

F-7-61

Browning-Burke Farmstead  
Kemptown vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1845-Ca. 1930

The Browning-Burke Farmstead has a two-story log and frame dwelling with considerable alterations on both the exterior and the interior. Surviving from its earliest construction, possibly about 1845, is an exterior stone and brick chimney which may have been relocated to the late 19th century frame section adjoining the original log structure. The farmstead also has a log meathouse, a frame and stone bank barn of about 1900, with a circa 1920 concrete block milk house, a wagon shed/corn crib, a well house built about 1923, and a late 19th century frame water tower. Most of the outbuildings are in fair to deteriorated condition. The farmstead is moderately significant for the variety of outbuildings and the construction of its main dwelling, although much of its integrity has been lost through a series of alterations on the interior and exterior. The water tower is an unusual surviving outbuilding, although its condition and alteration as an office in the 1940's has also reduced its significance.

F-7-61  
Browning-Burke Farmstead  
Kemptown  
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

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

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

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/smokehouse  
Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies  
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn  
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None



# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Browning-Burke Farmstead

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 12056 Fingerboard Road  not for publication

city, town Kempton  vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> dlstrict	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Jacob G. Franz

street & number 12056 Fingerboard Road telephone no.:

city, town Monrovia state and zip code Md. 21770

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 594

street & number 100 W. Patrick St. folio 44

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-7-61

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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: 9

The Browning-Burke Farmstead is an originally agricultural complex now principally a private residence centered on a two-story log and frame dwelling built about 1845 with alterations in the late 19th century and the mid-20th century and its associated outbuildings, which include a log meathouse, a frame water tower, a well house, a garage, a bank barn and milk house, a chicken house, and a wagon shed/corn crib. The farmstead is located on the south side of Fingerboard Road about one mile west of Kemptown, Frederick County, Maryland. The complex is at the end of a long driveway flanked by cedar trees near the main road. The main elevation of the house faces north and the domestic outbuildings are located on the west and southeast side of the house. The agricultural buildings flank the entrance drive north of the domestic group. Dates of the structures were estimated by architectural details and land records.

The dwelling has been considerably altered through at least three periods of construction, ranging from the original log structure of about 1845 to the expanded frame addition and the two-story rear wing on the original structure built about 1875-1880, to the concrete block one-story extension on the rear wing built about 1940. The interior has also been much changed in terms of interior partitions, so that evidence of the apparent exterior stages has been obscured. The north elevation of the house reveals its two parts in the irregular bay arrangement. The log eastern section was originally two bays and the western frame section has three bays on the first story and two on the second story. The exterior of the house is covered with asbestos shingle siding. The roof is corrugated metal and an exterior stone and brick chimney is located at the west gable end. Since there is no evidence showing a chimney in the original log section, a possible theory is that the stone chimney was originally on the log section and was removed and rebuilt on the frame section when it was added. A modern picture window is located on the north elevation approximately between the two sections. Each section has a door in the inner bay. The windows are 2/2 with deteriorated louvred shutters. A one-story porch extends across both sections, with plain square posts and a corrugated metal roof. On the south elevation, the rear of the log section is recessed under the slope of the gable roof, suggesting that a two-story open porch may have existed prior to the addition of the perpendicular two-story wing. The roof overhang is visible on either side of the wing, which may have been added in the late 19th century, possibly at the same time the western section was built. In the early to mid 1940's, a one-story concrete block extension was added to the wing, enclosing a porch on the west side and extending the first story toward the south.

Domestic outbuildings:

Meathouse: The log meathouse located immediately southeast of the wing of the dwelling probably dates from the late 1840's. It has an exterior covering of vertical boards and clapboard gables. The vertical board door is on the north gable end. The roof is corrugated metal.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-61

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** C. 1845-C. 1930 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

The Browning-Burke Farmstead is moderately significant for the architecture of its buildings, which incorporate log and frame materials and techniques, as well as the variety of surviving outbuildings. Most of the buildings have been altered or are in deteriorated condition. The dwelling's changes over time are particularly difficult to perceive due to the extent of alterations since the mid-20th century. The water tower, although considerably deteriorated, is an unusual surviving structure in the complex. At least one other similar structure has been identified at the Price House (F-7-19), which has a stone structure which held a water tank on the upper level filled by a hydraulic ram. A dated 1896 stone water tower is at ayfield, located in the Lime Kiln Survey District (F-1-186) in the Adamstown region. Windmills were also common in the late 19th century and one survives behind the Williams House (F-7-114) in Kempton.

The farmstead's establishment date is not yet identified; however, Silas Browning applied for benefits under the Insolvent Law in 1849, resulting at length in the sale of the property, called "Philemon Surrounded", in 1874 to Milton Burke. A Mrs. Browning is shown as the owner on the 1858 Bond map and M. Burke on the 1873 Titus Atlas. In the 1923 equity sale cited previously, the farm is described as follows:

" . . . Improved with a two-story frame dwelling house containing about 8 rooms, a fine large barn not long built, a corn-house, wagon shed, and all other necessary outbuildings. A flowing stream of water passes through this farm and it has an abundance of productive fruit trees. There is about 25 acres of woodland; the balance good tillable soil, with fencing in fair condition. Three good springs on the farm, pump in the year (sic), water in the house and barn, pumped by engine, practically new dairy in the yeard (sic), new hog pen 13 x 22 ft., 50-ft. chicken house, new building over the pump; water convenient to every field."



### 7.1 Description (Continued)

Water tower: The frame water tower is in deteriorated condition and was altered in the mid-20th century, so that evidence of its original function is limited to its general squarish form, tapering slightly to the hipped roof, and its location adjacent to the wellhouse to the north. The exterior is covered with german siding and the roof with corrugated metal, terminating in a wood finial. The two levels of the tower each have one room, both of which were paneled with wallboard in about the 1930's or 1940's over which wallpaper was added. An exterior door on the second story and a wood stair was built on the south, as the plan had no connection between floors inside the structure, another clue to its use. Although the alterations conceal any remaining original features, the second level probably held a wood or iron water tank with water pumped into it by either a hydraulic or an electric pump from the adjacent well house. Square openings in the upper walls probably were functionally placed to accommodate the connections with the well. When improvements to the well pump took place, the water tower was converted for use as an office, possibly in the 1940's. The structural materials and apparent function of the original building place its date in the period about 1890 to 1915. An advertisement of sale in 1923 in the court equity records described the property as having a "pump in the year (sic), water in the house and barn, pumped by engine . . . and a new building over the pump."

Well house: The description above dates the well house to 1923. Currently it is a one-story frame structure with brick-patterned asphalt siding over vertical boards. The shed roof is corrugated metal.

Garage: The small frame garage was probably built about 1923 and has weatherboard siding and a corrugated metal roof. The north elevation is open, although swing doors were probably in place in its original form.

Bank barn and milk house: The frame barn was probably built about 1900, possibly on the stone foundation of an earlier barn. The southeast corner of the stall level was enclosed with concrete block in the 1920's for a milking room. The barn has vertical siding and a corrugated metal roof topped by two modern cupolas, replacing the original louvred cupolas. The concrete block milk house, built about 1920, near the southeast corner has german siding in the gables and a vertical board door in the east elevation. The roof is asphalt shingles. A non-contributing concrete silo is located next to the ramp of the barn on the west elevation.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed is located west of the barn. It has vertical board siding with a corrugated metal roof. Stone piers support the cribs. In the early 20th century, a pigeon coop was created in the south gable end by the enclosure of a section just behind the gable wall, with a small entrance cut in the wall for the birds. According to Mr. Don Franz, the current resident, a previous owner sold the birds to Washington area restaurants.

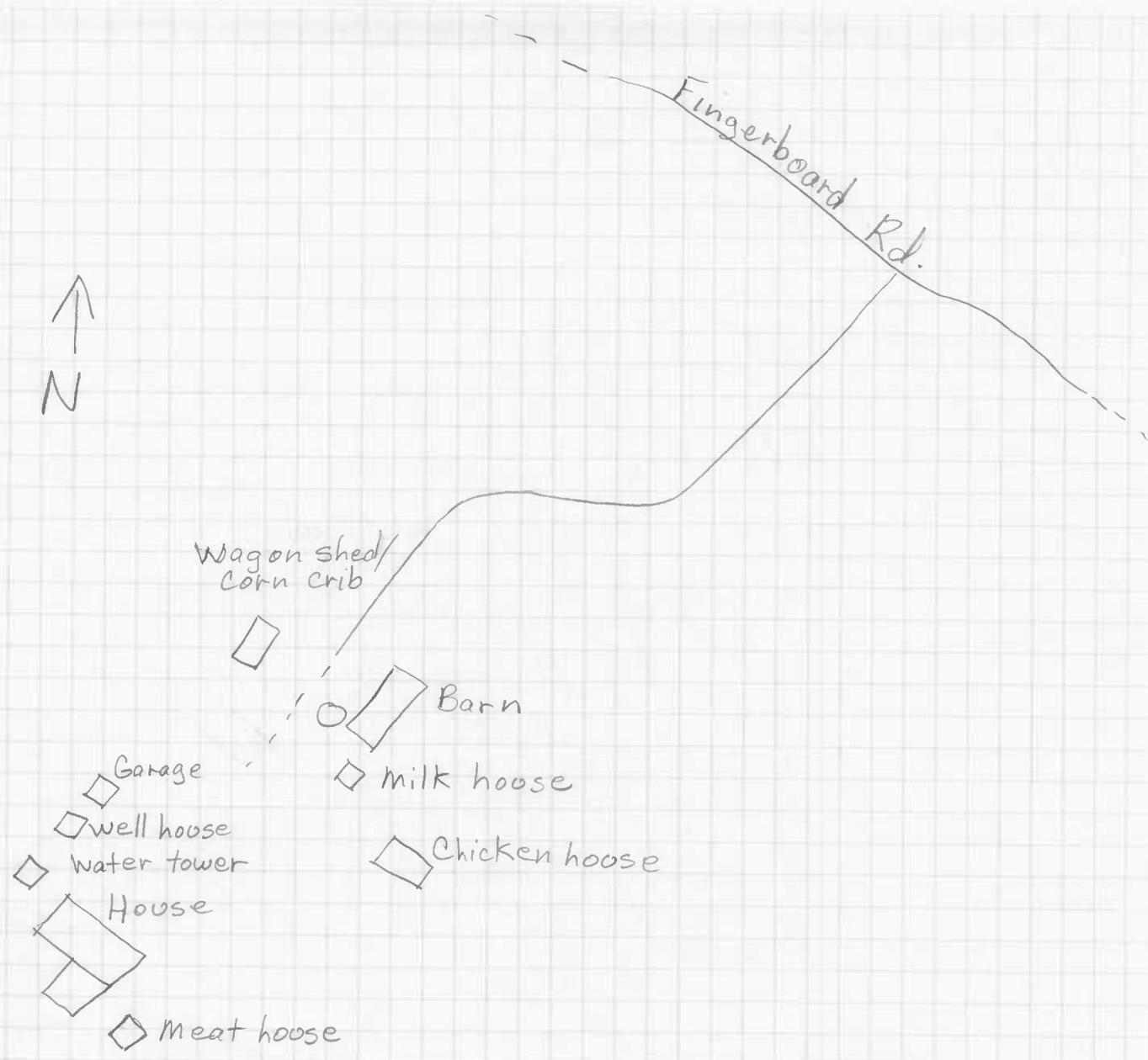
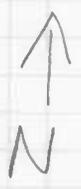
Chicken coop: A very deteriorated and overgrown chicken house is located south of the barn. Its exterior is vertical siding and the shed roof is corrugated metal. It was probably built about 1920.

12056 Fingerboard Rd.

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
549/44 28 June 55	Jacob S. & Ruth E. Frangy	Siegfried & Jeannette L. Goetze	"Philemon Surrounded" 145 A., 3 R., 12 sq. ft.	
462/565 14 June 47	Siegfried & Jeannette L. Goetze	Elmer B. & Dorothy I. Duley	"Philemon Surrounded" reserving 1/2 of the growing wheat crop & 506 acres of sweet corn to grantors	
455/49 7 June 46	Elmer B. Duley et ux	Harley P. & Louise A. Evans	"Philemon Surrounded"	
442/374 28 June 44	Harley P. Evans et ux	Estelle Watkins widow	"Philemon Surrounded"	
346/228 30 Nov 23	Estelle Wat- kins	J. Windsor Williams, assignee of mortgagees Reginald & Oda King	Equity 10,838 Equity Record EGH 6/93	\$9,332.80
331/170 1 Apr 20	Reginald W. & Oda M. King	Mary L. & Herbert C. Smith	Mary L. (Neagy) Smith barn now occupied by King as tenant	\$10,800
Equity Record EGH 6/93	Advertisement of Sale, 5 Nov 23: "... Improved with a 2-story frame dwelling house containing about 8 rooms, a fine large barn, not long built, a corn-house, wagon shed, and all other necessary outbldgs. A flowing stream of water passes through this farm and it has an abundance of productive fruit trees. There is about 25 acres of woodland; the balance good tillable soil, with fencing in fair condition. Three good springs on the farm, pump in the year (sic), water in the house and barn, pumped by engine, practically new dairy in the yard (sic), new hog pen 13 x 22 ft., 50-ft. chicken house, new building over the pump; water convenient to every field."			

12056 Fingerboard Rd. pt.

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
292/110 5 Apr 10	Mary L. Hedgy (later Smith)	Charles C. & Rachel S. Ridgely		
280/509 27 Nov 07	Charles C. Ridgely	Frank L. Stoner, trustee		
TG 11/365 25 Mar 1879	Mechanic C. M. & Lea E. Waters	Milton Burke et ux	"Philemon Surrounded" part of "Long Measure" 160 A. mentions 1/4 A. graveyard	\$4,000
TG 1/737 30 June 1874	Milton Burke	Richard Browning J. E. R. Wood, trustee	Equity 3863 <del>764</del> "Philemon Surrounded" in Equity 3764, <del>in</del> <del>benefit</del> <del>of</del> <del>Silas</del> <del>Browning</del>	
		Silas Browning applied for benefits of the insolvent Law of Md. on 24 June 1879		



F-7-61

Browning - Burke Farmstead  
Frederick County

Janet Davis

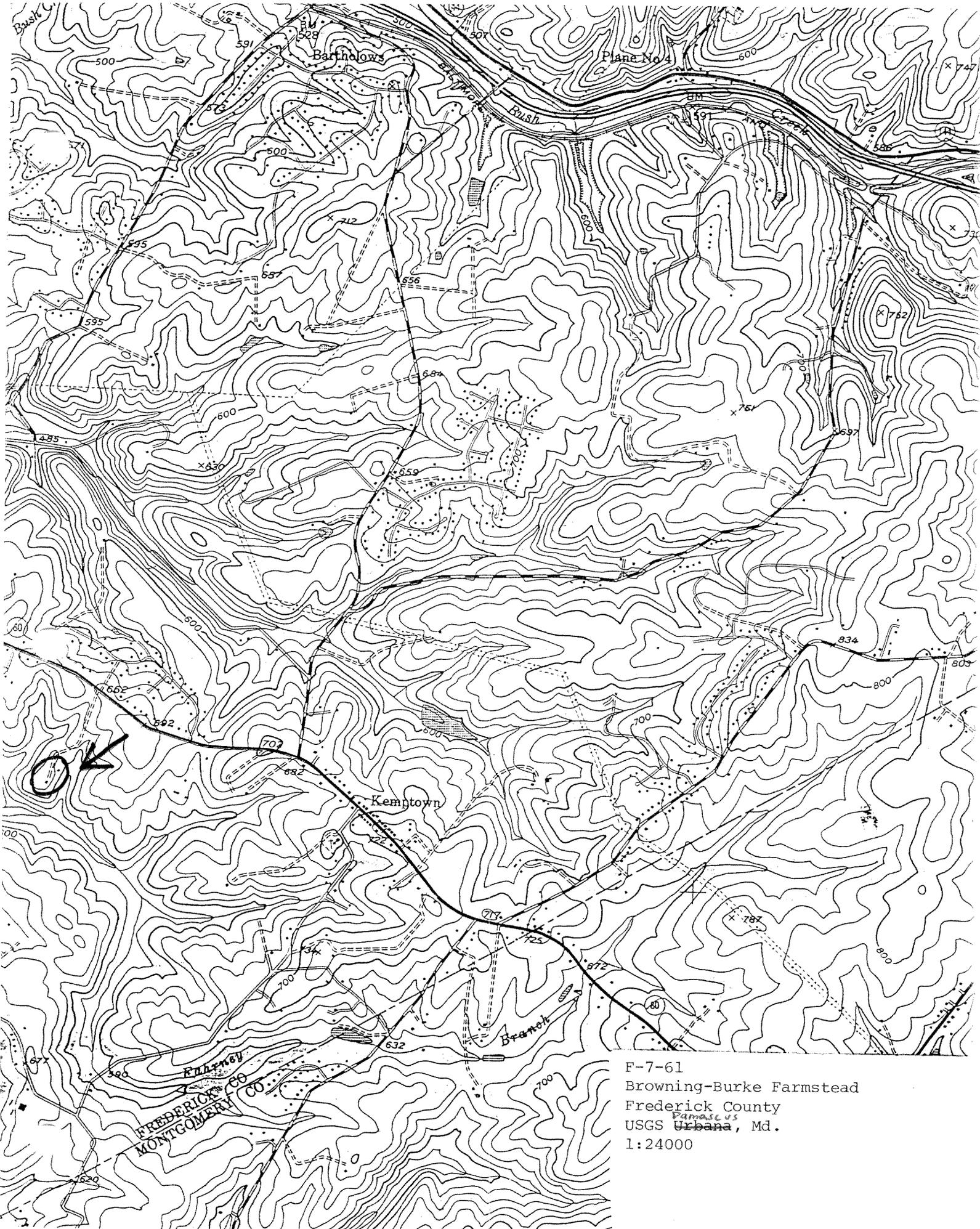
Nov. 8, 1993

Not to Scale



F-7-61  
 Browning-Burke Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick  
 County, 1858





F-7-61  
Browning-Burke Farmstead  
Frederick County  
USGS <sup>Parents US</sup> Urbana, Md.  
1:24000































