

GEORGE WASHINGTON SMITH FARM, SCALE HOUSE
Elk Fork Road
Ripley
Jackson County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-281-H

HABS
WVA
18-RIP,
14-

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

HABS
WVA
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GEORGE WASHINGTON SMITH FARM, SCALE HOUSE HABS No. WV-281-H

- Location: Elk Fork Road, Ripley, Jackson County, West Virginia
- Significance: The scale house is associated with cattle raising. Cattle were purchased by buyers moving through the area whose prices were based on weight. Thus, one expects that in a farming area one or two farms would have weighing facilities. The general practice was to charge a modest amount for weighing cattle from other farms. This structure symbolizes the period in the farm's history in which cattle raising was a primary activity.
- Description: In order to protect the scale machinery a small frame structure was erected with doors at each gable end to provide access for cattle. Dimensioned lumber was used for siding and roof framing. The roof is covered with corrugated metal roofing and a metal roof cap. The shed provided protection for the machinery which could be put in operating condition with minimal maintenance.
- History: This is typical of scales that were used in cattle raising areas from the turn of the century. The use of the scales was a successor to cattle drives in which herds were driven directly to market. Instead of taking cattle directly to market, buyers weighed and purchased the cattle on the farm. Then they were taken to market in trucks.
- Sources: See narrative report.