation Consulting

date 23 June 1999

street & number 2334 Murray Avenue

telephone (412) 521-4084

city or town Pittsburgh,

state PA

zip code 15217

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Wils and Jane Cooley

street & number 220 Mary Hoque Road

telephone (724) 627-6120

city or town Waynesburg

state PA

zip code 15370

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

*George W. Gordon Farm
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

Section Number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The George W. Gordon Farm is a typical Greene County farm located on an unusually picturesque site with a significant example of a farmstead with intact buildings and farm fields. The buildings and the arrangement of the fields illustrate agricultural activities that occurred over the history of the property. The farm house and several outbuildings form a highly organized farmyard at the northeastern edge of the farm, where most visitors enter the property on Mary Hoge Road. Mary Hoge Road follows a ridge that runs through the farm near the center of the acreage. To the southeast of the road is a hollow containing about three-fourths of the farmland, while the remaining acreage lies on the northwest side of the road. The ridge is also the dividing line between Franklin and Whitely Townships, so that the farmhouse, wash house, and the acreage on the northwest side of the road are in Franklin Township, and all the other outbuildings together with three-quarters of the acreage are in Whitely Township. The farm house and related buildings command a spectacular view over the farm fields. While many steep, wooded slopes beyond the boundaries of the farm and the peaks of rugged hilltops surrounding the property are within view of the house, almost all of the Gordon Farm fields are visible in the foreground of the view from the two-story, five-bay, Italianate style brick house. The sloped acreage of the Gordon Farm is level enough to be worked and remains in active use as pasture land. The barn, stable, and wash house appear to have been built at the same time (ca. 1880) as the house, but have all been modified since, mostly by replacement of wood siding with new wood, or by the construction of minor appendages. Scattered throughout the farm are several smaller pegged timber buildings, which are also contemporary with the house (ca. 1880). The field buildings, however, have not been painted or resided, and are consequently weathered and in several cases, dilapidated. The wagon shed (ca. 1930) was built shortly before the Gordons sold the farm. In the 1990s, when the property sold again, it was purchased to serve as a residence. The fields are now rented to a neighboring farmer. The property has not changed since 1990 except for restoration of several buildings and some minor accommodations for small-scale farm activities, such as adding the chicken coop (1994) behind the stable; redesign of the rear wing of the house (1994), and fencing-in the garden. The setting of the farm reflects the division of land and the architectural design of George W. Gordon's lifetime, except that a small parcel north of the house was retained by a former owner of the farm and now contains a ranch-type home within view of the Gordon House. This parcel is excluded from the nomination boundary. All the buildings within the bounds of the nominated parcel, except the chicken coop, are contributing resources. The chicken coop is a non-contributing structure. The foundation of a tenant house which formerly served this farm is an uncounted, small-scale feature.

The Characteristics of a Typical Greene County Sheep Farm

The acreage, as cleared farmland, predates the house, separated from a much larger farm upon the death of George W. Gordon's father. The buildings on the farm, however, were all built about the same time. The arrangement of the fields and the placement of the buildings reflects the farming systems of the sheep farming era. While older farms in the area have their buildings clustered at the bottom of the hill to make it easier to move grain, hay, and timber toward the barn, the Gordon Farm was laid out primarily for sheep raising. The fields are centered on sloped "well-drained" soils, the characteristic that makes the hilly parts of Greene County ideal for sheep farming. The field sheds scattered across the farm provided shelter for the sheep through severe winters and convenient places to store hay without carrying it up hill. However, after the Gordon family sold the farm, the property evolved from sheep to cattle farming, including some dairy activities, reflected in changes to the barn.

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*George W. Gordon Farm
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

Section Number 7 Page 2

Exterior Details of the House

The George W. Gordon House is a two-story, five-bay Italianate farm house, two rooms deep with a gable roof. It is built of handmade red brick and has segmentally-arched windows in each opening, with segmentally-arched drip mouldings over almost every opening in the brick shell. Across the front is a three-bay, one-story porch on square, fluted wood columns, built ca. 1920 to replace a more ornate, original porch. Across the rear is a one story porch and addition (1994) on period-style wood posts, consisting of several rooms and a small corner porch area. The house has a centered entrance in a five bay facade. There are two windows in each floor of each side elevation plus an attic window in each gable end, and four windows across the second story of the rear elevation. The first story of the rear elevation is now obscured by a one-story addition along the northwest which contains a bathroom and pantry flanked by a one-bay sun porch at the western corner and a one-bay open porch at the northern corner. The open porch area has a segmentally-arched window in the brick rear wall. A similarly-arched doorway is found within the sun porch and in the doorways that connect the powder room and pantry to the original house. All of the openings in the brick walls have segmental arches. The windows appear to be identical or nearly identical in size, except for the attic windows, which are smaller. All window openings in the original brick exterior have original 2/2 double hung wood sash. All of the window openings have smoothly dressed stone sills. The drip mouldings found on the majority of the windows consist of a curved protruding sailor course and a curved course of headers. The protruding header course steps out about a half inch at the top of the curved sailor course, forming a hierarchy of lines similar to those used in wooden window mouldings found on many Italianate houses of the era. Windows originally sheltered by porches have a simpler drip moulding design, without the header course across the top. The brick walls are laid in running bond (no header courses) across the facade and rear, and common bond with header courses at every sixth or seventh course on the side elevations. The brick begins at a smoothly dressed stone waterable, below which a single course of the ashlar foundation stonework is visible on the side elevations. Basement openings at the exposed side elevations have cast iron ventilation grates with the iron bars forming pointed-arch Gothic tracery. At the top of the walls is a cornice with a narrow fascia the bottom edge of which touches the tops of the upper story window drip mouldings; the cornice has a wide soffit. At the side elevations, the cornice forms eaves returns with a crown moulding edge. The roof is clad in slate and terminates at the top with a metal ridge cover. The two chimneys pierce the roof along the ridge between the first and second bays and between the fourth and fifth bays. The southwest chimney retains its original stone cap, while at the northeast chimney, the stone has been removed and the brickwork has been banded in metal in the installation of a television antenna. Four historic lightning rods are evenly spaced along the ridge of the roof.

The c1920 front porch is in the Colonial Revival style. The porch roof is supported by four columns and two pilasters, all of which are square with a fluted surface above the level of the railing. The railing caps a simple balustrade of square wood balusters. The tops and bottoms of the columns have applied mouldings forming a capital and a base at each. Above the columns, the fascia of the porch is a wide frieze, about eighteen inches tall, on which rests the soffit and crown moulding of a nearly flat metal roof. The porch is supported by four stone piers, connected by lattice work. Across the center bay of the porch are two broad stone steps, smoothly dressed, with curved corners. At the southern end of the porch, a window wall of three 2/2 double sash windows and a continuous row of square panes at the transom level form a wind break. The porch ceiling is tongue-and-groove bead-board.

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*George W. Gordon Farm
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

Section Number 7 Page 3

The rear addition is a shed roofed, one-story design built in 1994 to follow the lines and form of an earlier rear porch. It has a standing seam metal roof, and the walls at the pantry and bathroom are clad in wooden drop siding. At the north end of this addition, the first bay is an open porch on four-by-four posts with Italianate brackets. The addition has two double sash 1/1 wood windows facing into the backyard, one at the bathroom and one at the pantry. The sun porch is enclosed with window and screen units on two sides and has a doorway with a traditional wooden screen door leading into the backyard. A similar door leads from the pantry to the porch. Above the shed-roofed addition, a scar where plaster and paint were formerly adhered to the brick indicate where a one bay, two-story addition was located until it was demolished in 1994. The addition had been built after the house was completed, as evidenced by the complete drip moulding at the top of the brick window opening that it had obscured. The addition was built ca. 1885 to provide for a third floor holding tank for a gravity-fed water system serving a bathroom and the kitchen. An awkward design aesthetically, the addition had fallen into disrepair after the attic water tank ceased to function. The cistern is still in place under the sun porch. It is accessed by a trap door in the sun porch floor.

Interior Details of the House

Inside, the Gordon House is a blend of a center hall plan in the front half and a two-room plan in the rear. The centerpiece of the first floor is a steep, winding central stairway with a walnut railing and a balustrade of walnut balusters each of which is lathe-turned at the top and bottom, with a square base, and has a tapered octagonal shaft. The top half of this staircase consists of wedge-shaped winders. The winders have been modified to provide access to a doorway cut into a back bedroom, after the initial construction. The main entrance door, located at the bottom of the stairs, has applied ogival mouldings defining two round-topped panels in the upper half, two smaller round-topped panels in the lower half, and a series of applied panels at the center rail including a large oval panel. Above this door is a one-light, segmentally-arched transom. At the rear of the center hall is a doorway into the dining room.

Flanking the center hall are two parlors, roughly identical in design. Both have black cast iron mantelpieces. The parlor at the southern corner of the house has window casings at the front wall windows that continue to the floor, with a recessed, wood-paneled area beneath each window, while the parlor at the eastern corner has traditional window-sills and aprons with plaster below. The southern parlor has bookcases to each side of the chimney which were recently installed in the recesses formed by the chimney breast. The eastern parlor has a cupboard to the right side of the fireplace, with a standard height four-panel door, above which is a smaller two-panel door to an upper cupboard area. To the left side of the chimney in this room, is a doorway into the kitchen. Both parlors are connected to the center hall by four-panel doors with large, single-light, nearly-square transoms.

The dining room is a larger room to the rear, at the western corner of the house. Its only window is on the southwest side, in the side wall beneath the gable. The dining room has a fireplace with a painted wooden mantelpiece decorated with fluted and chamfered edges. The sides of the mantelpiece are detailed to resemble chamfered pilasters as found on Italianate porches. The opening of the fireplace is defined by a cast-iron arch. To the side of the fireplace is a china

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*George W. Gordon Farm
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cupboard with paired doors. The lower doors are from waist height down. They have painted panels on the inside, depicting tall fir trees. The upper doors are very tall, with a single wood panel in each door. The dining room also has doors connecting it to the sun porch, the powder room, and the kitchen. All three doors have transoms, those leading through the rear brick wall to the sun porch and powder room being segmentally arched and having two lights of glass each, while the transom leading to the kitchen is large and nearly square and has a single light of glass, like those from the center hall to the parlors.

The kitchen retains its original door and window casings, which are the same as those in adjoining rooms, and it has a larger fireplace with a simpler wooden mantelpiece, built as a cooking fireplace. To the side of the kitchen fireplace is a four-door, built-in chimney cupboard, like the one in the dining room. The window and door casings in the kitchen are simpler than those in the other rooms. Three walls of the kitchen now contain wood cabinets, a sink, a stove, and a refrigerator, as installed in 1994. Adjoining the kitchen is a pantry, in the one story addition, which has matching 1994 cabinets. The powder room, which connects to both the pantry and the dining room, was also added in 1994, with all modern fixtures.

Three bedrooms occupy the areas above the two parlors and the kitchen. The bedroom above the kitchen originally had no connection to the hallway, but connected to the two adjoining bedrooms, one of these being a bedroom located over the dining room. The bedroom over the dining room has been divided into a bathroom and a hallway. This hallway connects both the bathroom and the back bedroom to the central stair. The three bedrooms have fireplaces with wood mantelpieces. They have cast iron arches as found in most fireplaces downstairs. To one side of each fireplace is a chimney cupboard which in each case has a standard-height four-panel door and a smaller one panel door to the area at the level of the transoms found elsewhere. The doors connecting the front bedrooms to the center hall and the door connecting the back bedroom to the corresponding front bedroom all have nearly square, one-light transoms as found in the parlor doors below.

The basement consists of two rooms with an opening between them that is slightly wider than a standard doorway. The basement walls are constructed of sandstone ashlar and rubble, and the blocks have rounded edges, perhaps from exposure to moisture.

The attic is a large open space interrupted by two chimneys. One unusual detail in the masonry of the attic is found connecting the gable ends and the chimneys: the gable ends are tied to the two chimneys by short logs, about five and a half feet above the floor, with a flat hewn upper surface, on which about five courses of brick have been laid, to provide downward support and a parallel connection for both the chimneys and the gable ends.

Details of Outbuildings

The outbuildings consist of eleven contributing buildings: the wash house immediately next to the house, the barn, the stable, the wagon shed, and seven field sheds. The wash house is a one story building with a large attic. Three bays wide, it contains one first floor room, and one attic room. It has been completely rehabilitated, and is now clad in vinyl siding. However, the original window and door spacing and window and door surrounds with peaked lintels have been retained, as has the massive chimney at the gable end furthest from the house. The fireplace within this chimney is also

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*George W. Gordon Farm
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intact, and is the most prominent interior feature of this building. The wash house is counted as a contributing building in spite of having new siding, windows, and doors, and almost all new interior finishes, because the overall form and scale are intact, as are the window and door patterns, the fireplace, and the relationship of this building to the corner of the house that contains the kitchen. The barn, the stable, and the wagon shed are arranged in a straight row across from the house. The stable and barn are frame buildings with hewn wood frames joined by mortises, tenons, and wood pegs. They are clad in wooden drop siding which was installed over vertical barn siding in the early twentieth century. The barn is a typical three-bay, banked barn, but much smaller than usual. A shed-roofed addition was attached to the back of the lower story when the barn was converted for dairy activities in 1935. The stable was restored in 1993 by the current owners who used it as a residence briefly while restoring the main house. The only changes to the stable at that time were removal of the stalls, mostly comprised of rotted wood, and shoring up of one structural beam. The wiring was also updated, but water or gas lines were not installed, nor were any walls or fixtures otherwise added or removed. The wagon shed (ca. 1930) is built of a timber frame of rough sawn oak and chestnut, with nailed joints and rough-sawn rafters that are close to modern lumber sizes. It has no foundation or floor surface. Some of the wood sill members rest directly on the soil, while others are on a single course of ashlar. It also has drop siding, but is distinguished from the other outbuildings by its exposed rafter ends.

The sheds distributed throughout the farm fields are generally dilapidated, unpainted buildings. They have timber frames. The largest shed, located in the hollow south of the farmhouse at the edge of the farm, is large enough to be referred to as a small barn. The second largest is almost as large. It is located about fifteen hundred feet west of the building in the hollow, at the center of a sloped field adjoining Mary Hoge Road. The sheds that are closer to Mary Hoge Road are smaller. One of them was originally an outbuilding of a small tenant farmer's house no longer standing, which was located at the center of the farm. Midway between the tenant house and the main house is a cluster of three small sheds. The smallest of these, located along the road, was a scales house for the scales used to weigh the sheep produced by the farm. The larger sheds still have remnants of animal stalls in their foundations, the animals from each field being kept in a localized shelter during inclement weather. Several of the smaller sheds are built on stone piers and have no foundations. All of the sheds and small barns are timber frame buildings with weathered, vertical barn siding.

The farm fields remain in their original configuration and use. Nearly all the open land was set up to be sheep pastures, though more recently, they have been used to graze cattle or to raise hay. Most of the fields are sloped at the center. The fence rows remain as they always were, as far as is now known. More than half of the fencing follows roads established before the 1870s. The fence rows incorporate old and new fencing with new metal gates.

The foundation ruins at the site of the tenant house and spring house are counted as an uncounted, small-scale feature. This small (four room) frame house was destroyed by fire in the 1970s. Little information remains of its date of construction or appearance. Neither the present or past property owners nor the last tenant farmers to live there have any photographs of it. It is believed to have been built around 1890 by George W. Gordon as housing for the workers who tended the farm fields, while Mr. Gordon was at work at the bank in Waynesburg. No archaeological investigation has been conducted here.

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Continuation Sheet**

*George W. Gordon Farm
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

Section Number 8 Page 1

SIGNIFICANCE

The 1879 George Gordon Farm is an intact and picturesque agricultural complex with a significant collection of outbuildings, a significant house, and acreage. It is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for Agriculture as a good example of a farm that reflects the broad pattern of stock farming in Greene County, Pennsylvania. The farmhouse is also significant under Criterion C for Architecture as a good example of an Italianate variation on the five-bay, center passage floor plan. The farm was developed by George W. Gordon at about the peak of the local trend wherein sheep raising became the dominant agricultural activity in Greene and Washington Counties. Though sheep farming was an important activity in the area as early as the late 1810s due to national speculation in newly-available breeds, and local speculation in the wool manufacturing industry, by the late 1870s, raising stock sheep for exportation to areas west of Pennsylvania dominated the region's agricultural economy. Developed as it was in the later years of this trend, with sufficient financial backing on inherited land that had long been cleared, the layout of the Gordon Farm reflects the local sheep farm ideal. Though the house and farm have many characteristics that typify the agricultural landscape and architecture of Greene County, both are exceptional examples of the design traditions to which they belong. The farm combines a hilltop house site from which all fields can be monitored with fields which were ideal grazing land for sheep. Sheds are distributed throughout the fields to provide shelter for the sheep and storage of hay in the fields, rather than carrying it up the hill to the barn. The farm evolved, after the Gordons sold it, into a mixed farm with cattle and some dairy farming. Like the earlier dominance of sheep raising, the inclusion of cattle and dairy was also a result of local growth, a changing economy, and important local agricultural trends. As industrial communities grew in the Pittsburgh area, so did the demand for meat, poultry, milk, and other farm products. Like most farms in the Greene County area, the George W. Gordon Farm evolved in response to this demand. The period of significance continues through 1950, in recognition of the importance of these later developments. The Gordon Farm still reflects these activities through the arrangement of the fields, which are still actively farmed, and through its various outbuildings. While the scattered sheds illustrate the decentralized approach to sheep raising employed here, the later changes to the barn reflect accommodation for dairy farming. The stable and wash house, on the other hand, represent the day-to-day functions of the household. The five-bay facade design, as found at the Gordon House, was frequently used in vernacular houses in western Pennsylvania, the most facade design among all farm houses throughout the region until about 1900. Although the Gordon House resembles the typical five-bay, center passage farm house in its massing, roofline, and the arrangement of its facade and front rooms, the rear half of the plan has no center hall. The house reflects the shift away from totally symmetrical floor plans which began in southwestern Pennsylvania when the Italianate and related styles were introduced around 1870. The combined setting of all the buildings still retains a strong sense of time and place from both the era of the Gordons and the era of the Hoges, who bought the farm from the Gordons.

The Gordon Farm is significant as an example of a trend that extended across Greene and Washington Counties in the middle and later decades of the nineteenth century. It is an average size farm for the area, with average size buildings, and is depicted in farm statistics as one of many similar farms in this part of Greene County. However, even though it is significant as an example of a regional trend, it is a later example created specifically for raising stock. Built on fields that had been

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*George W. Gordon Farm
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

Section Number 8 Page 2

cleared as part of a much larger farm, this farm was established by a representative of a wealthy family, apparently using an inheritance he received three years earlier. George W. Gordon was a banker who dabbled in farm stock, as some other small town bankers did in the region.¹ Gordon was able to establish this stock farm all at once, using relatively uniform buildings, and setting the farm up for specialized agriculture. The small size of the Gordon House and outbuildings and the distribution of sheds throughout the farm fields are indicative of this farm's development toward the end of the nineteenth century. Most early farms in Washington and Greene Counties centered on farmsteads built at springs near the bottom lands of minor valleys. Alongside the house and spring house, they had barns which were much larger than the main barn at the Gordon Farm, built to help large families and animal herds survive through the more severe winters. Many of the barns in the two counties date from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, a time when their construction can be seen as an outgrowth of handed-down traditions, often related to ethnicity or frontier era construction techniques. Banked forebay barns and two-crib log barns are both common in these counties. In the early decades of farming in the region, sheep were grazed in fallow wheat fields as part of a crop rotation pattern. Wheat was grown on virtually all pioneer farms in the area, and the earliest sheep farms had flock sizes proportional to their wheat production. Thus most early barns were built with large threshing floors to process the wheat. Farms that made the transition to stock raising often have smaller outbuildings built specifically as stables or sheep barns, or for similar purposes in addition to the older, larger barns. The Gordon barn and other outbuildings resemble the smaller sheep barns and sheep sheds added when sheep raising became a specialty. However here, many of the landscape patterns are reversed: the house and barn are at the top of the hill, the fields are centered on sloped land, and all the buildings were built at once. The hill top and sloped fields were favored because their well-drained soils are better for the sheep than the wet bottom lands (while bottom land fields had been preferred for wheat production in the earlier decades). When sheep are kept in wet fields in lower areas, they are more susceptible to a variety of hoof diseases.

Architectural Significance

The Gordon Farm's architectural significance is derived from both its stylistic architectural components, such as the Italianate style house, and from its layout and the vernacular detailing of its various farm buildings, as they typify farm building construction of the period in this area. Nearly all the details of the house represent typical components of Italianate construction, though the overall form also closely resembles other vernacular houses throughout southwestern Pennsylvania.

The exterior architecture of the Gordon House is only subtly distinguished from the common format of earlier center passage houses in this region. It has the gabled roof and box cornice with heavy lines and eaves returns that typify the houses built in the region a decade or two earlier. Its five bay facade and two-room-deep mass appear at first to be the outline of a typical Georgian floor plan. However, the transition to the Italianate style is apparent in the less prominent details of the exterior. The chimneys are placed, for instance, along the ridge of the roof between the first and second bays of the facade, an arrangement which is virtually non-existent in earlier houses of this region. The windows are also clearly examples of the Italianate style of the 1870s, with panes arranged in the 2/2 pattern and with segmental arches. The placement of first and second story windows in both gable-end walls distinguishes this house from almost all earlier local houses, just as the subtle transition from a five-bay facade to a four bay rear elevation is an unusual deviation from earlier prototypes.

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The interior features of the house are distinctively Italianate. The center stairway has a walnut railing and balusters that appear to have been factory produced. The steep, winding stair treads, the railing, and the balusters match those of the Longwell House, built in 1872 in Monongahela City (NR, 1993). The arched cast iron mantelpieces of the first floor and the chamfered wooden mantelpieces in the second are typical of the Italianate style in this region. The door and window casings are machine-planed in several ogee-curved stages, a typical Italianate style feature. The nearly-square, clear-glass transoms at the interior doors are also typical of the Italianate style.

The Italianate style added a distinctive touch to buildings in and around Waynesburg around 1870. The largest Italianate building in the county is the Old Main building of Waynesburg College, built about 1870². At about the same time, several brick residences were built in the Italianate style along Washington Street, one of the main residential streets leading up into the business district from the railroad tracks that run along the southern edge of the town. The house at 242 Washington Street has drip mouldings that are almost identical to those of the Gordon House. High Street, the main street of Waynesburg's business district, though, does not have many Italianate style commercial buildings perhaps because the town was well-developed before the Civil War with Greek Revival style buildings, many of which are still standing. Nearer to the Gordon House, Mount Pleasant Methodist Protestant Church was built in the Italianate style in 1872³, and the brick school on Brick School Road was built at about the same time. Mount Pleasant Church is about three-quarters of a mile northeast of the Gordon Farm. Its windows have fully-rounded arches at the top, though no drip mouldings. The brick school, a mile east of the Gordon Farm, has segmentally arched windows with simpler brick mouldings than those of the Gordon House. Both buildings have wide wooden eaves which, like those of the Gordon House, are more typical of 1850s farmhouses in the area than the Italianate style.

Gordon Family History

The farm was established by George Washington Gordon, who inherited a portion of the larger Gordon Hill farm tract when his father died in 1876⁴. The family of John Adam Gordon, George W. Gordon's grandfather, moved to Greene County and obtained title to the larger tract in 1796, having previously lived in Monongalia County in what is now West Virginia. Mrs. John Adam Gordon was the daughter of a wealthy slaveholder in Monongalia County. John A. Gordon's son, John Brice Gordon, the father of George W. Gordon, built a significant stone house in the Greek Revival style on what is now an adjoining farm in 1843. In 1876, when John B. Gordon died, he owned three farms totaling over 1,000 acres. George W. Gordon inherited a 234 acre section of the original 343 acres his father acquired in 1796. John B. Gordon's will also specifies that George W. Gordon was to inherit "building stone sufficient for building purposes," 20 acres of timber, and \$2,000⁵. The house was most likely built just prior to George W. Gordon's marriage in 1879 to Helen Scott.

George W. Gordon apparently lived on the farm as a gentleman farmer, though his primary employment was at the Farmers and Drivers Bank in Waynesburg, the town's oldest bank, where he was an officer. His income and wealth came largely from investments. Family sources indicate that he wore white shirts and ties throughout the years that he farmed here⁶. The house was built just a few years before speculation in the oil and gas industries reached its zenith in the area, making many farmers wealthy. His inheritance of the farm also occurred during the transition from mixed farming to stock raising and breeding in Washington, Greene, and adjoining counties.

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Agricultural Significance

Throughout the nineteenth century, agriculture was the most important economic activity in Greene County. As late as 1890, almost 90 percent of Greene County's residents lived on farms, and 95 percent of Greene County's total land area was occupied by active farms⁷. The average farm size in the county was 120 acres. Generally, the farms in Greene County are slightly smaller and more hilly than those of neighboring Pennsylvania counties. Greene County's hilly, well-drained terrain makes it excellent for sheep farming, but less suitable for many other farming activities.

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Washington and Greene Counties were the leading counties in the state in numbers of sheep⁸. Sheep farming became the leading specialty in the two county area after a brief period of intense speculation in Spanish Merino on farms in several sections of the United States shortly after the War of 1812. A period of speculation in Saxony sheep followed less than a decade later. Unchecked investment in both "crazes" led to a dramatic boom-and-bust cycle. The conservative farmers of Washington and Greene Counties maintained large flocks, while some other farms quickly abandoned the sheep specialty. In 1890, Washington County boasted a population of 321,033 sheep, while Greene County had 172,517, the second largest number in the state. In 1890, 138,415 of Greene County's sheep were merinos⁹.

By the late nineteenth century, development of western farming states, which were accessed by roads and railroads passing through Washington County, briefly made the Washington/Greene County area a logical place to raise stock to be sent west. At the same time, a lack of roads and railroads in most parts of Greene County made it less susceptible to industrialization, bringing the transition to stock raising to the forefront as the most important economic activity in the county. Many farmers with sufficient capital to make the transition from general farming or from wool-producing sheep farms to breeding and raising stock for export fared well financially. The sudden increase in local farm wealth is apparent in the many newly-built, high-style farmhouses of the middle and latter decades of the nineteenth century. Greene County stock farmers also dealt in cattle and horses¹⁰. The county was strong in 1890 in swine, chickens, turkeys, and geese. Greene County's number of swine was surpassed only by Lancaster and Washington Counties, and Greene County's flocks of geese were surpassed in number only by those of Washington County¹¹. In 1890, poultry, dairy, and swine farming were expanding in response to growing markets in and around Pittsburgh. One Greene County farmer slaughtered, dressed, and shipped 750 turkeys, 600 chickens, and 150 ducks to Pittsburgh for Thanksgiving, 1887. By 1891, the same family sent as many as 4,200 turkeys to Pittsburgh for Christmas¹². The market for poultry and dairy products was the main force in the transition away from stock raising on many farms by the end of the century.

The George W. Gordon farm was set up for specialized stock raising. According to agricultural statistics in the 1880 census, Gordon sold 148 living sheep in 1879¹³. He also lost 100 sheep to death that year, 20 to disease and 80 to stress due to weather. No sheep were slaughtered on the farm in 1879. In lambing season in 1880, his remaining ewes gave birth to 78 lambs. Yet by June 1880, when the census was taken, no sheep were reported on hand at this farm, the entire flock having been sold. The Gordon farm statistics are part of a pattern that continued across Greene and Washington Counties. The majority of the farms in these counties had substantial flocks of sheep by the late 1870s. An average flock was around 100, while the sheep on a few farms numbered over 1,000.

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Generally, the larger sheep farms had about one sheep per acre, while the largest flocks were owned by intergenerational families who owned more than one farm. In Franklin Township, in 1880, only five other farms lost more than 20 sheep to stress of weather, though about 57 of the township's 140 farms lost some sheep due to weather in this year. Of the farms that lost sheep due to weather, the Gordon farm lost the most. The next largest number was 50. The loss of so many sheep to weather-related problems may have led George W. Gordon to build the numerous small sheep barns and other buildings distributed in the fields around the farm. Almost all the Franklin Township farms that had sheep in 1880 also had a high wool clip (the amount of wool shorn and sold). About 11 sheep farms showed no wool clip, and of these, Gordon had the highest numbers of sheep, lambs, and stock sales. He had sold all his sheep after lambing season and before shearing. George W. Gordon also had cattle, but in small numbers, in 1880. He purchased 15 head of cattle in 1879 and sold 18. The farm had 3 milch cows, 22 head of other cattle, and produced 400 lbs. of butter in 1889. There were also 15 swine and 45 chickens, and the farm produced 20 dozen eggs, all of which are average to low numbers for farms in this township in 1880. As was true of nearly all the other stock farms in the region, both specialty farming and general farming were carried on together.

Like several of his neighbors, George Gordon increased his wealth by leasing or selling rights to minerals beneath his farmland to various industrial concerns. Around 1900, Gordon leased the oil and gas rights from the farm to the Carnegie Company (still the natural gas supplier for this area)¹⁴. He also had investments in various other endeavors. His wealth made him an important leader in Waynesburg banking. From 1894 to 1906, he was a director of the Farmers and Drovers Bank of Waynesburg, the county's oldest bank and largest bank. However, he became Vice President and then acting President of the bank at about the time the institution failed in the Panic of 1907, making him a key player in one of the most dramatic financial set-backs in the history of the county¹⁵.

About 1920, the Gordon family moved to an apartment in Waynesburg, where George W. Gordon died in 1927. Meanwhile, the farm was rented to Charles W. Shriver¹⁶. Shriver combined the farm with other acreage for a total of 330 acres. Shriver ran the farm mostly as a sheep and poultry farm. He had a flock of 170 sheep, which though small by 19th century standards, was the twelfth largest flock in the township. The decreased flock size reflects the general twentieth century decline of sheep farming in southwestern Pennsylvania. He also had 100 chickens and the usual mix for a general farm: 4 acres of corn, 2 acres of wheat, 9 acres of oats, a quarter acre of potatoes, 40 acres of tame hay, 4 horses, 1 mule, 2 milk cows, 2 other heads of cattle, and 3 swine. At this time, the farm had a small apple orchard and a small peach orchard, neither of which had been there in 1880.

The farm was owned by Lucy Freeland, one of George W. Gordon's two daughters, until she sold it to the Hoge family in 1935. The Hoge family set the farm up as a dairy and also undertook general farming into the 1990s. When Mr. Hoge suffered a heart attack in the 1940s, he gave up dairying, and switched to beef cattle¹⁷. Wils and Jane Cooley purchased the farm in 1993 from the second generation of the Hoge family to live here. The purchase included all the acreage except for a small parcel near the original house containing a small ranch-type home built by Jessie Hoge Cowan and her husband, which is still owned by the Cowan family.

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END NOTES

1. There are other examples of stock farms operated as investments by financial leaders in nearby communities of southwestern Pennsylvania. These farms appear to have been set up primarily as investments and were not the primary source of income for their owners, though the main farm house was sometimes also the owner's residence. Generally, they contain progressive architecture for the time, having been completely restructured from the original farm patterns of the parcel by an owner of adequate means. An example is the Gibson Binns Farm, in the Red Lion Valley, Washington Township, Fayette County, between Fayette City and Perryopolis. Binns was a banker at Fayette City and a board member of the Monongahela Bank of Brownsville, the oldest bank in the region south of Pittsburgh. He set his stock farm up about 1870 on land inherited from his wife's family, and replaced the original banked stone house (still extant) located several thousand feet from the road, with an imposing Gothic Revival house overlooking the Fayette City-Perryopolis Road (now State Route 201). One reason that Binns invested in a stock farm was to capitalize on the railroad he had helped build (as an investor) through the Red Lion Valley. Jacob Bowman, founder of the Monongahela Bank of Brownsville, also owned a farm near Brownsville by the time of his death in 1847. It was one of dozens of investments mentioned in his will, though he and his family lived in houses in what is now Brownsville's Northside. Similarly, Dr. Julius LeMoynes operated a farm in Chartiers Township, Washington, Pennsylvania, in the 1870s. Though LeMoynes's residence remained at his family home in Washington, the farm was operated as an investment, introducing a number of agricultural experiments to the county. Like George W. Gordon, Gibson Binns, and Jacob Bowman, Dr. LeMoynes was a financial leader of his community, with investments in various businesses and industries. He was also a bank board member, though his primary source of employment was in the general practice of medicine.
2. The Old Main Building at Washington and Jefferson College is a classic example of Italianate architecture from the 1870s. Many churches, college structures, and similar civic buildings were built in this area in the decade following the Civil War. The Old Main at Waynesburg is a contemporary of the old main of California University of Pennsylvania (built 1868-1873) and Washington and Jefferson College (built 1873-1875), both in Washington County. Although Smith and Swetnam's *Guidebook to Historic Western Pennsylvania* only gives dates for college buildings built here around 1850, it is clear that the present design of the most prominent nineteenth century buildings on the campus date from around 1873. Smith and Swetnam are also off by about twenty years in their estimate of when the Gordon House was built: they say 1860.
3. Cowan, *History of Mt. Pleasant Methodist Protestant Church*. Smeltzer, *Methodism in Western Pennsylvania*, pg. 825.
4. Will of John Brice Gordon, Greene County Court Records.
5. Will of John Brice Gordon, Greene County Court Records.
6. From information compiled by the present owners from interviews with Gordon family members.
7. Smith, G. Wayne, *The History of Greene County Pennsylvania*, page 91. Most of the farm history information on the county as a whole is taken from Chapter 8 of Smith's book. Smith's statistics for 1890 are gleaned from the 1890 census.
8. Beach, *Two Hundred Years of Sheep Raising in the Upper Ohio Area*.
9. Smith, G. Wayne, page 91.
10. Smith, G. Wayne, page 91.
11. Smith, G. Wayne, page 91.
12. Smith, G. Wayne, pages 92 and 93.
13. *Agricultural Schedules, Federal Decennial Censuses, 1850-1880: Franklin Township, Greene County*. (National Archives Microfilm Publication T 11380). All statistics in references to farm activities in 1879 and 1880 are taken from the 1880 farm census.
14. From chain of title information compiled by an attorney for the current owner and presently in the owner's possession.
15. Smith, G. Wayne, pages 491-502.
16. Cowan, Jessie Hoge, interview.
17. Cowan, Jessie Hoge, interview.

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Greene County, Pennsylvania*

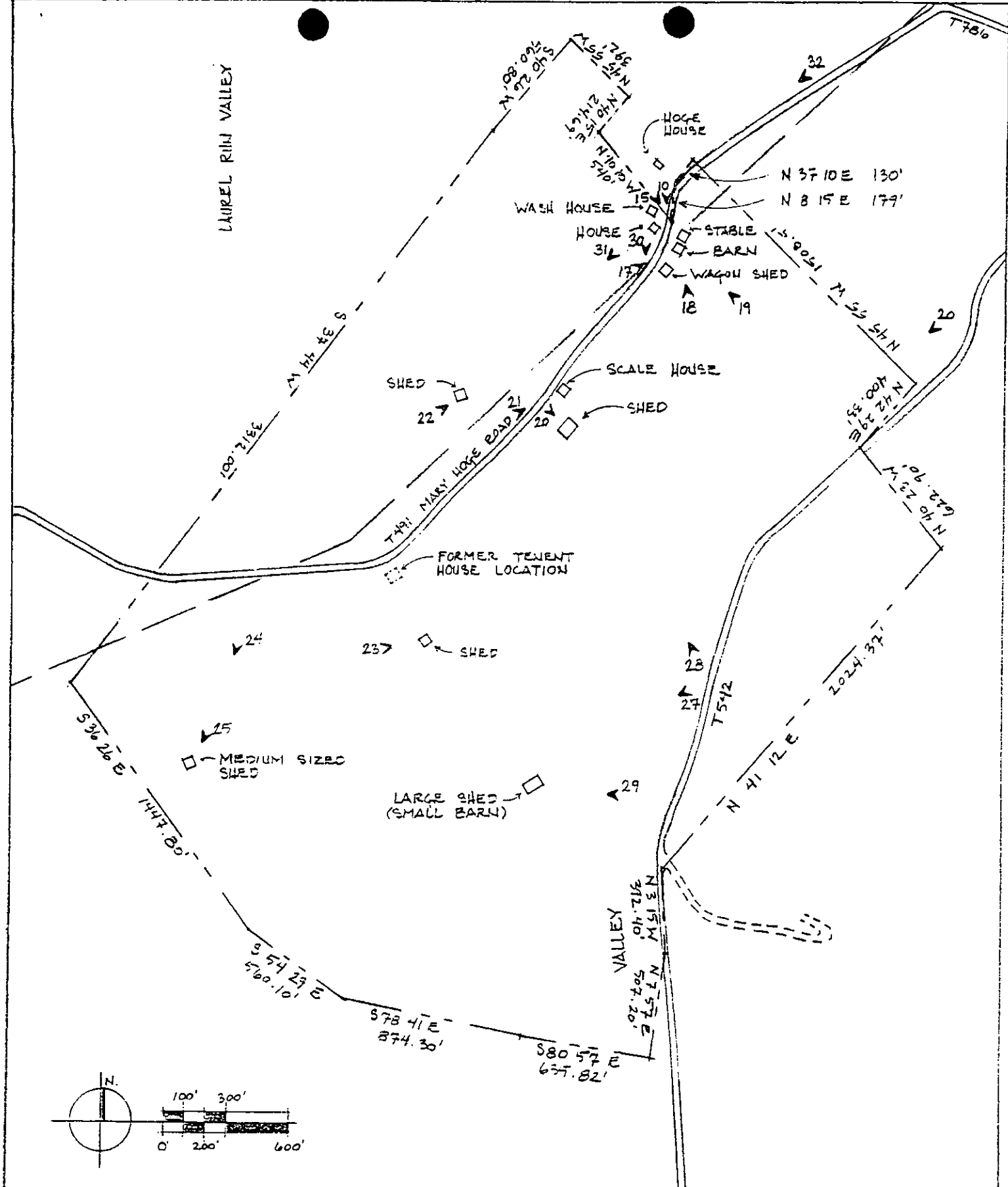
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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of this nomination are the boundaries of the current farm as owned by Wils and Jane Cooley and as described in Greene County deedbook volume 121 page 282, dated 21 October 1993. The boundaries of this parcel are shown on the enclosed site plan which was drawn based on a property survey.

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property associated with George W. Gordon Farm, except for a small parcel along the northeastern property line which was reserved by a former owner and now contains a modern home. The nominated property contains all the extant buildings historically associated with the farm and all the fields historically associated with the farm. The nominated property contains 252 acres, of which about twenty acres were added after Gordon initially set the farm up.



GEORGE W. GORDON FARM, FRANKLIN & WHITELY TOWNSHIPS, GREENE CO., PA.

TERRY A. NECCIAI, R.A. HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING
 2334 MURRAY AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15217
 412 521 4084

DATE: JULY 1999
SCALE: 1" = 600'
DRAWN BY: MZJ

Zone 17

E 571500

N 4411400

572220 572710

4412150 4411690

Gordon, George; FADA

GREENE COUNTY PA

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
GEOLOGIC SURVEY

OAK FOREST QUADRANGLE

PENNSYLVANIA-GREENE CO.

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1963 LINE
(MATHER)

1 NW
SBURGI

1370

1371 10'

1373

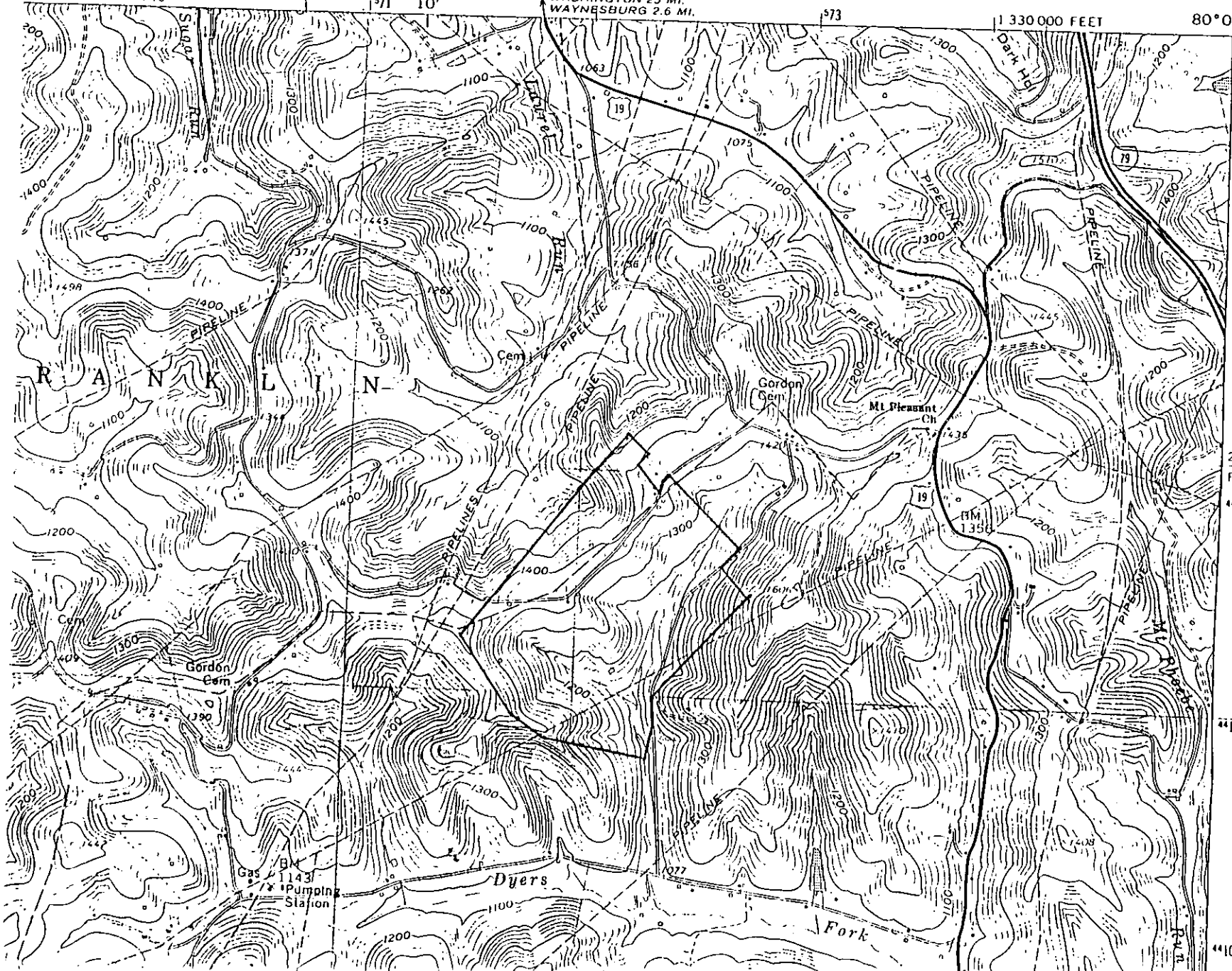
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WASHINGTON 25 MI.
WAYNESBURG 2.6 MI.



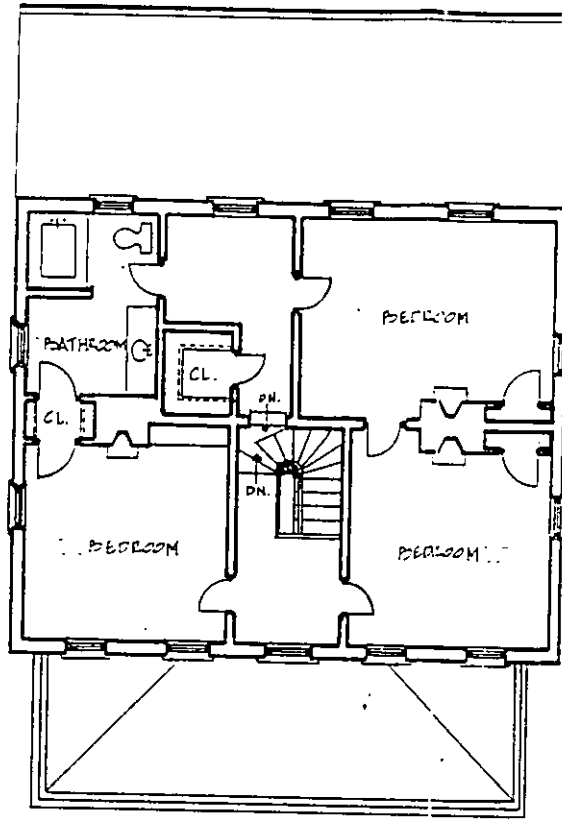
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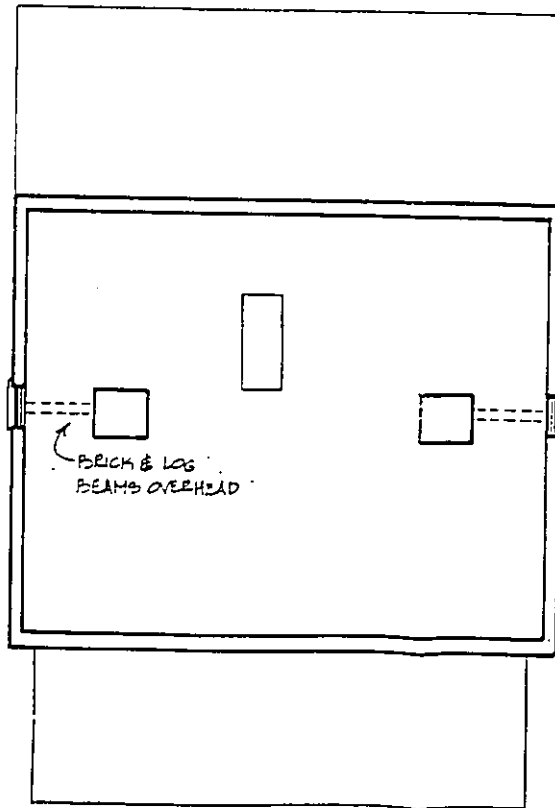
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○ SECOND FLOOR PLAN



○ ATTIC PLAN

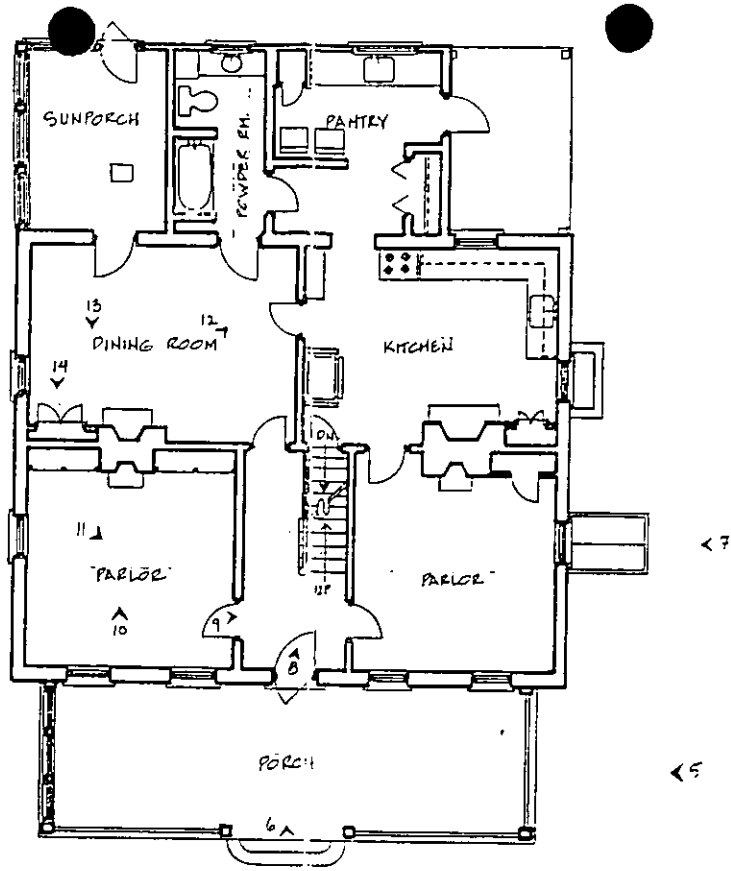
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TERRY A. NECCIAI
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING

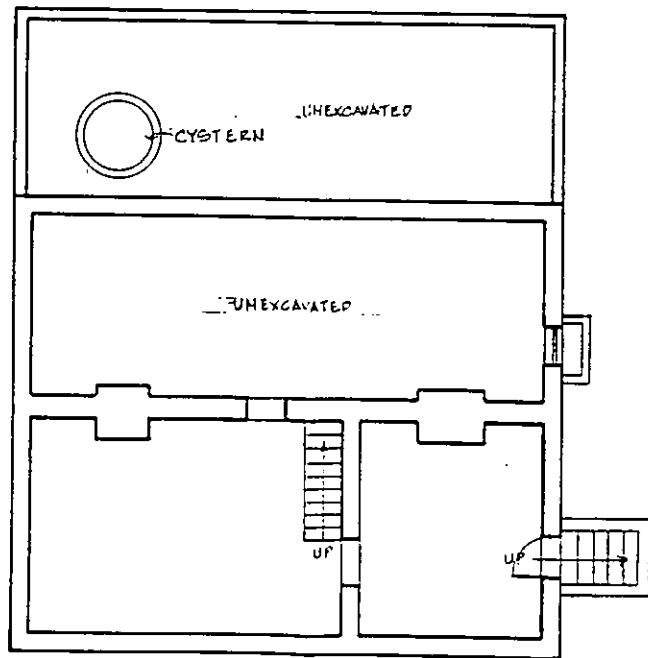
DATE: 14 DECEMBER 1992, revised 1993

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" (BEFORE REDUCTION)

DRAWN BY: TERRY A. NECCIAI, P.A.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



BASEMENT PLAN