F-4-14
George Bowlus House
Middletown
Private

Circa 1790

The George Bowlus House was one of the principal buildings of Middletown located just north of the Lutheran Church, it dominated the town.

Although an exact building date could not be determined from an initial title search of the land, close inspection of the building before its demolition indicates that it was definitely built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. The Flemish bond brick facade and molded water table distinguished it as one of the finest brick residences in Middletown. Although numerous changes had taken place in the building, particularly in 1917 when the interior was modernized and the third floor was added, many of the important early architectural features remained including a very fine Federal style staircase, beaded chair railing, baseboard and mantelpieces. A very ornate Victorian frame porch with cast iron cresting dominated the front of the building and had become a landmark in the town.

F-4-14
1103046204

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC George Bowlus House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
East Side Main St.

CITY, TOWN
Middletown

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Frederick

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Zion Lutheran Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
Main St.

CITY, TOWN
Middletown

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21769

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: 484
Folio #: 178

STREET & NUMBER
N. Court St.

CITY, TOWN
Frederick

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

F-4-14

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bowlus House is a three story flat roofed brick residence laid in Flemish and common bond which faces west from the east side of Main St. in Middletown. The building exhibits style changes of three main periods, Federal, late Victorian and early Twentieth Century.

The principal facade is five bays wide. Two main entrances are located in the second and fifth bays. Originally the door located in the second bay on the first level was situated further north than it is now as indicated by changes in the brickwork. The door in the fifth bay replaced a window. Both doors, which are almost identical, are half light and four panel doors inset into panel entryways with vertical panels and rounded molding. Over each door are three light transoms.

Occupying the remaining bays on the first level are double hung 6/6 windows surrounded by rounded molding. A decorative frame porch with hipped roof extends across the front of the building and on the north side of the first level. The porch is supported by ten full and two half turned columns with scrolled brackets located at five foot intervals with tongue and groove floor and ceiling. The foundation of the porch consists of square brick supports located directly underneath each column. Trellis work sections are located in between each brick support. A sawn work railing and decorative spindle work between the columns were once part of the porch as indicated in a 1906 photograph of the building. The most prominent feature of the porch and house is cast iron cresting which decorates the roofline of the porch.

The second floor of the building consists of five bays with 2/2 windows located in all but the third bay. A double hung 2/2 window with molded and paneled movable apron or jib is located in the third bay on the second level. Jack arches are located over each bay on the first and second levels.

Originally the house was a two and one-half story gable roofed structure laid in Flemish bond on the front of the building with a dentiled cornice. In 1917, a third floor was added to the building to accommodate apartments. The first floor of the building was at that time in use as a store and town telephone exchange. When the third floor of the building was added it changed its Federal appearance to an Italianate style building.

The third level is laid in common bond and painted red. It is finished by a plain boxed cornice supported by scrolled brackets with mold frieze trim.

The entire residence is built on a low random stone foundation and covered by a flat tin roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George Bowlus House was one of the principal buildings of Middletown located just north of the Lutheran Church, it dominated the town.

Although an exact building date could not be determined from an initial title search of the land, close inspection of the building before its demolition indicates that it was definitely built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. The Flemish bond brick facade and molded water table distinguished it as one of the finest brick residences in Middletown. Although numerous changes had taken place in the building, particularly in 1917 when the interior was modernized and the third floor was added, many of the important early architectural features remained including a very fine Federal style staircase, beaded chair railing, baseboard and mantelpieces. A very ornate Victorian frame porch with cast iron cresting dominated the front of the building and had become a landmark in the town.

Although the original ownership and builder of the George Bowlus House is now known, research of the land title indicates that Frederick Stembel owned the house and land by 1838 when his will was written.[1] Upon his death in November, 1840, all Stembel's property was ordered sold. A public sale was held on the premises of the house on February 23, 1841.[2] Whether Stembel was actually living in the house upon his death is not known. In April, 1841 when the house was sold by Stembel's executor, Christopher Michael, to Rebecca Hammond it is known that a Washington H. Harbaugh, who four years later purchased the land, was "in the occupancy and possession of" the house.[3]

In 1846 John and Jacob Culler purchased the building for $3,000.00 and owned it until John Culler's death when it was sold to Perry Levy for $962.00 in 1890.[4] Some of the "Victorianization" of the building must have taken place at this time because just nine years later the house was sold for over twice as much to Samuel Kefauver.[5]

Kefauver also owned the house until 1931 when his executor sold it to Ora and Esta Ahalt who owned it until 1950.[6]

In 1950 Alta Louella Bowlus purchased the building.[7] The Bowlus family was the last owner of the house selling it to the Zion Lutheran Church in 1980 who subsequently demolished the house "so that the church could have a better setting."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (Footnotes, other page.)

F-4-14

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

clh

NAME / TITLE
Cherilyn E. Widell, Coordinator

ORGANIZATION
Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation

DATE
7/1/80

STREET & NUMBER
Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church St.

TELEPHONE
694-1063

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

7. DESCRIPTION

George Bowlus House

Two additions extend to the rear of the main block. In the northeast corner extends a two story frame shed roofed addition constructed of log with German joints. The lower portion of the log is exposed on the north and east sides, covered with wide board siding over which has been placed German siding on the remainder of the building.

A large shouldered exterior stone and brick chimney rises from the center of the east side of the log and frame addition. This addition is constructed on a low random stone foundation with shed tin roof.

A one story common bond brick flat roofed kitchen addition extends in the southeast corner of the building.

A small square one story gable roofed outbuilding laid in common bond brick with stepped brick cornice and gable vents is located to the rear of the residence.

SIGNIFICANCE

George Bowlus House (F-4-14)

Footnotes

[1]Frederick County Register of Wills, Liber GME 2; Folio 558.

[2]Frederick County Land Records, Liber WBT 3; Folio 134.

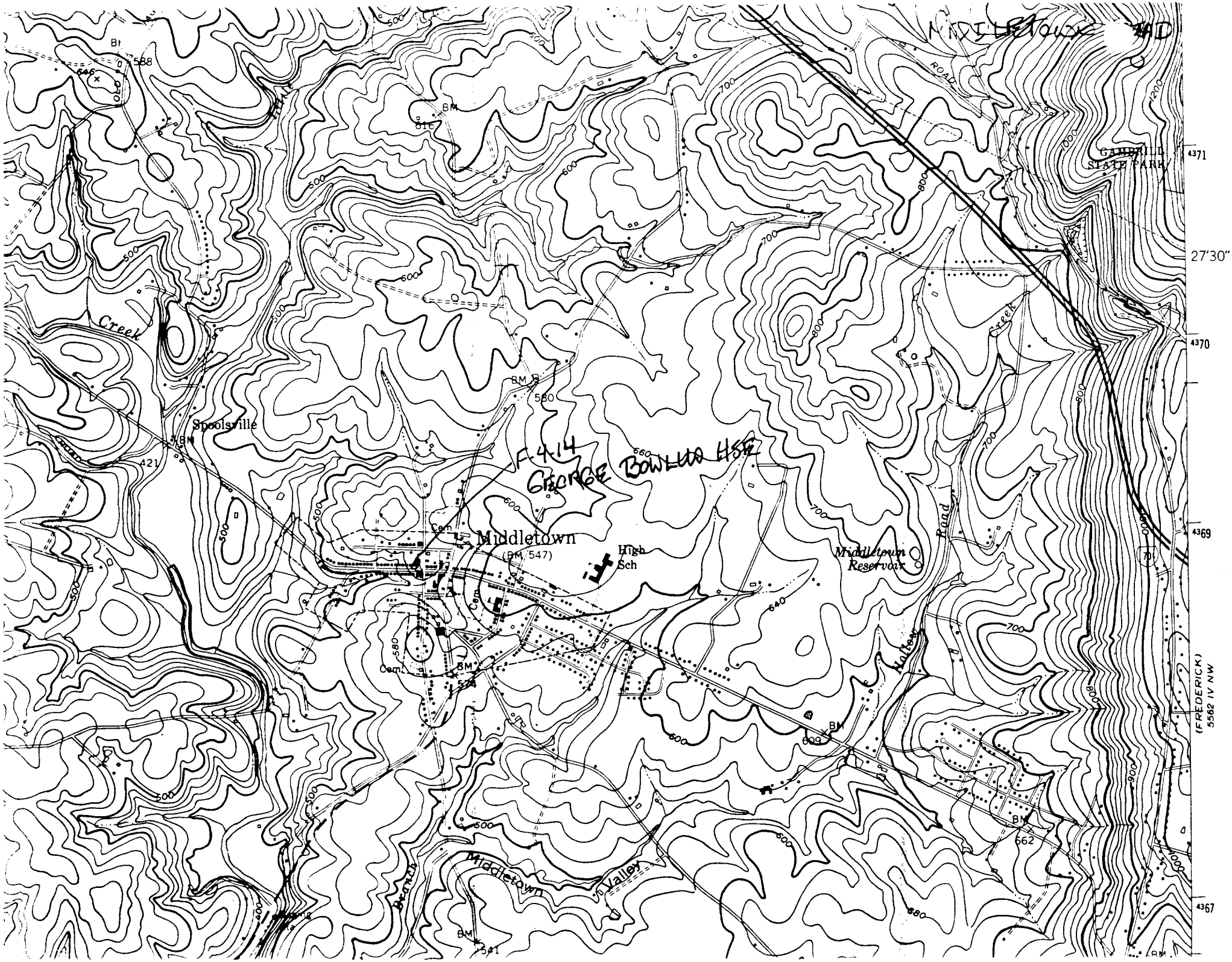
[3]Ibid., Liber WBT 3; Folio 133.

[4]Ibid., Liber WIP 11; Folio 410.

[5]Ibid., Liber DHH 3; Folio 495.

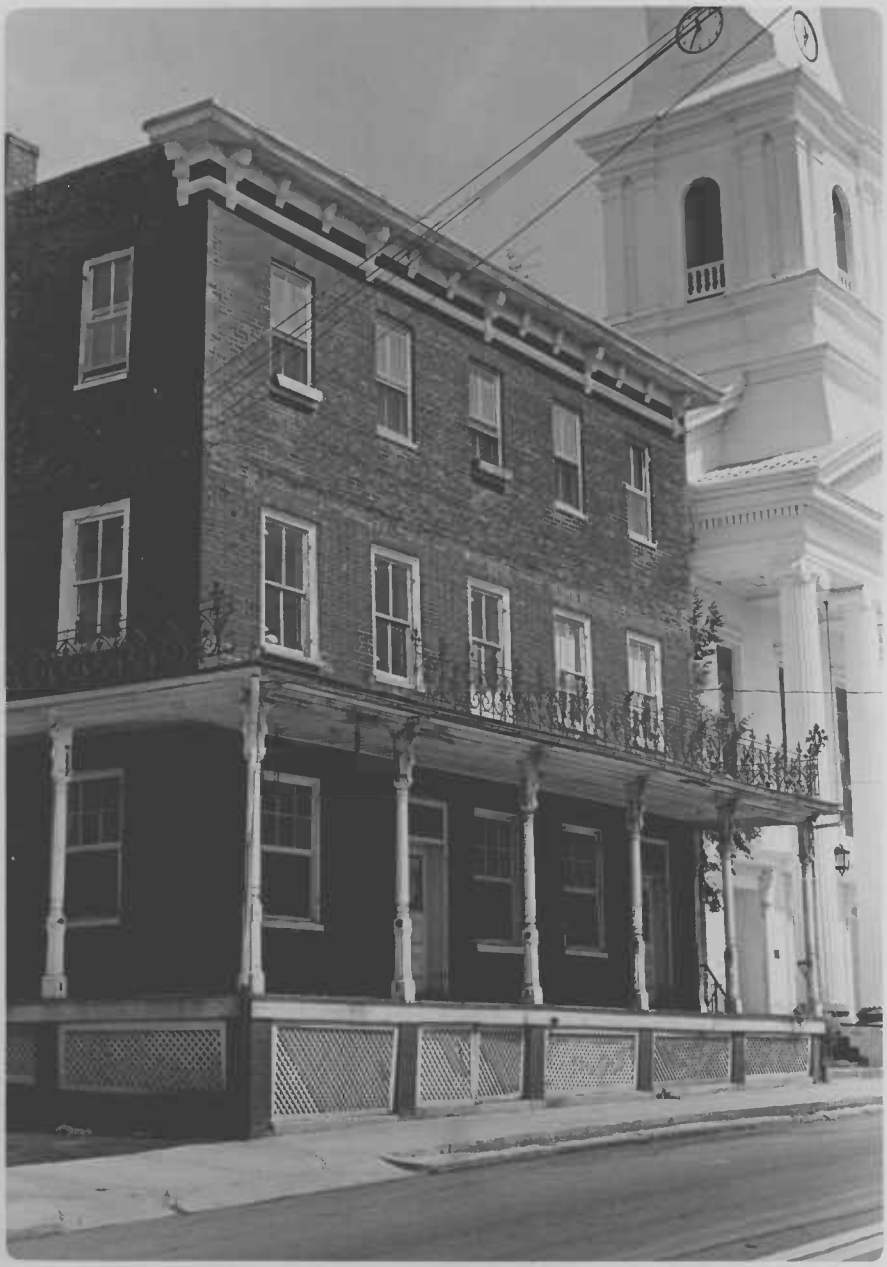
[6]Ibid., Liber 378; Folio 108.

[7]Ibid., Liber, 416; Folio 337.



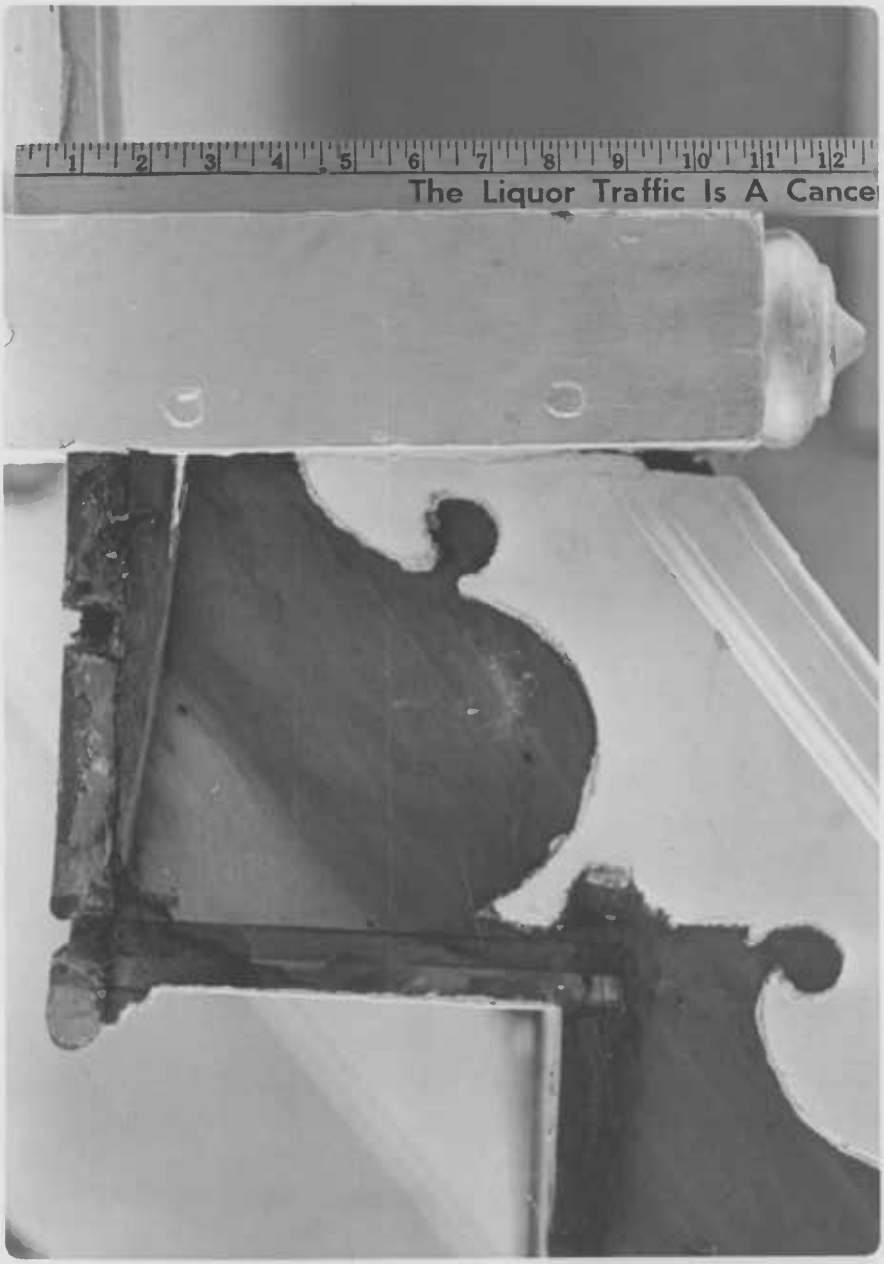
MIDDLETOWN ROAD
GAMBRILL STATE PARK
27'30"
4371
4370
4369
4367
(FREDERICK)
5562 IV NW
Creek
Spoolsville
Middletown
(BM 547)
High Sch
Middletown Reservoir
Road
Hollow
Creek
Middletown
Valley
Branch
F-414
GEORGE BOWLUS HSE
BM
580
421
609
662
541

F-4-14
George Bowlus House
112/3 Main St
MIDDLETOWN
OHW 5/80
East elevation



F-4 14
George Bowlus H/SE
E/S Main St
Middletown
OEW
5/80
West Elevation

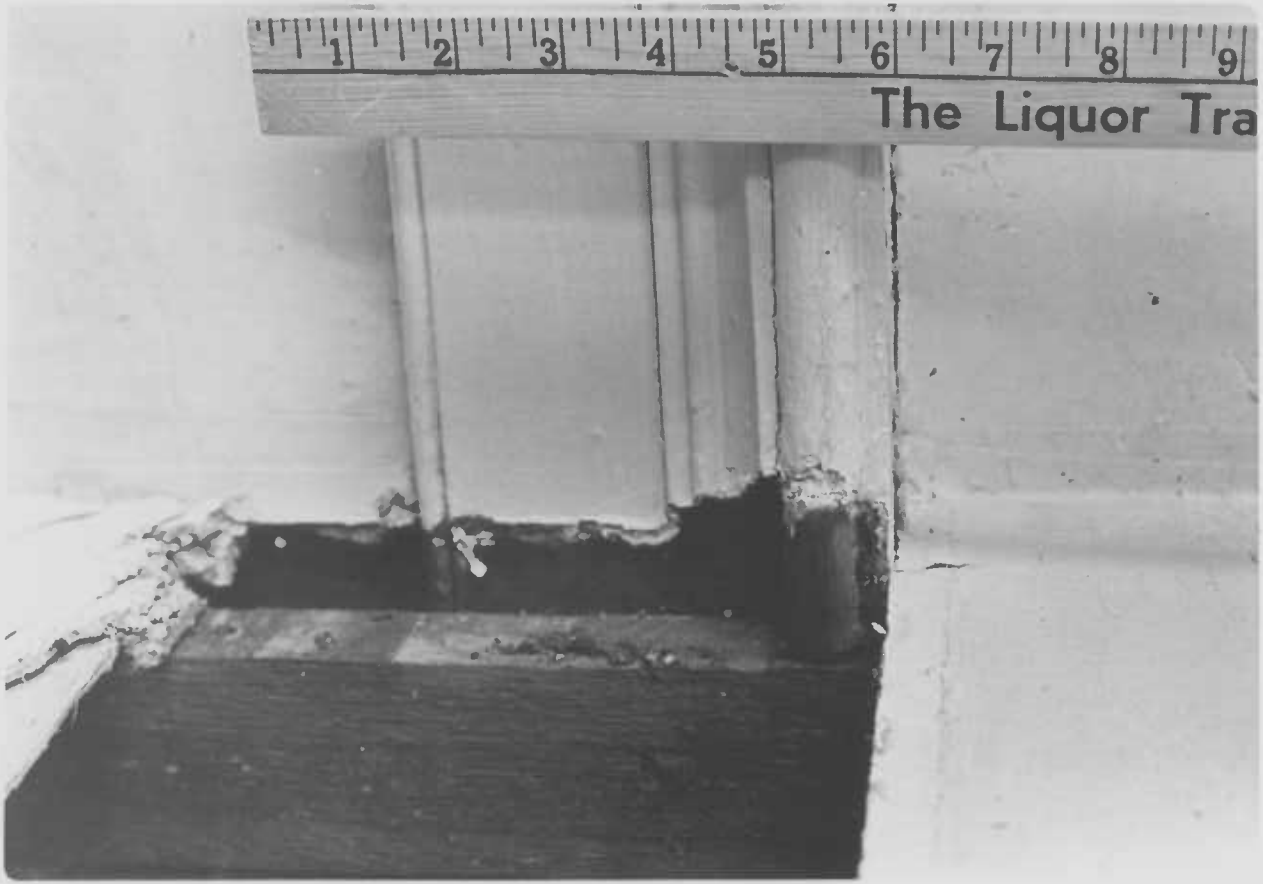
F-4-14
George Bowlus House
E/S Main St
Middletown
CFN 5/80
OUTBUILDING


The Liquor Traffic Is A Cance

F-4-14
GEORGE BOWLUS
House
E/S Main ST
MIDDLETOWN
CEN 5/80
Second floor
Stair detail

F-4-14
George Bowles
House
E/S Main ST
MIDDLETOWN
CPEN 5/89
Second floor
Stair detail

F-4-14 George Bowlus House
E/s Main ST
MIDDLETOWN
OEW 5/80
Stair Detail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2
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The Liquor Tra

F-4-14
George Bowles
House
E/S Main ST
MIDDLETOWN
CRW 5/80
Molding Detail