

3249 CYRUS ROAD, CHICKEN HOUSE
Cyrus
Wayne County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-267-D

HABS
WVA
50-CYRUS,
4D-

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 BUILDINGS SURVEY

3249 CYRUS ROAD, CHICKEN HOUSE

HABS No. WV-267-D

HABS
WVA
50-CYRUS
4D-

Location: About 70 feet southwest of the house at 3249 Cyrus Road (County Road 1/6), Cyrus, Wayne County, West Virginia.

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17. 362485. 4241065.
USGS Quadrangle: Burnaugh, West Virginia/ Kentucky

Significance: The Chicken House is a utilitarian structure contemporaneously used with the Albert Thacker House. The house was built in 1903 by Albert Thacker, a blacksmith and part-time farmer. The Thacker House and Chicken House are considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in terms of their associations with community history.

Description: The chicken house is a one-room shed-roofed outbuilding 190.5 inches long and 88.25 inches wide. It is entered via a door through the north wall. Along its east side, there is a long window opening, apparently never glazed, but covered with chicken wire. The shed's roof, pitched 13° to the east, is covered with unpainted standing-seam metal sheets. The shed is sided with vertical wooden boards having battens only on the south and west sides. The plank sills of its wooden superstructure are bolted to the 6-inch-wide tops of the low concrete walls forming its foundation. A separate 6-inch-wide concrete wall juts out from the southwest corner about 7-3/4 feet to the west.

Inside, two double nesting boxes are found along the east wall near the southeast corner. Along much of the west wall is a platform roost 4 feet wide and 10-1/2 feet long. Its south half is made of old boards, its north half, of two sections of articulated tongue-and-groove boards nailed over open square frames. The shed has a dirt floor.

History: Albert Thacker (1862-1939) built this chicken house in 1903. It was used as such by Albert and wife Lou (1868-1939) until 1919, and by Frank Chadwick (born 1898) and wife Mary (1899-1962) until 1942. Willie Newman (1908-1988) and wife Pauline (born 1911), who moved into the Thacker place in 1942, did not keep chickens after 1959, so thereafter used the shed only for miscellaneous storage.

Sources:

Frank Chadwick, Jr. and Marie Chadwick

Interview by Douglas L. Bailey, 3-5 P.M., August 3, 1992

Eustace A. "Buck" Chadwick

Interview with 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:

Douglas L. Bailey, Consulting Archaeologist

618 Grant Street, Fairborn, Ohio 45234

May 31, 1994

FLOOR PLAN

(Based on field data collected by D. Bailey, 1992.)

