F-1-184
William H. Renn Farmstead
Adamstown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1897-1920

The William H. Renn Farmstead is centered on a circa 1897 frame dwelling with polygonal bays, a center cross gable, and a two-story rear wing. The exterior is covered with asbestos shingles. The probable turret roofs of the polygonal bays have been removed, along with the original slate roof, and replaced with composition material. The outbuildings include a circa 1850 stone smokehouse which was associated with an earlier dwelling on the farm, a circa 1897 frame bank barn, a frame garage, chicken house, wagon shed/corn crib, and a rusticated concrete block milk house. All except the smokehouse date from the period 1897-1920. The farmstead is moderately significant for the architecture of the main house, which features in altered form, the typical elements of the late 19th century Queen Anne style popularized by several local builders in the Adamstown, Buckeystown, and Doubs vicinity. The polygonal bays were frequently used by these builders, although in the original design, would have turret roofs in patterned slate. The Renn house bays are truncated, the roofs having been removed and the slate replaced by modern material. The porch may also have had more detailed trim work, as this was also very common in the turn of the century period. The outbuildings are typical examples of the functional agricultural buildings of the period. The farm originated as a tenant farm on Carrollton Manor and was purchased from Emily Harper, Charles Carroll's heir, in 1867 by George A. Bready, whose family had occupied the tract for many years. In 1889, George C. Renn bought the farm and sold in 1897 to his son, William H. Renn, who had the present buildings erected. The former dwelling with which the smokehouse was associated was demolished.

F-1-184
William H. Renn Farmstead
Adamstown
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/garage
Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary

Know Design Source: None

M103 P7

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-1-184

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic William H. Renn Farmstead

and/or common Green Meadows

2. Location

street & number 5514 Mountville Road ___ not for publication

city, town Adamstown _x_ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_x_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_x_ building(s)	_x_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_x_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_x_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	_x_ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name William M. and Doris Kathleen Renn

street & number 5514 Mountville Road telephone no.:

city, town Adamstown state and zip code MD 21710

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 641

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 83

city, town Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-1-184

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_x_ original site
_x_ good	___ ruins	_x_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 6

The William H. Renn Farmstead is an originally agricultural complex now principally a private residence centered on a circa 1897 frame dwelling with two stories and a perpendicular rear wing and its associated domestic and agricultural outbuildings, including a stone smokehouse built about 1850-1875, a frame garage of the early 20th century, a frame wagon shed/corn crib built about 1897, a frame and stone bank barn of about 1897, a rusticated concrete block milk house, and a frame chicken house, both of about 1920. The farmstead is located on the north side of Mountville Road about 1/4 mile west of the B&O Railroad tracks near Adamstown, Frederick County, Maryland. The building group is sited at the end of a driveway from Mountville Road where a gate and signpost with the current owners' names and the name of the farm "Green Meadows" are displayed. Dates for the buildings were estimated from land records, local histories, and architectural details.

The dwelling faces south and has a five-bay principal elevation with a center cross gable and polygonal bays at the corners. A one-story porch with Tuscan columns extends across the south elevation. The concrete block deck replaces the original wood deck. The exterior of the house is covered with asbestos shingle siding, concealing the original german siding. The windows are 1/1 replacements in the main section, although some of the original 2/2 sash remains in place on the rear wing. In the cross gable is a Gothic arched window with tracery muntins. Th chimneys are located near the center of the gable roof, which is covered with composition material, replacing the original patterned slate. Since the polygonal bays are a common feature in the Adamstown Region and were built with turret roofs, it may be assumed that the flat roofs of the bays once had conical roofs of slate. The center entrance has a 4-panel door with arched molding panels. A three-light transom and sidelights surround the doorway. The two-story rear wing has a two-story open porch on the east side. Turned columns and a balustrade are on the upper level and modern cast iron replacement columns are on the first story. The base of the porch is concrete as on the main elevation porch. An enclosed section on the second level porch was the original bathroom in the house, added in the early 20th century. Later, a second family bathroom was made in a former second story bedroom and the original bathroom became a small servant's room with its own bath. The enclosed section on the first story porch below this part is a pantry off the kitchen in the wing.

The interior of the house has been considerably altered in finishes, but the main floor plan of the house remains virtually intact. The window and door openings have corner blocks and pine trim. Wallpaper covers the plaster and lath interior walls. Hardwood floors are still in place. Molded mantels which appear to be original are also present.

Outbuildings:

Smokehouse: The square plan stone smokehouse is located on the east side of the entrance drive to the complex. According to Mr. Renn, the building was associate

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-1-184

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	x architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
x 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
x 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates C. 1897 - 1920 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B x C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state x local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The William H. Renn Farmstead is moderately significant for the architecture of the circa 1897 dwelling and the outbuildings, which range in date from about 1850 to 1920. The house reflects a commonly found local version of the Queen Anne style which features twin corner turrets on polygonal bays. The basic plan of the house is the five-bay L-shaped plan found in Frederick County from the late 18th century well into the 20th century. In the last quarter of the 19th century, local contractors in Buckeystown, Adamstown, and Doubs began to add polygonal bays to the corners of the main elevations and the gable ends, along with elaborately trimmed porches, cornices, gable ornaments and shingling, and roof finials and crests. The roofs were usually patterned slate. The variation in surface planes and finishes was characteristic of the Queen Anne style from about 1880 to 1915. The William H. Renn Farmstead may have had more of the elaborated trim, but it has been removed over several periods of remodeling, along with the turret roofs over the polygonal bays. The frame outbuildings reflect the most commonly used materials and designs of the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century. The farm was originally one of the Carrollton Manor tenant properties and was occupied for many years by the Bready family. In 1867, George A. Bready purchased the farm of 272 acres from Emily Harper, one of Charles Carroll of Carrollton's heirs. A 97-acre section of this tract was bought in 1889 by George C. Renn and in 1897, William H. Renn (born 1871), his son, acquired the farm. According to Williams & McKinsey's History of Frederick County (1910), "it has fine stretches of meadow land and has been brought to a high state of cultivation. His farm has one of the best springs of water in Frederick County, and is an exceptional(ly) fine dairy farm, on which he keeps twenty-five choice milch cows. Mr. Renn has built for himself a comfortable two-story frame dwelling, a bank barn, and all the necessary buildings. Besides his farming, he has a fine traction engine, a threshing machine, and a hay packer with which he has been doing a profitable business for twelve years. . . . He is one of the leading business men of the county and was one of the organizers of the Adamstown Canning Company." Grove's History of Carrollton Manor (1928) includes a memoir by Rev. Guy Bready in which he recalls that during the Civil War the open meadows were frequently used as camp sites by both the Union and Confederate armies, probably because of the good spring water. Guns and swords left behind by the armies were supposedly dumped into a well near the original dwelling (later demolished) by local boys fearing to be caught with weapons by military authorities. No trace of these has been found.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-1-184

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858

Grove, William J. History of Carrollton Manor. Frederick: Marken & Bielfeld, Inc., 1928; 164-165, 432-433.

Land Records of Frederick County

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name Buckeystown, Md.-Va. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres centered on the dwelling on Tax Map 103, Parcel 7

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. **date** June 1993

street & number 12 E. Church Street **telephone** 696-2958

city or town Frederick **state** MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MAR
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

7.1 DESCRIPTION (Continued)

with an earlier dwelling on the farmstead which was located just east of the smokehouse in a field now used as a pasture. The smokehouse has a hipped standing seam metal roof with a scalloped bargeboard trim in rather deteriorated condition. The peak of the roof rises into a small cupola vent, now covered with the metal roofing material. The interior of the building has a board floor with a small open stone fireplace in the southwest corner, and open rafters with hooks. Mr. Renn states that the area under the smokehouse was used in the early 20th century as an icehouse. The date of the smokehouse may be as early as 1850, but further research on the history of the tract may reveal a more exact date.

Garage: The frame garage is located behind the house and has tongue-and-groove siding and sliding doors on the east elevation. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. It appears to have been built in the period about 1910-1920.

Chicken house: A small frame chicken house stands next to the garage, with vertical siding and a corrugated shed roof. Mr. Renn states that the building has been moved several times within the farmstead and it is currently not in use. Its date is probably about 1920.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed corn crib faces south and has vertical siding and a corrugated metal roof. It appears to date from about 1897, a date supported by local histories. It is currently used as a storage building.

Bank barn and milk house: The frame bank barn has a stone foundation and vertical and board and batten siding. Louvred arched vents are in all elevations. The roof is covered with corrugated metal. The rusticated concrete block milk house is located just south of the barn. It has a gable standing seam metal roof. The barn was probably built about 1897 according to land records and local histories, and the milk house was added in the early 1920's. A non-contributing concrete block dairy barn and milk house are also in the complex, currently in use as storage and workshop.

9.1 BIBLIOGRAPHY (Continued)

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, 1169-1170.

Renn Farm

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
641/83 1 Aug 60	William M. & Doris K. Renn	Vivian Hatcher	97 a. ~~2 R. 30.3 sq.~~ 23.9 p. "Home Farm"		
641/80 1 Aug 60	Vivian E. Hatcher	Wm. M. & Doris K. Renn			
641/74 1 Aug 60	Wm. M. & Doris K. Renn	Beatrice S. Renn & Benjamin L. Shuff, exec's of LW&T of W. Homer Renn, dec.		$30,000	
Will Record TME 1/191 1 May 59	Wm. M. Renn	W. Homer Renn	"...right and privilege to purchase 'the home farm' Consisting of 98 a... for $30,000."		
549/476 28 Jul 55	W. Homer Renn	W. Homer & Meredith E. Renn, exec's of LW&T of Wm. H. Renn, dec.		$15,000	Will Record HDR 2/442 31 Jan 55
444/251 17 Oct 44	Wm. H. Renn	W. Homer Renn	3rd Parcel "Home Farm" 97 a., 3R., 31 ~~sq~~ p.		
425/329 17 Aug 40	W. Homer Renn	A. LeRoy McCardell & Charles C. Renn, surv. trustees			
376/560 20 Jan 31	A. LeRoy McCardell C. C. Renn, Albert S. Brown, trustees	Wm. H. & Edith G. Renn in Equity 12,183			
JLJ 16/516 20 Oct 1897	Wm. H. Renn	George Calvin Renn et ux	Part of Lot No. 8, one of the Grand Divisions of Carrollton Manor ~~130 a.~~ 97 a., 3R.	$7,500	
WIP 9/78 25 Mar 1889	George Calvin Renn	Henry E. Smith		$12,317.50	

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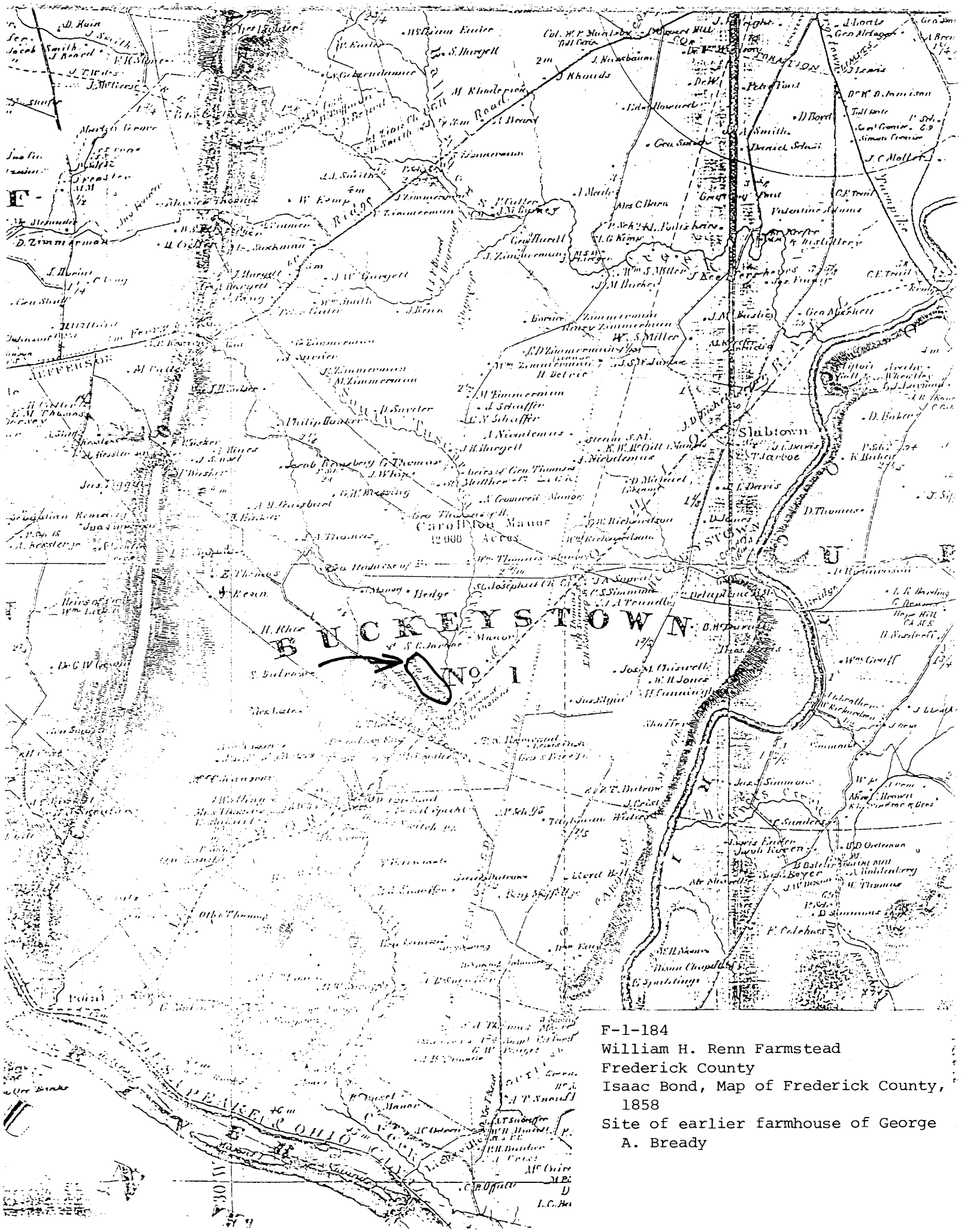
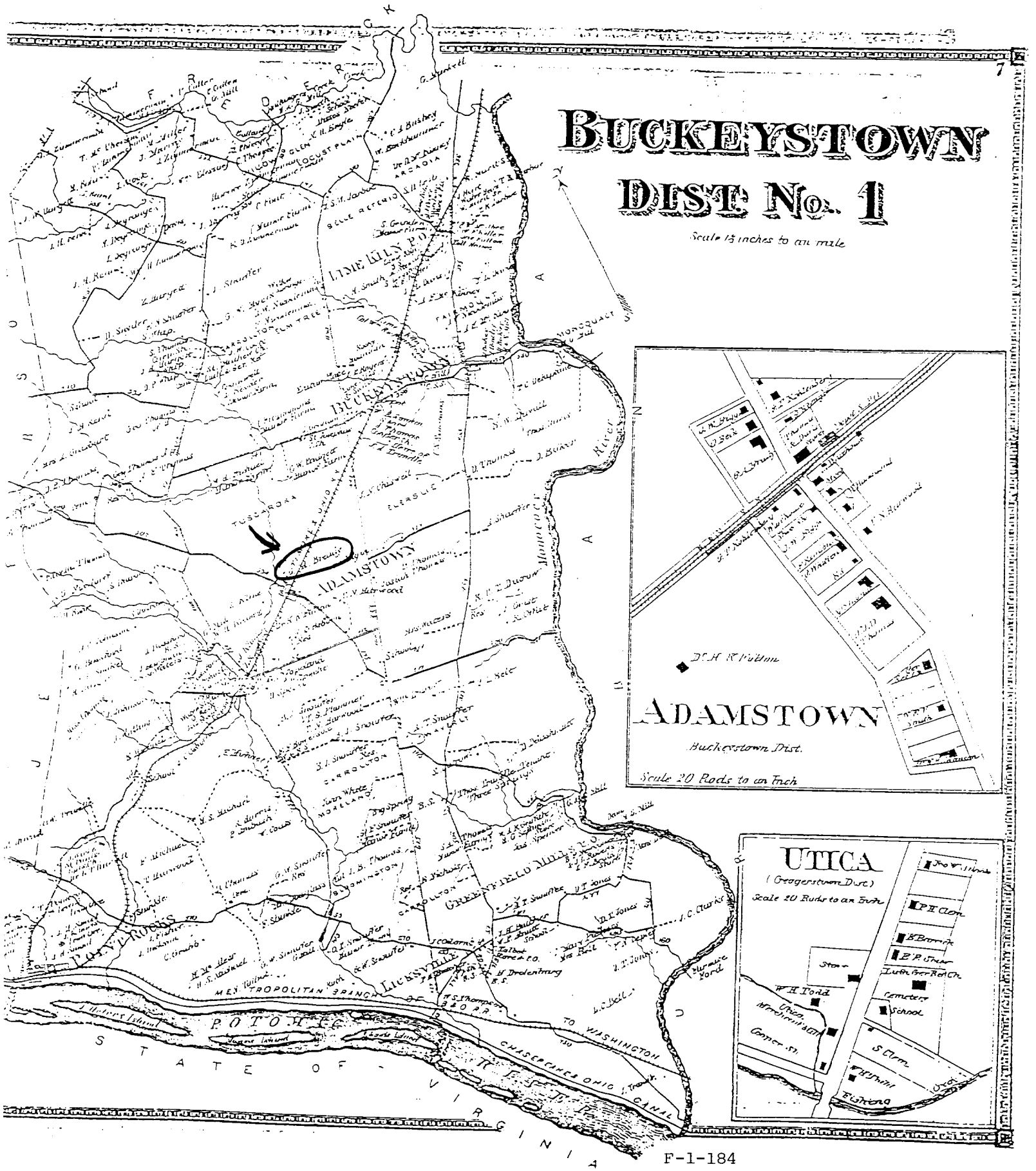
Renn Farm P. 2

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
TG 11/283 1 Apr 1879	Henry E. Smith	George A. & Ann E. Bready	180 A., surveyed by George Thomas of H., surveyor on 14 Mar 1879	$10,400	
DSB 1/716 25 Apr 1867	George A. & Ann E. Bready	Emily L. Harper	272 A. + 30 3/4 A.	$12,412.75	

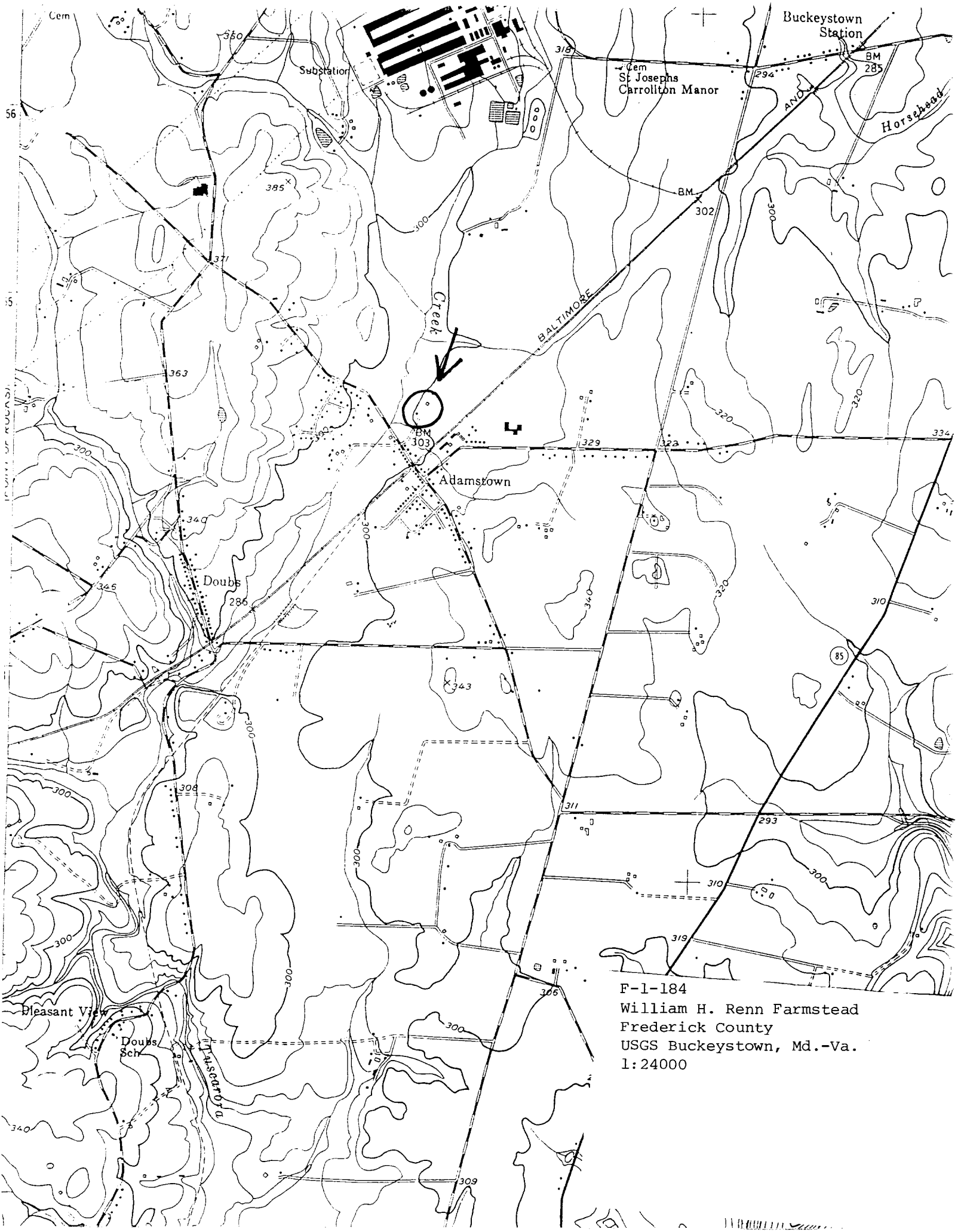
F-1-184



F-1-184
William H. Renn Farmstead
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County, 1858
Site of earlier farmhouse of George A. Bready



F-1-184
William H. Renn Farmstead
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873
Site of earlier farmhouse of George A. Bready



F-1-184
William H. Renn Farmstead
Frederick County
USGS Buckeystown, Md.-Va.
1:24000

F-1-184
William H. Rein Farmstead
Frederick County
Photo: Janet Davis
June 1993
Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.
South elevation
1/7

F-1-184
William H. Renn Farmstead
Frederick County
Photo: Janet Davis
June 1993
Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO Crownsville Md
Northeast corner view
2/7

F-1-184
William H. Penn Farmstead
Frederick County
Photo: Janet Davis
June 1993
Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO Brownsville, Md.
Smokehouse, north elevation
3/7

F-1-184
William H. Renn Farmstead
Frederick County
Photo: Janet Davis
June 1993
Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO (Crownsville, Md.)
Garage and chicken house, east elevations
4/7

F-1-184
William H. Renn Farmstead
Frederick County
Photo: Janet Davis
June 199_
Neg. loc.: Md. [illegible], Crownsville, Md
Wagon shed/corn crib, southeast corner view
5/7

F-1-184

William H. Renn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1973

Neg. loc.: Md. H.P.C. Crownsville, Md.

Bank barn and milk house, east elevations

6/7

F-1-184
William H. Renn Farmstead
Frederick County
Photo: Janet Davis
June 1995
Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.
Bank barn and milk house, view from south
7/7