

F-7-42

Jeremiah T. Browning House  
Kemptown vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1850; ca. 1908

The Jeremiah T. Browning House was probably built about 1850 by Browning, the first teacher at the Kemptown School (demolished) which was located near the driveway entrance to the property. It was a simple vernacular version of the Italianate style, with a three-bay elevation featuring a side hall and high, narrow windows with 4/4 sash and a low, hipped metal roof. In about 1908, the original small rear wing was enlarged and a one-story porch was added to the main elevation and the north side of the house and the wing. The surviving frame wash house was also built about this date. Two frame garages on the north side of the house were built about 1934. Although its original german siding is now covered with vinyl, the house still has the appearance of an Italianate structure on the main elevation.

F-7-42

Jeremiah T. Browning House  
Kemptown  
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Crecderick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870  
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

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

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Domestic/secondary structure/kitchen  
Domestic/secondary structure/garage

Known Design Source: None



# 7. Description

Survey No. F-7-42

|  |                                       |   |   |                    |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    | date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |                    |

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 4

The Jeremiah T. Browning House is a two-story frame dwelling in a vernacular version of the Italianate style erected about 1850 with an enlarged wing and one-story porch added about 1908. The house has three contributing outbuildings, a frame wash house built about 1908, two deteriorated frame garages built in the early 1930's, and a non-contributing 1950's privy. The grouping is located on the south side of Fingerboard Road opposite the intersection of Bartholows Road near Kemptown, Frederick County, Maryland. The buildings are sited about 100 yards off the road overlooking an agricultural field. Dates for the buildings were estimated by architectural details and information from Miss Maxine F. Browning, the current owner.

The earliest section of the house is a three-bay, side-hall plan house with a low-pitched standing seam hipped roof. The exterior is currently covered with vinyl siding, but has german siding under the artificial material. The foundation is stone and is partially exposed on the southeast elevation. The principal elevation on the northeast side has a one-story porch with turned columns added in about 1908 which extends to the north elevation and along the north side of the two-story frame wing which replaced or greatly enlarged a smaller original rear wing, also in 1908. On the south side of the wing is an integral two-story porch. In about 1920, the wood deck of the north and south porches was replaced with poured concrete, leaving the northeast main elevation with a wood deck. The windows are tall and narrow, with 4/4 sash. The main door is a four-panel type. Windows in the enlarged rear wing are 2/2. The interior of the house is a simple one-room plan with a side hall in the 1850's section and the wing has two rooms. The parlor has a vernacular style mantelpiece with roughly carved decoration of no clearly identifiable design, but suggesting the work of rural craftsmen of the mid-19th century influenced by both German and English sources. In the early 20th century rear wing is a mantelpiece with the incised floral and geometric motifs of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

## Outbuildings:

**Wash house:** The circa 1908 frame wash house is located south of the rear wing. It has german siding and a corrugated metal roof. Six over six windows are located on the northeast and west elevations and a vertical board door opens on the northwest gable end. The interior is unfinished and Miss Browning says a stove was located in the rear of the single room and was used for heating wash water and during hog butchering.

**Garages:** The two frame garages were built in about 1934, according to Miss Browning, at the time that two of her sisters acquired automobiles to travel to teaching jobs in the New Market vicinity. Each is in deteriorated condition and has weatherboard siding and a shed corrugated metal roof. Double swing doors open on the northeast elevations. The garages are located northwest of the house.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. \_\_\_\_\_

| 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699   | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/<br>humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799   | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899   | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation          |
| <input 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              |   |  |

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|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Specific dates</b> | <b>Builder/Architect</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

The Jeremiah T. Browning House is minimally significant for the Italianate architecture of the main section. This part has the hipped roof and square plan with tall, narrow window openings which characterize the style, but the scale of the Browning House and its extremely simple plan reveal the vernacular origin of the house. According to family genealogical sources, the most likely builder of the house was Jeremiah T. Browning, who was the first teacher at the Kemptown School which stood near Fingerboard Road just west of the driveway entrance to the Browning House. It was demolished after it closed in the early 1930's. Remembrances by Kemptown residents in Memories of Kemptown (1989) state that the spring at the Browning House was used to supply drinking water for the school. In 1908, Ferdinand . Browning, the father of the current owner, Miss Maxine F. Browning, enlarged the rear wing and built the wash house. Other outbuildings included a meat house which has been demolished.

In the architectural context of Frederick County, the Browning House is a marginal example of the Italianate style, the more true examples of the style having a larger scale and elaborate decorations at the windows, doors, and cornice line. The intent of the builder was clearly to suggest the sophistication of the style through the use of the most visible elements, the roofline and the windows.



23-5 Fingertland

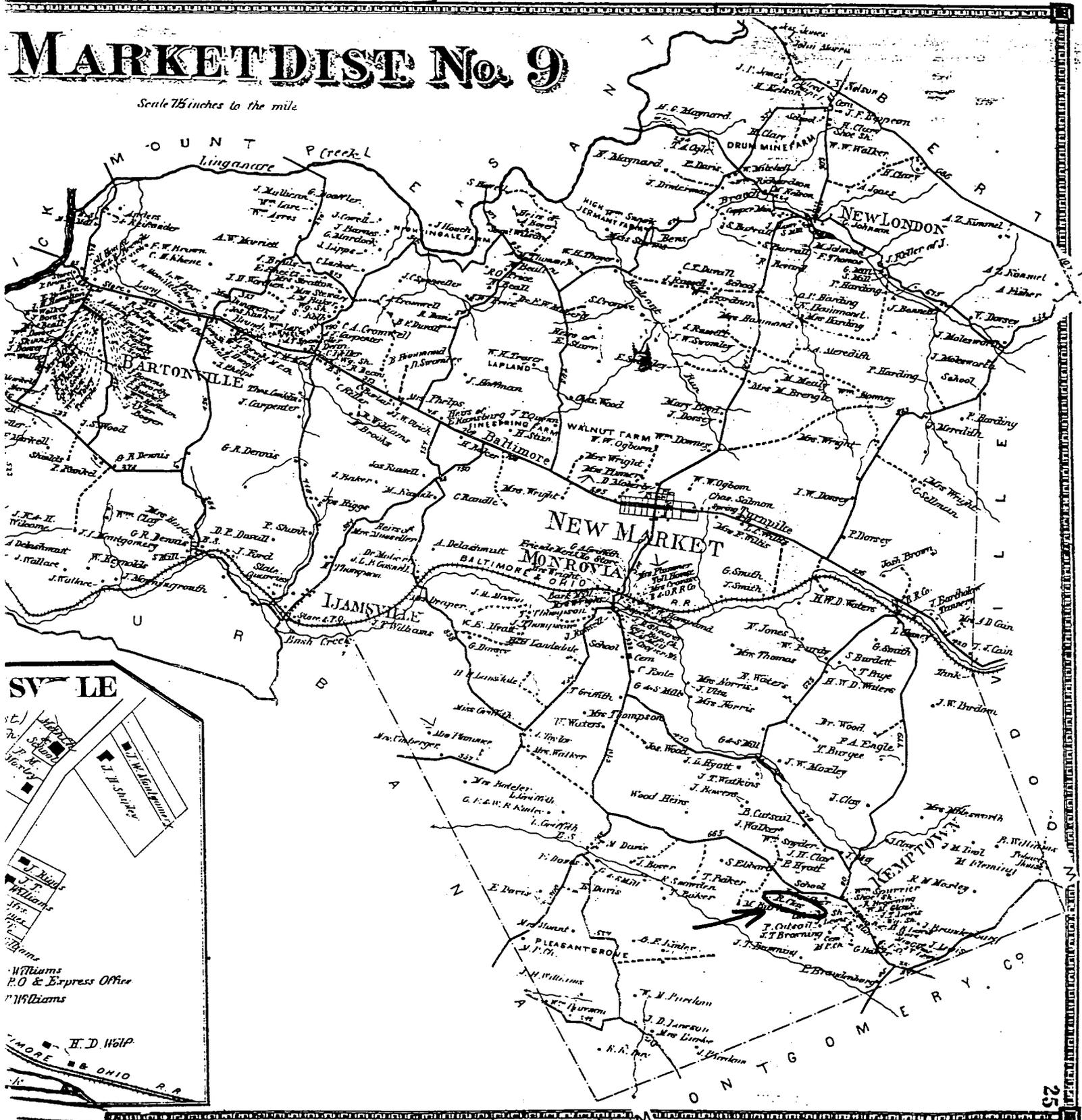
Lot Size, Description,  
Other Information,  
Original Tracts

F-7-42

| Liber/Folio              | Grantee                           | Grantor   | Lot Size, Description,<br>Other Information,<br>Original Tracts                       | Cost     | Miscellaneous                |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|----------|------------------------------|
| 520/165<br>11 Aug 53     | Marion F.<br>Browning             | Mary E. &<br>Wm. Z. Brown<br>Glenn S. & Edith<br>Browning | "part of 'Halden Spring'"<br>"part of Snake Post Tract"<br>Browning + 2 other parcels | 29 a.    | 335/553 12a.<br>395/523      |
| 4UB 30 8/47<br>14 Jan 14 | Ferdinand D.<br>Browning<br>et ux | Jeremiah<br>Browning et<br>ux                             | 29 a.   |          |                              |
| AF 7/133<br>10 Apr 1883  | Jeremiah<br>Browning              | John<br>Louthan   | 29 a.   | 1/1500   |                              |
| (no further refs)        |                                   |   |   |          |                              |
| 335/553<br>24 May 21     | Ferdinand<br>D. Browning<br>et ux | Mary E. &<br>Lynn Browning                                | 12 a.   |          |                              |
| 326/331<br>2 Jan 19      | Lynn Browning<br>& Nora E Davis   | Sarah E.<br>Browning<br>widow of Rev. R. Browning, et al, | "part of 'Henry & Elizabeth'"<br>146 a.   | # 833.33 |                              |
| JLS 5/151<br>31 Dec 1892 | Amanda<br>M. Browning             | J. Thomas<br>Browning                                     | 146 a. "Henry & Elizabeth"  | # 1500   | Reverdy Browning<br>CM 4/420 |
|                          | Jeremiah<br>S. Browning           | Druella<br>Browning                                       |   |          |                              |
| CM 4/420<br>7 Aug 1869   | Benjamin<br>Cutsail               | J. Thos Browning<br>& Amanda Browning                     | "Turner's Channel"  | # 25     |                              |
|                          | J. Thos. Browning                 | Wm. S. Glaze  |   |          |                              |

# MARKET DIST No. 9

Scale 7 1/2 inches to the mile



**SV LE**

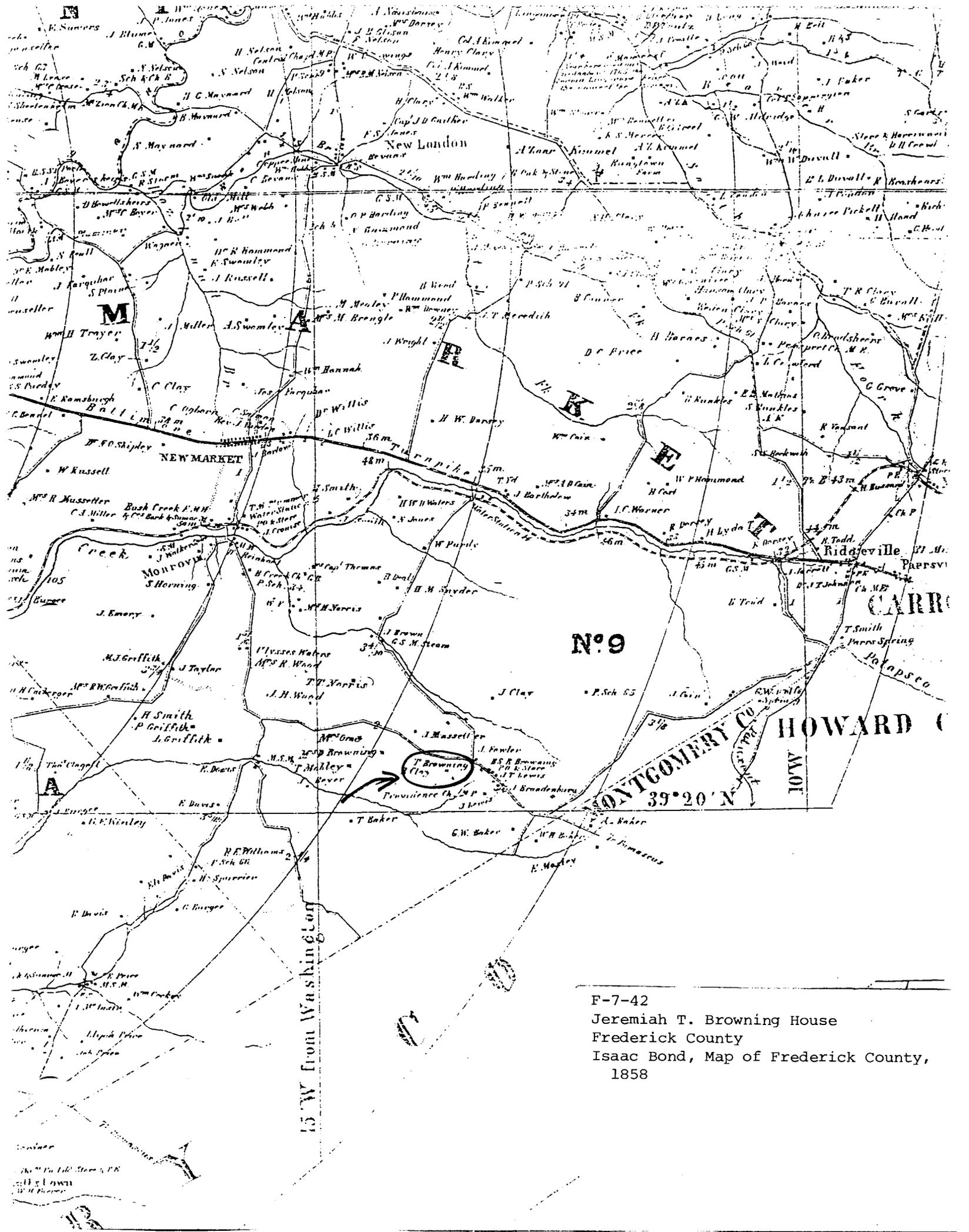
Map of the town of New Market, showing the locations of the school, the post office, and the express office. The map is oriented with North at the top. The map is a black and white line drawing with text labels for names and locations.

Williams  
P.O. & Express Office  
Williams

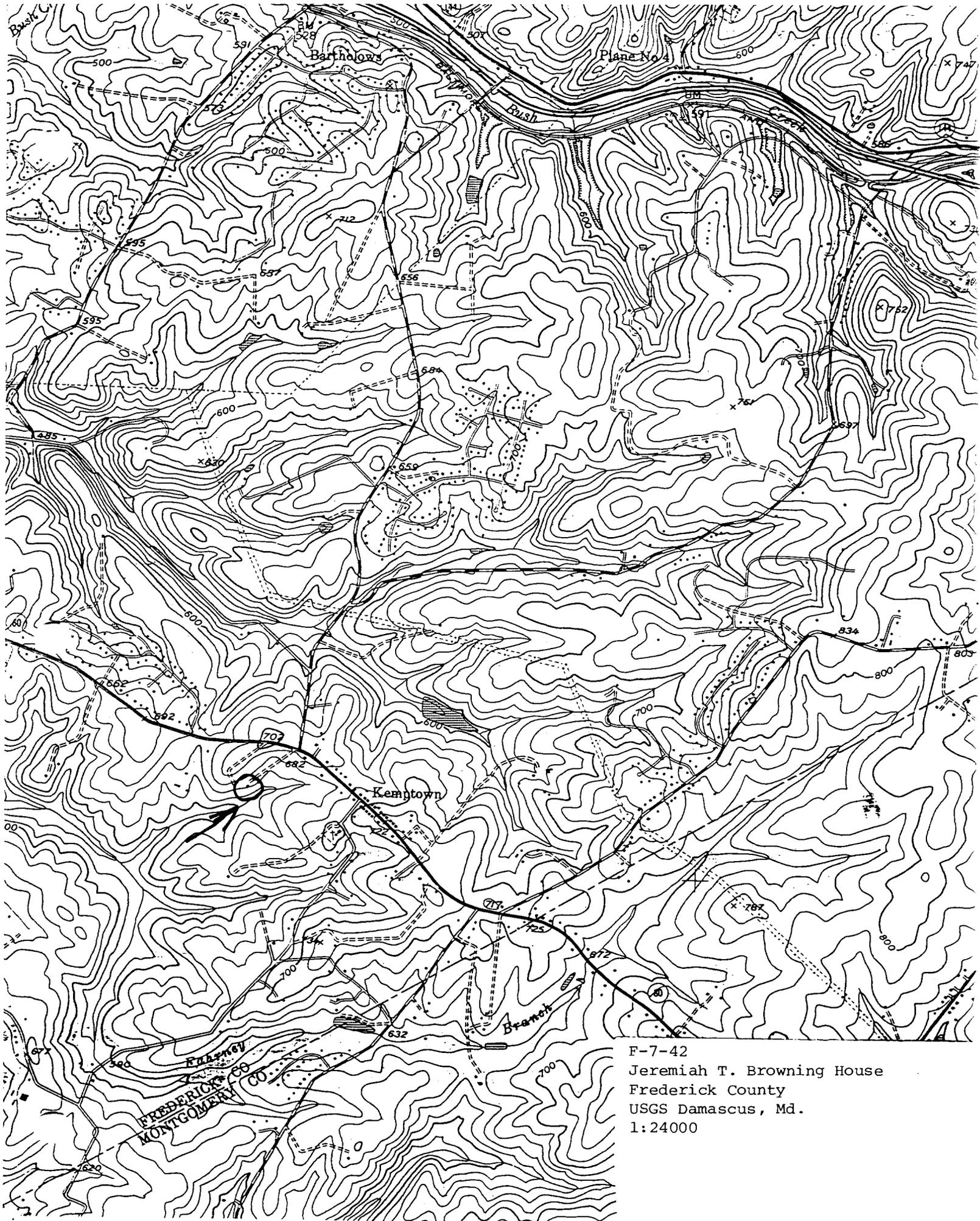
H. D. 1461P

MORE & OHIO P.R.

F-7-42  
Jeremiah T. Browning House  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
County, 1873



F-7-42  
 Jeremiah T. Browning House  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,  
 1858



F-7-42  
Jeremiah T. Browning House  
Frederick County  
USGS Damascus, Md.  
1:24000





