

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places

Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Springfield Brick House

other names/site number Frenchwood

2. Location

street & number 12 Market Street not for publication

city or town Springfield vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Hampshire code 027 zip code 26763

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 for 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

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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:) _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

Number of Resources within Property

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

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

1	1	buildings
		sites
1	structures	
		objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

COLONIAL: Georgian

MID 19th CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials

foundation STONE: sandstone

walls BRICK

roof METAL: steel

other BRICK; SYNTHETICS: Plastic

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B.** removed from its original location.
- C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- 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:

See Continuation sheets

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1855

Significant Dates

ca. 1855

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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 _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Record # _____

Springfield Brick House
Name of Property

Hampshire County, West Virginia
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 0.5 acre

UTM References

1	17	698337	4369158	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification
See Continuation Sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Courtney Fint Zimmerman
organization Aurora Research Associates/ Hampshire Co. Landmarks Comm. date August 24, 2012
street & number 1436 Graham Road telephone 304-685-7410
city or town Silver Lake state OH zip code 44224

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.
- CD with electronic images if digital photographs.

Floorplans for individual listings

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 listing. 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 20303.

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LOCATION and SETTING

The Springfield Brick House, also known as Frenchwood¹, is located in the small town of Springfield in Hampshire County, West Virginia. The house is located in a residential area along West Virginia Route 28, a major rural connector route. The town of Springfield was laid out in 1790 in quarter-acre lots. Frenchwood is located on Lot 20. Surrounding structures include a number of early to mid-20th-century homes and the Springfield Presbyterian Church, built in the 1950s.

DESCRIPTION

Frenchwood

1855

Contributing

The house is a two-story brick building with an L-shaped plan. The front portion of the house has a gabled roof with ridgeline oriented parallel to Route 28 and overall plan dimensions of approximately 50' x 20' (Photos 1, 2). The ell extends from the southeast rear side of the house and has a gabled roof and overall plan dimensions of approximately 30' x 34'. The red-orange brick walls are constructed of hand-made bricks laid in common bond pattern, with the exception of the front facade, which is laid in running bond up to the second floor level (Photo 7). The tops of the walls are marked by a simple three-course brick corbelled cornice (Photo 9). The roof overhang is minimal.

The front facade is symmetrical and consists of 5 bays: a central front entrance with two windows on each side on the first floor, and five equally spaced windows on the second floor. The front entrance is recessed approximately 1' and includes a single door with a 6-light transom and narrow 3-pane sidelights (Photo 8). The front entrance is surrounded by plain Doric pilasters and a simple wood cornice. The front porch extends across the central three bays on the first floor (Photo 2). It has a hipped roof supported by four Doric columns; two additional Doric engaged columns are located at the porch corners at the front wall of the house. The porch also includes a cornice with dentils and baluster railings. The floor and foundation of the porch are constructed of brick, as well as the three steps that access the porch. The current porch is constructed of a urethane millwork product (2001) and replaced a circa 1960 porch. The reconstruction was based on photographs of the house's Victorian-era porch.

Windows throughout the house primarily consist of 6-over-6 wooden sashes with brick flat arch lintels and wood sills (Photos 7, 9). The window at the second-floor level central bay on the front facade is flanked by four-pane sidelights, making it wider than the other windows (Photo 2). The side elevations of the front portion of the building each contain two windows symmetrically placed at each story (Photo 3, 6). The rear elevation of the front portion of the building also contains four windows (two at each story) to the north of the ell (Photo 4). The ell is four bays long and contains a 6-over-6 window in each bay on both floors for a

¹ The current owners named the property Frenchwood after the French family who owned the house around the turn of the century.

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total of eight windows on the southeast elevation (Photo 6). The southwest (rear) elevation of the ell contains one small 6-pane casement window at the attic level (Photo 5).

The northwest portion of the ell was formerly a two-story wood porch and an exterior staircase (Photos 3, 4). The porch and staircase have been enclosed and converted into living space. The exterior of this portion of the house consists of wooden lap siding on the former porch area and painted brick at the former exterior staircase. On each level of the former porch/stair there are two double hung vinyl windows closely spaced in the center and two smaller double-hung vinyl windows towards the outer edges. A rear entrance is located just to the left of the former staircase and is accessed via a small concrete stoop with a shed roof supported on plain wooden posts and metal railings.

The foundation of the house is constructed of random coursed sandstone of varying colors (Photo 10). The ell has a full basement that is accessed from the rear of the house. The front portion of the house contains a cellar on the northwest side and a crawlspace on the northeast side. The house has a chimney at each gable end of the front portion of the house, and an interior chimney projecting from the center of the ell slightly towards the rear elevation.

The interior of the house has a center-hall plan that is two rooms deep (Photo 13), with the ell containing the kitchen. This plan reflects the common practice of separating the utility spaces, such as the kitchen, from the formal living spaces. The curve of center hall staircase at the first landing approaching the second floor level is a prominent feature of the hallway. The stair has a wood railing with slender round balusters and a heavy turned newel post. Each of the eight rooms in the main section of the house contains a fireplace with a very simple trabeated wood surround/mantel (Photo 15). Interior details on the main floor consist of simple trabeated door and window surrounds with Doric pilasters and triangular pediment-like lintels (Photo 16). Windows on the first floor have inset panels underneath with rectangular moldings. Windows and doors on the second floor have simpler trim, lacking trabeation and inset molding panels. All floors are original wide pine plank. The kitchen in the ell has been remodeled but retains original trim, doors and fireplace. The kitchen and dining rooms have wide board chair rails with shallow, linear profiles.

Well *ca. 1855* *Contributing*

A well (Photo 12) is located approximately 20' behind the house. The structure is lined with brick similar to that used for the house. It is currently covered with an octagonal concrete slab with a metal hand-pump and manhole cover. The well appears to have been built around the same time as the house and is contributing as part of the complex.

Storage Building *2005* *Non-contributing*

Directly adjacent to the well is a small one-story brick outbuilding of modern construction with dimensions of approximately 14' x 20' and a gabled roof (Photo 11).

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STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

Frenchwood, historically known as the Springfield Brick House, is significant under Criterion C as an outstanding local example of the grand estate homes built throughout the South Branch Valley. The house is also an informative illustration of the transitional nature of architectural styles in the 19th-century American frontier through its blend of Georgian and Greek Revival design elements. Its period of significance is 1855, the date of construction.

HISTORY

Historical Context and Background

The area of Hampshire County, West Virginia was first explored around 1725 by Europeans following the South Branch of the Potomac River from Harper's Ferry. Several families settled in the Springfield area around 1735, and a few years later in 1738, the Pearsall brothers, John and Job, established a settlement near what is now Romney. This area, called Pearsall's Flats, steadily grew until about 200 people were living there in 1748. Hampshire County was part of the estate of Thomas, Sixth Lord Fairfax. Fairfax's lands, known as the Northern Neck Proprietary, were granted to his ancestors and five other supporters by King George III in 1649 and included over 5 million acres in Virginia. Fairfax sent a surveying party to assess and map his land along the Potomac River in 1748 for purposes of renting and granting lots to settlers; the group was led by James Genn and included a young George Washington, who visited Romney and wrote about the area in his diary. A British citizen, Fairfax lost his lands in America after the Revolutionary War. Hampshire County was created in 1754 by an act of the Virginia General Assembly and was given its name by Lord Fairfax. The county originally encompassed most of the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, including Grant, Hardy, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton Counties.²

The French and Indian War affected the frontier area of Hampshire County and Fort Pearsall was constructed in 1756 to guard against Indian attacks. The town of Romney was formally established in 1762. Both Romney and Shepherdstown can claim the distinction of "oldest town in West Virginia," as they were chartered on the same day by the Virginia General Assembly. Romney grew in importance when the Northwestern Turnpike, a major east-west route, was constructed through the town in 1837. The town's location along the turnpike in combination with the presence of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in northern Hampshire County made the area a strategic location in the Civil War. Romney is said to have changed hands 56 times during the Civil War. Sharp divides in the county between Northern and Southern sympathizers contributed to conflict during the war.³

Hampshire County has remained a largely agricultural area since its initial settlement. Villages served as local trade centers and stops along important transportation corridors, including the Northwestern Turnpike

² Ken Sullivan, *West Virginia Encyclopedia*, 309.

³ Sullivan 309.

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and B&O Railroad. A number of buildings that served as taverns, inns and stagecoach stops still exist in Romney and other towns along U.S. Route 50. The South Branch Valley is dotted with grand houses built by the prominent owners of large land tracts and farms, including the Captain David Pugh House, the Sloan-Parker House, Sycamore Dale and Washington Bottom Farm, all listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Hampshire County and the surrounding Eastern Panhandle region are unique in West Virginia for the substantial number of 19th-century farm estate homes still in existence.

History of Springfield and the Brick House

Springfield was one of the earliest settlements in Hampshire County. It was located at a major intersection of the Springfield Grade Road, which connected Winchester, Virginia with Cumberland, Maryland, and a road through Green Spring Valley that connected the town of Green Spring on the North Branch of the Potomac to Romney. The first stage line in Hampshire County was established in 1830 along the Springfield Grade and the town was in a prime location for development. However, the Northwestern Turnpike was constructed to the south in 1837 and supplanted the Springfield Grade as the area's primary east-west route.

The community was known as Cross Roads until 1790 when the Virginia General Assembly chartered it as the town of Springfield. Land owned by William and Samuel Abernathy was subdivided into half-acre lots and a board of trustees was appointed to sell the lots at public auction. The charter specified that purchasers "were to build on each lot a 'dwelling house sixteen feet square at least, with a brick or stone chimney, to be finished fit for habitation within five years from the day of sale.'" If the requirements were not meant, the lot could be repossessed by the trustees and resold. A second act that passed in 1792 stated that because the Abernathys had in fact divided the land into quarter-acre lots prior to 1790 and had already sold some of them, the size of the lots would be amended to a quarter acre each rather than the half acre specified in the 1790 charter. Streets were also laid out, along with a town square.⁴ The town plan was recorded into county Deed Book 67 in 1891 (see continuation sheet page 11). The town square and many of Springfield's oldest buildings were demolished in 1928 when two-lane highway West Virginia State Route 28 was built through the town.⁵

Springfield Brick House, currently known as Frenchwood, is located on Lot 20 as laid out in the original 1792 subdivision. Lot 20 is located on the corner of Market Street (now WV Route 28) and Fourth Street. Lots 20 and 17 were sold by the Trustees of Springfield to Jacob Earsom [Ahrsam] in 1792 for a sum of ten pounds (Hampshire County Deed Book 8 page 424).⁶ The first mention of a building on Lot 20 occurred in an 1828 deed when John Parker sold John Piper "one house and lot opposite the tavern of said Piper and known in the plan of said town as Lot No. 20..."

⁴ Seldon Brannon, *Historic Hampshire: A Symposium of Hampshire County and its People, Past and Present*, 429-432.

⁵ Don Kesner, "Springfield", in *Hampshire County, Past and Present: 1754-2004*, 89.

⁶ Chain of title research for Lot 20 is on file at the WV State Historic Preservation Office.

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The likely builder of the Springfield Brick House is John Shouse who purchased the property in 1854. The deed history supports this, as nothing more than a “log house” was ever noted on any deeds prior to 1852. According to cemetery and census records, John W. Shouse was born in 1813 in Pennsylvania. He married his wife Mary around 1854, about the time he bought Lot 20 in Springfield. His occupation is listed as “retired farmer” in the 1880 Census. Presumably Shouse was successful in his endeavors because he was able to build the substantial brick home that still stands today. John and Mary Shouse had six children, four of whom lived to adulthood.

The house appears in the book *Four Years in the Stonewall Brigade*, a diary and memoir written by Springfield native John O. Casler about his time as a Confederate soldier. The book, originally published in 1893, is considered a classic in Civil War literature for its frank, unvarnished descriptions of life as a soldier. John grew up just across the street from the Shouses on the house on Lot 41 and his memoir shared an account of a return to Springfield.

Mary Shouse died in 1863 at the age of 36. John lived on in the house until his death in 1896; the property entered into the estate of Mary J. Moore and was sold by her estate to the French family. The house was home to several different families throughout the 20th century, and is now being restored by its current owners.

Criterion C: Architectural Significance

Frenchwood is a large formal home with strong Georgian and Greek Revival influences. The symmetrical five-bay façade with gabled roof and rectangular plan of the front section of the house display the stately, organized quality of the Georgian style (Photo 2). Austere, simple classical details including brick dentils at the cornice level and brick flat arch window lintels reflect Georgian design (Photos 7, 9). Although the construction date of 1855 is quite late for the Georgian style, Frenchwood does not possess the more ornamental detail found in the later Federal style, such as Palladian windows, curved fanlights, swags and other decoration. Neither does the exterior design exhibit the weighty Greek temple proportions, wide classical cornice and bold incorporation of columns as is typical of Greek Revival architecture, which was a dominant style in the mid-19th century. However, the trabeated central front entrance with an entablature, six-light transom and Doric pilasters is very typical of the Greek Revival style (Photos 8, 14).

The current front porch is a reconstruction of a Victorian-era porch. Faint paint lines on either side of the front entrance indicate that the house may have originally had a narrower front porch, which would also be consistent with the Greek Revival style (Photo 8). Interior design features reflect a restrained application of Greek Revival elements, including crown moldings and trabeated wood trim around each door and window, consisting of a flat, shallow triangular pediment, Doric pilasters and recessed panel from the sill to the baseboard (Photos 15, 16). The trabeated fireplace surrounds are also classical in design, consisting of a molding mantle and flat, slightly projecting side panels with no applied ornamentation.

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The transitional style of Frenchwood reflects the gradual spread of popular styles to the American frontier. Hampshire County, Virginia was remote and rural land in the mid-19th century. The latest trends in architecture took longer to reach rural areas like Springfield, which accounts for this late example of the Georgian style, which is generally considered to have faded after the American Revolution. Since local builders using designs from published pattern books constructed many buildings, it may have been that the only books available as guides dated from the Georgian period. Shouse may have also been inspired by the homes of other wealthy farmers in the South Branch Valley and sought to emulate these buildings rather than those in far-off cities. Shouse would have likely been familiar with Wappocomo, for example, a grand Georgian house located along WV Route 28 between Springfield and Romney; it was built in 1774 and owned by the prominent Parsons family. Several others local homes built in the years prior to the construction of Frenchwood were constructed in popular Greek Revival style, including Washington Bottom Farm (1835), Sycamore Dale (1839) and Hickory Grove (1849).

Frenchwood, like many homes built in rural areas in the 19th century, is not strictly of the canon, but instead reflects the tastes and preferences of a successful farmer who sought to build a substantial home for his family. He drew upon the sources available to him at the time, incorporating formal classical design elements that undoubtedly spoke to him aesthetically and helped establish his status in the community. The South Branch Valley and Hampshire County is rich with such homes that were the grand estates of farmers, merchants and other businessmen. Based on its well-executed design and excellent integrity, Frenchwood holds an important place within local architectural history in Springfield and Hampshire County. The house also illustrates the more gradual, less predictable spread of architectural styles to frontier areas, and ways in which individual owners could incorporate different design elements according to their means and preferences.

SUMMARY

Frenchwood is one of Springfield's best-preserved 19th century homes. It is an outstanding locally significant example of a grand South Branch Valley home with excellent integrity. Its Georgian and Greek Revival classical influences are illustrative of the transitional nature of architectural design in outlying areas. It is eligible under Criterion C for architecture based on its design and noteworthy status in the context of 19th century residential design in Hampshire County.

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Springfield Brick House

Name of Property

Hampshire County, West Virginia

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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with introduction, notes and index by Reuben Gold Thwaites. Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark, 1904.
Google e-book edition.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary for Frenchwood/ Springfield Brick House encompasses the area of Lots 19 and 20 in the Town of Springfield, located on the southwest corner of Market Street (WV Route 28) and Fourth Street, forming a rectangle extending 132 feet northwest along Market Street, then 165 feet southwest along the boundary between Lot 19, then 132 feet southeast, then 165 feet northeast along the boundary line of Lot 20 and Fourth Street.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary follows the historical boundaries of Lots 19 and 20, upon which the house was constructed circa 1855. These two lots have been linked as one property since 1825.

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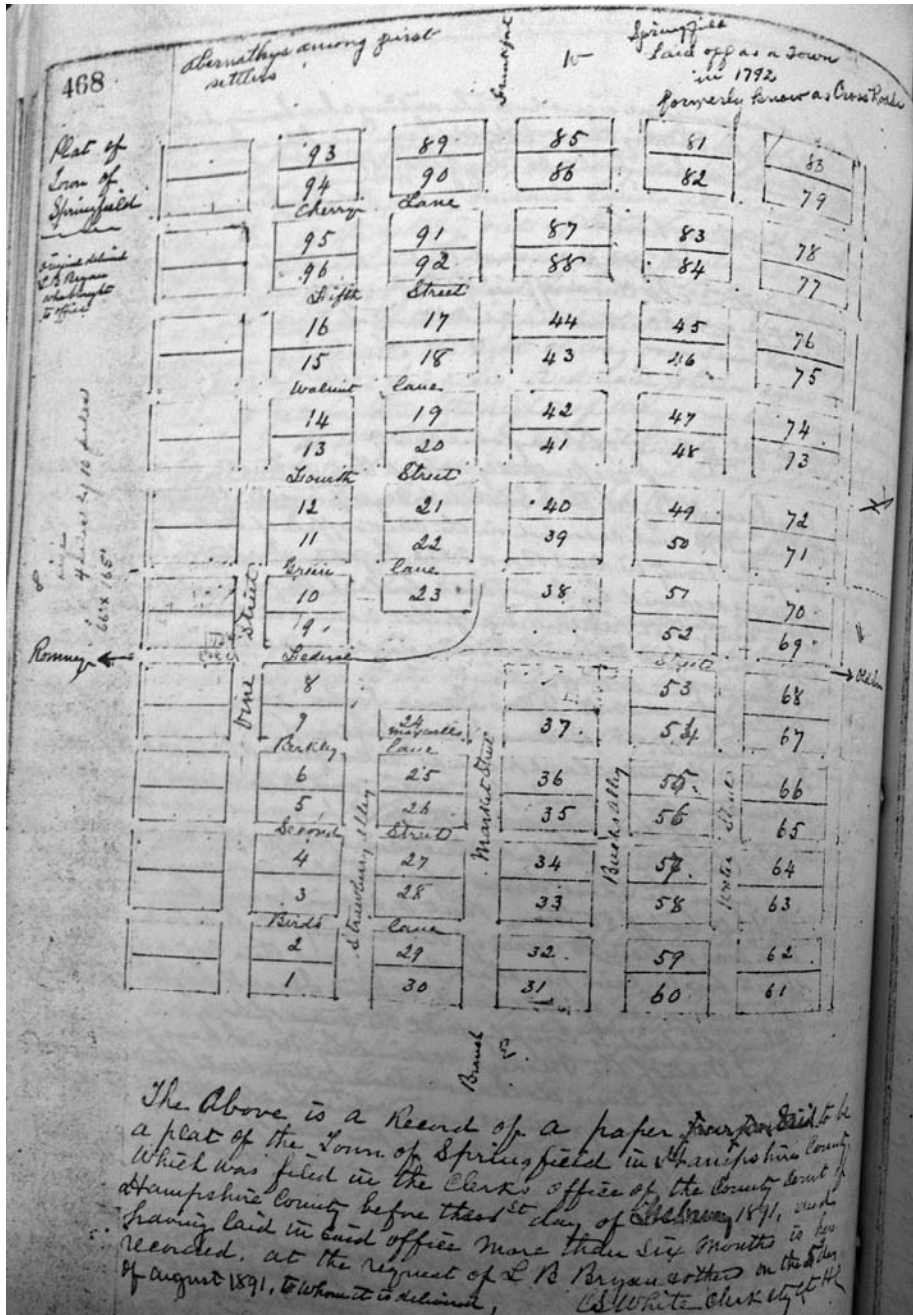
Name of Property: Brick House/ Frenchwood
City or Vicinity: Springfield
County: Hampshire
State: WV
Name of Photographer: Courtney Fint Zimmerman
Date of Photographs: May 16, 2012
Location of Original Digital Files: 1436 Graham Road, Silver Lake, OH 44224

Photo Number	Description
1	Oblique view of front of house looking west
2	Front elevation looking southwest
3	Side elevation looking southeast
4	Oblique view of rear of house looking east
5	Rear elevation looking northeast
6	Oblique view of side elevation of house looking north
7	Detail of exterior window on front of house adjacent to porch
8	Oblique view of front entrance entablature
9	Detail of windows and brick corbelling
10	Detail of random coursed sandstone foundation at cellar entrance
11	Outbuilding: garage/storage (non-contributing)
12	Exterior well at rear of house (non-contributing)
13	Interior: front entrance hall and stair looking towards rear of house
14	Interior: front entrance
15	Interior: living room at southeast corner of house
16	Interior: detail of trim at door between living room and front hall

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Springfield Town Plan, recorded in 1891 from the original in Hampshire County Deed Book 67, page 468.

4371

4370
27°30"

SPRINGFIELD
BRICK HOUSE

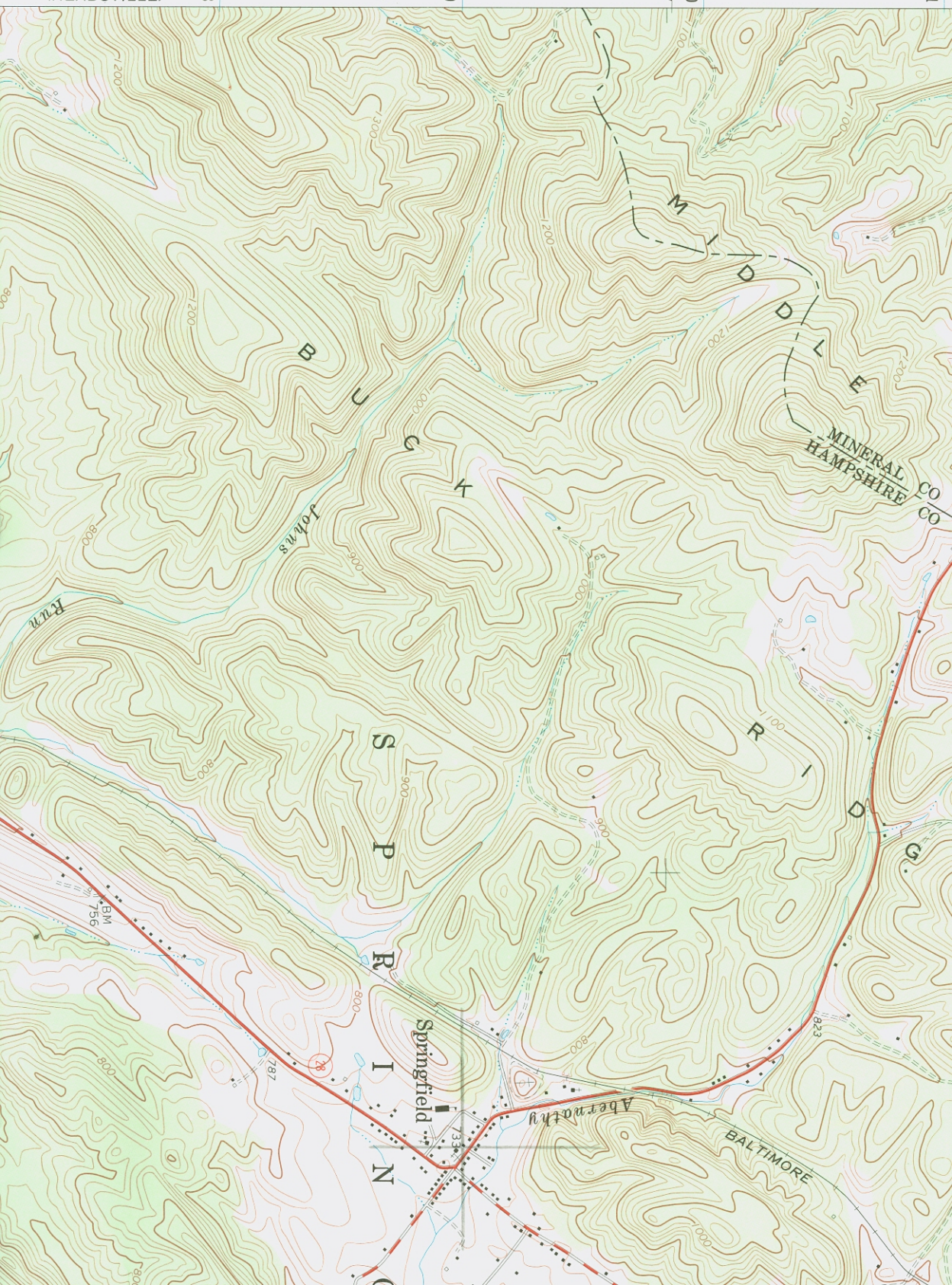
HAMPSHIRE CO.,
WEST VIRGINIA

UTM REFERENCE:

ZONE 17
NAD27
E: 698337
N: 4369158

5262 IV NE
(HEADSVILLE)

4368



Market Street/ WV 28

2

1

Lot 19

Lot 20

8

7

Springfield Brick House

3

9

Fourth Street

10

12

6

Well

5

Storage

4

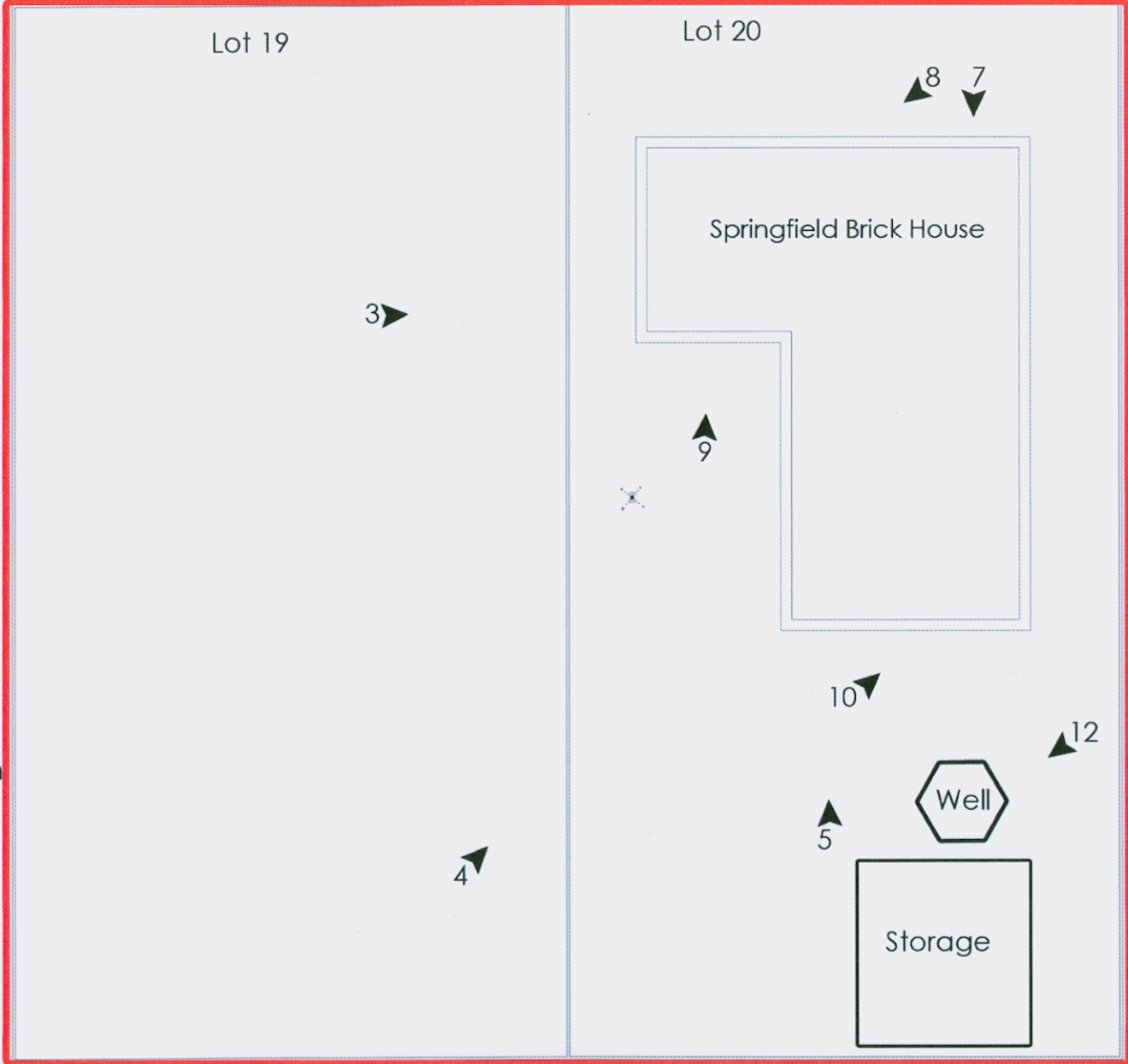
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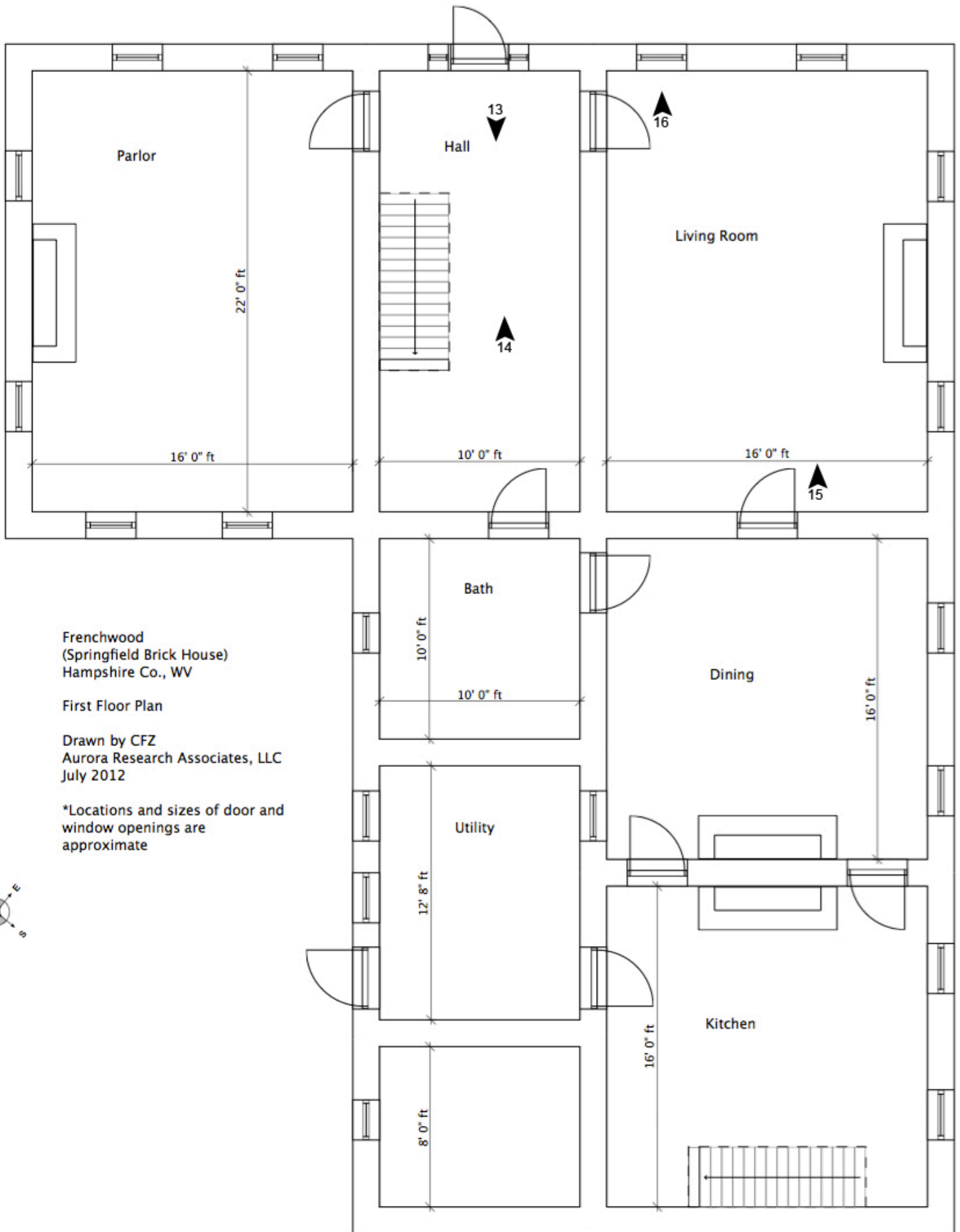
Springfield Brick House Site Plan and Photo Key Hampshire Co., WV National Register Nomination

Aurora Research Associates, LLC July 2012

National Register Boundary (includes Lots 19 and 20)

*Dimensions and locations are approximate





Frenchwood
 (Springfield Brick House)
 Hampshire Co., WV

First Floor Plan

Drawn by CFZ
 Aurora Research Associates, LLC
 July 2012

*Locations and sizes of door and
 window openings are
 approximate





Photo 1:
Oblique view of front of house looking west



Photo 2:
Front elevation looking southwest



Photo 3:
Side elevation looking southeast



Photo 4:
Oblique view of rear of house looking east



Photo 5:
Rear elevation looking northeast



Photo 6:
Oblique view of side elevation of house looking north



Photo 7:
Detail of exterior window on front of house adjacent to porch



Photo 8:
Oblique view of front entrance entablature



Photo 9:
Detail of windows and brick corbelling



Photo 10:
Detail of random coursed sandstone foundation at cellar entrance



Photo 11:
Outbuilding: garage/storage (non-contributing)



Photo 12:
Exterior well at rear of house (non-contributing)

Springfield Brick House Hampshire County

Additional Information

In 1822 John Woods wrote an account of his travels through the American frontier entitled *Two Years' Residence in the Settlement on the English Prairie*. On his way to buy land in Southern Illinois, Woods traveled through Springfield in July 1819, noting "We... went onto Springfield town, through a barren country, called the South Branch Mountain. We passed the south branch of the Potomac River, forty yards wide, shallow when we crossed it, but sometimes it rises to a great height...Leaving the banks of the river, we passed a small mill and followed the course of its stream up a valley till we reached Springfield town, a place of forty log-houses, and stopped at Mr. Piper's tavern... Mr. Piper's tavern was a neat log-house, lined with pine boards and ceiled with the same."¹ Woods's account appears to confirm that many lot owners complied with the town charter's requirement to build a 16x16 log dwelling on each lot.

The house also appears in the book *Four Years in the Stonewall Brigade*, a diary and memoir written by Springfield native John O. Casler about his time as a Confederate soldier. The book, originally published in 1893, is considered a classic in Civil War literature for its frank, unvarnished descriptions of life as a soldier. Casler grew up just across the street from the Shouses on the house on Lot 41. In 1861, he enlisted in the Potomac Guard, a militia formed by young men from Springfield and the surrounding area. Casler was somewhat of a free spirit and went absent without leave on numerous occasions.² In 1861, Casler snuck back into Springfield, dodging Yankee soldiers, to visit some friends. His first stop was John Shouse's house:

There were two roads which led through the town, and they crossed in the center at right angles. There was a picket post on each of the four roads a few hundred yards out of town. As it grew dark I went down the hill, through an open field in the angle formed by the roads, until I came to the rear lot of Mr. John W. Shouse's house, got over the fence, went through the back yard and onto the porch, and there waited for developments.

I had heard that the officers and some of the privates were boarding with the citizens, and that I had better be careful how I entered a house. I listened for a few moments and then looked in at the window, and seeing no one but the family, I cautiously open the door and went in. Mrs. Shouse raised her hands in astonishment and was as much surprised as if one had arisen from the dead. Every one in the town, both black and white, had known me from my childhood up. There were but one or two Union men in the place, and I was not afraid of them reporting me, neither was I afraid of the blacks; but still I did not want them to know I was there.

After I got in the first house I felt safe. I could then lay my plans for seeing my friends, as I intended to stay all night and run the blockade before daylight. I conversed with the family a short time and then got Miss Gennie Shouse to run across the street to the house of Mr. John Hawes, who lived in my old home, to see if the coast was clear. I then went over, for I wanted to see the house that I had spent most of my boyhood days in, not knowing whether I would ever see it again. I did not stay there long, however, for Mrs. Hawes appear so frightened for fear I would be captured; besides it made me feel sad, as the old house brought back to memory scenes of other days when there was all joy and peace. To think that I had to sneak back like an outlaw, in the

¹ John Woods, *Two Years' Residence in the Settlement on the English Prairie*, 205-206.

² James I. Robertson, Jr., "Foreword," *Four Years in the Stonewall Brigade* by John O. Casler, Fourth ed. (1971), iii.

*night, to look once more upon the scenes of my childhood, and then depart to the distant battle-field, and, perhaps, leave my bones bleaching in the sun, was too much. I had to leave.*³

Casler spent the night visiting various people in Springfield, spent the next day hiding at the home of Jacob Grace, and the following night returned to his fellow soldiers, who assumed that he had been captured by Union soldiers. Casler survived the war, married in 1866 and died in 1926 at the age of 87 in Oklahoma.

The history of ownership for Lot 20 is summarized below:

Deed Book/ Page No.	Grantor	Grantee	Date
8/424	Trustees of the Town of Springfield	Jacob Ahrsom [Earsom]	April 24, 1792
10/161	Jacob Earsom	John McCartney	July 20, 1795
12/222	John McCartney	John Newman	Sep. 15, 1800
14/8	John Newman	Richard Whiteman	Feb. 6, 1805
27/120	John Parker (second husband of Mary Ann, widow of Richard Whiteman)	John Piper	Oct. 2, 1828
35/280	M.I. Piper (heir of John Piper)	R.G. (Ralph) Piper	Aug. 24, 1840
35/296	Ralph Piper	William Stump (on behalf of Jacob Stump)	Sep. 1, 1841
48/21	William Stump	Michael Casler	Sep. 22, 1852
47/21	Michael Casler	John Shouse	Jan. 23, 1854
71/102	Mary J. Moore (Last will and testament)	Mary S. French and Harriet B. French	July 29, 1896
91/219		L.G. Martin	1928
152/383		L.G. Martin Jr. and Mary Catherine Martin	1956
159/456		William T. and Avery H. Milleson	1963
385/700		William J. Milleson Sr.	1997
436/173		William J. Milleson Sr. and Vicki Jo Milleson	2004
439/619		John and Julie Frazer	2004
450/65			2005
451/226			2006
462/101			2007

³ Casler, 121.