

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lynnside Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number WV Route 3 not for publication
city, town Sweet Springs vicinity
state West Virginia code 54 county Monroe code 063 zip code 24980

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|--------------|--------------------|
| <u>6</u> | <u>0</u> buildings |
| <u>3</u> | _____ sites |
| _____ | _____ structures |
| _____ | _____ objects |
| <u>9</u> | <u>0</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Signature of certifying official 3/5/91 Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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

Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Residence

Agricultural

Church

Cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agricultural

Church

Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Masonry
walls Masonry (both residence &
church). Wood siding on agricul-
tural bldgs.
roof roof: slate
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Lynnside Historic District

The Lynnside Historic District consists of three contiguous properties (one of which has four ancillary buildings) located in a quiet valley near the community and one-time resort of Sweet Springs, in Monroe County, West Virginia.

The district receives its name from the traditional name of the Lewis family home that is the focal point of the district. It is a one-and-a-half story masonry residential building on a raised masonry foundation that encloses a complete full basement. The house is rectangular in configuration (70' by 45') that is Greek Revival in style. A hipped roof of slate crowns the house, and two large end chimneys project from the south side elevation above the roof line, while one masonry end chimney projects from the north side. Massive stone lintels are over the basement and first floor windows, with less massive stone sills under them. Windows on the basement, or foundation, level are 3 over 3, while the tall narrow windows of the first floor are 9 over 9. Each side elevation has four bays, the front three, and the rear four. Small second story windows on the front and rear are 3 over 3. Stone pylons at both the front and rear center elevations indicate the previously existing porticos that were destroyed in 1933. The manor of "Lynnside," was constructed in 1845 on the site of the previous manor, called by the same name, that dated from ca. 1800.

In 1933 a small fire broke out at "Lynnside," caused by the building being struck by lightning. Local fire fighters, however, mistakenly went first to the community of Lindside, some thirty miles distant. By the time the fire fighters arrived at the manor, it was heavily engulfed. By the time the fire had been extinguished, it had gutted the house and effectively destroyed the roof and porticos. The owner of the day, Miss Coralie Lewis, had the roof and windows replaced as they had previously existed, and had the interior wall partitions and floors re-done, but unfortunately ran out of funds before the restoration was fully completed. The house has stood as she left it, slowly deteriorating but clearly solid and restorable. The house is surrounded by stately oak and willow trees.

There are four wooden barns near the house, three front-gabled and one with a shed roof, with vertical wood siding. These barns date to ca. 1900, and serve the agricultural needs of the property. They all three contribute to the integrity of the district. In addition, there are two wooden timber bridges, one on Cove Creek Road and the other on the small private road leading to the manor house. Both are approximately sixty years of age and contribute to the district. There is a small pond in the area immediately adjacent to the agricultural buildings.

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Lynnside Historic District

Atop a small hill immediately to the southwest (rear) of the house is the Lewis Family Cemetery, a rectangle approximately a third of an acre in area, containing numerous burials, mostly of Lewis family members and family servants, including a number of slaves. Some of the monuments, like those of Governor John Floyd and Letitia Floyd Lewis are of stone and are massive in appearance and covered in sometimes elaborate inscriptions (see Part 8). Other graves are marked by more simple stone markers, while more are merely marked by field stones bearing no identification. The Catholic Cemetery adjoins the Lewis Family Cemetery on the south. It is .89 of an acre and was deeded to the church in 1882. Many Irish Catholic immigrants and some German Catholics are buried here. The foot high concrete wall for the Curran family plot is a distinguishing characteristic of this small piece of consecrated ground. There are an estimated thirty-eight unmarked burials in the Catholic Cemetery.

St. John's Catholic Chapel, constructed sometime between 1853 and 1859 (most probably the earlier date) lies across West Virginia Route 3 (the old Greenbrier-Lynchburg Toll Road) from the "Lynnside" estate. Established by the Lewis family, it is intricately tied to the history of its immediate environs. Sit in a little vale surrounded by tall trees, it is a simple masonry Greek Revival style church, with a gabled roof surmounted by a louvered cupola, or belfry, at the front elevation. It is three bays long, with high arched stained glass windows on both side elevations. The windows, thought to be original to the chapel, were, in the 1980's, sealed in a lexon covering for protection. During the 1982-83 restoration, the original interior stenciling was restored, as was the reed organ that was purchased from W.W. Putman & Co. of Staunton, Va. in 1910. A false ceiling, installed about 1950, was removed. A lovely stained glass window, in the choir loft over the front entrance, was also protectively covered. The long wooden pews in the church contain, at the ends adjoining the central aisle, small name plates that still bear the names of many of the original church members.

To the rear of St. John's Chapel is a small Catholic Cemetery, the "New Cemetery." Although relatively small and of more recent origin than the Old Catholic Cemetery on the hill, it is over fifty years old and contains the graves of many locally prominent family members. It contributes to the historic district.

Taken together, these individual sites, which are ten in number and are all contributing, make up a cohesive historic district that is held together both by their historical inter-relationship and their aesthetic setting at the beginning of the Valley of the Sweet Springs.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Religion
Social History

Period of Significance

1800-1933

Significant Dates

ca. 1845
ca. 1853

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Letitia Preston Floyd; John Floyd;
Letitia Floyd Lewis

Architect/Builder

Not Known

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000452 Date Listed: 4/26/91

Lynnside Historic District Monroe WV
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

4/26/91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The text of the form says that the property is architecturally significant, but Criterion C is not checked and Architecture is not selected as an Area of Significance. Also, the text mentions two bridges as contributing to the district, but they are not included in the resource count. Michael Pauley with the WV SHPO says that these are technical oversights. The form is now officially amended to include Criterion C, Architecture, and the two contributing structures.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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Lynnside Historic District

The Lynnside Historic District has as its central point the historic Lewis family home of "Lynnside", and includes the closely associated St. John's Catholic Chapel and three historically significant cemeteries; the Lewis Family Cemetery, the Old Catholic Cemetery and the New Catholic Cemetery. The district is significant under Criterion B for its associations with the prominent Lewis and closely allied Floyd families, especially for its associations with John Floyd and Letitia Preston Floyd Lewis. It is also significant under Criterion C and meets Criteria Considerations A and D.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Lynnside Historic District lies in a quiet rural valley, at the head of what is known locally as the Valley of the Sweet Springs. It is located just northwest of the Old Sweet Springs resort (listed on the National Register January 26, 1970) in Monroe County, West Virginia. The focus of the district is the large red brick Greek Revival mansion known as "Lynnside". The mansion, one and a half stories on a raised masonry foundation, stands on a small rise facing, across Route 3 (historically the Greenbrier to Lynchburg Toll Road), St. John's Catholic Chapel. The manor house also has four wooden ancillary buildings of an agricultural nature. Atop a small knoll to the rear of the manor are the Lewis Family Cemetery and the Catholic Cemetery.

John Lewis made the first survey in what is now Monroe County in 1760. One of his sons was General Andrew Lewis of Revolutionary War fame, who commanded the victorious Virginia army at the Battle of Point Pleasant in 1774. Another son was Col. Charles Lewis, killed at the aforementioned conflict. A third son, William Lewis, built the first "Lynnside" ca. 1780 and was the founder of the Sweet Springs spa. He founded the resort in 1774 and continued to develop it until giving up sole ownership in 1802, though the Lewis family maintained a controlling interest in it until 1852.

The present manor house of "Lynnside" was constructed ca. 1845 by William Lynn Lewis, grandson of William Lewis. In 1837 he had married Letitia Preston Floyd, daughter of Virginia's two-term governor John Floyd. Floyd served Virginia in the U.S. House of Representatives 1817 to 1829, and was the state's eighteenth governor (1830-1834). It was during one of Governor Floyd's visits to his daughter and son-in-law at "Lynnside" that he died, and was buried in the small family cemetery on the hill back of the house. When death came to his wife, Letitia Floyd (who was a well known writer and educator of her time) in 1852, she was buried near the governor in the Lewis Family Cemetery.

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Lynnside Historic District

The Floyd family was one significant to the history of both the Virginias and the nation. John Floyd, as previously mentioned, was a congressman and governor of Virginia. He was also a leader in the movement for southern rights and an ardent expansionist. In the national election of 1832 he received the 11 electoral votes of South Carolina for president of the United States. Floyd County, Virginia is named for him. During his service in Congress (1817-1829) Floyd was the first to propose, and was an untiring champion of, the occupation of the Oregon Country. Said Professor E.G. Bourne, "to him unquestionably belongs the credit of first proposing to Congress the actual occupation of the Columbia River country by the United States government, of promoting its settlement, and of organizing it as a territory with the name Oregon." Floyd's brother Charles had been a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and he had been a close friend of William Clark since childhood. Floyd first introduced a resolution regarding "the expediency of occupying the Columbia River in December, 1820. He delivered a subsequent report on the subject and introduced a bill, in January, 1821, authorizing the occupation of the Columbia River. He re-introduced his resolutions in December, 1821, followed by a bill in January 1822 requiring the president (Monroe) to "occupy the territory of the United States on the waters of the Columbia River," to make land grants to settlers, and proposing the establishment of a Territory of Oregon. This bill was defeated, but Floyd introduced a similar one in the 1823-24 session, and also introduced successfully a resolution requesting President Monroe to provide Congress with an estimate of the expense of occupying the mouth of the Columbia River with 200 troops. Monroe did so, and made such a request in his 1824 message. Though his goal was not achieved during his congressional career, or indeed, during his lifetime, Floyd "more than any one of his day, was the unwearied prophet of the commercial future of the Pacific Northwest," (Ambler). It was during his gubernatorial term that the famed Nat Turner's Rebellion, also known as the "Southampton Insurrection" took place among Virginia Black slaves and was cruelly suppressed after great loss of life on both sides. The children of John and Letitia Preston Floyd all left some significant mark on history. The eldest son, John Buchanan Floyd, was also governor of Virginia (1850-1853), U.S. Secretary of War 1857-1860, and a brigadier general in the Confederate army from 1861 until his death in 1863. Another son, George Rogers Clark Floyd, served in the West Virginia House of Delegates from Logan County, 1872-75, while his son, another John B. Floyd, served in both the West Virginia House and Senate. In fact, that branch of the Floyd family has remained powerful in Democratic Party politics in southwestern West Virginia until the present time. A daughter of John and Letitia Floyd, Nicketti, married John Warfield Johnston, nephew of the great Confederate commander General Joseph E. Johnston. John Warfield Johnston served Virginia in the U.S. Senate from 1870 to 1883. He and Nicketti were, like all their brothers and sisters, frequent guests at "Lynnside".

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Lynnside Historic District

Letitia Preston Floyd Lewis was instrumental in the foundation of St. John's Catholic Chapel. A convert to Roman Catholicism, she and her family were the first of their religion in the area, and it was through her financial and personnel efforts that the chapel was founded in 1853. According to church historian Margaret Brennan, the Diocese Directory for 1853 states that " a chapel is to be immediately erected."

It is known that Rev. J.H. Walters was baptizing here in 1853, and the previous year Mrs. Floyd had been buried with Catholic rites in the cemetery. The church was definitely standing by 1858-59, if not before, making it the oldest Catholic church in the West Virginia Diocese.

The two cemeteries to the rear of the Lynnside manor property directly abut one another. The cemeteries, the Lewis Family Cemetery and the Catholic Cemetery do, together, meet Criteria Consideration D, being the final resting place of a number of individuals of transcendent historic importance, for several historically significant monument inscriptions, and for the overall historic significance of the cemeteries themselves. Governor John Floyd's death and burial here have already been described. His monument inscription on his stone box tomb reads "JOHN FLOYD/ TWICE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA/ AN APOSTLE OF SECESSION/ AND FATHER OF THE OREGON COUNTRY/ DIED AUG. 21, 1837" The grave of John Lewis (see above) is near that of Governor Floyd and bears the following long and historically significant inscription:

"Here Lies the Remains of John Lewis,
son of William and Ann Montgomery
who was born in August 1754,
and died at the Sweet Springs June 8, 1823.
He was a man of noble nature, stern integrity
high courage & pure patriotism, and the friend &
fellow soldier of Washington under whom
as a Va. officer he fought bravely the battles
of Brandywine, Monmouth, and with whom
he passed the winter of 1777 at Valley Forge.
He was the grandson of John Lewis, the pioneer
of Augusta Co. and in his day & generation did noble
service in establishing upon a solid bases the Liberties
of the country he had contributed so largely in
rescuing from a savage foe.
His wife Mary Preston who was born in 1776 & died
Feb. 4, 1821 is here buried by his side.
This monument was erected in 1858 by their descendents
to commemorate their virtues: & as a grateful
recognition of the mercy of God to the seed of the
righteous. "

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Lynnside Historic District

Letitia Floyd Lewis, the founder of St. John's, is also buried here, along with her husband William Lynn Lewis, his grandparents William Lewis (1724-1811), the founder of Sweet Springs, and Ann Montgomery (1737-1808). Of great interest is the very fine granite monument in the Lewis Cemetery inscribed to " FAITHFUL SLAVES TOM & DINAH, DIED A.D. 1800." It is known that other slaves were buried in the cemetery and, after the Civil War, Black employees of the Lewis family, particularly those of the allied Woodville family. Noted University of Virginia Professor George Frederick Holmes (1820-1897) and his wife Eliza Lavalette Floyd (d. 1887) are buried in the Lewis Cemetery, as are members of the locally prominent Rowan and Stack families.

In 1882 a section of the Lewis Family Cemetery was obtained by Bishop Kain for us as a Catholic Cemetery. There are thirty-eight confirmed burials in this cemetery, mostly the remains of the many Irish and German families that came into the area in the 19th century to work at railroad and turnpike building. Noted physician Dr. James Lewis Woodville and his wife Mary Breckinridge Woodville are buried here.

The manor house of "Lynnside" served as home to the Lewis family and as a seat of a large agricultural enterprise until the 1930's. The house and farm were heavily vandalized during the Civil War by Union soldiers who camped on the grounds of the property, due primarily to its close association with Confederate General John B. Floyd. Confederate soldiers are also said to have encamped here at several times during the war. In 1933 the house suffered a disastrous fire, made more costly by an error on the part of the local fire department in going first to the community of "Lindsay" before discovering their mistake. Miss Coralie Lewis, the owner at the time, had the roof, interior walls, and floors restored, but then ran out of funds. The house today stands as she left it, a silent reminder of a proud past.

Both the cemeteries and St. John's Chapel have been the beneficiaries of restoration activities in the past decade. Under the guidance of Rev. Harry Winter, the chapel was extensively and carefully restored and re-dedicated on April 17, 1983 by Bishop Joseph Hodges. The ceremony was one of his last public acts. By 1986-88 the cemeteries had been cleaned up and archeological investigations were successfully undertaken to determine the exact locations of several of the more prominent burials. On August 15, 1990, Bishop Bernard Schmitt blessed the restored monument on the grave of "pioneer feminist" Letita Preston Floyd.

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Lynnside Historic District

The period of significance of the Lynnside Historic District begins in 1800, with the earliest known burials in the cemetery, and runs to 1932 when a fire damaged the "Lynnside" manor house, ultimately causing its abandonment. This period includes the death and interment here of Governor John Floyd (1837), the building of the second, present "Lynnside" (1845) and the founding and erection of St. John's Chapel (ca.1853-1859).

The Lynnside Historic District can be seen, therefore, to clearly meet Criterion B with its associations with the lives of the Lewis and Floyd families, an allied family group prominent in the history of both the Virginias, and to meet Criteria Consideration A for the historically significant St. John's Chapel and Consideration D for the cemeteries, which derive their significance from being the final resting place of these historically important individuals.

Major Bibliographical References

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 # N/A
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # N/A

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx. 40 acres

UTM References

A
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian

organization State Historic Preservation Office date January 15, 1991

street & number Div. of Culture & History telephone (304) 348-0240

city or town Charleston state West Virginia zip code 25305

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the point where the east side of a private drive to St. John's Chapel meets West Virginia State Route 3 and where an unnamed creek or run (a tributary of Cove Creek) flows beside said drive and under Route 3; along the east side of said creek south to a line of pine trees; thence 100 feet west along said pine tree line; thence 100 feet south along the east boundary of the New Catholic Cemetery; thence one hundred feet west along the south boundary of said cemetery to the southwest corner of said cemetery (which is surrounded by a metal fence); thence approximately five hundred feet along, first, the west boundary of said cemetery then continuing in a line, marked by a line of eleven maple trees, to West Virginia Route 3; thence sixty feet across Route 3 in a northwesterly direction to the south bank of Sweet Springs Creek (which parallels Route 3); thence along the south bank of Sweet Springs Creek west approximately 2800 feet to a northerly bend in said creek; thence in a line north along a small unnamed run approximately 5000 feet to the point on the top of Moss Mountain that is the northwest corner of the Old Catholic Cemetery; thence first 266.2 feet then 132 feet northeast along the northern boundary of (first) the Old Catholic Cemetery then the Floyd-Lewis Family Cemetery (identified on County Tax Map 9 as Parcel 7); thence approximately 400 feet north east to the left hand curve or bend of Cove Creek Road (County Route 3/14) encompassing the principal agricultural buildings of "Lynnside" and a small pond; thence approximately 500 feet southeast along the east side of Cove Creek Road, crossing State Route 3, the point of beginning, encompassing approximately nine acres.

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Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Lynnside Historic District follow, as nearly as possible, natural and permanent boundaries and are drawn so as to include the Lewis Family Home of "Lynnside," it's ancillary agricultural buildings and immediate grounds (including the Civil War camping ground) and to include the closely associated family cemetery and the Old Catholic Cemetery, as well as the historically associated St. John's Chapel with its immediate grounds and small cemetery.

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Section number 10 Page 4 Lynnside Historic District

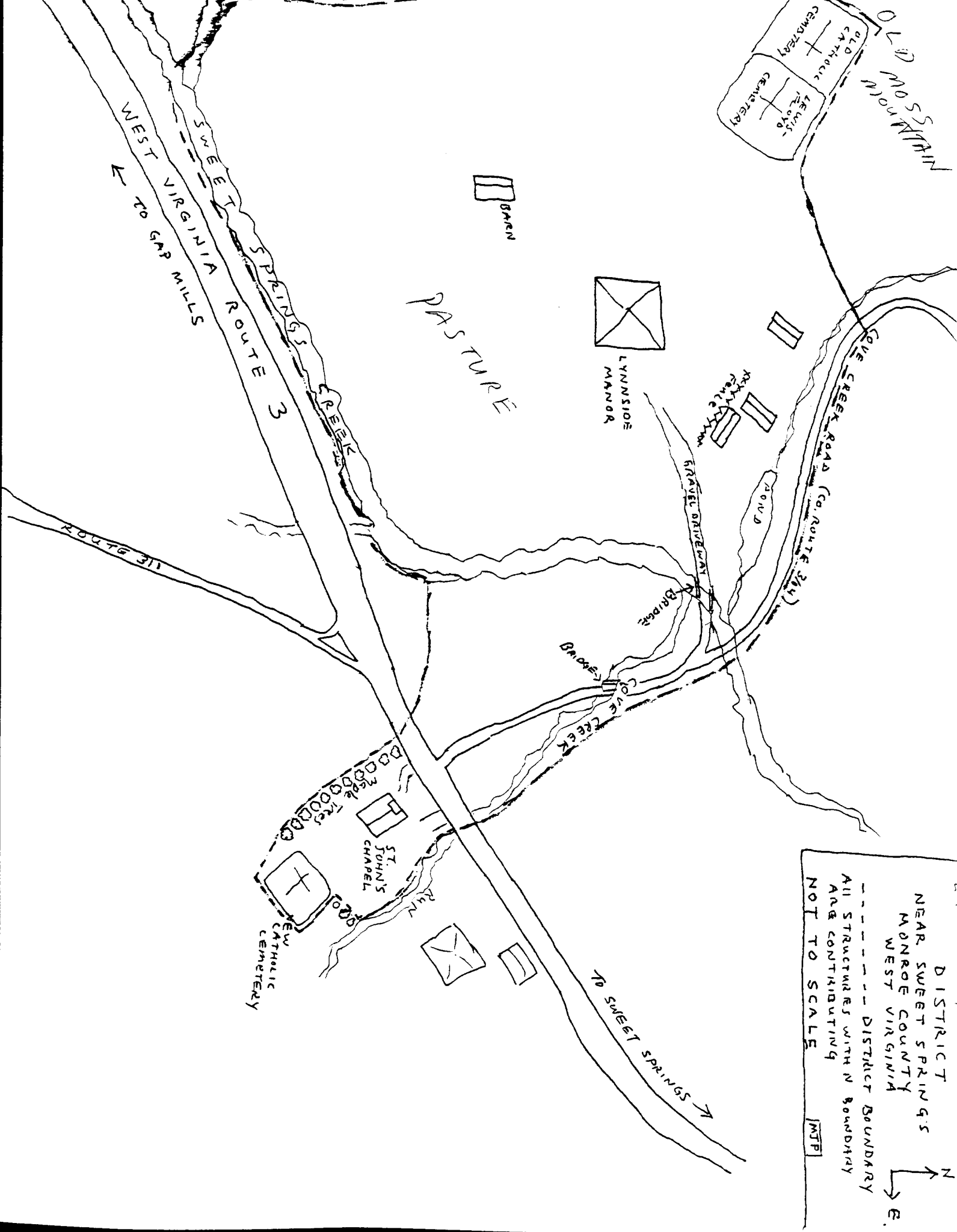
UTM References:

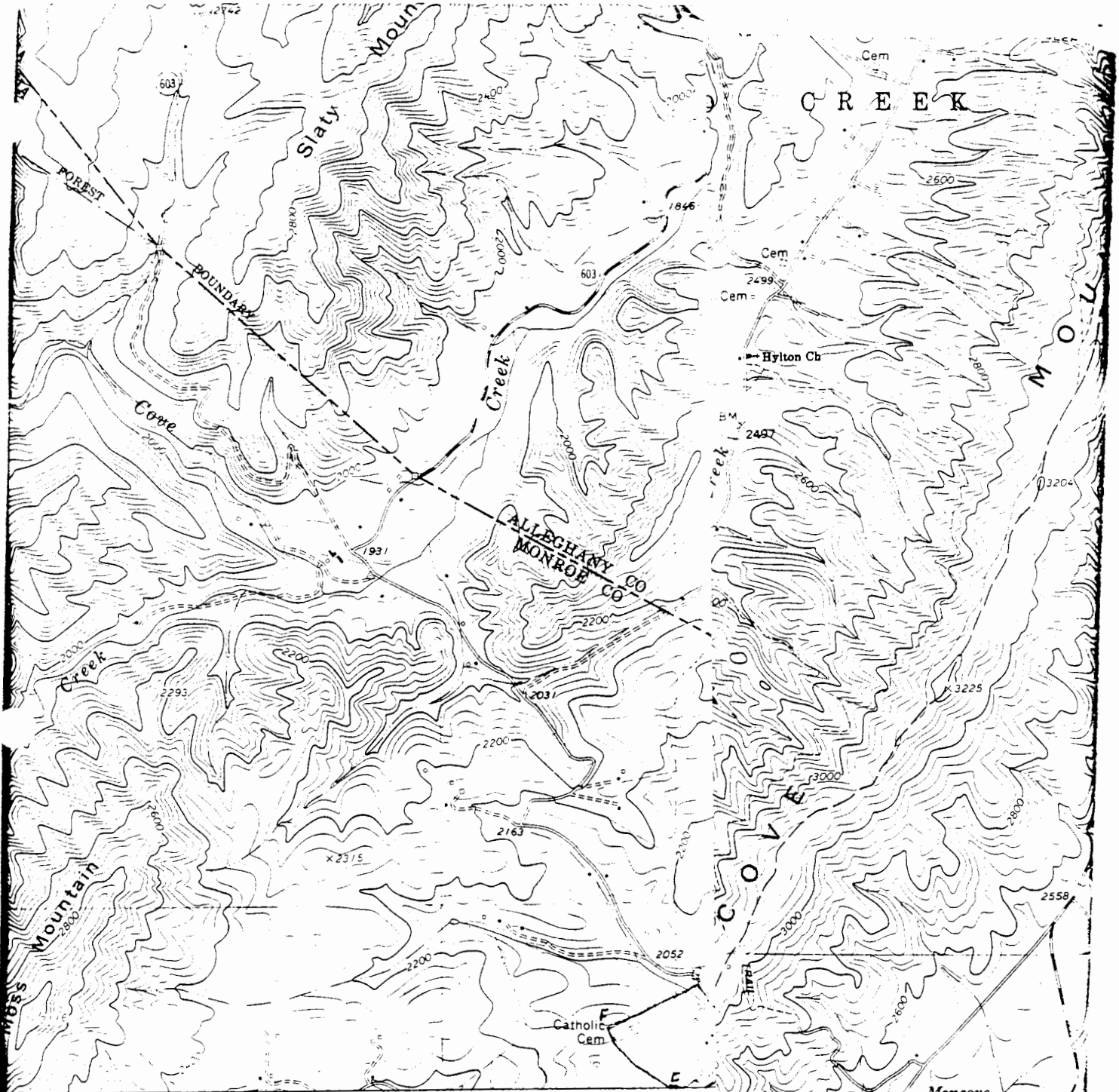
Alleghany, Va.-WV Quadrangle:

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| A- | 17/567420/4165540 | B- | 17/567360/4165660 |
| C- | 17/567400/4165700 | D- | 17/567490/4165600 |
| | Z. E. N. | | Z. E. N. |

Glace, WV-Va. Quadrangle:

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| E- | 17/566000/4165780 | F- | 17/565720/4165520 |
| G- | 17/566100/4165340 | | |
| | Z. E. N. | | Z. E. N. |





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ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty
 Medium-duty

Light-duty
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GLACE, W. VA. — VA.
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 DECLINATION AT 45°

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2

Lynnside Historic District

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Lynnside Historic District,
 WV Route 3,
 Sweet Springs
 vicinity,
 Monroe County
 West Virginia

U. T. M. Coordinates:
 Alleghany, Va.-W.V.
 U.S. G.S. Quadrangle

A- 17/567420/4165540

B- 17/567360/4165660

C- 17/567400/4165700

D- 17/567490/4165600

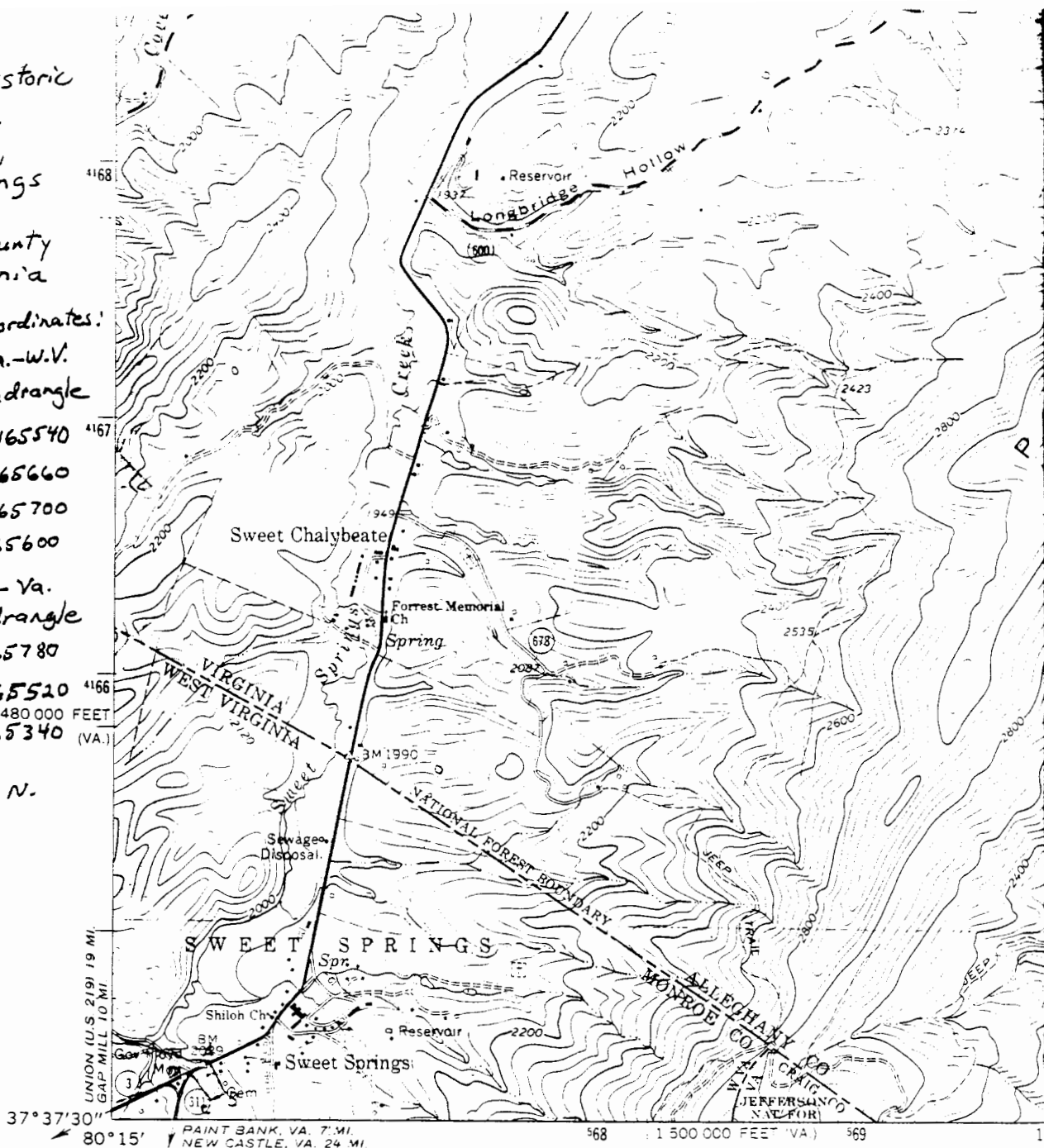
Glace, W.Va. - Va.
 U.S. G.S. Quadrangle

E- 17/566000/4165780

F- 17/565720/4165520

G- 17/566100/4165340

Z. E. N.



(PAINT BANK)
 4959 III SE

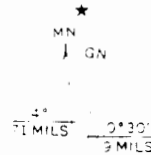
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

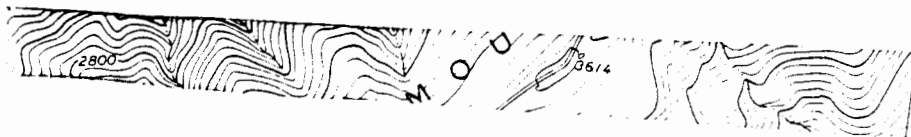
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1963. Field checked 1966

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grids based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone,
 and West Virginia coordinate system, south zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17,
 shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1986 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET







ONE LORD, ONE FAITH,
ONE BAPTISM, ONE CHURCH

LETITIA PRESTON
FLOYD
WIFE OF GOV. JOHN FLOYD
MOTHER OF
GOV. JOHN B. FLOYD
AUTHOR & EDUCATOR
DIED DEC. 12, 1852

JOHN FLOYD
BORN 1792
DIED 1852
AND HIS FATHER
THE OREGON FRONTIER
DIED 1812

