

F-7-74

Simmons Store and Residence  
Urbana vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1865-1870

The Simmons Store and Residence was built about 1865-1870, a two-story frame dwelling with german siding and a one-story porch on its principal elevation. The store is a one-story extension on the north end of the building with a separate porch and a projecting polygonal display window. Associated with the house is a log or frame smokehouse and two deteriorated frame sheds near Thurston Road which may have been associated with a blacksmith shop shown on the 1873 Titus map. The rural community store was the center of village life in most ways, serving as a commercial outlet and usually as the local post office. The Simmons Store combined the residential use with the public and commercial function for the community of Thurston. A nearby grist and saw mill (now demolished) was also a Simmons family property.

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Simmons Store and Residence  
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:  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning  
Economic (Commercial)

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Commerce/trade/department store/general store

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Simmons Store and Residence

and/or common

**2. Location**street & number 1649 Thurston Road  not for publicationcity, town Urbana  vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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 Walter A. and Mary Ellen Poole

street &amp; number 1649 Thurston Road telephone no.:

city, town Dickerson state and zip code MD 20842

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 684

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 547

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-7-74

<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 Simmons Store and Residence is a two-story frame dwelling with an attached store extension on the north elevation, built about 1865-1870 on the southeast corner of Thurston Road and Slate Quarry Road near Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland. The principal elevation of the house faces west and the store's main entrance and a display window face north. Outbuildings associated with the house and store include a frame or log smokehouse and two deteriorated frame sheds southwest of the house on the bank of a small stream running under Thurston Road to join a larger tributary of Bennett Creek. The sheds may have been part of a blacksmith shop shown on the 1873 Titus Atlas map. Dates of the buildings are based on historical maps, land records, and architectural evidence.

The house has german siding and a corrugated metal roof, with a one-story modern addition on the east elevation. The first story of the west elevation has three bays and the second story has two. A one-story porch with turned columns with concrete piers supporting the wood deck extends across the facade. The entrance in the center bay has a 4-panel door without a transom. The windows are 2/2 with louvred shutters. An exterior stone and brick chimney is on the south gable end, where the siding is modern artificial material. The store extension on the north gable end was probably built at the same time as the rest of the structure. It has a stone foundation and is essentially a one-story shed addition on the house, with a separate porch. The store is defined principally by the projecting polygonal display window flanking the entrance. The front window has four large panes. The other windows in the projection are 1/1 replacements and a shed addition adjoins the store on the east. The interior of the house was inaccessible for this survey.

Smokehouse: The smokehouse is located south of the rear wing of the house and has board and batten siding, possibly covering a log structure. The single door is in the north elevation and the roof is corrugated metal. The date of the smokehouse is probably the same as the house, about 1865-1870. Other non-contributing sheds are also located near the smokehouse.

Frame sheds: The two deteriorated sheds are located southwest of the house at the foot of a slope and on the bank of the tributary stream. Each has vertical siding and corrugated metal gable roofs. The shed nearest the road has swing doors on the west elevation. One or both of the sheds may have been associated with the blacksmith shop indicated on the 1873 map. Interiors were not accessible to further define their original uses.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-74

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 checked="" 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		

**Specific dates** C. 1865-70 **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 Simmons Store and Residence is significant in architecture and commerce as a fair representative of the rural combination store and residence which was often the center of small mill and factory settlements. The Simmons Mill, now demolished, was a grist and saw mill located just north of the store/residence site on Bennett Creek, and was at least one of the reasons for the establishment of Thurston, the village for which the store was the center. The Charles Varle map shows that a mill existed at the site by 1808. In 1858, the Bond map showed a merchant saw mill, and in 1873, the Titus map showed two mills, one the Simmons grist and saw mill and the other the Locust Mill. In the 1887 list of post offices of Frederick County, the community is called Thurston, with a post office in the store and a mill still in operation. The source of the name is not yet known. The blacksmith shop shown on the 1873 map was probably also owned by the Simmons family. The Abraham R. Simmons House (F-7-72) across Thurston Road was probably built prior to the store/residence in the 1850's. It is not shown on the 1873 map, suggesting that it may have been considered a tenant house subsidiary to the main Simmons residence. These residential, industrial, commercial, and post office activities were the basic functions of the rural community in the 19th and early 20th centuries.



1649 Hurston (Simmons store + Res.)

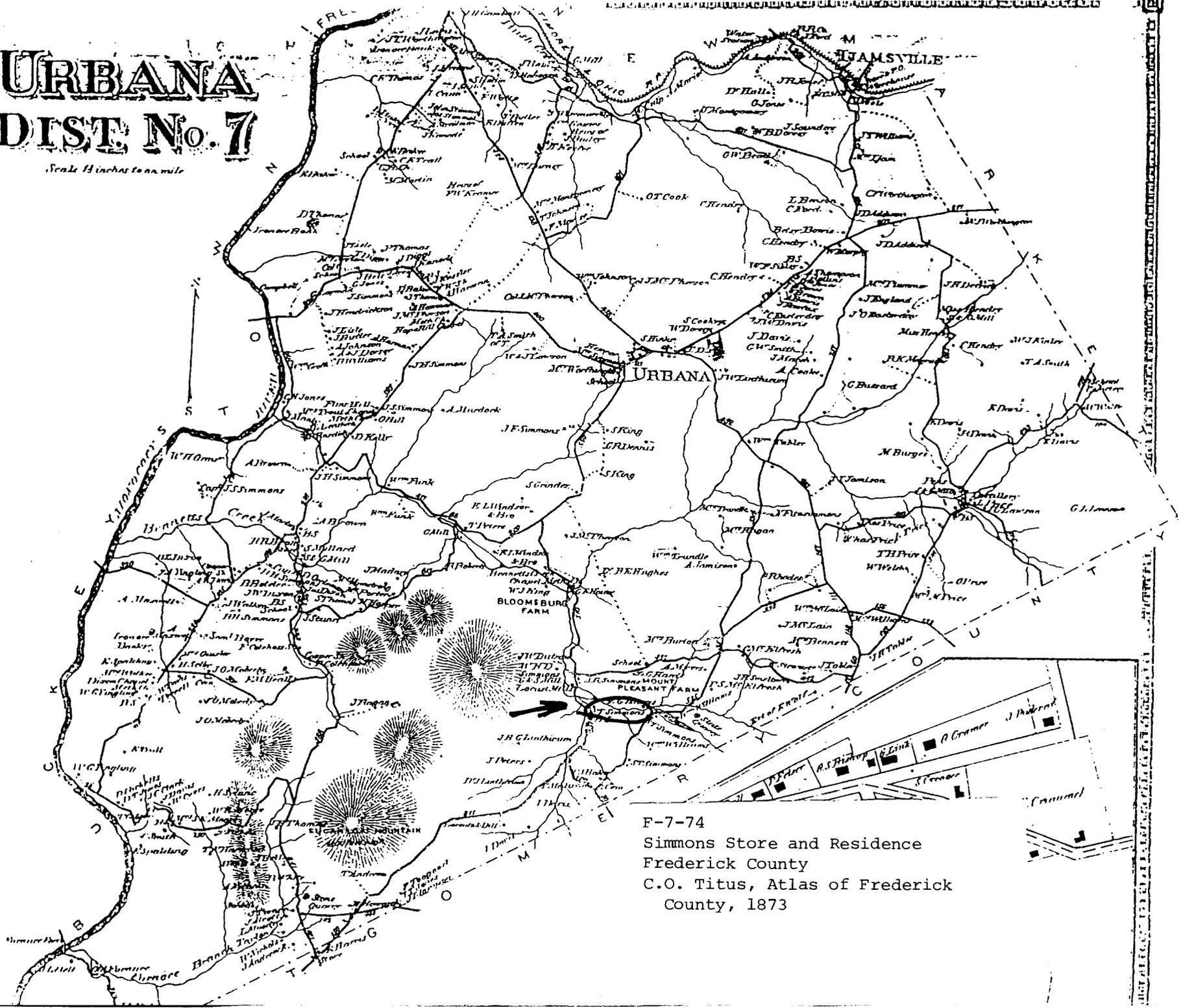
Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
684/547 15 May 63	Walter Abram Poole & Mary Ellen Poole, wife	Amelia J. Brown, widow	near Hurston P.O., S. side of Bennetts Creek 1 A. 3 R. 37 sq. p.	
DHH 11/455 17 Jul 01	Andrew Jackson Brown, Jr. & Amelia J. Brown	Elvira W. & Thos E. Dixon	possession given 1 Jan 02 1 A. 3 R., 37 sq. p.	#300
AF 11/205 27 May 1885	Elvira W. Dixon	John J. Basford	1 A. 3 R. 37 sq. p. po	#29.72
AF 5/443 15 Sept 1873	John J. Basford	Samuel J. Simmons & wife	"Plummers Delight" "Stufl Endled" "Rocks and Timber" 41 A. 3 R. 15 sq. p.	#725

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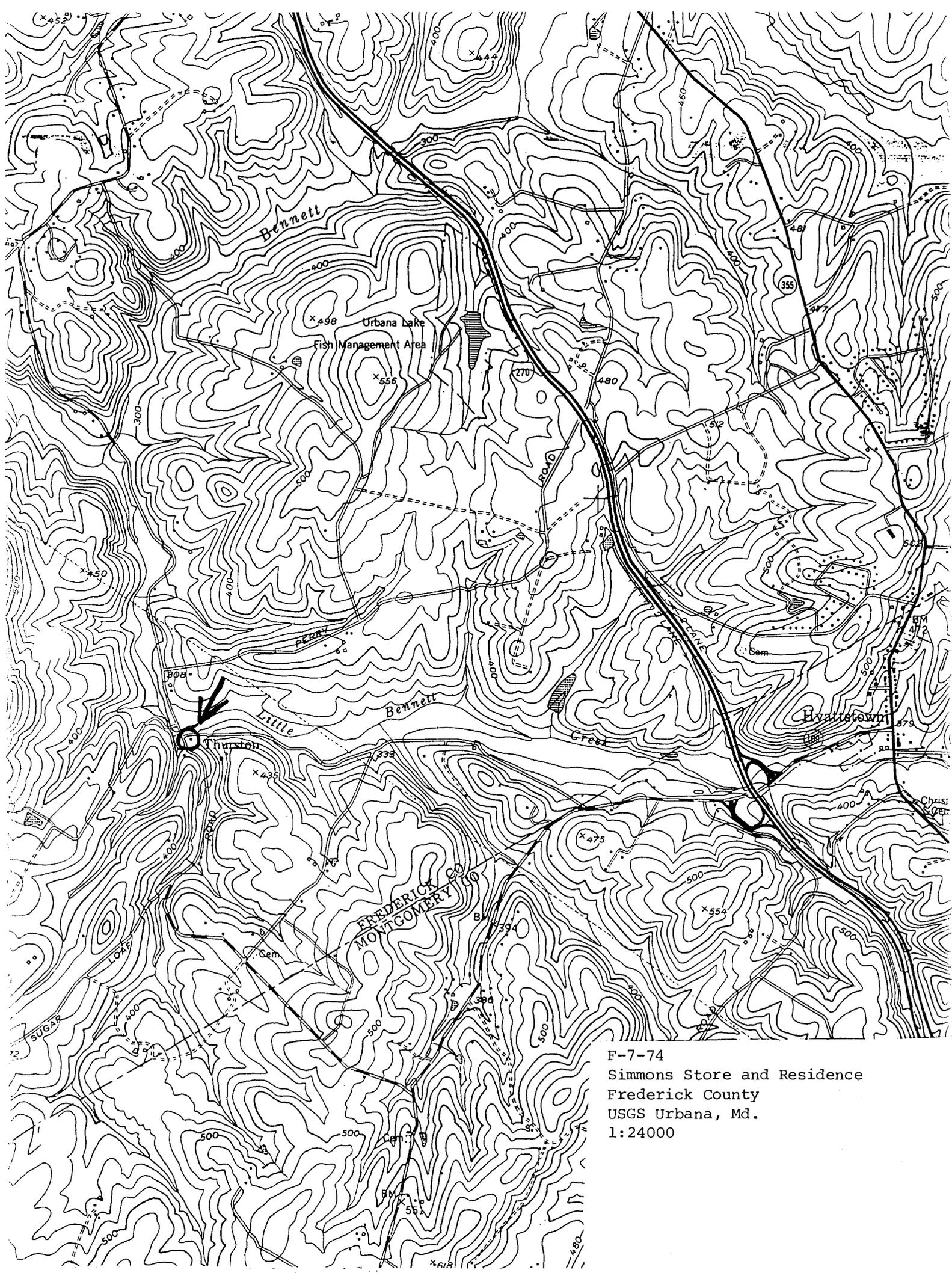
# URBANA DIST. No. 7

Scale 1/4 inch to a mile



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Simmons Store and Residence  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
County, 1873





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USGS Urbana, Md.  
1:24000











