

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Birely-Roelkey Farmstead Survey Number: F:3-134

Project: I-270/US 15 Multimodal Study, Montgomery and Frederick Co. Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Birely-Roelkey Farmstead, located on the east side of Route 15, north of Harmony Grove and south of Hansonville, is considered eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion c.

The Birely-Roelkey Farmstead is centered around a ca. 1851 brick dwelling with Italianate details and its associated outbuildings. The associated outbuildings include a frame carriage house, a frame blacksmith shop, a horse barn, a wagon shed/corn crib, a frame garage, a tenant house, and a bank barn rebuilt in the 1920s on the stone foundation of an earlier barn that burned down. The house was built by John W. Birely (1816-1896), a prominent local businessman and cashier of the Farmers and Mechanics National Bank in the late 19th century. The farmstead is significant for its architecture because it provides a good example of the Italianate style farmhouse, one of the most popular styles in the 1850s and which reflected the social and economic status of the builder, John Birely. Further, the blacksmith shop is a rare surviving building type, as it was often of frame construction and vulnerable to fire. The property qualifies for listing on the National Register under Criterion C and should include the dwelling and its associated outbuildings. ~~There is no need to include the acreage surrounding the buildings which make the property eligible.~~ mk  
jw

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT Inventory Files

Prepared by: Janet Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor, MHT Form (1992); Rita Suffness, Cultural Resources Leader, SHA, DOE (1996).

Kimberly Prothro Williams October 2, 1996  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

Peter R. Furtz  
Reviewer, NR program Date

*Smw*

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

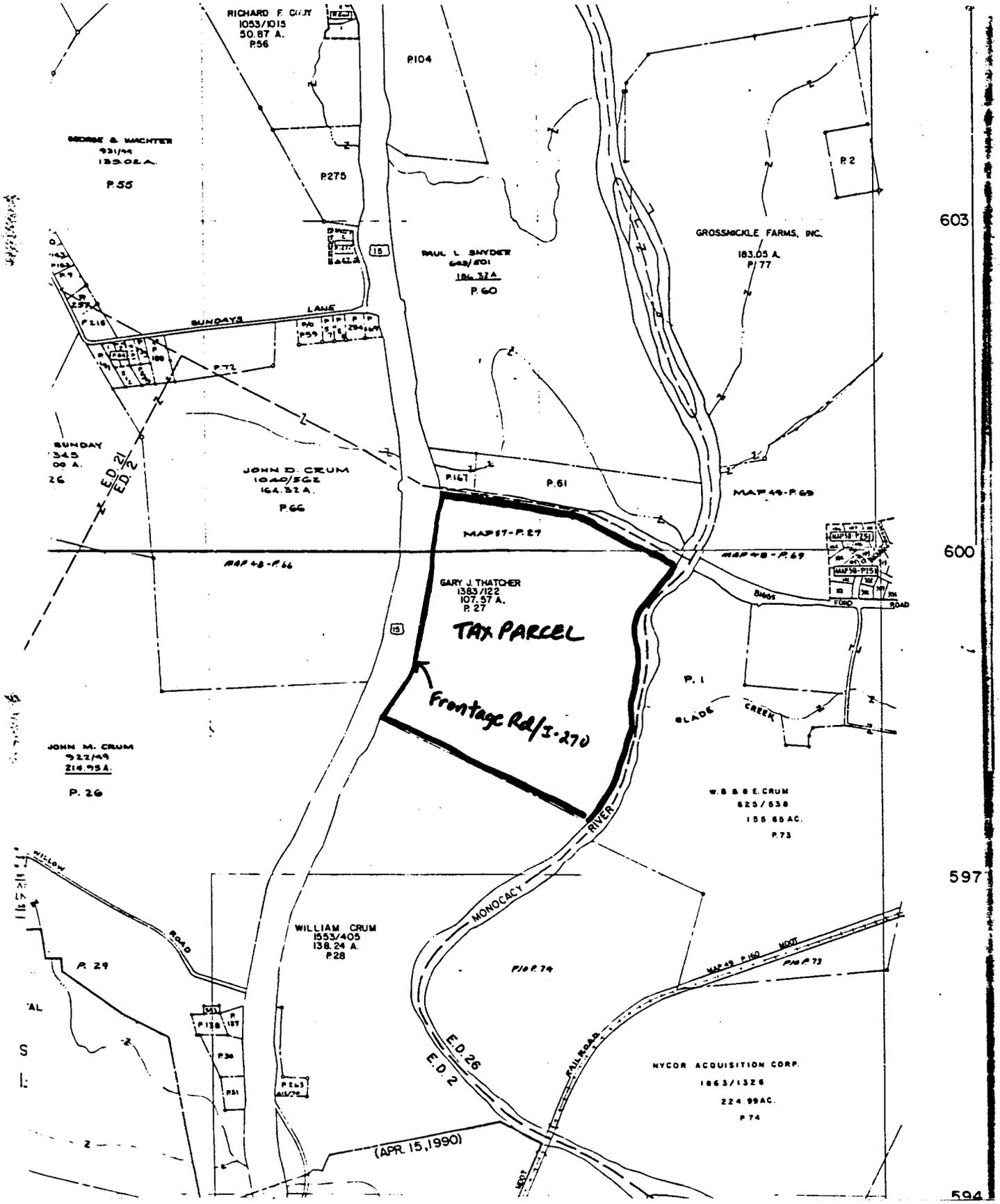
Historic Environment: Rural

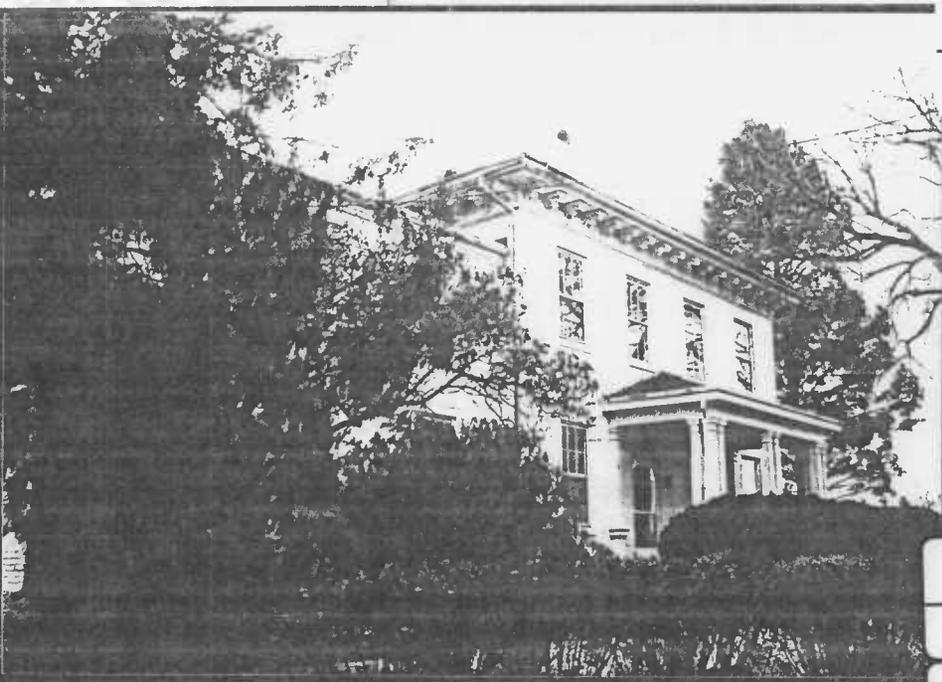
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic / Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

F-3-134

Attachment 8  
Proposed historic site boundary -  
Birely - Roelkey Farmstead  
Tax Parcel

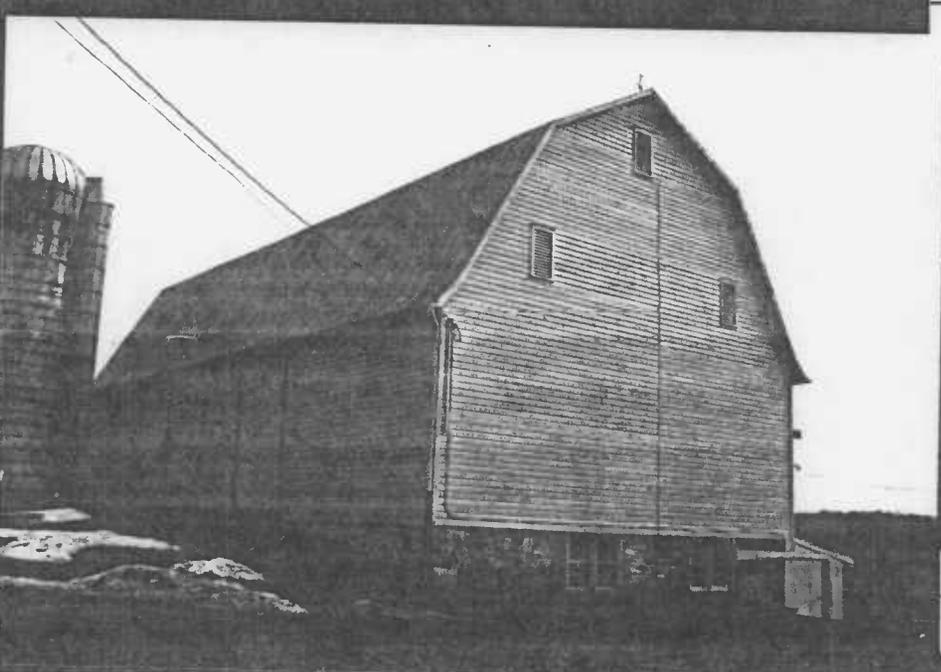




Birely-Roelkey  
Farmstead F-3-134



House,  
west Elevation



Northwest Corner

Bank barn

Attachment 7- F-8-134  
Photographs, Page 7



Dwelling, W.E. Corner

F-3-134  
Birely-Roelkey Farmstead  
Frederick vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1851-1940

The Birely-Roelkey Farmstead is centered on a circa 1851 brick dwelling with Italianate details and its outbuildings, which range in date from 1851 to about 1940. These outbuildings include a frame carriage house which is probably contemporary with the house, a frame blacksmith shop dating to the 1870's or 1880's, a horse barn, a wagon shed/corn crib, a frame garage, a tenant house, and a bank barn rebuilt in the 1920's on the stone foundation of an earlier barn that burned. The farmstead is significant in architecture because of the Italianate features of the main dwelling, its prominent bracketed cornice, low hipped roof, and porches. The style was one of the most popular in the 1850's and reflected the social and economic status of the probable builder, John W. Birely (1816-1896), a Frederick businessman and bank cashier. The presence of the blacksmith shop is becoming a rarity in existing mid-19th century farmsteads, as they are often of frame construction and vulnerable to fire.

F-3-134  
Birely-Roelkey House  
Frederick  
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  
Modern Period, A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Agriculture  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/mansion  
Domestic/secondary structure/garage  
Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies  
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn  
Agriculture/subsistence/agricultural outbuilding/wagon shed  
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/silo

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC SITES

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Birely-Roelkey Farmstead

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 7801 Biggs Ford Road  not for publicationcity, town Frederick  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 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 Gary J. and Judith A. Thatcher

street &amp; number 7801 Biggs Ford Road telephone no.:

city, town Frederick, state and zip code MD 21701

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1383

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 122

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository 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: 10

The Birely-Roelkey Farmstead is an agricultural complex centered on a circa 1851 brick dwelling with Italianate details and its associated outbuildings dating from about the 1870's to the 1940's including a frame or log tenant house, a frame carriage house, a frame horse barn, a wagon shed/corn crib, a garage, a blacksmith shop, a frame bank barn rebuilt in the 1920's on the foundation of an earlier barn, a silo and a milk house. The farmstead is located on the east side of Catoctin Mountain Highway (U.S. 15) just south of Biggs Ford Road about 3 miles north of Frederick (City), Frederick County, Maryland. The farmstead is on generally level ground at the top of a slope with a scenic view toward the south. Dates were based on architectural details and land records.

The farmstead is grouped at the end of a driveway running south from Biggs Ford Road. The drive originally led directly east from the former Frederick-Emmitsburg Turnpike which was replaced by the current right-of-way of U.S. 15. The brick main dwelling has two two-story sections, a generally square plan main section adjoined by a lower height service wing on the east elevation. Both sections are painted white. The main section has 5:1 bond with a prominent bracketed Italianate cornice and a low-pitched standing seam metal hipped roof with two central chimneys with arched caps. The principal entrance elevation is on the north side, which faces the driveway. This elevation has four bays with the entrance in the eastern inner bay. An entry porch with grouped square piers on paneled bases shelters the central two bays. The door has four heavily molded raised panels and a two-light transom. The windows are 6/6 with bullnose frames, plain wood lintels and sills. Shutter hardware is in place, but the shutters are missing. The west elevation has three bays and a central entrance covered by an entry porch which is a smaller version of the north porch. The south elevation has a full width one-story porch with chamfered posts with scroll-sawn brackets in an ogee curved profile. The elevation has four bays with a door in the west inner bay and a jib window in the east inner bay. The two-story service wing is recessed on the south elevation and slightly recessed on the north elevation. The south elevation has an integral two-story porch with plain square posts and a plain balustrade on the second story. An enclosed section at the northeast corner of the wing may be a storage area because it has an exterior vertical board door in the east side and a barred window in the north elevation. The interior of the house was inaccessible for this survey, but the owners were agreeable to a later interior documentation.

Carriage house: The frame carriage house is located southeast of the dwelling and is currently used as a dog kennel. According to Mr. Gary Thatcher, one of the current owners, the driveway originally circled the house, running past the west-facing double swing doors of the structure. It has both vertical and tongue-and-groove siding and the doors are also tongue-and-groove. A large louvred fan vent is in the gable of the west elevation and 6-light vertical windows are located in the north and east elevations. The gable roof is covered with standing seam metal. The carriage house probably dates from about the same period as the house.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-3-134

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** C. 1851-1940 **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 Birely-Roelkey Farmstead is significant for the architecture of the main dwelling house, which was built about 1851 by John W. Birely (1816-1896), a prominent local businessman and cashier of the Farmers and Mechanics National Bank in the late 19th century. The Italianate details of the house represent one of the most popular styles of the 1850's and 1860's and the social and economic prominence of Birely. The farmstead is also moderately significant for the number and variety of outbuildings which cover a date range from about 1851 to the 1940's. Among the most important outbuildings are a frame carriage house which is probably contemporary with the dwelling and a frame blacksmith shop, a relatively rare outbuilding type which does not usually survive to the present. In 1865, Birely sold the farm to John Roelkey, in whose family it was owned until 1898. Most of the contributing outbuildings date from the periods of Birely and Roelkey ownership. In comparison with other farmsteads of the 1850's, the Birely-Roelkey Farmstead retains a moderately high level of integrity, in spite of changing uses of the outbuildings and the construction of newer agricultural outbuildings. The architectural significance of the property may be enhanced by future documentation of the interior of the main dwelling.

The Birely purchase included the northern section of "Richfield", a large tract owned by the Goldsborough and Schley families. The 110-acre tract in the 1851 transaction remains essentially intact in the current parcel.



9.1 Description (Continued)

Horse barn: The frame horse barn appears to be an early 20th century structure. It is located southeast of the carriage house and has a concrete foundation with vertical tongue-and-groove siding. The long rectangular barn has a standing seam metal roof and sliding doors in two openings on the north elevation. The upper level of the barn is currently reached by an exterior wood stairway and a modern glazed panel door in the west elevation.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed with corn cribs is located northwest of the carriage house with the drive-through on a north-south axis. The building is on concrete block and stone piers, indicating some repair and alteration in the 20th century, although it was probably built in the 1890's, based on its materials. The exterior is covered with german siding and the gables have vertical beaded siding with three louvred rectangular vents. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal.

Bank barn, concrete silo, and milk house: The original frame bank barn burned in the 1920's and was rebuilt on the old stone foundation, located east of the wagon shed. The present upper structure is a gambrel-roofed building with german siding and a corrugated metal roof. The forebay was not rebuilt, but an open shed over the stone stall level extends to the south. Two sliding doors are located above on the south wall. A concrete silo built in the 1930's or 1940's is located adjacent to the ramp on the north elevation. The concrete block milk house was built after the 1920's fire and has both rusticated and plain concrete block sections. The one-story rectangular building is located near the northeast corner of the bank barn. A non-contributing metal barn is located east of the bank barn and milk house.

Blacksmith shop: The frame blacksmith shop is located north of the bank barn. It was probably erected in the 1870's or 1880's and has vertical beaded siding and a standing seam metal roof over wood shingles. On the open south elevation is a center support post and boarded window openings are on the east, north, and west elevations. The brick and concrete forge is located in the northwest corner. Currently used as a wood shed, the blacksmith shop is in deteriorated condition.

Garage: The one-story frame garage is located west of the blacksmith shop and appears to have been built in the early 1930's or 1940's. It is rectangular, with vertical tongue-and-groove siding and a corrugated metal roof with an off-center brick chimney. The west end is a small storage area with a panel door on the south elevation and a window with composite sashes, one 2/2 and one 3/3. At the east end is a two-bay garage, possibly added later to the existing western section. Lift-type doors and a salt box roof profile characterize the garage section.

Tenant house: The two-story tenant house is the northernmost building in the farmstead and is a typical vernacular farmhouse of the second half of the 19th century. It may have some log structure as well as frame, and the exterior is covered with vinyl siding. The three-bay west elevation has an entry porch over the central entrance and the windows are 1/1 replacement sash. Other windows in the house have 1/6 or 1/2 sash. The roof is covered with standing

Birley-Roelkey Farmstead  
Frederick County

SURVEY No. F-3-134

9.2 Description (Continued)

seam metal and interior end chimneys rise above the gable ends. A two-story rear wing with a one-story porch on the south elevation extends to the east from the front section. The rear wing porch has turned columns. A third interior chimney is located at the east end of the wing.

78. Beggs Ford Rd.

F-3-134

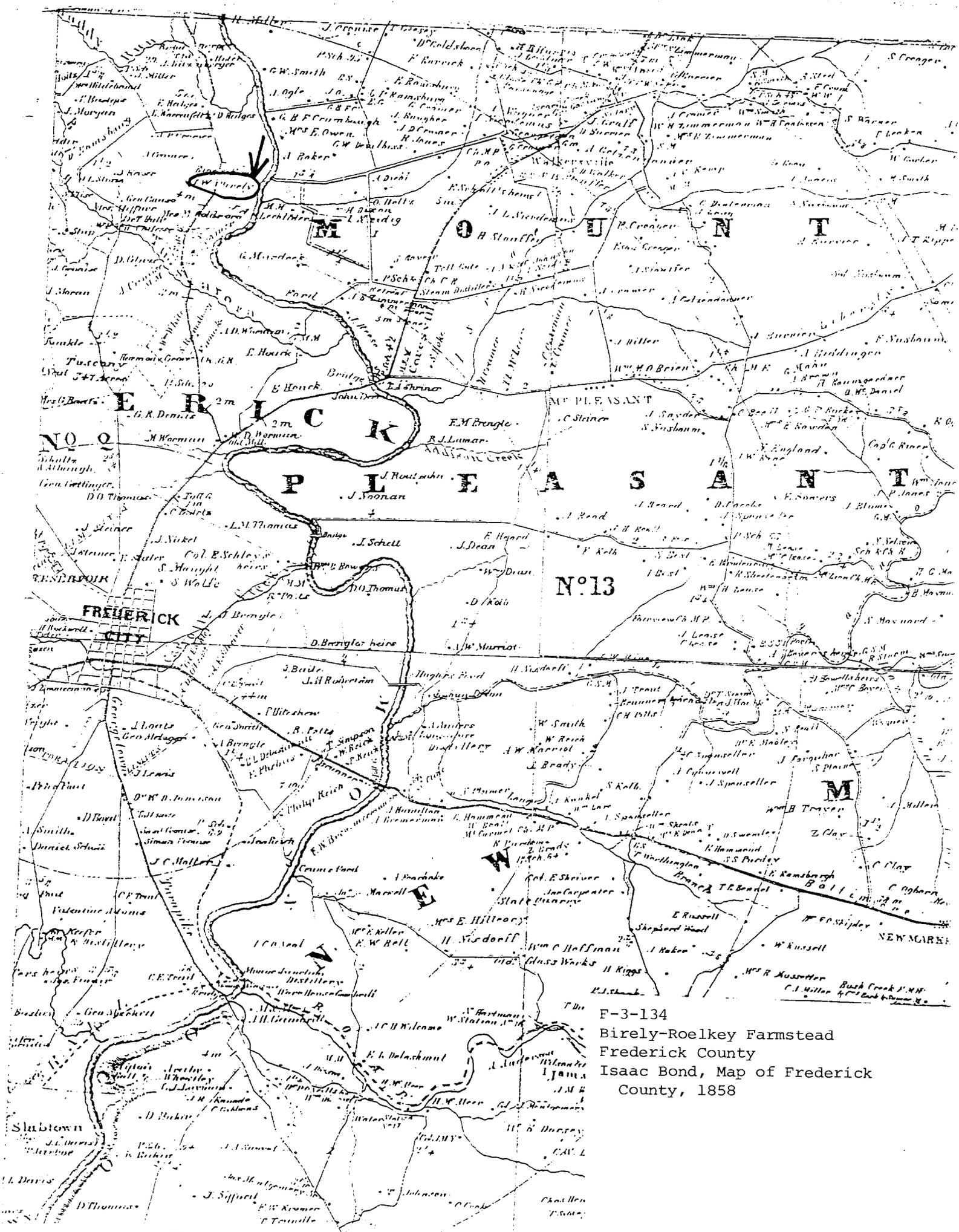
Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
1383/122 1 Dec 86	Gary J. & Judith A. Shatler	Monocacy Knoll Farms, Inc.	110 A. ±	#490,000	
927/938 1 Oct 73	Monocacy Knoll Farms, Inc.	Alice E. Thomas, Sarah J. Drumming, Barbara T. Genger			
466/4 2 Oct 47	Daniel J. & Alice E. Thomas	Daniel E. Wright et ux	part of 'Taske's Chance' 1100. ±		
388/330 4 Aug 33	Daniel E. & Nellen Conley Wright	John J. Shingler receiver of Central Trust Co.	Equity 12,299	#14,000	
385/248 8 Sept 32	George W. Page Receiver of Central Trust Co.	John S. Neuman assignee		#11,250	
355/583 8 Apr 26 mortgage	Walkersville Savings Bank mortgagee	George S. & Mora Dalhouse			
358/11 1 Apr 26	George S. & Mora Dalhouse	Roy C. & Etta D. Michael	110 A. ±		
316/588 17 May 16	Roy C. & Etta D. Michael	Grayson H. & Bertha C. Staley	110 A. ±		
314/373 4 Dec 15	Grayson H. Staley	Wm. C. & Lillie D. Adams			
308/428 11 Apr 14	Wm. C. & Lillie D. Adams	Grayson H. & Bertha C. Staley			

721 Biggs Ford Rd. (p. 2)

F-3-134

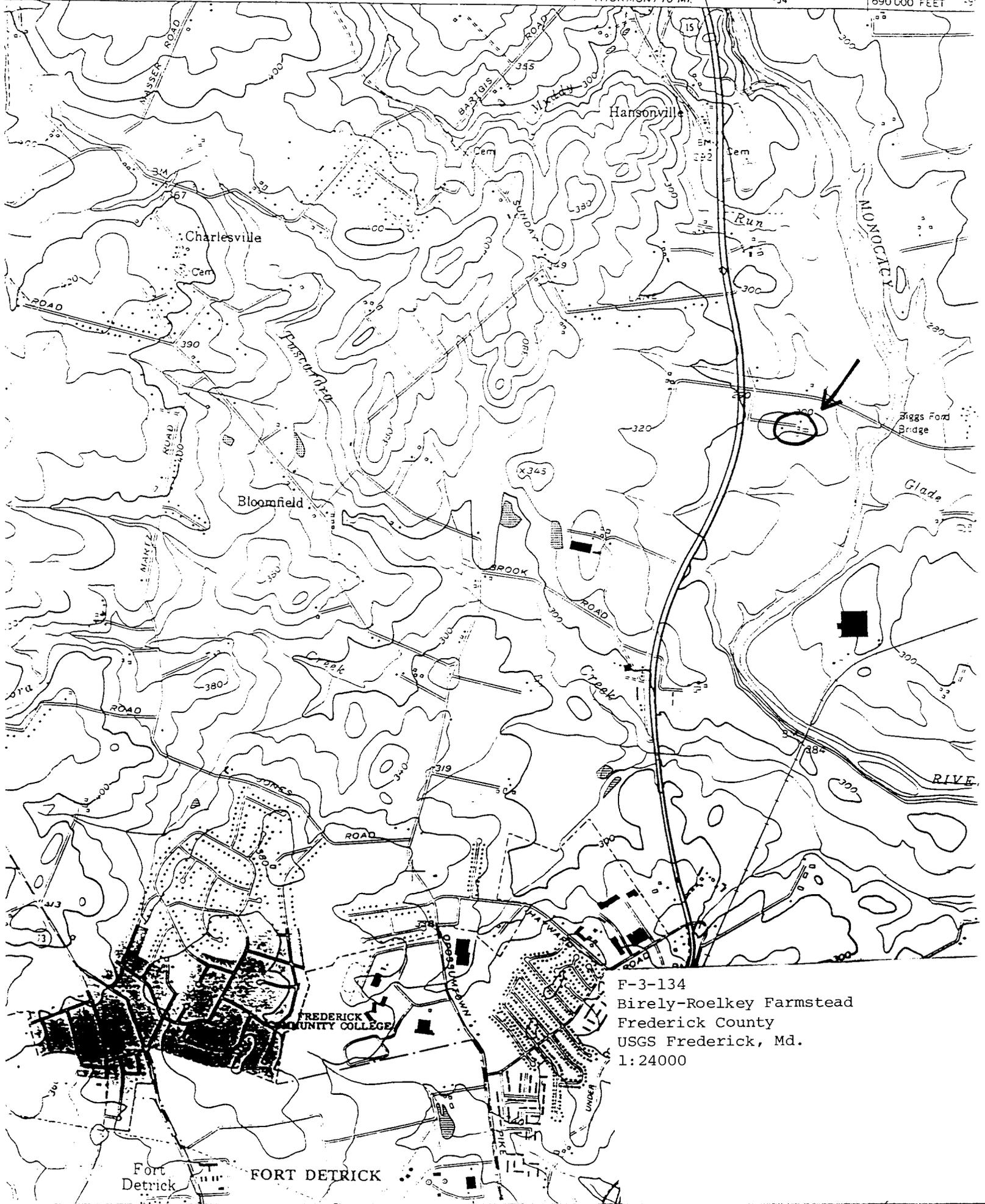
Lot Size, Description,  
Other Information,  
Original Tracts

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
308/241 25-Mar/14	Grayson H. Staley	Mary J. Luckey	110 a. ±		
DHH 7/737 2 Mar 01	Mary J. Luckey	Mary J. Brown	part of "Taske's Chance" 110 a. ±	\$12,000	
DHH 7/736 2 Mar 01	Mary J. Brown	Mary J. + George J. Luckey			
DHH 3/282 17 Dec 1898	Mary J. + George J. Luckey	George A. + Emma V. Dean	110 a. ±	\$12,000	
DHH 1/391 15 Mar 1898	George A. Dean	T. E. R. Miller, Elroy Poelkey, Joseph E. Poelkey, Rebecca, Sussannah, R. Poelkey, + Rebecca Clagitt,	110 a. I	\$12,000	LWAT of John Poelkey with head IKWZ/ 232 Maitgale
JWLC 3/372 30 Dec 1865	John Poelkey	John S. Carlisle et us	110 a. ±	\$16,500	
JWLC 2/311 26 Jan 1865	John S. Carlisle	John W. Birley et us	110 a. ±	\$17,600	
WBT 13/224 17 Jan 1851	John W. Birley	John T. Schley		\$5,555	
J 530/297 23 Jul 1823	David Schley	Sarah Goldsborough Leander W. Goldsborough Rhineus B. + Catherine E. W. Duckett	270 1/4 a.	\$12,161.25	



F-3-134  
 Birely-Roelkey Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick  
 County, 1858





F-3-134  
 Birely-Roelkey Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 USGS Frederick, Md.  
 1:24000



F-3-134

Birely-Roelkey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

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

North west corner view

1/10



F-3-134

Birely-Roelkey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

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

Sooth elevation

2/10



F. 5-134

Birely - Roelkey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

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

Southeast corner view

3/10



F. 3-134

Birely - Roelkey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

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

Carriage House, northwest corner view

4/10



F-3-134

Birely-Roelkey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

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

Horse barn, north elevation

5/10



F-3-134

Birely - Roel Key Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

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

Wagon shed/corn crib, south elevation

6/10



F. 3-134

Birely-Raelkey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville Md.  
Bank barn, south elevation

7/10



F-3-134

Sirely-Roelkey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

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

Blacksmith Shop, south elevation

8/10



F-3-134

Birely-Roelkey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

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

Garage, south elevation

a/10



F-3-134

Birely-Roelkey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1993

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

Tenant house, southwest corner view

10/10