

F-1-191

Castle-Thomas Farmstead; "Manor Heights"

1853-ca. 1920

Adamstown vicinity

Private

The Castle-Thomas Farmstead has an 1853 brick dwelling built by Lewis Castle which was sold to Josiah S. Thomas in 1860. The two-story house has the traditional five-bay facade with a one-story porch and a two-story rear wing. The outbuildings which remain are a log smokehouse of about 1853, a frame bank barn of about 1900, a frame hog barn, a frame privy, and a wagon shed/corn crib, all of about 1900-1920. The significance of the farmstead is based on the elaborate ceiling and wall frescoes in the south parlor of the house, which were signed on the top of the door frame by John Henry Lampe in September 1867. Lampe was apparently a highly skilled locally trained fresco painter who went on to a distinguished career in Frederick County and neighboring areas. Although other examples of his work have not been identified, the 1910 History of Frederick County states that his works adorned churches, public halls, and other prominent buildings. Currently, however, this is the only signed work by Lampe that has been documented. The paintings have been somewhat altered by overpainting in recent years, but full restoration is still an unexplored possibility. The farmstead is also moderately significant for the architecture of the house which, although undergoing alterations, retains most of its exterior features and a particularly fine example of a painted and grained slate mantel of the period 1870-1880.

F-1-191  
Castle-Thomas 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:  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870  
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning  
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use

Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse  
Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/barn  
Agriculture/Subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: John Henry Lampe (1841-1910), fresco painter whose signature and the date September 1867 are found on top of the door frame in the south parlor. Biographical sketch in Williams & McKinsey, History of Frederick County, 1910, pp. 907-908.

Castle-Thomas Farmstead; "Manor Heights"  
Frederick County

SURVEY No. F-1-191

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Thomas, G. Leicester, Genealogy of John Thomas Family. Washington, D.C., Judd & Detweiler, 1947, 53.

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

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910.  
Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, 1431-1432.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Castle-Thomas Farmstead; "Manor Heights"

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 2735 New Design Road  not for publication

city, town Adamstown  vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Joseph A. Carone Trust c/o Joseph A. Carone

street & number 2735 New Design 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 1731

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 763

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Castle-Thomas Farmstead is centered on a two-story brick dwelling built in 1853, according to a dated brick in the rear two-story wing, with interior painted ceiling frescoes dated 1867 by John Henry Lampe, an artist active in Frederick County from the mid-1850's to about 1910. The remaining farmstead outbuildings include a circa 1853 log smokehouse, a frame wagon shed, bank barn, hog barn, and a privy, all dating about 1900-1909. A non-contributing concrete block dairy barn and milk house is also in the grouping. The farmstead is located on the west side of New Design Road about 1/4 mile south of Adamstown Road near Adamstown, Frederick County, Maryland. The house is on a knoll facing west across rolling open pastures. The outbuildings are located east of the house. The environment around the 11.2-acre property on the east side of New Design Road is changing, with modern housing developments in place or planned to encircle the property. Dates for the outbuildings are based on architectural details and land records.

The house has a five-bay west elevation laid in 8:1 American bond. The entrance is in the center bay and a one-story porch with chamfered square piers and a wood deck extends across the facade. The 6/6 windows have molded lintels and louvred shutters. The windows flanking the center bay are jib windows. The doorway has a 7-light rectangular transom and sidelights. The main cornice is corbeled brick and the roof is covered with composition material, with interior end chimneys. On the south elevation is a single off-center bay above a cellar entrance in the stone foundation. Two-over-two attic windows with molded lintels and shutters flank the chimney stack. The north elevation has no window openings except the attic windows which are the same as on the south. The rear wing and the side elevations have 5:1 bond walls with a vertical joint line visible at the junction of the main section and the wing on the south elevation. The reason for this break in the masonry has not been determined, since both the main section and the wing were apparently built at the same time. The north side of the wing has a two-story open porch with square posts and a plain balustrade on the upper level. The deck of the first story is concrete and the ceiling on the first story has been remodeled with inset light fixtures. The dated 1853 brick is next to the door on the first level. An interior end chimney is located on the east end of the wing. The south elevation of the wing has been altered with a modern one story addition, on which work is still in progress, including an adjoining outside wood deck and screened-in gazebo and a one-story frame extension on the east end of the wing to house a mud room and other service areas.

The interior of the house has a double parlor plan with a central stair hall. The stairway has scroll-sawn closer decoration and turned balusters and newel post. A chair rail with "nailhead" trim encircles the hall. The plaster ceiling of the hall and the soffit of the stairway are painted in formal Neo-Classical bordered patterns with rosettes. These have been altered with touch-up overpainting in the recent past, but the original design, undoubtedly part of the 1867 fresco work of John Henry Lampe, is still apparent. The south parlor has additional work by Lampe, which has also been overpainted, particularly in the center panel, leaving only t

(Continued on separate sheet)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-1-191

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

**Specific dates** 1853 - C. 1920      **Builder/Architect**

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

The Castle-Thomas Farmstead is principally significant under the social/educational/cultural theme for the high artistic values and quality of the fresco paintings in the main dwelling by John Henry Lampe (1841-1910), whose dated inscription of September 1867 was left on the top of a door frame in the south parlor. According to the 1910 History of Frederick County, Lampe was born in Brunswick, Germany, and emigrated with his family to Frederick in 1854. He was apprenticed to learn the trade of sign painting, fresco painting, and general painting. He was first employed by H. F. Debring and in 1868 began his own business, suggesting that the work in the Castle-Thomas Farmstead, the ceilings of the south parlor and the central hall and part of a wall section in the parlor, was completed just prior to his start as a self-employed artist. Lampe went on to become very successful, having work in many churches, halls, and public buildings in Frederick County and in neighboring states, apparently becoming a leader in his field in an area extending beyond the Frederick County context. The biographical sketch does not identify any of the locations of his works. A cursory examination of readily available resources in the Frederick County Historical Society and the C. Burr Artz Library of Frederick County has not produced any further information on Lampe other than that he served in the Union Army in 1862 (Englebrecht Diary). Although further research remains to be done on Lampe to define the artistic context of the Castle-Thomas House frescoes, it is conceivable that this may be the only signed work by Lampe in Frederick County. The Castle-Thomas House is also moderately significant for the architecture of the dwelling, which has been considerably altered, especially in the rear wing where work currently in progress on an addition, but still retains much of its original form, exterior and interior details and particularly a painted and grained slate mantelpiece in the dining room of the period 1870-1880 which shows a high level of craftsmanship.

Some of the other examples of domestic wall and ceiling paintings currently known in Frederick County are in Saleaudo (F-1-12; National Register) which has Neo-Classical wall frescoes attributed to Constantino Brumidi, and Motter's Tavern (F-4-30), which has landscape scenes probably painted in 1892 by a Professor Winchell. Others have been mentioned in various historical and modern sources, but are unverified in MHT inventory records.

The house was built by Lewis Castle in 1853, the same year in which he and James Elgin purchased 196 acres of lands formerly part of Carrollton Manor. Elgin

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### 7.1 Description (Continued)

corner floral scrolls, corner rosettes, and a grained panel over the entrance door from the hall and a flanking panel to the left of the door as evidence of the original work. Lampe left his name and the date September 1867 on the top of the Greek Revival door frame. The plaster walls of the parlor have been recently repainted, but Mrs. Carone, one of the current owners, says the walls had no other visible fresco work at the time of their occupation of the house in 1991. Other fresco work by Lampe is thus assumed to be concealed under at least two layers of paint. The mantelpiece in the south parlor is a Classical Revival columned piece of the 1870's-1890's period, with a mirrored overmantel. The door and window frames are simple paneled pediments in the Greek Revival style.

The north parlor has been much altered by the current owners in wall and ceiling finish, but Mrs. Carone confirms that no visible frescoes were seen in this room in 1991. If the north parlor was intended for use as the informal family living room in the 1860's, it may not have had the same special decoration as in the first parlor and the central hall. The mantelpiece is a Greek Revival style which is probably original but has been repainted. The 4-panel door is grained and the room has the same Greek Revival pediments over the door and windows as in the south parlor.

The dining room in the western section of the rear wing is accessible from both the hall and the south parlor. It has a fine painted and grained slate mantel of the period about 1870-1880. The chair rail is a recent addition and the wall and trim surfaces have been newly painted. The easternmost room in the wing is the much-remodeled kitchen. A large open brick fireplace and the stairs to the second story are the main remaining elements of the original kitchen.

On the second story of the house, the most important feature is a built-in wardrobe in one of the bedrooms with a Greek Revival parapet similar in outline to the window hoods of Winchester Hall, an 1843 woman's seminary building in Frederick, now the main building of Frederick County government. This profile has also been noted on the overdoor lintels of the 1840's section of the Christian Kemp House (F-1-179). In the attic of the main section are the names of three painters and the date of their work in September 1924: H. L. Whitter, D. D. Thayer, and J. P. Smith. Whitter's name has been previously noted in a barn and a summer kitchen on other properties, with dates in the first decade of the 20th century.

#### Outbuildings:

**Smokehouse:** The log smokehouse is located just east of the wood deck under construction on the southeast corner of the rear wing. It has german siding and a corrugated metal roof. The west gable is shingled. The vertical board door in the north elevation opens to a single space with a wood stair to the upper loft level. The smokehouse was most likely built in 1853 along with the dwelling.

## 7.2 (Description)

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed/corn crib appears to have been built about 1900. It has vertical siding on all sides and a corrugated metal roof. Sliding doors on the west elevation were installed in the early 20th century and Mrs. Carone has been told by local residents that it has also served as a garage. Portions of the flanking cribs are still intact on the interior, but much of the crib partition walls has been removed.

Privy: The small frame privy is located immediately adjacent to the wagon shed, having been moved there from another location. It has vertical siding and a vertical board door on the south elevation. The shed roof is corrugated metal. Its date is probably about 1900-1910.

Bank barn: The frame bank barn is in fair condition. It has vertical siding and louvred vents, with both standing seam and corrugated metal roof materials. The stall level on the east elevation is enclosed with horizontal boards and lath. Its interior also bears the painted names of members of the Thomas family and the same painters' names with the date 10-16-1909. The Thomas family names are on the granary wall near the west elevation door and the painters' are on the same wall near the east side of the barn. The names are C. W. Thomas, prop. (Curtis W. Thomas, the property owner from 1903 to 1930) and those of his sons L. C. Thomas, C. E. Thomas, and C.C.C. Thomas. Genealogical information on the Thomas family was published by another of Curtis Thomas' sons not listed on the wall, George Leicester Thomas, Sr. (1880-1969). See Section 9. A more enigmatic inscription is inside the granary, where the name C. M. Thomas is painted with the date July 19, 1869. The barn's architectural features, materials, and circular sawn framing members point to a date of about 1890-1900, so the significance of the date is not yet known.

Hog barn: A small frame barn located northeast of the wagon shed is currently used as a horse shed, but has the proportions and low doors of a typical hog barn of the period about 1900. The gable roof is standing seam metal.

8.1 Significance (Continued)

retained the land north of the present Adamstown Road and Castle the 98 acres south of the road. The purchase and the erection of the house must have been more than Castle's income could bear, because the property was sold to Josiah S. Thomas in 1860 as a result of a mortgage default by Castle. Josiah S. Thomas (1826-1906) was apparently responsible for the hiring of Lampe to do the fresco work in the house in 1867 and for the erection of most of the late 19th century agricultural outbuildings. According to Grove's History of Carrollton Manor (1928), he was active in the turnpike road movement and was one of the more prominent farmers on the Carrollton Manor tract. His farm was known as "Manor Heights", referring to the expansive view toward the west from the house. Among Josiah's 8 children who survived to adulthood was Abbie Lavinia (1855-1930), who married Curtis W. Thomas (1851-1922). This was one of several intermarriages between two distantly related branches of the large Thomas family. Josiah had also married a Thomas first cousin, Susan Rebecca Thomas. In 1903, Curtis and Abbie Thomas purchased "Manor Heights" from her father. They had four sons who lived to adulthood, among them George Leicester Thomas, who compiled an immensely helpful Thomas family genealogy in 1947 which details the many marriages between the Thomas branches. Clarence C. C. Thomas (1893-1976), the youngest of Curtis and Abbie's sons, sold the property in 1968, ending the 108-year continuous Thomas ownership of "Manor Heights".

2735 New Design Rd.

Lot Size, Description,  
Other Information,  
Original Tracts

Liber/Folio

Grantee

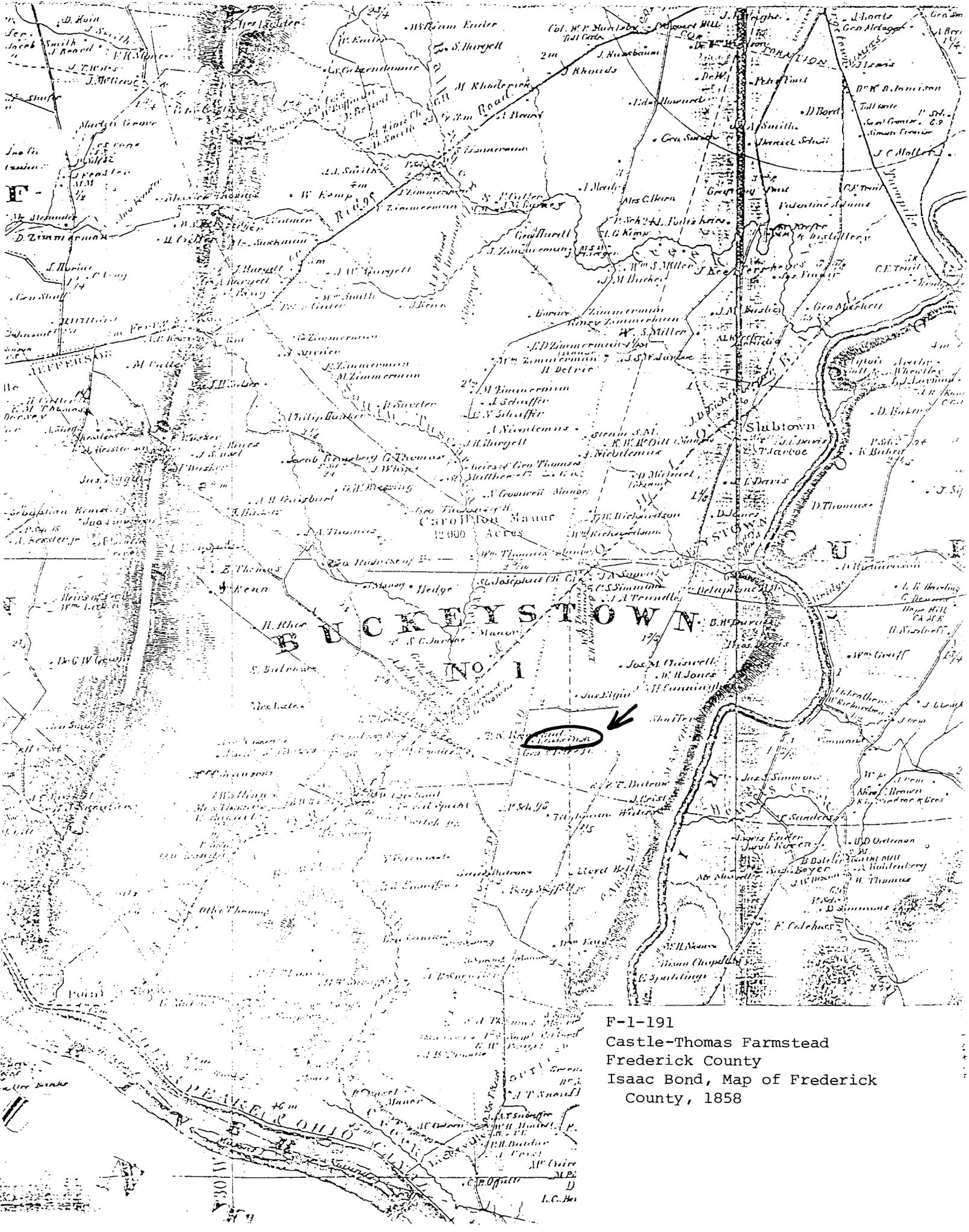
Grantor

Cost

Miscellaneous

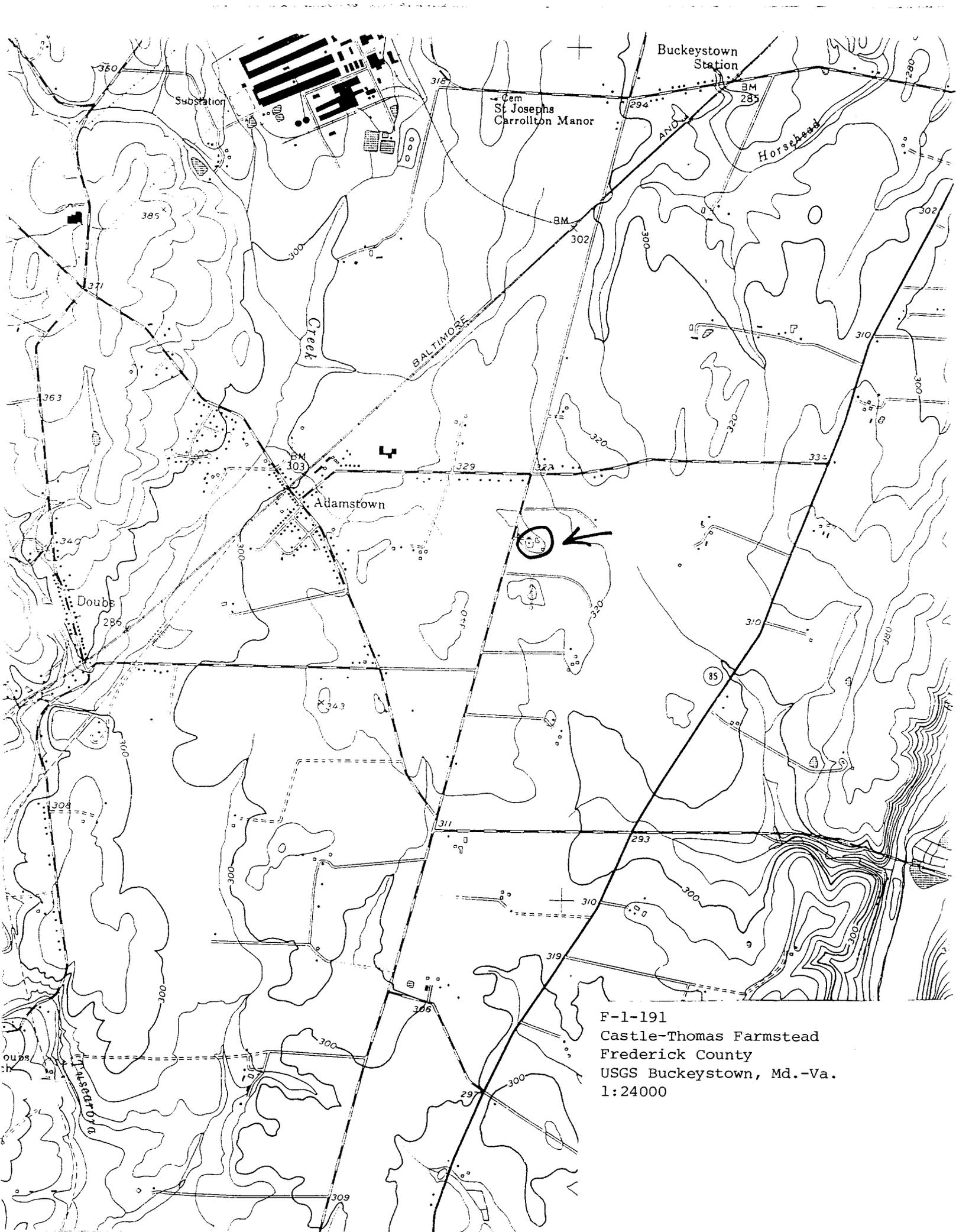
Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
1731 / 763 6 Sept 91	Joseph A. Carone Trustee for Joseph A. Carone Trust	Michael J. & Ellen A. Finn	Lot 28, Plat Book 18/13 11.237A.	\$435,000	
1528/742 1 Dec 88	Michael J. & Ellen A. Finn	Carl B. & Margaret A. Wilson		\$400,000	
1055/842 14 Jul 78	Carl B. & Mar- garet A. Wilson	Frank & Lydia E. Carone, trustees for the Carone Trust		\$82,000	
795/634 26 Dec 68	Frank & Lydia E. Carone, trustees for the Carone Trust	Clarence C.C. Thomas & Jessie D. Thomas	1: Part of a division of No. 1 of the second part of Lot No. 3 of "Carrollton" - 98A. 1A. 36 1/2 ps. Jessie D. Thomas, his wife 2: Part of Lot No. 4. 30A.		
374/456 14 June 30	Clarence C. C. Thomas & Jessie L. Thomas	J. Loretta Thomas & Lee C. Thomas execs of L.W. & T. of Curtis W. Thomas, et al		98A.	350/554
DHH 17/176 1 Apr 03	Curtis W. Thomas	Josiah S. Thomas et ux	<del>98A.</del> 98A.	\$10,800	
BGF 6/321 21 Nov 1860	Josiah S. & Lester A. Thomas	Hebb & Bushey, Trustees in equity 2768	<del>98A.</del> 98A. Equity 2768 Hebb & Bushey vs. Lewis Castle	\$6,942.77	
E 53/201 14 Feb 1853	Lewis Castle & James H. Elgin, tenants in common	Charles J. Carroll	Charles Tucker Carroll now residing in Paris, Empire of France 196A.	\$12,938.97	
Equity 2768	Edward J. Hebb & Jacob M. Bushey	us. Lewis & Lydia Castle & Samuel Dutrou			mortgage default
Equity Record BGF 9/53 1859					

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 Castle-Thomas Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick  
 County, 1858





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Castle-Thomas Farmstead  
Frederick County  
USGS Buckeystown, Md.-Va.  
1:24000



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Castle-Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

West elevation:

1/9



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Castle-Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

South elevation partial view

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Castle-Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

North elevation of wing

3/9



F-1-191

Castle-Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

South parlor frescoes, detail

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Castle = Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Dining room mantel

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Castle - Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Smokehouse, north elevation

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Castle - Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Bank barn, southwest corner view

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Castle: Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Wagon shed/corn crib & privy. view  
from southwest

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F-1-191

Castle-Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

Hog barn, north west corner view

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