

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-3-138

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

DECLINED

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Houck Farm

and/or common Bowers Farm (preferred)

## 2. Location

street & number Trading Lane \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Frederick  vicinity of Sixth 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 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	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name AOKI Corporation

street & number No. 20 Columbia Corporation Center Ste 401 telephone no.: (410) 964-3255

city, town Columbia state and zip code MD 21044-3510

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1564

street & number North Court Street folio 762

city, town Frederick state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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			

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

See attached continuation sheets.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-3-138

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

### 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.

See attached continuation sheets.



**Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data**

**Geographic Organization:**

Piedmont

**Chronological/Development Periods:**

Rural Agrarian Intensification, 1680-1815

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Modern Period, 1930-Present

**Historic Period Themes:**

Agriculture

Architecture

**Resource Type:**

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Known Design Source: none

### **General Description**

The Bowers Farm encompasses two buildings, a two-story brick farmhouse and a one-story stone spring house/dwelling. These are the only buildings remaining from a larger farm complex. The farmhouse dates from the early nineteenth century; the spring house/dwelling may date from the eighteenth century. The principal dwelling is an example of a regional farmhouse form characterized by a side-gabled main block with rear wing and exhibits influences from the nationally-popular Federal and Greek Revival styles. The principal dwelling is in poor to deteriorated condition and the spring house/dwelling is in ruins.

The Bowers Farm is located west of the Monocacy River approximately three miles north of downtown Frederick, Maryland. A new subdivision road, Trading Lane, leads to the property from Route 26. The two buildings face the Trading Lane Extension Road. Open fields surround the farmstead to the east, west, and north. A modern suburban residential development is located south of the property.

### **Principal Dwelling**

The Bowers Farm house is a large, two-story, brick dwelling constructed ca. 1820-25. The house consists of a main block and rear ell that form an L-shaped footprint. The main block of the house is five bays wide and one room deep and contains the primary entrance in the center bay. The rear ell is connected to the west wall of the main block and extends north. The rear ell is four bays wide and one room deep. The building incorporates a gable roof over the main block of the building with an intersecting gable roof over the rear ell. All roof planes are sheathed in composite shingle and tar paper. The house is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. A coursed, quarried stone foundation supports the structure and a full basement extends beneath the house.

The decorative focus of the house was a semi-circular fanlight above the paired four-panel doors of central entrance. The fanlight was removed during salvage operations. The doorway is

a simple variation of typical Federal style detailing popular during the early nineteenth century. The eave line of the front and rear of the main block is marked by a shallow, three-course, corbelled brick cornice, also a typical feature of simple Federal-style buildings. The windows are aligned symmetrically and consist of original six-over-six light, double-hung, wooden sash. Brick jack arches surmount the windows of the main block of the house. The windows of the primary elevation (south) are flanked by operable, wooden, louvered shutters. Brick exterior end chimneys rise from the gable ends of the main block. Small attic windows flank the chimney stack on each gable end near the roof peak.

A one-story porch spans the middle three bays of the main block. The hipped roof of the porch is clad in standing-seam metal and is supported by four plain boxed columns. The porch floor is poured concrete. The porch ceiling is clad in tongue-and-groove wood siding.

The two-story, four-bay rear ell extends from the north wall of the main block and also is constructed of Flemish bond brick. A central brick chimney pierces the center of the roof line of the rear ell between the second and third bays; an interior end chimney rises from the end elevation (north) of the rear ell. The terrain surrounding the west elevation of the rear ell slopes away, revealing portions of the stucco-covered stone foundation.

A two-story porch spans the east elevation of the rear ell; this is a characteristic feature of nineteenth-century farmhouses in the Maryland Piedmont. The porch is incorporated under the principal roof of the rear ell and is supported by plain boxed columns on the first and second floors. The porch ceiling and decking on the second floor are clad in tongue-and-groove wood siding; the porch floor on the first floor is poured concrete. A balustrade displaying an interlocking heart pattern extends across the second level of the porch. A portion of the end bay of the porch on both floors is enclosed by wooden ship-lap siding.

The first and second levels of the east elevation of the rear ell exhibit two six-over-six light, double-hung, wooden sash windows flanked by recessed four-paneled wooden doors. The four-bay

west elevation of the rear ell also exhibits six-over-six light, double-hung, wooden sash windows. The windows of the rear ell are smaller than the windows of the main block and are not surmounted by jack arches.

A one-story, one-bay, brick, shed-roof, lean-to was added to the north elevation of the rear ell during the late nineteenth century. Six-over-six light, double-hung, sash window are located on the east and west elevations of the addition. The original function of this addition is unknown. The addition rests on a quarried stone foundation; a doorway on the exposed north elevation of the foundation provides access to the full basement.

The main block of the house is organized in a central passage plan. The center hall is aligned with the porch of the rear ell. A door beneath the stair landing provides access to the porch, and a door to the basement is located beneath the stairs. The stairs and curved banister of the center hall stairway rise along the east wall to a landing; the stairs then turn and continue to the second floor. The public rooms of the main block display Greek Revival ornamental finishes and detailing. Marbleized paint finishes adorn the stairway risers. This unusual detailing indicates the work of a master craftsman. Interior molding includes wide baseboards, and wide trim with bull's eye corner blocks located around doorways and windows. Other decorative elements include simply detailed Greek Revival fireplace mantles located in both first floor rooms and the second floor bed chambers. The floors are wood; the walls are covered with plaster.

The symmetry and formality of the main block contrasts with the less formal spatial arrangements and lack of decorative features of the rear ell. The rear ell of the Maryland Piedmont farmhouse typically housed the kitchen, work areas, and servants' quarters. The design and detailing of the various portions of the house differentiate the public, private, and servant spaces.

The rear ell is divided into four rooms, two on each level. The rooms are two bays wide and one bay deep. The first floor rooms are linked by an interior door. All of the rooms have doorways leading to the rear ell porch. Interior boxed staircases are located on the south wall in

each room and provide interior access between the floors of the rear ell. The porch serves as the passageway between the upper rooms. The upper rooms were utilized as bed chambers. The rear lean-to addition is connected to the north room of the ground floor of the rear ell through an interior door. The rear ell exhibits simple finishes and detailing, such as flat door moldings and window surrounds.

The house currently is in deteriorated condition and exhibits large cracks in the exterior load-bearing walls. Decorative elements such as the fanlight, portions of the balustrade, and mantels were removed during salvage operations.

### **Spring house/dwelling**

A stone spring house/dwelling is located approximately thirty feet northwest of the principal dwelling. The spring house/dwelling is a rectangular, two-story, one-bay structure. The building is built into the slope of the hill, creating a partially exposed ground floor cellar. The spring house/dwelling is constructed of rough cut stone, laid in irregular courses, with larger stones supporting the corners. The exterior walls retain evidence of whitewash. The gable roof is clad with slate shingles. Plain wood cornice returns mark the eave line of the gable ends.

The north elevation of the structure is blank. A small attic window under the eave has been infilled with brick. An interior end chimney formerly was located on the north elevation, but the chimney stack has collapsed. The east and west side elevations are two bays wide. The ground floor of the east elevation contains a doorway that leads to the ground floor of the structure. The door is not extant. Small, square, unglazed windows punctuate the stone walls of the ground floor levels of the east and west elevation. The upper level of the east and west elevations are marked by two windows that formerly contained six-over-six, wooden sash windows; only fragments of the window sashes remain. The south elevation, which is built into the hillside, is one bay wide and contains a tongue-and-groove vertical board door that leads to the upper level of the structure. A

window is located above the doorway, near the peak of the roof. The window retains only a fragment of its sash, but appears to have been a six-over-six, wood sash window similar to those on the side elevations.

The ground floor of the building contains a single room. The north wall is occupied by the stepped stone support of the first floor fireplace and the remains of a spring-fed cooling trough. Chamfered ceiling beams support the upper floor. The ground floor room, with its earthen floor and cooling trough, probably was intended for food storage.

The main floor of the building also contains a single room. A large fireplace is located on the north wall. The room formerly contained interior paneling and molding not usually found in structures of this type (Rideout 1989). The chimney wall of this room was adorned with a paneled fireplace surround with a molded cornice. A cupboard with "butterfly" shelving lay behind a raised, six-panel door next to the fireplace. The room also contained chair rails and baseboards (Rideout 1989). These decorative wooden elements no longer remain. The level of the interior finishes indicates that this room was intended for domestic use.

The spring house/dwelling has suffered significant deterioration. Window and door units are missing, and the gable roof and chimney stack are collapsed.

## Summary

The Bowers Farm represents typical nineteenth- and twentieth-century, Piedmont agricultural development in Frederick County. The house is an example of the fully-developed regional farmhouse type with exterior influences from the Federal period and interior influences of the Greek Revival period. Historically part of the eighteenth-century "Mill Pond" tract of "Tasker's Chance," the property was purchased by George Houck in 1820; the farm remained in the Houck family until 1964 when it was purchased by Richard C. Bowers. Two buildings remain on the site associated with George Houck: the ca. 1820-25 principal dwelling and a spring house/dwelling that may date from the eighteenth century. The other buildings associated with the farm complex, including a stone bank barn, have been removed. The remaining two buildings are in deteriorated condition and are scheduled for demolition.

The farm was evaluated for those qualities of integrity and significance identified in the *Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (Maryland Historical Trust 1986). The design and physical characteristics of the complex were analyzed for their potential local significance during the Agricultural-Industrial Transition period (1815-1870) in the areas of agriculture and architecture. The regional pattern of agricultural and architectural development is evident in the design, setting, materials, and workmanship of the two remaining buildings of the farm complex.

## Site-Specific History

### Land Tenure History Prior to Houck Ownership (1727 - 1820)

The property known as the Bowers Farm was part of the original land patent granted June 9, 1727 by Lord Baltimore to Benjamin Tasker (Patent PL 6:559). Known as "Tasker's Chance," the patent covered some 7,000 acres adjoining the Monocacy River and the mouth of Carroll Creek. The land comprising Tasker's Chance was located centrally within what would become Frederick County (Tracy and Dern 1987:257). Many of the early settlers of the Monocacy Valley were German

immigrants who came from Pennsylvania in the 1730s. Many of these settlers were "squatters" who established farms on land they did not own. Exactly when settlement began on Tasker's Chance is unclear, although documentation suggests that German immigrants probably settled on the tract (Tracey and Dern 1987:257).

Tasker's Chance was purchased by Daniel Dulany on January 13, 1744/45 (Prince George's County Land Records BB 1:250). In 1745, Dulany laid out 144 lots as Frederick Town on a portion of the tract near Carroll Creek. The remaining property was divided into 21 individual parcels and sold (Tracy and Dern 1987:260). As stipulated in the original deed, those individuals already occupying the land had the first option to purchase their parcel. Jacob Stoner, a German immigrant, had been one of a group of German settlers who had unsuccessfully attempted to purchase the entire patent from Tasker. In 1746, Stoner successfully purchased from Dulany two adjoining parcels that fronted the Monocacy River: "Bear Den" (172 acres) and "Mill Pond" (292 acres) (Prince George's County Land records BB 1:429). Stoner built his house and mill on the Mill Pond parcel, at the confluence of Tuscarora Creek and the Monocacy River. Both of these buildings are no longer extant. The present-day Bowers Farm is located on a portion of these tracts (Tracy and Dern 1987:289).

After Jacob Stoner's death in 1748, his property was held by the Frederick County Courts. The property was transferred to his children in 1767. Stoner's eldest son, John, inherited the Mill Pond parcel and continued to operate his father's mill. A ford across the Monocacy River, near the present-day Route 26 bridge at Ceresville, also was located on Stoner's property. John Stoner married Catherina Elisabetha Ramsburg, whose family owned the adjoining 406-acre tract to the north known as "Mortality" (Tracy and Dern 1987:293). Catherina Ramsburg Stoner and John Stoner inherited a parcel of the Mortality tract in 1789 (Frederick County Wills GM 2:304). With the combination of this portion of the Mortality tract and the Mill Pond tract, John and Catherine Stoner

held title to all the property from present-day Harmony Grove north to the Monocacy River and south to present-day Route 26.

On August 17, 1798, John Stoner sold Mill Pond and a portion of Mortality to William Potts (Frederick County Land Records WR 17:234). The deed conveys the mill and a "single" house to William Potts. No tax records or documentation were located for the Potts family tenure.

On April 3, 1811, William Potts sold approximately 15 acres of Mill Pond to Moses Worman, including the mill and house established by Jacob Stoner (Frederick County Land Records WR 37:242). Moses Worman and his partner Simon Cronise operated the gristmill on Tuscarora Creek. Potts retained the remaining acreage of Mill Pond.

Richard Potts, son of William Potts and executor of his father's will, sold the remainder of Mill Pond and a parcel described as lots "number 34 and 35," assumed to be a portion of the original "Bear Den" tract, to George Houck on December 11, 1820 (Frederick County Land Records HS 12:136). This 293-acre property stretched from near the mouth of Tuscarora Creek at Worman's Mill northward, to an undefined point.

#### Development of the Houck Farm (1820 to present)

George Houck, a descendant of one of the early German families in Frederick, was born in Frederick County in 1755. Houck is responsible for the construction of the ca. 1820 - 1825 brick dwelling and the bank barn on the property. The 1825 Frederick County tax assessor's notes list George Houck as the owner of 291 acres of land called Mill Pond, upon which stood a brick house and outbuildings. The tax assessor's notes do not specifically mention the stone spring house/dwelling. The construction of the spring house/dwelling indicates that the structure may predate the main house, and may be associated with the Stoner family's tenure on the property. George Houck farmed wheat and corn, which were milled locally (Agricultural Census 1860). Houck, like many other area German grain farmers, did not own slaves, though his son John was

listed as the owner of two black servants in 1852 (Frederick County Slave Records 1852). George Houck died in 1867, and the farm passed to his son, Ezra.

Ezra Houck, was born in Frederick City July 30, 1802. He received his education at the old Frederick Academy and worked on his father's farm until the age of twenty. He then was employed in Frederick at the county clerk's office (Scharf 1968:539). In 1821, Ezra was appointed treasurer of the newly formed Frederick County Agricultural Society, a group dedicated to modern farming techniques (Scharf 1968:446).

In 1826, Ezra Houck married Catherine Bentz and returned to the family farm. He was a noted farmer and prominent local citizen. In 1836, Houck purchased from Ezra Crammer a 172-acre parcel that adjoined his father's farm to the north (Frederick County Land Records HS 2:208). In his later years, Ezra left the farm once more to become a prominent businessman, president of three companies in his lifetime: Farmer's and Mechanic's Bank of Frederick, the Mutual Insurance Company, and the Frederick and Woodsborough Turnpike Company (Scharf 1968:539). In addition to the family farm, Houck owned two other farms of 191 and 206 acres, each, outside of Frederick City (Frederick County Tax Assessment 1867:230). Wheat and corn remained the primary crops grown on the property (Agricultural Census 1870). Upon his death in 1878, much of his land passed to his three sons, Ezra Jr., George, and James. Together, the three brothers possessed over "seven hundred acres of the most valuable farming land in Maryland" (Scharf 1968:572). In the division of Ezra Houck, Sr.'s estate, Ezra Houck, Jr. received the original 291-acre Mill Pond tract, including the Houck family house (Register of Wills IRR I 267). The *Lake Atlas of Frederick County* (1873) depicts three Houck Family farms located near Tuscarora Creek and the Monocacy River. The atlas depicts the location of the original farmstead owned by Ezra Houck, Jr. Traces of the unnamed road that passes near the farm and crosses the Monocacy no longer exist (Lake 1873).

Ezra Houck, Jr. and his wife, Margaret, initially resided at the farm, but later rented the property. The farm was owned by Houck family members for the next eighty-six years. The tenants

of the land and continued to cultivate grain. In the 1920s, a small-scale dairying operation was begun on the property. The basement level of the original bank barn was modified to serve as a milking parlor. This change in agricultural use reflected the increasing dominance of the dairy industry in Frederick County during the early and mid-twentieth century.

In 1964, the Houck family sold the farm to C. Richard and Louise P. Bowers, who continued to rent the land (Frederick County Land Record 701:261). Dairying operations continued on the property until 1988, when the property was sold to the Trikon Monocacy Limited Partnership. The property changed hands again in 1989 when the Olney Town Center Development Corporation acquired the property. The property is currently the site of a residential development. All the buildings associated with the original farm have been removed, with the exception of the primary dwelling and spring house/dwelling. These two buildings are scheduled for demolition.

### **Cultural Sequence: Agriculture**

#### Contact and Settlement Period

The colony of Maryland was established in 1634, when 150 English colonists settled at St. Mary's City, in the lower tidewater area of Maryland (Fausz 1984:12). The success of tobacco cultivation in the colony of Virginia encouraged early Maryland colonists to adopt tobacco as the primary crop, which required large tracts of land and a large labor force. For almost a century, settlement remained concentrated along major water routes of the Chesapeake Bay.

Settlement of the Frederick County area began during the early eighteenth century. Explorers and traders were the first Euro-Americans to enter the Piedmont region. Indian trails provided the earliest roads into Frederick County. German and English settlement in the Piedmont intensified between 1720 and 1730, as settlers came in search of fertile land. Prominent propertied

men from Annapolis and the Eastern Shore recognized the speculative value of the land in the region; by 1732, more than ten tracts averaging over 5,000 acres each were surveyed within the present boundaries of Frederick County. Most of these tracts were situated along the Monocacy or the Potomac Rivers (Tracey and Dern 1987:23). One such major land investor was Benjamin Tasker, who contracted for surveys on the western shore of the Monocacy River in 1725. On June 9, 1727, Tasker was granted a 7,000-acre tract, "Tasker's Chance," the largest land grant awarded in Frederick County. In 1744, Daniel Dulany purchased Tasker's Chance and laid out lots for Frederick Town along Carroll Creek the following year (Tracey and Dern 1987:264).

During the decade that followed initial English settlement, Pennsylvania Germans and German immigrants began to move into the Frederick area in larger numbers. Many of these settlers, originally en route to Virginia, were attracted to the rich Piedmont soils of Frederick County and remained. As a result, German settlements developed west of the future site of Frederick along the "German Monocacy Road" that ran south from Pennsylvania through Maryland to Virginia. Later German settlements formed along the Monocacy River on Tasker's Chance (Tracey and Dern 1987:153). A boundary dispute with Pennsylvania temporarily slowed immigration to the Frederick area; once the dispute was settled in 1738, settlers again poured into the Piedmont region of Maryland (Tracey and Dern 1987:21). The sudden rise in population led to the formation of Frederick County from Prince George's County in 1748 (Miller 1886:115).

The English and German waves of migration into the area produced two distinct forms of agriculture. The English settlers transplanted their tidewater tobacco culture to the rolling, well-watered meadows of Frederick County and utilized slave labor to work large plots of land located along rivers. The German settlers generally farmed smaller, subsistence plots (Tracey and Dern 1987:131). Both corn and wheat were staple crops of German farmers during this period.

With the beginning of the French and Indian War in 1756, residents of western Maryland fled east for safety. The location of Frederick Town, between Baltimore and the western frontier,

rendered it a rallying point for British troops (Scharf 1968:364). At the end of the war in 1763, the west reopened to European settlement; and settlers again returned to Frederick County.

#### Rural Agrarian Intensification

The population of Frederick County increased almost 100 per cent between 1768 and 1773 (Wesler et al. 1981:140). The population of Frederick County continued to rise after the Revolutionary War. By 1781, all but 25 of the original 144 lots in Frederick Town had been claimed, and new lots had been laid out. The town quickly became a primary market center for the agricultural base of the county. The success of Frederick County agriculture was noted as early as 1755, when British and colonial troops moving through Frederick found a plentiful supply of foods such as meat, milk, and eggs (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:13).

Differences between English and German farming practices continued throughout the period. While English settlers from the Tidewater region raised tobacco, German grain farmers produced a surplus of corn and wheat for European and West Indian markets. By 1790, Frederick County was the largest wheat producer in the United States (Miller 1886:132). Other cultivated crops included flax, which supported a linen factory in the county, and orchard products (Scharf 1968:363). In response to the diversification and intensification of farming, the slave population of Frederick County grew. Slave labor was utilized on both tobacco and the grain farms of the area.

Early industry benefitted the farmer. Small tributaries of the Monocacy supported gristmills and sawmills. The number of these facilities increased as wheat production rose. By 1769, 37 gristmills, including Worman's Mill, were in operation along the Monocacy River and its tributaries (Scharf 1968:364). The county supported 80 mills by 1791 (Scharf 1968:369).

Frederick's importance as a commercial center encouraged the construction of public roads from Frederick to Baltimore and to Annapolis during the late eighteenth century (Scharf 1968:363). The Baltimore Turnpike was completed through Frederick, Hagerstown, and Cumberland by 1805.

The turnpike facilitated the transport of goods and opened new markets for Frederick County farms and industries (Miller 1886:135).

#### Agricultural-Industrial Transition

After the War of 1812, commerce and industry gained importance throughout Maryland. Agriculture and industry remained interdependent as farmers supplied raw materials to manufacturers, and industries produced goods for agricultural use. Increased mechanization also gave rise to new farming techniques, and generated interest in sound agricultural practices. The introduction of the railroad and of new transportation routes expanded markets for both agricultural and manufactured products. Farmers began to experiment with a variety of crops and livestock during the second decade of the nineteenth century. Dairying became more common, and sheep-raising supplied raw materials for local woolen mills. Improved transportation methods increased the production of fruits and vegetables, as foreign markets became more accessible (Hitselberger 1978:502,503).

By 1860, Frederick ranked first in the state of Maryland in wheat, corn, rye, and butter production, and in the number of milk cows (Wesler et al. 1981:143). Innovations in farming techniques were emphasized during this period, while new machines were developed to improve agricultural production. Farmers began to utilize new methods of soil maintenance and improvement. Lime became important to these methods and the lime industry in Frederick County was established during the mid-nineteenth century. Farmers throughout the Monocacy Valley burned lime in their home kilns. The larger, commercial Brengle and Hoke kilns were established in the 1860s along the Frederick Branch of the B & O Railroad (Shaw et al. 1993:10).

Transportation improved dramatically during the first half of the nineteenth century. In 1828, the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal Company began construction of a canal along the Potomac River from Georgetown to Cumberland. This waterway passed along the southwestern border of

Frederick County (Miller 1886:136). That same year, the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad Company also began laying track between Baltimore and Frederick. The railroad was completed in 1830. A depot opened in Frederick one year later (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:38).

The demand for better roads intensified as farmers required accessible routes to transport their products to the rail lines. Improved road surfaces encouraged a shift from draft oxen to horses; this shift allowed farmers to concentrate on breeding cattle for better beef and milk production (Lee 1982:42). Expanded road systems promoted town growth, as new settlements developed around major intersections and crossings (Wesler et al. 1981:144).

The Civil War interrupted Maryland's commercial and industrial progress. Laborers entered military service, causing a decline in the productivity of local farmers and manufacturers. Loyalties were divided between the Union and the Confederacy; although the majority of Frederick County residents supported the Union, many residents sympathized with the South.

Caught between the Union Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the north, and the Confederate stronghold of Virginia to the south, western Maryland served as a battleground several times during the Civil War. Frederick Town, as it was known during the Civil War, was a key intersection in west-central Maryland. The town's position as a transportation center made Frederick a highly strategic location that both Union and Confederate forces wished to control.

The Shenandoah Valley of Virginia provided Confederates with a natural invasion route to the North. Both Robert E. Lee and Jubal A. Early took advantage of this natural highway to enter Maryland. Numerous Confederate cavalry expeditions crossed the state throughout the war. Consequently, several battles and skirmishes took place in west-central Maryland. Early in 1862, the Union Army established military hospitals in the vicinity of Frederick. The Battles of South Mountain and Antietam, brought both armies through the Monocacy Valley and Frederick Town. Wounded troops were cared for at the Union hospitals in Frederick Town following these battles. In 1863, following the Battle of Gettysburg, the area's hospitals were inundated with wounded

soldiers (Coddington 1979:548-49). On July 8, 1864, Confederate forces under the leadership of General Jubal Early seized and occupied Frederick. The following day, Union and Confederate troops clashed southwest of Frederick, in what came to be known as the Battle of the Monocacy, the last significant battle in the region.

Military operations overshadowed the everyday life of Frederick County residents during the Civil War. The area suffered substantial damage due to looting by both armies. Food, draft animals, and money were forfeited to both Union and Confederate troops. Farmers and manufacturers suffered losses due to the shortage of labor. However, with the return of the labor force at the war's end, Frederick County quickly regained its economic prosperity.

#### Industrial/Urban Dominance

During the years following the Civil War, the Federal government reimbursed farmers for their crop and livestock losses, and banks provided loans to aid in the recovery. Frederick County farmers, benefiting from high-quality farmland and good transportation routes, quickly regained their previous prominence (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:62). Agricultural output continued to increase; by 1870, more than one million bushels of corn and wheat were produced county-wide (Scharf 1968:370). Interest in agricultural improvement also resumed, and the first County Fair was held in Frederick in 1878 (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:64).

The land outside the city limits of Frederick remained essentially free of industrial development as farming continued to dominate the community. Lake's *Atlas of Frederick County* indicates that in 1873 most of the fertile land east of the Monocacy remained open farmland. Wheat and corn continued to be significant crops. By the early twentieth century, more corn was grown than wheat, and tobacco production dropped (Wesler et al. 1981:144). At the same time, dairying increased. The growing population in the nearby urban centers of Baltimore and Washington D.C. demanded agricultural goods, especially dairy products (Grisby and Hoffsommer 1949:12).

Farming continued to be lucrative until the end of World War I, when foreign markets closed. A surplus of agricultural products resulted and many farmers were forced out of business (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:100). Rising costs induced by increased mechanization and by new government health regulations also caused additional hardship for some farmers. However, Frederick County maintained its level of agricultural output. Between 1920 and 1930, Frederick County was the sole Maryland county to escape a drop in agricultural production (Wesler et al. 1981:144).

Industries did not develop as rapidly as agriculture after the Civil War. The founding families of Frederick desired a small, prosperous, and stable community, and strongly discouraged new industries from coming into the area (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:100). Existing industries continued to operate, but the only new manufacturing enterprises established were those that supplied local demands. The tanning and iron industries both remained strong. New businesses included four agricultural implement manufacturers and five printers (Scharf 1968:370; Hitzelberger 1978:561).

The county experienced the effects of stagnation at the beginning of the twentieth century. Increased mechanization replaced manual labor and reduced the number of jobs (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:63). In addition, the number of industries operating in the county dropped as conglomerates became more common (Wesler et al. 1981:144). As a result, many people moved to nearby cities in search of work. This problem increased after World War I, as those forced out of farming also sought work. The Depression years were followed by a longer than normal recovery period in Frederick County due to its lack of industry (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:100). Consequently, little population growth occurred during those years (Wesler et al. 1981:144).

Although agriculture and industry suffered, new transportation routes were built and old ones were improved during this period. Railroad transportation continued to be valued for the marketing of agricultural and industrial goods. The Monocacy Valley Railroad was established from

Mechanicstown to Catoctin Furnace in 1886 (Miller 1886:136); it had been extended south to Frederick and north to Thurmont by 1908 (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:122). A branch of the Western Maryland Railroad reached Emmitsburg in 1875, and the Metropolitan Railroad was extended from Point of Rocks to the Monocacy River in 1872 (Miller 1886:136).

Road construction also accelerated during this period. In 1886, 1,200 miles of county roads crossed Frederick. New forms of transportation also were introduced. A trolley line was laid out in Frederick on North Market Street in 1905. Automobiles were in use by 1910, prompting more road improvements in road conditions (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:101, 119).

#### Modern Period

Frederick County entered a new era after World War II. Fort Detrick provided new jobs, and many persons involved with this facility remained in Frederick, stimulating the county's economy (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:101). The construction of one of the first segments of President Dwight Eisenhower's highway program influenced the county; during the early 1950s, the Baltimore to Frederick Road (Interstate 70) was completed, reducing transportation time between the two cities by thirty minutes (Jones 1974:11).

The proximity of Frederick to Washington, D.C. and to Baltimore has increased its appeal as a bedroom community, and major roadways have been constructed to accommodate growing commuter traffic. However, much of the county has retained an agricultural character. The urban center of Frederick, with a population approaching 40,000, remains surrounded by rolling farmland and pastureland and the county continues to be one of the state's top producers of dairy products, corn, and wheat.

## Architecture

The settlers of the Piedmont region received cultural influences from two primary areas -- the Mid-Atlantic and the Tidewater, each of which had distinct architectural folk traditions. From the Mid-Atlantic, German settlers brought log and stone construction, as well as a massed plan around a central chimney and banked construction. The Tidewater influences of the English are seen in timber framed houses with linear plans, end chimneys, and symmetrical facades. Throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, these differing traditions both continued and evolved into a regional type that combined elements from both traditions. The typical farmhouse of the nineteenth century in the Maryland Piedmont had two stories, a symmetrical three- to five-bay front facade, gable-end chimneys, a gable roof, a rear wing containing the kitchen, and a two-story porch in the inner corner of the wing (Getty 1987:93). These farmhouses were built in a variety of materials for over one hundred years.

Another influence on the architecture of the area was high-style or popular architecture. As opposed to folk architecture, which varies widely between areas, but remains constant for a long period of time, popular architecture is found in many areas at once, but changes rapidly over time as new fashions and styles appear. The Federal, or Adam, style was the dominant architectural style in the United States from about 1780 to 1820 (McAlester 1988:156). Federal architecture is characterized by symmetry and classically-inspired, restrained detailing. The central entrance often features a fanlight and sidelights and is the focus of decorative elaboration. Greek Revival designs, popular between 1825 and 1860, superseded the Federal style as the dominant national style (McAlester 1988:179-182). Greek Revival architecture is characterized by ornament based on classical Greek precedents that is less delicate than Federal-style embellishments.

During the nineteenth century, local architecture began to display more uniformity in design and construction as the Piedmont farmhouse type began to replace the smaller vernacular buildings of the earlier settlers. These farmhouses were influenced in varying degrees by high-style designs.

References to high-style popular architecture typically were incorporated through the application of decorative trim to the basic farmhouse form.

As prosperity enabled Piedmont area farmers to construct new residences and agricultural buildings during the mid-nineteenth century, growing numbers of builders' handbooks and catalogues transmitted popular styles and new technologies. The use of architectural pattern books was common among rural builders and craftsmen. The principal evidence of the use of pattern books is in the embellishment of doorways and interior detailing, applied to the traditional Maryland Piedmont houses (Shaw et al. 1993:10). The architectural ornamentation of Bowers Farm is indicative of the influence of these pattern books. Transportation improvements, particularly the railroad, made available prefabricated building elements and ornamentation.

The Bowers Farm reflects the local pattern of architectural development. The springhouse/dwelling, which may date from the eighteenth century, represents elements of the German cultural influences, including use of stone, banked construction, and combination of domestic and agricultural uses. The springhouse/dwelling was unusual in the particularly fine interior detailing found on the upper level (Rideout 1989). The brick farmhouse exemplifies the Maryland Piedmont house type and illustrates the application of high-style architectural detailing, particularly around the main entrance and in the interior finishes, and may indicate the influence of pattern books in the area.

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1744/45	Land Patent, Liber PL 6:559
1746	Land Patent, Liber BB 1:429

## Frederick County Board of County Commissioners

1852	Second Assessment District Slave Records
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## Frederick County Circuit Court

1798	Land Record Liber WR 17:234
1820	Land Record Liber HS 12:136
1836	Land Record Liber HS 2:208
1924	Land Record Liber 350:32
1933	Land Record Liber 386:459
1952	Land Record Liber 508:34
1964	Land Record Liber 701:261
1979	Land Record Liber 1104:46
1988	Land Record Liber 1531:455
1989	Land Record Liber 1564:76

## Frederick County Register of Wills

1789	Will Book GM 2:304
1867	Will Book IRR 1:267

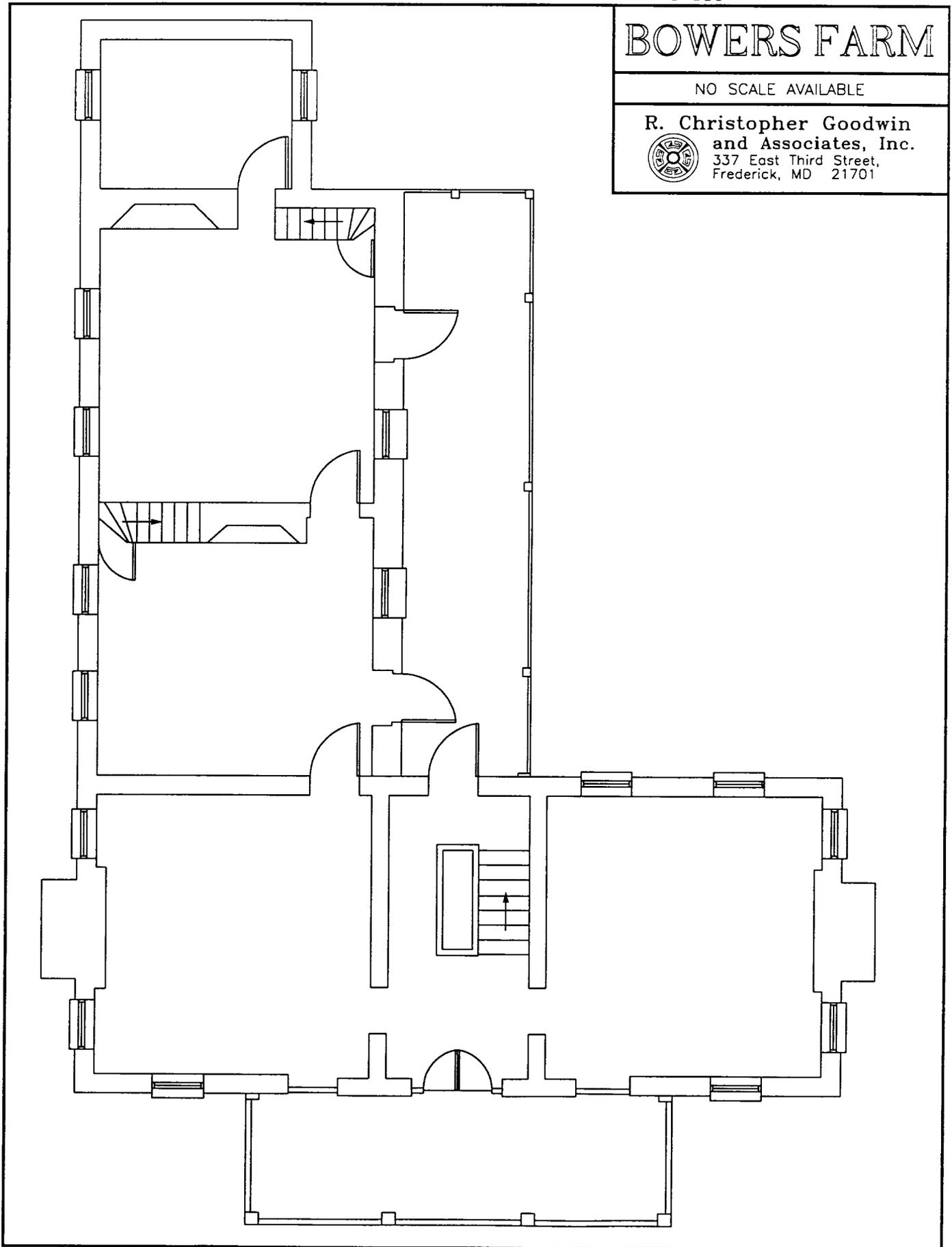
## Frederick County Supervisor of Assessments

1867	Second District
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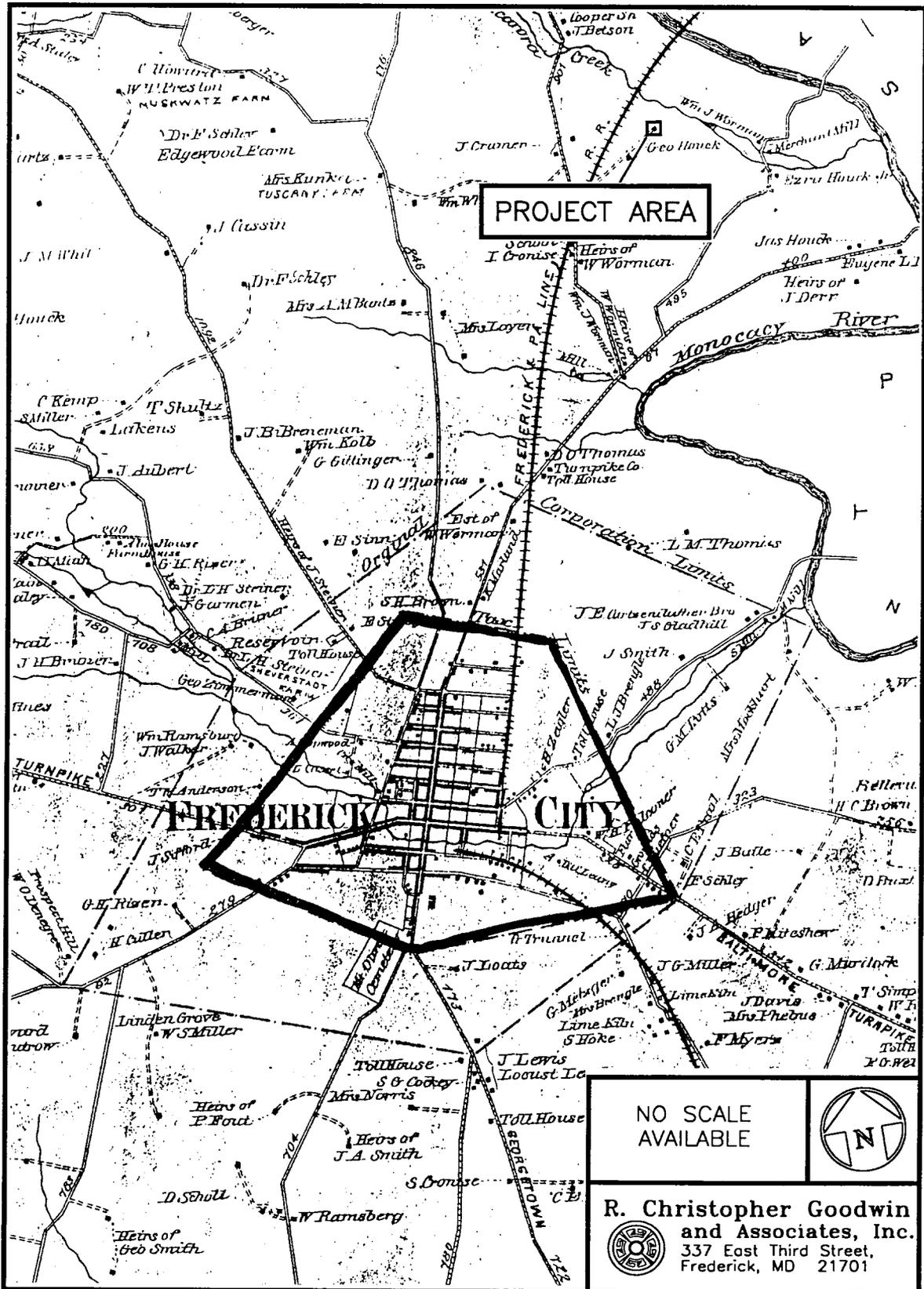
# BOWERS FARM

NO SCALE AVAILABLE

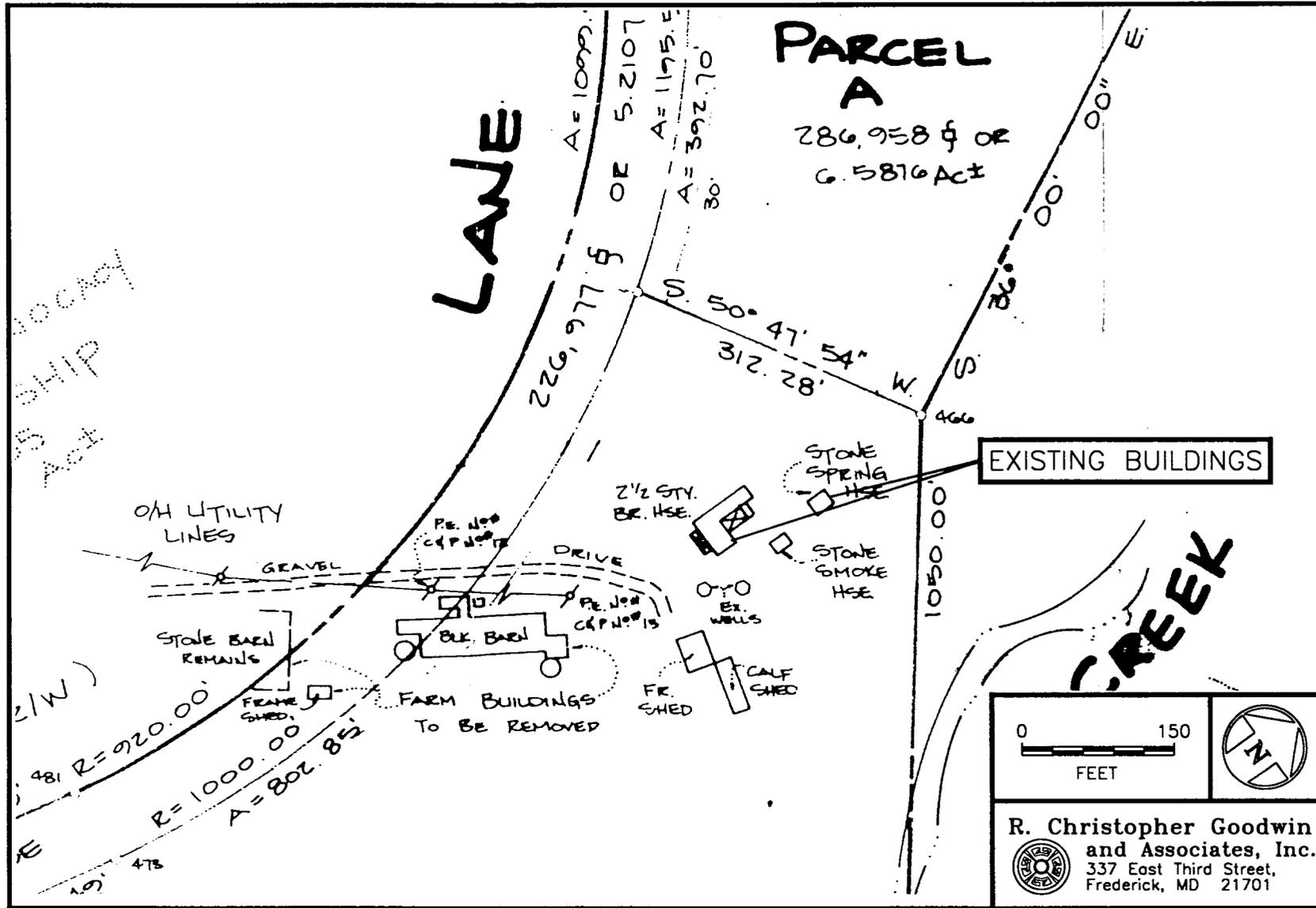
R. Christopher Goodwin  
and Associates, Inc.  
337 East Third Street,  
Frederick, MD 21701



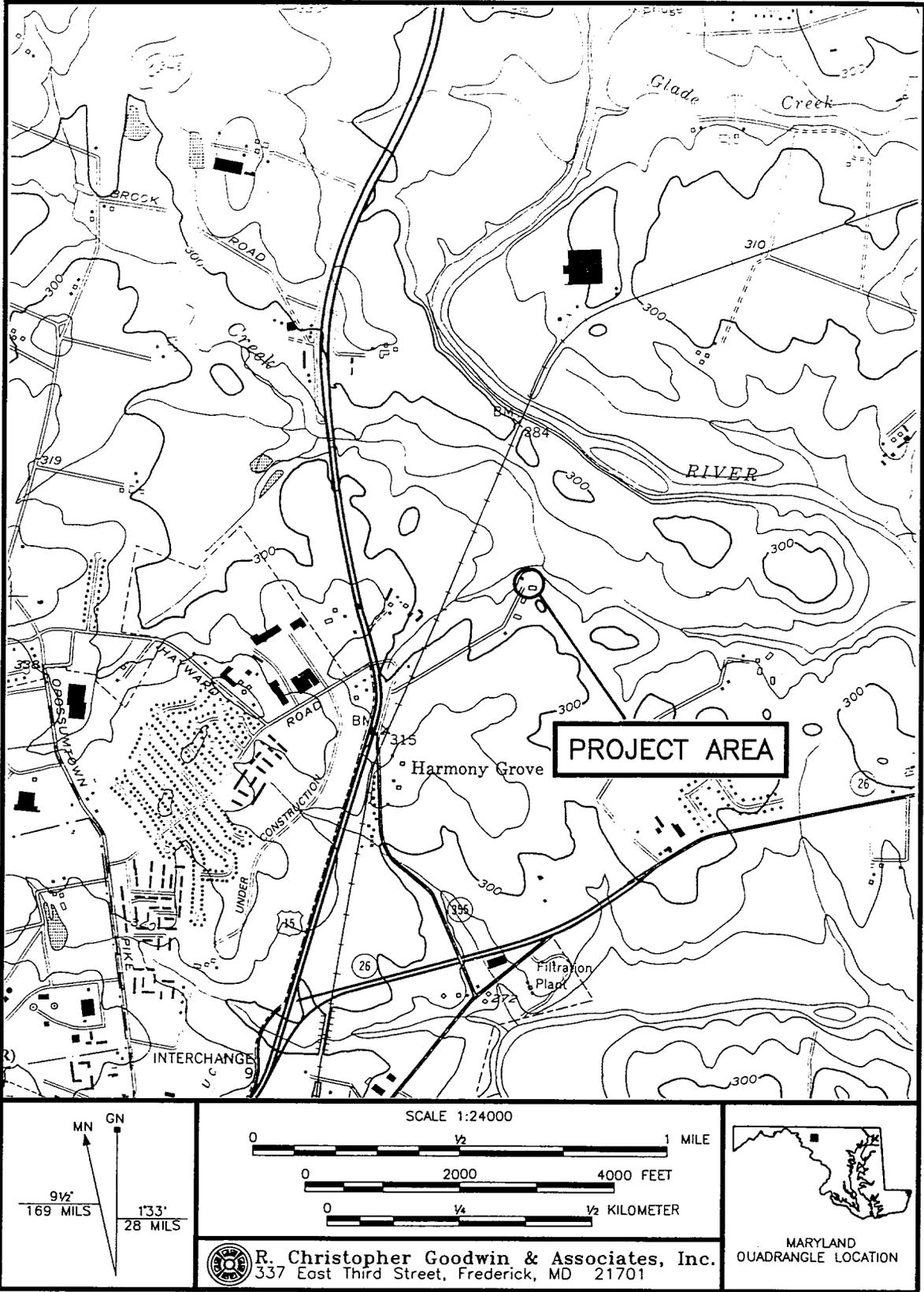
First floor plan of Bowers Farm House, adapted from drawing by John Samuel Williams and Associates, Frederick, Maryland.



Excerpt from D.J. Lake Atlas of Frederick County, Maryland (1873) depicting the locations of the Houck farms.



Frederick County Land Records Plat Book 40, page 199 depicting Bowers Farm, December 1988.



Portion of 1985 photorevised U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute Frederick, Maryland quadrangle map, showing location of Bowers Farm property in Frederick, Maryland.



Bower Farm  
Frederick, Maryland  
W. Patrick Giglio  
1/94

F-3-138

Goodwin Dr. Assoc.

New North, South Principle Elevation  
1 of 8



Bower Farm

F-3-138

Frederick, Maryland

W. Patrick Giglio

1/94

~~Construction~~ Assoc

View Northwest, East Elevation Rear Ell

2 of 8



Bower Farm

F-3-138

Frederick, Maryland

W. Patrick Giglio

1994

Goodwin & Assoc.

View Northeast, Principle

Elevation and West Elevation Rear E

3 of 8



Bower Farm

F-3-138

Frederick, Maryland

W. Patrick Giglio

1/94

Goodwin & Assoc

View West, East Elevation Main Block

4 of 8



BOWER Farm

F-3-138

Frederick, Maryland

W. Patrick Giegler

1/4

~~Goodwin &~~ Assoc.

View West, East Elevation Dwelling and Springhouse

5 of 8



Bower Farm

F-3-138

Frederick, Maryland

W. Patrick Gylis

1/94

Garden Assoc.

View East, West Elevation Dwelling and Springhouse

6 of 8



Bower Farm

F-3-138

Frederick, Maryland

W. Patrick Giglio

1/94

Goodwin & Assoc.

View Northeast, Southwest Elevation of Springhouse

7 of 8



Bower Farm

F-3-138

Frederick, Maryland

W. Patrick Giglio

1/94

Goodwin # 1

View Southwest, Northeast Elevation of Springhouse

8 of 8