

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

23
For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic JOHN BURROUGHS HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Wrightstown-Taylorsville Road _____ not for publication

city, town Upper Makefield Township vicinity of congressional district 8

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Bucks code 017

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Ruth P. Burton

street & number R. D. #1

city, town Newtown _____ vicinity of state Pennsylvania 18940

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bucks County Courthouse

street & number Court Street

city, town Doylestown state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date 6-6-80 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

7. Description

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Section 1: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ story; uncoursed fieldstone construction with regular quoins on the west end; pronounced water table; wooden shake gable roof with large plastered (fieldstone) interior end chimney on west end; two small 4 pane gable windows on same end; molded box cornice and returns. Raised fieldstone patio on south face.

1st floor S face: 3 bay; one plain slightly recessed central plank door with peg construction outer frame and architrave trim. Two 9/6 windows with stone lintels in plain frames with architrave trim; three-panel shutters.

2nd floor S face: 3 bay; three 9/6 windows of peg construction in plain frames with architrave trim; louvered shutters.

Section 2: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ story, approx. 2 feet higher than first section; coursed fieldstone construction with very long thin stones; water table; wooden shake gable roof; two plastered (brick) interior end chimneys; ornate modillion cornice and frieze with molded trim. Two 4/2 gable windows on east end which match bays in west end which must have originally overlooked a lower roofline but now lead into the attic of section 1. Large raised fieldstone patio on south face. H·B H·L cut into stone on second floor on south face.

1st floor S face: 4 bay; three tall 9/6 windows with segmental supporting arches; plain frames with architrave trim; three-panel shutters. There are segmental supporting arches also visible on basement window bays. One very wide off-center 6 panel door with three pane rectangular transom, plain outer frame with molded cornice and molding on top and bottom of stiles to form simple pilasters; rectangular outer transom with screen instead of window panes.

2nd floor S face: 4 bay; four 9/6 windows with pronounced sills and architrave trim; louvered shutters.

Section 3: 2 story; random fieldstone construction; wooden shake galbe roof; molded box cornice and returns; frame galbe dormer on north face. Screened in shed porch with wooden shake roof and fieldstone patio on north face.

1st floor S face: 2 bay; two 9/6 windows with architrave trim; three-panel shutters.

2nd floor S face: 2 bay; two 6 pane windows in plain frames with louvered shutters. These windows show evidence of being made smaller as stonework underneath them does not match rest of wall.

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Section 4: Small 1 story frame vestibule. Entire east face of section is of beaded vertical frame with simple matching door cut out of it.

1st floor N face: 1 bay; clapboard construction with cornerboard; one six pane casement window.

The oldest section of the house is of simple design and built with uncoursed fieldstone. Its interior features include a large walk-in fireplace complete with evidence of an old bake oven as well as an old stone sink attached to its side. This section also has numerous window panes of old glass; a paymaster's drawer under one window; built-in wall cabinets; original hardware; old doors and a chair rail along the wall. The exposed beams in this section are all beaded except in the alcove next to the fireplace where the stone sink once stood. Obviously the utilitarian section of the room was originally partitioned.

Perhaps the most interesting features of this section are in its basement. From the basement there is a passageway to an underground springhouse and well. The entrance to the springhouse is supported by a keystone arch. A similar arch supports the large foundation for the walk-in fireplace.

The second floor of the section seems to lack the early 18th century style and features found in the first floor and basement. Instead the upstairs is diminated by a federal period fireplace and woodwork. Undoubtably this story was constructed when the original one-story cabin was rebuilt as a taller and more permanent structure following the construction of the main section of the house. A theory substantiated by the fact that there are gable windows at this end of the main section which originally overlooked a lower roof.

The second phase of construction dates from 1746 to 1796 and is of a more elegant design. The exterior is of matched stone with segmental supporting arches above the first floor windows and a wide front doorway. The cornice and frieze are also highly decorative. There is cut into the stone on the south face of this section the following inscription: H·B H· L This marking may represent Henry Burroughs as the owner and some unknown H_____ L_____ as the builder. Henry Burroughs was a wealthy man who served as township tax collector at the beginning of the 19th century and either built the entire section after his marriage in 1786 or ordered the large-scale renovations of the old house. The latter explanation would account for some of the very old panelling and other features in this section of the house.

The interior of the section has numerous examples of old and unusual iron-ware which is original as far as can be determined. The elegance is maintained by the high ceilings, chair rails, molding along the walls and detailed woodwork.

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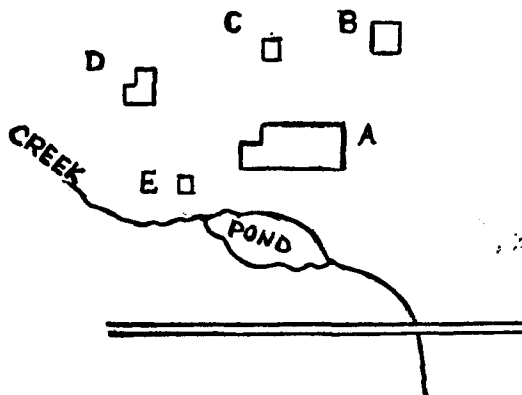
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A newer kitchen addition was constructed at the turn of the 20th century in a style in strict keeping with the earlier sections of the house having matching stonework, cornice, roof style and material.

Site Plan:

- A. Residence
- B. Carriage House
- C. Tool shed
- D. Cottage
- E. Ice House Ruins



Outbuildings:

Carriage House

Section 1: 2½ story standard fieldstone carriage house with frame south, or front, face with a wooden shake gable roof and open rafter ends visible.

1st floor S face: Wide one bay; single vertical frame sliding door.

2nd floor S face: Two bay; two 6/6 windows in plain frames.

Section 2: 1 story shed addition; cinderblock construction with frame south face with wooden shake shed roof with open rafter ends.

1st floor S face: Wide one bay; single vertical frame sliding door.

Tool Shed

One story vertical frame shed with a field stone foundation, wooden shake gable roof with open rafter ends. South face has central narrow double door of one light/one panel design.

Caretaker's Cottage

1½ story stone and frame cottage which has recently been expanded into a small residence. The kitchen and dining rooms are of uncoursed fieldstone which were built in the 1930's as a stable. The larger frame addition was erected circa 1975.

Ice House foundation

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

A well-preserved early 18th century dwelling, the Burroughs House reflects the adaptation and growth of dwelling. Rather than build successive dwellings, each periods growth was added on to the previous to form one large structure. This practice is most common in Bucks, Chester and Montgomery Counties, where stone was the typical building material.

John Burroughs was the first of three generations of Burroughs, also spelled Burrows, to live in this house. From John, the property, consisting of some 200+ acres descended to his son Henry who was the Upper Makefield tax collector. Henry's will divided the estate between his children, with his son Benjamin inheriting the homestead and over 125 acres.

Since the home stayed within the Burroughs family for three generations there is an absence of any hard evidence in the way of deeds to determine the original builder or actual age of the house. The situation is further complicated by the fact that John Burroughs apparently had no recorded deed for the property. Instead he received title for the land, and presumably the original section of the house, upon his marriage to Lydia Baker in 1746. Lydia was part of the third generation of Bakers who held title to almost a thousand acres of land stretching nearly two miles from the Delaware River by virtue of several patents dating from 1685. Part of which was to become famous as Baker's Tavern and Ferry, later known as McConkey's and the site of Washington's Crossing of the Delaware in 1776.

The earliest portion of the nominated house appears to be a rebuilt log or frame cabin which pre-dates John Burroughs presence. Even before his own marriage, John Burroughs was related to the Baker family by the marriage of his sister Elizabeth to Samuel Baker, brother of Lydia. He was also related to Benjamin Abbit, the owner of a large adjacent property through the marriage of another sister. The Burroughs connection in the area was even further reinforced by the marriage of another sister Mary Burroughs to Henry Baker Lydia's brother. Upper Makefield tax records show John Burroughs living in the township as early as 1733 and it is possible he had settled on this tract by that date. This would be a likely spot for the young Burroughs to settle: right between his in-laws.

Another possible builder of the original cabin was the above mentioned Henry Baker, Lydia's brother. Deeds for the adjoining property, of which it was originally a part, show the property belonging to Henry Baker from 1729 to 1740, which was prior to Henry's removing to his own

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plantation on the nearby London Company tract. It is also possible that this portion of the large baker tract, because it was located so far from the river, was first farmed by a tenant of whom nothing is known.

However, the fact that John and Lydia Burroughs lived here during the first quarter of the 18th century when the township was being settled they were undoubtedly the builders of the first permanent section of the house. John Burroughs was also the longest single inhabitant of the house and property, living there until his death in 1806. The house and the majority of the property remained within his family until its sale by his grandson Benjamin Burroughs in 1869 making a total of at least 123 years in the family.

Perhaps the most widely known aspect of Upper Makefield history is the fact that it was the site of Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware in December 1776. That event has eclipsed the fact that many area residents did not embrace the patriotic cause. Aside from the many area Quakers who opposed the Revolutionary movement on religious principles, there was a Loyalist faction throughout the county which supported the British cause.

From the will of John Burroughs in 1800 one learns that his eldest son Samuel, instead of inheriting the family plantation was merely given "one silver dollar" due to the fact that he had "by his imprudent conduct" cost his father "more than his proportion of the estate would come to." The house and plantation was instead bequeathed to his younger brother Henry Burroughs who was the township tax collector at the time.

By investigating the records of the Falls Meeting of Friends, the Pa. Archives, the Pa. Gazette and other sources, one can get a clear observation of Samuel's imprudent conduct. The 1784 Pa. Archives lists a Samuel Burrows of Upper Wakefield (sic), Bucks County among those "Attainted of High Treason". Apparently Samuel Burroughs was more than simple "attained" since the Minutes of the Falls Meeting of Friends for August 5, 1778 states he was disowned from Meeting for joining the British Army. If this wasn't enough, the Pa. Gazette of August 6, 1784 had a long diatribe by Joseph Hart, the sheriff of Bucks County against the "infamous Wretch" Samuel Burroughs whose crimes included not only treason but horsestealing as well.

The main object of Hart's concern was the fact that the Supreme Executive Council sitting in Philadelphia had sought fit to pardon Burroughs after his conviction in Bucks County Court for his crimes. According to Hart the Council was unjustifiably swayed by the petition of John Burroughs and others, "many of whom didn't even live in Bucks and didn't even live in Bucks and didn't know the truth". Burroughs was, in Hart's words, "a traitor to his country, and a most flagitious offender against the laws, the peace and interest of society" . . . and . . . "the petition was discovered to teem with misrepresentations, falsehoods and deception."

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Further investigation into the records of the Council reveal that John Burroughs' petition was strengthened by the fact that he agreed to pay a fine of one hundred pounds specie and agreed to restore "the good stolen, or one hundred pounds specie to the prosecuter . . ." Thus on June 6, 1783 Samuel's punishment by lashes and pillory was remitted.

The incident and possibly others account for the local tradition, recorded in Mary Taylor Snyder's book Annals of a Bucks County Family, that the house was inhabited by Tories during the Revolution.

Among the 20th century owners of the house (1933-1946) was Dr. Frank Jewett Mather, Jr. who was a noted author and art historian. Dr. Mather was a professor at Princeton University for 23 years and served as Director of the Museum of Historic Art. He was also a lecturer at numerous universities and institutions including Cornell University; University of Wisconsin; Union College as well as the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 10

Quadrangle name Lambertville, Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | | | |

C

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| 1 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | | | |

D

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| 1 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | | | |

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G

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| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | | | |

H

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey Marshall - Lillie D. Zierau

organization Upper Makefield Historic.Comm. date April 1980

street & number Box 180, Windy Bush Road telephone 215-598-7793

city or town Newtown state Pennsylvania 18940

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

ED WEINTRAUB, Director title Office of Historic Preservation date

For HCERS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, Colonial Records; Pa. Archives first series, volume XIII.

Pennsylvania Archives, 1783-1786; Pa. Archives second series, volume X.

Pennsylvania Gazette, August 6, 1784; Bound in volume 23, page 58.

Recorded Wills of Bucks County.

Deed books of Bucks County 1681 to present.

Combined Atlas of Bucks County, 1876-1891.

Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, volume 2; Falls Meeting. Edited by William Wade Hinshaw. Edward Brothers Inc., Ann Arbor, Mich., 1938.

Bye, Arthur Edwin A Friendly Heritage Along the Delaware. Vantage Press, Inc. New York, 1959.

Battle, J. H. History of Bucks County Pennsylvania. A Warner Co., Philadelphia 1887

Davis W. H. H. History of Bucks County Pennsylvania, Lewis Co., N.Y. 1905.

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JOHN BURROUGHS HOMESTEAD, Upper Makefield Twp., Bucks County, PA.
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Verbal boundary description

Beginning at an iron pin in or near the middle of Wrightstown-Taylorsville Road, being also a corner of the remaining lands of Charles S. Taylor, 2nd, of which this was formerly a part, said pin being also three hundred twenty-six and seven hundredths feet (326.07') on a bearing North eighty-one degrees West (N 81°W) from the intersection of said Wrightstown-Taylorsville Road and Dolington Road; thence (1) along or near the middle of said Wrightstown Road, North eighty-one degrees West (N81°W) two hundred ninety-six and thirty-three hundredths feet (296.33') to another iron pin in or near the middle of the same; thence (2) still along or near the middle of said Wrightstown Road, North eighty-three degrees forty-five minutes West (N 83° 45' W) three hundred sixty-four feet (364') to still another iron pin in or near the middle of the same, being also another corner of the remaining lands of said Taylor; thence (3) along the remaining lands of said Taylor North six degrees fifteen minutes East (N 6° 15' E) and passing over a stake set eighteen feet (18') from, in or near the middle of said Wrightstown Road, for a total distance of six hundred fifty-six and eighty-one hundredths feet (656.81') to a stake; thence (4) along said remaining lands South eighty-three degrees forty-five minutes East (S 83° 45' E) six hundred sixty feet (660') to a stake, said stake being a corner of the same; thence (5) along the same South six degrees fifteen minutes West (S 6° 15' W) and passing over a stake set twenty-five feet (25') from, in or near the middle of the aforementioned Wrightstown Road, for a total distance of six hundred seventy-one and three hundredths feet (671.03') to the point and place of BEGINNING.

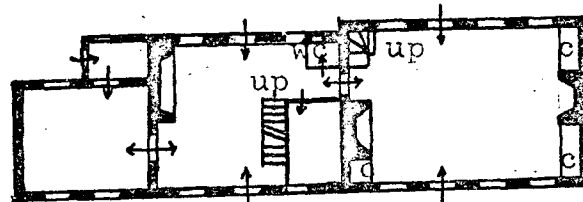
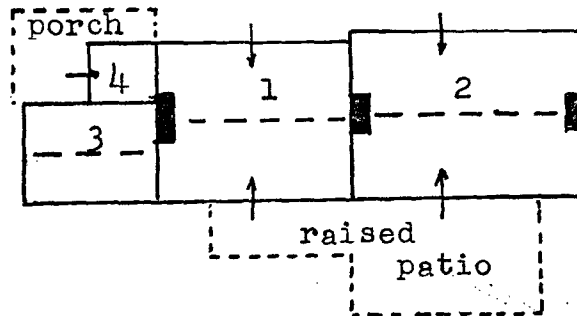
CONTAINING 10 acres, be the same more or less.

BEING the same premises which Richard S. Crown and Mildred C. Crown, his wife, in and by their indenture dated the first day of March, 1962, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for Bucks County, granted unto Anthony Burton and Ruth P. Burton, his wife.

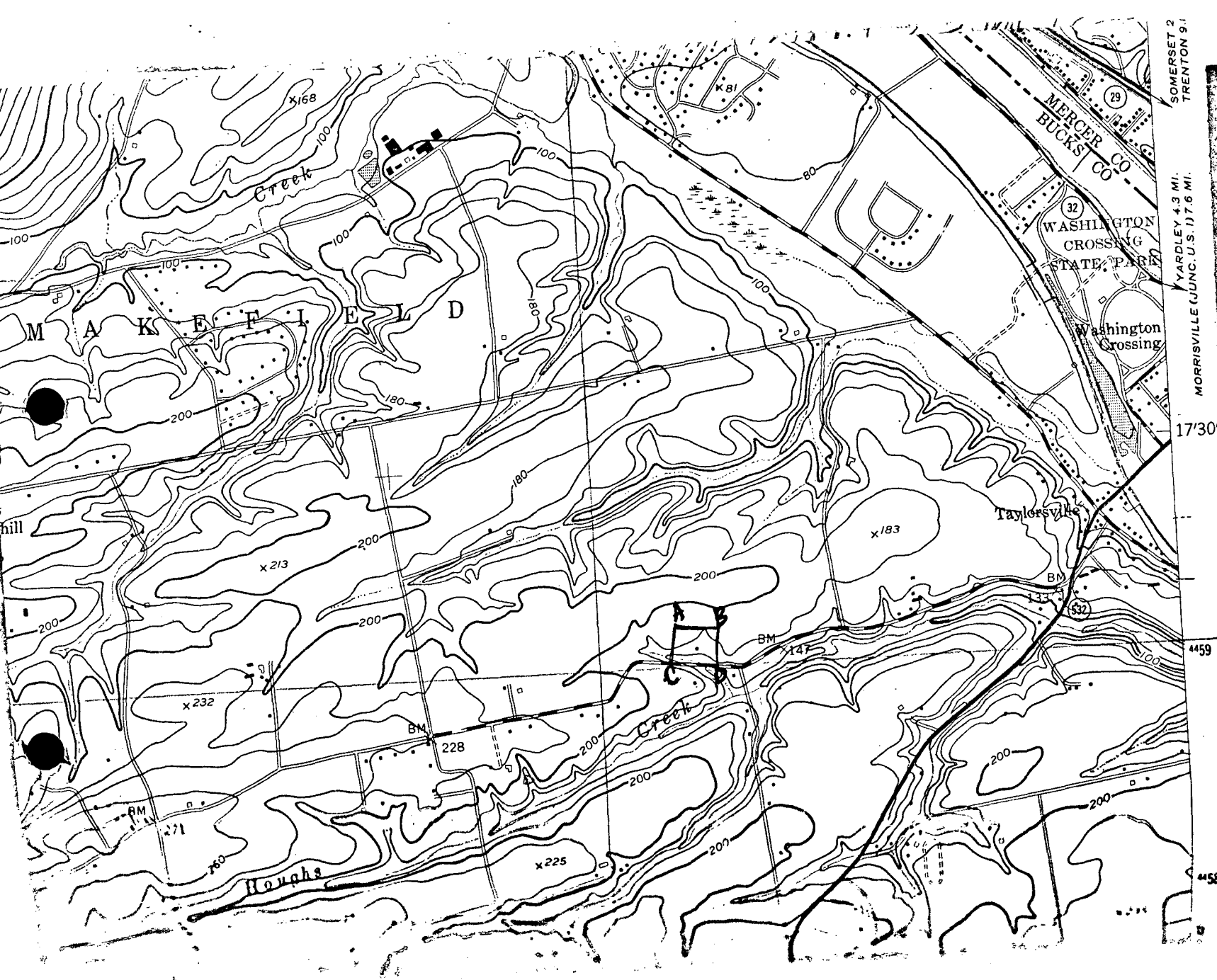
UNDER AND SUBJECT to a certain easement and rights of record.

Floor Plan:

N



not to exact scale



SOMERSET 2
 TRENTON 91
 YARDLEY 4.3 MI.
 MORRISVILLE (JUNC. U.S.) 17.6 MI.

John Burroughs House
 Bucks County

A E508300
 B E508300
 C E508300
 D E508300
 A E508480
 B E508480
 C E508480
 D E508480
 N4459020
 N4459000
 N4459000
 N4459000

1730'

4459

4458