

HORSEPASTURE STORE
Intersection of U.S. Route 58
and VA Route 687
Horsepasture
Henry County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1341

HABS
VA
45-HORPA
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

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HORSEPASTURE STORE

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LOCATION: Intersection of U.S. Route 58 and VA Route 687, Horsepasture, Henry County, Virginia.

USGS Martinsville West, Virginia Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.593750.4053948

SIGNIFICANCE: The Horsepasture Store is a good example of a traditional general retail establishment serving a largely rural population. The property has played an important role in the social and commercial life of the crossroads hamlet of Horsepasture and the surrounding rural area.

DESCRIPTION: The Horsepasture Store is a vernacular commercial structure, exhibiting some Craftsman-period details from early 20th century improvements. The two-and-one-half-story frame structure was originally built with a full, raised brick basement and seven steps leading up to the deck of the front porch. Around 1929, the basement was demolished and the building was "let down" to the ground to rest on a low brick foundation. The dimensions of the store are approximately 25'3"x 46'10", with a one-story, 15'3" wide lean-to addition, which is the same length as the rest of the store along the east side. The store is two-and-one-half-stories high, three bays across the front and two bays deep. The lean-to, built ca. 1930, rests on a concrete block foundation.

The Horsepasture Store has a front gable roof sheathed with standing-seam tin, overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. Most of the original weatherboarded exterior is sheathed in asbestos siding. German siding surrounds the main entrance, extending out to the two large commercial windows. Original weatherboards are exposed in the area above the front entrance and on the eastern wall of the addition, which prior to 1930 served as the store's eastern exterior. There is one interior brick chimney rising from the roof ridge. Reportedly there was a chimney in the rear room of the store which collapsed when the basement was taken out (J. Howard Doyle, personal communication June 16, 1993).

Two large six-light commercial windows flank the main entrance. They are set in unmolded frames which are flanked by flat pilasters terminating in simply molded caps. A ca. 1900 historical photograph indicates that

these windows once had smaller lights, and that the remaining windows in the front facade, which are now secured with plywood, are six-over-six double-hung sash. The east elevation has two, six-over-six windows at first floor level (in the 1930 lean-to addition) and one at second floor level. The rear (north) elevation has one, eight-over-eight double-hung sash window. There is one plywood-covered window at the second floor of the west elevation. All windows not secured with plywood are protected by horizontal metal bars affixed to the interior frames.

The main store entrance has a four-panel door with four-light transom. Attached to the exterior is a screen door as well as a heavy metal grill with horizontal bars, which swings on hinges, (which when closed and locked would secure the front entrance from intruders). A shed roof porch with a standing-seam tin roof extends across the store's first floor facade. The porch has a wooden deck and exposed, shaped, rafter tails. The roof is supported by four square wooden posts with chamfered corners.

The first floor consists of a crowded sale room and a small rear storage room. The lean-to addition on the east side contains one long narrow space in which bags of feed are stored. Interior features include tongue-in-groove narrow beadboard ceiling with a squared lattice of simply molded battens in the main retail area. Stout wooden posts (heavily chamfered at corners almost to an octagonal cross section) support floor beams for the second floor. Much of the wall area is covered with eight foot high wooden shelves with molded cornice, fastened to flush horizontal board. Drawers below the 8' display shelving are fitted with ornamental but sturdy metal pulls.

A staircase with open railing, located in the northeast corner of the main sale room, leads up to the second floor. A wooden matchstick balustrade with square newel posts and shaped handrail surrounds the stairwell on the second floor. The second floor is divided into two rooms. The larger room is finished with 6" rough-cut boards applied vertically and set about .25"-.5" apart. The ceiling is covered with particle board secured with rough-cut wooden pieces, approximately 2"x 4", arranged vertically and horizontally across the ceiling, forming a pattern of rectangles. Early display cases, a wooden nail box, and a thread box are stored here. The unfinished attic can be reached through a stairbox located in the northwest corner. The rear room is smaller and has plastered walls.

The Horsepasture Store was heated by a coal fired pot-bellied stove which was present until six years ago. Around 1983, a gas heater was installed, as were electric fans to circulate air. Supplied from an exterior gas tank on the west elevation, the heater/blower hangs from the ceiling in the southwest corner of the main store room. All other areas of the store, the back room, second floor and addition remain unheated spaces. There is one sink with running water which was installed ca. 1983, when public water became available. The small sink is located on the west wall of the main store area, behind a merchandise counter.

The store received electricity in 1934 (Paul Clifton, personal communication 1993). Before the current fluorescent bulbs and metal fixtures were installed, wire hung from the ceiling with exposed bulbs attached. This wire remains, although all lighting is modern.

Behind the store there is a one-story frame fertilizer house clad in German siding, with a hipped-roof covered in standing-seam tin and exposed rafter tails. This building is said to have once been located on the east side of the store, and appears to date to the early 20th century. Right-of-way acquisition due to road improvements approximately 30 years ago forced the relocation of the building to its present spot. Hay is stored here in the winter and fertilizer in the summer (Paul Clifton, personal communication 1993). There is also a concrete block outhouse behind the store, and a greenhouse structure to the south of the store.

HISTORY:

The Horsepasture Store, is situated at the fork of U.S. Route 58, once known as the Danville-Wytheville Turnpike, and VA Route 687. The Danville-Wytheville Turnpike was completed to the Horsepasture Store in 1852 (Henry County Bicentennial Commission [HCBC] vol. 4, MB 5:195). Serving a community function as well as commercial function, the store was the site where precinct elections were held (HCBC vol. 4, MB 2:168) and where advertisements for county slave sales were posted for twenty days prior to the event (HCBC 1993: vol. 13, MB 6:17).

There are conflicting data concerning the construction date of the Horsepasture Store. A 1990 historical assessment dates the building to 1880, while a 1971 survey dates the building to 1843 (VDHR 1971). Sue Bowman (current renter and operator of the store), believes the store to be "148 years old" (which would put its date of construction at 1845). While the land tax records for Henry County do not mention any "new

buildings," there is but one entry dated 1845 for a P.W. Watkins and it makes mention of "Horse Pasture Store". To complicate matters further, a store of some kind had been erected by the year 1828 by John Atkinson and Benjamin Watkins. This enterprise is described in county Minute Books as Watkin's Horsepasture Store in 1832, but the exact location of this store could not be determined (HC Deed Book 11:90, 1928). It is believed that the 1828 structure was replaced by the current store sometime in the 1840s.

Over the years, the store at this location has been known variously as Horsepasture Store, Schoolfield Store, Roberson's Store, and Central Farm Supply. The store is currently owned by Paul Clifton, a son-in-law of a former owner, James Lester Roberson.

John H. Schoolfield purchased the Horsepasture store in 1859 and operated it, with help from his brother, Robert A. Schoolfield. Their parents, William and Miranda Schoolfield settled in the western portion of Henry County around 1812. John H. and Robert A. Schoolfield were tobacconists and merchants. It was not unusual for a tobacco manufacturing plant to have a good store carrying general merchandise in close proximity (Pedigo 1977:240). With the help of store clerks, the two brothers operated the Horsepasture Store for twenty-six years. In 1885 both brothers moved to Danville and established the Riverside Cotton Mills. Utilizing the water power of the Dan River, their textile company developed into one of the most prosperous plants in the "new industrial south" (Pedigo 1977:241).

The Horsepasture Store appears to have been used for a number of businesses over time. Owners have included merchants, tobacconists, and farmers, and even an apple orchard company (the Knob Apple Orchard Company, Inc., of Roanoke County [HC Deeds 35:397]). The nature of the connection between the Knob Apple Orchard Company and the store is unknown; no company fitting this description was known by the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce or mentioned in histories of Roanoke or Henry County.

Aside from the removal of the basement and the addition of a one-story lean-to on the east side, the store building has changed little since its construction. The upper story was at one time "used as a home, church, Grange meeting hall," (*Martinsville Bulletin*, March 31, 1975) and gun shop. In 1983, Paul Clifton retired from operating the store. At this time

Mark Stegall began renting the store, which was then known as Central Farm Supply, from Paul Clifton. Stegall operated the store for four years. During his tenure, the store was linked to public water lines and a gas heater was added to replace the coal-fired stove. From 1986-1988, Gene and Deborah Ward rented and operated the store. The Wards established a gun shop on the second floor of the store in 1986, which operated from this location until 1992. In 1988 Sue Bowman began renting the store from Paul Clifton. She is the current operator of Central Farm Supply.

SOURCES:

Bassett Public Library

Vertical Files, Horsepasture. Bassett, Virginia.

Bowman, Sue

1993

Interview with Sue Bowman, current renter and operator of Horsepasture Store. Ms. Bowman also donated copies of newspaper articles and a photograph.

Clifton, Paul

1993

Owner, Horsepasture Store. Personal communication, June and November 1993.

Doyle, J. Howard

1993

Personal communication, June 16, 1993

Henry County Bicentennial Commission

1993

The Bicentennial Collection: Abstracts of Henry County and Martinsville Order Books, Minute Books and Loose Papers 1777-1904. On file at Bassett Public Library, Bassett, Virginia.

Henry County, Virginia

County Records (Deed Books, Wills, Land Tax Records, and Plat Books), on file at Henry County Courthouse, Martinsville, Virginia.

U.S. Census and Industry Census Records, on microfilm at Virginia State Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

- Hill, Judith Parks America
1976 *A History of Henry County, Virginia.* Regional Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Hitchcock, Larry
1975 "Roberson's Store: Hub of Horsepasture Community."
Martinsville Bulletin, 31 March 1975. Photos by Mike Wray.
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1979 *Robert Addison Schoolfield (1853-1931): A Biographical History of the Leader of Danville, Virginia's Textile Mills During Their First 50 Years.* William Byrd Press, Richmond, Virginia.
- Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. [LBA]
1993 *Phase II Architectural Investigation, Horsepasture Store, U.S. Route 58, Henry County, Virginia.* Report submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation, Richmond.
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1976 *Martinsville-Henry County Historic Views.* Hunter Publishing Company, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
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1988 *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for Proposed Dual-Laning of Route 58 Henry County, Virginia.* Report on file at Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.
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1972 *The Lewis, Harrison, Bezer, Schoolfield Ancestry of John H. Lewis, d 1907, of Lynchburg and the Wiatt Ancestry of His Wife Elizabeth D. Langhorne, d 1946.* On file at the Virginia State Library, Richmond.
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1977 *History of Patrick and Henry Counties, Virginia.* Baltimore Regional Publishing Company. On file at Patrick Henry Community College Library, Martinsville, Virginia.

Smith, Nancy Roberson

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United States Geological Survey [USGS]

1965 *Martinsville West, VA, Quadrangle.* 7.5 Minute
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Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources [VDHR]

1971 Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks Architectural
Survey Form (completed by R.A. Lee). Virginia
Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

1990

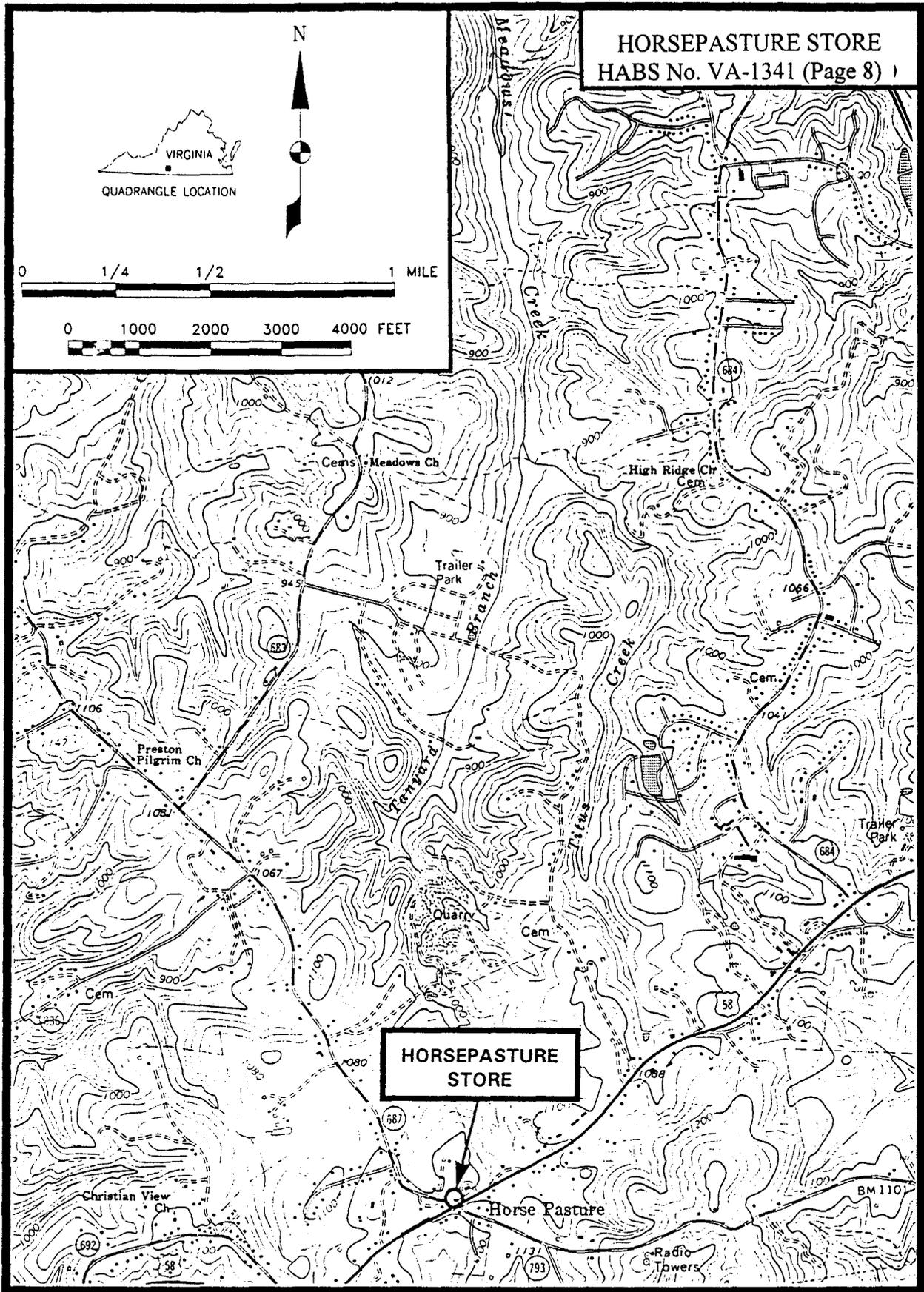
Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks Brief Survey
Form (completed by Whitwell & Winborne, Ltd.).
Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

Windle, Virginia Stone

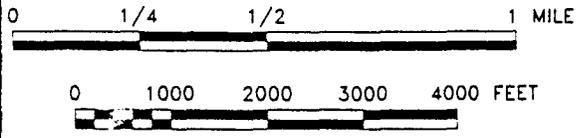
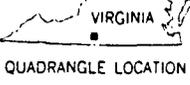
1975 *"The Forgotten Industry." Henry County: A Proud
Look Back.* First National Bank, Bassett, Virginia.

HISTORIAN:

Leslie D. Bashman, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., 100 Halsted Street,
East Orange, New Jersey 17019.
January, 1994



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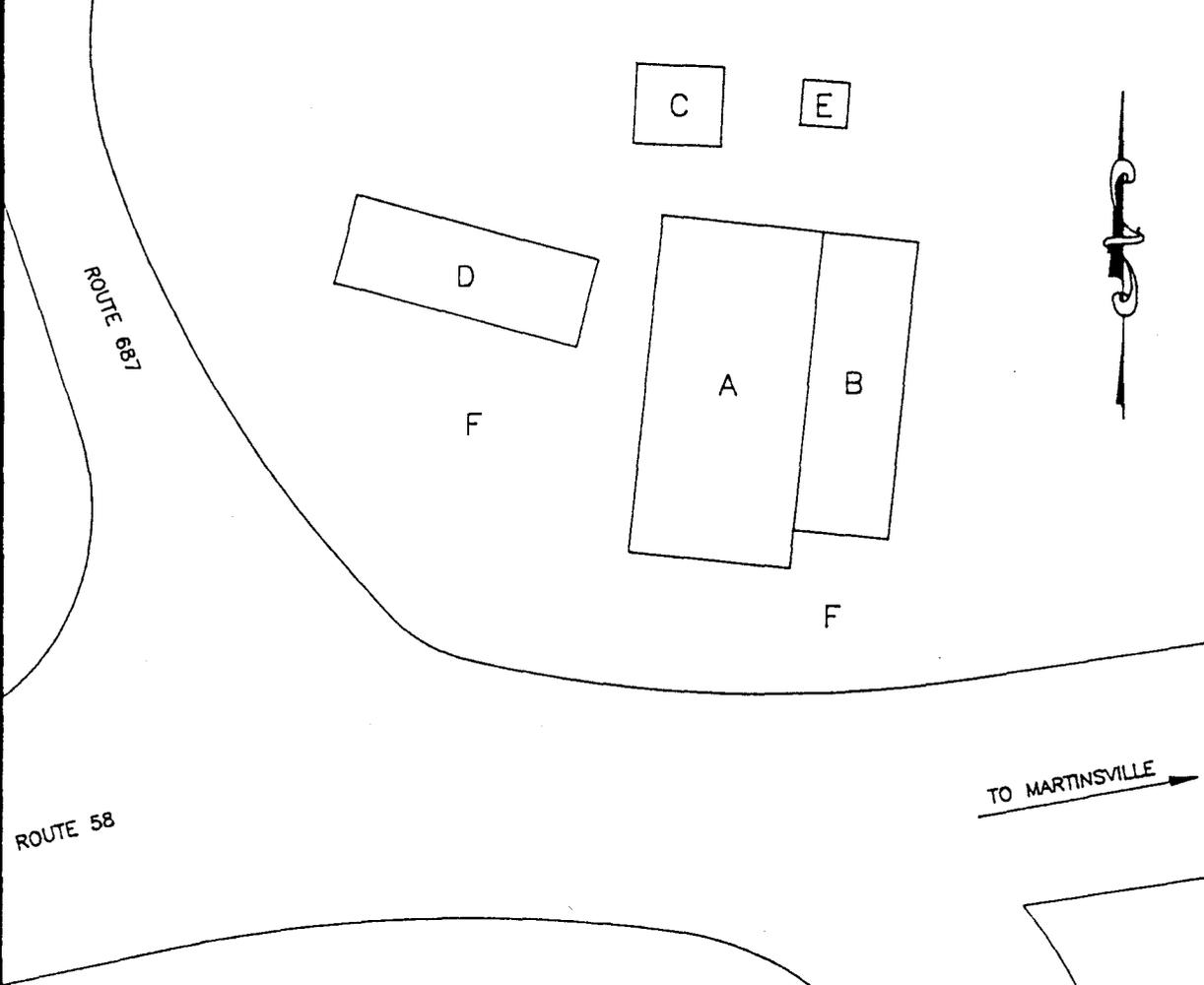
HORSEPASTURE
STORE

Horse Pasture

Radio
Towers

BM 110

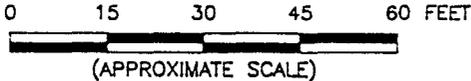
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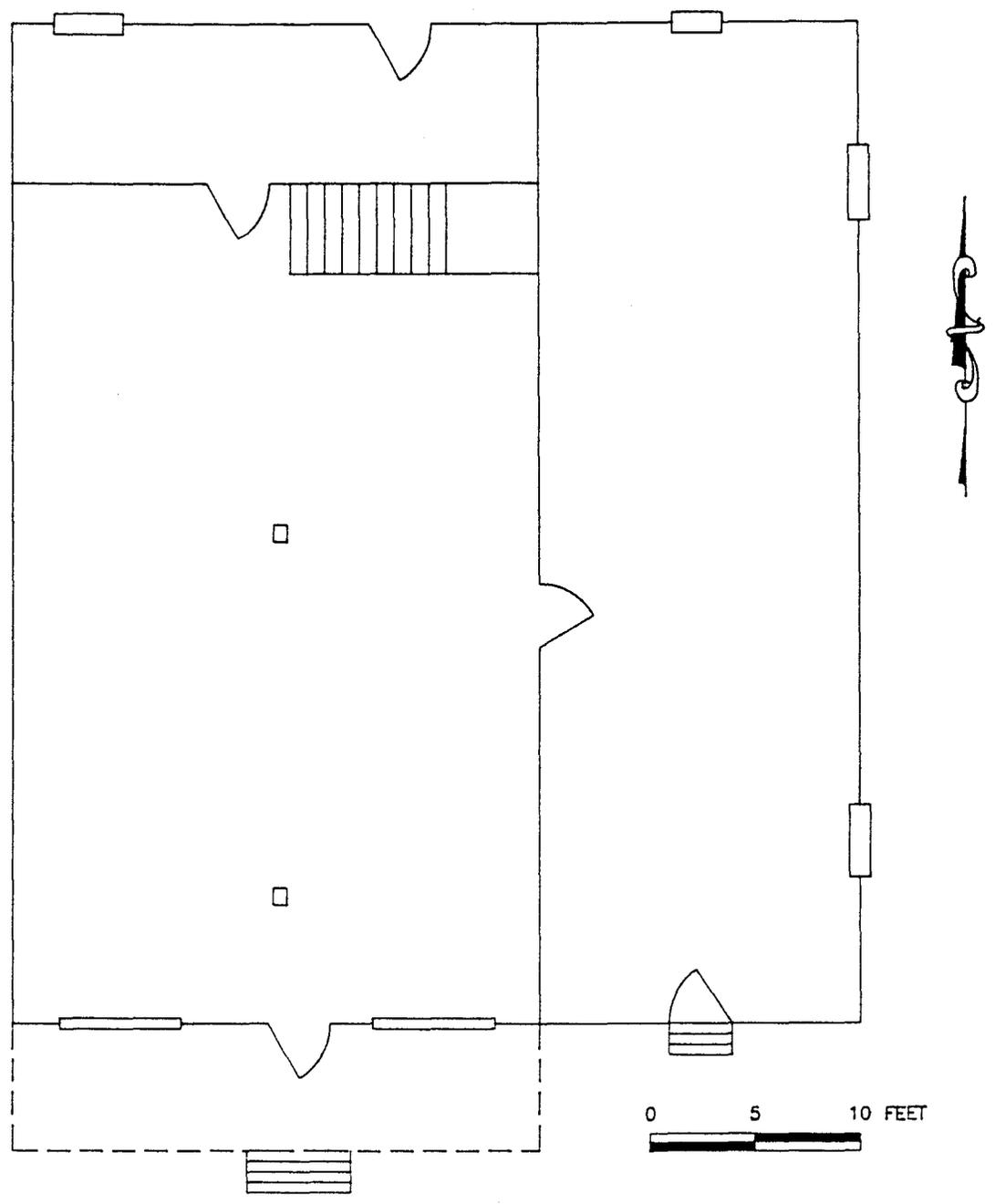


LEGEND

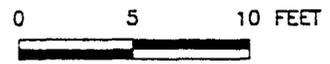
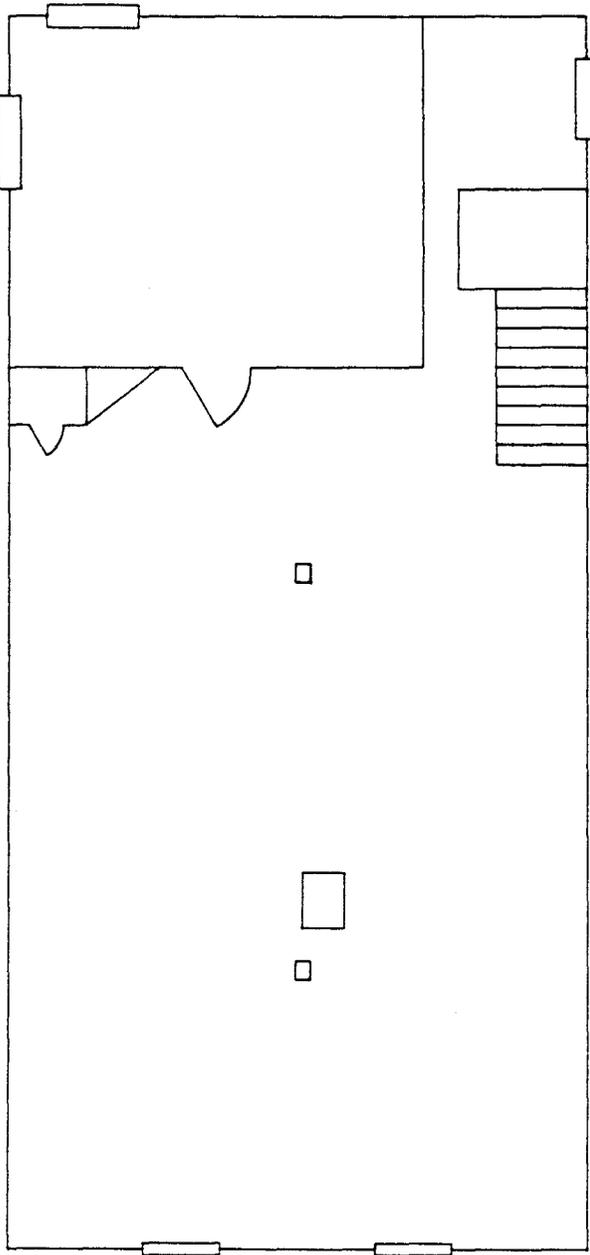
- A HORSEPASTURE STORE
- B HORSEPASTURE STORE, 1930 ADDITION
- C HORSEPASTURE STORE, FERTILIZER HOUSE
- D HORSEPASTURE STORE, GREENHOUSE
- E OUTHOUSE
- F PARKING AREAS

SITE PLAN





FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR