

# Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

## Landmarks Nomination Report: *New Hopewell*

### Physical Description:

New Hopewell is located on Hite Road, between Johnstown and Leetown, West Virginia in Jefferson County. The farm consists of agricultural fields and historic buildings near the public road. New Hopewell is a rare surviving example of a farm with many historic ancillary dependencies.

### Historic Description:

Thomas Hite purchased New Hopewell, a property of 774 acres, from his cousin Joseph Hite. The Hite family was one of the most prominent families in the early settlement of the Shenandoah Valley. Thomas Hite represented Berkeley County in the House of Burgesses from 1772-1774 but left the area in 1776. Hite and his family were killed in 1776 by Cherokee warriors in South Carolina. The property passed to James Hite, then onto his son, Thomas Hite. After the farm left the Hite family in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was owned by the Groves, Coyles, Dutterers, Royers and Links. Today the property is owned by Wesley & Kathy Wendell.

### Historic Resources:

New Hopewell has numerous historic buildings associated with every era of its occupation. The oldest structure on this farm is the main house. Constructed in the early 1770s, the house, along with the Peter Burr House, is one of the oldest frame structures in the county. The building was resided and the entrance changed in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the parlor wall retains the original paneling and box cornice that, along with Harewood, is the most sophisticated in Jefferson County. Owner Thomas Hite carved his initials into the back of one of the doors. Across the drive from the house is the stone building known locally as Hite Fort. This structure, actually a grainary, was built in 1833, by the farm's owner, Col. James Hite. A log kitchen, stone springhouse, and brick quarter surround the main house. The mid-19<sup>th</sup> century blacksmith shop is a rare surviving example in the county. A block dairy barn, frame farm office and the foundation of a bank barn round out the historic structures on this heritage rich site.

### Nomination Criteria:

The JCHLC nominates this property under Criteria C for inclusion on the list of registered county landmarks. 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 that possess high artistic values. Owners, Wesley & Kathy Wendell, have agreed to have the property listed as a Jefferson County Historic Landmark.

**Nomination Action:**

The JCHLC voted unanimously to add New Hopewell, under Criteria C, to the rolls of registered Jefferson County Historic Landmarks on September 20, 2007.

New Hopewell

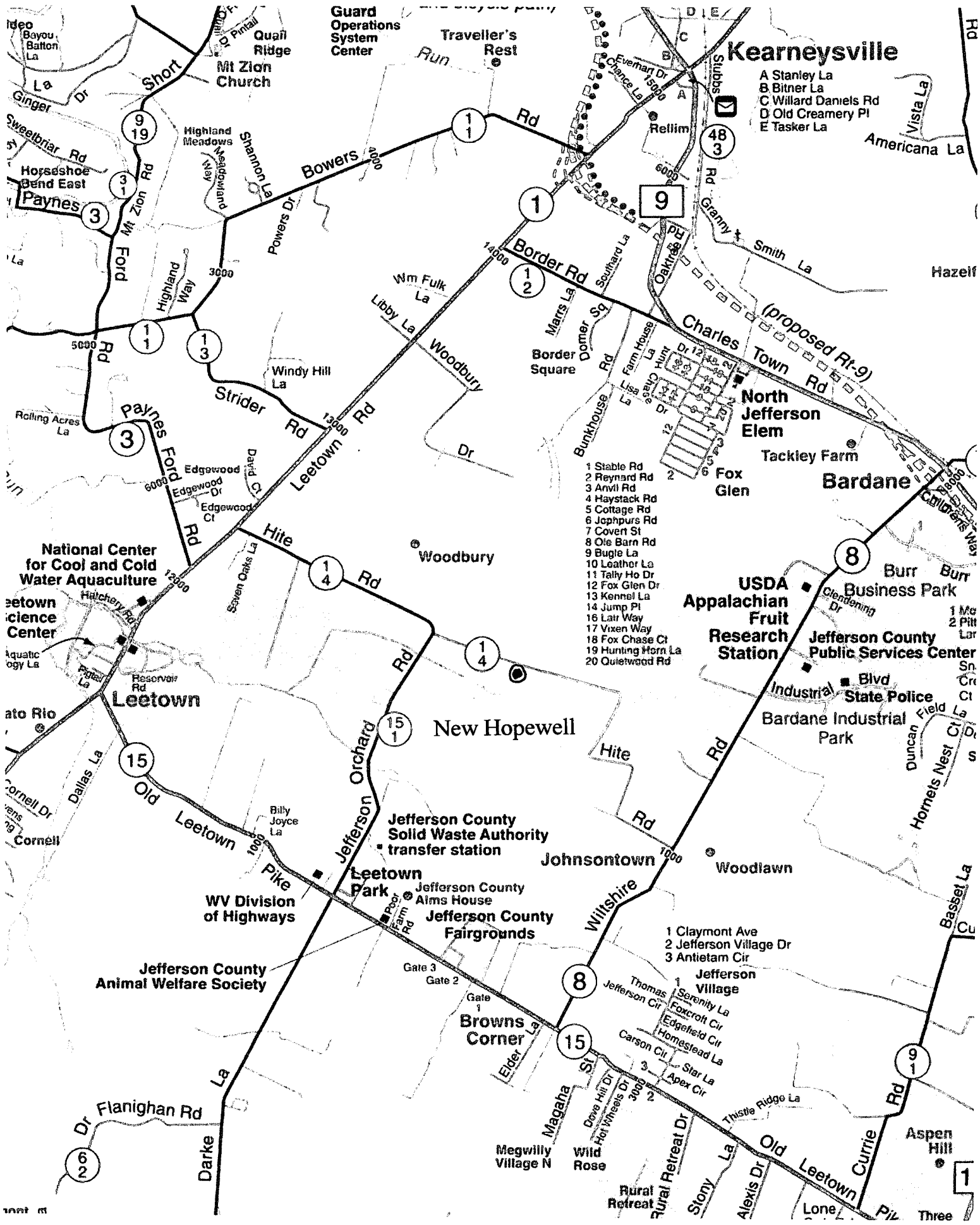


Stone Grainary



New Hopewell: Springhouse





# Kearneysville

- A Stanley La
- B Bitner La
- C Willard Daniels Rd
- D Old Creamery Pl
- E Tasker La

- 1 Stable Rd
- 2 Reynard Rd
- 3 Arvil Rd
- 4 Haystack Rd
- 5 Cottage Rd
- 6 Jophurs Rd
- 7 Covert St
- 8 Ole Barn Rd
- 9 Bugle La
- 10 Leather La
- 11 Tally Ho Dr
- 12 Fox Glen Dr
- 13 Kennel La
- 14 Jump Pl
- 16 Lair Way
- 17 Vixen Way
- 18 Fox Chase Ct
- 19 Hunting Horn La
- 20 Quietwood Rd