

NORRIS FARM, CHICKEN HOUSE  
.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-D

HABS  
WVA  
31-CHTNK.V,  
2D-

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, CHICKEN HOUSE

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WVA  
31-CHTNK, V,  
JD-

HABS No. WV-298-D

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:  
17.598600.4392670

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 chicken house on the Norris Farm is an example of a mid-twentieth century agricultural outbuilding. The chicken house is unique in its size, its number of stories, and its construction. With changes in agricultural practices, older chicken houses are becoming rare as they are being replaced by more modern facilities or left to deteriorate. Modern development is also contributing to the disappearance of older agricultural outbuildings. As this development takes over agricultural lands, existing agricultural outbuildings are quickly disappearing.

Description: The chicken house is located on the south side of the gravel road approximately 50 feet northeast of the house (HABS No. WV-298-A) and southeast of the tractor shed (HABS No. WV-298-C). A small vineyard is located to the west of the building while small trees line the gravel road to the southeast of the building. This building was used by the current owner to raise chickens as a means of income throughout the late 1940s and 1950s.

The chicken house is constructed of concrete block and measures approximately 60' by 36' 6". The masonry walls support an asphalt-covered gable roof. The east end is banked into a small hill. The first floor of the chicken house is divided into three rooms. Two small rooms are located on the west side of the building. The larger room comprised  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the floor space. Six metal posts support the second story floor. A set of open risers leads up to the second floor. A mixture of six-light casement, six-light fixed, eight-light fixed, and six-light awning windows pierce the walls of the first floor. Many of the of windows have been boarded up with ply-wood. A shed wood door pierces the west elevation while a set of plank wooden doors pierces the east elevation.

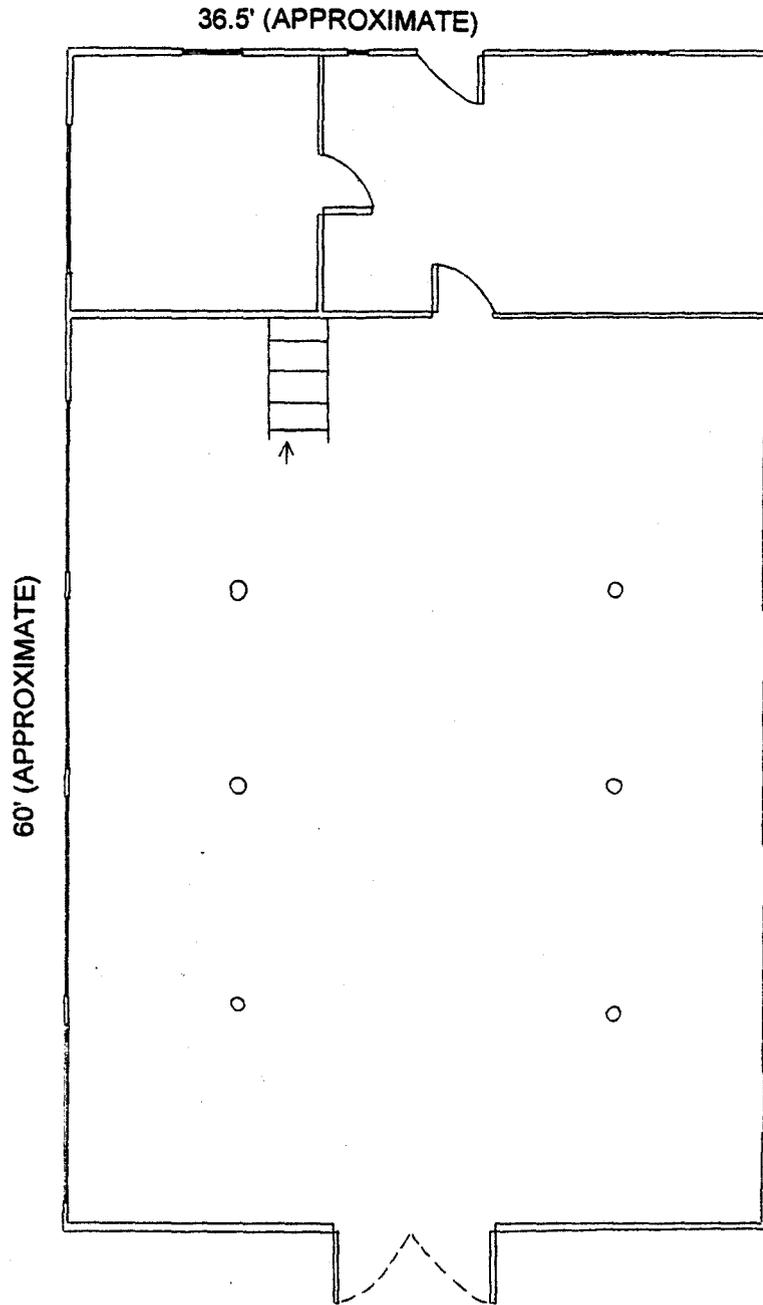
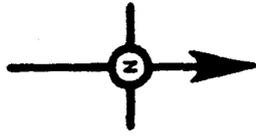
The second floor of the chicken house is comprised of two rooms, the smaller of the rooms being located on the west side where a large window has been boarded. A pair of corrugated tin doors pierces the walls on the east elevation leading into the larger room.

As with the other buildings on the complex, the chicken house is no longer in use. While some of the windows are broken and boarded over, the outbuilding remains in fair condition.

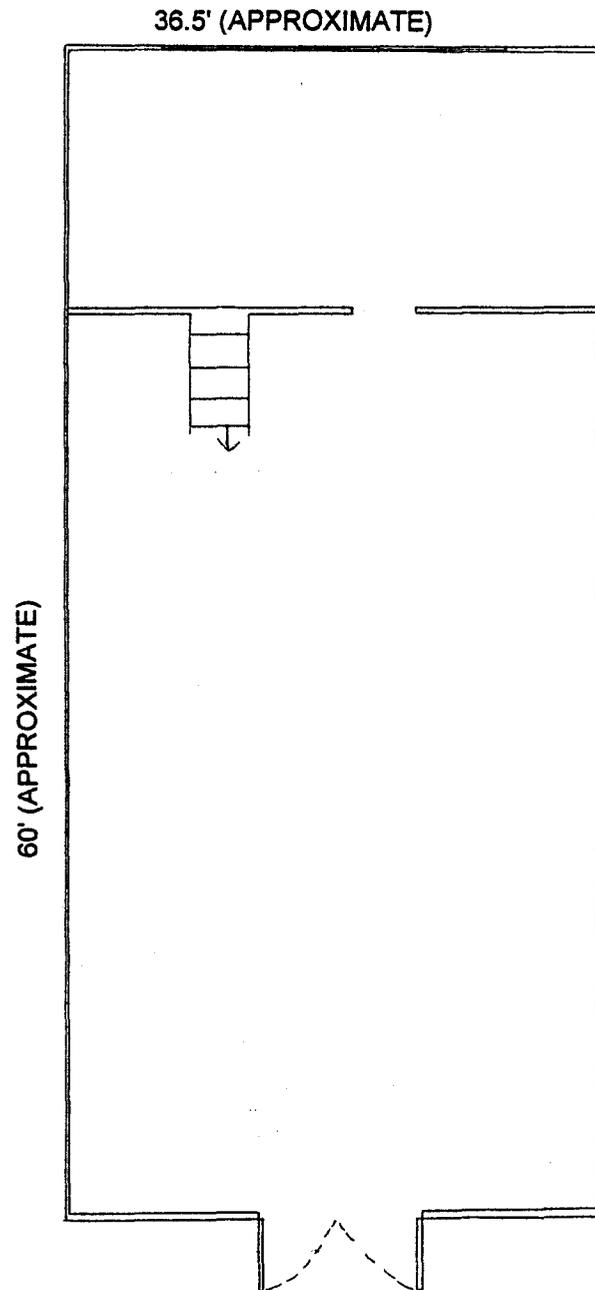
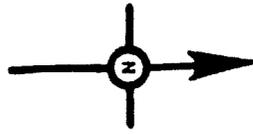
History: The chicken house was constructed ca. 1946. The specific details of the construction, such as the builder, are unknown. Plans for the Mon/Fayette Transportation Project demonstrate that the proposed road will be constructed through the property of the Norris Farm. However, none of the buildings 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.

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CHICKEN HOUSE-FIRST FLOOR PLAN



CHICKEN HOUSE-SECOND FLOOR PLAN

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