

3240 CYRUS ROAD, PRIVY
About 45 feet northwest of the house
Cyrus
Wayne County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-268-B

HABS
WA
50-CYRUS,
3B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

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3240 CYRUS ROAD, PRIVY

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- Location: About 45 feet northwest of the House, Cyrus, Wayne County, West Virginia.
- Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17. 362480. 4241055.
USGS Quadrangle: Burnaugh, West Virginia/ Kentucky
- Significance: The privy is a contributing structure associated with the residential site at 3240 Cyrus Road, which was built between 1892 and 1901. The privy was built to a standard design by W.P.A. workers in 1936. In 1962 the privy was moved from the adjacent lot where it had been used (1936-1961) by occupants of 3249 Cyrus Road (HABS No. WV-267).
- Description: The privy is a wood and concrete shed-roofed building 50 inches square in plan. Its roof is covered with galvanized metal sheeting with parallel crimping. Its floor is a concrete slab 4 feet square. The privy is supported by three cement blocks and a wooden post. Its walls are made of vertical flush planks, uniformly 7/8-inch thick but variable in width. The privy has a narrow 22-inch-wide door on its east side. The privy seat is a removable wooden box with a single shaped hole. The top of the box is made of tongue-and-groove boards. The box is inverted over a concrete box joined to the floor. The seat is set at an angle in one corner to maximize space. A square ventilator tube runs at an angle from walls adjacent to the seat corner. Both ends of the tube are screen-covered and project somewhat through the walls. At the bottom center of the tube, over the back of the seat, is an open square air-hole. The building is in fair condition.
- History: The privy formerly was associated with the nearby Albert Thacker House [HABS No. 267-A]. The privy was built around 1936 by local W.P.A. workers according to a standard design used by the Work Projects Administration. When the Newmans moved into the old Thacker place in 1942, the W.P.A. privy sat between the wash house (on Lot 23) and the chicken house, where it almost certainly was erected in 1936. The Newmans later moved it to a spot between the chicken house and garden, where it stood in 1960. In 1962 the Newmans gave Chadwick the

W.P.A. privy because in 1961 the Newmans got indoor plumbing and no longer needed the privy, and Chadwick's was in very bad condition.

Just northwest of the W.P.A. privy is a very low concrete foundation, apparently the base and hole of Chadwick's former privy. The foundation is 52 inches square, is open at its center, and has a puddled concrete apron on the side to the west. Despite dimensions that readily accommodate the nearby W.P.A. privy, the concrete foundation – composed of low quality cement, poorly washed sand, and local aggregate – undoubtedly is the base for a privy built sometime well before World War I.

Sources:

Eustace A. "Buck" Chadwick

Interview by Douglas L. Bailey, 1-2 P.M., August 10, 1992

Pauline Newman

Interview by Douglas L. Bailey, 2-3 P.M., February 1, 1993

Historian:

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May 31, 1994