

F-3-72

Alexander Ramsburg Farmstead  
Lewistown vicinity  
Private

1883

The Alexander Ramsburg Farmstead is dominated by the two-story, white-painted brick house in the Italianate style with its inscribed stone giving the owner's name and the date 1883. North of the house are several agricultural buildings, including a circa 1940 concrete block dairy barn and milk house, a frame wagon shed, and a frame hog barn. The original bank barn was destroyed by Hurricane Agnes in 1972 and replaced by a non-contributing structure. The house is a good example of the later Italianate style, popular from about 1873-1885, although it first appeared nationally in a more exuberantly decorated form about 1850. In the Ramsburg house, the most identifiable features are the front gable with a semi-circular window, the prominent bracketed cornice, and the hipped roof. Alexander Ramsburg was one of the largest landowners in the Lewistown district in the late 19th century and was the vice-president of the Washington, Frederick and Gettysburg Railroad, a steam railway that was bought by the future Hagerstown and Frederick Railway in 1909 and converted to part of its electric trolley line.

F-3-72  
Alexander Rensburg Farmstead  
Lewistown  
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:  
Agriculture  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn  
Agriculture/subsistence/agricultural outbuilding

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Alexander Ramsburg Farmstead

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 11214 Angleberger Road  not for publicationcity, town Lewistown  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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 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 Hubert R. Brown

street &amp; number 11214 Angleberger Road telephone no.:

city, town Thurmont state and zip code Md. 21788

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 529

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 345

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Brinkman Survey of Frederick County F-495  
James Survey of Frederick County F-20-5date C. 1966-68  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state Md.

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-3-72

<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: 5

The Alexander Ramsburg Farmstead is an originally agricultural complex now used as a private residence with combined commercial and agricultural uses centered on an 1883 brick dwelling, dated by an inscribed stone in its south elevation, with agricultural buildings consisting of a circa 1940 concrete block dairy barn and milk house, a frame wagon shed of about 1890, and a frame hog barn of about the same date. The farmstead is located on the north side of Angleberger Road just east of U.S. 15 near Lewistown, Frederick County, Maryland. The site is on a hill overlooking the central Monocacy Valley and Catoctin Mountain and the dwelling faces south toward Mt. Prospect M.E. Church (F-3-55) on the south side of Angleberger Road.

The two-story brick house is in an Italianate style with white-painted walls. The south elevation has a central cross gable in which is set the marble stone inscribed "Alex. Rensburg, 1883" below a semi-circular window. (The spelling of the family name varies from source to source; the historic name refers to the spelling in the 1910 Williams and McKinsey History of Frederick County and the land records.) The facade has five bays with segmental arched openings. A one-story porch extends across the south elevation. The support posts are square with molded bases. An Italianate bracketed and dentilled cornice extends around the entire building and the hipped roof is covered with composition material. Twin central chimneys rise from the roof. The first floor windows extend to the floor and have 1/1 sash. The upper story has 1/1 replacement sash. The main door is a four-panel type under an arched, single light transom. The east and west elevations have two bays each. A two-story rear wing extends from the north elevation. On the east side of the wing is an enclosed one-story porch, from which an extended roof covers a modern concrete terrace. The north elevation of the wing has two bays and the first story windows have been filled in with brick. The interior of the house was inaccessible for this survey.

### Outbuildings:

**Dairy barn and milk house:** The plain concrete block dairy barn and milk house apparently date from about 1940, estimated by the use of the plain block rather than the rusticated variety more frequently built in the 1920's and 1930's. The upper structure is frame with a gambrel roof in standing seam metal. The sash is 2 vertical lights in metal frames. The barn has a modern extension on the north elevation and is currently used as a storage building for the current owner's contracting business.

**Wagon shed:** The frame wagon shed is located north of the house and a non-contributing concrete block tool shed. It was probably built about 1883 and is located just south of the site of the original bank barn which was destroyed in 1972 by Hurricane Agnes. The barn site is now occupied by a non-contributing structure. The wagon shed has adjoining non-contributing additions, but was originally the free-standing type with corn cribs on each side of the drive-through. The south

(Continued on separate sheet)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-3-72

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input 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 checked="" 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** 1883-C.1930 **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.

The Alexander Ramsburg Farmstead is significant for the Italianate architecture of its dwelling, a good, if rather restrained, example of the style, which was in the national context somewhat dated at the time of its construction in 1883, and for its association with Alexander Ramsburg, a prominent landowner and businessman in the last quarter of the 19th century. The Italianate style was popular from about 1850 to 1885, and the general trend after about 1873 was toward less exuberant decoration, as shown in the Ramsburg house. When built, it cost over \$6,000, a considerable sum for the period in Frederick County, which, with its prominent location, reflected the wealth and position of Alexander Ramsburg, described in 1910 as "probably the largest land owner and tax payer in Lewistown District". The Williams and McKinsey history calls the farm "a most desirable country-place (with) excellent barns, and the water needed on the place is furnished by a hot air engine that pumps the water from a well, 239 feet deep, which was drilled mainly through solid rock." With buildings and fixtures of this type, the farmstead was clearly one of the showplaces of the Lewistown district. Ramsburg (born 1838), in addition to owning over 400 acres, was one of the promoters and the vice-president of the Washington, Frederick and Gettysburg Railroad, a small steam railway which was planned to link Washington and Gettysburg, but was only built between Frederick and Thurmont. The original investors were bought out by the Frederick and Middletown Railway (later the Hagerstown and Frederick Railway) in 1909 and the route became the Thurmont division of the H&F trolley line.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-3-72

Harwood, Herbert H., Jr. Blue Ridge Trolley. San Marino, Ca.: Golden West Books, 1970, pp. 21-23  
McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990, pp. 211-212.

Land Records of Frederick County (Continued on separate sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name Catoctin Furnace, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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## Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres centered on the dwelling on Tax Map 32, Parcel 29.

## 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 September 1992

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCL  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2020  
514-7600

7.2 Description (Continued)

elevation still has vertical siding and the corn crib spaces are now used for storage.

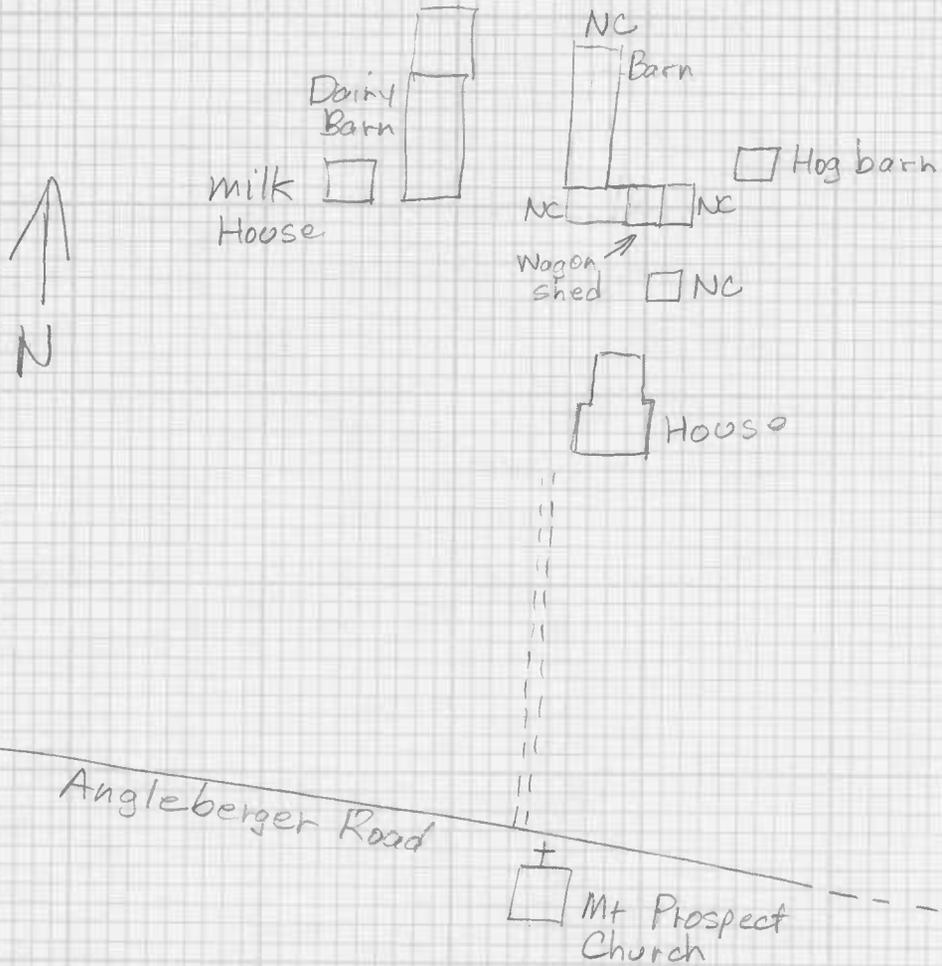
Hog barn: Northeast of the wagon shed is a frame hog barn, currently used as a horse barn. Built about 1883, the structure has vertical siding and two vertical board doors on the south elevation. The roof is standing seam metal. Both the wagon shed and hog barn, as well as the demolished bank barn, were probably built in the same year as the house, as the 1910 Williams and McKinsey history states the property had no buildings on it when Alexander Ramsburg purchased it in 1880.

Alexander Ramsburg Farmstead  
Frederick County

SURVEY No. F-3-72

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910.  
Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, p. 1038-1039.



F-3-72  
 Alexander Ramsburg Farmstead  
 Frederick County

Janet Davis  
 September 1, 1992  
 Not to Scale

11214 Anglerberger Rd.

LIBER/FO

GRANTEE

GRANTOR

ORIGINAL TRACTS

COST

DATE

529/345  
26 Mar 54Hubert R. &  
Mary F. BrownC. Alonzo + Ruth S.  
Rice3 tracts:  
107a.: HWB 296/122  
32a.: HWB 306/373  
19a.: 340/102525/111  
28 Dec 53C. Alonzo Rice  
et uxReith G. Zimmerman,  
widow525/107  
28 Dec 53Ida M. Rice, Mary  
M. & Charles C.T.  
Stull, C. Alonzo  
& Ruth S. Rice  
(Heirs of Charles D. Rice)

Ruth G. Zimmerman

352/131  
3 Feb 25

Charles A. Rice

Alban M. Wood,  
trustee of Calvin  
L. Putman in Equity  
11019P. 1: 107a.  
of 4:

\$20,000

P. HWB 296/122  
23 Mar 11Calvin L. & Effie  
M. PutmanAlexander Ramsburg  
& wife Hannah L.  
Ramsburg107a.  
2 deeds:  
CM 4/719, 8 Mar 1870  
HWB 292/460, 2 Apr 1880P. 1  
HWB 292/460  
2 Apr 1880Alexander Rams-  
burg (sic)Lewis P. & Julia C.  
Ramsburg

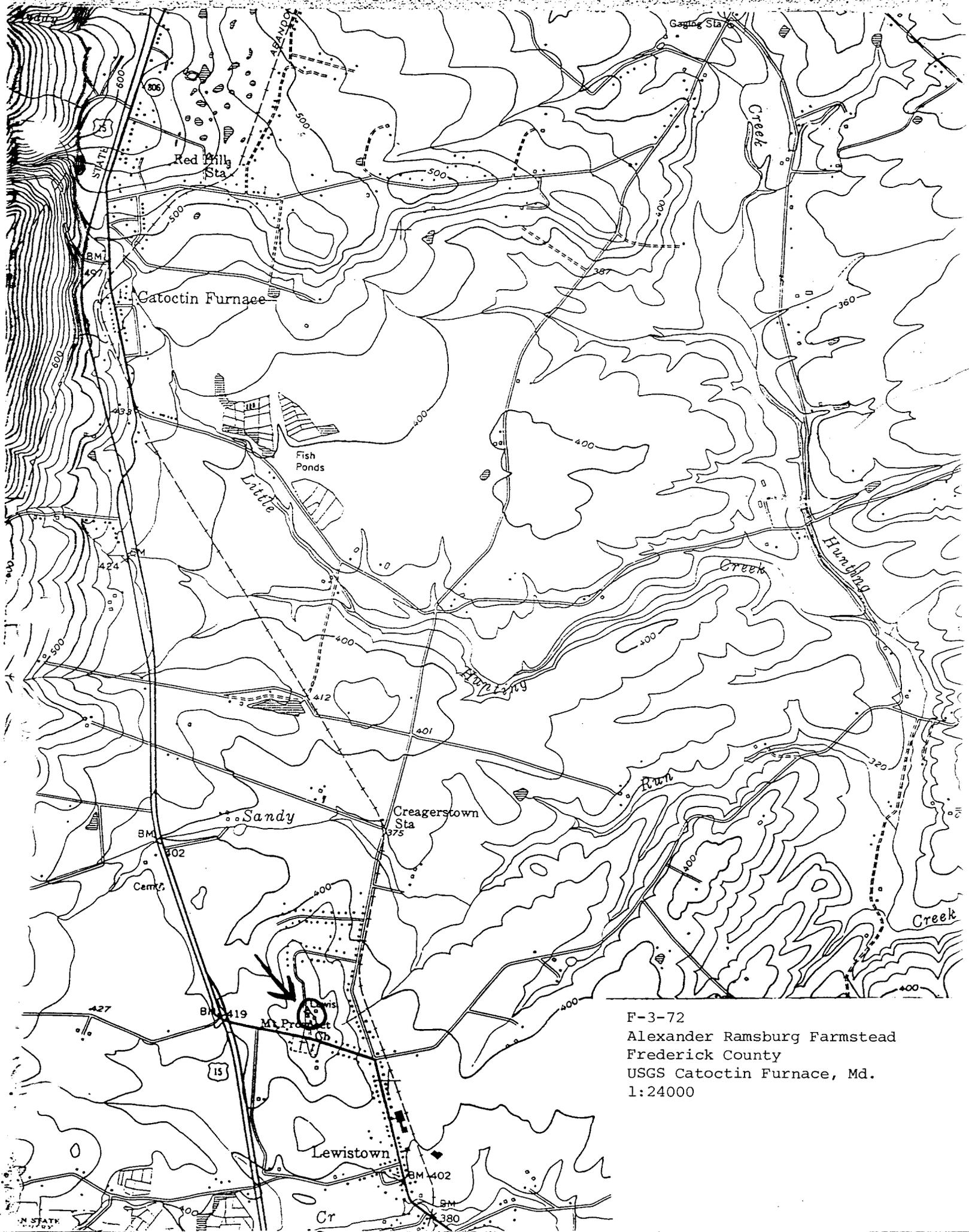
"Osceola"

\$3967.50

P. 1  
CM 4/719  
8 Mar 1870Alexander Rams-  
burgThomas C. & Phoebe  
A. M. Ramsburg"Osceola"  
57a-

\$6,000

F-3-72



F-3-72  
Alexander Ramsburg Farmstead  
Frederick County  
USGS Catoctin Furnace, Md.  
1:24000



F-3-72

Alexander Romsburg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO Crownsville, Md

Soil elevation

1/4



F-3-72

Alexander Romsburg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1992

Neg. loc. - Md. State College, Md

North elevation

2/4



F. 3-72

Alexander Ramsburg Farmstead.

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Dows

September 1992

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

Wagon shed/corn crib. South elevation

3/4



F-3-72

Alexander Ronisburg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1992

Neg. loc.: Mid SHPO: Craunsville, Md.

Dairy barn and milk house, south elevation

4/4