

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: 19th c. Farmstead Survey Number: WA-II-363

Project: Scenic Easement Acquisition John Pieper Property Agency: FHWA/SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on available information, the 19th Century Farmstead (or John Pieper Property) located at 18502 Burnside Bridge Road near Sharpsburg is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, for agriculture, military, and architectural significance. The property is immediately adjacent to the Antietam National Battlefield, just south of the location of the important Civil War engagement that occurred at the Burnside Bridge, where Burnside's Union troops held positions at the north end of the Pieper Property. Thus the property was associated with the Civil War events for which the battlefield is significant. In addition, the farmstead and surrounding farmlands contribute to the cultural landscape setting for the battlefield. When inventoried in 1978, the property included a mid-19th century house, bake oven, smoke house, spring house, and 20th century bank barn. According to SHA's March 15, 1994 letter the sole building dating to the period of the dwelling is the smoke house. Thus, it is not clear how many of the domestic outbuildings mentioned in the inventory form remain standing. However, if the springhouse, smoke house and bake oven all remain, they would constitute an unusually rich collection of domestic outbuildings common to the 19th century farmhouse in rural Maryland. The farmstead is significant as a representative of Washington County's 19th and early 20th century agricultural heritage. The large frame L-shaped farmhouse is of architectural interest. The house has an unusual roof construction, consisting of a combination of hipped and gabled joints, which is found on several other mid-19th century houses in the Sharpsburg area. The unusual configuration allows the house to appear larger than it is from the road. The house exhibits Greek Revival and Victorian influences in the treatment of the porches.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Inventory Form WA-II-363 Project File

Prepared by: Paula Stoner, Rita Suffness

Elizabeth Hannold Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services April 8, 1994 Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
[Signature] Reviewer, NR program 4/11/94 Date

[Signature]

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Agricultural, dwelling

Known Design Source: na

WA-II-363  
Noah Rohrbach House  
(J. Wyland House, John Pieper Property)  
18502 Burnside Bridge Road  
Sharpsburg  
Private

18<sup>th</sup> century; c. 1850

Although the Noah Rohrbach House appears from the road to be of frame construction, it is actually a log house held up by immense oak timbers hand mortise-and-tenoned together in a heavy skeleton. Moreover, this log skeleton is actually recycled and relocated from a much earlier structure. Studies of the building hardware, such as the bevel-sided, cast-iron rim locks, suggested a date of about 1850 for the current appearance. However, the 12"-thick walls of the structure are of vertical-post log construction, a system where the horizontal logs are let into posts at corners and intermediate points in the wall, rather than, say, lapped with notches. This sophisticated system, which uses carefully constructed mortise-and-tenon joints, was common from the 1820s to the 1860s and represents some 5% of the log houses built in western Maryland. What is even more unusual about the house is that there is no evidence of chinking or daubing in the spaces between logs. Typically, the timbers for a log house were cut, shaped, and erected while the logs were green, and allowed to dry and shrink over about a two year period, compressing the chinking between the logs. The lack of chinking between the logs of the Rohrbach house indicates a probable re-use of a previously existing log structure, which had long since dried and shrunk to a stable form. The large L-shaped house stands two stories in height, with a stone basement containing two windows and two doors exposed on the west side. The house is six bays wide along its west elevation. The first

floor of this elevation (as well as the basement below) is covered by a hip-roofed Victorian porch with turned posts, corner brackets, and a sawnwork balustrade. The southernmost bay of the porch consists of steps leading down to ground level. The door, with a transom above, stands in the third bay from the right. The south façade is five bays wide, with a small Greek Revival style portico covering an entrance in the center bay. The house has an unusual roof construction, consisting of a combination of hipped and gabled joints, which is found on several other mid-19<sup>th</sup> century houses in the Sharpsburg area. The unusual configuration allows the house to appear larger from the road than it actually is. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal. The house was completely restored in 2001, including replacement and repair of several termite-ridden framing members and the large wooden lintel over the basement fireplace.

The Noah Rohrbach House is historically significant for its architecture, its outbuildings, and its association with the Civil War. When inventoried in 1978, the property included the house, bake oven, smoke house, spring house, and 20<sup>th</sup> century bank barn. If the spring house, smoke house, and bake oven all remain, they would constitute an unusually rich collection of domestic outbuildings common to the 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse in rural Maryland. The farmstead is significant as a representative of Washington County's 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century agricultural heritage. The property stands immediately adjacent to the Antietam National Battlefield, just south of the location of the important Civil War engagement that occurred at the Burnside Bridge, where Burnside's Union troops held positions at the north end of the property. Thus the

property was associated with the Civil War events for which the battlefield itself is significant. In addition, the farmstead and surrounding farmlands contribute to the cultural landscape setting for Antietam National Battlefield.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-II-363  
District 1  
Map 80  
Parcel 3  
MAGI # 2209255535

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

19th Century Farmstead

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Burnside Bridge Road

CITY, TOWN

X VICINITY OF Sharpsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William Dorsey

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Burnside Bridge Road

CITY, TOWN

Sharpsburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21782

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 255

Folio #: 191

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story, six bay frame house is an L-shaped structure sheathed with random width lapped boards. Six over six pane windows are present at all elevations. The roof construction consists of a combination of hipped and gabled joints which was done on several mid 19th century houses in the Sharpsburg area. Outbuildings include a bake oven, a smoke house and a spring house. Also present is a frame bank barn which dates from the 20th century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This complex consists of a group of mid 19th century structures. The house shows characteristics of construction from the second quarter of the 19th century. Greek Revival influence is apparent in treatment of a side porch and entrances although the main front porch is Victorian.

The farm also derives some military significance from its nearness to the Civil War Battlefield at Antietam.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Old-House Journal, April 2001 "Skilled Fixes for a  
Log House" by Gordon Bock & Douglass C. Reed

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 154.5 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, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

June 1978

STREET & NUMBER

109 West Main Street, Box 202

TELEPHONE

301-432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

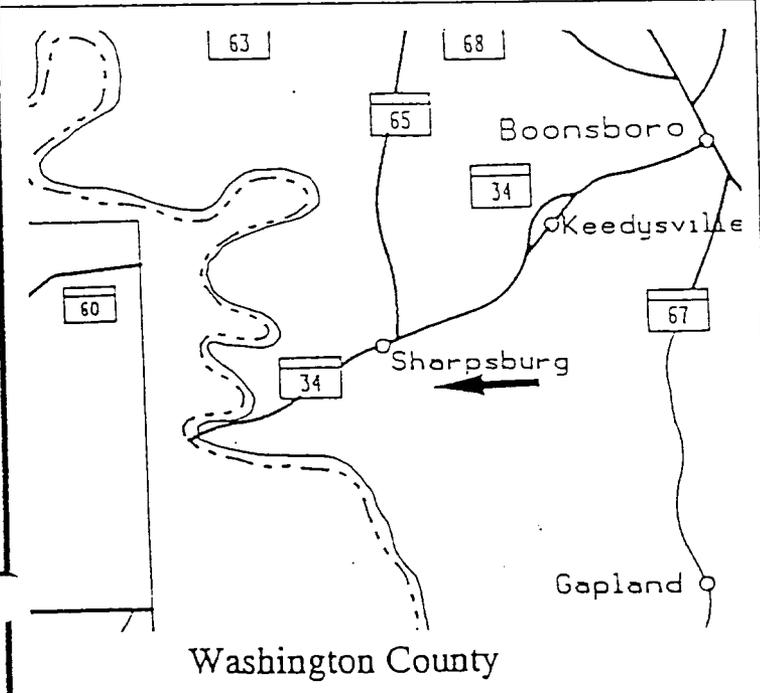
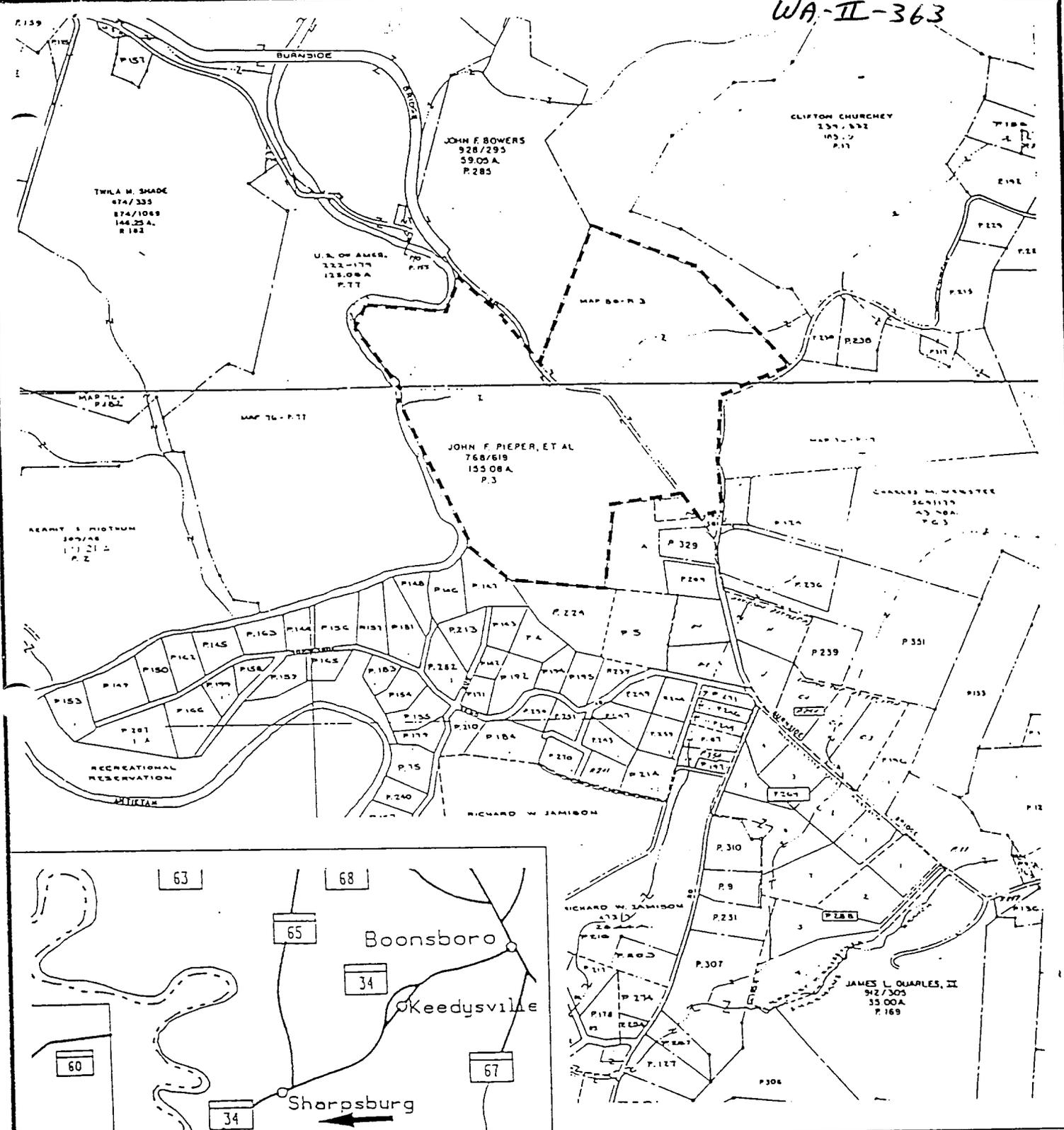
STATE

Maryland 21782

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.

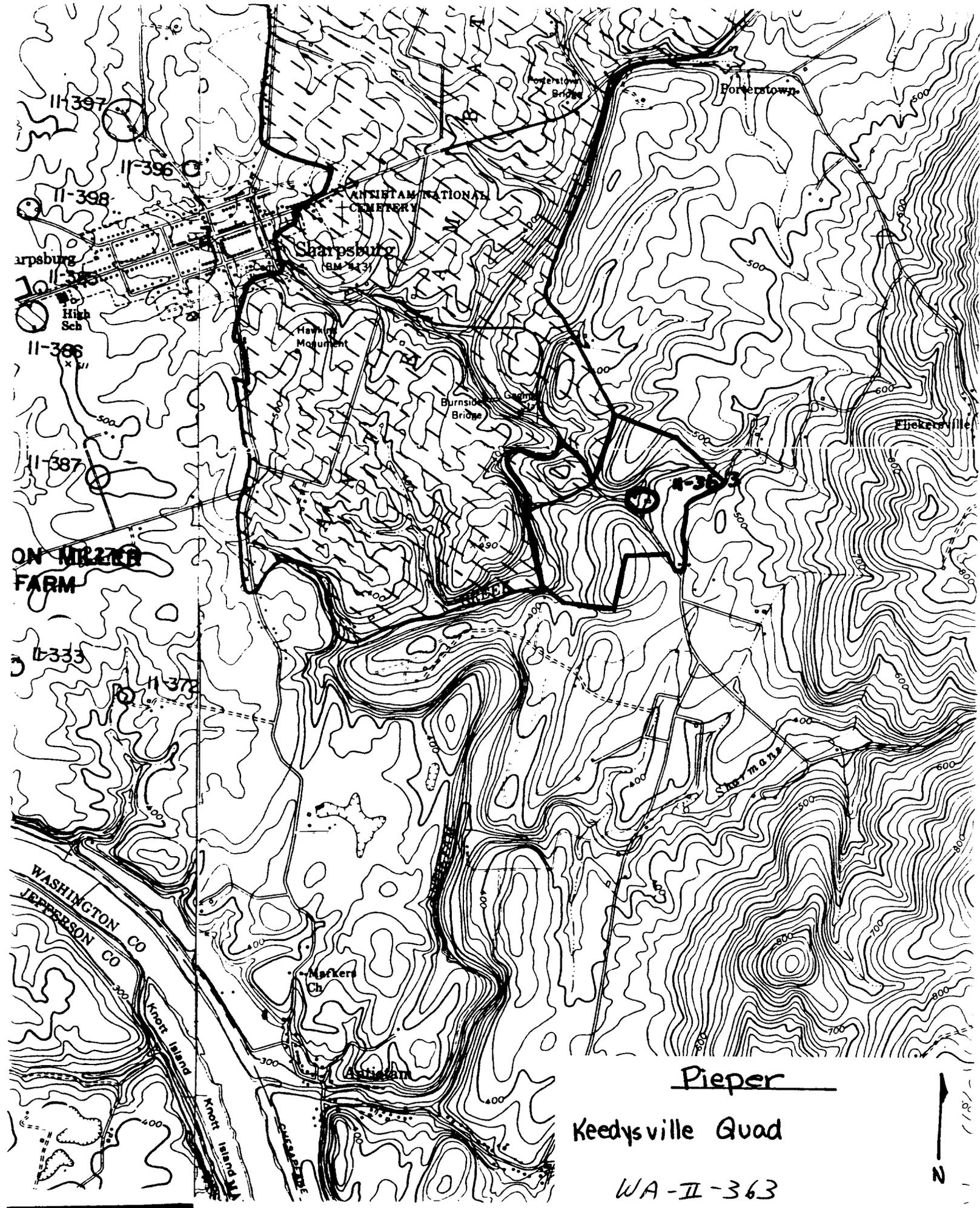
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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



MD DNR - Program Open Space  
 MD Department of Transportation

*John Pieper*  
 S.P.M. 80, Parcel 3  
 155.06 Acres



11-397

11-396

11-398

Sharpburg

11-395

High Sch

11-386

11-387

ON MR 2700 FARM

11-333

11-372

WASHINGTON CO  
JEFFERSON CO

Knot Island  
Knot Island

Marker Ch

ANNIETAM

Porterstown Bridge

Porterstown

Sharpburg (RM 443)

Harmon Monument

Burnside Bridge

11-363

Eickersville

Pieper

Keedysville Quad

WA-II-363



600 000 FEET

(MD)

4373

4372

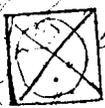
27'30"

4370

WA-II-363

WA-II-363

6462 IV NE  
(SHEPHERDSTOWN)



WA II 350



WA II 351



WA II 352



WA II 353



WA II 349



WA II 355



WA II 300



WA II 261



WA II 274



WA II 350



WA II 351



WA II 331



WA II 324



WA II 323



WA II 340



WA II 265



WA II 314



WA II 314



WA II 322



WA II 341



WA II 317



WA II 310



WA II 310

ANTIETAM NATIONAL  
CEMETERY

Sharpsburg

(BM 113)



Hawkins  
Monument



WA II 354



WA II 354



Burnside  
Bridge



Gaping  
St



WA II 332



WA II 333



WA II 349



WA II 314

Flickersville



McClellan  
Lookout  
Tower



WA II 362

Keedysville quad

CREEK



WA II 262



WA II 369



WA II 366



Cem  
Mt Briar

Road

J. Wyland House  
Photographs, Page 1  
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Farm  
View Looking North



Dwelling  
South Elevation



Dwelling  
S.W. Corner



Dwelling  
West (Principal) Elevation  
WA-II-363



Bankbarn  
S.W. Corner



Bankbarn  
South Elevation



19th Century Farmstead

Burnside Bridge Road  
Sharpsburg Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



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