

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-3-67

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic George Rizer Farm House

and/or common 211 South Jefferson Street

2. Location

street & number 211 South Jefferson Street

not for publication

city, town Frederick

vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county

Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Thomas Vogl

street & number 5902 Enterprise Court

telephone no.: 301-695-5557

city, town Frederick

state and zip code Maryland 21702

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Court House

liber 1165

street & number 100 West Patrick Street

folio 548

city, town Frederick

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date

federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. F-3-67

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	Contributing resource count: 2		

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

211 South Jefferson street, Frederick, Md is a former farmhouse that was converted into an educational facility by the state of Maryland in 1972. It is a detached house that sits on .625 acres of land. The building is tee shape with the front block consisting of a center hall and stairs with two rooms on each side as it was originally built. The rear section consists of two rooms on each floor and porches on each side, one now enclosed. The house is five bays wide with the main door in the center bay. The house is two stories in height, constructed of brick laid in a modified English bond pattern. The front has a stepped brick cornice and a small front porch. The roof is gable shape with a standing seam tin roof laid over a wooden shingle roof on the main block. The windows in the front are two over two while the majority of the other windows are six over six. All of the windows of the main block show evidence of having shutters and two sets still exist on the right side. The front windows have soldiercourse brick lintels while most of the rest of the windows have wooden lintels.

This house shows signs of having various additions made to it in its earlier days. The front elevation has a distinct vertical line between bays two and three. The original house would seem to be the right three bays, two rooms deep, with a possible small addition to the rear. Due to the size of the fireplace in the rear first floor room it is possible that this was at first a one story summer kitchen. At a later date the left two bays were added, the rear section added and modified, and the front porch was added. Cellar and attic beams in the right three bays show vertical saw marks while those in the left two bays show circular saw marks.

The interior of the house has many features remaining from the time that the house was added to ca. 1860-70. They include corner blocks and moulding on all windows and doors on the first floor of the main block. The staircase has original trim and banisters for all three spans. The first floor has a working set of pocket doors between rooms one and two on the left side of the main block. Transom windows still exist above many doors on the first and second floor. Much original window mouldings are still intact on the second floor. There are at least seven fireplaces in the building although they have all been covered at the present time.

The property includes a small outside shed on the rear left side. The first floor is rough brick and it may have been built as an ice house or springhouse. A second floor was added and covered with shingles probably at about the same time that the main house was modified. It would appear that it has been used as a storage shed for quite some time.

8. Significance

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** _____

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.

Since the founding of Frederick City in 1745, agriculture has been a major part of the local economy in the city and county. Today, agriculture still ranks among the top five industries in the county according to the Frederick County Economic and Community Development Commission. The earliest industries in the City were started to process agriculture products such as wheat and hides. The main purpose of extending the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Frederick was to provide transportation for agricultural products to Baltimore City.

This farmhouse represents a rapidly disappearing historic resource that is important because it shows the close relationship of agriculture and the community. It also serves as a visible symbol of the growth pattern of the City of Frederick. Further, the George Rizer farm was an important site during the Civil War in Frederick.

In the original 1816 Corporate Limits of Frederick City there were many acres of land then used as farmland. The 1874 Titus Atlas of Frederick County showed fifteen identifiable farms owned by different families still being farmed within these same Corporate Limits. Each of these farms are shown in the Atlas as having at least one farmhouse on the property. Out of those fifteen farmhouses only five still remain in an identifiable form. One of the five farmhouses, Schiferstadt, is now a museum and on the National Register of Historic Places. Another house, the Sifford house, has lost all site context and has been made into apartments. The Ramsburg farmhouse retains some land but also has been converted into apartments. The Staley farmhouse has lost its setting due to housing developments and a major road reconstruction. There are no longer any working farms within the 1816 Frederick City Corporate Limits. The Rizer farmhouse still retains a limited amount of surrounding land and does appear as a farmhouse. In addition, it is still sited in its original position adjacent to the Harpers Ferry Pike that is still the main road to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

(See further: The last paragraph under section 7)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-3-67

Titus Atlas of Frederick County Md published 1873
History of Frederick County by T.C. Williams published 1910 Vol 1
Diary of Jacob Englebrecht Vol 3 Pub 1976 Hist Society of Frederick County
Original research on property by Elinor Miller (Unpublished)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .625 acre

Quadrangle name FREDERICK QUAD

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title G. Bernard Callan Jr President

organization Associates in Management date July 8, 1992

street & number 215 West Patrick Street telephone 301-663-6149

city or town Frederick state Maryland

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCL
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2000
514-7600

Geo Rizer Farm House

211 South Jefferson Street Frederick, Md

Frederick County

Section 7 Continuation Sheet

Page 7.1

The previous owner of this property did some research on the property although little was put into writing. The property was acquired by a M. Zimmerman and then sold to a Henry Houck for \$930 on 6/16/1833. Houck sold the property with improvements to George Rizer on 6/8/1853 for \$10,840. This would indicate that the first part of the house was probably built by Houck between 1833 and 1853. The previous owner stated that she was told by several people, one a direct descendent of Rizer, that the house was built at about 1840. It is very probable that George Rizer was the person who made the major additions to the house. Rizer had seven children, five of whom lived to be married, while owning this property. Rizer's first wife died and he remarried in 1868 when he was forty six years old and already a prominent citizen. Either of these could have been reason to change the house to a more prosperous style. The exterior and interior appearance of the house seem to fit the 1860-1870 styles seen in similar Frederick County farmhouses. George Rizer was listed in the 1880 Frederick Directory as a prominent farmer and dealer and dealer in livestock. When he died in 1894 his obituary noted that he was a director of the Citizens Bank of Frederick.

Rizer gave the house in later years to his daughter Magie and then moved into Frederick to reside on South Street. This daughter and her family lived in this house until she died in 1924. The property evidently was still considered as farm land up to that point. It was then sold to G. Leister Thomas and Clyde Thomas. They laid out a subdivision plat that was approved by Frederick City in 1927. The main house and present land was retained as well as two lots to the rear of the present property. In 1972 the two rear lots were sold and the large barn standing on one lot was demolished. It was said that this barn was one that dated from the Civil War and the battle.

Geo Rizer Farm House

211 South Jefferson Street Frederick, Md Frederick County

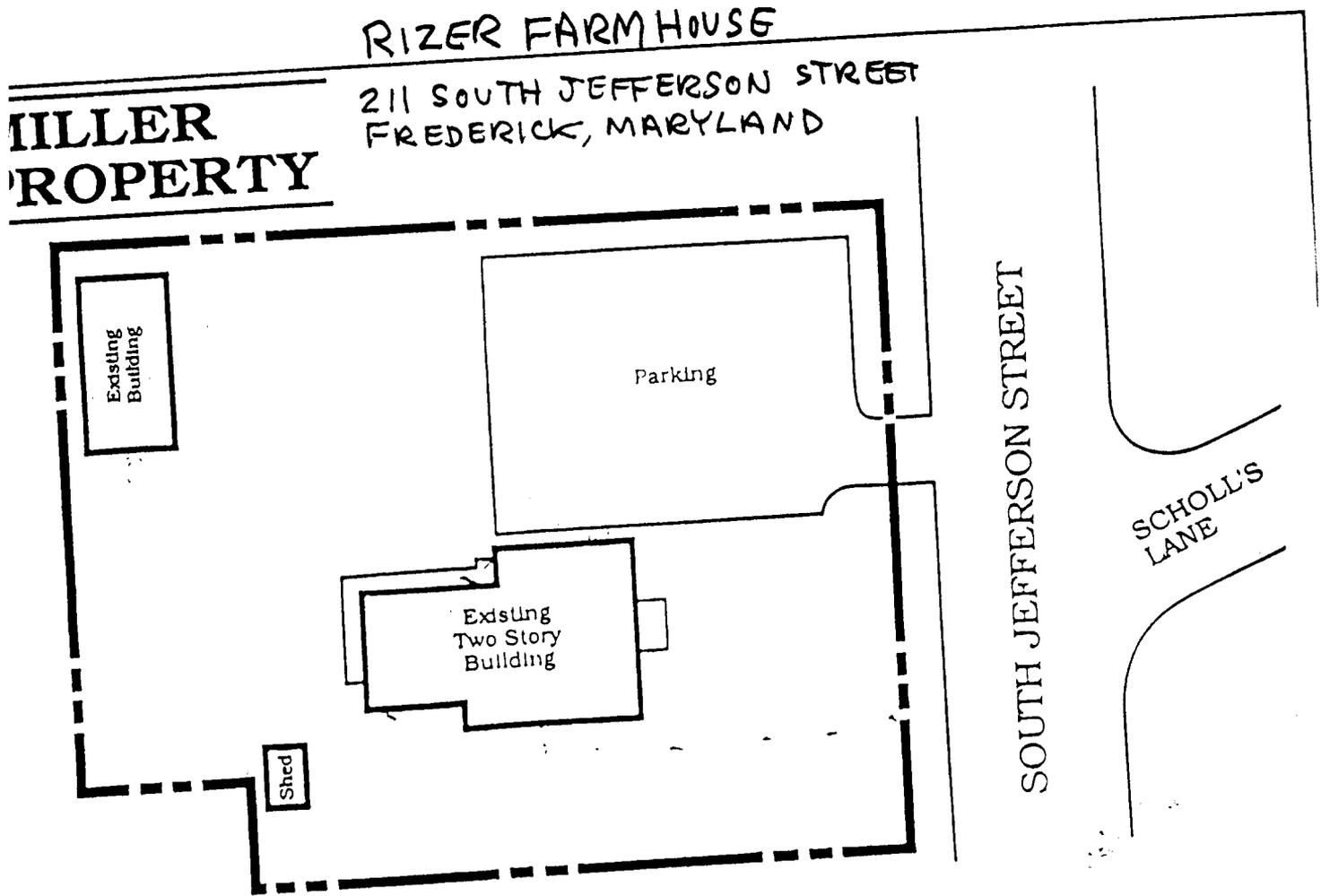
Section 8 Continuation Sheet

Page 8.1

The Civil War twice had a major impact on this property. The History of Frederick County by T.C. Williams and Jacob Englebrecht's Diary both speak of the Rizer Farm being used as a bivouac area for Union troops prior to the Battle at Gettysburg and then also for several weeks after the battle. These troops were under the command of Major General William H. French and totaled almost seven thousand soldiers of various regiments. Most of these troops were moved to Frederick from Harpers Ferry when word first came that the Confederate Army had moved into Maryland and Pennsylvania. These were mostly reserve troops and the idea was to prevent the Confederate troops from moving on Washington if General Meade was unable to engage them. It is interesting to note that the order to move them came from General Hooker who was then in charge of the Army of the Potomac which was camped several miles away, also along the Harpers Ferry Pike. On June 28, 1863 General Hooker was relieved of command and replaced with General Meade while still encamped at the farm next to the Rizer farm. In the first three days of July, 1863, General Meade, carrying out the orders received near Frederick, met General Lee at the battle of Gettysburg.

On July 7, 1864 a major skirmish occurred on the Rizer farm near the house and barn. Dismounted Virginia troops from General Bradley Johnson's command moved across from the Middletown pike toward the southern edge of the city. Near the Rizer barn they were met by dismounted Union cavalry troops from Colonel David Clendenin's Eighth Illinois Cavalry. The skirmish began at four in the afternoon with several hours of cannonading preceding the actual fight with small arms fire between the two dismounted cavalry units at the Rizer farm. Fighting continued until about eight o'clock when both sides withdrew. This fighting was the first between troops on Frederick City soil in the engagement that culminated in the battle now known as the Battle of the Monocacy, fought July 9, 1864. Jacob Englebrecht reports going out to the Rizer farm to see the battle site and seeing two dead cows, the barn riddled with shell and minnie balls, and great destruction all around. This battle was the last Civil War engagement fought in Frederick.

F-3-67



RIZER FARMHOUSE
211 SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

**MILLER
PROPERTY**

SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET

SCHOLL'S
LANE

PREPARED JUNE 1991

Parcel Sketch

F-3-67

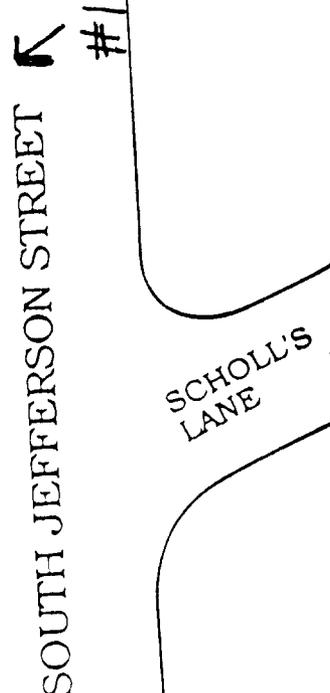
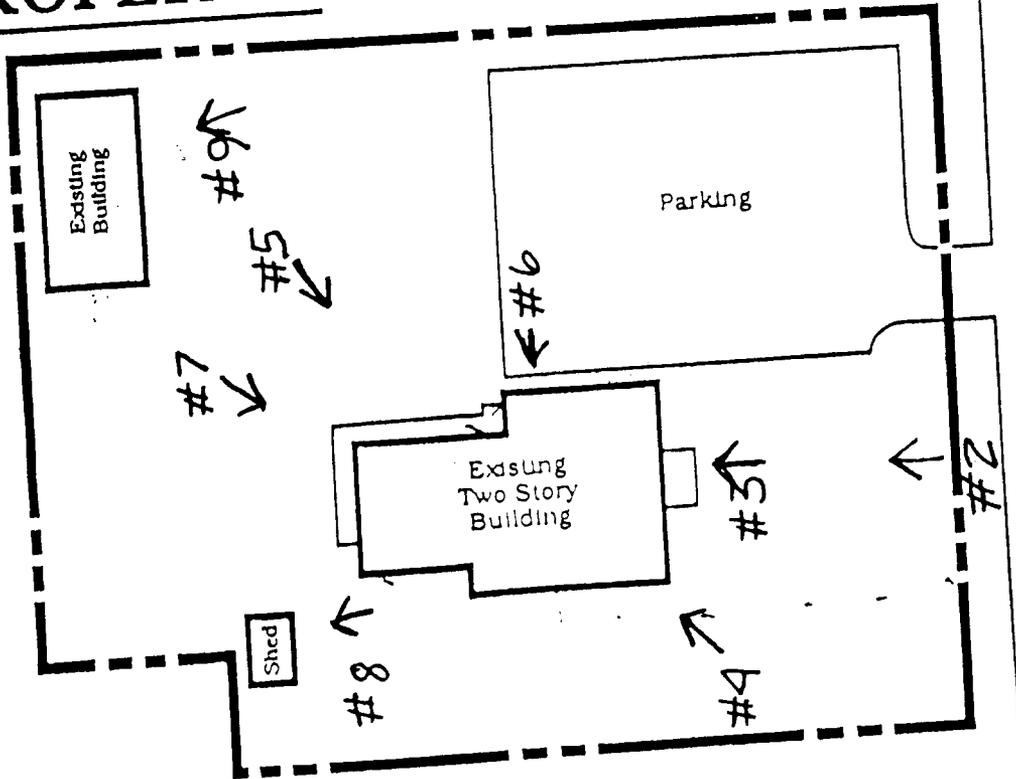
PICTURE GUIDE SHOWING WHERE SLIDES WERE TAKEN



RIZER FARM HOUSE

211 SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

MILLER PROPERTY

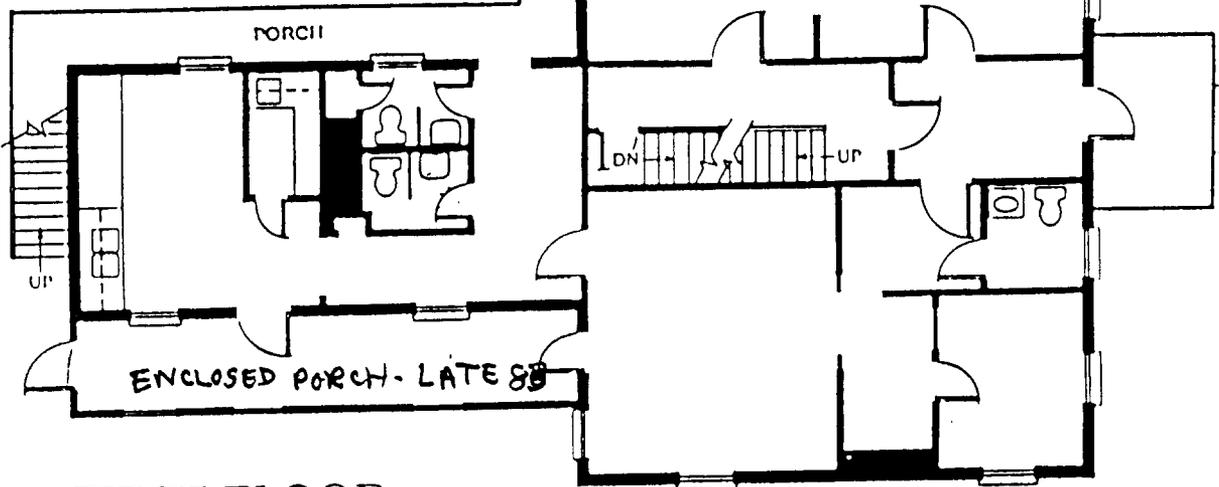


RIZER FARMHOUSE

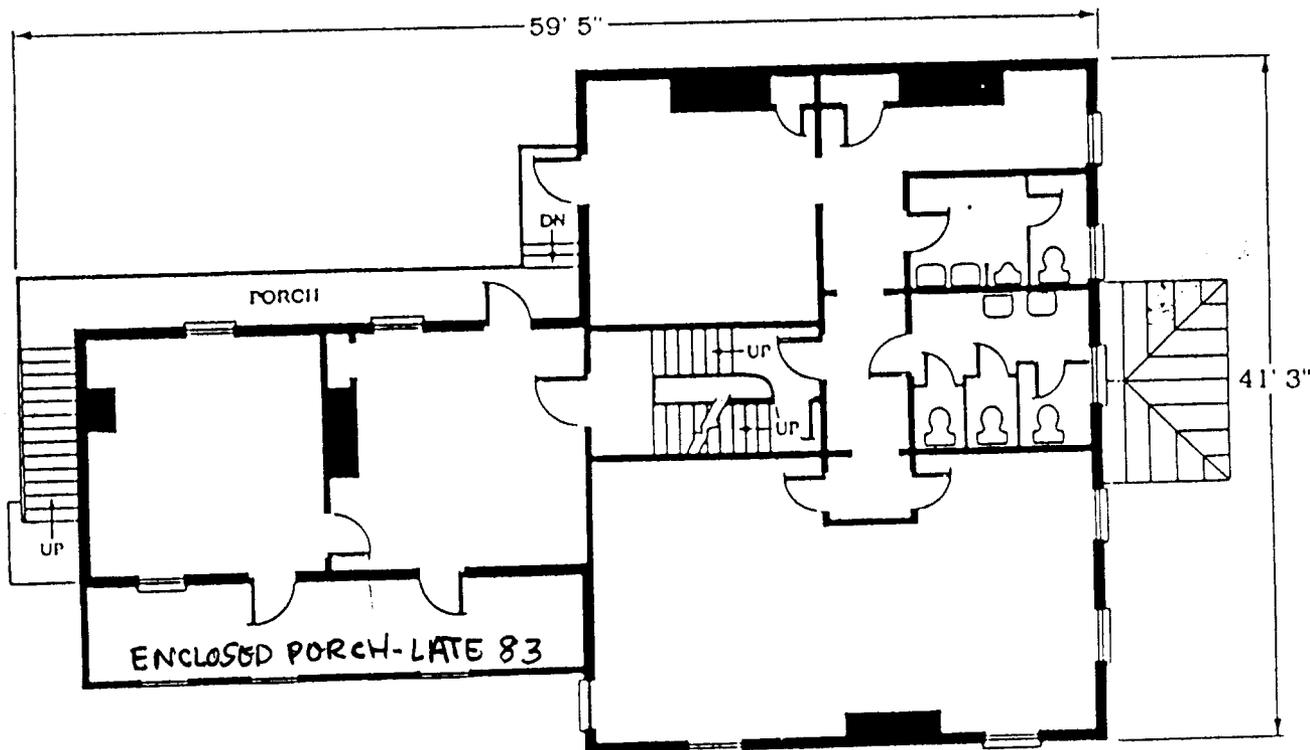


MILLER PROPERTY

211 SOUTH JEFFERSON
FREDERICK MARYLAND



FIRST FLOOR
1,995 Sq. Ft.

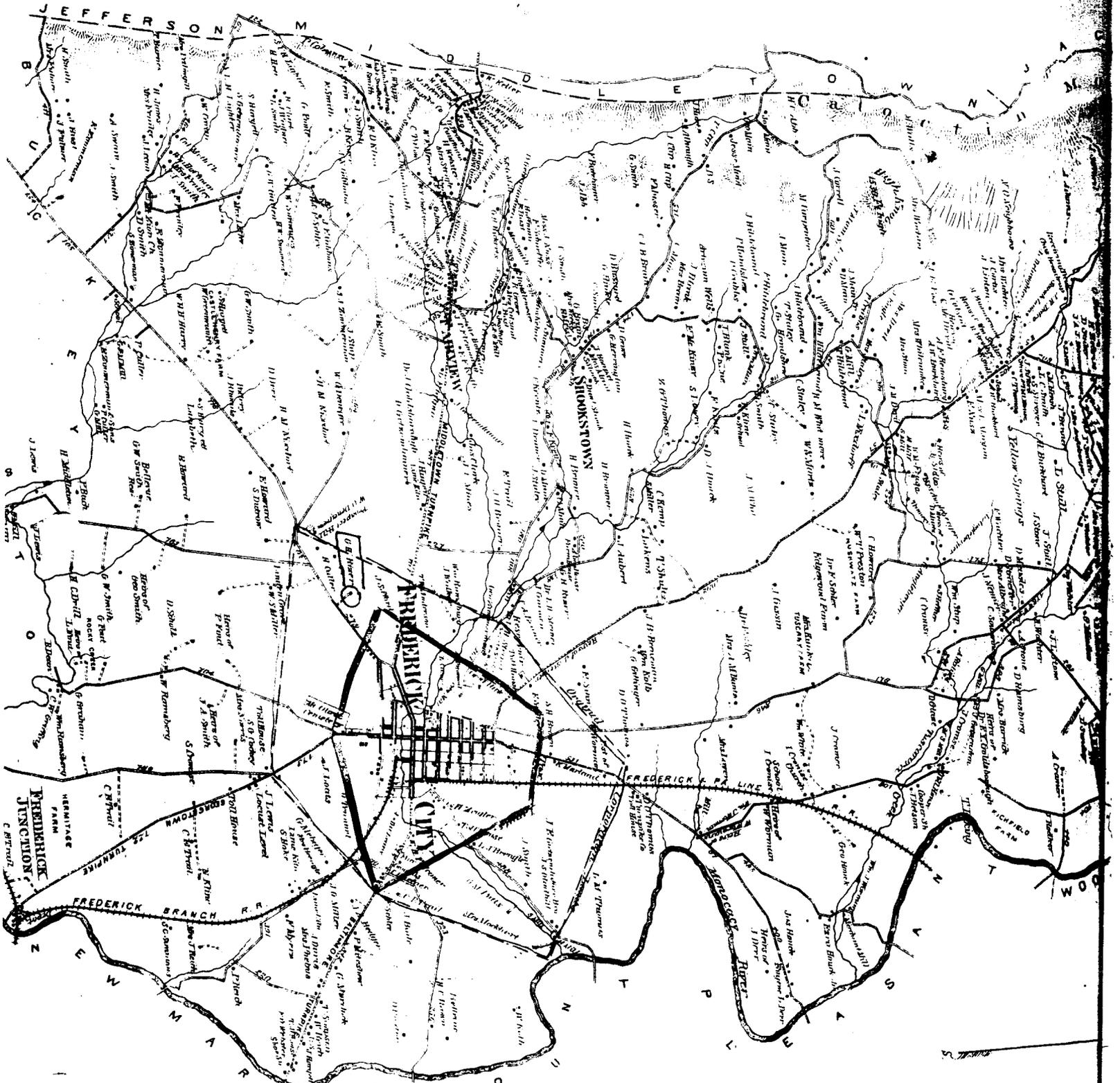


SECOND FLOOR
1,995 Sq. Ft.

Floor Plan

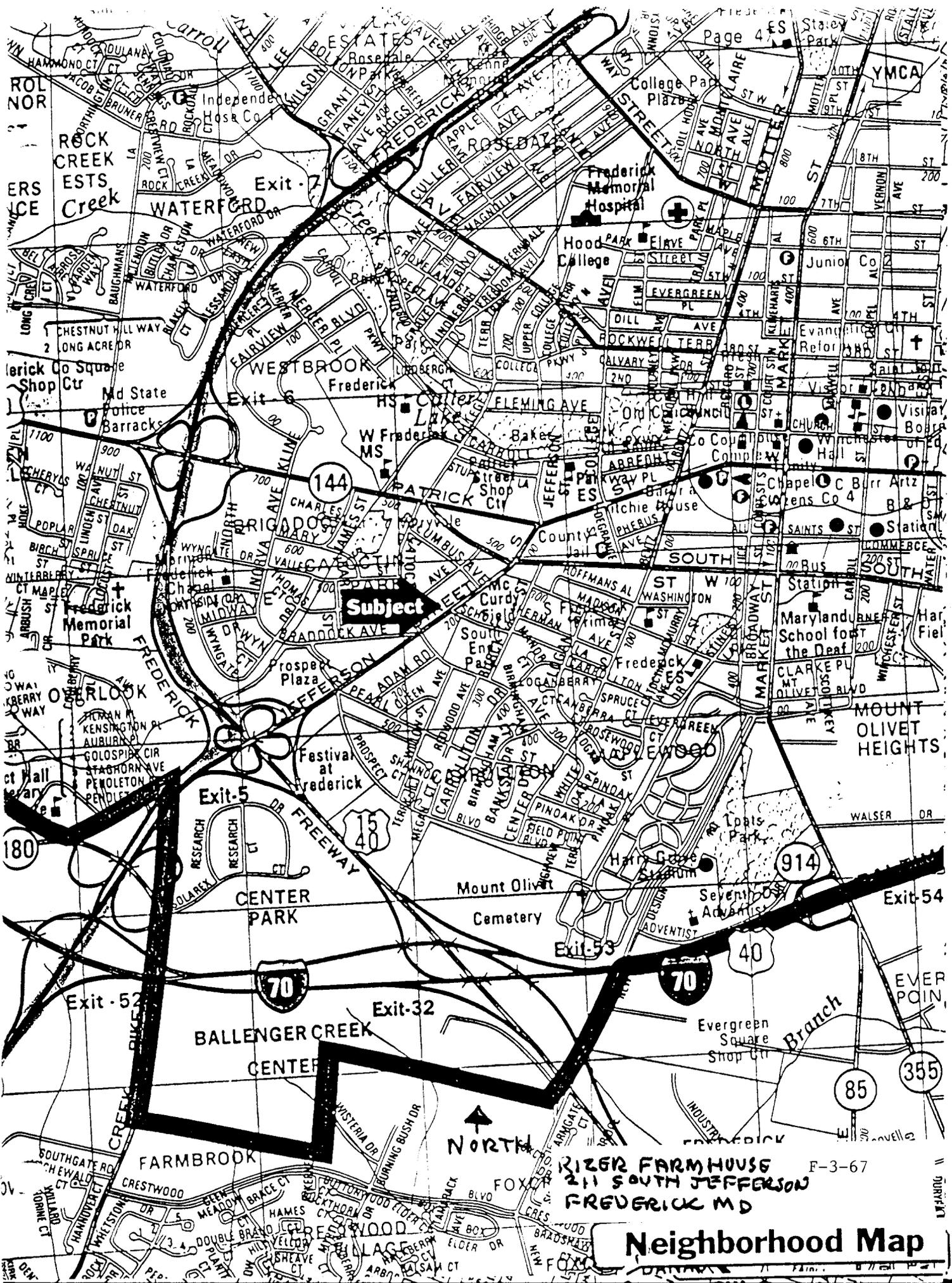
PREPARED JUNE 1991

F-3-67
RIZER FARM HOUSE
211 SOUTH JEFFERSON ST
FREDERICK MD



1873 TITUS ATLAS OF FREDERICK COUNTY

HISTORICAL MAP SHOWING FARM IN CORPORATE LIMITS

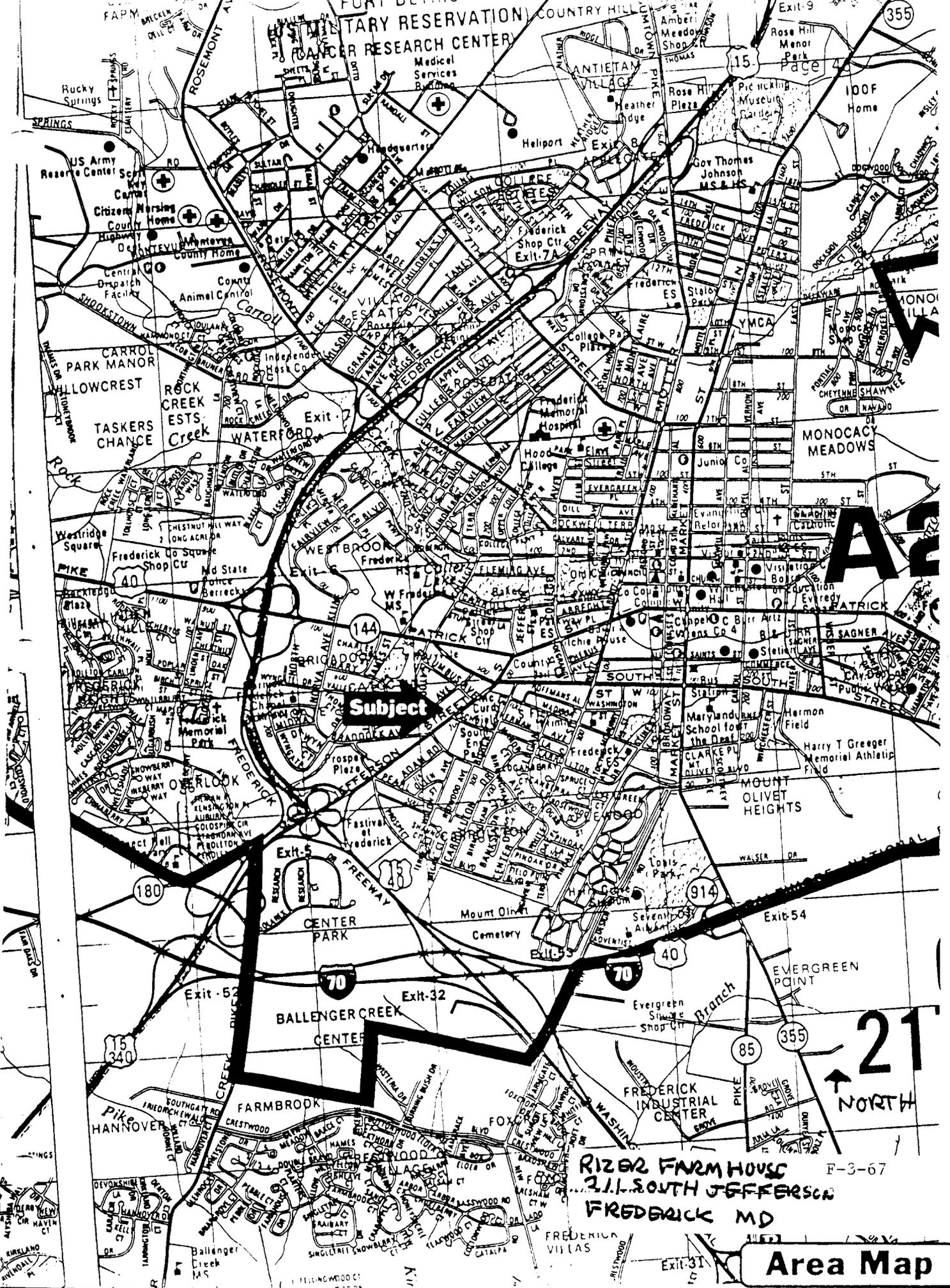


Subject

RIZER FARMHOUSE
 211 SOUTH JEFFERSON
 FREDERICK MD

Neighborhood Map

F-3-67



Subject

AE

21
NORTH

RIZOR FARM HOUSE
311 SOUTH JEFFERSON
FREDERICK MD

F-3-67

Area Map

ORT DETRICK

F-3-67
Rizer, George, House
211 South Jefferson Street
Frederick city

