

ABSTRACT

WA-II-262

**Belinda Springs Farm
Sharpsburg Vicinity
private**

Early 19th Century

The Belinda Springs Farm complex consists of a two story log dwelling, a one and a half story stone structure attached to the log building, several frame out-buildings and the ruins of a large frame bank barn set on high stone foundations. The complex is significant for its unusual architectural characteristics and as a resort featuring medicinal springs which was in operation during the early 19th century. The property additionally has significance for its association with the Civil War Battle of Antietam in September of 1862.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

*included in Antietam Battlefield
NR listing*

HISTORIC
Belinda Springs Farm
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Off the Sharpsburg-Harpers Ferry Road
CITY, TOWN
Sharpsburg Vicinity VICINITY OF
STATE
Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
COUNTY
Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input 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
Kermit L. Midthun
STREET & NUMBER
69 Carrington Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Providence VICINITY OF

Telephone #:
STATE, zip code
Rhode Island 02907

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Washington County Court House
STREET & NUMBER
West Washington Street
CITY, TOWN
Hagerstown STATE
Maryland

Liber #: 509
Folio #: 48

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
____ FEDERAL ____ STATE ____ COUNTY ____ LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

WA-II-262

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Belinda Springs Farm, an early 19th century resort is located at the end of a long private lane on the west bank of the Antietam Creek just south of Sharsburg in Washington County, Maryland. The buildings are situated at the base of a steep bluff and face east or toward the Creek.

What remains of the Belinda Springs Complex is a two story log dwelling and a one and a half story stone structure with a frame addition giving it an upper story and attaching it to the ^{log} section, several frame outbuildings and the ruins of a large frame bank barn set on high stone foundations. A small stone structure housing one of the springs also remains.

The log structure is a two story, three bay dwelling set on fieldstone foundations. It is constructed of large hewn squared logs, many of which are greater than one foot in width. The exterior wall surface was apparently originally sheathed with rough cast applied over split lath. Over this had been placed wooden weatherboarding. More recently, brick composition siding had sheathed the walls.

Openings are aligned with each other but are not spaced symmetrically in the walls. Windows and doors have moderately wide frames finished with a bead at the inside edge. No sashes remain in the windows. The east elevation has no windows at the main story, but has two entrances each topped with a four light transom. Doors have six raised panels trimmed with quarter round.

A shed roof porch extends along the south gable wall. An enclosed walkway of frame construction along the east elevation links it to the stone structure. As depicted in an old photograph dating from Ca. 1890-1900, the walkway extended along the entire east elevation of the log structure. It was framed under the main roof span and its upper level was enclosed with board and batten siding.

At present the roof of the log structure is sheathed with sheet metal. Under this, however, remain some of the earlier riven wooden shingles. The old photograph of the building shows wooden shingles on all portions of the roof. A small brick flue extends from the peak of the roof near the center of the house. A more recent flue also of brick rises along the exterior of the west elevation.

Probably the most unusual feature of this log structure is the interior partition which divides the house nearly in half, east to west. This wall is made of wattle and daub, a type of construction which has not been encountered in Washington County. The daubing is made of clay with straw used for binding.

There is no fireplace in this structure. The only stairway in the building is enclosed, constricted into the northeast corner of the house. In the attic, the rafters are joined with wooden pegs. Nails extracted from attic floorboards and from other apparently original material in the house were of three types: Completely hand wrought, machine made with wrought heads or completely machine made.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued)

1-A

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Early 19th century resort; medicinal	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES: _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT: _____ springs.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Belinda Springs Farm Complex is significant for its architecture and as a resort which operated during the early 19th century. It is thus also important for its contribution to commerce and for social concerns. The property additionally has significance for its association with the Civil War Battle of Antietam in September of 1862.

Architecturally, the remaining Belinda Springs structures although undated, display some unusual, if not unique, features. The wattle and daub interior wall is significant because this may be the only structure in the County displaying such an archaic technique. Another unusual feature of this house is the placement of openings with no windows at the first story level of the east elevation. Although it is not known when or for what purpose the structure was built, the presence of cut as well as wrought nails in the original fabric of the building provides evidence that it was constructed after 1800. Other techniques and the type of interior woodwork employed suggest a building date prior to 1840.

April 10, 1850, John Gardenhour, executor of Jacob Gardenhour, deeded Belinda Springs Farm to Jacob Snavelly for \$8150.21. The property contained 138 1/16 acres and included parts of the grants: "Hunting The Hare," "Abston's Forest," "Mt. Pleasant" and "Cartenover's Sugar Camp," (Deed Liber IN5, Folio 185). Snavelly had purchased the farm at public sale on February 26, 1848. An advertisement in the Weekly Herald of Freedom for February 9, 1848, describes the improvements on the farm as being seven buildings, "a good dwelling house, large switzer barn, and all necessary out houses."

There is little agreement among written sources about when or from whom Jacob Gardenhour purchased Belinda Springs. It is variously stated that Gardenhour bought the farm in 1818, that the resort was in full operation in 1818, and that a hotel was built on the farm in 1821 or 1822. Deed records show no documentation of Jacob Gardenhour purchasing a farm. Small amounts of "Mt. Pleasant" (16 acres) were, however, purchased by a Jacob Cartenover from Joseph Chapline, Jr. in 1804 and 1805 (Deed Liber R, Folio 201, 202). Chapline owned Mt. Pleasant, a tract of over 2000 acres which he seems to have been selling off in the early 1800's. "Hunting The Hare" was also a Chapline grant. The 1804 deed from Chapline to Cartenover refers to "Cartenover's Sugar Camp," a grant presumably made to Jacob Cartenover or a member of his family, and to other property owned by Cartenover adjoining that which was being conveyed in the deed. There is evidence then, that Jacob Cartenover had property in the area in the opening years of the 1800's if not earlier. No further records could be found on Cartenover's Sugar Camp, but the 1804 deed describes it as being part of Mt. Pleasant. It appears likely that "Abston's Forest" was also part of Mt. Pleasant.

In the 1803 tax assessment for Washington County a Jacob Cartenover was listed as owning three tracts of land containing 128 acres. He was assessed for four horses, eight head of cattle and household furnishings valued at \$6, relatively few possessions compared with

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 106.31 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

March 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Court House Annex

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Linked by the walkway to this log building is a one and a half story stone structure constructed of roughly coursed local limestone. A frame one story addition has raised the height of this stone building. This addition was not present in the old photograph of the building. Openings have wide framing secured with wooden pins. Entrances to this structure are located in the north and west elevations. A massive exterior stone chimney is located at the east gable end. This structure has one room at each story level. A cavernous service fireplace is located in the ground story. Above this is a moderately large fireplace with a mantel displaying decorative reeding. The early photograph shows a covered stair leading from the ground story entrance of the stone structure in its north wall to the walkway between it and the log building.

Extending to the north of the log building are the remains of foundations of a large extension. As seen in the old photograph, this was a high, two story, seven bay building of log construction and sheathed with weatherboarding. A vertical seam in the structure between the second and third bays from its south end suggests that it may have been built in two parts. According to local sources this building was torn down earlier in this century. It was known as the Belinda Springs hotel.

East of the existing structures is a spring over which is a small stone building and remnants of an attached stone wall. This spring is supposed to have supplied drinking water for the complex. Nearby were other springs with high mineral content supposed to contain sulphate of magnesium and carbonate of iron which were deemed medicinal. One of these medicinal springs is located in the present barnyard area. It and another, located in the pasture were filled in by the previous owner.

There were other secondary structures associated with the Belinda Springs complex. None of them, however, have survived to the present. It is believed that some of these buildings were located on the hillside north of the present structures.

Evidence of a road or broad pathway can be seen leading from the house to the Antietam Creek. Parts of some pilings remain near the waters edge. Caves are said to have been located near the complex.

The Belinda Springs buildings are in ruined or deteriorated condition. The farm contains 106.31 acres. Recently reconstruction work was begun on the remaining buildings in an effort toward restoration.

other assessments in the same tax list.

All of the written sources credit Jacob Gardenhour with developing the Belinda Springs resort. Apparently it was he who gave them their name in honor of his wife. Thomas Scharf's History of Western Maryland states that

"A number of cottages were built for visitors; also billiard-houses, ten-pin alleys, bath-houses, drinking saloons, and barber shops.... About 200 yards distant from each other are the springs, one of which contains pure limestone water; the other, according to an analysis made by Dr. Hartman, one of the first physicians of Sharpsburg, contains sulphur, iron and magnesia.... The grounds were neatly and tastefully laid out with carriage-roads and gravel walks, and adorned with trees and ornamental shrubbery. In 1832, when the cholera epidemic broke out, Daniel Schnebley of Hagerstown, was the proprietor of the hotel at Belinda Springs." ¹

In 1826 arrangements were made for the local celebration of the 50th anniversary of American Independence to be held at Belinda Springs. The popularity of the Springs was short lived. As the result of a cholera epidemic which broke out among Irish workers on the C & O Canal in 1832, the resort was closed, never to reopen.

An established fording place of the Antietam Creek was located just upstream from Belinda Springs. During the Civil War, large numbers of Union Troops under the command of Brigadier General Isaac Rodman forded the Antietam Creek while the battle raged further upstream at Burnside's Bridge. They marched toward Sharpsburg to outflank Confederate Units. In this segment of the battle, General Rodman was mortally wounded.

It is believed that the Belinda Springs were known to early settlers and Indians in the Antietam Valley prior to their development into a resort. Attached to this report is a copy of the legend of Roseline, daughter of a pioneer who lived near the Antietam Creek during the 1730's, as recorded in T.J.C. Williams, History of Washington County.

Unfortunately, no other information on the buildings remaining at Belinda Springs could be obtained. Questions persist relating to the age and original use of the log structure: Was it built prior to the commercial development of Belinda Springs which presumably took place during the early 1820's? Was the structure built as a dwelling or was it a hotel erected by Jacob Gardenhour for the resort? It is hoped that these questions will be answered in further studies of the area.

¹ Thomas J. Scharf, History of Western Maryland, Philadelphia, Pa: Louis H. Everts (1882), p. 1210.

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WA-II-262

Barron, Lee and Barbara, The History of Sharpsburg, Md., 1972

Hays, Helen Ashe, The Antietam and Its Bridges, N. Y.: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1910.

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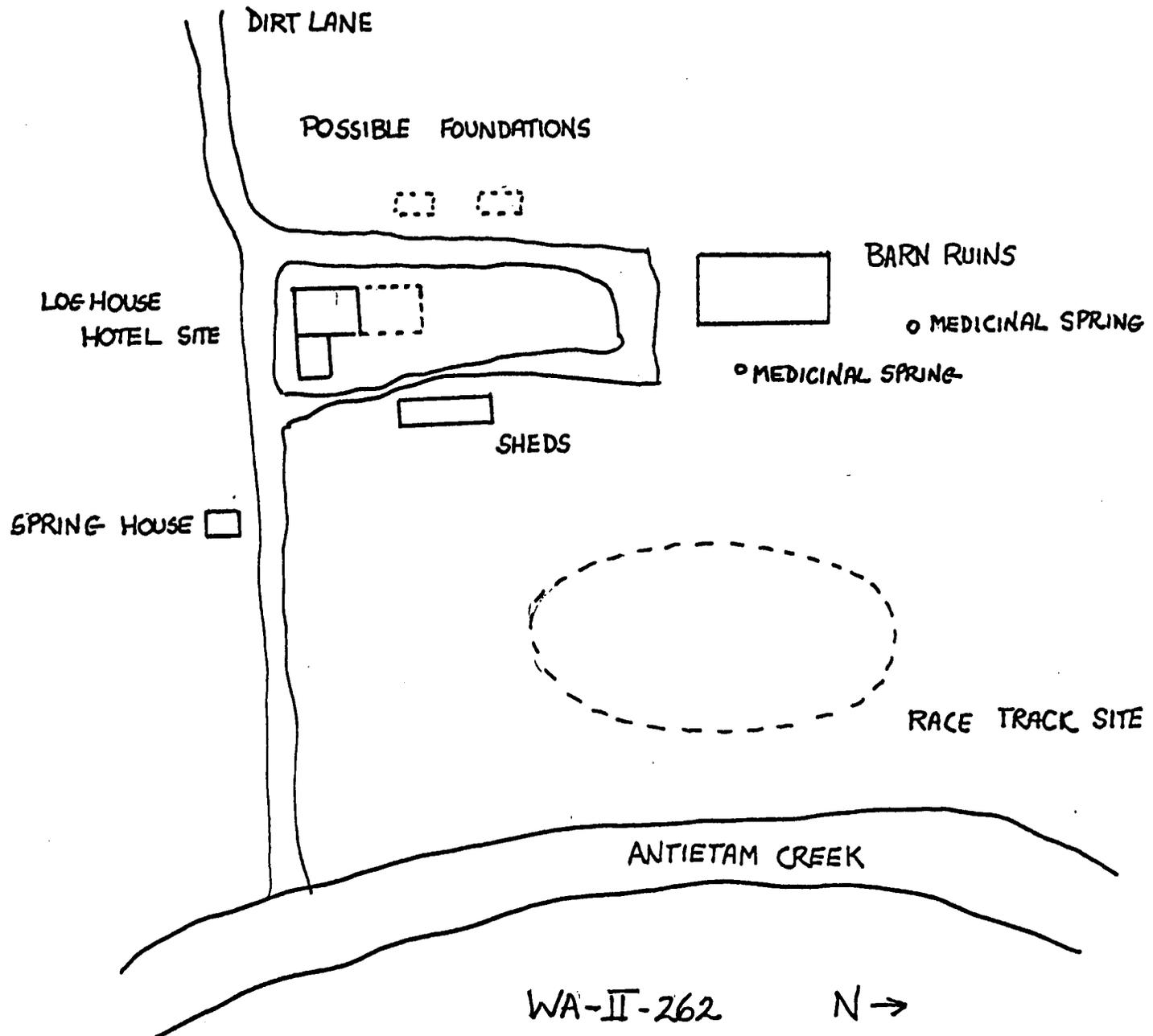
Washington County Land Records.

Washington County Probate Records.

Washington County Tax Assessment, 1803.

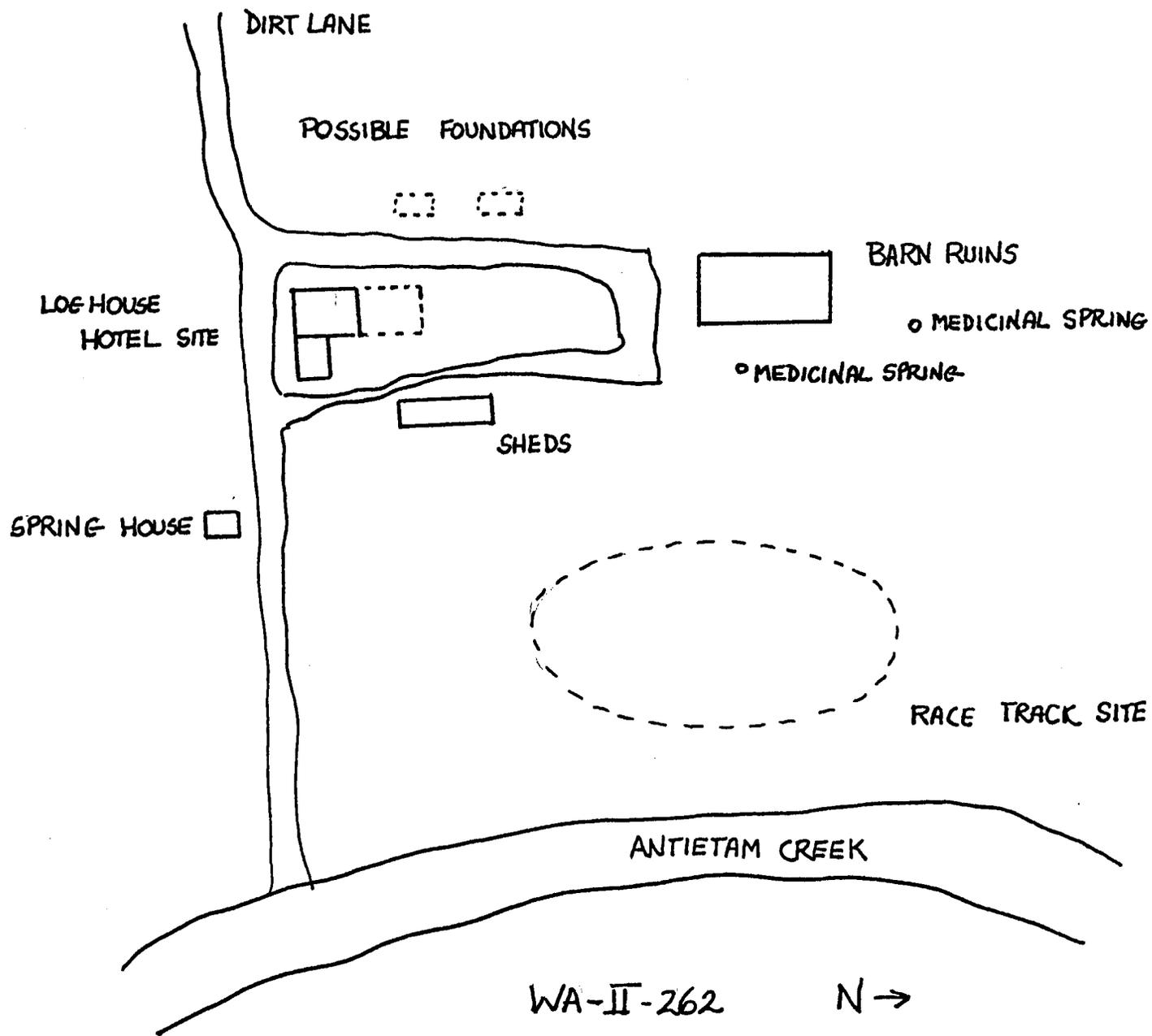
Weekly Herald of Freedom, Sale bill, Wednesday, February 9, 1848.

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Mail Publishing Co., 1906.



WA-II-262 N →

NOT IN SCALE



WA-II-262

N →

NOT IN SCALE

Sharpsburg, Keedysville, Smithsburg and Cave-town.

This county was a magnificent hunting ground for the Indians, who seem to have fought for it among themselves, and invaded it from the North and South just as the contending armies of the North and South did many years later. Of these contests there are only traditions. The Delawares from the North met here the Catawbas from the South, and the battles between the two were exceedingly sanguinary. Some of these battles took place just about the time when the white settlers first began to appear upon the scene. The settlers were upon terms of friendship with the Indians, and until a later period were entirely unmolested by them. About the year 1736, a bloody battle took place between these two hostile tribes at the mouth of the Antietam. At this point the Delawares, returning from one of their forays to the country of the Catawbas were overtaken by the latter. In the desperate battle which ensued every Delaware brave, with a single exception, had been killed and scalped and every Catawba warrior save one, had one or more scalps to exhibit after the victory. Like the Spartan who brought home the news of Thermopylae, this scalpless brave could not rest under the disgrace, and so he pursued the surviving and fugitive Delaware with the instinct and pertinacity of a blood hound for fully one hundred miles. The unfortunate fugitive was overtaken, slaughtered and scalped on the banks of the Susquehanna: the fair fame of the Catawba was retrieved, and he could return to his home.

There is a story of the early settlers connected with this bloody battle: whether founded on fact, or a mere product of the imagination, I cannot tell. The date of the battle given in this narrative is 1736. At that time, according to the tradition, there lived upon "Red Hill," an eminence near the Antietam about two miles from the scene of the battle and a short distance from Sharpsburg, a settler who was called Orlando, with his wife, Laretta, a French woman, and their two children, a boy, Thomas, and a girl, Roseline. Hearing the sounds of the battle between the Delawares and Catawbas, the family fled to the side of South Mountain and there remained several days and nights, but partially protected from a severe storm by an overhanging rock. Whilst in this refuge a neighboring settler brought the news that it would be safe to return

to their cabin. They did so, and found it undisturbed. It was not long before the boy, Thomas, was taken sick with a fever brought on by the exposure in the mountain and died. The mother, who had been delicately reared, soon followed her son to the grave and the health of the daughter was greatly impaired. In her grief and desolation she sought the society of the family of Peter Powles, living near the Belinda spring not far distant and in frequently passing it drank the waters and her health was restored. This was the first discovery of the medicinal property of that spring, which afterward became popular. But her restored health was not long enjoyed in peace. A Catawba chief fell in love with her and demanded her of Orlando for his wife. The proposal was rejected with horror but the savage was not to be defeated in his design. He frequently prowled around the cabin awaiting his opportunity, until one night he shot the father through an open window and bore off the unfortunate Rosaline to his wigwam. No news of her was ever afterwards received by her friends.

On the western side of the mouth of the Conococheague creek, after the settlement of Conococheague had begun, another bloody conflict took place between the Catawbas and Delawares, and the Delawares were again defeated. The surviving warrior this time took refuge in the house of Mr. Charles Friend, who lived very near the scene of the battle, and was by him protected from the ferocity of his pursuers. Just on the outskirts of Williamsport there was within the memory of many now living an Indian graveyard, which probably contained the bones of those who fell in that battle. Mr. John Tomlinson whose father lived on the Potomac, seven miles below the mouth of the Conococheague, informed Mr. Kereheval that he remembered when a child seven or eight years of age, seeing a party of Delawares pass his father's house, with a female Catawba prisoner, who had an infant child in her arms, and that it was said they intended to sacrifice her when they reached their towns.

There are remains of Indian settlements in various parts of the County. Around the great spring at Fountain Rock, the College of St. James, arrow heads and stone pipes and tomahawks have been very abundant, and a few years ago the author saw Indian skeletons exhumed in digging a cistern not far from this place. For many miles along the Potomac, Indian relics are

