

3249 CYRUS ROAD (HOUSE)  
(Albert Thacker House)  
Cyrus  
Wayne County  
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-267

HABS  
WVA  
50-CYRUS  
4-

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

~~HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY~~

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(ALBERT THACKER HOUSE)

HABS No. WV-267

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WVA  
50-CYRUS  
4-

Location: 3249 Cyrus Road (County Road 1/6), at Cyrus, Wayne  
County, West Virginia

UTM Coordinates: 17. 362515. 4241060  
USGS Quadrangle: Burnaugh, Kentucky/ West Virginia

Date of Construction: 1903

Present Owner: Cyrus Dock Company, Inc., Belle, West Virginia

Present Occupant: Pauline Newman

Present Use: Residence

Significance: The buildings associated with the Albert Thacker House were built upon construction of the Kenova and Big Sandy Railroad in 1903-04. The complex of Thacker buildings were adapted to a rural village lot intended for, and occupied by, a resident non-farm specialist. All four buildings were built by (or for) Albert Thacker, a well-respected blacksmith and part-time farmer who owned a number of village lots in White's Creek. The essentially contemporaneous buildings are considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Project Information: This documentation was undertaken by the Cyrus Dock Co., Inc, 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.

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

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Location and Setting. The historic property at 3249 Cyrus Road (Albert Thacker House) (HABS No. WV-267) consists of four buildings: the House (267-A), a Coal House (B), a Wash House (C), and a Chicken House (D), the four being of near contemporaneous construction. The buildings are located on Lots 23, 24, and 22, in the small, unincorporated village of White's Creek, in Ceredo Township, Wayne County, West Virginia. Though facing the road and square with the lot lines, the four buildings are arranged in a diagonal line along the edge of a high silt terrace, 20 feet above the floodplain and 40 feet above the waters of the Big Sandy River. The layout conserves level space and leaves enough level ground for a large house garden on Lot 22. Entries on the three outbuildings are on sides convenient and visible from the house. The house itself, on Lot 23, fronts the Cyrus Road, a cut-off dead-end part of the old Big Sandy River Road. Between the house and road is a random-rubble mortared stone retaining wall which once was surmounted by a white picket fence and a gate before the front entry. The wall runs north to meet the southeast corner of the Coal House, where the picket fence ended.

The Thackers. Albert Thacker (1862-1939) was a well-known blacksmith and part-time farmer active in and around White's Creek F.O. His father, Matthew (1839-1902) also was a blacksmith and farmer on White's Creek. Albert apparently did work for village residents, nearby farms, traffic on the Big Sandy River Road, and the Kenova and Big Sandy Railway (later part of the Norfolk and Western Railroad), which opened a section maintenance shop near the Cyrus Station depot. In 1898 Thacker bought his first lots – 22, 23 through 28. By 1910 Thacker owned village lots 1, 2, 3, part of 10, 23 through 28, and 3 acres of the village's river front (bottom land). Thacker bought Lot 21, the site of the Eustace A. Chadwick House (HABS No. WV-268), but lost it in a chancery suit decided in 1904. Thacker built a coal house on Lot 24, his house and smoke house on Lot 23, and had a house garden and chicken house on Lot 22. On the east part of Lot 10 ("River Street") Thacker erected a barn and silo: the barn much later was modified to become the present Don Newman's Garage; the unaltered base of his wooden silo still is apparent. Local opinions vary as to the location of his blacksmith shop, but he apparently worked for a while in a shop (possibly owned after 1903 by the railroad) extant as a half-barn just south of the Hensley house and village lot 15; here a blacksmith shop had been sited since the 1880s (Ferguson 1884 map). Other informants believe that Thacker had a shop in a long barn that once straddled lots 10 and 19 (the latter of which he never owned a part).

Albert Thacker (1862-1939) married Lou Bellomy (1868-1939) around 1900 and they moved to White's Creek F.O. not long after. They had but one child, Vilas, who in the 1930s was the N. & W. station agent and telegrapher at Fort Gay (across from

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Louisa, Kentucky). The Thackers lived in the house on Lot 23 between 1903 and 1919, when it was sold, and sold again.

The Chadwicks. By 1922 the house passed to L.M. "Lou Johnny" (Lewis) Chadwick (1883-1959) and her husband John C. (1872-1962). John's first wife -- Maggie (1872-1904) -- was a Thacker and Albert's first cousin. The John Chadwicks never lived in the house (they lived at Docks Creek) but rented it to relations. "For a long time" until 1942 Frank Chadwick, Jr. (born 1898) and first wife Mary C. Adkins (1899-1962) lived in the small house -- along with their two boys and three girls (born between 1919 and 1927)!

Frank Chadwick, Jr. (born 1898) worked for the Norfolk and Western Railway. For many years before retiring in 1964 he was a section foreman, bossing a gang of men on jobs as far away as Virginia and Cincinnati.

The Newmans. In 1942 the Chadwicks exchanged houses with Willie E. Newman (1908-1988) and wife Pauline (Damron) Newman (born 1911), who were renting George Dixon's old house down the street. The Newmans, married in 1929, rented the old Thacker place, where they lived with their children Doris (born 1932, married 1953), Opal (born 1934, married 1951), and Donald V. (born 1935, married 1951). In 1959 Willie and Pauline finally bought the Thacker place from the Chadwicks. Soon thereafter, the Newmans made many changes within the house, and added an indoor bathroom in 1961. In 1963, they gave their unused privy, built by the W.P.A., to Eustace Chadwick (born 1922), who the previous year had bought the adjacent house on Lot 21 (HABS No. WV-268-A).

Willie Newman did not work in White's Creek. For about 20 years he drove a truck hauling tile for Union Concrete in Ceredo. Later, he loaded trucks at a warehouse for a car bumper factory. He retired in 1962 after 15 years with the Gould National Battery Company, where he made and cleaned batteries.

Cyrus Dock Company. The Cyrus Dock Company purchased the Albert Thacker House and building lots in 1992. Pauline Newman still lives in the house. The house may be moved to another site about a mile up White's Creek, to facilitate construction of the planned coal loading facility at Cyrus.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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.

Kenova Press-Observer

1979 Ashland businessman's roots are deep in Wayne County. Vol. 8, No. 4, Pp. 1 and 6. November 5 issue.

United States Bureau of the Census

var. Federal Decennial Population Censuses, Manuscript Schedules.  
Microfilms on file, West Virginia Archives and History Library, Capitol Complex, Charleston.

Wayne County Clerk's Office, Wayne, West Virginia

Miscellaneous Land, Court, Probate, Birth, Death, and Marriage Records.

Interviews:

Chadwick, Eustace A.

Interview with D. Bailey, 1-2 P.M., August 10, 1992

Chadwick, Frank Jr, and Marie Chadwick

Interview with D. Bailey, 3-5 P.M., August 3, 1992

Cyrus, Miss Caroline

Telephone interview with D. Bailey, 6:45-7:15 P.M., February 12, 1993

Newman, Donald V.

Telephone interview with D. Bailey, 10-10:30 P.M., February 12, 1993

Newman, Pauline

Interview with D. Bailey, 2-3 P.M., February 1, 1993

Smith, Clifford

Interview with D. Bailey, 12:30-4:30 P.M., February 15, 1993

Smith, Dorothy Mae (Chadwick)  
Interview with D. Bailey, 3-5 P.M., July 30, 1992

Repositories Searched and Agencies Contacted (July, August 1992; January 1993)

Marshall University Library, Huntington, W. Va.  
Archives and Special Collections

Tri-State Advertiser, Pocahontas Street, Louisa, Kentucky  
Press-Observer (Kenova-Ceredo) backfiles

Wayne County Civil Offices, Courthouse, Wayne, W. Va.  
Clerk's Office, Clerk of Court, Assessor

Wayne County Public Library, Wayne, W. Va.

West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, Charleston, W. Va.  
Archives and History Library

LEGAL DESCRIPTION PROVIDED IN 1898 DEED

G.G. Vanhorn & wife :  
To : Deed  
Albert Thacker :

"This Deed made this 25th day of April, 1898, by and between G.G. Vanhorn and Francis Vanhorn his wife party of the first part of the County of Boyd and State of Kentucky and Albert Thacker of the second part of the County of Wayne and State of West Virginia.

Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of Two hundred Dollars in hand paid receipt of which is hereby acknowledged. The parties of the first part have this day bargained, sold and by these presents doth grant and convey unto the party of the second part certain pieces or parcels of land in the Village of Whites Creek, Wayne County, West Virginia, bounded and described as follows.

Beginning at the southeast corner of the Connally Lot as shown by the M.J. Ferguson plat of said Village to which reference is hereby made, thence with the North line of Main Street East, corner of Lot No. 28 on the bank of White's Creek, thence with and including said Lot No. 28 to the line of the Public Landing on the Big Sandy River thence with said Public Landing to the North East corner of said Connally Lot and with the East line of same to the place of beginning; being and including all of the lots East of said Connally Lot North of Main Street, West of White's Creek, and South of the Public Landing being Lots Nos. 23-24-25-26-27 & 28 as shown in said Ferguson's plat, also lot No. 22 lying on Main Street parallel with lot No. 23 (for further particulars of lot No. 22 reference is hereby made to the Ferguson plat of above lots) to have and to hold the said premises [illegible] the said Albert Thacker his heirs and assigns forever with covenants of General Warranty. Witness the following signatures and seals the day and date first above written."

George G. Vanhorn {seal}  
Francess Vanhorn {seal}

Notarized 25 April 1898.

Recorded 29 August 1898, Deed Book 48, Pages 306-307, Wayne County Clerk's Office

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### CHAIN OF TITLE

References to the Chain of Title to the land on which the structures stand are in the County Clerk's Office, Wayne County Courthouse, Wayne, West Virginia.

- 1991 Deed, November 1, 1991, recorded in Deed Book 545, Page 696.  
Pauline Newman to Cyrus Dock Company, Inc.
- 1989 Contract of Sale, August 9, 1989.  
Pauline Newman to M. P. Coals, Inc.
- 1988 Will, March 22, 1988, recorded in Will Book 27, Page 228.  
Willie E. Newman to Pauline Newman (wife).
- 1959 Deed, July 7, 1959, recorded in Deed Book 304, Page 292.  
Heirs-at-Law of Sam Chadwick (deceased), J.C. Chadwick, Carl Chadwick, *et al* to Willie E. and Pauline Newman.
- 1947 Deed, October 9, 1947, recorded in Deed Book 238, Page 378.  
L.M. Chadwick and J.C. Chadwick to Sam and Carl Chadwick.
- 1922 Deed, July 31, 1922, recorded in Deed Book 122, Page 439.  
Jack Crabtree to L.M. Chadwick.
- 1922 Deed, March 22, 1922, recorded in Deed Book 121, Page 403, and  
Deed Book 122, Page 436, Mary J. Taylor to Jack Crabtree.
- 1919 Deed, December 4, 1919, recorded in Deed Book 112, Page 308.  
Albert Thacker to Mary J. Taylor.
- 1904 Deed, May 26, 1904, recorded in Deed Book 63, Page 222.  
J.N. Marcum, Commissioner of School Lands, to Albert Thacker.
- 1900 Deed, March 28, 1900, recorded in Deed Book 51, Page 56.  
Martha Jane Ferguson to Albert Thacker.
- 1898 Deed, April 25, 1898, recorded in Deed Book 48, Page 306.  
George G. Vanhorn and Frances Vanhorn (wife) to Albert Thacker.

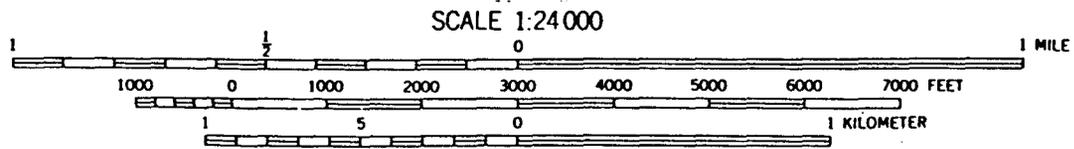
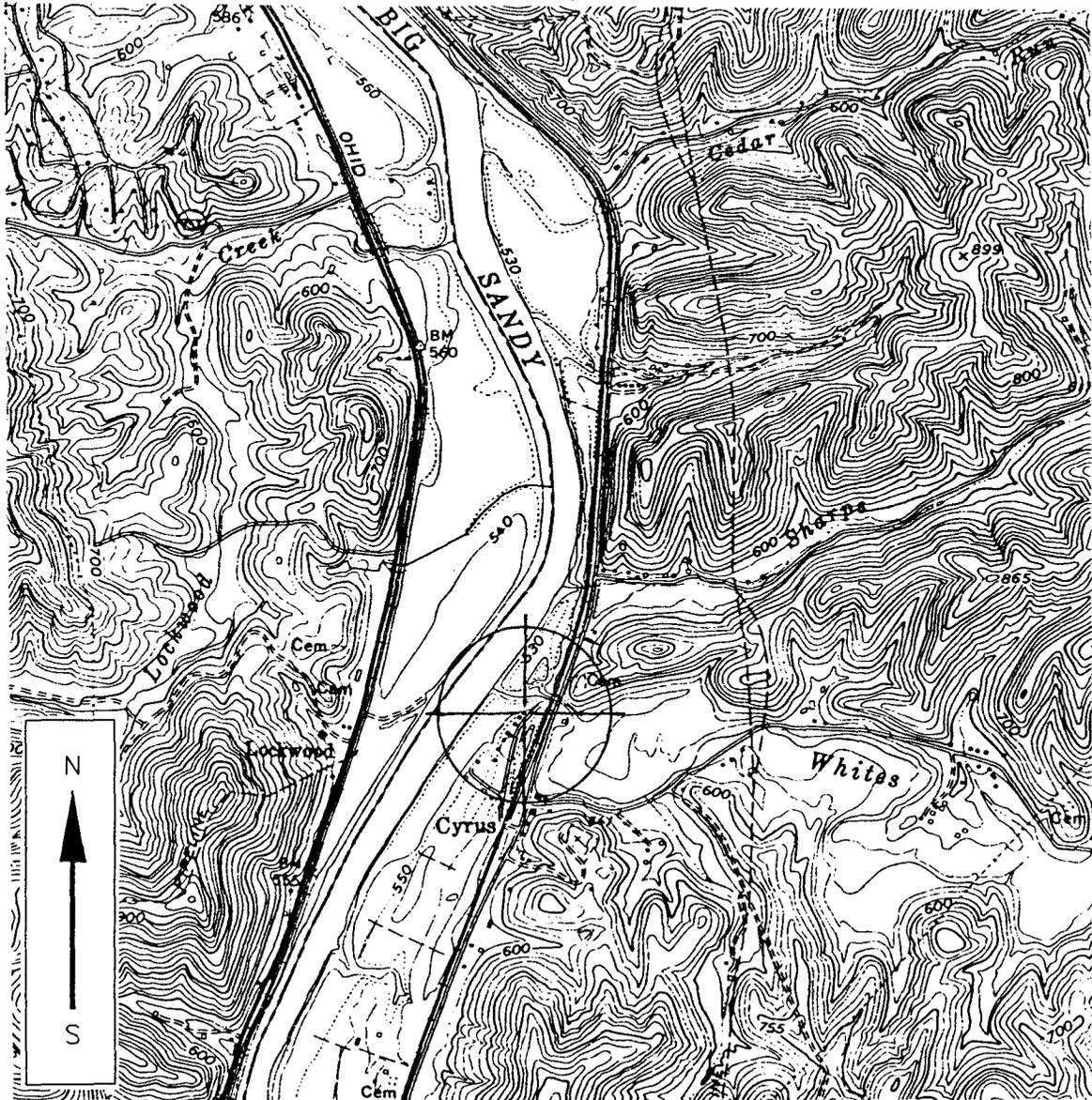
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- 1896 Deed, November 19, 1896, recorded in Deed Book 44, Page 301.  
Chapman Fry, Wayne County Clerk, to George G. Vanhorn.
- 1894 Deed, February 17, 1894, recorded in Deed Book 39, Page 631.  
John Lockwood and Lucy Lockwood to Jonathan G. Lambert.
- 1891 Deed, April 6, 1891, recorded in Deed Book 35, Page 324.  
John Lockwood and Lucy Lockwood (wife) to George G. Vanhorn and  
Frances Vanhorn (wife).
- 1888 Deed, March 1, 1888, recorded in Deed Book 30, Page 262.  
M.J. Ferguson Estate, G.G. Burgess, Special Commissioner, Henry W.  
Ferguson and Lynn Boyd Ferguson, to John Lockwood.
- 1875 Deed, September 16, 1875, recorded in Deed Book L, Page 267.  
Heirs of Henry H. Bean Estate, via G.G. Burgess, Special Commissioner,  
to M. J. Ferguson.
- 1859 Deed, April 6, 1858, recorded in Deed Book E, Page 285.  
Joshua Cyrus and Elizabeth Cyrus (wife) to Henry H. Bean.

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LOCATION MAP

Portion of USGS Topographic Quadrangle: Burnaugh, Kentucky/ West Virginia  
Scale of 1: 24, 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET

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SITE MAP

(This drawing is based on field data collected by D. Bailey in 1992.)

