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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Federal

Greek Revival

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Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation Stone roof Asphalt shingle
walls Stone other Slate

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Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: State.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Exploration/Settlement
Military
Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1748 - 1869

Significant Dates : 1748 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Hedges, Joshua and Jesse Hedges

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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The Hedges-Lemen House is located off Berkeley County Route #4, 0.7 miles north of the intersection with West Virginia State Route #9, two miles south of Hegesville, West Virginia. Situated on a 208-acre farm at the end of a quarter mile lane, the setting is rural and peaceful. The house is on a hill and is shaded by mature trees.

The two-story, gable roof limestone dwelling house consists of a central block, measuring thirty-six feet wide by thirty feet deep, with wing measuring thirty feet wide by twenty-eight feet deep. The main section is much the earlier part and was built in 1748 by Joshua Hedges as an Indian fort named "Fort Hill." The "1748" datestone is located in approximately the middle of the south gable wall and, with difficulty, can still be discerned. The three-bay wing with two-tiered recessed porch was added to the fort by Joshua's son, Jese Hedges, in 1792. At this time, access between stories of the original fort section was by ladder only. This situation remained until the property was purchased by Thomas Newton Lemen from the Hedges family in 1837. Mr. Lemen remodelled the fort section of the house as a period home, ca. 1840. He made no alterations to the wing.

The house is built of coursed rock-faced stone on a high foundation. On the fort section, keystone flat arches highlight the first story front windows. The eight-panel entrance door is set within panelled reveals with a four-light transom. The one-bay, one-story entrance porch is of the Victorian era with a full balustrade and arched brackets. The porch is built on the original (1792) solid coursed stone foundation and has well-worn cut stone slab steps. The two-tiered recessed porch of the wing has a winder stairs, with cupboard, to give access to the second floor. The balustrades have been changed.

All windows in the main portion and on the ground floor of the wing are 9/6 double hung sash. Others are 6/6. Moldings used around the windows of the main section indicate that these were installed by Mr. Lemen. The quirked ovolo moldings and pegged sash are original to the 1792 period of the wing and the chamber of a wall oven is located in the north gable wall of the wing. A handsome cyma molded wooden cornice extends across both the front and rear facades of the main section. All bargeboards are beaded and all three chimneys are interior end stone chimneys with stone drip moldings.

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When Mr. Lemen remodelled the interior of the fort section, he created a very fine home, ca. 1840, with a central hall plan, one large room on one side and two rooms on the other. The open-well stair is of four flights with two plain spindles per step. A newel post is at each turn and carries the handrail. All windows on the first floor have splayed and panelled reveals with symmetrically molded trim and rounded corner blocks. Parlor window trim is carried to the floor, and the apron below the window is panelled. All doors are six-panel period doors.

There are four fireplaces in the main section of the house and one in the wing. The parlor mantel is of very late Federal design with a heavy molded frieze carried by plain, square-in-section pilasters. The dining room mantel is more delicate with a panelled frieze over symmetrically molded pilasters. This mantel and the one on the second story were probably installed by Jesse Hedges ca. 1792. The second floor mantel is a central tablet with end tablets, and there is a fine period architrave trim around the opening. Next to it is an original two-tiered, panelled door cupboard.

The basement under the fort section is divided into three rooms by stone support walls. In the main room is a large stone fireplace with heavy straight jambs. The doors are probably the original fort era doors, strong board-and-batten doors.

The two-story wing section is two rooms deep. The kitchen fireplace is large with an oven and can completely be closed with board-and-batten doors on pintel hinges. The battens are hand-made in a zig-zag fit for extra strength. These are original doors. Next to it is a two-tiered, board-and-batten door cupboard.

The second floor of the wing can only be reached by the exterior winder stairs on the porch; however, the attic access is by a graceful enclosed winder stair, with cupboard, located in the second floor end room. Hardware includes the early open locks, Norfolk latches (hand forged), and some strap hinges on pintels. There are peg boards in several of the rooms to hang clothing. Rafters in both sections are pegged-pole, early rafters.

Contributing resources include a stone barn, forty feet by seventy feet, built by Thomas Lemen ca. 1840 from stone quarried on the farm, and the Lemen family cemetery. The walled cemetery contains seven graves, those of Thomas Lemen and his wife Margaret and five of their seven children. The earliest grave is of an infant son John dated 1840 and the last is of the wife Margaret who died in 1869. The Lemen family owned "Fort Hill" from 1837 to 1945.

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The Hedges-Lemen House meets Criterion A of the National Register because of its associations with the Hedges and Lemen families that played important roles in the settlement of the area. Under Criterion C it is architecturally significant for having been built as an early fort, "Fort Hill," the dimensions and walls of which are intact. Also under Criterion C the house is representative of county domestic period architecture of ca. 1792 and ca. 1840.

Joseph Hedges lived in Monocacy, Maryland, and died there in 1732. Five of his ten children, Joshua, Jonas, Peter, Solomon, and Ruth (who married Abraham Van Metre), settled in Berkeley County from 1738 to 1754. These five Hedges families are among the earliest settlers in the county. Between them, they developed about three thousand acres of land which was inherited and further developed by their descendants, of which today, there are many. In 1832, Josiah Hedges, a grandson of Joshua, founded the town of Hedgesville (Nation Register District 1980).

Joshua Hedges purchased a 1,020-acre tract of land on January 11, 1743, from Morgan Bryan (This grant was given to Bryan by Lt. Governor Gooch of Virginia in 1735.). He established his residence on Tulissus Run by 1748 when he constructed "Fort Hill," a two-story stone residence probably originally surrounded by a stockade. Berkeley County experienced several devastating Indian raids until after the French and Indian War (1763), so for at least fifteen years, the Indians were a very real threat to Joshua Hedges and his family. "Fort Hill" became a stopping place for travelers on the Warm Spring road (now West Virginia Route #9). George and Martha Washington and Patsy lodged at Joshua Hedges on August 5, 1769, on their way to the springs (now Berkeley Springs, West Virginia) at Bath, Virginia, and again on the return trip on September 9, 1769. "Fort Hill" is only one of two existing houses in Berkeley County that Washington refers to in his own diaries as having visited. Joshua Hedges also furnished supplies to the American armies during the Revolutionary War. "Fort Hill" was sold by Reverend Chaplain Hedges, Joshua's grandson, in 1837 to Thomas Newton Lemen. The Reverend's brother, Southwood Hedges, had died of cholera in New Orleans.

Mr. Lemen remodelled the interior of the fort section of the house as a period home ca. 1840 and constructed the large stone and frame barn. Unfortunately, Lemen was shot and killed on July 16, 1863, by Confederate stragglers from the battle of Gettysburg because he refused to furnish corn for their horses. He died in the yard. "Fort Hill" remained in the Lemen family until 1945 when it was sold to Dr. T.K. Oates who used it as a summer residence.

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Dr. T.K. Oates founded and built the Martinsburg City Hospital as a private hospital in 1906 and personally owned and operated it until 1939 at which time he gave it to the community with the provision that it be operated by a board of trustees composed only of local citizens. His son, Dr. Max Oates, was a charter member of this board and became Medical Director of the hospital upon the death of his father in 1951. Through his influence and leadership, a new City Hospital was constructed in 1972 and expanded in 1981 to 260 beds, and there are plans currently for further expansion. It has become one of the major hospital centers in the area. Dr. Max Oates died in 1983.

"Fort Hill" is the only substantial stone fort building that has survived in Berkeley County. The exterior walls of the fort are intact, the stockade is of course gone, but the original floor plan of the fort was intact until ca. 1840 when Thomas Lemen, with appreciation of the substantial and solid stone construction and hilltop site, turned it into a period home.

There is excellent period craftsmanship of all three periods including: the substantial 1748 stone fort house with its chimneys and stone fire-boxes; the 1792 stone wing that is virtually intact with the unusual board-and-batten door oven fireplace, cupboards, winder stairs, pole rafters, and quirked ovolo trim; and the very fine period home built within the fort house by Lemen in ca. 1840 with the elegant four-flight, open-well stair, roundel and symmetrically molded trim, panelled doors, and fine mantels. Both Federal and Greek Revival design elements are present in the house.

"Fort Hill" is a historically significant building through its associations with families that had much to do with the development of Berkeley County from early settler days to the present times. It is architecturally significant as an early fort house that survived as a later period domestic dwelling and is architecturally representative of the progression of the area from early pioneer days to the decade of the Civil War era.

Period of Significance

The period of significance begins with construction of Fort Hill in 1748 and extends through the pre-Civil War period to the end of the civil War decade, about 1869, when the last of the Thomas Lemen family members were interred in the Lemen cemetery. Other references to the property in section 8 (outside the period of significance) are given to complete the historical narrative for the property during later 19- and 20th-century periods.

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- X Other -- Specify Repository: Berkeley County Historic Landmark Commission, H-42, County Survey

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 6 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	18	243920	4380950	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Beginning 140 ft SE of the house, thence, including 100 ft around the house, cemetery and barn, WSW 800 ft., NNW 200 ft NE 540 ft., ENE 300 ft., to the beginning (See sketch map).

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

The three nominated resources occupy the tract historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Frances D. Ruth

Organization: Berkeley County Historic Landmark Commission Date: Sept. 6, 1985; updated 11/90

Street & Number: c/o WV SHPO Telephone: 304-348-0240

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 25305

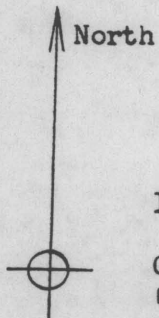
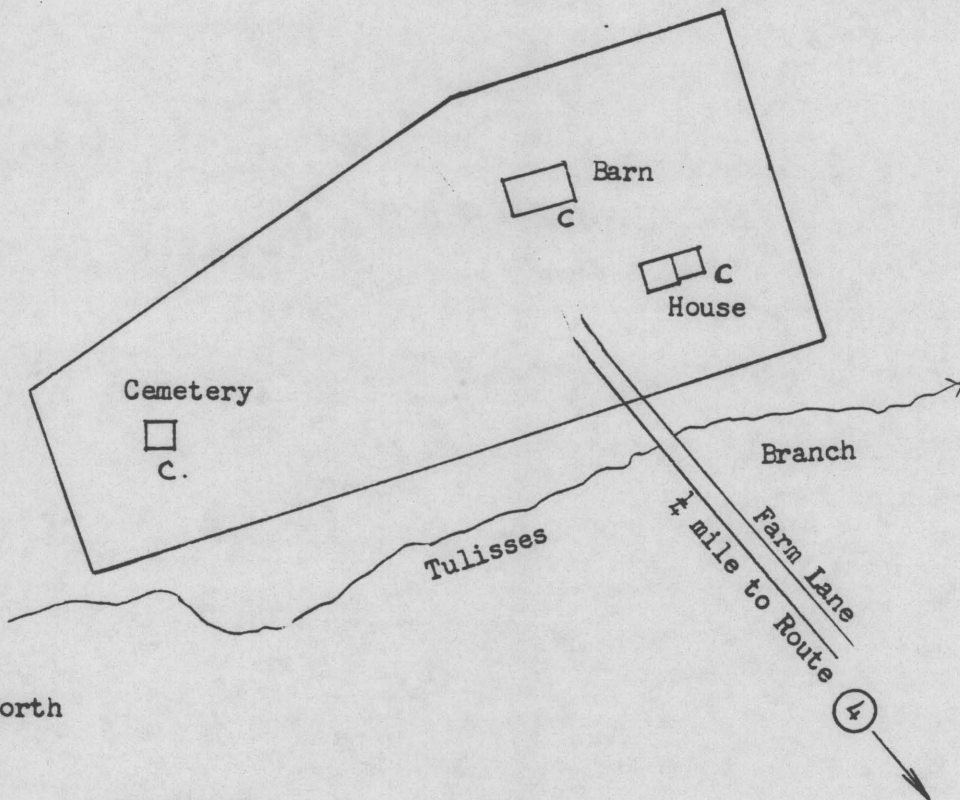
HEDGES-LEMEN HOUSE

H-42

Hedgesville Quadrangle

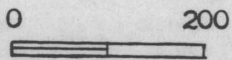
Berkeley County, West Virginia

Area 6 Acres



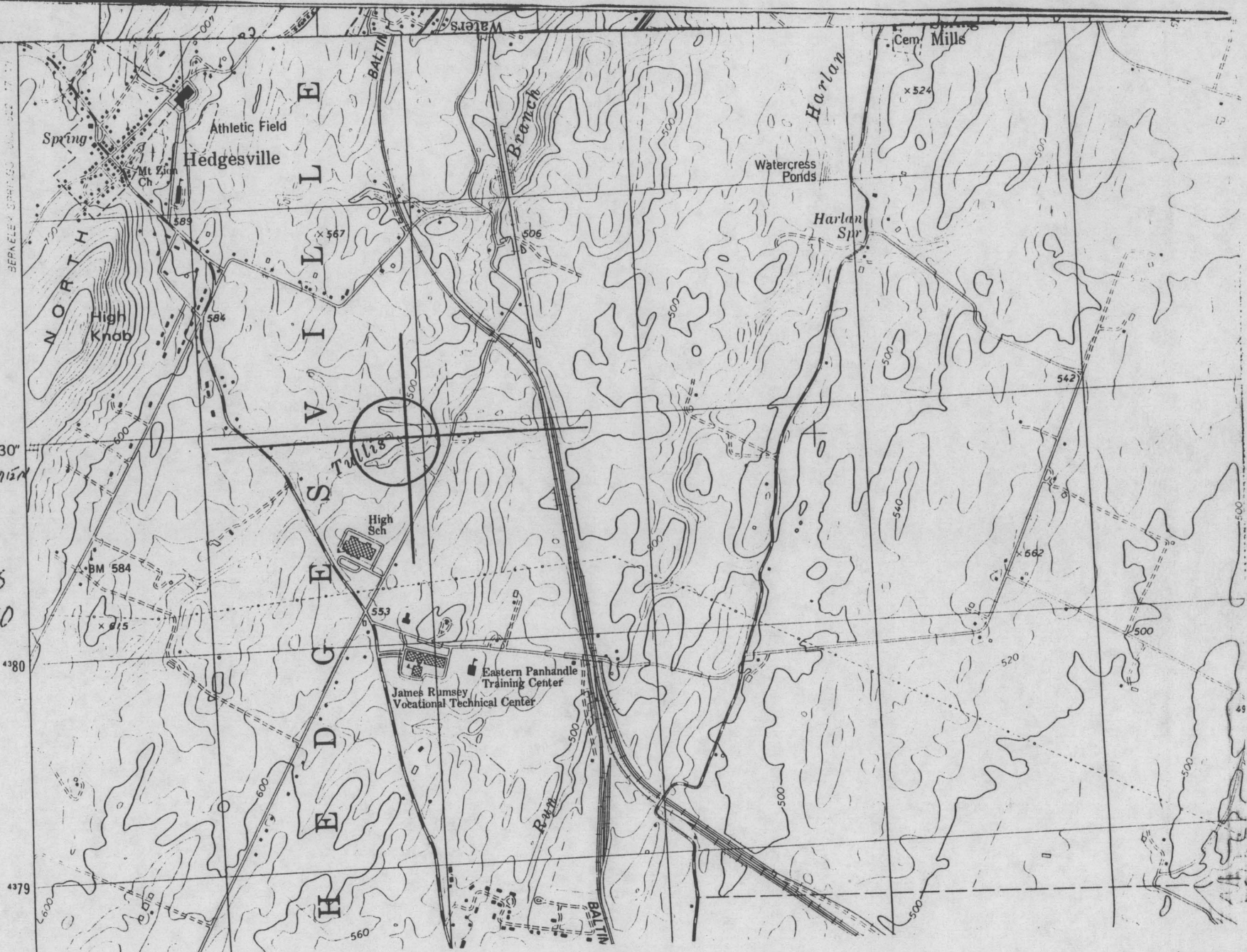
SCALE

1 inch = 200 feet



Copied August 1985 from
photo AGS-57-95, Jan 5 1938
by Galtjo L. Geertsema

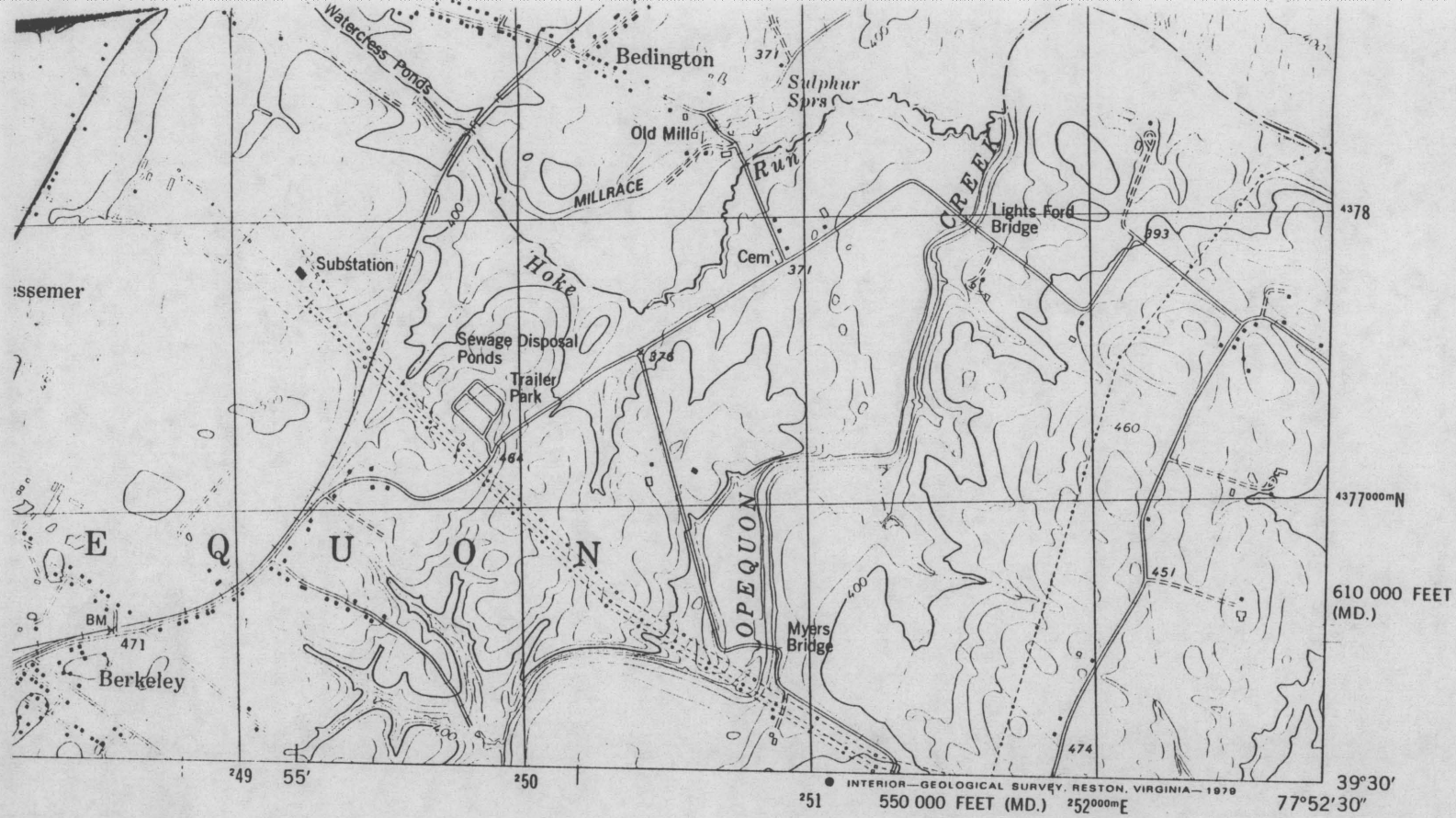
C = CONTRIBUTING



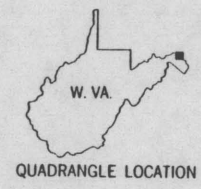
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HEDGES LEMIN
USE

M COORDINATES
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● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1979



INDARDS
A 22092
LE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface —————
- Secondary highway, hard surface ————
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface —————
- Unimproved road - - - - -
- Interstate Route ◻ U. S. Route ○ State Route

(SHEPHERDSTOWN)
5462 N NE

HEDGESVILLE, W. VA.—MD.

SW/4 WILLIAMSPORT 15' QUADRANGLE
N3930—W7752.5/7.5

1979

DMA 5463 III SW—SERIES V854

