

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
3271 Cyrus Road (County Road 1/6)
Cyrus
Wayne County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-266-A

HABS
WVA
50-CYRUS
2A-

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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- Location: 3271 Cyrus Road (County Road 1/6), Wayne County, West Virginia
- Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17. 362425. 4240915.
USGS Quadrangle: Burnaugh, West Virginia/ Kentucky
- Present Owner: Cyrus Dock Company, Inc., Belle, West Virginia
- Present Occupant: None.
- Present Use: None.
- Significance: The Farmhouse is significant in terms of its associations with the history of White's Creek, the lower Big Sandy River valley, and certain families instrumental in its development. First, it is the oldest and last surviving domestic structure in the former village of White's Creek, formally established as a local commercial center immediately after the Civil War. Second, the Farmhouse was associated with the founding and development of the village of White's Creek as the residence of its first school teacher and a long-time merchant. It later served as the home for a farmer and his wife, a local school teacher for forty years. Third, the Farmhouse is associated with three persons important in local and regional history: Abraham Cyrus (1818-1903), the prominent and influential large landowner who built it, and Martin VanBuren Chapman (1842-1903) and his son Floyd (1871-1932), both eminent political figures in the history of Huntington, West Virginia. Last, it is a well-preserved example of a style of country home once commonly found in the lower Big Sandy River Valley, and now represented by very few preserved or documented examples. The Farmhouse is considered to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing structure associated with the Abraham Cyrus Farmstead, and is significant in its own right.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: The house was built by 1872 when its first known occupants moved in. It originally was the home of Martin Chapman, who ran a general store and, for the first few years, was the local school teacher.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The farmhouse and farmstead first were owned by Abraham Cyrus (1818-1903), who apparently rented them out to an employee until about 1892. In 1889 Cyrus sold the farmhouse to his son Perry Jackson Cyrus (1870-1898), who lived there between his marriage in 1893 and his death in 1898. Ownership remained in his estate until the majority of his son Abraham Jackson Cyrus (born 1897, and still living), who lived in the house until his infirmity in 1986, and owned the house until 1992. In that year it was sold to the Cyrus Dock Company, Inc., of Belle, West Virginia.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown.
5. Original plans and construction: In recent years, the farmhouse has been modified considerably (see section 6. Alterations and Additions, below). As built, the farmhouse was as an L-plan two-story frame house put up on sandstone blocks and having no cellar. The layouts of its first and second stories – positions and sizes of rooms, and arrangement of their doors and windows – essentially were identical. Six large rooms were arranged three to each floor. The three rooms upstairs were bedrooms. The farmhouse's western facade was balanced with two-over-two windows arranged two to each side of a centrally-placed two-story porch sheltering a central entry. Windows on the east had six-over-six sash. The farmhouse had internal chimneys at its three gable ends, where there were no windows. Exterior siding was of 6 inch poplar boards, lapped except under the porches, where they were laid flush. The farmhouse's southeast porch had wooden floors on both its stories. Three doors led out of the first floor: the front entry, and the two others near the northwest corner of the southeast porch. All doors in the building were four-panel rail-and-stile doors hung on butt hinges; all outer doors had rim locks; all room doors had thumb latches and some had rim locks. Walls and ceilings were finished in unpainted but good quality plaster on sawed lath. Rooms had simple

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 3)

baseboards 8 inches high. Floors were of variable-width tongue-and-groove boards.

6. Alterations and additions: The cellar was dug around 1900. In 1920 its concrete floor was poured and the stonework was repointed. In the 1920s concrete sidewalks were laid through the east yard and to the cellar. Later the concrete sidewalk to the Wash House and Barn was poured. Oak flooring was laid in the downstairs rooms. Soon after 1927 the wood and coal-burning stove was exchanged for gas. The old kitchen eventually was partitioned into a dining room and small kitchen. Later an old window was removed from the new kitchen's south end, and a door was built into the space. About the same time, a new window was added over the sink in the new kitchen area. By the 1950s, the pump and wooden cover above the cistern were removed and replaced with a concrete cap. The cistern water no longer was used in the house. A generator in the Wash House had supplied electricity in the 1920s. In 1946 the Rural Electrification Administration strung local electrical lines. In the late 1940s the original light fixtures on the first floor east (Rooms 4 and 5) were removed and replaced. In the 1950s the west porch and balcony were removed. Windows on the first floor were removed, the openings were enlarged, and metal casement windows were installed. The two facade doors were removed and filled in with window sash – one new, one taken from the first floor level of the western facade. A concrete wall was built under the western edge of the house. The old first floor of the southeast corner porch was removed and replaced with a concrete pad. The north rooms downstairs were panelled and all other rooms and areas papered or painted. Around 1960 the large room was divided into two rooms, and a bathroom was built in its former southwest corner. The door to the old room was removed. The exposed portion of the southwest chimney was removed and the roof was patched. In the 1970s the attic of the house was insulated.

Herman Harmon was the carpenter who did most of the work in the decades around the 1950s (Press-Observer Sept. 25, 1978). Harmon (1895-1968) was a relative both through Blanche Myrtle Cyrus, whose mother Louvenia was a Harmon, and through the wife of Blanche's son Abe Junior (1921-1990), Violet Fern Runyon (1920-1982), whose mother Mae was a Harmon.

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 4)

- B. Historical context: The Farmhouse at the Abraham Jackson Farmstead was not built as a farmhouse, but as a home for the first school teacher in the nascent village of White's Creek, West Virginia – Martin Van Buren Chapman. The village began to coalesce with the establishment of William Cyrus' ferry in the 1820s, the nearby Russell Store in the 1850s, and the Cyrus Mills in the 1850s and 1860s. By 1866 White's Creek was a local post office [see HABS No. WV-270]. Village lands were platted for sale by M.F. Ferguson and adjacent lands by Abraham Cyrus (1818-1903). In 1870 Cyrus had an interest in the Mineral Railway, an unsuccessful railroad development scheme, which would have made a railroad depot then where it was eventually built in 1903. The local church – the Big Sandy Valley Church – was founded at White's Creek in 1870, and the local Masonic Lodge followed in 1872. By 1880 Martin Chapman was an established merchant at White's Creek opposite Lockwood Station, Kentucky, a stop on the newly built Chatteroi Railroad. The Farmhouse thus is intimately associated with the history of White's Creek, the lower Big Sandy River valley, and certain families instrumental in its development – the Cyruses and the Chapmans, the latter of whom were a political dynasty in nearby Huntington, West Virginia.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The Farmhouse is a vernacular-style two-story frame house with an L-shaped plan and gabled roofs. When built around 1870 the farmhouse fronted the river, and had a balanced facade with a central entry, two-story porch, and two-over-two windows. The farmhouse now fronts east toward the road and railroad, and many changes have been made to its first floor plan, windows, and doors. Nonetheless, the farmhouse still strongly resembles – in plan and orientation – the Roswell Cyrus farmhouse, built of brick several years before on the next farm south.
2. Condition of fabric: Except in the last decade, the farmhouse has been maintained continually and well over the years since its construction. The house needs to be repainted, the roof is somewhat weather-damaged, the rain gutter and downspout on the west side are falling down, and its water supply is contaminated. However, the farmhouse's wooden siding, frame, casings, interior, and foundation remain in good condition.

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 5)

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: The two-story farmhouse has a L-shaped plan, comprised of a rectangular main structure, 36 feet 3.5 inches wide (north-south) and 16 feet 4 inches front to back, and a two-story wing, nearly square, 16 feet 2.5 inches north-south and 18 feet east-west. In the angle formed, each floor has a porch 18 feet deep and 8 feet wide.
2. Foundations: The wooden superstructure of the farmhouse is supported chiefly by sandstone blocks about a foot square, except at building corners, where the blocks are larger. Interior pier blocks are chocked further with blocks of wood. A concrete wall under the west edge of the house was built after the front porch was removed. It and the walls of the stone-lined cellar assist in load-bearing.
3. Walls: Exterior siding generally consists of clapboards 6 inches wide and a half inch thick, fastened with square-shank cut nails. The three lowest boards on the west side were replaced when the front porch was removed, and so are fastened with wire nails. Wire nails also fasten panels of weatherboards below the windows that replaced the two doors onto the front porch (Rooms 3 and 8). Variable-width flush siding (3 to 6 inches wide) is found under the southeast porch on the south-facing walls of both floors.
4. Structural system, framing: The framing system cannot be observed directly or completely. All members of the frame are circular-sawn lumber. The sills are sawed beams 7 inches square. Joists in the main structure and wing are set at 2-foot centers. Studs in the main structure and wing are set at 16-inch centers. The building is an example of early balloon-frame construction, with braced-frame retentions.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: The farmhouse once had a front porch on the west side and still has a two-story porch at the southeast angle. The front porch was removed. It was 10 feet wide and about 8 feet deep. Its second floor was a simple unroofed balcony supported from below by four posts and two pilaster-posts. The pilaster-posts are outlined faintly on the painted siding. Each post was chamfered and had a square base 6 inches square and 18 inches high. On the balcony were two 4-inch-wide square pilaster-posts, topped by a plain flat board rail or cap, 5 inches across and 1 inch thick.

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 6)

The southeast porch has two floors. The first is a massive concrete slab, 18 by 8 feet in area. Previously, the kitchen porch had a wooden floor seated on six sandstone pier blocks (one is buried partly under the slab's northeast corner). Its roof is held up by three chamfered but fairly plain square posts, to which a trellis is attached with wire nails. The underside of the porch roof is covered with flush boards, 6 to 14 inches wide, which are laid north-to-south and are fastened with cut nails.

The second floor of the southeast porch is made of variable-width boards, run north-south, each board with one side tongued and the other ship-lapped (not grooved). The porch has a balustrade of 2 by 1 inch slats between a 2-inch-wide hexagonal hand rail and bottom rail. The underside of the porch roof is covered with variable-width flush boards, 3 to 6 inches wide, run east-west, and fastened with cut nails.

6. Chimneys: Formerly, the farmhouse had three chimneys, two of which remain. The exposed part of the chimney at the south end of the ridgeline of the main structure has been removed. Its small breast is obvious in the upper southwest bedroom (Room 7) but is obscured in the first-floor bathroom (Room 1). Free-standing stoves in the two superimposed original southwest rooms once exhausted through flues into the face of the chimney, which in plan was 18 inches deep by 20 wide.

Opposite to this removed chimney on the same ridgeline is an intact chimney, about 2-feet east-west by 1.5 feet north-south. In Room 4, this chimney has a breast 53 inches wide and 19 inches deep, and in Room 9, a breast 43 inches wide and 18 inches deep. The chimney in Room 9 includes a fireplace, ornate iron fire frame, outer bricked hearth, and mantel (53.5 by 75 inches), all apparently original. The mantelpiece behind the gas stove in Room 4 dates to about 1950.

On the east end of the ridgeline of the east wing is a third chimney, smaller than the two others. It is exposed as a breast 18 inches square between the closets in Room 10, and is absent in the present kitchen (Room 6). This chimney is supported by metal straps looped over adjacent joists under the floor of Room 10. Formerly, a large wood-burning stove in the original kitchen exhausted via a flue pipe into this chimney.

7. Openings

- a. Doorways and doors: Presently there are five functioning exterior doorways including the bulkhead. Doorways lead from the southeast porch into the kitchen (Room 6) and downstairs hall (3). Upstairs, two doorways lead onto the southeast porch, and connect the hall (Room 8) and wing bedroom (10). Formerly, the doorway between the kitchen porch and dining room (Room 5) was unobstructed: in the dining room, the door now is panelled over except for its six-pane window. The porch doorway into the kitchen (Room 6) formerly did not exist, and a window probably was sited there. Its door is a fairly recent two-pane two-panel door with mortised lock and metal knobs. The door into Room 5 undoubtedly was removed because its screen door collided with the other one in the same corner. Windows were used to replace the former front doorway (west end, Room 3) and the doorway to the balcony (west end, Room 8). In the exterior doorways into Rooms 3 and 5, doors have six panes, three panels, and mortised locks and metal knobs. All downstairs doors -- inside and out -- replace originals, which resembled those still found upstairs. The two six-pane three-panel doors are identical to the two in the Wash House (HABS No. WV-266-B). Both doors onto the second-floor southeast porch are of the four-panel design common to all doors on the second floor. All three screen doors in the house are painted black and are of similar size, but are stylistically dissimilar.
- b. Windows and shutters: Nine windows are found on the first floor and seven on the second. All windows on the second floor are original, excepting that the two-over-two double-hung sash filling the former balcony doorway (west end, Room 8) was moved from the first floor of the facade. Presently, three windows on the upper west have two-over-two double-hung sash, while all others east of there have six-over-six double-hung sash -- three in Room 10, and one on the east side of Room 7. In all seven cases, the upper sash is fixed, and the lower, sliding.

No window on the first floor is period to the construction. Four metal casement windows occur on the building's west and north sides (Rooms 1, 4, 5, and 6). These vary only in the number, arrangement, and size of their fixed and cranked lights. Single-paned sash occurs in two windows (Rooms 4 and 3), one of which

fills a former door frame (west end, Room 3). A double casement window with four lights each pierces the kitchen's east wall (Room 6). A modern one-over-one sliding aluminum storm sash is fixed into an old casing in Room 2. In addition to these nine windows, are the three fixed six-pane lights of the doors around the porch, one door of which is obstructed (into Room 5). Originally, two-over-two double-hung sash occurred uniformly on the west facade, and six-over-six double-hung elsewhere. There were no windows on the gable ends.

8. Roof

- a. Shape, covering: The farmhouse and wing have standing-seam gable roofs; there is a shed roof over the two-story southeastern porch. The nature of the roof over the former front porch extending from the west facade is unknown. The raised-seam metal roofing is constructed of panels 18 inches wide and 24 inches long; after rolling the panels have seams 16 inches apart. The panels are lapped to the north on both slopes of the main structure, that is, laid from the south; on the porch roof and adjacent wing slopes, lapped west (laid from the east); and on the north slope of the east wing, lapped east (laid from the west). All gable edges of the roof are turned down as a weather-wise technique. Roof gutters are found only in two places: (a) along the west edge of the main structure's gabled roof and (b) along the south edge of the porch roof. The gutter along the lower edge of the southeast porch roof drains down to a gravel-filled filter box beside a cistern south of the east end of the concrete porch slab. The roof and gutter is in good condition, except at its northwest (west slope), where the gutter and down-drain are in ill-repair. Presently, the roof is painted silver, but formerly was green.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Eaves soffits are as inclined as the roof and all rafter ends are boxed, not exposed. There are no cornice returns, nor evidence for dentils, brackets, etc. Frieze boards 8 inches wide are found everywhere except under the second-story porch roof, which nonetheless has a frieze board of its own resting on its chamfered posts.

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 9)

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The farmhouse has two stories and a partial cellar.
 - a. Basement: The farmhouse has a small cellar. Its walls are of quarry-faced rock, roughly pointed using a hard mortar. The cellar is L-shaped in plan, and consists of a room, a short hall, and seven sandstone steps. The room is 7 by 10 feet in plan. The cellar floor is a massive concrete slab, and has a floor drain which exits near the center of the west wall, and drains water through a pipe out the bluff. To improve drainage, Abe Cyrus chiselled a dendritic pattern of shallow channels into the floor leading to the floor drain. Formerly, there was a door at the bottom of the steps. In the early 1920s, Fisher Bowen Drown (1876-1932) poured the concrete floor and re-pointed the stonework. The door was removed, stripped of its mortised lock, and reused as the present cellar bulkhead door. Because wire nails were used in the casing for the door and the cellar hatch, and no earlier features are evident, it is believed that the cellar is not an original construction but dates to around 1900.
 - b. First floor: The present first-floor plan consists of five rooms and a central hall (Room 3) with a closet under its stairs. The five rooms include: a bathroom (Room 1), bedroom (Room 2), living room (4), dining room (5) and kitchen (6). Formerly, Rooms 1 and 2 were a single large room, 15 feet 2.5 inches east-west and 12 feet 9 inches north-south. Formerly, Rooms 5 and 6 were a single large room, 15 feet 2.5 inches east-west, and 17 feet 5 inches north-south. The partitions were added after World War Two, and are non-load-bearing. Originally, the L-shaped plan of the first floor contained three large rooms, two in the main part separated by a central hall, and one in the wing. Thus, the original first-floor plan of rooms was identical to the present second floor plan, except of course in terms of room function.
 - c. Second floor: The second floor of the farmhouse has a L-shaped plan as well. It consists of the main structure, with two rooms (7 and 9) separated by a central stairs hall (8), and the wing with one room (10). All upper floor rooms, excluding the hall, are bedrooms now and originally. The east end of Room 10 has in recent years been partitioned off as closets, obscuring the chimney breast there. Room 10 is entered only via the adjacent second-story porch, and

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 10)

always was. In general, the layout, flooring, and arrangement of doors and windows on the second floor is as it was when the farmhouse was built in 1872. However, the doorway on the west end of the hall (8), which led onto a second-story front porch, has been removed and replaced by a window.

- d. Attic: The farmhouse's L-plan attic is unfinished. The attic can only be entered via two very small louvered ventilators in the gable of the east wing. There are no scuttles in the second floor ceilings.
2. Stairways: The farmhouse has two flights of stairs: seven sandstone steps into the cellar, and thirteen on the south side of the hall (between Rooms 3 and 8). The hall steps, with 13 steps of 8 inch rise and 10 inch run (including 1-3/8 inch cove), are borne on an outer open stringer. The stairs and its well are bordered by a 3.5-inch cherry rail and a balustrade of 50 turned, two-inch square posts of oak. The newel post consists of a molded cherry knob (7-inch diameter) set atop a turned post of cherry (6-inch diameter).
3. Flooring: Floors in the cellar and on the first-floor porch are massively-poured concrete slabs. On the first floor, flooring consists of 2-1/4-inch-wide oak tongue-and-groove boards, laid east-to-west in the main structure (Rooms 2, 3, and 4) and north-to-south in the wing (Room 5). Rooms 1 (bathroom) and 6 (kitchen) are floored with half-foot-square vinyl checkerboard tiles.

On the second-floor porch, flooring consists of variable-width tongue-and-groove boards, laid north-to-south. The only type of nails visible in board ends are wire nails. This suggests that the second-floor porch floor has been replaced, or was re-nailed.

Flooring in the second floor rooms is of unvarnished variable-width tongue-and-groove boards 3 to 6 inches wide. In the main structure (Rooms 7, 8, and 9), these boards are laid north-to-south and continue under the walls separating the rooms. In the wing the boards run east-to-west. The upstairs floors were not painted until the late 1950s when only the flooring exposed beyond successive sheets of linoleum began to be painted, usually in shades of dark brown. Flooring in the closets that were built on the end of Room 10 is not painted.

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 11)

4. Wall and ceiling finishes: All walls and ceilings in the house – except for two non-load-bearing partitions – are finished with good quality plaster over circular-sawed lath. However, plaster everywhere is obscured by recent surface treatments: wallpapers, acoustic tile, plywood panelling, vinyl sheets, and paint. In second-floor rooms, walls and ceilings are papered in styles dating to well after World War Two, except in the southwest bedroom (Room 7), whose wallpaper appears to be somewhat older. Multiple layers of wallpaper occur on the stairwell wall due to heavy wear there. Elsewhere, no more than one or two layers ever occur. Where paint is the only surface treatment, a recently applied single coat of robin's egg blue covers formerly bare plaster or a single layer of paper (Rooms 2 and 8).

Plaster ceilings in the living room, dining room, and kitchen (Rooms 4, 5, 6) are 8 feet high and are covered with acoustic tile; those in the bathroom, small bedroom, and hall (Rooms 1, 2, 3) are 8 feet 3 inches high and are covered with paper (3) or acoustic tile (1), or simply have been painted (2). Ceilings in second-floor rooms are 7 feet 2 inches high and are papered.

Walls in the three second floor bedrooms are papered. Downstairs many walls have been covered with plywood panelling: all in the dining room (Room 5) and living room (4), and the west walls of the hall (3) and small bedroom (2). Bathroom walls (Room 1) are covered with vinyl sheets. The lower half of the kitchen's walls are covered with vinyl tiles, and the upper, with green shelving paper.

5. Openings

- a. Doorways and doors: Original doors between rooms downstairs have been removed, except for the door into the hall stairs closet (off Room 3). The closet door is a ledged batten door, all elements of which are joined with cut nails. A pair of modern French doors open into the downstairs hall from an undoubtedly enlarged doorway between Rooms 3 and 4. A single French door occurs between Rooms 4 and 5. The three outer doors include a three-pane two-panel kitchen door, and two six-pane three-panel doors, all with mortised locks and metal knobs.

All doors upstairs are of identical to one another in construction and style, and are original elements. Each is a rail-and-stile door with four molded rectangular panels. All are hung on two butt hinges

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 12)

having removable pins. The doors have simple three-board architraves painted white like the doors themselves, casings, and baseboards

- b. Windows: Windows upstairs, with one exception, are of identical construction and style, and date to 1872. However, the sash in the window at the west end of the hall (Room 8) was brought from the downstairs west wall to help fill a door frame; this window's casing and architrave date to about 1960. The architraves of the six other windows are comprised of plain square boards except that the stools are rounded on their front edges. Stool, apron, and lintel boards do not project – left and right – beyond the width defined for the architraves by their jamb boards. Sash are a six-over-six design, the upper part fixed, the lower free-sliding.

6. Decorative features and trim: Baseboards and all but one of the architraves upstairs are original elements. They are painted white in the southwest and northwest bedrooms and the hall (Rooms 7, 8, 9), and are painted brown in the northeast bedroom (Room 10). The baseboards are 8 inches high, and have quarter-round molding for baseboard shoes. Baseboards in Rooms 7 and 10 are made of single boards 8 inches wide; those in the hall and northwest bedroom are comprised of two 4-inch boards probably ship-lapped or similarly joined at their mutual edges.

Downstairs, original baseboards and architraves remain in older parts of the small bedroom (Room 2) and around most of the hall (Room 3), and here are identical to those found upstairs. All are painted brown. Baseboards in Rooms 4 and 5 consist chiefly of modern architrave molding; baseboard shoes are quarter round moldings. Architraves on both sides of the doorways around the living room (Room 4) are of square boards of oak. Architraves around the pair of arched doors through the partition between kitchen (6) and dining room (5) are of unpainted oak: each intrados is rounded, the extrados is rectilinear and comes to a point. Window architraves downstairs are largely of molded maple boards stained to resemble walnut.

In the northwest bedroom (Room 9) is a wooden mantelpiece, consisting of a mantel supported atop a sparsely molded entablature and columns. The former fireplace between the columns has been reduced by a fire frame decorated with embossed strapwork. Presently, the fireplace is completely bricked in. The mantelpiece and fire frame have been painted white. A

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 13)

similar mantelpiece existed downstairs in Room 4, but was replaced with a modern version with a varnished oak mantel and yellow brick front, and the outer hearth, with red clay tiles. A large gas heater exhausts via a flue routed it into the chimney.

7. Hardware: Hardware on the four doors upstairs includes thumb latches, barrel locks, rim lock(s) with door knobs, coat hooks, and door hooks. Identical thumb latches occur on the doors of the two bedrooms off the hall (Rooms 7 and 9). Each is a late Blake variant with a pressure clamp. All doors upstairs – except in Room 7 – formerly had rim locks with door knobs; knobs and spindles are missing from the bedroom and porch doors; the rim lock and knobs are intact in Room 10; only the rim lock in Room 10 could be opened from the porch using a key. Barrel locks are found on the door from the southwest bedroom (Room 7) and the porch door from the hall (Room 8). All doors upstairs are hung each on two butt hinges having removable pins.

In upstairs rooms, excluding nails, there is no interior or exterior window hardware, such as latches, weights, shutter pinfiles, etc. Downstairs, no original hardware remains except the butt hinges on the stairs closet; what is there dates to the very late 1940s and later.

8. Mechanical equipment

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The farmhouse is heated by three gas heaters and, secondarily, by a gas stove in the kitchen. The bathroom (Room 1) has a small gas heater, Model 13-R made by Acme Stove, Huntington. In the living room (Room 4) is a large gas heater, Model 1450 made by the Moores Division of the Conlon-Moore Corporation, Joliet, Illinois. In the kitchen (Room 6) is a four-burner gas stove, Model 48-L, made by the Premier Stove Company, Belleville, Illinois. The northeast bedroom (Room 10) has a small gas fireplace-style heater, Model No. 96-C made by the Armstrong Appliance Corporation, Huntington.

The house is not air-conditioned. Ventilation in the farmhouse is provided only through doors and windows. Two louvers in the east wing gable ventilate the attic.

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 14)

- b. Lighting: All rooms are fitted with modern light fixtures placed centrally in their ceilings. The kitchen (Room 6) has an enclosed globe fixture. The bathroom (Room 1) has a fluorescent light and several mirror-side bulbs. The dining and living rooms (Rooms 4 and 5) have chandelier-like multiple-bulb fixtures. There are single bulb sockets on both floors of the stairs hall and small bedroom, which formerly each had hanging frosted covers. The three upper bedrooms have two-bulb stamped metal fixtures, painted yellow. Original fixtures downstairs originally probably had covers of frosted glass globes that hung by beaded chains from metal bases. Light switch and outlet covers are of dark-brown Bakelite and plastic. The cellar has a one-bulb light socket and the porch has a one-bulb side-wall light disguised as an old lantern or street light.
- c. Plumbing: Every room in the house has small diameter gas pipes run to it. Within the house these appear to be iron pipes. Plumbing in the house consists of iron pipe. The water source is a drilled well in a brick box behind the Wash House (HABS No. WV-266-B). Water currently is supplied to the house via a pump located in the south room of the Wash House. Until well after 1900 water in the house was obtained from a hand pump set upon a wooden cover atop a water cistern alongside the southeast porch.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The farmhouse sits along the edge of a high silt terrace (elevation 558 feet) east of the Big Sandy River. The farmhouse was built facing both the river, then the most efficient means of travel, and commercial developments directly across the river in Kentucky. Its original western facade is oriented to a bearing of 313° (magnetic). Its L-shaped plan shelters the porchs at its southeast angle, and allows these access to sunlight except late in the day.
2. Historic landscape design: Except for levelling the building site and orienting the farmhouse plan, few elements of the original landscaping of the site and grounds remain. The old 48-inch elm near the farmhouse may have been planted, or its growth at least not discouraged, in order to block harsh sunlight from the southwest. To provide more privacy, bushes were planted in an arc along the terrace edge above a once much-used lane up from the river. However, most landscape features apparent today date to after 1920. Two layers of fill were laid to level the east yard, and the

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 15)

farmhouse's first sidewalk was laid through it. The flower garden at the yard's east end was begun in the 1920s. The low cement block wall is decorated with rocks and shells collected by Abe Cyrus and Blanche Myrtle in their many trips around the country, 1948-1972. These elements signal change of the formal presentation of the front of the farmhouse – away from the river, and toward the Big Sandy River Road, the railroad, and the village of White's Creek – a transformation complete by 1920, embellished thereafter, but begun decades before. In fact, Blanche Myrtle's block wall runs along the west edge of a lane which in the 1880s was designated "Second Street" (Ferguson 1884) and which survived as a lane up through World War Two. The lane went south to the farm entrance lane, or north amidst the immediate cluster of houses and stores of White's Creek. The farmhouse's ornate porch on its original front was removed because it was difficult to maintain, served its symbolic purpose poorly, and was seen only by barge workers on the industrialized river.

3. Outbuildings: The farmhouse is associated with five existing outbuildings: the Wash House (HABS No. WV-266-B), the Barn (266-C), the Brooder House (266-C), an equipment shed, and a laying house (converted and enlarged to a three-bay garage and storage room). The latter three outbuildings were associated operationally with another farmstead established nearby ca. 1950. Other buildings no longer standing include a two-hole privy in the southwest yard, the Chapman store (the "Red Store") in the south yard, and a drive-through corn crib and garage east of the barn.

PART III SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings None.
- B. Historic views None.
- C. Interviews:

Earl Adkins and wife Francis (Drown)

Telephone discussion with D. Bailey, 9-10 P.M., February 4, 1993

Abraham Jackson Cyrus, with daughter-in-law Phyllis J. Cyrus

Interview by D. Bailey, 2-5 P.M., February 3, 1993

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 16)

Ben Drown and wife Laura (Hazlett)
Interview by D. Bailey, 9:10-10:30 P.M., February 10, 1993

Clifford Smith and wife Sadie (Hazlett)
Interview by D. Bailey, 12:30-4:30 P.M., February 15, 1993
Interview by D. Bailey, 8-10:30 P.M., February 18, 1993

D. Bibliography:

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

1991 Memorandum of Agreement, Cyrus Coal Loading Facility. Co-signed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington (Permitting Agency), West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, and Cyrus Dock Company, Inc.

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

1870- Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the
1920 State of West Virginia. Lewis Baker and Company, Wheeling, W. Va.

Ferguson, Milton J.

1884 Map of the Village of White's Creek. Scale of 1: 600. Filed in Book of Unacknowledged Writings, Volume 1, Wayne County Clerk's Office, Wayne, West Virginia.

Herald-Dispatch (Huntington)

1932 "City Mourns Death of Mayor." Front page story, pp. 1 and 2. January 7 issue.

Press-Observer (Kenova-Ceredo, W. Va.)

1978 "Abe Cyrus home is heritage from parents." Vol. 6, No. 51, Page 1. Issue of September 25. Article by Madge L. Matthews.

Press-Observer (Kenova-Ceredo, W. Va.)

1980 "Blanche Cyrus' mind a Pandora's box of memories." Vol. 8, No. 15, Page 1. Issue of February 4. Article by Doris C. Miller.

Tuttle, Elizabeth H.

1991 Historical and Architectural Assessment of the Potential for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places of the Project Area and Vicinity of the Cyrus Dock Company Project on the Big Sandy River in Wayne County, West Virginia. Report prepared for the Cyrus Dock Company, Charleston, W. Va.

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 17)

E. Likely sources not yet investigated:

Fred Cyrus (Washington, D.C.), grandson of A.J. Cyrus (born 1897)
May have photographs of the Cyrus farmstead or White's Creek

F. Supplemental material: None.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

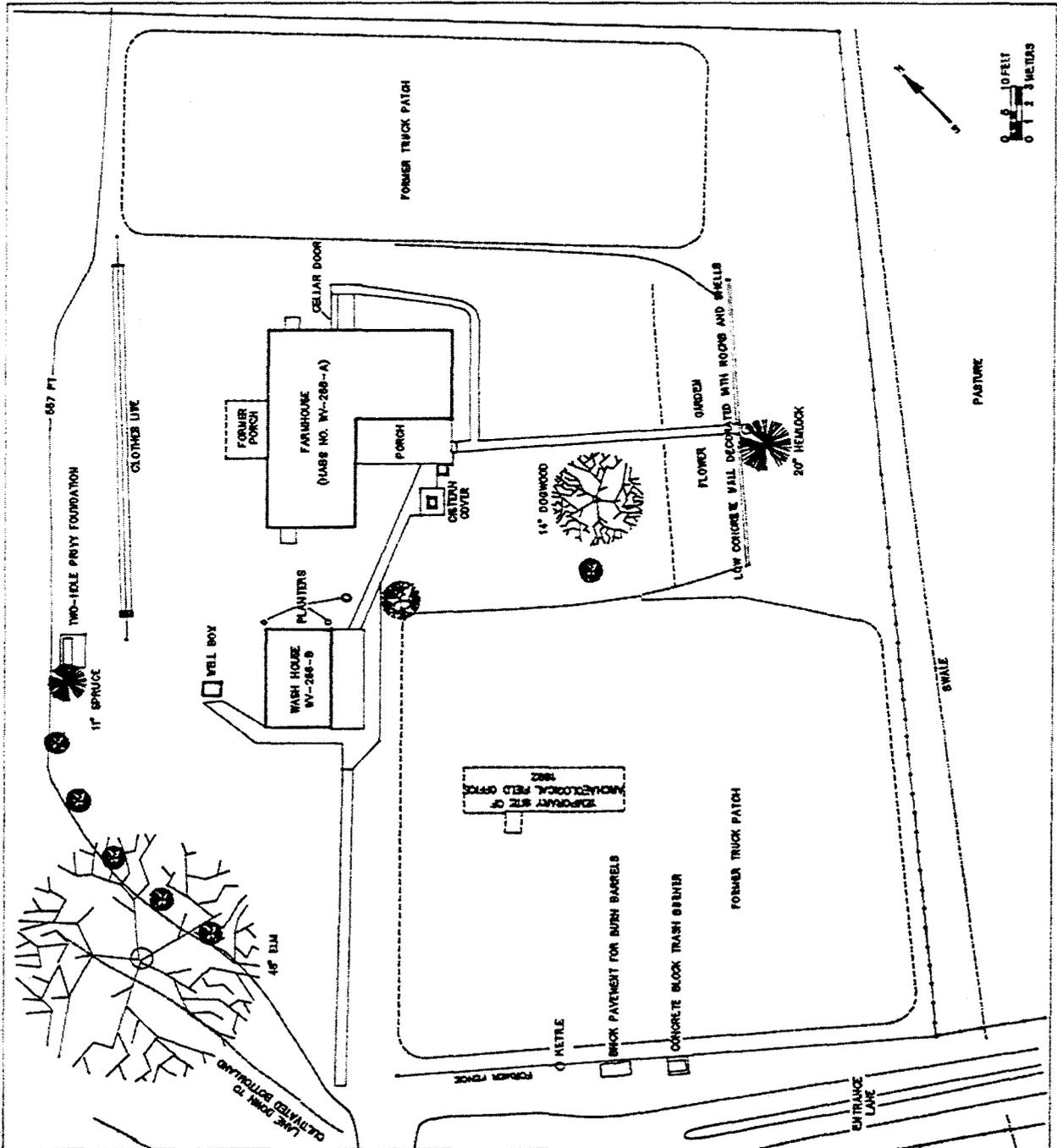
This documentation was undertaken by the Cyrus Dock Co., Inc, Charleston and Belle, West Virginia, in June of 1992, in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement of October, 1991, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, as a mitigative measure prior to construction of the Cyrus Dock Company's coal loading facility on the Big Sandy River. The Abraham Cyrus Farmstead, Farmhouse, and other of its outbuildings are to be documented prior to their eventual destruction.

Douglas L. Bailey, Consulting Archaeologist
618 Grant Street
Fairborn, Ohio 45324
May 31, 1994

ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
 HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 18)

PLAN OF THE FARMHOUSE AND ITS IMMEDIATE GROUNDS

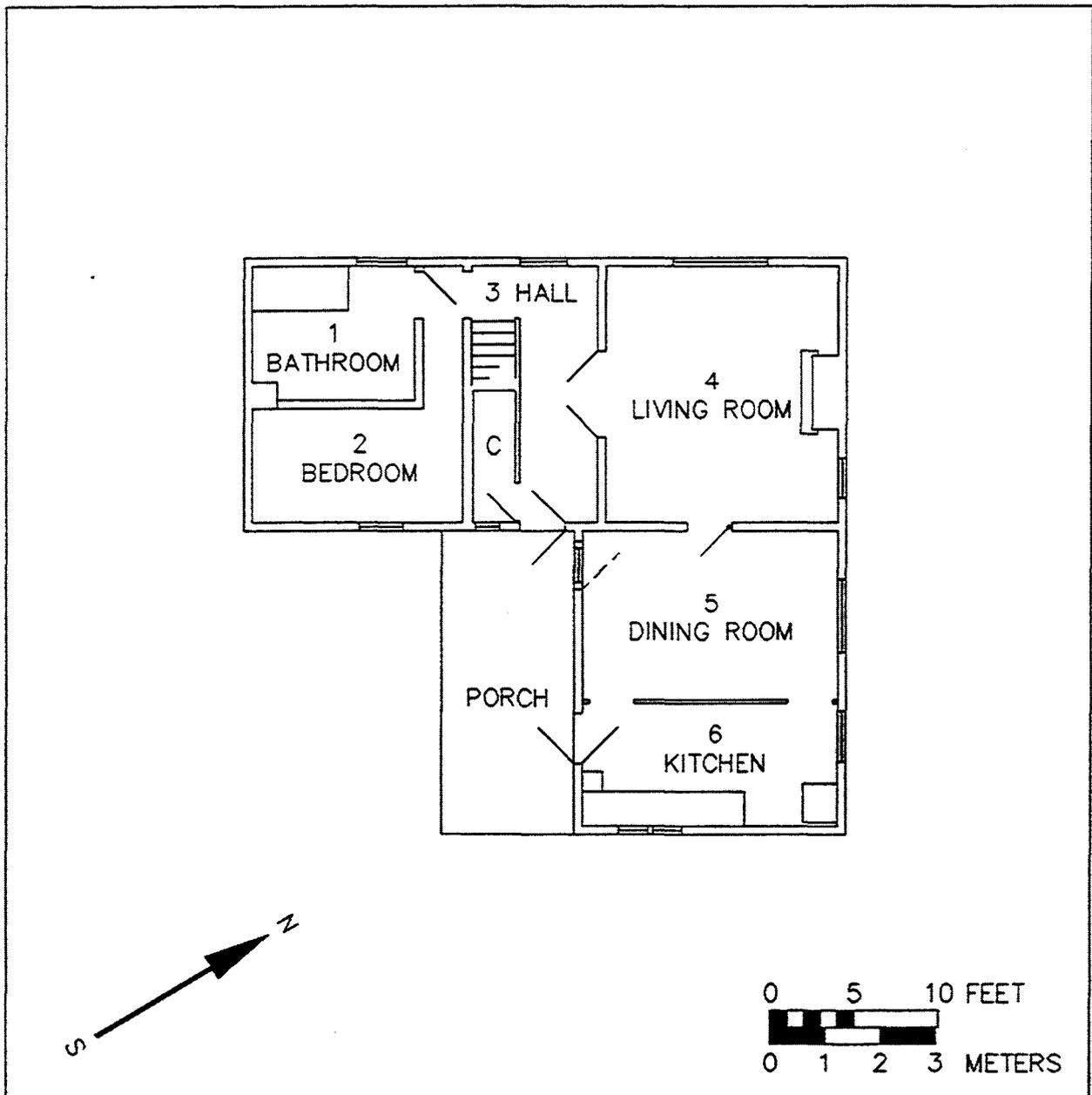
(Based on data collected by D. Bailey, 1993.)



ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266 -A (Page 19)

PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR

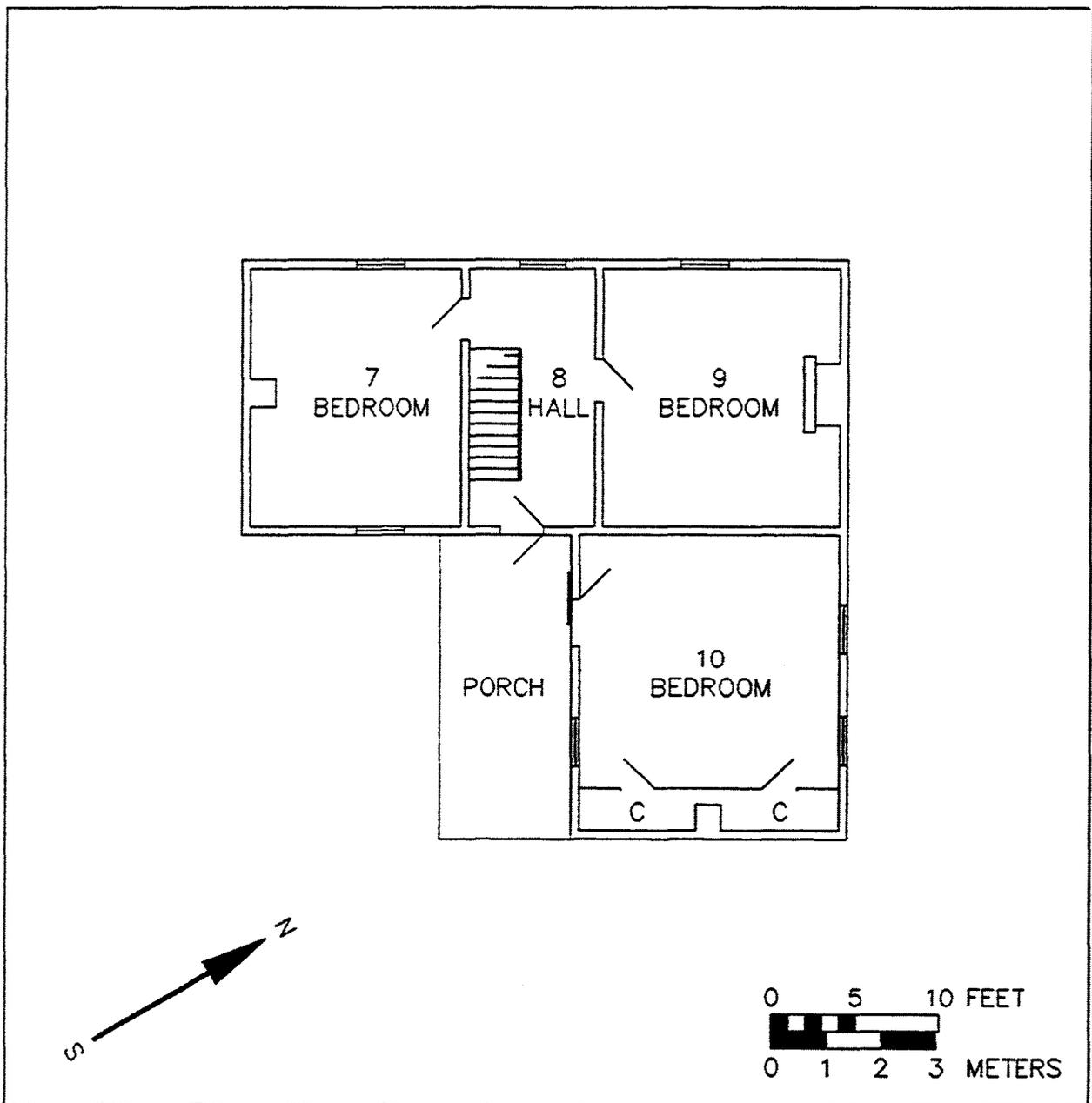
(Based on data collected by D. Bailey, 1993.)



ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 20)

PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR

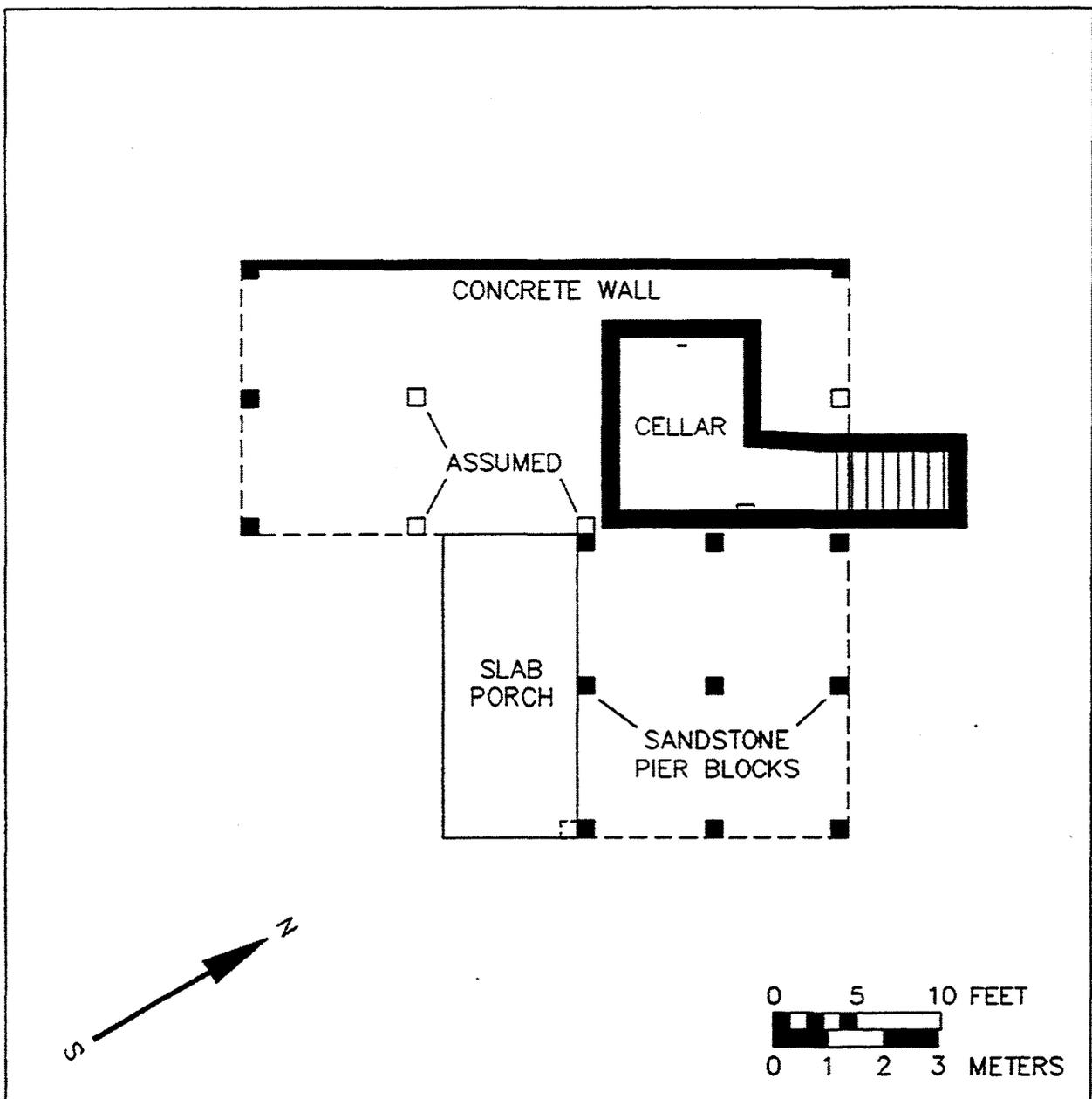
(Based on data collected by D. Bailey, 1993.)



ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266 -A (Page 21)

PLAN OF CELLAR AND FOUNDATION ELEMENTS

(Based on data collected by D. Bailey, 1993.)



ABRAHAM CYRUS FARMSTEAD, FARMHOUSE
HABS No. WV-266-A (Page 22)

ORIGINAL PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR ROOMS, 1872

(Based on data collected by D. Bailey, 1993.)

