F-2-87
Hersperger-Harley Farmstead 1849-1850
Burkittsville vicinity
Private

The Hersperger-Harley Farmstead is centered on a two-story stone dwelling with a stucco exterior built about 1849 and two remaining agricultural outbuildings, a frame and stone bank barn of about 1850, and a frame wagon shed/corn crib of about 1880-1890. The house has evidence of painted joints in imitation of ashlar stone, as well as two successive porch roof types over the principal entrance doorway on the south elevation. The five-bay house has a two-bay side service wing containing a modern kitchen. The interior of the house has undergone at least two periods of major alteration, the first about 1879-1880 and the second still in progress since the late 1980's. In each period, the fireplaces and chimneys have been rebuilt or altered for use with wood stoves and in the latest rehabilitation, returned to open hearths. Vestiges of early wallpaper and stenciling in the first floor west parlor and the center stair hall have been obscured by modern wallboard and layers of paint which is still being removed. The bank barn has a forebay over the exposed stall level on the south which is supported by braces. The interior frame is hand-hewn, although some timbers reveal the use of a steam saw mill in their production. The wagon shed/corn crib is in deteriorated condition, but is a typical product of the late 19th century in its form and materials. The farmstead is minimally significant in architecture for the apparent date of the three remaining principal buildings. The house was built by Henry Hersperger (1794-1859) in 1849 and its first major period of alteration took place about 1879-1880 when Cornelius F. Harley (1842-1895) purchased the farmstead from Hersperger's estate.

Hersperger-Harley Farmstead
Frederick County

Survey No. F-2-87

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

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/Single dwelling/residence
Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/barn
Agriculture/Subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

M74 P151

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-2-87

Magi No.

DOE __yes x no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Hersperger-Harley Farmstead

and/or common Country Pleasures Farm

2. Location

street & number 6201 Harley Road ___ not for publication

city, town Burkittsville x vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	x occupied	x 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 Eric M. and Martha B. Rice

street & number 6201 Harley Road telephone no.:

city, town Middletown state and zip code Md. 21769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1415

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 387

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Paul Brinkman Survey of Frederick County #1166

date C. 1968 ___ federal x state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. F-2-87

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_x_ original site
_x_ good	___ ruins	_x_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
_x_ 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: 3

The Hersperger-Harley Farmstead is centered on a two-story stone dwelling built about 1849 with interior and exterior alterations in the late 19th century and the 1980's and its two remaining contributing outbuildings, a frame and stone bank barn built about 1850 and a frame wagon shed/corn crib built in the last quarter of the 19th century. The farmstead is located on the east side of Harley Road just north of a small stream running eastward to Catoctin Creek, about two miles northeast of Burkittsville, Frederick County, Maryland. The original principal elevation of the dwelling faces south, with the barn and the wagon shed located west of the house. A non-contributing metal and frame shed is located north of the wagon shed. The dates of the house and the barn are based on architectural evidence and a biographical sketch of Cornelius F. Harley in the 1910 History of Frederick County. The wagon shed/corn crib was dated by architectural details.

The stone dwelling has an exterior cladding of stucco which was applied when the building was erected and is in fair condition. The Harley biographical sketch refers to this material as "roughcast", a synonymous term for stucco used more frequently in England than in the United States, according to Harley J. McKee's Introduction to Early American Masonry (1973). Vestiges of painted joint lines in imitation of ashlar stone mortar joints are still visible on various sections of the exterior. The house is basically rectangular in form with a side service wing on the east gable end of the five-bay main section. The south elevation has a center entrance in the main section with a weathered 6-panel door in the "Christian" or "cross and bible" configuration. The windows are 6/6. The outlines of a gable-roofed entry porch over the doorway and a later shed roof over the center three bays are visible in the stucco. The porch base is missing, marked by a pile of stone before the doorway, which is not currently in use. The cornice is boxed and the roof is modern composition material. Interior end chimneys are at each gable end, and a large rebuilt chimney at the east end of the main section now dominates the roofline. The side wing has a recessed facade and a two-story open porch sheltering the two bays on the south elevation of the wing. On each level is a 6-panel door flanked by a 6/6 window. The porch supports and railings are modern replacements and the ceiling on the second story is plywood, undoubtedly replacing the original tongue-and-groove ceiling.

The north elevation has an irregular bay arrangement, with two bays in the west end of the main section and a single bay in the west end, flanked by two bays in the north side of the service wing. An off-set window in the center bay marks the landing of the interior stairway. According to photographs of the mid 1980's, a one-story frame shed addition covered the first story of the wing on the north side; it was removed due to deterioration. A modern wood deck adjoins the wing on the east and another level of the deck southeast of the house surrounds a swimming pool.

The interior plan of the house has a center hall with flanking parlors, the east parlor having a small rear room separated by a partition wall. This plan is typical of the mid-19th century in Frederick County. The side wing is accessed on the first story through a doorway flanking the fireplace in the east room. The

8. Significance

Survey No. F-2-87

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
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1849-1850 **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 Hersperger-Harley Farmstead is minimally significant in architecture for the architectural evidence of the construction of the principal buildings in the mid-19th century, the house being built in about 1849 and the bank barn in 1850. The wagon shed/corn crib of about the 1880's is a typical example of its type and date. The integrity of the dwelling has been considerably lessened by several periods of alteration, the first major change being in about 1879-1880 by Cornelius F. Harley (1842-1895) and the second in the late 1980's and continuing into the present. The house was originally built by Henry Hersperger (1794-1859), although the chain of title indicates that an earlier dwelling undoubtedly was on the operty by the 1790's and possibly as early as 1753. No trace of the earlier farmstead remains visible, although a demolished stone springhouse at the stream south of the house which survived into the mid-20th century was probably part of the earlier buildings. Several deteriorated domestic outbuildings removed in the 1970's and 1980's may also have been pre-1850 in date. Harley's alterations probably included the enlarged porch on the south elevation of the main section, the rebuilding of a fireplace in the east parlor, and the alteration of the west parlor fireplace for use with a wood stove. The frame shed addition (demolished) which adjoined the north side of the side wing may also have been a late 19th century addition. After 1937, the house was occupied by a series of tenant farmers and much of its interior and exterior deteriorated over the years until the late 1980's. The building history of the house is consequently difficult to trace and understand from the remaining features. The dates as given in the 1910 history appear to be consistent with the materials, construction technique, and generally Greek Revival style of the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-2-87

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.
Holdcraft, Jacob M. Names In Stone. Privately published, Ann Arbor, Mi., 1966
Land Records of Frederick County
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.
(Continued on separate sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10 acres

Quadrangle name Middletown, Md.

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 10 acres centered on the dwelling on Tax Map 74, Parcel 151.

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** November 1994

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

7.1 Description (Continued)

interior has been considerably altered through deterioration, repair, and rehabilitation and remains a work in progress. At most of the doorways and windows is the original Greek Revival trim with shallow molded architraves and bull's eye corner blocks. The windows have simple recessed paneled soffits. The plaster walls have been largely resurfaced or covered with wallboard, although the baseboards are original. The doors are painted and grained, although some have been painted since the 1980's. The floor in the east parlor has been covered with new pine flooring and the stone and brick fireplace is a 1980's rebuilding with the original bricks. A hearth was added during this work. The current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Rice, said an inscribed and dated brick bearing the name of Cornelius Harley was in the deteriorated chimney before the work was done. This suggests that the 1849 chimney was probably altered by Harley when he acquired the house in 1879. The ceilings in the first story parlors have been removed, revealing the floor joists anchored into a large hewn summer beam running east and west through the structure. In the west parlor is an original Greek Revival mantelpiece with a simple paneled form surrounding an opening which has been altered at least twice, the most recent being in the 1980's. The first alteration probably closed off the fireplace for use with a wood stove, the typical heating system improvement of the late 19th century. The latest alteration re-opened the fireplace and added a glazed firebrick lining. The pine floor is original. Considerable water and dampness deterioration took place in the room and the walls have been covered with wallboard. According to Mrs. Rice, a stenciled border was on the original wall near the ceiling. In the center hall, two colors of paint on the original walls seem to indicate that a border or other feature was also present, but layers of paint over wallpaper, now in fragments, have obscured its original appearance. The main door has a four-light transom. The staircase has plain square balusters and a turned newel with an extended, drum-shaped cap.

The kitchen in the first story of the service wing has been considerably altered since the late 1980's, although the rebuilt brick fireplace contains the original iron crane. An enclosed winder stair to the second story is in the northwest corner. A small pantry is located in the northeast corner. The second story of the wing was converted to an office and storage space in the 1980's.

The second story rooms of the main section have plain trim and painted or grained doors. A small room accessed from both the stair landing and the adjoining east chamber has been converted to a bathroom. The second story of the service wing was originally inaccessible to the main section except by a door opening on the second story open porch, but the Rices added an interior door to the wing from the east chamber. In the center hall is a small room over the main entrance on the first story which has been converted to a storage closet.

The house has a stone foundation, but the area under the structure remains unexcavated, leaving only a low crawlspace under the flooring. There is no evidence of an earlier foundation being filled in for construction of the extant building.

7.2 Description (Continued)

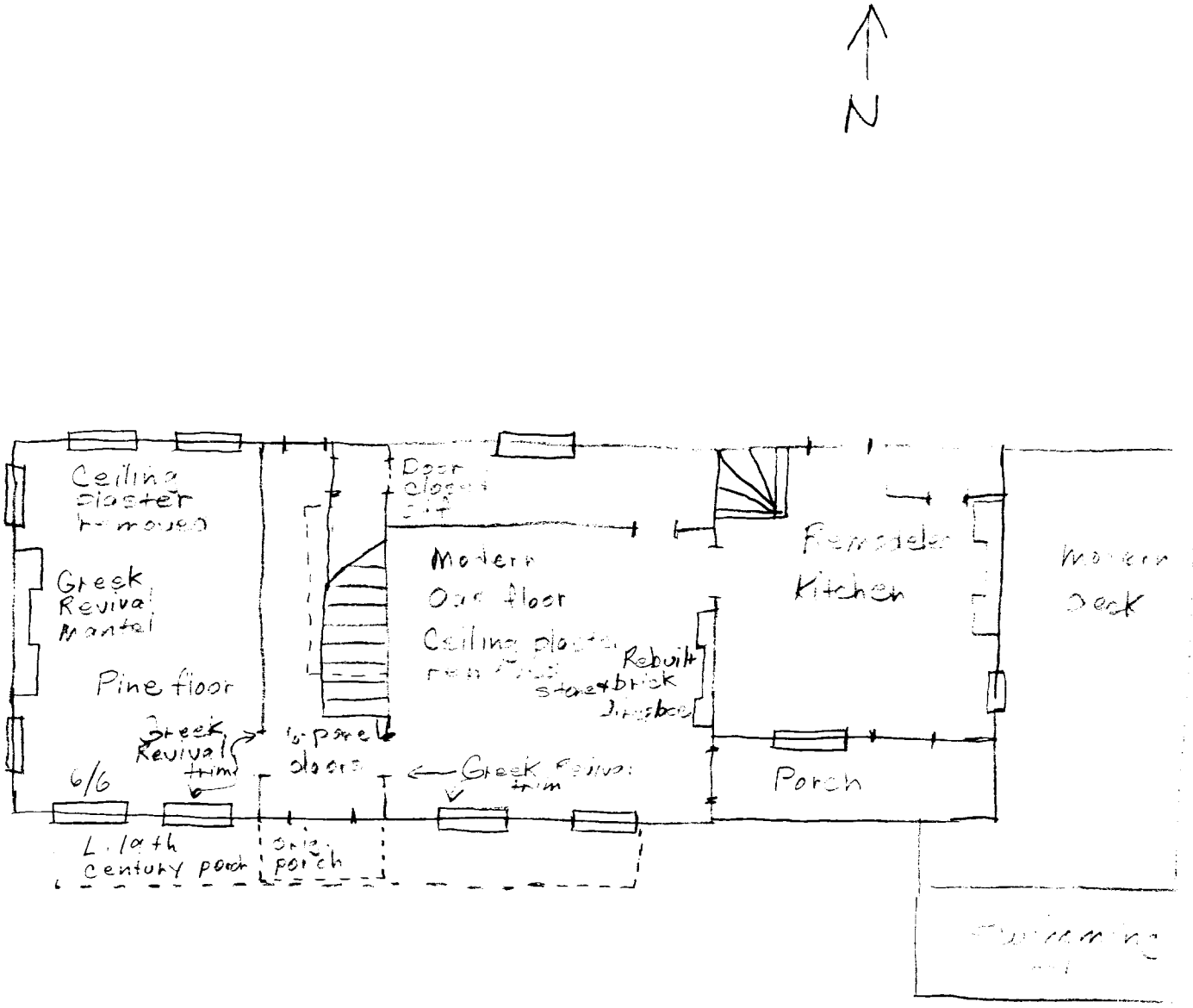
The bank barn has a stone foundation with a hewn frame upper structure covered in vertical siding. The forebay extends to the south over the stone wall with wood barred openings. Braces support the forebay, a stabilizing measure added in the 1980's. The roof is corrugated metal. Double sliding doors on the north elevation open to the upper level floor and a single sliding door is on the south elevation. In the granary to the left of the north doorway are the painted initials "HCH". These may stand for Harriet C. Holter, the owner of the farm, with her husband Samuel W. Holter, from 1920 to 1937. The 1850 date of the barn as stated in the 1910 history appears consistent with the materials, construction technique, and details of the structure.

The frame wagon shed/corn crib located northwest of the barn is in fair condition and has vertical siding on the exterior walls. The stilted footings of the side cribs are placed on flat stones. The roof is corrugated metal. The interior bears traces of whitewash on the crib sides. The wagon shed/corn crib was built probably in the 1880's by Cornelius F. Harley, who purchased the farm in 1879.

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Tracy, Grace Lee, and John P. Dern. Pioneers of Old Monocacy: The Early Settlement of Frederick County, Maryland, 1721-1743. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1987, p. 172.

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, pp. 1453-1454

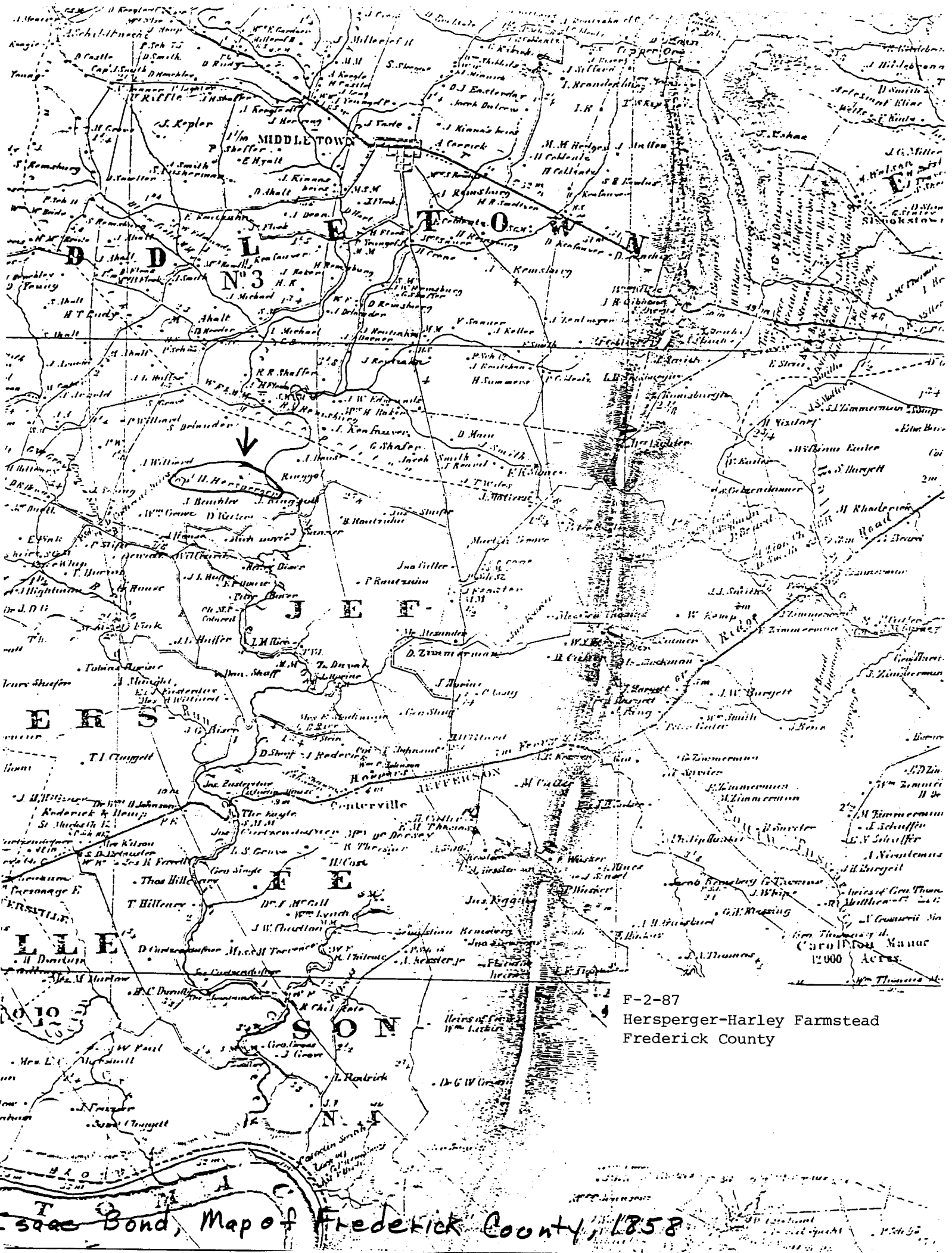


F-2-87

Hersperger-Harley House
Frederick County

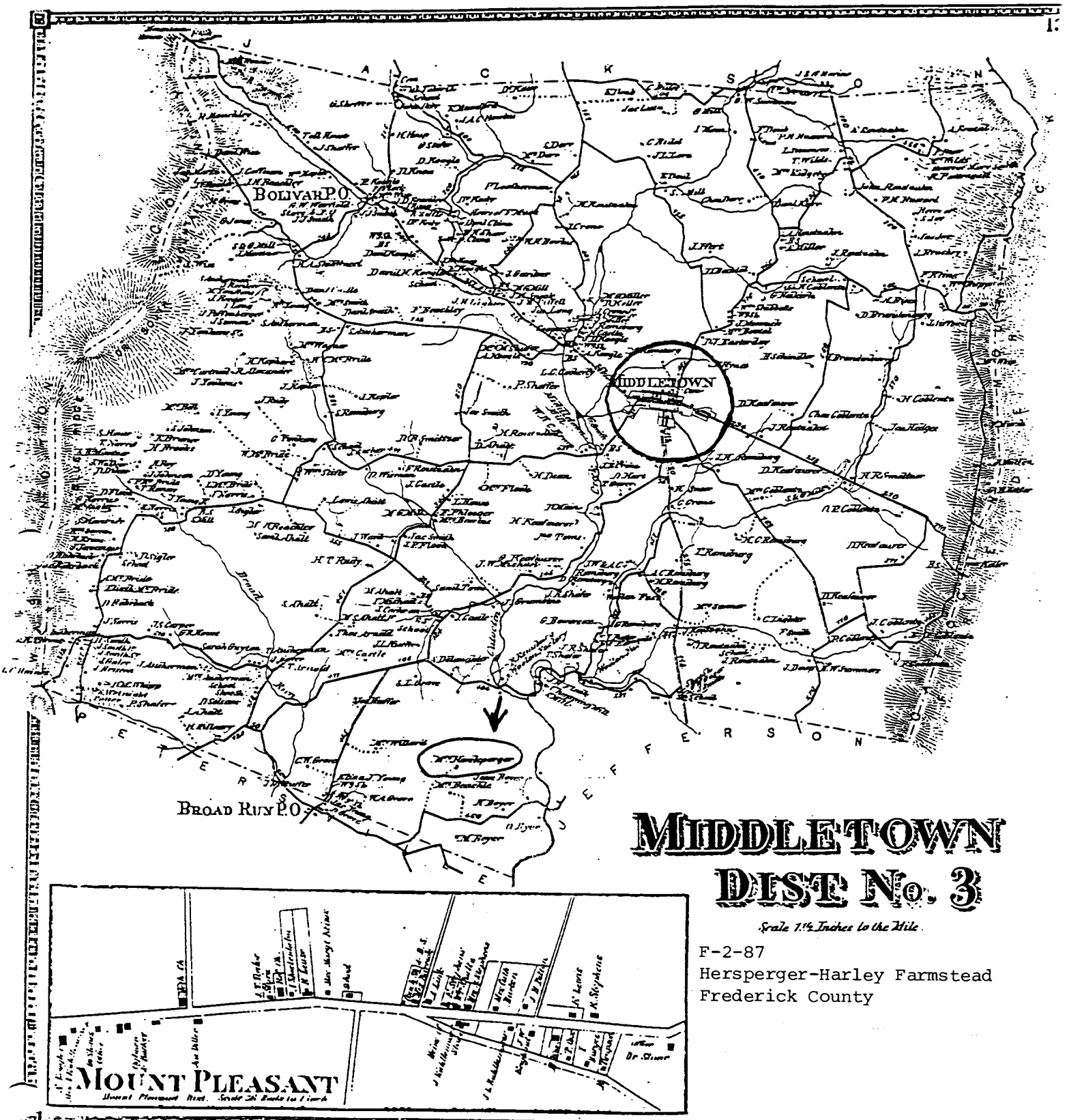
Janet Davis
November 4, 1994

Not to Scale



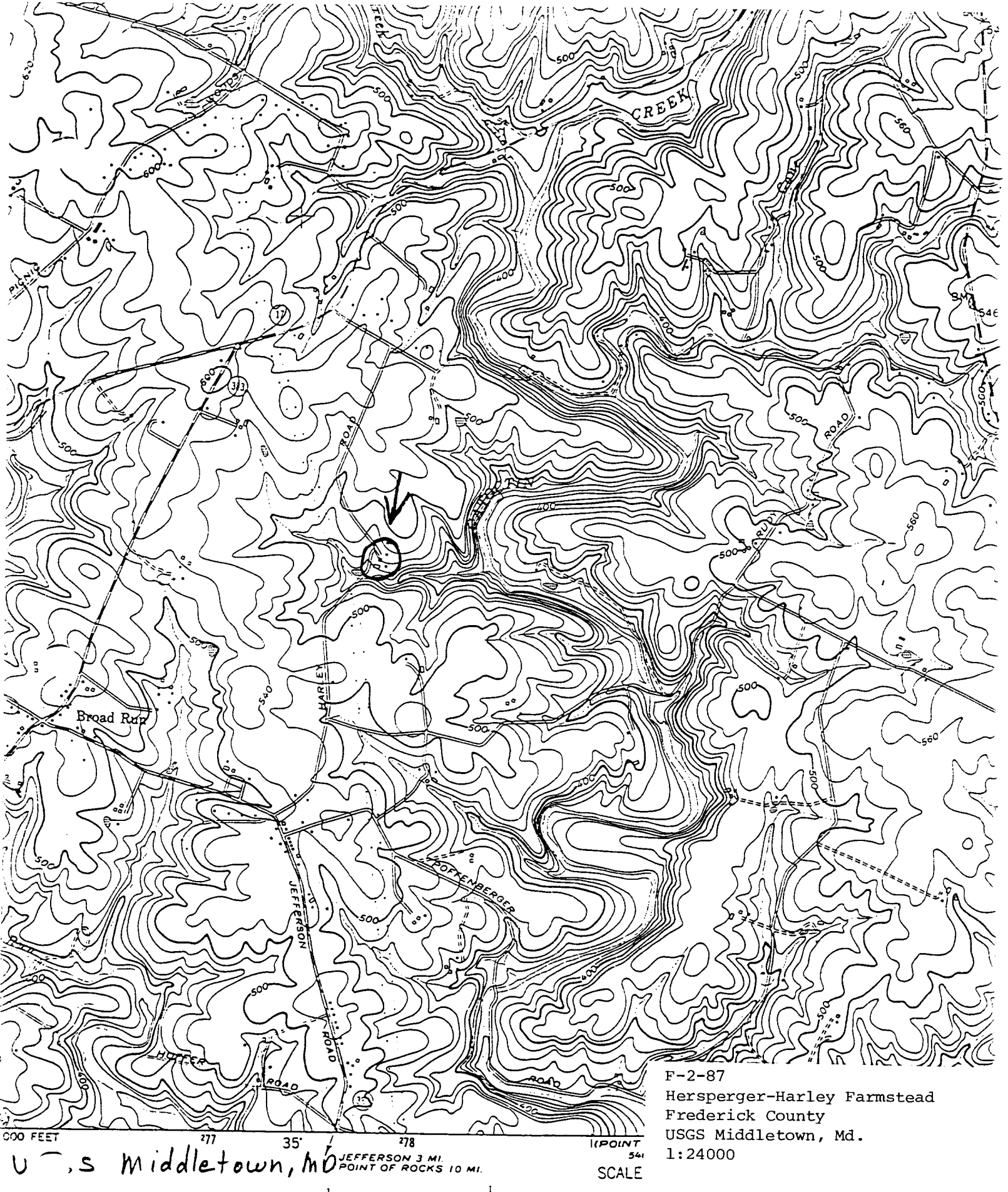
F-2-87
Hersperger-Harley Farmstead
Frederick County

Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County, 1858



F-2-87
Hersperger-Harley Farmstead
Frederick County

D.J. Lake, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873
Published by C.O. Titus, Philadelphia, PA.



F-2-87
Hersperger-Harley Farmstead
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, Md.
1:24000