

VLR- 6/16/93 NRHP- 8/12/93

NPS Form 10-900  
Oct 1990

OMB No 10024-0018

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 Frederick County Poor Farm

other names/site number Frederick County Poorhouse

### 2. Location

street & number Route 654  not for publication

city or town Round Hill  vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Frederick code 69 zip code 22601

### 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.)

Henry C. Miller 6 July 1993

Signature of certifying official>Title

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Frederick Co. Poor Farm  
Name of Property

Frederick Co., VA  
County and State

### 5. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

Check as many boxes as apply

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

#### Category of Property

Check only one box

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

#### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
7	2	Total

#### Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

#### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: institutional housing

AGRICULTURE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuildings

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof METAL

other

#### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Frederick Co. Poor Farm  
(Name of Property)

Frederick Co., VA  
(County and State)

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark  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  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.

#### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

#### Period of Significance

ca. 1820-1943

#### Significant Dates

1820

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

#### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Frederick Co. Poor Farm  
Name or Property

Frederick Co., VA  
County and State

#### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 24

##### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

• <u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>

3 <u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing
4 <u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u>

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 Jeffrey M. O'Dell (architectural historian); John S. Salmon (historian)

organization Va. Dept. of Historic Resources date 25 May 1993

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone 804-786-3143

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

##### 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 Fruit Hill Orchard, Inc.

street & number P.O. Box 2368 telephone

city or town Winchester state VA zip code 22604

**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**Section number 7 Page 1Frederick County Poor Farm  
Frederick Co., VA**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

The Frederick County Poor Farm, located in a rural area of central Frederick County, is a complex of buildings in an attractive rural setting of hills and pasture land. The main building, erected in 1820, is both the oldest and best-preserved such structure in Virginia. Similar in form to the main building at the somewhat later Shenandoah County Poor Farm, it features a two-story brick main block and original lateral one-story brick wings. Other buildings and structures on the farm include an early-nineteenth-century brick springhouse, a mid-nineteenth-century frame dwelling, and a late-nineteenth-century or early-twentieth-century blacksmith shop. There are also a number of twentieth-century farm structures, most of them underused and deteriorating.

**PHYSICAL\ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The Frederick County Poor Farm stands in a level area surrounded by pasture, just east of State Route 654. The focal point is the large, one- and two-story brick poorhouse with gable roofs. An irregular string of outbuildings, all facing the same direction as the house, extend on either side. A group of tall hardwoods shade the front of the house, which faces east.

The poorhouse was erected in 1820, as testified by a marble commemorative plaque near the top of the north chimney. The builder is not known.

Five-course American bond is used throughout the building, including the later rear ell. The quality of the brickwork in the original sections is quite good, although it has been marred in places by poor-quality repointing. On the other hand, the brickwork in the rear ell has inferior mortar, and the joints have been crudely (but incompletely) patched in recent years.

Tall, nicely splayed jack arches surmount all the windows. The two end chimneys, perhaps the most distinctive aspect of the main block, each contain four fireplaces. A brick parapet at both gable ends gives the house a strong outline, and the mouse-tooth cornice on all elevations lends further interest to the facades.

The floor plan of the main block is unusual. The five-bay front is symmetrical, but there is only one door, which enters the larger of

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the two rooms. Although there are four rooms on the main floor, there is no passage. One would think this awkward, but apparently it served the original occupants well enough. The original enclosed, straight-run stair is tucked against the inner walls of the main (northeast) room. This leads to a narrow landing where the stair divides, leading to rooms on the left and the right. Upstairs, this stair is enclosed by vertical beaded boards. A fixed, six-light sash window is fitted into the board wall in the east room to admit light to a stairway that might otherwise be pitch black.

Interior detailing remains largely intact. It includes Federal-style mantels in each of the rooms. Those upstairs are plain but with good proportions. Those downstairs have rudimentary decoration: an oak leaf and a star on the mantel in the north room, and gouge-work resembling triglyphs in the south room. Original baseboards, chair rails, and window surrounds survive in all rooms.

Extending from the main block at either gable end are original brick one-story wings. At the front, they are set back about ten feet from the main block, and in the rear there is a one-foot setback. Early if not original shed-roofed porches run the length of these wings. Detailing includes square posts with chamfered tops.

The plan of each wing consists of five rooms in a row. Four of the rooms share two chimneys, and the end room is served by a single exterior chimney flush with the exterior wall. Some of the rooms communicate, but these openings are probably later. Each room has an exterior door, creating a row of single-room apartments.

Two or three decades after the original building was erected, a two-story ell was built at the rear. It has a much shallower roof pitch than the older sections. The five-bay front features windows with the typical jack arches of the period, with barely enough splay to support the wall above.

The two-room plan features a central, enclosed, straight-run stair that allows private entry to each of the rooms. The western, or outer room, may have been a kitchen; the original brick floors remain there. The walls of both rooms are unplastered (they were whitewashed or painted in later years.) Upstairs, in contrast, the rooms are plastered. Both upstairs rooms have plain Greek mantels.

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Frederick County Poor Farm  
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The oldest support building at the Poor Farm is a brick springhouse located about a hundred yards south of the main house. It is a typical building of its type, with a gable roof and squarish, one-room plan. There are no windows, only a front door. Ventilation is supplied by a number of slits in the walls.

Having been built adjoining a spring which continues to bring water to the surface, the building has not fared well. The northwest end, next to the spring, has two large diagonal faults in the brick wall; they run from the eaves almost to ground level. No doubt these were caused by subsidence of the rubble-stone foundations.

The third-oldest building on the property is the secondary dwelling located about seventy-five yards southwest of the main house, and on axis with it. Built in the mid nineteenth century, it no doubt served as additional lodgings for the farm's residents.

The interior of this building was not accessible at the time of the site visit. It appears to have a three-room, single-pile plan. The front facade has five openings, three of them doors. This is similar to the wings of the main house, where each room has its own exterior door.

The house has a steep roof, and the loft may have been used for sleeping. The front porch, or piazza, is original, with its roof continuing on the same plane as the main unit (the posts and some of the detailing has been replaced.)

A look through one of the windows indicated that the interior is plastered, and has tall ceilings (about ten feet). At least one of the rooms has no interior communication with its neighbor; all rooms may have had this same arrangement, but they could not be seen.

The blacksmith shop stands about seventy-five yards north of the main house, beside the farm road leading northeast. Probably built in the early part of this century, it is a one-story frame building with a gable-end front and a rather steep-pitched gable roof.

The framing--if it can properly be called that--is very odd. There are no foundations, and no evidence that there ever were any. The building has no sills, no posts, and no diagonal braces. Rather, the walls consist of the same rough oak boards that form the exterior sheathing, joined by three sets of oak rails on each wall.

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(The top rails assume the functions of a plate or girt.) Presumably, the walls were assembled on the ground and pushed up into place. After the walls were up, the roof was constructed.

Inside, the building is open to the roof, and there are only two tie beams, both of them about two inches square. All lumber is circular-sawn and attached with wire nails.

In front of the hearth, a platform of rubble stone was apparently used for shaping iron. Part of a brick flue remains at the back of this platform. A round opening at girt height was where the stovepipe expelled its smoke.

Surviving blacksmith shops are very rare. According to architectural historian Ann McCleary, only three were identified in her extensive architectural survey of Augusta County. Unfortunately, during the author's visit to the site, there was not time to inspect and record the building in the detail it deserves. This building is worth further study because of the rarity of blacksmith shops in general, and because of its unusual construction.

The property has a number of supporting farm structures, all of them twentieth-century, and all of frame construction. Just northwest of the poorhouse is an equipment storage building consisting of two gable-roofed units joined by an open shed for vehicle storage. A small poultry house stands along the road to the modern farm buildings. Just south of the poorhouse stands a board-and-batten outbuilding of uncertain purpose. Two other nearby buildings are noncontributing, either because of their ruinous condition, or their late construction date.

The Frederick Poor House is a remarkable survival, giving architectural expression to an institution and way of life that has disappeared. Of the roughly eight known surviving poorhouses in Virginia, only Frederick County's and Shenandoah County's display anything beyond rectangular-box massing. Moreover, these two houses are by far the least altered of the group.

Because of the extremely close coincidence of their plan and massing, one assumes they were both erected by the same builder within a close period of time. The 1820 date stone at Frederick is probably reliable, but the date of the Shenandoah County Poor Farm

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is unknown, despite considerable research by Fred Painter ("A Brief History of the Alms House of Shenandoah County," 1979).

At the Frederick County Poor Farm, two apartments in one of the wings are still rented, but the building otherwise is unused. Although it seems to be in fair-to-good structural shape, any renovation would be a massive task. It is hoped that someone will undertake that task.

Jeff O'Dell

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INVENTORY OF STRUCTURES AT FREDERICK POOR FARM

1. Poorhouse. Ca. 1820. Contributing building.
2. Outbuilding with board and batten siding; uncertain purpose. Early 20th century. Contributing building.
3. Poultry house. 20th century. Contributing building.
4. Frame dwelling. Mid-19th century. Contributing building.
5. Brick springhouse. Early to mid-19th century. Contributing building.
6. Barn, equipment storage, in 2 sections joined by a shed. 20th century. Contributing building.
7. Blacksmith shop. Early 20th century. Contributing building.
8. Collapsed shed. 20th century. Noncontributing building.
9. Farm building, collapsing. 20th century. Noncontributing building.

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Frederick Co., VA**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Frederick County Poor Farm is a complex of buildings constructed to shelter the indigent and provide for their care. The main building, erected in 1820, is a rare surviving example of an early-nineteenth-century multiple dwelling. This brick, two-story, Federal-style building is flanked by one-story residential wings; a mid-nineteenth-century, two-story, brick ell at the rear completes the structure. The other buildings at the poor farm, which include a brick springhouse, a frame dwelling, and a blacksmith shop, well represent the functions and history of the farm from its construction until its closure in 1947.

**JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA**

The Frederick County Poor Farm is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is eligible under Criterion A for its association with social history, and specifically with the evolution of humane care for the poor. The poor farm is eligible under Criterion C because it constitutes a rare and notable example of a complex dating to the early nineteenth century.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The land now occupied by the Frederick County Poor Farm was granted to William Hoge by Thomas Fairfax, sixth baron Fairfax of Cameron, the proprietor of the Northern Neck, on 13 March 1752. Hoge conveyed the land to David Denny on 20 March 1764, and Denny's heirs later sold it to William Holliday. On 16 September 1790 Holliday conveyed the land and the buildings then on it to his son Robert Holliday. In 1802 Robert Holliday died, leaving the property to his mother for life, and after her death to his brothers and sister. His sister, Jane Holliday Smith, was the wife of Fleet Smith, of Leesburg, in Loudoun County. Fleet Smith bought out the other heirs, and by 1816 he and his wife owned the entire tract. On 15 January 1820 the Smiths sold the property, consisting of two tracts totaling about 322 acres, to the Overseers of the Poor of Frederick County and the Corporation of Winchester.<sup>1</sup> Buildings worth \$562.50 stood on the property.

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During the colonial period in Virginia the Church of England cared for the poor through the parish vestries. The vestries distributed part of the money collected by the church either to the poor directly as a form of relief, or to other persons paid to house and feed the poor or infirm. In 1755 the House of Burgesses authorized the parishes to establish poorhouses but few did so. By 1785 the General Assembly required each county to create a committee called the overseers of the poor to replace the parish vestry in that function. At first appointed and later elected, the overseers operated the poorhouse, bound out orphans and illegitimate children as apprentices, and accounted for the funds they distributed for the care of the poor. Gradually the idea of concentrating the poor in workhouses or poorhouses gained acceptance, particularly among the overseers, as a cost-effective means of caring for and controlling the poor and infirm.<sup>2</sup>

Each parish in Virginia had a farm and house (a glebe) set aside for the use of the minister. After disestablishment, the General Assembly enacted laws that authorized localities to sell the glebe lands belonging to the parishes and apply the proceeds to the care of the poor. If the parish still had a rector, however, the sale could not take place until after his death. Such was the case in Frederick County, where the rector of Frederick Parish did not die until 1822. The glebe land was then sold and the money applied to the debt created by the construction of the county poorhouse.<sup>3</sup>

The concept of the poorhouse developed by the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries from popular assumptions about the nature of poverty and the character of the poor. Every citizen, it was thought, had an obligation to work, to support himself, and to cultivate the discipline and habits that would enable him to be a productive member of society. Those who did not work and fell into poverty were categorized as "deserving" or "undeserving" of public charity. The deserving poor were those who could not work, whether because of age, physical disability, or mental condition. The undeserving poor were those perceived as too lazy to work (vagrants and idlers) or in the grip of such vices as drunkenness or "dissipation." Both groups might be helped by living in poorhouses: the deserving poor would be protected and the undeserving might be reformed.

Alternatives to the poorhouse existed but were viewed as less effective of the desired results. If the poor were left at home and given a cash dole they might spend it unwisely or on liquor.

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If the poor were themselves doled out to private citizens to be cared for, and the money given to the caretakers, they would have no incentive to improve themselves. Only by collecting the poor in one place, housing them, and putting them to work to provide at least some of their own subsistence could the deserving be helped and the undeserving rehabilitated.

Frederick County constructed its first poorhouse in partnership with the city of Winchester in 1793-1794. The overseers of the poor bought a lot on the edge of Winchester from Christopher Fry on 6 November 1793. Construction dragged on for several years, but by 1797 the building was completed. This poorhouse, which stood near the intersection of present-day Fairmont Avenue and Picadilly Street in Winchester, served the community for more than two decades until the poor farm site was purchased.<sup>4</sup>

In 1829 the General Assembly passed an act requiring each locality to report to the state auditor of public accounts on the condition of the poor since 1800. Lemuel Bent, clerk of the overseers of the poor for Frederick County and the corporation of Winchester, wrote his report on 9 November 1829. He wrote that the poor were cared for in the house constructed in 1793

until the year 1819, when it was thought advisable by the Overseers then in office to purchase a farm. Accordingly they purchased a tract of land about four miles from Winchester, at ten thousand dollars, paying six thousand dollars in money, and giving the Poor house at four thousand dollars. On this farm commodious buildings were erected for the accommodation of the Poor. These buildings with the Stock and farming utensils [sic] which it was necessary to procure cost between six and seven thousand dollars. To this establishment the poor were removed in the same year. And the advantages that were anticipated by removing the poor to the country have been realized.<sup>5</sup>

Not all of the county's needy could be confined at the poorhouse, Bent noted. An increasing number still were maintained "out of the Poor House," by direct financial assistance. Bent also reported that

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the number of Paupers has increased in a greater proportion tha[n] the population. The causes of this increase, is believed in some measure to be, the introduction of more expensive and luxurious habits of living among the thriving and affluent portion of the community, which the poorer class too frequently endeavor to imitate, thereby acquiring habits of idleness and intemperance, bringing on the inevitable consequences, poverty and ruin to themselves and their families. These causes, these habits, and these consequences are the certain results of a prosperous state of society; and for which there is no remedy, nor can be until the nature of man is changed, unless some plan can be devised to counteract them.

Bent then presented his formula for reforming the undeserving poor:

If there was combined with our Poor establishments, work houses and houses of correction for idlers, Vagrants and drunkards, its effects, it is believed, would be salutary. If such persons found that by going to the Poor house they would be compelled to work, they would not so readily go there, but would work at home. If drunkards were taken up, put to hard labor, and kept upon low diet as a punishment, there would not be so many of them seen. Establishments of this kind would be, at first, expensive, but there can be no doubt, that its effects would be beneficial and lasting.

Bent's suggestions were not formally accepted by the state, but apparently were in use at the Winchester poorhouse, according to an set of "Ordinances, Rules and Bye Laws" adopted for that establishment before 1818. The poorhouse manager maintained discipline by confining "unruly, disorderly, or stubbornly perverse" inmates to a "dark room" and a diet of bread and water. He enforced rules against feigning sickness or lameness in order to escape work, as well as begging for money or favors. He issued passes to inmates for occasional liberties, and could confine

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inmates to the poorhouse for violations of the rules. No doubt similar regulations were put in effect and continued for years at the poor farm after it was built.<sup>6</sup>

The number of poor persons at the new facility increased during the 1820s to about fifty-five or sixty. During the same period the number of persons boarded outside the poor farm rose to 52 in 1826. According to the 1850 census, the farm housed forty-one inmates: thirty-two whites and nine blacks. Seventeen inmates were males and twenty-four were females, and their ages ranged from one to eighty-eight years. Three inmates were described as "idiots," three as blind, and one as deaf and dumb. In 1860 forty inmates lived at the farm (thirty-three whites and seven blacks). Seventeen were male and twenty-three female, and the ages ranged from one month to 107 years. Ten inmates were described as "idiots," one as blind, and one as deaf. Probably most of the inmates were too old, too young, or too disabled to work. This fact reduced the ability of the institution to be self-supporting; it required the superintendent to spend part of his time farming and necessitated the hiring of farm workers. The 1820 poorhouse acquired a rear ell in the 1850s, and over the years other buildings, including a springhouse, dwelling, and blacksmith shop, were added.<sup>7</sup>

By 1900 the number of poor at the farm had dropped dramatically, probably because of an increase in home care and the availability of institutions for the mentally ill. The farm housed only fourteen inmates, eight whites and six blacks. There were eight males and six females, and the ages ranged from six to eighty-seven years. By 1926 only nine inmates remained at the farm.<sup>8</sup>

In 1926 the State Board of Public Welfare issued a report titled *The Disappearance of the County Almshouse in Virginia: Back from Over the Hill.* The report discussed the history of the local poorhouse from its colonial origins to the early twentieth century and concluded that the poor could be better and more economically cared for in a system of district homes. Some thirty-three localities had closed their poorhouses by 1926, and only 1,143 inmates remained in the hundred still open. The report credited many of the poorhouse superintendents with genuine concern and kindness toward the inmates, but concluded that the system had been overwhelmed by age and inefficiency.<sup>9</sup>

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The district home concept did not catch on throughout the state, and the Frederick County Poor Farm remained open until 1947, when it was closed and sold to Boyd V. Unger. In 1968 the Unger family sold the farm to Fruit Hill Orchards, Inc., the present owners.<sup>10</sup>

Only one local poor farm, that in Shenandoah County, remains open today. Most of the others have been demolished and the land converted to other uses. The Frederick County Poor Farm, constructed some 170 years ago, remains as a rare survivor and example of the poor farm era.

John S. Salmon

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Frederick Co., VA**ENDNOTES**

1. Garland R. Quarles, *Some Old Homes in Frederick County, Virginia* (N.p.: Garland R. Quarles, 1971), 232-233; Frederick County, Deed Book 43, 1820-1821, Reel 23, pp. 266-270, VSLA; Auditor of Public Accounts, Land Tax Book, Frederick County, 1820, Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives (VSLA).
2. Auditor of Public Accounts, Overseers of the Poor, Annual Reports and Checklist, 1800-1830, Frederick County, "Report of the number of the Poor, the manner and annual expence of their Maintenance, as far as it can be ascertained from the records, in the County of Frederick, from the 1st day of January 1800 to November 1, 1829," VSLA. Hereafter cited as "Report of the number of the Poor."
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*; Frederick County, Deed Book 24-A, 1793-1794, Reel 13, pp. 313-315, VSLA; Frederick Parish Vestry Book, 1764-1780, 1818, Acc. 19745, VSLA; Quarles, *Some Old Homes*, 233.
5. "Report of the number of the Poor," VSLA. This and the next two display quotes are from this report.
6. Frederick Parish Vestry Book, 1764-1780, 1818, Acc. 19745, VSLA.
7. "Report of the number of the Poor," VSLA; United States Census, Virginia, List of Inhabitants, Frederick County, 1850, 1860, Reels 57 & 112, VSLA.
8. *Ibid.*, 1900, Reel 277, VSLA; State Board of Public Welfare, *The Disappearance of the County Almshouse in Virginia: Back from "Over the Hill"* (Richmond: Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1926), 68.
9. *Disappearance of the County Almshouse*, 19, 64-71.
10. Quarles, *Some Old Homes*, 234.

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Frederick Co., VA

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Frederick County. Deed Book 24-A. 1793-1794. Reel 13. VSLA.

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Frederick County Poor Farm  
Frederick Co., VA

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points: A 17 739700 4344020, B 17 739940 4343830, C 17 739770 4343580, D 17 739540 4343740.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the poorhouse, outbuildings, and immediate surroundings that historically have been associated with the Frederick County Poor Farm and that maintain historic integrity.

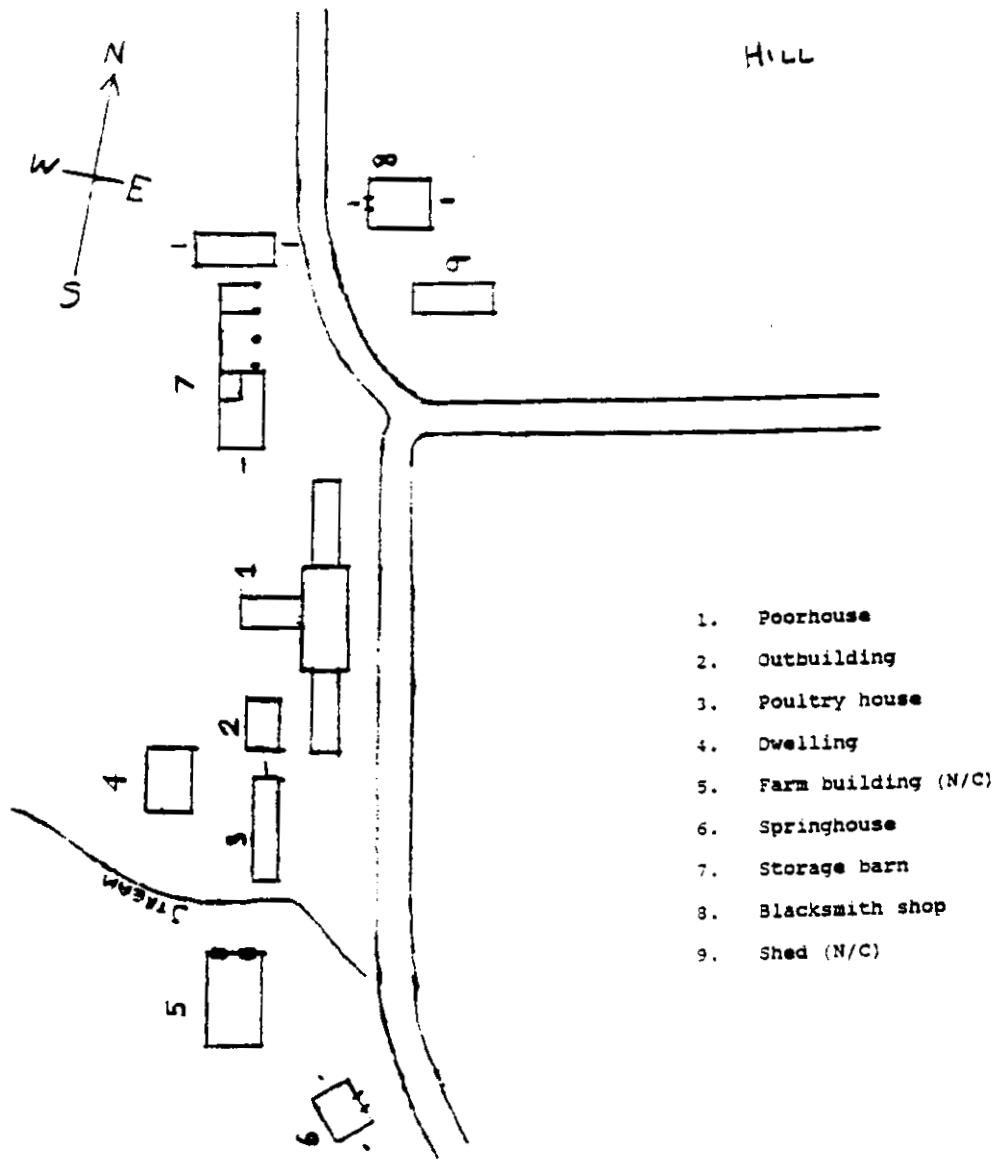
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**Poor Farm, Frederick County, Virginia**

Site plan showing all buildings and structures.  
Not to scale. Drawn in May 1993 by John Orrock,  
based on site plan by Jeff O'Dell.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

78°15'  
39°15'

738000m.<sup>2</sup>

739

BERKELEY SPRINGS W VA. 31 MI.  
BAINESBORO 31 MI.

4347000m.N

4345

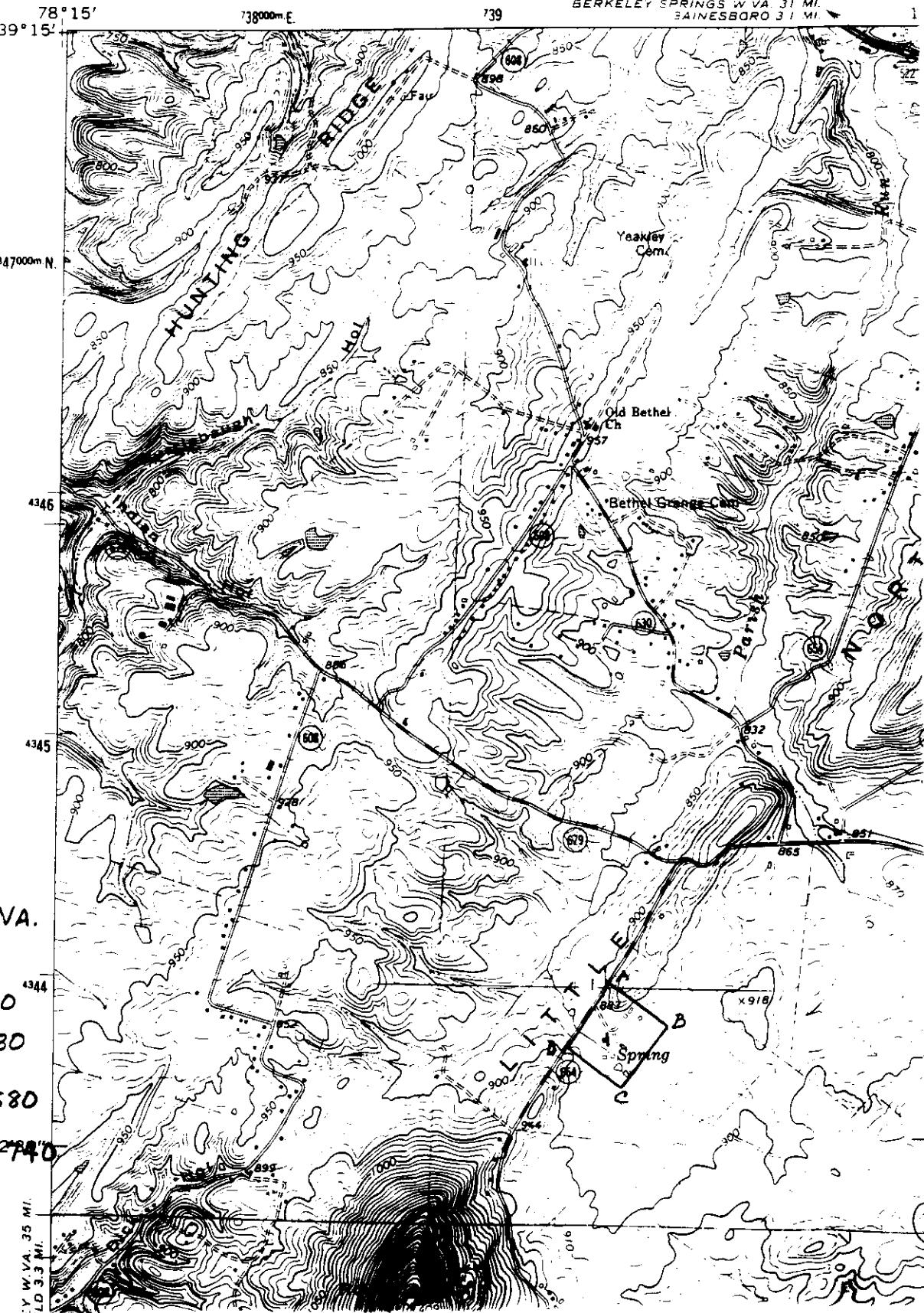
4345

FREDERICK COUNTY  
POOR FARM

FREDERICK COUNTY, VA.

#### ITEM REFERENCES:

A. 17/739700/4344020  
B. 17/739940/4343830  
C. 17/739770/4343580  
D. 17/739540/43432940



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5362 1/4 SE  
(GORE)

78°15'  
39°15'

738000m E.

739

BERKELEY SPRINGS W. VA. 3.1 MI  
GAINESBORO 3.1 MI

4347000m N.

4346

4345

4344

FREDERICK COUNTY  
POOR FARM

FREDERICK COUNTY, VA.

UTM REFERENCES :

- A. 17/739700/4344020
- B. 17/739940/4343830
- C. 17/739770/4343580
- D. 17/739540/4343740

ROMNEY W. VA. 3.5 MI.  
HAYFIELD 3.3 MI.

