Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
EDGEWOOD (preferred), part of Tasker's Chance

AND/OR COMMON
Taurus Estates

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Poole Jones Road (Route #7), ½ mile west of Opossumtown Road

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Frederick

X VICINITY OF Harmony Grove

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Sixth

STATE
Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY
Frederick

CODE
021

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	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
The Taurus Trust, Dr. Nicola M. Tauraso

STREET & NUMBER
Poole Jones Road, Route #7

CITY, TOWN
Frederick

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland 21701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Frederick County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Frederick

STATE
Maryland 21701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

F-3-38

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This farmhouse, now part of Tauraso Estates, is located a short distance south of Poole Jones Road, northwest of Frederick in Frederick County, Maryland. It is situated on an area of high, level ground and faces east. It is a two-story, five-bay limestone dwelling showing narrow courses of native stone. A two-story, two-bay stone ell with a modern frame extension enclosing a former two-story porch is attached to the rear or west wall. The house is wide, with three windows at each story across its north end wall.

There is no decorative masonry, such as arches or keystones, associated with the windows and doors. A vertical seam in the masonry appears between the main house and the wing. Small areas of brick infill are to be seen at the return areas of the eaves at each corner of the main section. There are variations in the stonework over the surfaces of the house suggesting possible additions and early changes or perhaps that the entire house may have been stuccoed at one time.

Openings are not placed symmetrically in the front elevation. There is more space between the windows in the south half of the wall than those in the north half. All windows have narrow frames which hold six-over-six pane, double-hung sash and pair of shutters with stationary louvers. Smaller six-over-six sash windows light the attic. At the rear of the house, a window at the first story level has been enlarged.

The main entrance is located in the central bay of the front or east elevation. A wide double door, each half containing three panels, is hung beneath a broad, eight-light transom. Flanking the door is a pair of Doric-type colonnettes and three-light sidelights. A one-story, 20th century porch with a hipped roof extends across the three central bays of the front wall. It is supported by round Doric pillars. A secondary entrance is located in the north elevation of the wing. Sheltering it is a two-bay, modern, shed-roofed porch supported by square posts. A two-story porch along the south elevation of the wing has been enlarged and enclosed with siding to create additional living space.

Standing seam sheet metal covers the roof, which terminates with barge boards set directly against the end walls. Large brick interior end chimneys, painted white, appear to have been rebuilt.

The interior of the front section of the house is bisected by a broad, central stair hall. To the south of the hall is a double parlor divided by a pair of large six-panel doors and to the north is a single large room. Original interior woodwork at the first two stories features doors with six low relief panels, mantels with Doric colonnettes, and decorated corner blocks. These elements appear to date from the mid-19th century or Greek Revival period.

One of the most notable aspects of the interior is to be found in the basement of the south part of the front section, where evidence remains of 18th century insulation. The joists which run east to west across the basement room appear to be hewn on all four sides. Approximately midway in their width is a notch into which short boards are fit which span the distance between the joists. On these boards rests a layer of mud mortar. Above the mortar on top of the joists are the first story floor boards. This type of construction is usually associated with 18th century

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

F-3-38

(DESCRIPTION,continued)

buildings and can be seen at Schiefferstadt, a National Register property from the third quarter of the 18th century in Frederick County. Another 18th century feature in the basement room is a segmental arch over a doorway in one of the stone walls. No 18th century work was observed in the upper parts of the house.

The dwelling appears to be in excellent condition and stands on a tract of ground containing about 7.86 acres. An adjoining tract of empty land containing 5.4 acres has been acquired by the owner, bringing the total acreage to more than 13 acres. Southeast of the house is an early 20th century frame bank barn and a modern dairy barn which has been converted to a physician's office. An old corn crib is also present. The property is part of the land grant "Tasker's Chance."

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

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	X 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 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This multi-part stone farmhouse shows evidence of both 18th and 19th century construction. Built of native limestone, it is an excellent example of northern Maryland's vernacular architecture and the evolution it experienced over the course of two centuries. The house is also significant for its association with the Schley family, prominent 19th century residents of Frederick County.

Most observable parts of this house exhibit fine mid-19th century work influenced by the Greek Revival style popular at that time. Elements of Greek Revival work are apparent in the main entrance with its broad transom, sidelights, and colonnettes following the Doric form. Interior woodwork is massive but formal; mantelpieces are decorated with Doric colonnettes and door architraves are trimmed with corner blocks.

In contrast to the 19th century appearance of the house are the remnants of a much older building in the basement. The 18th century insulation system, consisting of flat boards set into the joists carrying a layer of mud mortar below the floor boards, has been associated by some historians with Germanic building traditions. An 18th century arched doorway also remains in the basement. Further research is needed to determine the precise history of this house, but it would appear that an 18th century house was substantially rebuilt during the middle third of the 19th century.

The history of the property on which this house is located has been traced to April 13, 1774, when 260 acres, part of a tract called "Tasker's Chance" was conveyed to Mathias Buckey from Christopher Loundes. This farm apparently remained in the Buckey family for some time, being sold by Michael Buckey, David Buckey, and Edward Buckey, executors for the late Valentine Buckey on October 23, 1830 to John Schley (JS35/1). The farm was described in this deed as Valentine Buckey's dwelling plantation.

The Schley family held the farm from 1830 until 1911. One of the most prominent members of this family was Dr. Fairfax Schley, a physician who purchased the farm from Henry and Sarah Schley in 1864 (JWLC2/568). Dr. Schley practiced in Frederick from 1846 to 1855, when he retired and bought out a local drug business which he operated as Schley Brothers. He was associated prominently with the Maryland School for the Deaf and was apparently active in agricultural pursuits and the Agricultural Society of Frederick County. During Schley ownership the farm became known as "Edgewood."

In 1911 the property was purchased by Thomas Poole Jones, whose name has been given to the county road which passes by the farm (298/475). Jones' estate owned the property until 1964. It was purchased by the present owner in 1972.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

An unusual feature of this property is that its acreage varied little from the 18th century until 1964. Also for a period of 190 years it was in the possession of only three families, a somewhat rare occurrence.

Now known as Taurus Estates, the farmstead contains only 13.26 acres, but the house remains as a statement of architectural and social history spanning three centuries.

F-3-38

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dettbarn, Ernest A, M.D., notes compiled on the history of the property and on Dr. Fairfax Schley.

Frederick County Land and Probate Records.

Sharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Louis H. Everts, 1882.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.86 acres (plus 5.4 acres of adjoining empty land)

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A				B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

1km

NAME / TITLE
Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION
Preservation Associates

DATE
April 1978

STREET & NUMBER
Box 202

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Sharpsburg

STATE
Maryland 21782

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

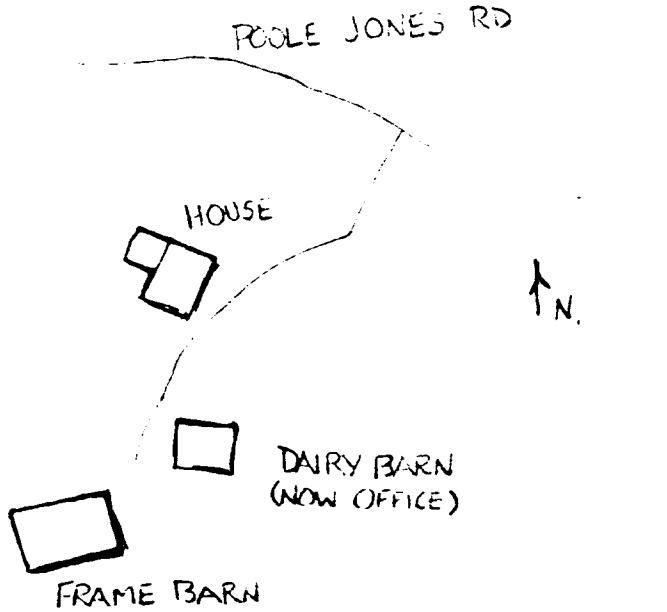
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

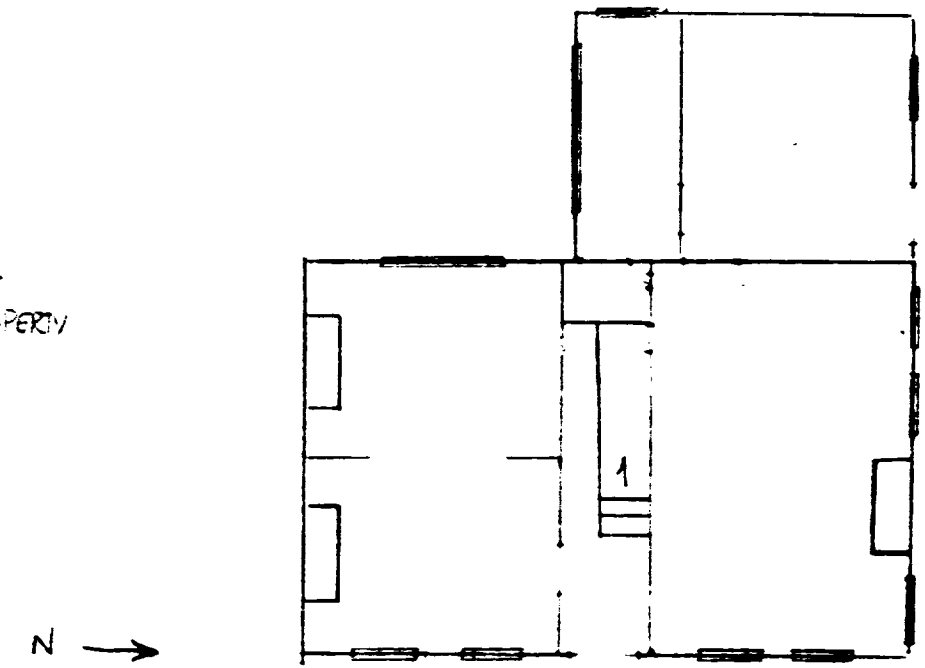
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



HOUSING SUBDIVISION - NOT PART OF THIS PROPERTY



"TASKERS CHANCE" (TAURUS ESTATES) FREDERICK CO. MD. APPROX. PLAN

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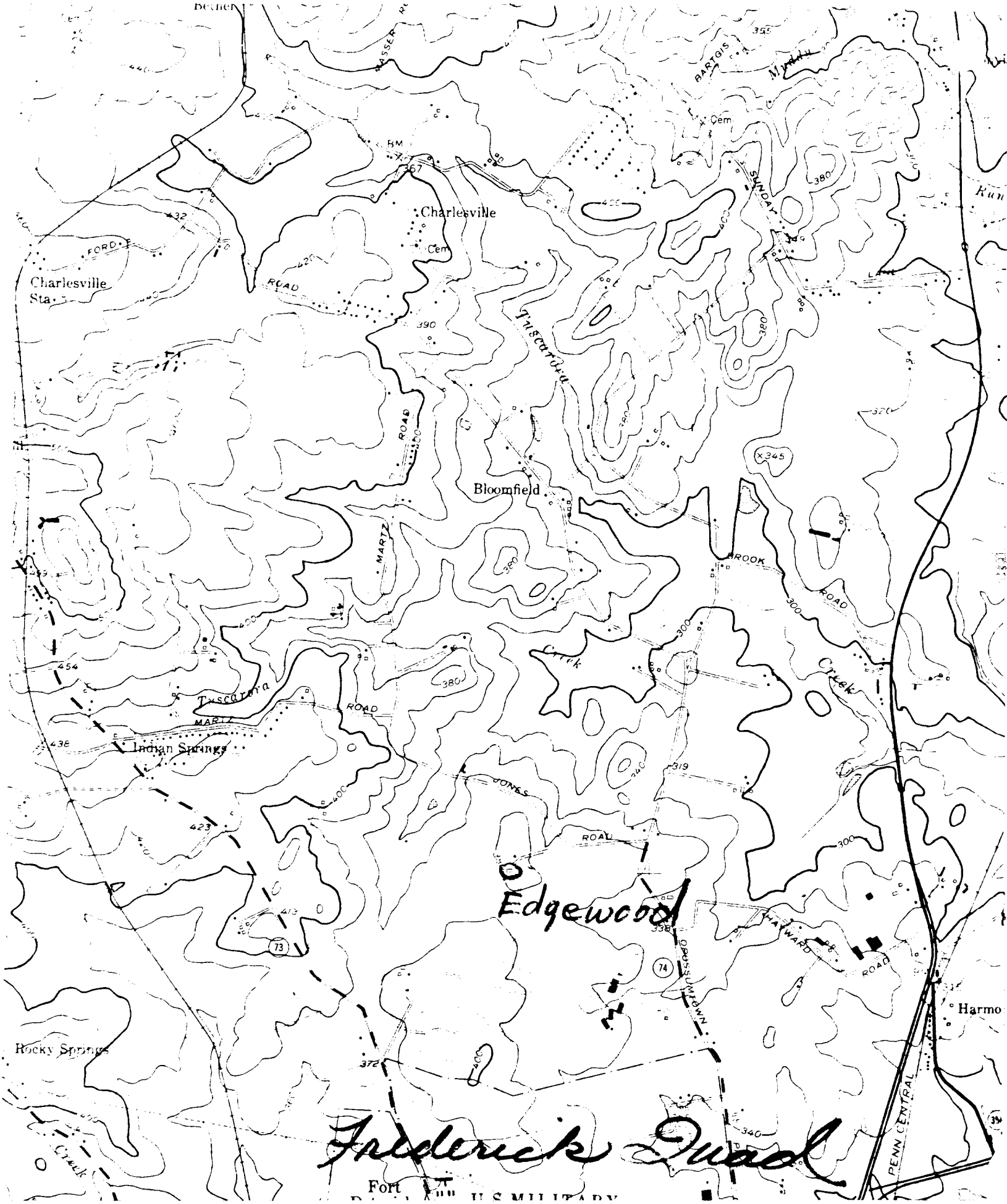

Charlesville
Charlesville Sta
FORD ROAD
Tuscarora
Bloomfield
MARTZ ROAD
BROOK ROAD
Creek
Tuscarora
MARTZ ROAD
Indian Springs
JONES ROAD
Edgewood
HAYWARD ROAD
OPOSSUMTOWN
Harmo
Rocky Springs
PENN CENTRAL
Fort
U.S. MILITARY
Frederick Quad

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Edgewood
Frederick County
Northeast Facade
Paula Stoner
March, 1978

NOV 6 1978

F-3-38

Edgewood
Frederick County
East facade
Paula Stoner
March 1978

NOV 6 1978

F-3-38

Edgewood
Frederick County
Southwest Facade
Paula Stoner
March, 1978

NOV 6 1978

F-3-38

"Edgewood"
Frederick County
outbuildings
S. view
March 1979

Paul Stowe
Preservation Assoc. Inc