

Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

Landmarks Nomination Report: *Fertile Plain*

Physical Description:

The Fertile Plain property is located just south of Moler's Crossroads, about 3 miles from Shepherdstown in Jefferson County, West Virginia. The farm consists of agricultural fields and historic buildings set back from the public road. Together with its neighboring agricultural properties, Fertile Plain forms an expansive cultural landscape of rural agriculture in the lower Shenandoah Valley.

Historic Description:

Fertile Plain has been the homeplace of the Donely family since 1892. In the mid-19th century the farm was home to Daniel Border. It was during his ownership that the Civil War made its mark on the area. Fertile plain saw action during the Confederate retreat from Antietam and the subsequent battle of Shepherdstown.

The farm has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Office.

Historic Resources:

Fertile Plain has numerous historic resources. The main house, built c.1825, is a 5 bay center entry brick structure. The exterior walls are laid in Flemish bond and topped with a moulded brick cornice. Inside the house retains all of its original millwork, including a fine stair. The basement has an unusual, interior brick relieving arch passage.

The outbuildings include a frame ground barn dating to the early 20th century. In addition to the barn, the farm retains its historic log smokehouse and frame corncrib. The corncrib has retained its original fish-scale slate roof.

Nomination Criteria:

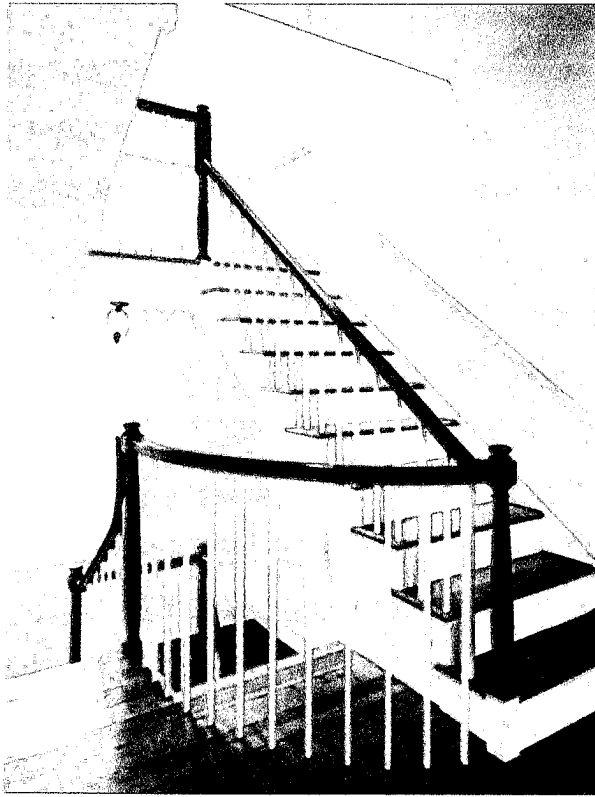
The JCHLC nominates this property under Criteria A and C for inclusion on the list of registered county landmarks. Criteria A states that a site may be nominated if, in the opinion of the Landmarks Commission, it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Criteria C states that a site may be nominated if, in the opinion of the JCHLC, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values. Owners, Sam & Lane Donely, have agreed to have the property listed as Jefferson County Historic Landmark.

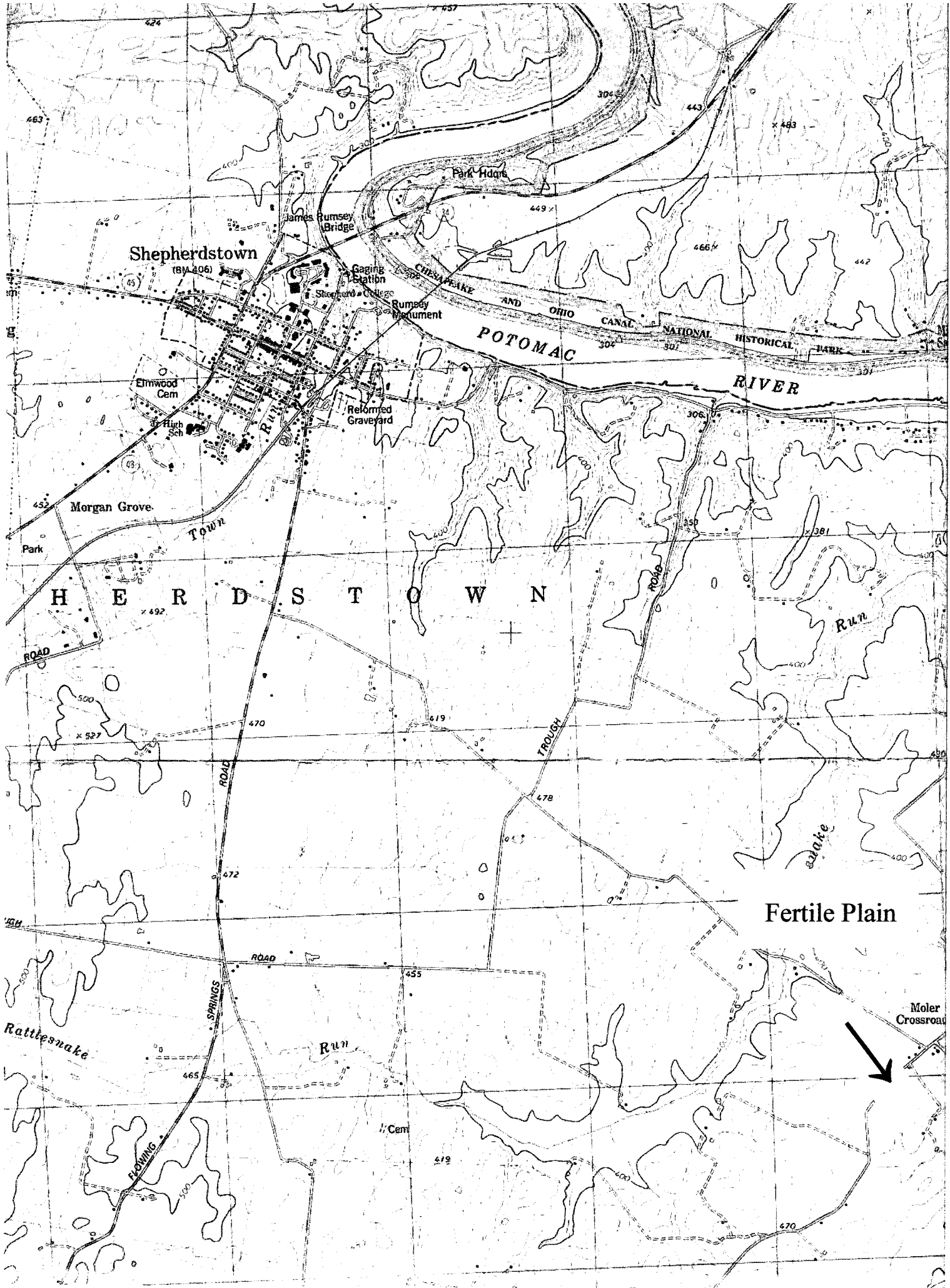
Nomination Action:

The JCHLC voted unanimously to add Fertile Plain, under Criteria A and C, to the rolls of registered Jefferson County Historic Landmarks on May 17, 2007.

Fertile Plain







Shepherdstown

POTOMAC RIVER

SHEPHERDSTOWN

Fertile Plain

Moler Crossroad

