

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Bruceville Historic District Inventory Number: CARR-923
 Address: Bruceville Road and Francis Scott Key Road City: Bruceville Zip Code: 21757
 County: Carroll USGS Topographic Map: Union Bridge
 Owner: various Is the property being evaluated a district? yes
 Tax Parcel Number: various Tax Map Number: various Tax Account ID Number: various
 Project: MD 194, Bridge No. 6035 over Big Pipe Creek Agency: MD SHA
 Site visit by MHT staff: no yes Name: _____ Date: _____
 Is the property is located within a historic district? yes no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: CARR-923
 NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes Name of District: Bruceville Historic District
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible yes no

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The village of Bruceville is significant for its association with two highly significant families in Carroll County history, the Bruces and the Keys, who were instrumental in the founding of the town, as well as for the outstanding contributions that members of those families made to county, state and national history. It retains particularly strong associations with them because the Bruces founded the village, and because of the substantial and architecturally notable extant houses that they built in Bruceville-- Mrytle Hill (CARR-924), and Good Intent (CARR-925).

Evidently at one point a bustling village with considerable industry, Bruceville has been greatly diminished and apart from these two large and exceptionally well preserved structures (Mrytle Hill and Good Intent), most of the local building stock that existed at the turn of the century has disappeared or is diminished through alterations or lack of physical upkeep. Thus, apart from the these two major buildings, there is loss of integrity in the structures as well as the streetscapes, related to the considerable diminishment of the village economically because it was bypassed and thus no longer functions as an employment and commercial center.

Bruceville had previously been located on a major road, but the town was bypassed when a new bridge was constructed north of the village and the stone arch bridge within the bypassed section removed. This truncated the integral physical relationship that

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

MHT Comments

Andrew Lewis
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

2/5/03
 Date

[Signature]
 Reviewer, NR Program

2/27/03
 Date

200300032

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Bruceville Historic District

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CARR-923

had existed between Bruceville and Good Intent, formerly reached directly by means of the stone arch bridge over Big Pipe Creek. It is currently reached only circuitously by means of Francis Scott Key Road, as Bruceville Road terminates in a dead end at the creek. There was also a disastrous loss of business when the bypass was built in 1939. There previously had been much loss of physical plant, including the original mill buildings, because of fires over the years, culminating in the scouring away of the remaining industrial structures, along with the outbuildings on parcels on the east side of Bruceville Road, when Hurricane Agnes caused the Big Pipe Creek to become a raging torrent in 1972. There are no businesses remaining in town with the exception of a factory on the north end (formerly Mehring's Fertilizer Plant), evidently currently used only for storage. The appearance of the streetscape of the basically very small linear village of Bruceville is greatly diminished due to the loss of vegetation and almost all outbuildings. There is ~~one~~ one non-contributing structure within the bounds.

Prepared by: Rita M. Suffness

Date Prepared: 12/05/2002

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-923

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bruceville Historic District (a k a York Road)

other _____

2. Location

street and number Bruceville Road and Francis Scott Key Road N/A not for publication

city, town Bruceville _____ vicinity

county Carroll

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Various

street and number _____ telephone _____

city, town _____ state _____ zip code _____

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. _____ liber _____ folio _____
city, town _____ tax map _____ tax parcel _____ tax ID number _____

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>14</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____ sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	_____ structure
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	_____ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>2</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. CARR-923

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary

Bruceville is a small village located on Big Pipe Creek, in Middleburg district, about one-half mile north of the Western Maryland and Frederick and Pennsylvania Line railroads. The town owes its founding to the Key and Bruce families of Scotch origin who came to the Middleburg district from Frederick County. "Terra Rubra" was patented to Philip Key of St. Mary's County, grandfather of Francis Scott Key, in 1752. Norman Bruce and Edward Digs received "Bedford" in 1763. Bruce traded some land with Key in order to carryout his plan to build a mill on Big Pipe Creek. He built a dwelling house, Myrtle Hill, which was owned by Frederick Mering late in the 19th century. In 1764 Bruce married Susanna Key, daughter of Philip Key and great aunt of Francis Scott Key.

Description

Bruceville is a small village located on Big Pipe Creek, in Middleburg district, about one-half mile north of the junction of the Western Maryland and Frederick and Pennsylvania Line Railroads. The town was laid out by Normand Bruce, who named it after himself. The earliest accounts of the history of Normand (a.k.a. Norman, Normond) Bruce are that he emigrated from Scotland about 1762, settling on Pipe Creek. In 1763 the state of Maryland granted to the above named Bruce and Edward Diggs 5,301 acres, extending from Keysville along Big Pipe Creek, north of Bruceville—the whole region was called "Bedford".

At the same time, the land south of the creek belonged to John Ross Key. Norman Bruce desired the Key property for the purpose of erecting a mill on Big Pipe Creek, thus he entered into negotiations with Key, which resulted in an exchange of their estates. In 1764 Norman Bruce married Susanne Key, daughter of a Philip Key of St. Mary's County, the first settled of that name in America. Philip Key had six children the third of which was the grandfather of Francis Scott Key. Susanna received from her father by will 1,400 acres of land, being one-half of "Terra Rubra". Bruce continued to add to the first grant of 5,301 acres, ultimately acquiring 14,089 acres. This contained several villages, about five flour and grist mills, several factories, shops of various kinds, two railroads passing through this land, with stations and warehouses. He was the sheriff of Frederick County, an officer in the Revolutionary War, one of the first Justices of the Peace, and Justice of the Levy Court in 1803. He had three children, one of which was Elizabeth Key Bruce, who married John Scott and built "Good Intent"(CARR-925), the large stone house on the north side of Pipe Creek.

After Bruce had exchanged property with Key, he built "Mrytle Hill" (CARR-924) and erected a large stone mill (owned later by George Mehring, which stood until 1881 when it was destroyed by fire), which were the heart of the linear village that he named after himself. Bruceville (a.k.a. York Road) encompasses two previously identified historic sites: Mrytle Hill (CARR-924), and Good Intent (CARR-925).

The following tax parcels are included within the Bruceville Historic District: 35/124, (Mehring's plant), 35/178 (Schoolhouse), 325/333 (not contributing), 35/332 (possibly former home of Dr. M. A Lanver) 35/101 (Stone Double House, George Mehring House) 35/218, (former Grimes/Weant Store) 35/209 (Frame/Stone House), 35/216 (Former Tavern with Blacksmith Shop Site), 35/168, (Mrytle Hill—CARR-194, includes remains of

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-923

Name

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stone arch bridge), 35/129 (Mercer Residence, former company housing), 35/193 (Wolfe Residence, former Sharets House, former company housing), 35/77 (Stitely Residence, former company housing), 35/220, (Roser Residence, former C. Koontz or George Mehring House), 35/90 (Altoff Residence, former company housing), and 27/184 (Good Intent—CARR-925, across Big Pipe Creek from Bruceville).

The village includes the home of the founder Normand Bruce (CARR-924 Mrytle Hill), the embankment of the original stone arch bridge which carried Bruceville Road over Big Pipe Creek (a crossing which has been replaced to the north by Bridge No. 6035), company worker housing, a schoolhouse and buildings that formerly housed village businesses. It includes four almost identical frame houses, which are though to have been constructed ca. 1850 by the mill owner, likely Mehring (a.k.a. Mering) for worker housing (Phares, personal communication, 11 October 2002). These four worker houses are located on the west side of Bruceville Road (1308 Bruceville Road, Stitely residence, parcel 77; 1296 Bruceville Road, Althoff residence, parcel 90; 1320 Bruceville Road, Mercer residence, parcel 129; and 1312 Bruceville Road, Wolfe residence, parcel 193).

The village was laid out by Bruce, who established the community in his name and around 1800 he constructed a mill that was an economic mainstay of the community that included a coach shop, blacksmith, school, store and a resident physician. George Mering owned the large Bruce stone mill in the nineteenth century before being destroyed by fire in 1881. From 1768 to 1771 Bruce was High Sheriff of his county, and also served as an officer in the Revolution. As recorded in either the 1862 Martenet map or the 1877 Atlas of Carroll County, Nicholas Koons was at one time the village blacksmith and Jesse Cloud converted Mrytle Hil to use as a hotel. Dr. Liggett was the physician and Mr. Trego was the merchant.

The town's postmaster in 1857 was George Mering, a.k.a. Mehring as noted in Wingate's Maryland Register). According to a ca. 1900 article by E. H. Sharets that appeared in the Carroll Record, the town had a population of 60 around the turn of the century, at which time it afforded considerable employment. In 1820 there was gristmill, sawmill, dwelling houses, out houses and other improvements in the town. By 1833, deed research notes that there was also a tavern house, miller's house, coopers house and shop, and stabling for horses. By 1862 there is a mill, sawmill, bonemill and dwellings, according to contemporary descriptions. Later there was a canning plant owned and operated by E. H. Sharets and Brothers, cigar and ice cream factory owned and managed by S. Weant, blacksmith shop owned by Cornelius Koons, and a shoemaker shop run by Benedict Knott. William Kolb operated a general store and the postmistress around 1900 was Mertie Weant. The school was taught by Miss Carrie Harbaugh (E. H. Sharets, "History of Bruceville", ca. 1895-1904, reprinted in The Carroll Record Histories of Northwestern Carroll County Communities (Historical Society of Carroll County, 1994.) pp. 53-54.

The stone schoolhouse taught by Carrie Harbaugh, located at the south end of town, was utilized as a school until 1932, at which time it was sold for \$450. It was converted to a dwelling by its owner, Dean Wolfe within a few decades of the sale, with considerable change to the building in the form of a dormer added to the north slope, change of entrance, the application of siding, and sundry internal alterations.

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Name

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At present, however, there are no businesses other than a largely discontinued fertilizer plant, which was purchased by a descendent of the local Mehring family in 1957 (Patrick Minnich, vertical file, Carroll County Historical Society, January, 1965), originally built to convert guano to fertilizer. Kerr McGee purchased it from Mehring. It is located on the south end of town. A Mehring ancestor, Frederick Mering, had evidently converted a gristmill to a phosphate mill in the mid-19th century.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CARR-923

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates late 18th century-1950

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates late 18th century-ca. 1980 (non-contributing structure)

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary

The village of Bruceville is significant for its association with two highly significant families in Carroll County history, the Bruces and the Keys, who were instrumental in the founding of the town, as well as for the outstanding contributions that members of those families made to county, state and national history. It retains particularly strong associations with these families as Normand Bruce founded the village, and because of the architecturally notable extant houses that they built in Bruceville--- Mrytle Hill (CARR-924), and Good Intent (CARR-925). It is significant in retaining the buildings that once housed important local industries and businesses, although, apart from the two major dwellings, there is loss of integrity in the structures as well as the streetscape, related to the considerable diminishment of the village economically because it was bypassed and thus no longer functions as an employment and commercial center.

Significance Statement

The village of Bruceville is significant for its association with two highly significant families in Carroll County history. Nonetheless, at one point a bustling village with considerable industry, the subsequent loss of Bruceville's economic viability around the middle of the twentieth century, is reflected in the diminished physical integrity of the streetscape, and apart from these two large and exceptionally well preserved structures (Mrytle Hill and Good Intent), most of the local building stock that existed at the turn of the century has disappeared or is diminished through alterations or lack of physical upkeep.

Bruceville had previously been located on a major road, but the town was bypassed in the mid twentieth century when a new bridge was constructed north of the village and the stone arch bridge within the bypassed section removed. This truncated the integral physical relationship that had existed between Bruceville and Good Intent, formerly reached directly by means of the stone arch bridge over Big Pipe Creek. It is currently reached only circuitously by means of Francis Scott Key Road, as Bruceville Road terminates in a dead end at the creek. There was also a disastrous loss of business when the bypass was built in 1939. There previously had been much loss of physical plant, including the original mill buildings, because of fires over the years, culminating in the scouring away of the remaining industrial structures, along with the outbuildings on parcels on the east side of Bruceville Road, when Hurricane Agnes caused the Big Pipe Creek to become a raging torrent in 1972. There are no businesses remaining in town with the exception of a factory on the north end (a former fertilizer

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Name
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Number 8 Page 1

plant), evidently currently used only for storage. The appearance of the streetscape of the basically very small linear village of Bruceville is greatly diminished due to the loss of vegetation and almost all outbuildings on the east side of the main street. There is one, new, non-contributing structure within the bounds.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CARR-923

Atlas of Carroll County (Lake, Griffing and Stevenson), 1877.

Klein, Frederic S., Just South of Gettysburg (Historical Society of Carroll County, 1963).

Phares, Patricia (Suffness, personal communication, 11 October 2002).

Sharets, E. H. "History of Bruceville", ca. 1895-1904, reprinted in The Carroll Record Histories of Northwestern Carroll County Communities (Historical Society of Carroll County, 1994) pp. 53-54.

Warner, Nancy M., et. al., Carroll County, MD: A History, 1837-1976 (Carroll County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), p 53.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 141 acres (includes agricultural property north of Good Intent)

Acreage of historical setting ca.24

Quadrangle name

Union Bridge

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic site boundary encompasses all of the historic structures within the linear village of Bruceville, including dwellings and a former tavern, store, school, plus company housing, as well as two sites previously identified in the Maryland Inventory (Mrytle Hill and Good Intent). The latter site, Good Intent, although outside of the village proper, had an integral tie to the village, not only through familial ties to the founder of Bruceville, but also because it formerly was directly linked to the village prior to the construction of the existing Bridge No. 6035 by means of a stone arch structure that connected Mrytle Hill and Good Intent. On the north it is coterminous with the northern and northeastern property lines of tax parcel 184 (map 27), then coterminous with the west side of the Bib Pipe Creek until it intersects the railroad tracks that define the east border. On the south it is coterminous with the lines of parcel 124 (tax map 35) to a point that intersects Bruceville Road, along which it continues (excluding parcels 3, 323, and 219, map 35) until it intersects the southeast corner of tax parcel 90 (tax map 35), at which point it is coterminous with the rear property lines of parcels 220, 77, 129, 193, and 168 (all tax map 35). The boundary is defined on the west by the SHA easement line until it intersects with the north tax parcel line of no.184 (Good Intent) at which point this description commenced.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title **Ms. Rita M. Suffness, Senior Architectural Historian/Cultural Resource Manager**

organization **MD SHA** date **December 11, 2002**

street & number **707 N. Calvert St.** telephone **410-5458561**

city or town **Baltimore** state **MD**

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

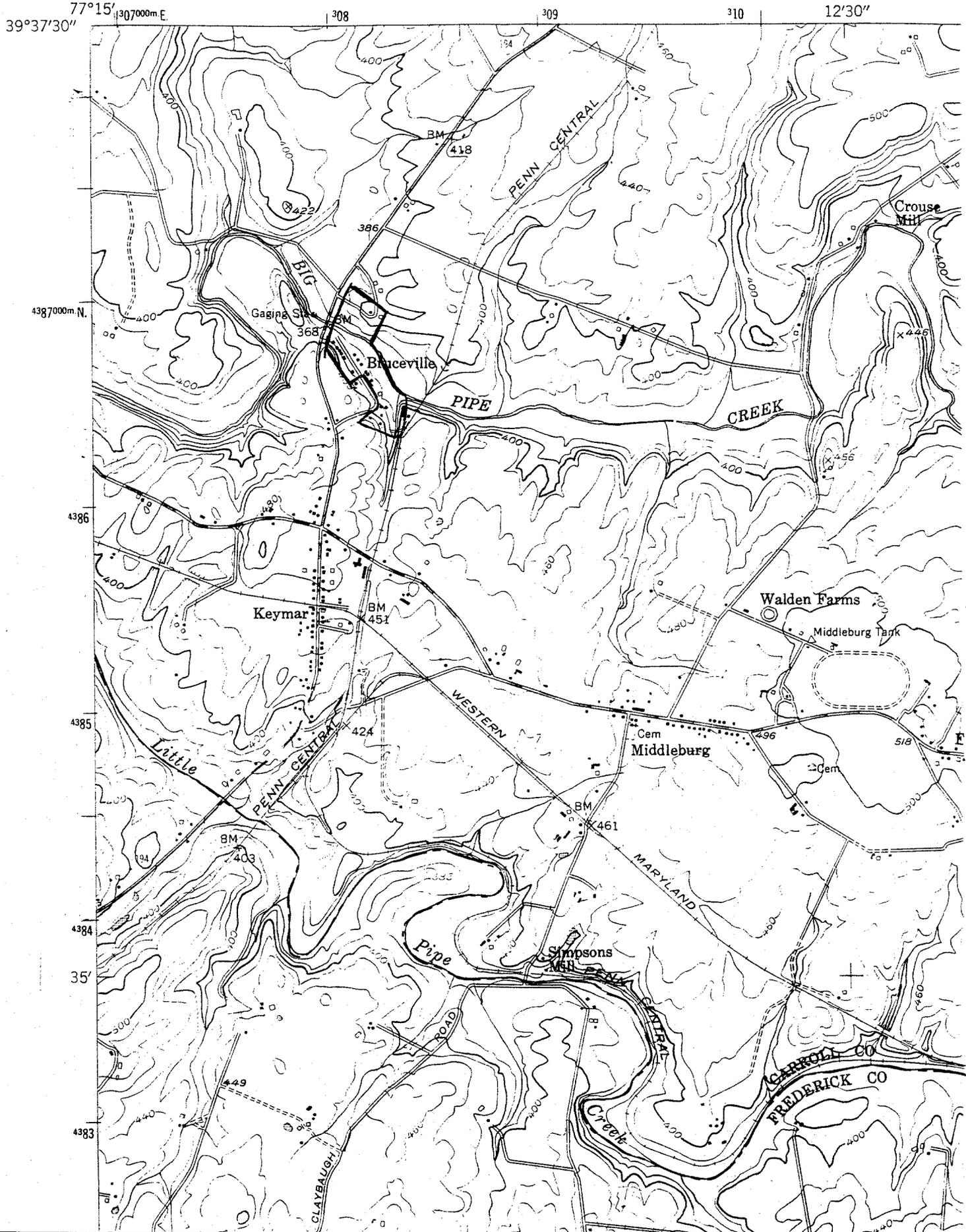
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

5563 III NE
(EMMITTSBURG)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CARR-923
Bruceville Historic District
Union Bridge Quadrangle
Historic Site Boundary





Carr 923

Bruceville Historic District

Mehring Plant

parcel 35/124

looking north
negs at SAPO

Suffren 9/2002

1 of 14



Card 923

Breenville Historic District

Breenville Historic

converted to period piece

35/178

RECEIVED
SEP 21 1992

negs at MD SHPO

Juffrey M. H. A

9/2002

2/10



Carr 923

Buccelle Historic District

former Lanier house

35133

neg at MA #10

Suffolk MASHA

9/2002

3/14



Cave 923

Brunswick Boston Ash

Stone Double Row

(y oak)

351-1

map at 171051100

Superior MASHA

9/2002

4/14



Cur 9-3

Brucelle Reston Reston

James Brown

Went Home

35/218

map at 101004 Po

Suff. road

ms 1101

012002

5/44



Coontz-blacksmith

Carr 923

Bruceville Historic District

Thayer ^{non-existent} ~~blacksmith~~ shop
mill store

former Coontz property

negs at 1105 1/2 Pine Street

Suffren MDSHA

9/2002

6/14



Carr 923

Bruceville Historic District

Former locate. of Tavern

now - cut out Blockhouse

3 up

Suffolk Mass 4A

9/2002

7/14



Carr 923

Princeton Historic District

(Myrtle Hill, Carr 924)

negs at Marshall P.

1911
1912

1913
1914

Suppressed MHC

8/14

9/2002



Case 923

Bruceville Huston District

former company housing

351124

Murphy Residence

regarding HUD file

Support HUD file

9/14

9/2002



Carr 923

Bruceville Historic District
former company house

35/193

rep at MASHPC

Support MASHPC

9/2002

10/14



Case 923

Bruceville Historic District

former company dining
35/77.

SEP 2002 GAI

SEP 2002 GAI

SEP 2002 GAI

rep at MD SHPO

Address 9/2002
MD SHA

11/14



Carr 923

Brewer's ~~Historic~~ ^{Stately Home} Street

former Meeting House
35/220

reqs at MD SHPC

Just
9/2002
MD SHPC

12/14



Carr 923

Brucewell Heston District

former company
housing

35/90

2002 GAI

SEP 2002 GAI

SEP 2002 GAI

SEP

rep at end 51101

Suttons 9/2002

MD SHA

13/14



Cave 923

Bruce & Nelson

Good Intent (CARR 9-25)

27/184

sup at MD 5

Supper 9/2002

14/14