NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bloomsbury

other names Wellcome Farm, Roger Johnson House (F-7-18)

2. Location

street & number ~~2062~~ 2602 Thurston Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Frederick ☒ vicinity

state MD code MD county Frederick code 021 zip code 21701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title — Date 8-4-00

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
6	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resource previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ single dwelling
Agriculture/subsistence/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Agriculture/subsistence/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial: Georgian
Early Republic: Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Stone (sandstone)
Walls: Stone (sandstone)
Roof: Slate
Other: Wood

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☒ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property as yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry
Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1780-1867

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Roger Johnson

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 131 acres, 29 perches

UTM References Urbana, MD quad
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				4			

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian

organization Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc. date 11/99

street & number 105 N. Potomac Street telephone 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown state Maryland zip code 21740

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Ethel W. Loeb

street & number 8100 Connecticut Ave. telephone

city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Physical Description:

The Roger Johnson property, known as Bloomsbury, is a farm containing approximately 133 acres located on the west side of Thurston Road, approximately two miles south of Urbana in Frederick County, Maryland. The farm consists of hilly land, which rises to the southwest toward the northeast face of Sugar Loaf Mountain. Just off Thurston Road is the farmstead cluster consisting of a two part sandstone house dating from the 1780s with an early 19th century addition; a log barn and frame wagon shed; and remnants of log slave quarters located immediately behind the main house. Situated a short distance to the northeast of the main house is another small log house believed to have been part of the slave quarters grouping. Also on the property, located farther north along Thurston Road from the main group, is a 19th century frame barn.

Main House:

The stone dwelling is constructed of local sandstone and faces southwest. It consists of a four-bay, two-story section, dating from the 1780s with a one-story kitchen wing extending to the east. The east wing accommodates a modern kitchen for the dwelling. Attached to the west end of the four bay section is a two story, two bay addition dating from about 1800. Onto the west end of this addition was constructed a one story stone and screen sun porch, dating from the 1930s. A stone deck extends out from the four central bays of the house and may have been the base for a former porch. The stonework appears to date from the early 20th century. Taken together, the house presents a balanced façade with a six-bay-wide two story central block with one-story wings on each end.

The oldest part of the house has a window, door, window, window pattern across the front with chimneys inside each end wall. The stones forming the walls are roughly coursed and fairly small in size, as typical of the 18th century. There is no distinguishing masonry work such as segmental arches or jack arches above the windows and doors. Windows have wide mortised and tenoned frames with pegged joints and hold twelve over twelve light sash at both the first and second story levels. Of the four bays, the two westernmost are grouped more closely together than the two eastern bays. The main entrance is located in the second bay from the west end of the original portion of the house. The door has a wide, mortised and tenoned frame with double fielded molding and ovalo trim. The door has six raised panels beneath a four light transom. Entrance lights on either side of the door are former carriage lamps. Inscribed in the window glass of the window immediately west of the main entrance are the names of James Johnson, Roger's son, and his wife Emily with the date 1832.

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Extending to the west from this original section is a two story, two bay addition dating from about 1800. It, too, has twelve over twelve light window sash within wide mortised and tenoned frames. The masonry work is similar to that in the older section with relatively small stones, roughly coursed. A vertical seam in the masonry marks clearly the point here the addition was attached. The addition has a chimney inside the west gable end. All of the chimneys are of brick construction. The entire house is roofed with asphalt shingles.

At the rear elevation of the house, there are three bays in the older section (all windows) and three in the early 19th century addition, with a door and two windows at the first story level. All of the rear elevation windows have been replaced with two over two light sash dating from the late 19th century. The frames also appear to have been replaced with narrower ones.

The interior of the house has the original floor plan and woodwork as well as some early glasswork in the 1780s section. The front door opens into a formal stair and entrance area, with a room behind it and two rooms to the east. Each of the first floor rooms in the original section has its own fireplace. Woodwork in the original section includes double fielded architraves with ovalo back band and chairrail with bolection molding. Doors have six raised panels. The exterior door is double surfaced with the exterior face having the six raised, molded panels, and the interior face being vertical beaded boards. The door is hung on long strap hinges. The lock is a large cast iron box mechanism mounted on the door surface. It has an oval brass knob. The staircase is unusually simple with a plain square newel post and a flattened handrail typical of the late 18th century. Balusters are square and set on the diagonal, arranged three per step. The stairway rises along the west wall of the original section, then turns and ascends along the north wall of the stair hall and turns again to complete the run to the second floor.

The most elaborate room is the southeast room, a parlor. Centered in its east wall is a fireplace with a mantelshelf over a crossetted architrave. On either side of the fireplace are cupboards with round arched tops and doors with glass panes. The glass for the cupboard doors, as well as the front windows is said to have come from the Amalung Glassworks, (listed in the National Register) which was located near Bloomsbury. However, the Johnson family also had a glassworks, which was located near their iron manufactory. The door to this parlor from the stair hall has a wrought iron thumb latch.

The northeast room is not as finely detailed as the parlor. It includes in its east wall a fireplace with a bolection architrave beneath a mantelshelf, a door to the one story kitchen wing and a cupboard.

Behind the stair hall in the northwest corner of the original part of the house is another room, smaller than the others. It has a fireplace nearly centered in the west wall with a cupboard

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to the south side and a door leading to the addition on the north side. The fireplace surround consists of a simple architrave with a mantelshelf above.

The two-story addition to the west of the original section added two rooms at the first story. The woodwork is influenced by the Federal style and is lighter and more delicate than that in the older section. The southwest room is the more formal of the two rooms in the addition's first story. It contains a fireplace in the west wall and a cupboard beside it. In the room's north wall is a doorway leading into the other room in the addition. The fireplace has a mantelshelf above a wide frieze with carved trim in an oval motif. Along the sides are molded pilasters. The cupboard has a round arched top and paneled doors. The architrave is double fielded like those of the 18th century, but the molding is a smaller ogee rather than the ovalo molding used in the older section. The chairrail still has bolection molding, but it is smaller than that in the original part of the house.

The north room of the addition also has a fireplace with a cupboard to the south of it and a door to the 1930s sun porch to the north side. The fireplace has a simple architrave, wide frieze and mantelshelf.

The second floor plan approximates that of the first floor.

Other Buildings:

Immediately behind the stone main house is the remnant of what was once a complex of slave houses. According to a 1933 newspaper article, J.W. Dixon who wrote memoirs about the Urbana area in the 1850s and '60s, described a semicircle of slave houses behind the main house. Two of these survived until the 1970s when all but the remaining portion of one of the houses collapsed in a snowstorm. The remaining house is a log structure with its gable end facing the house. Part of the roof gable has been removed and replaced with a flat shed roof. Part of the gable structure remains, over a framed extension attached to the north end of the log portion. Located a short distance behind the site of the slave housing group, but separated by a steep hill or ravine is another secondary dwelling, similar in form and materials to the remaining slave quarter. Now a rental house, it may have also been constructed as slave quarters. It is a one and a half story, two bay log building with a two bay board and batten frame extension. Newer concrete block foundations have been placed under the frame section. A shed roofed porch shelters entrances in the log and frame section.

Located just inside the main entrance to the complex is a grouping of agricultural buildings including a log barn, a wagon shed and a tractor shed. The log barn, a rare survival of a once typical structure in central Maryland, is set with the front facing south. The north

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entrance opens into the threshing floor. A shed roofed, framed granary is attached on the west side of the threshing floor entrance. The whole building is sided with vertical boards. The log structure is easily observable from the inside of the barn on the threshing floor. The wagon shed, located east of the barn includes corncribs on either side of the drive through central section. The building rests on stone piers and probably dates from the early or mid 19th century. The white painted tractor shed appears to date from the early 20th century.

Located farther north along Thurston Road is a late 19th century frame barn of the "Swisser" type. This 19th century regional term refers to a barn with a forebay. In this instance, the forebay rests on stone piers. The vertical board siding has louvered vents at regular intervals across the front, back and sides. The standing seam metal roof has two square ventilator towers as well.

Resource Count:

This nomination includes six contributing buildings as follows:

- Stone house
- Log slave house
- Log secondary house (probably also a slave house)
- Log barn
- Frame wagon shed
- Frame Swisser barn

The collection of buildings in their farm setting retains a high level of historical and architectural integrity.

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Statement of Significance:

The Roger Johnson property, Bloomsbury, is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the history of Frederick County's 18th century iron industry and thus the county's economic and social development. The property derives additional significance under Criterion B for its association with Roger Johnson, the youngest brother of Maryland's first governor, Thomas Johnson. The Johnson brothers, Thomas, James, Baker, and Roger dominated the industrial development of Frederick County during the late 18th century, beginning with the establishment of the Catoctin Iron Furnace in 1774, which supplied shot and ammunition for the Revolutionary War effort. The brothers later established in the county several forges, including Bloomsbury Forge located ½ mile from the Roger Johnson House, a second iron furnace, and a glassworks. The Roger Johnson house and associated buildings are significant also under Criterion C. The house is significant for its late 18th century architectural stylistic elements, in the late Georgian style, both in its exterior limestone construction and its interior design and trim. The slave houses are important relics of this type of dwelling in central Maryland, and the log barn is a rare survival of a once typical barn type, which was later replaced by the more common Swisser-style barns. While at least three other houses in the southern Frederick County area are associated with Roger Johnson, (Bloomsbury Forge Farm, F-7-23, Rock Hall, F-7-2, and the Richard Johnson House, F-7-16), this property served as the home of Roger Johnson during the height of the Johnson family industries and is the most elegant and best preserved of these buildings.

Historic Context:

Frederick County's age of prosperity began following the end of the French and Indian War in 1763. The prosperity that grew in Frederick County during the late 18th and early 19th centuries was the result of agricultural intensification as frontier conditions lessened and farming and support networks matured. Resulting improvements in transportation systems in turn facilitated the development of the iron and glass industries. While Frederick County's population was dominated on the farms by Germans who migrated into the county from Pennsylvania, a substantial number of Scotch/Irish and English landowners from eastern Maryland, mostly well to do members of the upper levels of society moved to Frederick County. Declining profits from tobacco and reduced opportunities in eastern and southern Maryland made the central and western portions of the state attractive to old-line families seeking to relocate and improve their fortunes.

Thomas Johnson, Jr. and his brothers James, Baker, and Roger, were second generation members of the Johnson family which had emigrated from England early in the 18th century to St. Leonard's Creek in Calvert County, Maryland. Thomas began purchasing large tracts of

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land in Frederick County in the 1760s for future development while still in Annapolis working as a lawyer. At the same time he was cultivating friendships with men like George Washington, a friendship which would serve to enhance the family's position not only in the military but also in their business dealings. The Catoctin Furnace, the first of the Johnson brothers' enterprises, produced cannon as well as ammunition for the Revolutionary War effort, a lucrative contract that set the stage for later developments.[1] Again, Thomas Johnson's contacts with the provincial elite placed the Johnson brothers in leadership positions during the war. Thomas served as brigadier-general commanding the Third District (Frederick County), and in 1777 was elected the first Governor of the State of Maryland.[2] His brothers followed his lead, Baker was colonel of the Fourth Battalion, and James, colonel of the Second Battalion, with Roger serving as James' second major. It is not surprising to find Roger in the same battalion as his older brother James. The two were known to have an extremely close relationship. That relationship was described by James' son in a letter dated September 1, 1842, "Roger . . . was brought up by my father and always looked upon him in the light of a father more than a brother."[3]

The war and the Catoctin Furnace enterprise seems to have kept the Johnson brothers occupied through the 1770s. Only the Bush Creek Forge, established just southeast of Frederick City, was added in 1776. The 1780s however, saw a quickening of their industrial developments. Again, Thomas' friendship with George Washington undoubtedly played a role in their pursuits. While local tradition and comments in Scharf's History of Western Maryland indicate the Johnson Iron Furnace, located near the mouth of the Monocacy River, was established around 1774, William Hutchinson, in his above cited article on the Johnson industries, makes a fairly well documented argument for its establishment around 1785. Hutchinson begins by citing a May 17, 1784 petition to the Frederick County Circuit Court, filed by the Johnson brothers. Under a law passed in 1717 to encourage iron making, the Johnson's sought to have the land condemned for the location of their new iron furnace.[4] When considered in the light of the Patowmack Company plans being developed by George Washington (first president of the company) and his friend Thomas Johnson (second president of the company), such a furnace, located so near the proposed Potomac River transportation system, would be profitable indeed. The establishment of Roger Johnson's Bloomsbury Forge, sometime in the

1J. Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland. Vol. 1 (Baltimore. Regional Publishing Co., 1968), first published in Philadelphia, 1882, pp. 135-136, footnote #1; also William E. Hutchinson, "The Johnson Family Enterprises Near Sugarloaf Mountain," Journal of The Historical Society of Frederick County, Spring, 1995, p 5.

2Scharf, pp. 138-141.

3Letter written by James Johnson (son of James), Baltimore, Sept. 1, 1842, 1882 copy of letter transcribed by Linda Kemp, Sept. 1972, Johnson vertical file, Frederick County Historical Society, Frederick, Maryland.

4Hutchinson, p. 7.

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1780s, would most likely have occurred after the Johnson Furnace had begun production, providing the necessary raw material for the operation of the forge. Again, local tradition and Scharf date the forge to the earlier 1774 date, however, this early date is unsubstantiated. In 1787, Roger Johnson recorded his purchase of blacksmithing equipment, indicating either the establishment of a new forge, or the expansion of a forge already in operation.[5] It may have been during this 1780s time period also that the Johnson brothers established a glassworks in the Bennett Creek area.

Property History:

Thomas Johnson had purchased the land on which the Bloomsbury Forge and the Roger Johnson House would later be located in 1764. The 2,429 ½ acre tract called *Resurvey on Right and Good Reason* was a resurvey on a 9 ½ acre parcel called *Right and Good Reason*, belonging to Solomon Turner, plus 2,420 acres of vacant land. Johnson's arrangement with Turner, in which he granted a 1/3 interest in the whole tract to Turner in exchange for the 9 ½ acres, allowed Turner to then sell his interest to John Beale Bordley two months later for 250 pounds. Bordley, a prominent lawyer in Annapolis, was Thomas Johnson's friend and mentor, as well as the owner of land bordering the *Resurvey on Right and Good Reason*. Thomas and his partner Bordley sold two parcels from the large tract, 378 acres to Abraham Faw, and 569 acres to John Amelung. In 1791, Thomas Johnson had the remaining acreage resurveyed to 1,788 acres called *Bloomsbury*, the allusion to the iron "bloom" a good indication the forge was already located on the tract.[6] In 1793, the Johnson brothers divided ownership of their collective enterprises, with the Bloomsbury Forge and Johnson Furnace going to Roger.[7]

By the 1780s Roger Johnson was probably living in the area of the Johnson Furnace and Bloomsbury Forge operations. Roger married Elizabeth Thomas, of Montgomery County, in February of 1781. Within the year they began their family which eventually included 12 children.[8] Interior architectural elements of the Roger Johnson House indicate the earliest section of the house was probably built around 1781 for Roger and his new wife.

5Ibid, p. 11, footnote #22.

6Frederick Co. Land Records, J/170, J/705, J/257; also Frederick Co. Survey Record, HGO 1/481, Frederick Co. Courthouse, Frederick, MD.

7Hutchinson, p. 12.

8Johnson Family Genealogy, 1987, Frederick Historical Society, Frederick, MD. Also James Johnson letter, 1842.

The elevated status of the Johnson brothers in Frederick County society was clearly visible in the interior details of the house built for Roger and Elizabeth Johnson. No doubt the house was conveniently located for the supervision of the Johnson brothers' planned additional industries in southern Frederick County. By the 1790 U.S. Population Census, Roger was listed with a wife and eleven children, two "other free" adults (referring usually to free Blacks), and twenty-nine slaves. Roger's large family suggests that the later section of the house might have been added by the time of the 1790 census. The large number of slaves listed also lends credence to the 1933 Frederick News article in which J.W. Dixon recalled from his childhood in the 1850s and 60s a number of log slave quarters set in a semi-circle behind the Roger Johnson house.[9] Only the remnant of one of these buildings is now extant.

Roger Johnson remained at his home known as "Bloomsbury" until his death in 1831. Throughout the end of the 18th century and the early decades of the 19th century, his lands and fortunes grew. The 1798 Frederick County tax assessment indicated that Roger was taxed on 4,300 3/4 acres of land, including 1,119 acres of "part of *Right and Good Reason*." A notation on the *Right and Good Reason* tract reads "New Forge Built last summer."[10] Clearly business was booming necessitating improvements at the forge. Despite the fact that he was taxed on the land as early as 1798, Roger did not receive title to the *Bloomsbury* tract (which was a resurvey on the *Resurvey of Right and Good Reason*) from his brother Thomas until 1802.[11]

Roger Johnson's will, probated in March of 1831, devised the tracts "that lay to South Side of Bennetts Creek . . . also the lands lying between the Forge and my Mansion house," to two of his sons, James T. and Charles Johnson. An 1836 Deed of Partition divided the land by appointed commissioners. James T. Johnson received the 332 acre "Northern Division," including the mansion house, and Charles Johnson was given the 399 acre "Southern Division," which included the "Old Forge."[12]

Dr. James T. Johnson and his wife Emily had probably occupied the mansion house at least since the 1831 death of Roger Johnson. The names of both are inscribed on a window in the entrance hall of the house. Emily's inscription is dated 1832. It would have been the later

9Maryland State Historic Sites Inventory Form, Survey No. F-7-18, 1993, p. 7.1; the Dixon article is available at the Frederick Co. Historical Society, Frederick, MD.

10 1798 Frederick Co. Tax Assessment, "District No. 4, Sugar Loaf & Linganore Hundreds," microfilm, Frederick Co. Library, Frederick, MD. This acreage probably should have been listed as Bloomsbury since Bloomsbury was actually a resurvey on the remaining acreage of Resurvey on Right and Good Reason.

11Frederick Co. Land Record, Liber WR 23, Folio 584.

12Frederick Co. Land Record, Liber HS 2, Folio 216; Roger Johnson will, Liber GME 1, Folio 212, cited in Land Record HS 2/216.

tenancy of James and Emily Johnson that J.W. Dixon recalled from his childhood in the 1850s. Dixon remembered not only the semi-circle of slave quarters, but also a demolished kitchen and an "attractive front portico" on the house, which is no longer extant.[13]

The Johnsons remained at the mansion house until James died in 1867. That same year, Emily sold the house and 133 acres of *Bloomsberry* (*Bloomsbury*) and *Resurvey on Two Bachelors* to Edmond, Zadoc, and Arnold Windsor. The Windsor family retained the house and property until 1893. The property then passed through eight owners until it was purchased by the current owners in 1951 (see chain of title attached). According to tradition, Dr. James Johnson had a small office building, which was located somewhere in front of the main house. There is now no visible evidence of such a building.

Property Evaluation:

Criterion A:

Bloomsbury is an excellent collection of resources reflecting Frederick County's strong heritage blending industry and agriculture, and the county's leadership in these areas in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The nominated resources are a farm and farmstead, but unlike many farms in Frederick County, which updated with Swisser barns in the mid 19th century and then converted to dairy or orchard functions in the later 19th century, this one retained its 18th century type log barn. Very few of these barns survive today. The property also reflects central Maryland's slave culture. Records indicate that Roger Johnson had 29 slaves, and the remaining slave houses provide good insight into their living conditions. The separate log house may even have been constructed as a dwelling for manumitted or emancipated slaves, which could explain its visual separation from the "big house" and the cluster of slave dwellings behind it. The main house exemplifies the life of Frederick County's elite, the home of a member of one of the leading families.

Criterion B:

The property is significant for its association with Roger Johnson, youngest son in one of Frederick County's and, indeed, Maryland's leading families. This is the property most intimately associated with Roger. It is where he made his home from ca. 1781 until his death in 1831. His children were born and raised on this property and it was from here that he managed

13Maryland Survey Form, F-7-18, p. 7.1.

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his vast land and industrial holdings, including at least two iron operations and a glassworks as well as thousands of acres of farmed land.

Criterion C:

The Bloomsbury property is also significant for its architecture. The house has excellent woodwork and a high level of integrity reflecting influence of the Georgian and Federal styles. The vernacular buildings, which form the collection of buildings at Bloomsbury are significant as regional types. The log barn is particularly important as a rare survival of the kind of barn that was nearly universal in the 18th century in central Maryland. These first-generation buildings were generally replaced with larger Swisser barns as increasing grain production in the Maryland wheat belt necessitated more space for threshing and storage of grain and straw. The later Swisser barn on the property, which is separate from the main complex exemplifies this process. The slave housing also represents survival of a house type that has become rare in Frederick County. When their function ceased to exist, these houses were often removed or they simply deteriorated into oblivion. Few examples of this type of architecture remain today.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bloomsbury
Name of Property

Frederick County, MD
County and State

Section 8 Page 8

Chain of Title

J/170 28 January 1764 5 shillings
To: Solomon Turner, Frederick Co. planter
From: Thomas Johnson, Jr., Attorney in Annapolis
1/3 interest in whole of *Resurvey on Right and Good Reason* made over Turner's original 9 ½ acre patent *Right and Good Reason* plus 2,420 acres of vacant land.

J/705 28 January 1764 5 shillings
To: Thomas Johnson, Jr.
From: Solomon Turner
2/3 interest in 9 ½ acres called *Right and Good Reason*

./257 28 March 1764 250 pounds
To: John Beale Bordley
From: Solomon Turner
1/3 interest in *Resurvey on Right and Good Reason*

WR 23/584 18 November 1802 497 pounds
To: Roger Johnson
From: Thomas Johnson
2/3 interest in *Resurvey on Right and Good Reason* of which Roger already owns 1/3 interest, and *Bloomsbury.*

Will Book GME 1/212 14 March 1831
Will of Roger Johnson
Devise lands to James T. and Charles Johnson

HS 2/216 11 April 1836
Deed of Partition
To: James T. Johnson
"Northern Division" including 322 acres and the mansion house

Will Book TLMC 1/418 9 September 1867
Will of James T. Johnson
Devise house and land to wife Emily with power to sell and keep the proceeds after debts paid.

DSB 2/32 21 October 1867 $6,656.00
To: Edmond L., Zadoc H., and Arnold H. Windsor

From: Emily Johnson, widow
133 acres, 1 rood, 20 square perches, part of *Bloomsberry* and *Resurvey on Two Bachelors*.

JLJ 5/63 17 May 1893 $761.81
To: Alexander J. McKenna
From: John H. Kesler and Wm. G. Baker, ex. for Arnold Windsor
131 acres, 29 perches

DHH 1/542 14 May 1898 $3,000.00
To: Margaret Feinour
From: A.J. McKenna and wife
131 acres, 29 perches

DHH 11/451 12 July 1901 $4,000.00
To: Margaret Grinder
From: Lucinda Benson and Annie G. Mitchell, Deed of Trust for Margaret Feinour, dec.

308/500 28 April 1914 $6,000.00
To: Luther A. and Annie P.A. Stang
From: Margaret Grinder and Annie G. Mitchell, spinsters
131 acres, 29 perches

382/75 16 January 1932 $10.00 and other considerations
To: Commercial Bank of Maryland
From: Luther and Annie Stang

385/87 16 July 1932 $10.00 and other considerations
To: Theresa E. and John T. Junk
From: Commercial Bank of Maryland

386/420 27 March 1933 $10.00 and other considerations
To: Philip F. and Margaret W. Lee
From: Theresa and John Junk
131 acres, 29 perches

489/185 21 November 1950 $10.00 and other considerations
To: Paul F. and Isabelle L. Foster
From: Philip and Margaret Lee

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bloomsbury
Name of Property

Frederick County, MD
County and State

491/335 14 April 1951 $10.00 and other considerations
To: Leon and Ethel W. Loeb
From: Paul and Isabelle Foster
Parcels called *Bloomsberry* and *Resurvey on the Two Bachelors*, 131 acres, and 29 perches.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Major Bibliographical References:

Davis, Janet, Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Forms for the Roger Johnson House and other Johnson properties, 1993.

Frederick County Census Records.

Frederick County Land Records.

Frederick County Probate Records.

Frederick County Tax Assessment Records.

Hutchinson, William E., "The Johnson Family Enterprises Near Sugarloaf Mountain, Journal of the Historical Society of Frederick County, Spring, 1995.

Scharf, Thomas, History of Western Maryland, vol. 1, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated area includes the entire property as described in Frederick County Land Records, Deed book 491, folio 335, for 131 acres and 29 perches of land, the current deed for the property.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property, approximately 131 acres, represents the remnant of the property historically associated with the resource. It is essentially the same acreage that was sold by Emily Johnson, James T. Johnson's widow, in 1867, and has retained integrity of appearance and function since that date.

UTM References:

A: 18-296460-4353430

B: 18-295530-4352720

C: 18-295220-4352940

D: 18-295240-4353280

E: 18-295720-4353680

F-7-18

BLOOMSBURY FARM FREDERICK COUNTY MARYLAND

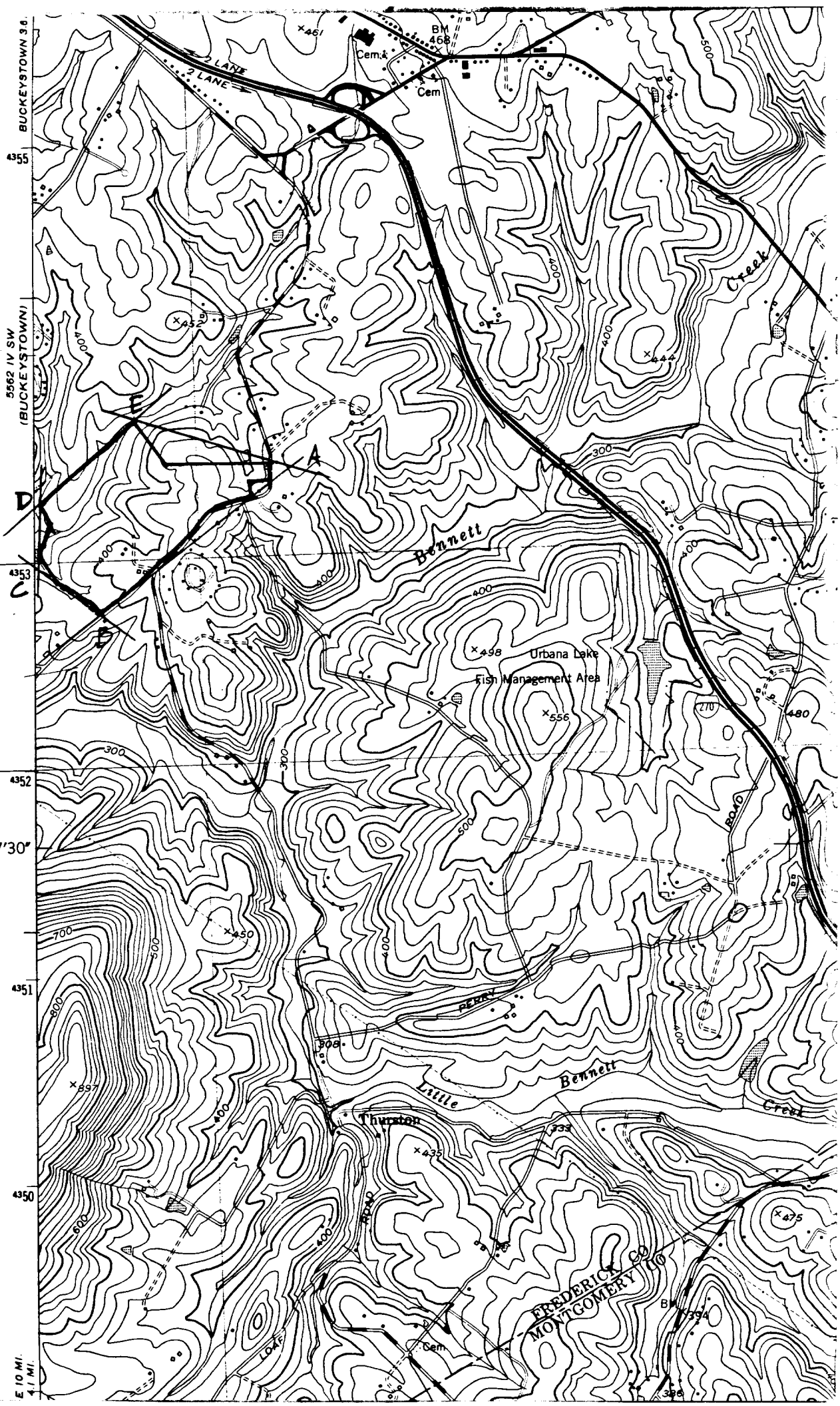
A: 18-296460
-4353430

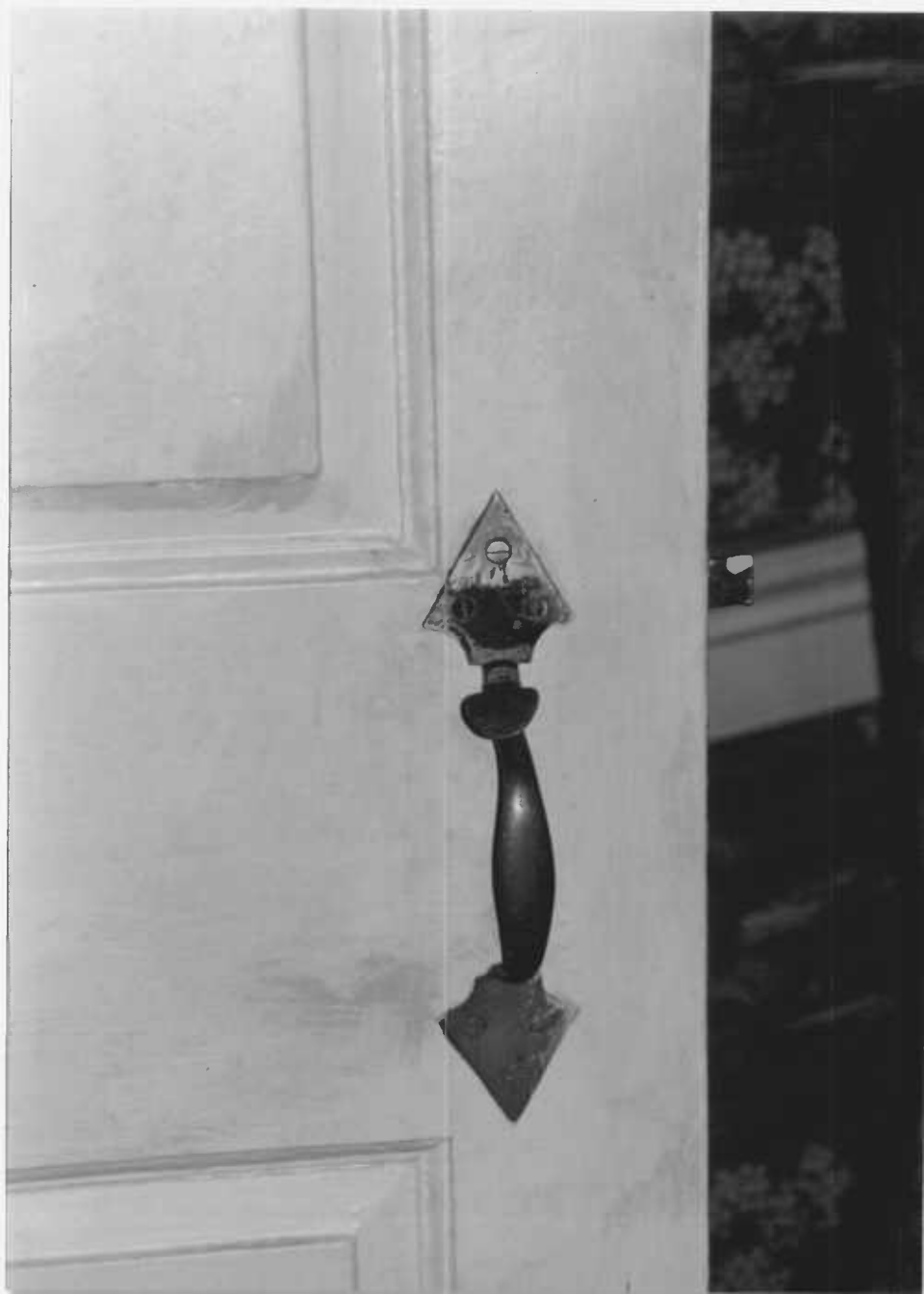
B: 18-295530
-4352720

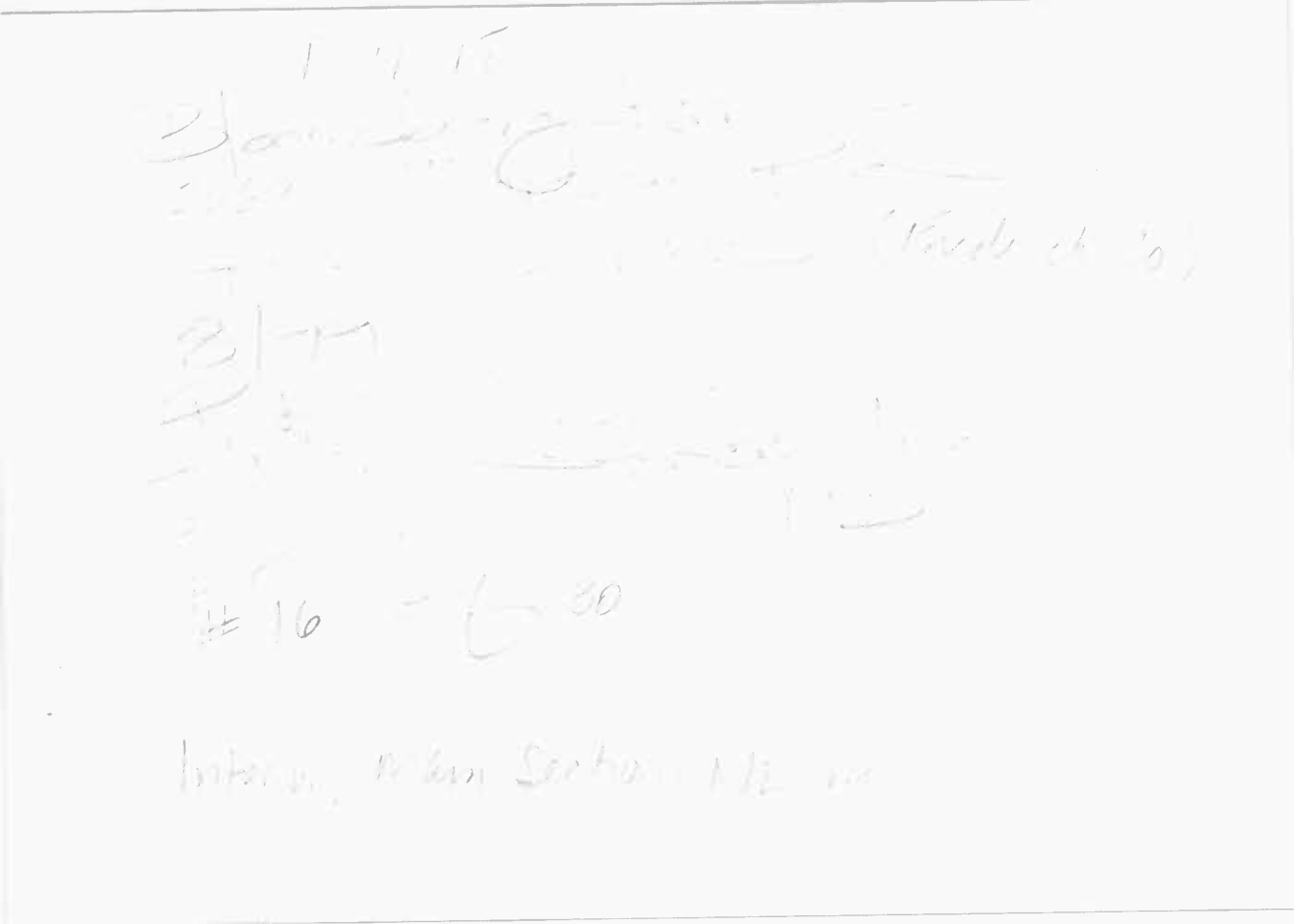
C: 18-295220
4352940

D: 18-295240
-4353280

E: 18-295720
-4353680







Blumsberry Farm 1-11-18

2602 Mt. Ida Rd

Frederick, MD Frederick Co

8/22

1 Seed

1 Seed + Ash [illegible] Hagerstown MD

[illegible]

#24 of 30

#28 $30

F-7-18
Roger Johnson House; Wellcome Farms — Ca. 1780-1800
Urbana vicinity
Private

The Roger Johnson House is significant in architecture for the late 18th century stonemasonry of its structure and the interior plan and architectural trim in the Adam and Georgian styles reflecting its construction in about 1780-1781 and for its association with Roger Johnson, the youngest of the four Johnson brothers who established industrial sites in Frederick County about the time of the Revolution and helped foster the growth of the County during the last quarter of the 18th century. The oldest brother was Thomas Johnson, the first governor of Maryland. James and Thomas are most closely associated with Catoctin Furnace, while Roger was responsible for Bloomsbury Forge on Bennett Creek and for a smaller forge near Riehl's Mill on Bush Creek. The house reflects the social standing and wealth of the Johnson family in the use of high style trim and the incorporation of early glass in interior cupboards and windows, said to have been manufactured by the Amelung Glass Works nearby. The stone two-story house originally had four bays with a large entrance and stair hall with three other rooms on the first floor and possibly a free-standing or attached kitchen wing. About 1800, an enlarging addition of two bays on the west end added another two rooms on each floor and a rear staircase. In the 1930's, a later owner added a screened porch and rebuilt or greatly altered the kitchen wing. A surviving log slave quarter, also much altered, remains from a group of about six log outbuildings present in the late 1970's. A log barn of about 1800 and a frame wagon shed/corn crib near the entrance gate are the other contributing outbuildings.

F-7-18
Roger Johnson House
Urbana
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:
Rural Agrarian Intensification, A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870

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

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary
Agriculture/subsistence/agricultural outbuilding/barn

Known Design Source: None

M105 P13

Survey No. F-7-18

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE __yes x no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Roger Johnson House (preferred)

and/or common Wellcome Farms

2. Location

street & number 2602 Thurston Road ___ not for publication

city, town Urbana x vicinity of **congressional district** 6th

state Maryland **county** Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	x occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
x building(s)	x private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	x private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	x yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	x not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Ethel Wile Loeb

street & number 8100 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Apt. 1405 telephone no.:

city, town Bethesda state and zip code MD 20815

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 491

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 335

city, town Frederick **state** MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory of Historic Properties F-7-18

date C. 1977 ___ federal x state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville **state** Md.

7. Description

Survey No. F-7-18

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_x_ original site
_x_ good	___ ruins	_x_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 4

The Roger Johnson House is a two-story stone dwelling built about 1780 with an enlargement about 1800 with its three surviving outbuildings, a log barn of about 1790-1800, a much-altered log slave quarter of about the same date, and a frame wagon shed/corn crib of about 1875. The buildings are located on the north side of Thurston Road at the intersection of Peters Road, about 1-1/2 miles southwest of Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland. The house's original principal elevation faced southwest, but its main elevation currently is on the northeast side facing a gravel parking area between the house and the log slave quarter. The other two outbuildings are located at the south side of the entrance drive just inside the entrance gate, along with a modern, non-contributing storage building currently under construction. The dates of the buildings are based on architectural evidence, local histories, land records, and information supplied by Mrs. Ethel Loeb, the current owner.

The original part of the dwelling is a four-bay section on the east end with a 1-1/2 story kitchen wing, which may be original, but has been much altered on the interior and by the screened porch added on the north side in the mid-20th century. The southwest or original elevation of the house has an entrance in the inner west bay. The second section, possibly added about 1800, is a two-bay enlargement added to the west end. A circa 1933 enclosed sun porch on the west end occupies a one-story addition on the west end. The windows on the southwest elevation are 12/12 in plain architraves. Louvred shutters present in 1978 have been removed. The original entrance has a 6-panel door under a four-light transom. Differences in the pointing of the stone just above the first story openings suggest that a one-story porch, undoubtedly a mid-19th century addition, was removed prior to 1950. The cornice is boxed and the roof is slate, with three chimneys, one near the center marking the original end wall on the first section and the others on the interior gable end walls The 1-1/2 story wing on the east has a fourth chimney at the east gable end. The northeast elevation of the house has six bays, reflecting the two sections of the southwest elevation. The windows on this side are 2/2, replacements of the mid to late 19th century. The door is a mid-20th century replacement. Traces of tar over the doorway indicate an entry porch once sheltered the door, but has been removed.

The interior of the house retains most of the original door and window trim and the plan of the first floor clearly shows the original four rooms of the first section, with a wide entrance hall with an open well, three-run staircase. In the southeast parlor is a formal fireplace wall composition with enclosed cupboards with round-arched architraves and glazed doors flanking a crossetted mantelpiece. According to local tradition, the glass in the doors and in the 12/12 windows on the southwest elevation was produced at the Amelung Glass Works (F-7-50, National Register), which was active from about 1784 to 1800. Inscriptions on the glass of a window in the central hall have the names of several Johnson family members, including James Johnson, the son of Roger, and possibly Emily Windsor, whose

8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-18

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
_ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ sclence	
_ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	x architecture	___ education	___ military	___ socIal/ humanitarian	
x 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
x 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates C. 1780-1800 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B x C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state xlocal

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Roger Johnson House is significant for its association with Johnson (1749-1831), the youngest brother of Thomas Johnson, the first governor of Maryland and one of the four Johnson brothers whose establishment of iron foundries, the principal one being Catoctin Furnace, and other industries in Frederick County were among the most important economic events in the development of the County in the last quarter of the 18th century. Roger Johnson was responsible for the Bloomsbury Forge on Bennett's Creek and also operated a forge on Bush Creek at Riehl's Mill. This house is one of at least four in the Urbana Region associated with Roger Johnson and his descendants, the others being Bloomsbury (F-7-23), located about 1/2 mile southwest of the Johnson House, Rock Hall (F-7-2), and the Richard Johnson House (F-7-16). The Roger Johnson House was built about 1780 or 1781, probably coinciding with his marriage in 1781 to Elizabeth Thomas. From 1781 to the late 1790's, Roger and Elizabeth had at least 12 children. The house is architecturally significant for the exterior stonemasonry and the interior plan and trim, including several original mantelpieces of the last quarter of the 18th century, with details of the Adam and Georgian styles and several windows and two cupboard doors featuring glass thought to have been made at the Amelung Glassworks (F-7-50; National Register) in the period about 1784 to 1800. These features, highly sophisticated in design and expensive for their period, are indicative of the social class and the wealth of Johnson and echo the extant fine mansions of his brothers Thomas (Rose Hill Manor; F-3-126) and James (Springfield; F-3-77). Roger was described by a mid-19th century descendant as "domestic and retired, economical and temperate."

The house clearly shows two building periods in close succession ending about 1800, apparently reflecting the Johnsons' rapidly growing family. Roger's will left the house to his son Dr. James T. Johnson (1795-1867) who lived there until 1863. His widow Emily sold the farm in 1867 following his death to Zadoc H. Windsor (1812-1881). After several other owners, Philip and Margaret Lee acquired the farm in 1933. The state of the farm as described by J. W. Dixon in the same year probably reflects the initial stage of renovation by the Lees which resulted in the porch on the west end and the alteration of the present kitchen wing on the east, as well as the addition of two bathrooms over the center hall on the second story. The date of alteration of the second story room described as a ballroom is unknown; however, Mrs. Loeb, the owner since 1951, states that occasional visitors to the house over the past 40 years have told her of dancing in the room in their earlier years, indicating that the change to the room and its association with parties may

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-7-18

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858
Delaplaine, Edward S. The Life of Thomas Johnson. New York: Frederick H. Hitchcock, The Grafton Press, 1927, pp. 13, 15, 351
Holdcraft, Jacob M. Names in Stone, V.2. Privately published, Ann Arbor, Mi., 1966,p. 1245 (Continued on separate sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name Urbana, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres centered on the dwelling on Tax Map 105, Parcel 13

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** November 1993

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/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023

PS-2746

7.1 Description (Continued)

signature is dated 1832. The interior side of the main door has original strap hinges and vertical battens. Each of the three rooms in the original section has a mantelpiece with flanking cupboard, but only the parlor has the fine architectural detail. In the circa 1800 section is a second parlor with a single flanking cupboard with similar trim and a rear room with a staircase just inside the northeast elevation entry. On the second story of the later section is a single large room with access from both the front and rear staircases. While its original use is unclear, the possibility of its being two rooms can not be discounted. According to Mrs. Loeb, two fireplaces were in the room on the west wall. Only one of these remains in place. A square infill in the center of the floor is believed by Mrs. Loeb to have been the location of a center pier flanked by two arches between the two sections. She also relayed local oral traditions about the room having been a ballroom.

In a 1933 Frederick News article, J. W. Dixon, a Baltimore resident who grew up in Urbana during the 1850's and 1860's and wrote many historical memoirs for the local newspaper, described the house as having much the same plan as today, with five rooms encircling the central stair hall. He described a heap of stones and sand near the east end of the building which were the remains of the kitchen, possibly meaning by this a separate summer kitchen with a large cooking fireplace. He refers as well to the demolished "attractive front portico", confirming that some type of porch sheltered the southwest side, and to a semi-circle of log slave quarters behind the house. At least five of these buildings still existed in deteriorated condition in 1978, but a heavy snow storm shortly thereafter caused all except the remaining structure to collapse, according to Mrs. Loeb. Mr. Dixon's account speculates imaginatively on the entertainments that took place at the Johnson home during its earliest years. He noted that "the equipment of bedrooms on (the) second floor gives one a good idea of its long ago accommodations for a large family and a number of guests, on occasion." His memoir does not identify any room on the second floor as a ball room or other room for entertaining. The walls of the large second story room are covered with wallpaper, concealing any evidence of a removed wall, but the presence of two separate staircases suggests that some type of separation existed between the two halves of the room. Roger Johnson and his wife Elizabeth Thomas were the parents of 12 children born from 1781 to at least 1796, which is probably one of the strongest reasons for the enlargement of the original house and for the second story to have been devoted to bed chambers.

Slave quarter: The log building located northeast of the house has a flat roof covered with standing seam metal, a replacement of the original gable roof which was damaged in the heavy snowstorm in the late 1970's which destroyed the other log quarters. Photos of some of these structures are in the MHT Inventory files in Crownsville. The extant building has a frame gable roofed section on the north side which projects above the replacement roof. This frame section is covered with vertical siding. A vertical board door is located in the south elevation of the log part and a second paneled door is in the vertical board section on the southeast elevation.

7.1 Description (Continued)

Log barn: The barn and the neighboring wagon shed/corn crib were undoubtedly among the structures referred to by J. W. Dixon as located just inside the gate of the Johnson property in 1933. The barn has vertical siding with traces of whitewash and a deteriorated metal roof. A perpendicular tractor shed was attached to the east side of the barn probably in the 1920's or 1930's. The sliding door in the center of the east elevation replaces the original swing doors. A shed addition projecting from the northeast end of the barn has board and batten siding, indicating that it was a granary, probably added in the mid to late 19th century. The interior of the barn has a double pen plan with a center drive passage flanked by open horizontal log hay storage bins. The log barn probably dates from the first quarter of the 19th century.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed corn crib was probably built about 1870. It has vertical siding and a corrugated metal roof. The cribs on the north and south elevations have vertical lath siding.

8.1 Significance (Continued)

have taken place between 1900 and 1933. During much of this period, the farm was occupied by tenant farmers.

The common name of the property, Wellcome Farms, was given by Leon and Ethel Wile Loeb, incorporating an anagram of their initials.

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

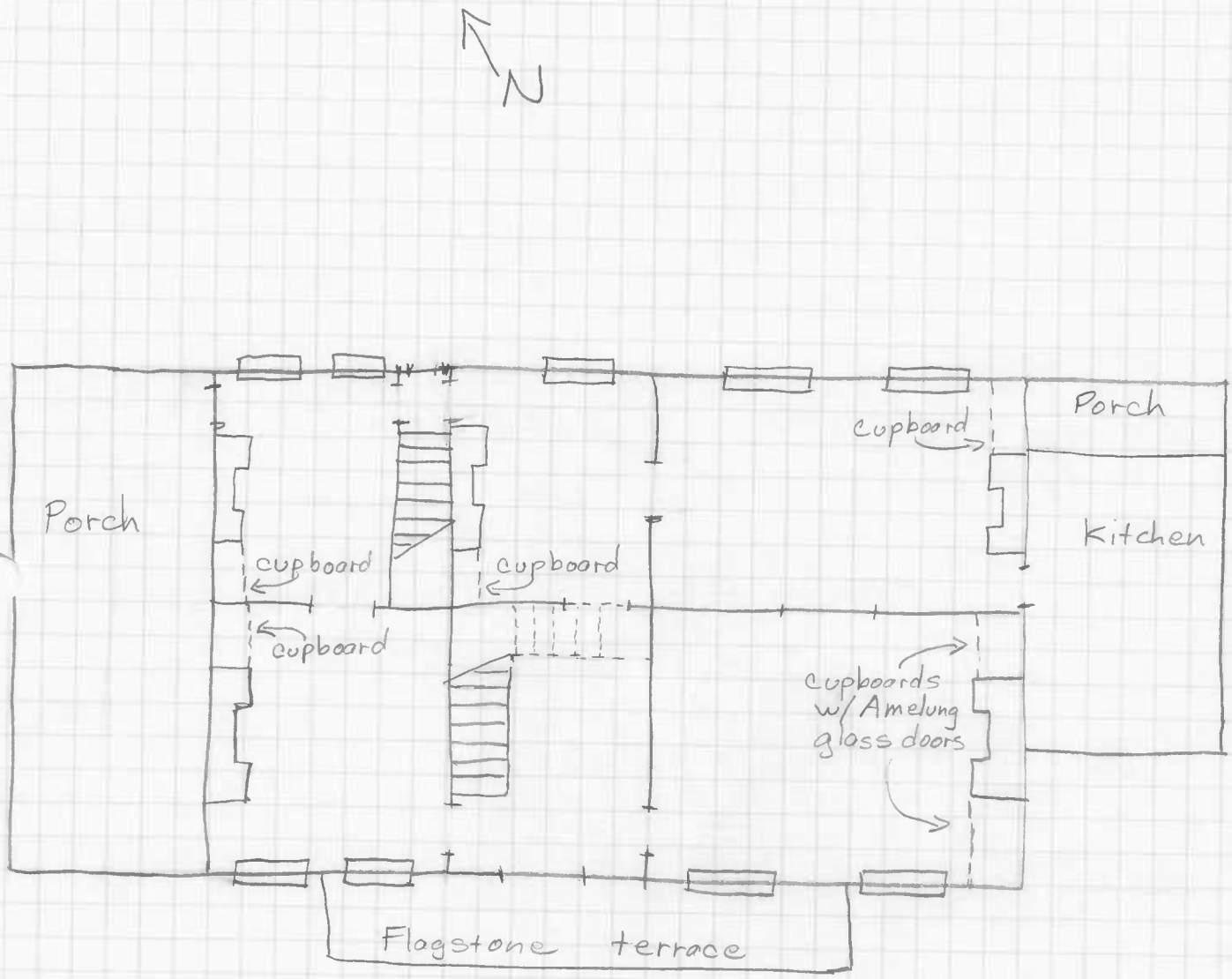
Johnson, Monroe. The Johnson Family Genealogy. Compiled from papers of James Johnson Jr. 1771-1850, et al, 1987

Land Records of Frederick County

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873

Varle, Charles. Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, 1808

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, pp. 108, 325



F-7-18

Roger Johnson House

Frederick County

Janet Davis
Nov. 4, 1993

Not to Scale

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Wellcome Farms

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: West side, intersection of Thurston and Peters Road — Sixth E.D. 7

CITY, TOWN: Urbana — ___ VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Frederick

STATE: Maryland — COUNTY: Map 105, Parcel 13

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Ethel Wile Loeb — Telephone #: 662-5050

STREET & NUMBER: Route 2, Box 360

CITY, TOWN: Frederick — ___ VICINITY OF — STATE, zip code: Maryland 21701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Frederick County Court House

Liber #: 491
Folio #: 335

STREET & NUMBER: Court Street

CITY, TOWN: Frederick — STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE:

DATE:

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

CITY, TOWN: — STATE:

F-7-18

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	_ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	_RUINS	_ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wellcome Farms is a large Georgian style gable roofed house built in three parts which faces south from the north side of Thurston Road. The main block of the house is two-and-a-half stories high and six bays wide. A four light transomed door occupies the fourth bay on the first level from the southwest and northeast corners. On the south facade 12/12 windows with louvered shutters occupy the remaining bays; 2/2 windows with similar shutters occupy the bays on the north facade. The east part of the main
is the oldest part of the building having been constructed in the 1780's; a noticeable change in the stone and roof material separates this section from the west part which was built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

The entire structure was built on a random stone foundation; the slate roof is finished by a boxed cornice with plain frieze. Three replaced brick chimneys are located in the main block in the center and east and west ends.

Two one-and-a-half story brick additions were added on the east and west ends in the 1920's.

Located to the rear of the building on the north side are five log structures with replaced chimneys and chinking, but original wood shingle roofs. The west cabin was modernized in the 1930's but the interior of the east cabin is original. Another larger log house is located north of the building down a hill.

Evidence of a road north of the house suggests that the north side of the house may once have been the front of the building.

The house is currently used as a private residence.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

F-7-18

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

Wellcome Farms, one of four Johnson houses still standing in the Sugarloaf area was originally the home of Roger Johnson, founder of the Johnson furnace and Bloomsberry forge on Bennett's Creek and brother of Thomas Johnson, first governor of Maryland.

In the 1770's the Johnson brothers, James, Roger, Thomas and Baker moved to Frederick County and began to speculate in land and business. By 1787, under the name of "James Johnson and Company" the four brothers established the Johnson Furnace close to where the Monocacy meets the Potomac in an area called Mouth of Monocacy. It was hoped that the Potomac would be eventually used as a main commercial artery to both the east and west and the products of the furnace and the forge could be traded along this route. But, the Potomac never proved to be navigable for trade and in 1793 the business was divided between the brothers. Roger Johnson continued the Bloomsberry business until 1805. After 1805 both the furnace and forge were abandoned and today only a slag heap and charcoal pits mark the site of the once prosperous undertaking.[1]

The Johnson houses located not far from the iron businesses provide some clues to the past of the owners and the surrounding community.

Wellcome Farm, historically named Bloomsberry, is the oldest Johnson residence having been built in the 1780's by Major Roger Johnson, youngest of the Johnson brothers, about the time of his marriage. The property remained in the Johnson family until 1867 when it was sold by Emily Johnson to Zadock H. Windsor, a local land speculator.[2]

Interior architectural features of particular interest include carved mantels, built in cupboards, beaded chairrails throughout the house, random width oak flooring, and an arched entrance into a room once used as a ballroom on the second floor of the west side. Window panes on the south side of the building have been signed by previous owners. Much of the original hardware exists on the panelled and board and batten doors.

Further research on the Johnson family and furnace complex has been undertaken by Sugarloaf Regional Trails and more information on this house will be forthcoming.

1 Inventory of Historical Sites in Western Montgomery and Frederick Counties, p.46
2 Frederick County Land Records, Liber DSB 2, Folio 32

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

F-7-18

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 116.80 (31 acres)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION — DATE

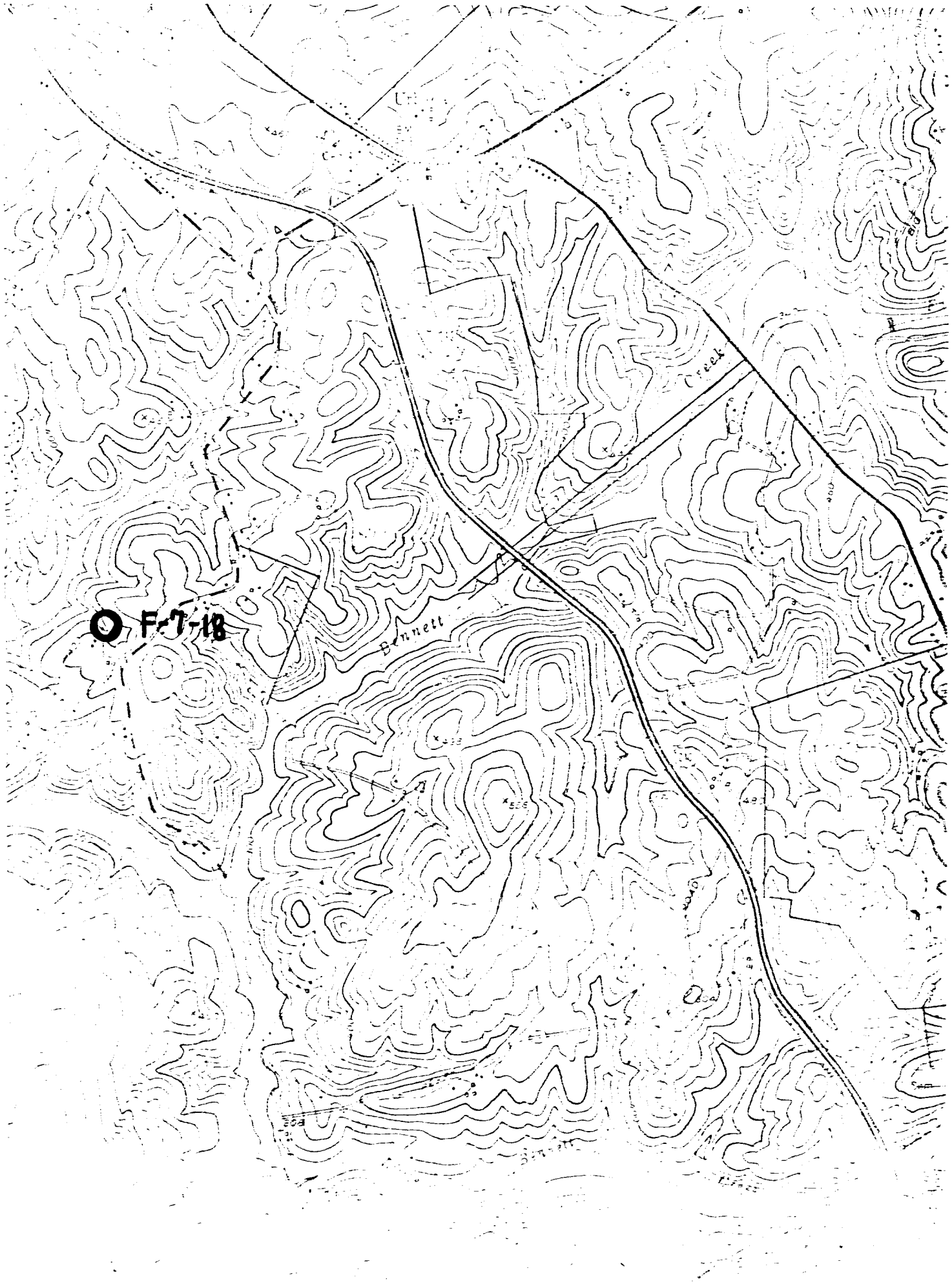
STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN — STATE

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



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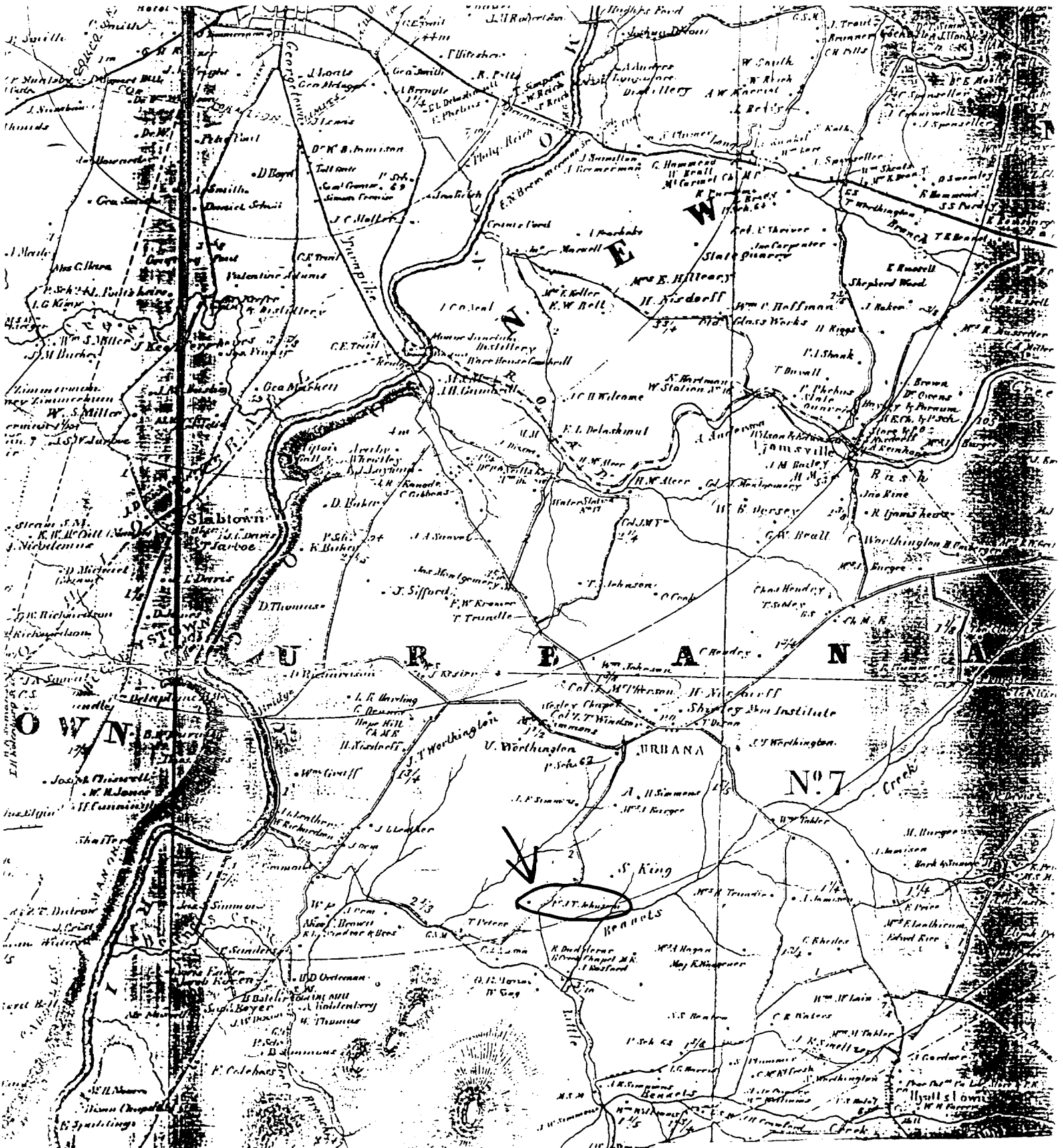
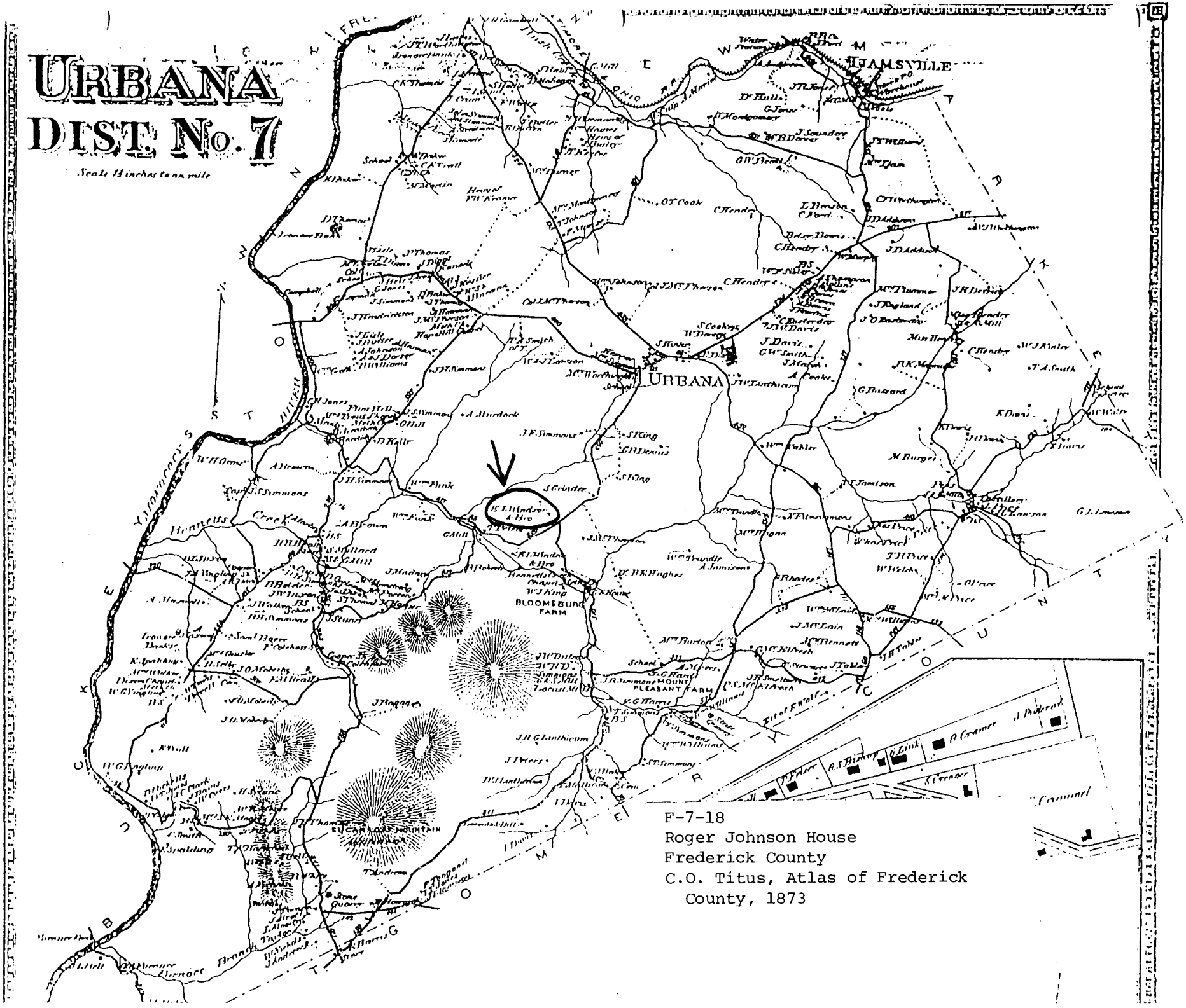
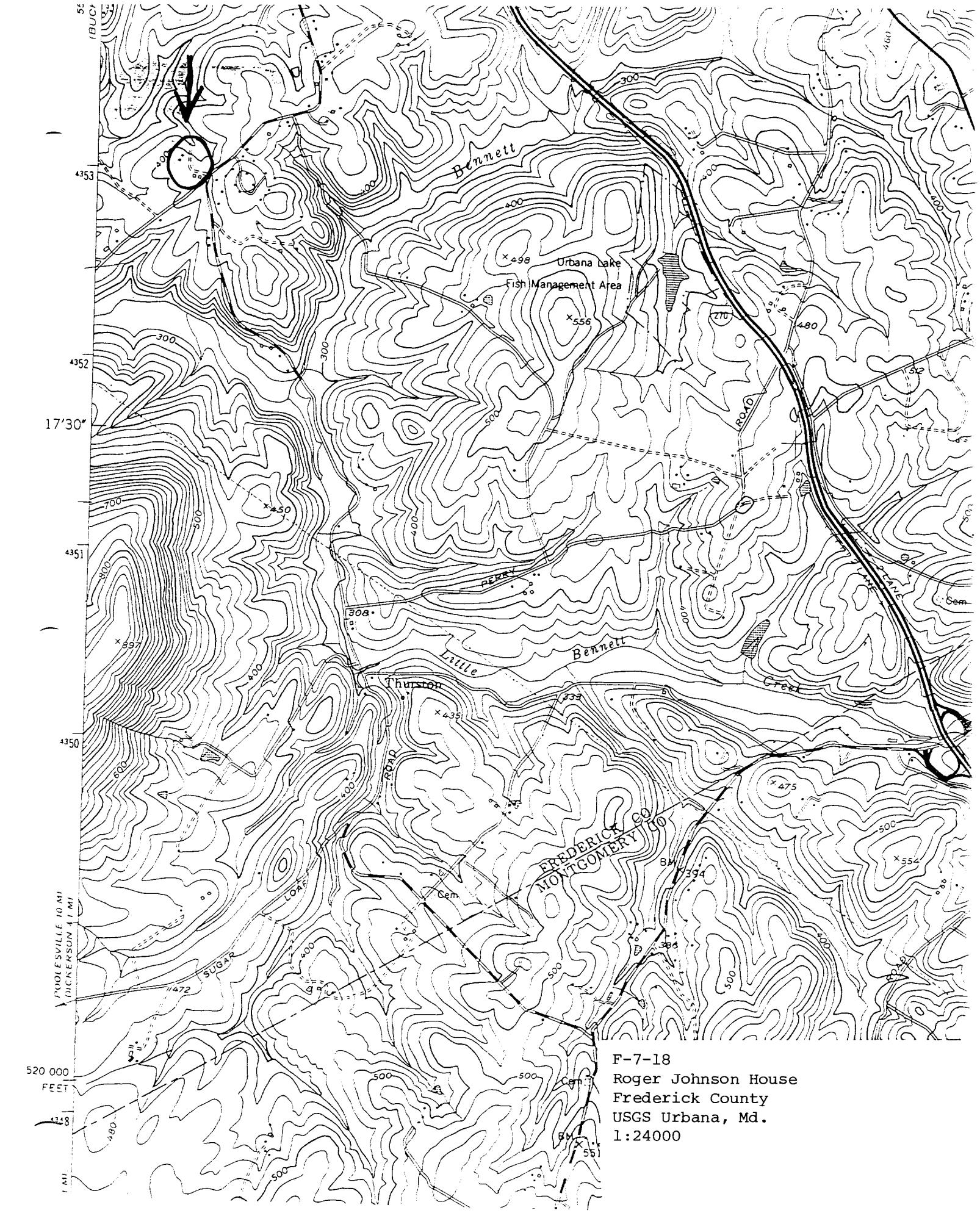
F-7-18
Roger Johnson House
Frederick County
Charles Varle, Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, 1808



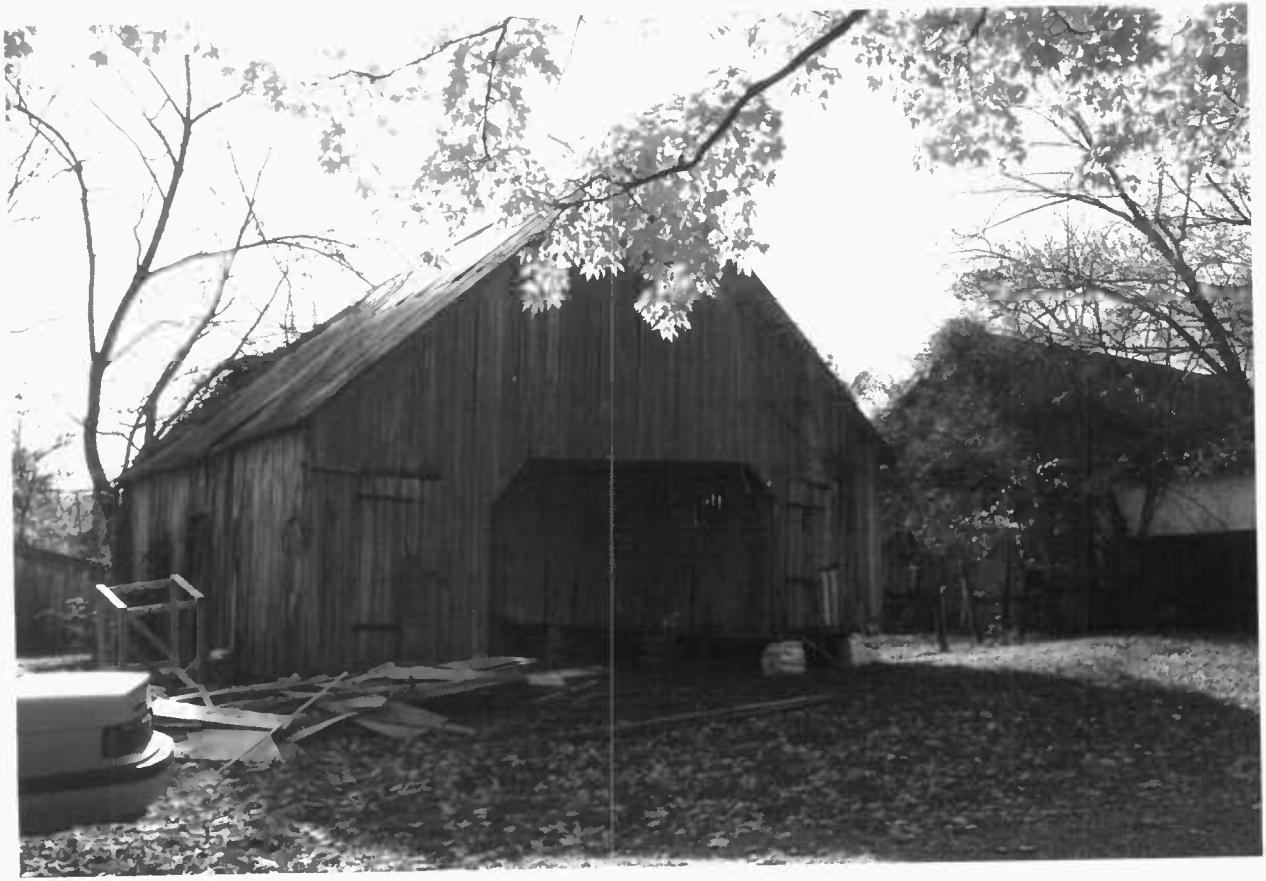
F-7-18
Roger Johnson House
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County, 1858



F-7-18
Roger Johnson House
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873



F-7-18
Roger Johnson House
Frederick County
USGS Urbana, Md.
1:24000



Wellcome Farm F-7-18
N/S Thurston Road
N/E View

Tenant House, Welcome Farm F-9-19
Down a lane behind main house
N/S Thurston Road

Welcome Farm
N/S Thurston Road
North View

F-7-19

Wellcome Farm F-9-19
N/S Thurston Road
South view

Outbuilding - Wellcome Farms F-7-19
N/S Thurston Road
South View

Wellcome Farm - out building F-7-15
N/S Thurston Rd
B/W VIEW

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