

Parsons Nursery
South side of U.S. Route 219, .25 miles
southeast of Parsons
Parsons Vicinity
Tucker County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-237

HABS
WVA
49-PARS.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HABS
WVA
47-PARS.V,
1-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

PARSONS NURSERY

HABS No. WV-237

LOCATION:

South side of U. S. Route 219, .25 miles southeast of Parsons, Tucker County, West Virginia

USGS Parsons Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17.615330.4327842

PRESENT OWNER:

Monongahela National Forest
Department of Agriculture
Sycamore Street
Elkins, WV 26241

PRESENT USE:

Laboratories and storage for Parsons Timber and Watershed Laboratory, Cheat District Ranger headquarters, and Tucker County Cooperative Extension.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Parsons Nursery Bottom was the major specialized uses administrative site for the Monongahela National Forest, beginning in 1928 with the establishment of the Parsons Nursery. This is a complex of wood frame, gable-roof, rustic, shingled buildings constructed in the late 1920s and 1930s. In 1933, the Bottom became the site of one of the first Civilian Conservation Corps Camp in Monongahela National Forest, Camp Parsons. In 1934, the administrative headquarters for the Fernow Experimental Forest Branch Station were begun at the Nursery Bottom. The Cheat District Ranger Office and Ranger Residence were constructed at the Bottom in 1937-39. From its founding until the late 1940s, the Parsons Nursery was the largest tree nursery in the eastern United States.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

The documentation of the Parsons Nursery Bottom site was undertaken in July, 1989, by Rebecca M. Rogers, architectural historian, 44 Audubon Road, Youngstown, Ohio 44514. The project team included: Rebecca Rogers; David Thum, photographer; and Hugh Earnhart, oral historian.

PART I. SIGNIFICANCE

The four users of the Parsons Nursery Bottom site, the Parsons Nursery, Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Parsons, the administration of the Fernow Experimental Forest, and the Cheat Ranger District, have functioned independently but parallel to each other since the Forest Service occupied the site. Except for fire-fighting efforts when all available men were used, and for employment of the CCC members in building construction, little inter-related activity has occurred. Yet, the architecture of the buildings constructed before 1940 is similar in scale, materials, construction methods, architectural details, and appearance. The simple, rustic, mostly shingle style character of the Parsons Nursery Bottom complex is unique among Forest Service buildings in this National Forest. There has been little alteration, except aluminum or vinyl siding applied to four buildings.

PART II. PHYSICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE SITE

Land purchases for Monongahela National Forest were begun, after the passage of the Weeks Act in 1911, to protect the watershed of the Monongahela River, a major tributary of the Ohio River system. Flooding and subsequent siltage in the early 1900s had threatened shipping access to industrial sites along both the Monongahela and Ohio. The Forest Service principally purchased lands that had been clear-cut and, frequently, substantially burned prior to federal acquisition. Early in the history of Monongahela National Forest, foresters began experimenting with reforestation of severely deforested sites in hopes of mitigating rapid rain runoff and silting of rivers downstream. They soon decided that the Forest Service needed a tree nursery to supply seedlings for reforestation.

The topography of Tucker County, West Virginia, near the northern end of the Forest, is steeply hilly and mountainous, with mountain ridges and a few high valleys above 3,000' that once were covered in native red spruce. Lower elevation forests were largely hardwood. In the decades before the establishment of the Forest, those mountain sides and tops of hills that did not supply trees to the timber industry supported subsistence farming and cattle grazing. Only major tributaries of the Cheat River had flat bottom land with soils rich enough for nursery cultivation or with acreage large enough for a complex of buildings. Many of these tributary valleys supported sawmills and mill towns during the late 1800s and the first decades of the twentieth century. When the Forest Service sought a site for a nursery complex, they needed level ground and rich soil free of stone or gravel and not prone to dessication, cracking, or heaving. The Forest Service found a desirable site just east of Parsons, the Tucker County seat, between the main line of the

Western Maryland Railroad and the Black Fork of the Cheat River. The four users of the Parsons Nursery Bottom site all participated in the re-establishment of harvestable forest land on Monongahela National Forest properties. The Parsons Nursery (the Nursery), established in 1928, raised trees for reforestation in Monongahela and most National Forests in the Eastern United States. This nursery, the largest tree nursery in the East and an innovator in planting and growing technology, collected seed, planted, harvested, and packed young plants. The Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Parsons, established in 1933, built roads and telephone lines into the Forest and planted Parsons Nursery trees. Camp Parsons men did most of the work necessary to utilize Elk Lick Run watershed for an experimental forest, a branch of the Appalachian Forest Experimental Station, begun in 1934. Called the Fernow Experimental Forest Branch Station (Fernow), this experimental forest had its headquarters at the Parsons Nursery Bottom beginning at its founding in 1934. People at the Fernow Experimental Forest studied reforestation technique, soil qualities and watershed preservation and improvement. Finally, regional headquarters for the northern part of Monongahela National Forest, called the Cheat Ranger District, moved its offices to the Nursery Bottom in 1937. These people managed the reforestation, harvesting, and recreational use of National Forest lands in the District around Parsons.

PART III. HISTORY OF THE PARSONS NURSERY SITE

From 1919, a year before the official establishment of Monongahela National Forest, until early 1928, the Forest Service operated a tree nursery at Gladwin, Tucker County, West Virginia. The trees produced there were utilized in reforestating the Monongahela, Pisgah, and Shenandoah National Forests. With an increased commitment by the Forest Service to reforest 40,000 acres of devastated land in Monongahela National Forest and to increase nursery capacity to 1,200,000 trees annually, the Gladwin site was abandoned because of its inaccessibility and the new nursery near Parsons was developed.

The National Forest Reserve Commission purchased a 28.8 acre site for the Parsons Nursery on the Black Fork of the Cheat River, .25 miles southeast of Parsons from George F. Griffith in February, 1928. The original entry road from the main highway ran along the south side of this piece of land. The first Parsons Nursery buildings were on this plot. The land had the desired soil quality and relatively level ground. Trees could be transported to distant National Forests by the main line of the Western Maryland Railroad that skirted the site on the north and east.

Shortly after the purchase of the land for the Parsons Nursery, in March, 1928, D. A. (Sandy) Oliver, a graduate of The University of Michigan Forestry School, arrived as the first

full-time nurseryman. Oliver set up the nursery, supervising building construction and managing the entire operation until the Forest Service leased the site to the West Virginia Department of Conservation in 1951. The experimental nature of tree production during Oliver's administration meant that he designed, built, and programmed much of the equipment and operations of the Parsons Nursery. The initial plan for the complex called for an office, wash house, workshop, garage, pump house, and barn (see map WV-237-37). Blue prints dated 1928 show that Oliver, assisted by Forest Service engineer George W. Root, almost immediately designed or copied plans for the office, wash house, workshop/warehouse, garage, pump house, and equipment depots. According to a map of blister rust survey, a tree disease, dated 1930, the office, wash house, workshop/storehouse, pump house, water tower, and a long-demolished garage had been constructed (see map WV-237-37). A photograph dated 1930, shows that two equipment depots also had been constructed near the pump house and a shed was located along the entry road among the nursery beds (see photograph WV-237-15). These three buildings were demolished in the flood of November, 1985.

Oliver was the only professionally trained nurseryman at the Parsons Nursery from 1928 until 1951. His assistant for most of those years was Paul Parsons. In later years, his assistant was Dorsey Knight. The nursery under Oliver hired from six to 30 seasonal women employees who weeded, helped transplant and pack seedlings. Men employed at the nursery worked a longer season preparing soil, building and preparing beds, driving equipment, seeding, watering, transplanting, and doing heavier manual labor that did not require the women's patience and manual dexterity.

A 1930 photograph records that initial nursery seed beds were north of the administrative complex (see photograph WV-237-15). Nursery plots were expanded west between the nursery office and the pump house and east along the entry road. Seed beds were rotated among the plots so that the heavy feeding of the youngest trees would deplete the soil more slowly.

In 1931, the packing house was constructed north and away from the initial administrative complex. This construction signalled that tree seedlings, three-to five-years-old, were being produced at Parsons Nursery in great number.

In 1933, the Parsons Nursery was expanded upstream, or south, with the purchase from David Long of 18.85 adjoining acres. This added two more long plots that ran from the slough to the Black Fork River bank. These plots were divided by east-west lanes. On the plot next to the entry road, the nursery planted rye grass to be used as mulch on the freshly planted nursery seed beds. On the farther plot, the nursery planted soy beans after leveling the land and removing quantities of sandstone boulders. The

boulders were crushed and used to build the roads or lanes between the nursery plots (Dorsey Knight interview).

Five years after Monongahela National Forest established the Parsons Nursery, the United States formed the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in March, 1933. Among the first CCC camps in Monongahela National Forest was Camp Parsons. It was located along the slough, southeast of the nursery administrative buildings, across the entry road, on the farther, southern plot of the Long tract. It included a two-acre site. This was the only Monongahela National Forest CCC Camp that shared a site with other Forest Service operations.

Work by CCC members in Monongahela National Forest concentrated on protection of watershed, soil conservation and reforestation. To assist in serving these needs, the forest eventually established eighteen Civilian Conservation Corps Camps and a number of summer or side camps within Monongahela National Forest between 1933 and the close of the program in 1942.

Camp Parsons buildings were constructed during 1933 and 1934 to house 250 men, according interviews with Delbert Little and Dick Fansler. The camp consisted of four barracks, a mess hall, a bath house, a laundry house, a recreation hall, an officers' quarters, technical services quarters, a technical services office, a tool room, an oil house, a truck garage, and a blacksmith shop. The buildings, originally covered in tar paper, were later covered with board-and-batten. The interiors of residential buildings had chip board sheathing, according to Delbert Little.

From 1933 until 1937, Camp Parsons maintained a side camp of 60 men who "released" trees on Canaan Mountain from April until snow fell in November. "Releasing" means the men cut away the brush and weeds that competed with the young red spruce seedlings planted by the Forest Service between 1926 and 1933. This side camp also built a road from Canaan Mountain lookout to the side camp.

Other Camp Parsons men planted trees grown at the Parsons Nursery. This was done in groups of 10 to 15 men with a foreman. Tree seedlings were brought to the site bare-rooted, in a bundle of about 1000, wrapped in wet sphagnum moss. The seedlings were "heeled in" as soon as they were delivered--set in the ground in a fresh, shallow trench and well watered. The holes for the young trees were made with a mattock. Each man planted 300-400 trees a day, almost a tree a minute. This was the same method of reforestation that had been used at Canaan Mountain when Parsons Nursery trees were planted before the founding of the CCC (see photographs WV-237-32 and WV-237-33). Camp Parsons' men planted trees on Backbone Mountain, Canaan Mountain, Little River and

Clover Run. John King estimated that Camp Parsons' men planted 6,000,000-8,000,000 trees.

In May, 1934, the Parsons Nursery Bottom site received its third Forest Service complex. The Forest Service, through the Appalachian Forest Experimental Station in Ashville, NC, set up the Fernow Experimental Forest Branch Station administrative complex at the Parsons Nursery Bottom. In the summer of 1934, men from Camp Parsons built a bunkhouse, well house, residence, and garage for the Fernow administrative staff. These buildings are along the bank of the Black Fork, south of the nursery implement building, on land across the road from the nursery plots. They are one-story, gable-roof wooden buildings with similar construction details as the nursery buildings, but were sided in white-painted lap siding with vertical gable siding, now replaced with vinyl siding.

At the founding of the Fernow Experimental Forest the nearby Elk Lick Run watershed was set aside by Monongahela National Forest as an experimental forest because it had a variety of sites and types of lumber; it had topography typical of Monongahela National Forest; and it was accessible. Men from Camp Parsons did much heavy construction in preparing the Elk Lick watershed for use as the site of the Fernow Experimental Forest. They built fire breaks, roads, bridges and culverts, and telephone lines. They helped Fernow staff conduct timber surveys that determined tree sizes and varieties, and they assisted with topographic and plot mapping.

Camp Parsons men did similar work for the Cheat Ranger District, building the telephone lines for Shavers Fork, Dry Fork, Alpena and Harman, and roads to Laneville, Bickle Knob, Stuart Drive and across Backbone Mountain to Douglas. They completed the Stuart Recreation Area near Elkins and built Horseshoe Recreation Area near Parsons.

In 1934, the Parsons Nursery continued its expansion with the construction of a nursery manager's residence and garage. Oliver also supervised construction of a cone drying shed and seed extractor building next to the pump house, along the bank of the Black Fork. Photographs record the installation of equipment in one of those buildings in 1934 (see photograph WV-237-K-5). By the following May, the nursery also had an implement building between the seed extractor building and the new Fernow Experimental Forest Branch Station buildings.

In 1936, two tracts, totalling 20.68 acres from J. W. and C. W. Minear and 28.5 acres from Alice M. and John H. Ford were purchased. These last tracts lay further upstream, beyond the Fernow Experimental Forest administrative buildings. Their addition increased the nursery site to 96.83 acres. D. A. Oliver

utilized about 65 acres of land for the nursery. According to an interview with Alvin Allison, nursery bed development did not expand significantly after Oliver left the nursery.

Also in 1936, the Parsons Nursery expanded the packing building (addition demolished). This was the peak of tree seedling production at the Parsons Nursery. In 1936, the nursery recorded 2,326,000 trees shipped; 1938 recorded 4,126,000 trees shipped.

Beginning in 1936, the Fernow Experimental Forest Branch Station commenced research at the Elk Lick watershed. Professional foresters investigated the effects of fire-damage on experimentally burned plots, studied methods of crop-tree-release, examined tree-thinning methods, and monitored experimental reforestation sites. Most researchers came to Parsons to conduct research, stayed at the bunk house, and returned to Ashville, NC, to compile data and write reports.

In 1937, the Parsons Nursery Bottom acquired its fourth and last Forest Service administrative complex, the Cheat District Ranger administrative headquarters. In 1920, at the establishment of the Cheat Ranger District of Monongahela National Forest, the ranger station, like the nursery, was at Gladwin, Tucker County. In 1925, the ranger station moved to Hendricks; the next year it moved to the town of Parsons. Because of the continuing difficulty in renting both office and residential space, the National Forest decided to construct a permanent ranger residence (1937) and ranger station office (1938) at the Parsons Nursery Bottom. The residence is across from the Fernow residence, on the south corner of a lane that divides the nursery beds. It was constructed by members of Camp Parsons. The ranger office is on land that had once housed nursery beds, west of the nursery office. It may have been built by Camp Parsons members. The garage for the ranger residence was constructed in 1939. The same year an oil storage facility, shared with the nursery, was built near the nursery pump house. This was the first Ranger District complex constructed by the Forest Service in Monongahela National Forest.

The Parsons Nursery constructed a new wash house in 1939. This was the only building at the nursery that CCC members constructed. D. A. Oliver was a careful and fussy man who did not respect the skill of the CCC members until he witnessed four years of their increasing craftsmanship learned on other buildings constructed at the Nursery Bottom. The original wash house became an expanded nursery laboratory.

Oliver also did not permit socializing between nursery employees and CCC members. It "wasn't allowed," according to nursery employees Londa Bennett and Dorsey Knight. CCC men only seemed to have worked for the Parsons Nursery as "scarecrows," to scare

birds way from freshly seeded beds or beds of very young tree seedlings.

Camp Parsons closed in June, 1941. Remaining men were transferred to nearby Civilian Conservation Corps camps in Monongahela National Forest. After the closing of Camp Parsons, the Parsons Nursery took over the site. Most of the buildings were demolished. A few were altered and moved. Local residents acquired much of the salvage wood from the demolition of the site (see Londa Bennett interview). Two buildings from the Camp survived the flood of November, 1985. John King believes one is the CCC truck garage and the other is the blacksmith shop.

Research at the Fernow Experimental Forest Branch Station was curtailed in 1941 because of World War II; the Nursery Bottom buildings were boarded up until 1948. Then, the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station ran the Fernow Experimental Forest with its headquarters at Elkins, Randolph County, West Virginia. Most of the staff lived and/or worked at the Parsons Nursery Bottom site. In 1954, an office for the Experimental Forest was constructed next to the Fernow residence; in 1957, a garage was constructed just north of the office, next to the nursery implement building.

During D. A. Oliver's years as manager, the Parsons Nursery was the largest producer of tree nursery stock for reforestation in the eastern United States. It supplied most National Forests east of the Mississippi. In 1936-1937, it had as many as 7.5 million trees in its beds at one time.

In 1951, the Forest Service determined that they no longer needed a nursery operation at Parsons. Monongahela National Forest leased all the nursery buildings, and seed and transplant beds to the State of West Virginia, Department of Conservation. The change from Forest Service management to the Department of Conservation (later Department of Natural Resources), in 1951, changed the physical character of the nursery little. The original wash house was immediately converted to a seed stratification building. In 1957, under the direction of Alvin Allison, the Parsons Nursery irrigation system was placed underground and a new pump site was constructed upstream. Alvin Allison managed the nursery from 1952 until 1957, succeeded by David Denham, then David McCurdy. With a major flood, in November, 1985, that deposited debris and covered fields with silt, the State closed the nursery.

In 1964, with the construction of a large office and laboratory facility, the headquarters that administered the Fernow Experimental Forest returned to Parsons Nursery Bottom. The name was changed to the Parsons Timber and Watershed Laboratory. The head of the Laboratory occupied the Fernow Experimental Forest

residence; visitors, interns and summer employees lived in the Fernow Experimental Forest bunkhouse. The Fernow Experimental Forest well house was used for storage after Parsons city water was supplied to buildings at the complex in the mid-1960s.

The Cheat District ranger residence was continuously occupied by the Cheat District Ranger from its construction in 1937 until the flood of November, 1985. In 1966, the Cheat Ranger District offices moved from the Nursery Bottom to the Parsons Post Office Building. In 1983, the Cheat District Ranger offices moved to the Parsons Timber and Watershed Laboratory building at the Parsons Nursery Bottom. The Parsons Nursery administrative offices occupied the Cheat District ranger office building from 1966 until the flood of November, 1985. After that date, the ranger office building was vacated.

PART IV. PARSONS NURSERY USE OF THE SITE

The use of the Parsons Nursery land and buildings followed seasonal cycles of an agricultural year. Under the management of D. A. Oliver for Monongahela National Forest and Alvin Allison for the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, operation of the Parsons Nursery changed subtly from 1928 until 1985.

In the winter, compost was prepared, sand added to nursery plots and raised seed beds were made by men working in the nursery. The number of employees was few. The seed beds were fumigated to kill weed seeds. According to Allison, D. A. Oliver at the Parsons Nursery, was one of the earliest users of fumigation. Allison always fumigated by covering the beds with heavy craft paper laid on short sawhorses. He released canisters of fumigant (methyl bromide gas) under pressure, placed on metal pie plates beneath the paper covers. The pie plates diffused the gas across the soil of the bed. After the fumigation, Allison covered the beds with plastic sheet for thirty days to keep the fumigant in the soil.

Late winter was the beginning of the packing season, when trees were harvested and shipped to planting sites. Men lifted the young tree seedlings and delivered the seedlings to the packing building (see photograph WV-237-31). Women sorted and bundled the seedlings; men then packed the seedling bundles and boxes for shipping. Allison suggested that trees would be lifted beginning in February, reaching the peak in early April and continuing until the end of April. (see HABS No. WV-237-A for further discussion of seedling packing.)

Seeds were stored dry in jugs until about 30 days before planting. Then most seeds were cold stratified--stored in moist sand or peat--for better germination in the spring. Allison thought that Oliver stratified his seeds in peat moss or saw dust

pits located along the bank of the Black Fork between the implement storage building and the Fernow Experimental Forest residence. In 1939, Oliver built a seed stratification room in the basement of the new wash house. Allison converted the original wash house to a seed stratification building in 1952 (see HABS No. WV-237-B for further discussion of seed stratification).

Tree seeds were planted in prepared seed beds in the spring and the fall, depending upon the kind of tree. The seed beds were raised with boards around the sides, made by male employees (see photograph WV-237-21). Beds were 4' wide with 2' paths in between beds. Beds ran all the way across the plot, usually from one gravel lane to the other, with infrequent crossing paths.

Before the bed was seeded, each bed was rolled with a weighted roller operated by a man on each side (see photograph WV-237-22). The seeds were then fed through a seeder onto the rolled bed (see photograph WV-237-23). After spreading seeds, the bed was again rolled. This task was difficult, because the moisture of the soil wetted the roller. A wet roller picked up seeds on its surface. Therefore, the roller had to be frequently dried off. After seeding, D. A. Oliver had the seed beds covered with dried sand from the Black Fork River bank. On top of the sand went rye hay. Dorsey Knight said one of the hardest jobs in the nursery was carefully raking off the rye hay after the seeds germinated, without disturbing the very small new tree seedlings. Alvin Allison thought the river sand too full of weed seeds. He used sawdust from the Fernow Experimental Forest mixed with sand and/or peat.

Under Oliver, after seeding, the small beds were often screened with wooden lattice to keep birds off and to shade the young trees (see photograph WV-237-25). Dorsey Knight described the system of raising the lattice above the beds. He bought the lumber from a mill in Bartow, WV, because it had suitable chestnut lumber. The supports were "2x6's", set vertically in the ground. Across these were placed "1x4's" 4'-0" long, the width of the seed beds. These support frames held up "2x2's" long enough to span three support frames. The lattice screening that resembled snow fencing was rolled out on top of the "2x2's" (see photograph WV-237-24).

Oliver hired CCC boys as "scarecrows" to keep the birds away, while the lattice was in place. The birds pecked out the seeds and pecked off the tops of new seedlings. The lattice was rolled up when women weeded the seedlings. The supports were removed when the young seedlings were treated with ammonium nitrate to kill insects and prevent disease (see photograph WV-237-A-4). Allison formed his beds somewhat differently, fumigated his seeds to keep the birds away and planted his seeds by broadcasting the

seed on the bed. While Oliver kept the shade lattice covering seed beds for as long as two years, Allison nearly abandoned the use of shade lattice, relying on straw mulch and a better irrigation system.

For both Oliver and Allison, the beds were weeded by women, who crawled in the 2' path between the beds, picking out the weeds with their fingers (see photograph WV-237-24). According to Londa Bennett, weeding could begin with the first good spring weather in March. Depending on weather, weeding continued until late fall. Allison, who also depended upon women weeders, mulched his beds with saw dust and used oil sprays to control weeds and eliminate the expense of frequent weeding.

During the Forest Service years of ownership of the nursery, two-year-old seedlings were transplanted from the seed beds into transplant beds. Transplanting also took place in the spring and summer, but not past September, according to Londa Bennett. A machine that ran a bar under the seedling roots lifted the seedlings; the seedlings were carried to a canvas shed where they were placed in the notches of a transplant board, 80 to each board. Women loaded the seedlings and men carried the board to a prepared trench where the seedlings were planted (see photographs WV-237-25, WV-237-26, WV-237-27, WV-237-28, WV-237-29). According to Dorsey Knight, the use of canvas transplant sheds and transplant boards was abandoned in the late 1930s when the nursery purchased a tractor attachment that would place the seedling in the furrow without damage. The state of West Virginia did not transplant its seedlings during their two to four years of growing at the Parsons Nursery.

Seeds were collected in the fall. John King recalled collecting red spruce cones during the 1930s with CCC boys. The boys climbed the trees, throwing cones down to other boys who collected the cones off the ground. Allison collected red spruce cones by stealing the cones stored up in old tree stumps by red squirrels. Allison's men so relied on red squirrels that he called them by a mountain name, fairy diddles. The CCC also collected black cherry seeds for the Parsons Nursery. Local people often brought seeds and nuts to the nursery to sell and seeds were frequently purchased at local farmers' markets (see HABS No. WV-237-J and HABS No. WV-237-K for a discussion of seed extraction).

Some planting, such as white pine seeds, was done in the fall, as well as some packing and shipping.

PART V. ROLE OF BUILDINGS

See outline reports for a more detailed description of the use of the following individual buildings: the packing building,

original wash house, workshop/warehouse, nursery office, Cheat District ranger office, pump house, cone drying shed, seed extractor building, Cheat District ranger residence and garage, Civilian Conservation Corps garage and the Civilian Conservation Corps blacksmith shop. These buildings are vacant and will be demolished in 1990.

PART VI. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: Surviving blueprints are located at Monongahela National Forest Offices, Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV.

B. Historic views: Forest Service photographs and copies of Mary Gaudineer and John King photographs: Monongahela National Forest Office, Elkins, WV.

C. Interviews:

Alvin Allison, 7-23-1989, Charleston, WV; Parsons Nursery supervisor, 1951-57.

Londa Bennett, 6-11-1989, Davis, WV; Parsons Nursery employee, 1930-1939.

John King, 8-5-1989, Wanakena, NY; silviculture supervisor, CCC Camp Parsons, 1933-39.

Dorsey Knight, 10-24-1989, Parsons, WV; Parsons Nursery employee, 1932-1951.

Harry Mahoney, 6-10-1989, Elkins, WV; Cheat District Ranger, 1967-1971.

Arthur D. (Dick) Fansler, 6-10-1989, Elkins, WV; site neighbor and Forest Service employee 1945-1986.

Dovie Fansler, 6-10-1989, Elkins, WV; Cheat Ranger District secretary 1957-1964; Parsons Timber and Watershed employee 1964-1986.

Delbert Little, 6-10-1989, Elkins, WV; member of Camp Parsons 1934-1941.

D. Bibliography:

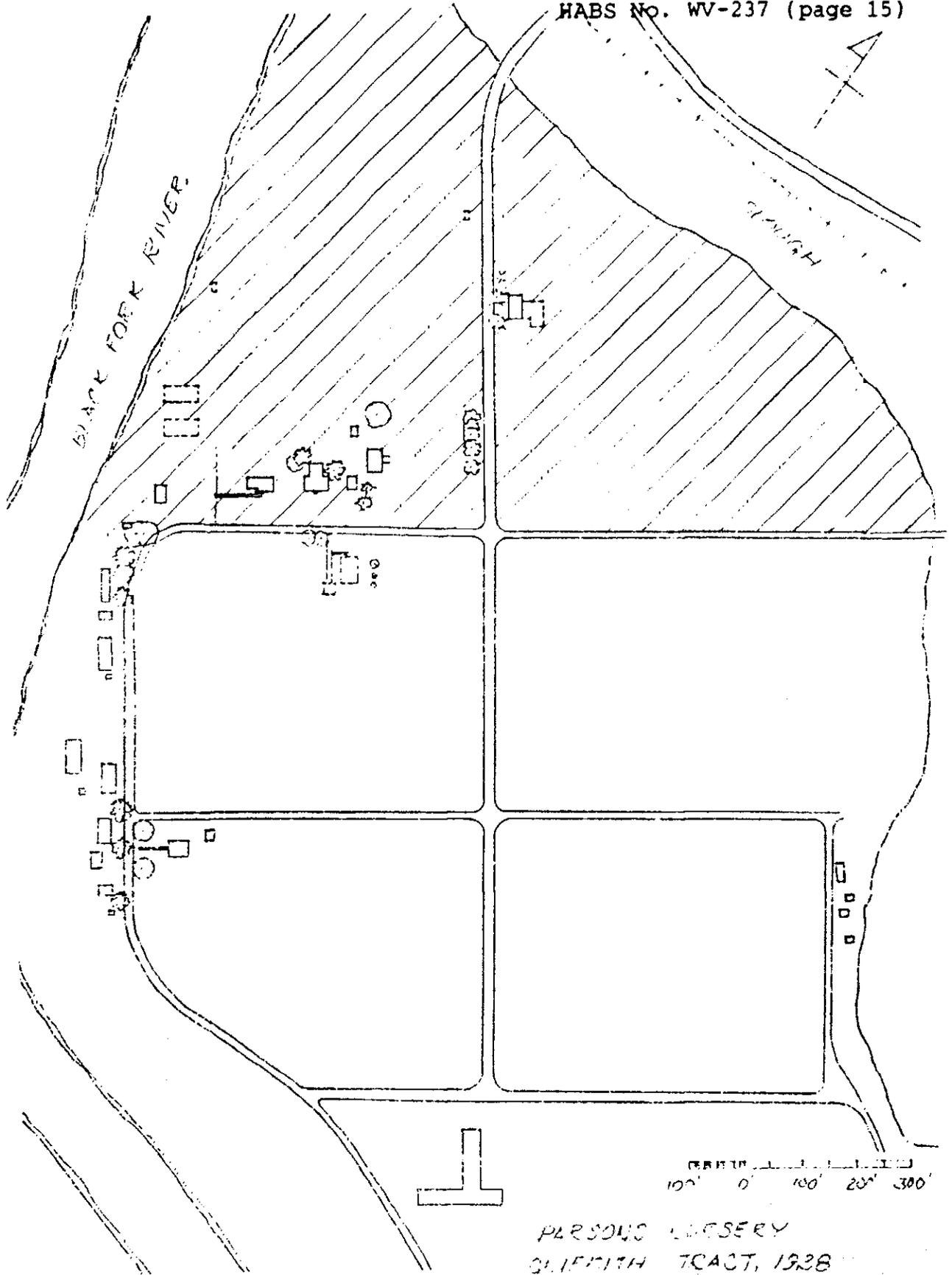
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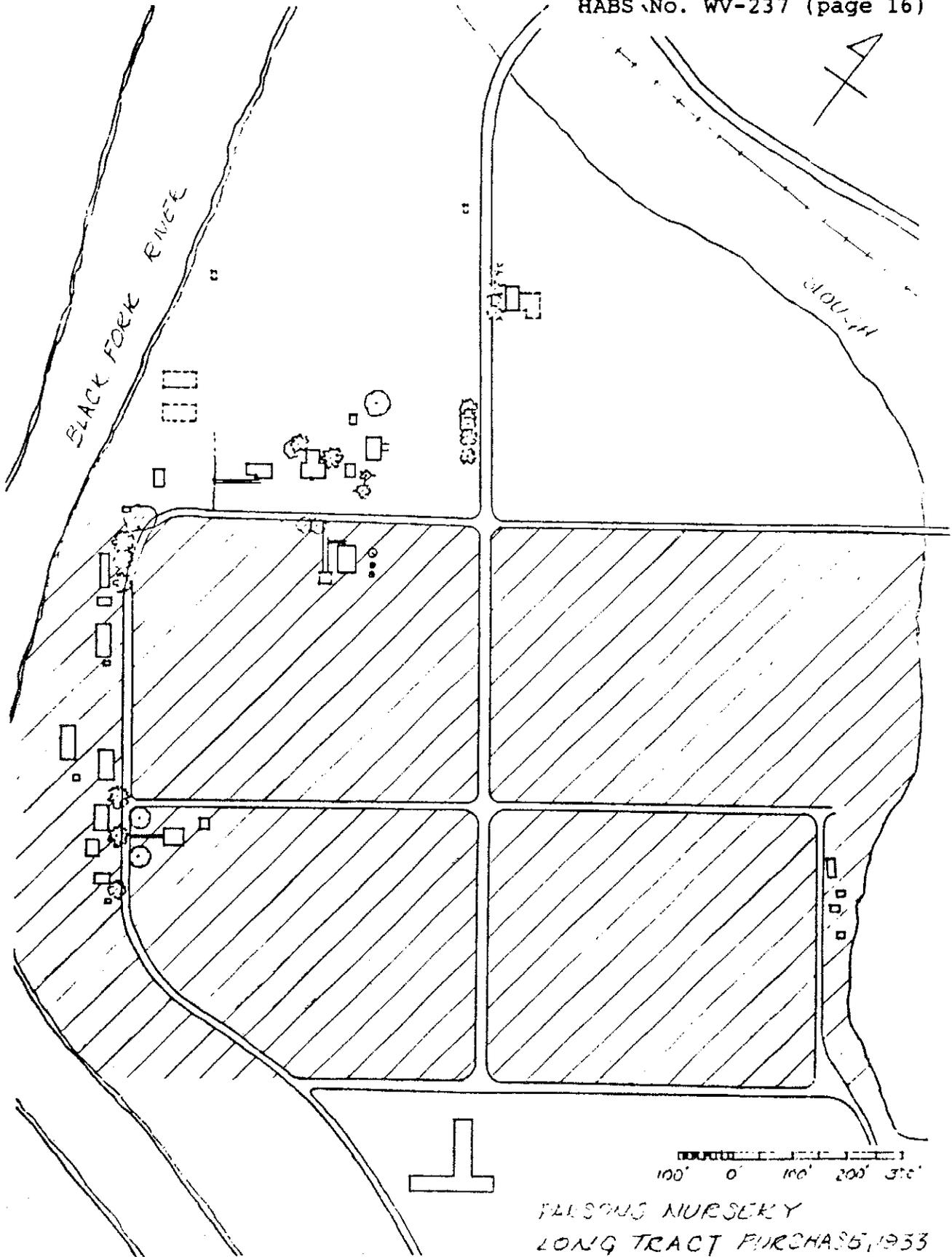
PART VI. PROJECT INFORMATION

The architectural and historical documentation of the Parsons Nursery Bottom site has been undertaken to fulfill a memorandum of agreement signed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the West Virginia SHPO and the USDA, Forest Service as part of requirements under regulation 36 CFR 800 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Recording has taken place prior to substantial modification and/or removal of structures.

This documentation has been prepared by: Rebecca M. Rogers, Preservation Consultant, 44 Audubon Road, Youngstown, Ohio, under contract to Monongahela National Forest, April-November, 1989.

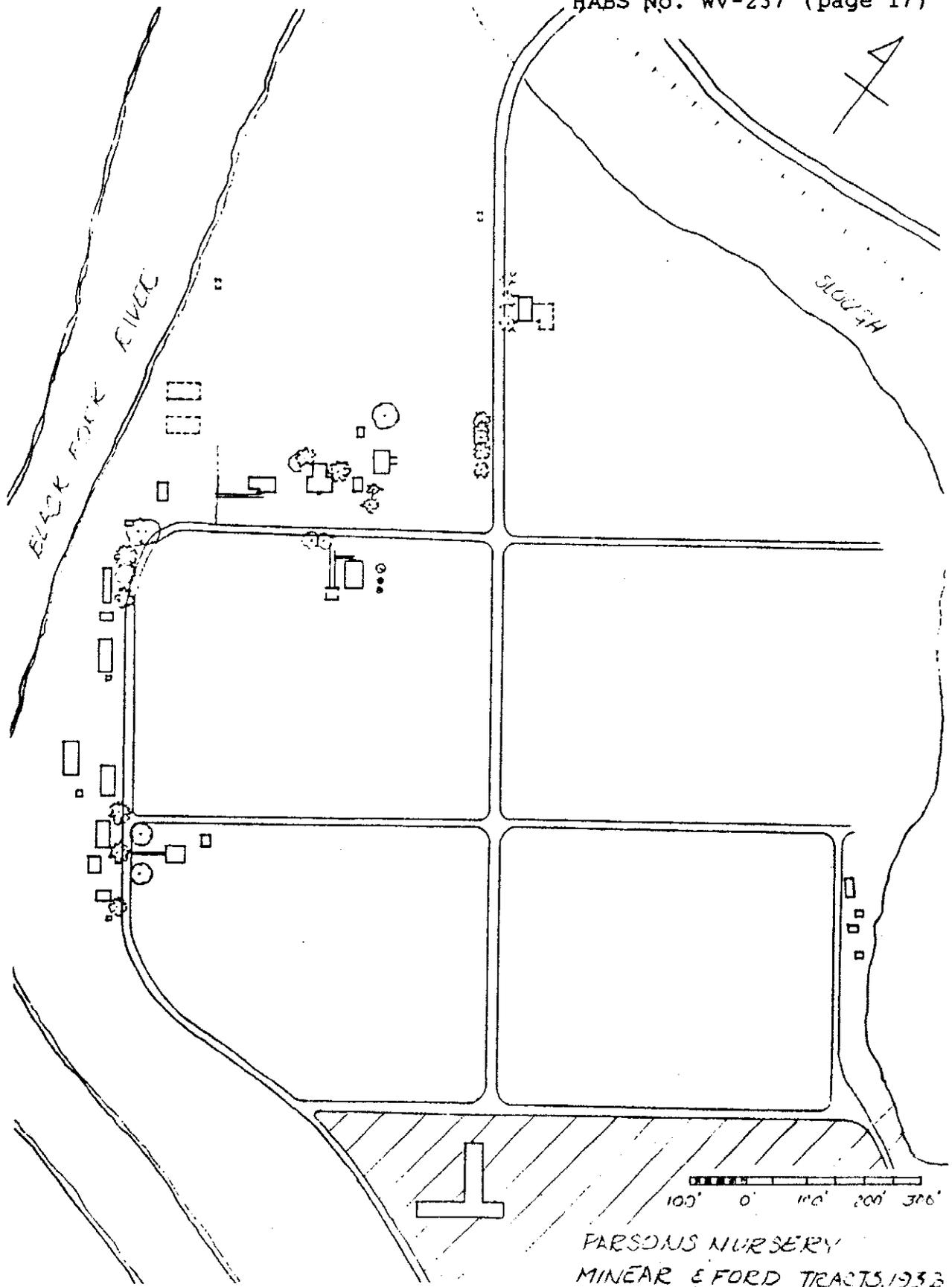


PARSONS NURSERY
GLITCH TRACT, 1928



100' 0' 100' 200' 300'

PARSONS NURSERY
LONG TRACT PURCHASE, 1953



PARSONS NURSERY
MINEAR & FORD TRACTS, 1953