

NORRIS FARM, FOREBAY BANK BARN  
.5 mile west of County Road 857 &  
.25 mile east of County Road 88/1  
Cheat Neck vicinity  
Monongalia County  
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-298-B

HABS  
WVA  
31-CHTNK.V,  
2B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

NORRIS FARM, FOREBAY BANK BARN

HABS  
WVA  
31-CHEATNK.V,  
28\*

HABS No. WV-298-B

Location: .5 mile west of County Road 857 & .25 mile east of County Road 88/1,  
Cheat Neck vicinity, Monongalia County, West Virginia

USGS Lake Lynn, PA-WV Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
17.598630.4392700

Significance: Note: Since the Norris Farm is not located within the boundaries of a city or town, the farm location is being identified with the nearest town—"Cheat Neck"—with the word "vicinity" after the name. However, the township name "Union District" is often used as a local standard for the address, and for this reason often appears as the location in many reference materials.

The barn located on the Norris farm is an example of a forebay bank barn that was popular during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Pennsylvania. The barn may represent a migration pattern since George Baker, the second owner of the farm, was originally from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (Dixon et al 1993). Mr. Baker might have brought this particular building style with him from southern Pennsylvania. Because of the modern development of agricultural lands and modern styles of barns, the forebay bank barn is a style that is quickly disappearing in the local area.

Description: The barn is located along the east side of the gravel road that connects to C. R. 857 on an open pasture that is gently rolling. To the barn's south is a small wooded area that is partially logged out. Forested mountains are located to the north and the east of the barn.

The plank walls are built on an ashlar stone foundation; handhewn timbers support the tin gable roof. The lower floor is divided into small stalls that are comprised of railings that stand approximately four feet high. Wooden gates allow access into these stalls. Two doors on the north wall allow passage into and out of the barn. Louvered windows pierce the west and east elevations of the barn. The east side of the barn is partially built into a small hill. The forebay is located on the north side of the barn and measures approximately nine feet deep. Stone walls make up the north wall (or the south side of the forebay). Hand-hewn posts support the overhang of the forebay and the wooden floor of the main floor.

The west and east elevations of the main floor are pierced with louvered windows. An opening that appears to have once been a window is located at the southwest corner on the south elevation. An eleven foot opening is located at the center of

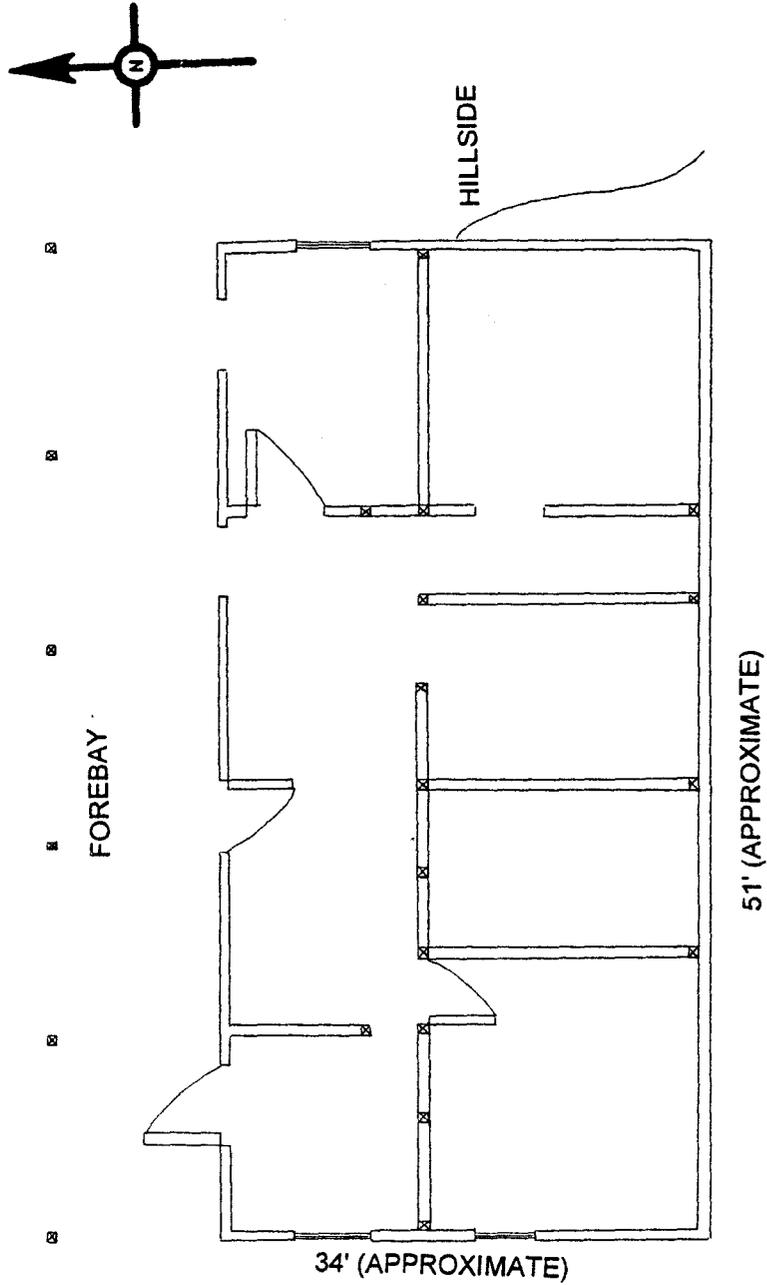
the south elevation. Two hand-hewn railings located approximately eight feet from the north wall of the barn partially divides the floor space. Wooden posts between the two railings help support the gable roof.

Presently, the barn is no longer in use and is in disrepair. Portions of the plank walls have become either infested with termites or are completely missing. Some of the posts that support the roof are missing or are rotting while portions of the tin roof have been torn off.

History: The forebay barn was constructed ca. 1860. No known architect or builder is associated with the design and construction of the barn. Plans for the Mon-Fayette Transportation Project demonstrate that the proposed road will be constructed through the property of the Norris Farm. However, none of the buildings on the property will be physically removed.

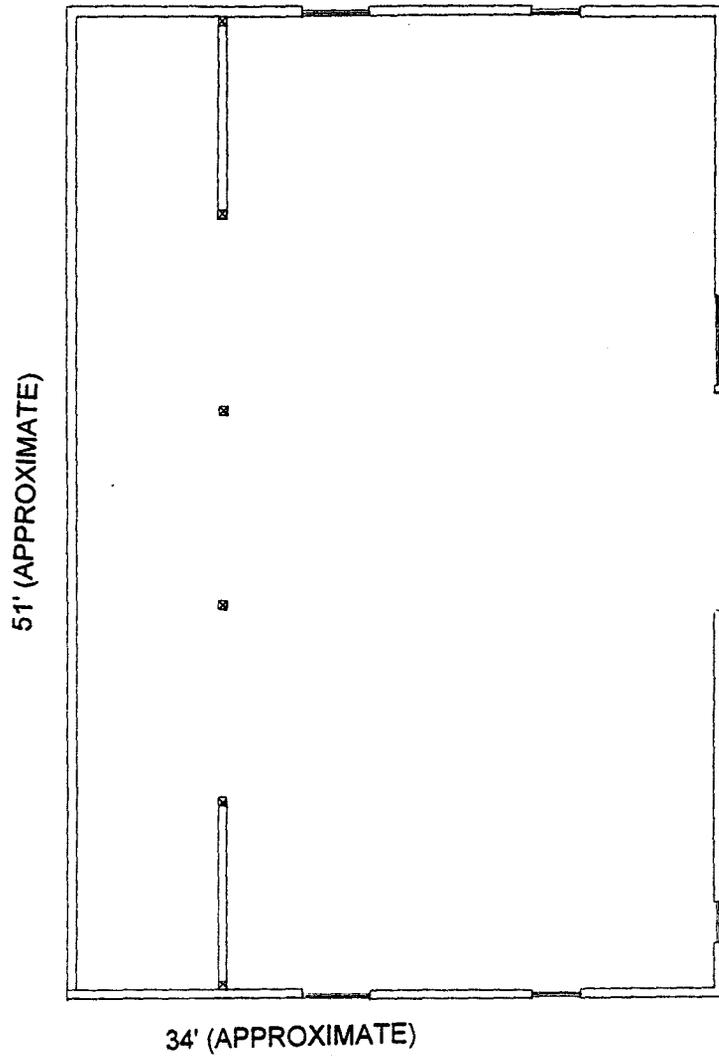
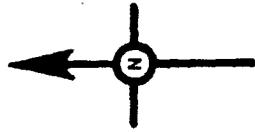
Sources: Dixon, Stuart Paul, Margaret Anne Bishop, and Philip E. Pendleton. *Historic Structures Inventory and Determination of Eligibility Report-Volume 2. Mon/Fayette Transportation Project*. Mechanicsburg, PA: KCI Technologies, Inc., 1993.

Historian: Margaret Bishop Parker  
Gail Lin Walls  
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May 2000



BANK BARN-BOTTOM FLOOR PLAN

DRAWING PREPARED BY KCI TECHNOLOGIES, INC., MAY 2000



BANK BARN-MAIN FLOOR PLAN  
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