

***SITE #4: THE PETE LEWIS PROPERTY***

The Pete Lewis property was one of the mid-sized homesteads in what is now Black Rock Forest. Although there is little written material documenting this farm before the creation of Black Rock, the landscape itself contains an abundance of evidence from which to draw conclusions.<sup>1</sup> The Lewis house, the foundation of which still stands, indicates an impressive enough residence for year-round occupancy. The extensive fields surrounding the home support this notion of a permanent habitation. The farm is divided into at least five fields, all bordered by stone walls. Again the size of the wallstones and the young tree growth in these fields indicates their use for cultivation rather than as pasturage for domesticated animals.<sup>2</sup> The two piles of stones located to the east of the foundation, which Lewis most probably created over the years as his plow uprooted rocks and he moved them to the edge of his fields, also indicates that the land was farmed. The only exception to this is the smallest field near Route 9W. The height of the walls surrounding this field, three feet all around, suggest their use as an animal enclosure. The pits located to the west of the household also illustrate that the Lewis's not only cleared the forest to make way for fields but also produced charcoal from this wood in order to supplement their agricultural income.

---

<sup>1</sup> The location of the Pete Lewis place is noted on Black Rock Forest Compartment XV Map, Black Rock Forest Archives, Cornwall, New York.

<sup>2</sup> That the Lewis's farmed is also supported by Babcock, interview by author, 20 May 1995.

Site #4: The Pete Lewis Property  
 Location: Just North of the Carpenter Road Gate  
 Between Old West Point Road & Route 9W  
 Map Created by Neil M. Maher

**Legend**

- stone wall 
- stream 
- swamp 
- pile of stones 
- witness tree 
- scale 

