

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

(Survey)
FRIENDSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

Multiple Streets

 not for publication

city, town

Friendsville

 vicinity of

congressional district

6

state

Maryland

county

Garrett

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both
Public Acquisition
 in process
 being considered
 not applicable

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress

Accessible

yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military
 museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

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

name

street & number

telephone no.:

city, town

state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Garrett County Courthouse

liber

street & number

4th and Alder Streets

folio

city, town

Oakland, Maryland

state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

 federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. G-II-A-208

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair

- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved

date of move _____

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

8. Significance

Survey No. G-II-A-208

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

Specific dates	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.

Friendsville is one of the oldest communities in what is now Garrett County, having been settled as early as 1765 by members of the Friend family.¹ It is also significant as the site of an early iron foundry, the oldest in the county, begun in the 1820s.² Friendsville was the center for a number of small manufacturing firms throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, eventually becoming an important departure point for the transport of coal and timber via the Confluence and Oakland (C&O) Railroad.³ Now primarily a residential community, Friendsville remains the largest town in the northwestern part of Garrett County.

Settlement in the area around present-day Friendsville dates from the arrival of members of the Friend family in the 1760s.⁴ For the rest of the century this was an area of scattered farms where for a time even tobacco was grown commercially.⁵

The real wealth of this area was not in farming, however, but in the development of coal, timber and iron. The Allegany Iron Company, incorporated by Act of the General Assembly in 1828, was the first organized industry in what is now Garrett County.⁶ Authorized to purchase up to ten thousand acres of land, the company's owners "contemplated prosecuting an extensive manufacture of pigs, casting and bar irons."⁷ A supplementary act passed the following year changed the name to "Youghiogheny Iron Company."⁸

The original furnace of the Allegany Iron Company stood on the west bank of Bear Creek (hence its name "Bear Creek Furnace") approximately one mile above Friendsville and was mentioned in the 1828 act as already in operation.⁹ Coal mined by the company's workers in the area around Friendsville was used to fuel the furnace while charcoal was used in the forge and foundry.¹⁰ The latter two buildings, where some of the pig iron was manufactured at the furnace, was transformed into metal instruments, tools and kettles,¹¹ was located on the west bank of the Youghiogheny River

8.1 Description (cont'd.)

below Friendsville. A race carried water from the river to furnish power for the great hammers of the forge. In 1895, a small power plant was built on the site of the forge which supplied Friendsville with electricity for many years.¹²

Iron ore deposits at various locations on the company's land were mined for approximately ten years. At its peak the furnace and foundry operations employed over one hundred men, most of whom lived in houses built and owned by the iron company.¹³ None of these buildings is known to be standing, although a frame house on Walnut Street (G-11-A-031) possibly dates from the early nineteenth century. In 1830 a post office was established at "Friends," renamed Friendsville in 1832.¹⁴

The iron works failed financially in the 1840s, probably from a combination of high transportation costs and the variable quality of iron ore mined.¹⁵ Its place in the economy of Friendsville was taken by a number of flour and grist mills which lined the swiftly running Youghiogheny in and near the town. One of these gristmills, still standing but no longer operating on the corner of Maple Street and First Avenue, once had three sets of rolls for wheat and two for buckwheat.¹⁶ Power for this mill and the one which stood on the site now occupied by the post office was supplied by the Friendsville Light Company which used the mill race once belonging to the Youghiogheny Iron Company.¹⁷

During most of the latter half of the nineteenth century Friendsville grew, "not as an industrial town, nor chiefly as a farming village, but as a center for the work of ... tradesmen and a place of barter for the exchange of goods and services."¹⁸ Several gazeteers published during this period list a wide variety of goods and services offered in Friendsville including wheelwrights, carpenters, founderers, bridgebuilders, tanners, blacksmiths, and others.¹⁹ Some of the early commercial buildings in Friendsville, especially on Morris Street, date from this period of high commercial activity.

Friendsville experienced even more rapid growth as a result of the large-scale exploitation of timber resources in the Youghiogheny River valley at the turn of the century. The town, like many others near rich timberlands in Garrett County, had been by-passed by the B&O Railroad in the 1850s and was therefore denied the efficient transportation and lucrative markets which only the railroad at that time could provide. It was with high expectations, therefore, that residents of Friendsville awaited the construction of the Confluence and Oakland (C&O) Railroad south from Confluence, Pennsylvania in 1889-90.²⁰ Great civic celebrations were staged in Friendsville with the arrival of the first train in 1889.²¹

8.2 Description (cont'd.)

The building of these "logging railroads" spurred the establishment of numerous saw and planing mills in the Youghiogheny River valley, two of them in Friendsville. For several years Friendsville was the junction for numerous small railroads owned by the Meadow Mountain Lumber Company, the Loch Haven Lumber Company, the Bear Creek Lumber Company and many others.²² Most of the important commercial buildings still standing in Friendsville, including the Riverside (G-11-A-028) and Central Hotels, as well as the Friendsville Store (G-11-A-025, now demolished) were built during these "boom town" years.

The rapid and often shortsighted exploitation of virgin timber throughout Garrett County dictated a short life for the logging industry. Industrial activity in Friendsville was further slowed by the disastrous flood of 1924 which washed away several businesses on both sides of the river and initiated the Youghiogheny River flood control project undertaken by the U.S. government. This project completely immersed the roadbed of the C&O Railroad, which ceased operations in 1942.²³

Today, Friendsville is a largely residential community, with little of the commercial activity which marked it during the 1890-1920 period.

¹Olsen, Evelyn Guard, "Some Notes on the Founding of Friendsville," The Glades Star, vol. 3, no. 18 (September, 1964), 305-307.

²"Bear Creek Iron Works," The Glades Star, vol. 2, no. 1 (March, 1950), 1-2.

³Schlosnagle, Stephen et al. Garrett County - A History of Maryland's Tableland (Parson, West Virginia: McClain Printing Co.) 1978, p. 270.

⁴Hoye, Charles, "Settlement on the Youghiogheny," Glades Star, vol. 1, no. 7 (September, 1942), 1-3.

⁵Schlosnagle, p. 55.

⁶Thompson, Michael, The Iron Industry in Western Maryland (n.p.n.d.) p. 110.

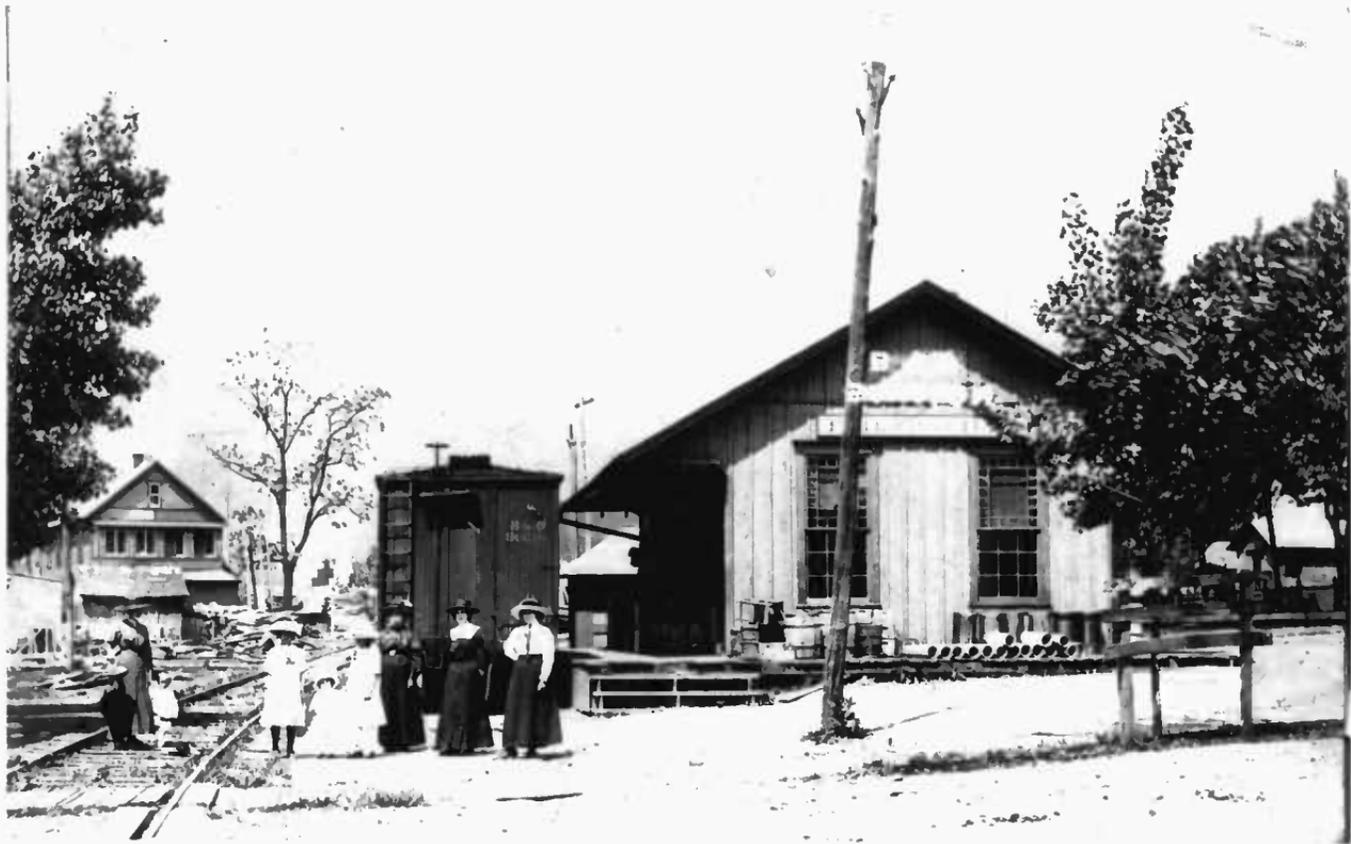
⁷Hoye, Charles, "Some Garrett County History Notes" (The Republican: Oakland, MD) 1938, p. 1.

⁸Ibid., p. 1

⁹Ibid., p. 1

8.3 Significance (cont'd.)

- ¹⁰"Bear Creek Iron Works," p. 2.
- ¹¹Ibid., p. 1.
- ¹²Ibid., p. 2.
- ¹³Schlosnagle, p. 54.
- ¹⁴"Bear Creek Iron Works," p. 2.
- ¹⁵Thompson, pps. 110-111.
- ¹⁶Lacoste, Ken, interview with Mr. Friend, July 11, 1980, Friendsville.
- ¹⁷"The Name 'Accident'," Glades Star, no. 6, vol. 2 (June 1951), 90.
- ¹⁸Schlosnagle, p. 55.
- ¹⁹Bland, John, ed., The Maryland Directory and State Gazetteer 1887 (Baltimore: Baltimore Publishing Co.) 1887, p. 329.
- ²⁰Weeks, Thekla Fundenberg, Oakland - A Centennial History 1849-1949 (Oakland, MD: Sincell Printing Co.) 1949, p. 35.
- ²¹Schlosnagle, p. 270.
- ²²Kline, Benjamin, Tall Pines and Winding Rivers (Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Co.) 1976, pps. 37, 44, 45 and 47-49.
- ²³Weeks, p. 35.



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G-II-A-208

Friendsville Historic District

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CENTRAL
HOTEL
FINE WINES
& LIQUORS

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10/81

G-II-A-208

Friendsville Historic District

Mark Edwards



DIESEL FUEL

OIL - GREASE

YOUGH MOTOR

STOP

NO PARKING ANY TIME

10/81

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Friendsville Historic District

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WALKER BROS.
WALKER & SONS, PHILADELPHIA

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Friendsville, Md.

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METHODIST CHURCH, FRIENDSVILLE

FIGURE 193.

1981 - Mark R. Edwards



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G-II-A-360

School,

Friendsville Survey District



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Water St.

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Friendsville Historic District

Mark Edwards

.....

DESGIPLE CHURCH
FRIENDSVILLE, MD.

.....

ST. CHRISTIAN
CHURCH
Friendsville, Md.

and on the
corner of 1st
and
Washington Street.

The church was
built July 17,
1870 and dedicated
.....

Rev. J. M. Forreth
was the head
pastor who
built the
church.

Members of the
church families
were at
Friendsville
former
Desgiple Church
members:
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Lewis,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Rogers,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. King,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Smith,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Jones,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. White,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Black,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Green,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Brown,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Taylor,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Hill,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Scott,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Adams,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Baker,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Clark,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Evans,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Foster,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Gibson,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Hall,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. King,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Lewis,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Miller,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Moore,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Nelson,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Phillips,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Reed,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Smith,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Taylor,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Thomas,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Walker,
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Young.



DESGIPLE CHURCH
FRIENDSVILLE, MD.

10/81

G-II-A-208

Friendsville Historic District

Mark Edwards



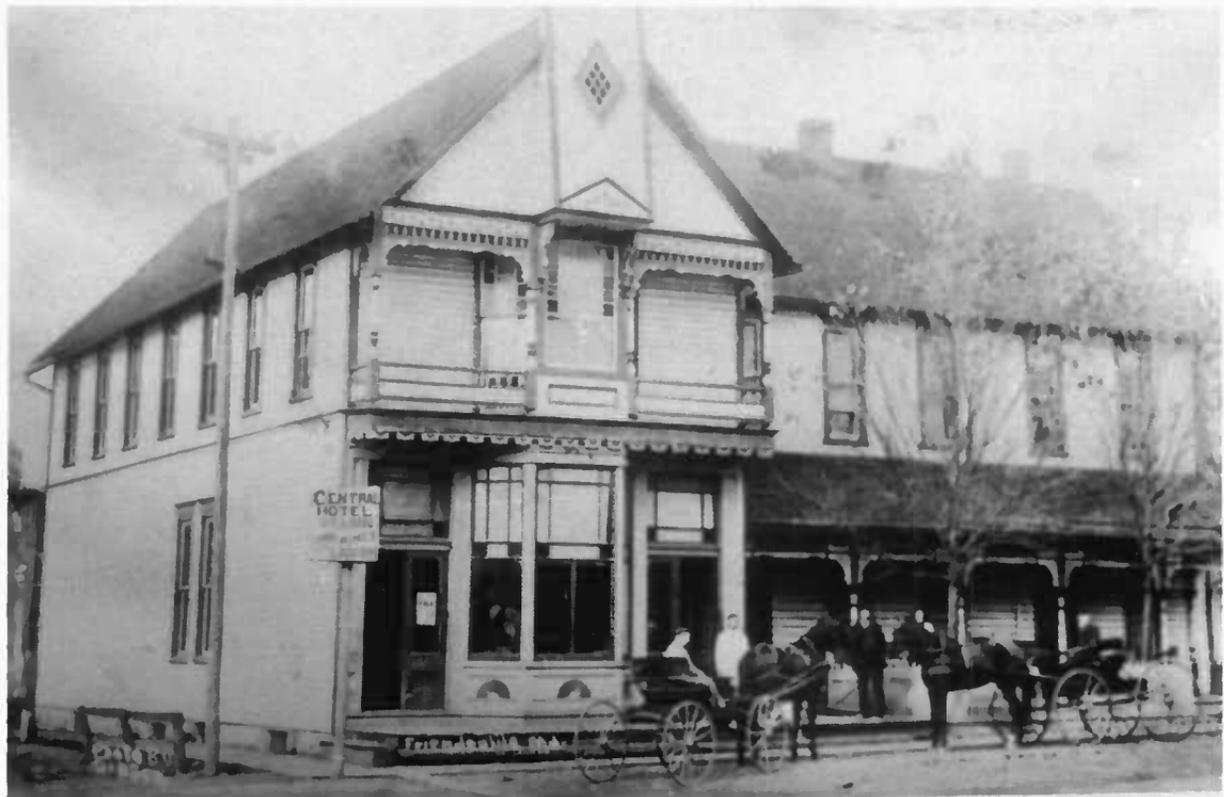
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ...FRIENDSVILLE, MD. This church can be found on the corner of Maple Street and Second Avenue. June 22, 1900 the corner stone was laid for Grace Church. The first Lutheran congregation was formed November 13, 1891 and held services on the second floor of J. G. Kolb's Town Hall. Some of the earlier members were: Kolb's, Cuppitt's, Bushaugh's, Strussell's, Fox's, Ludwig's, East's, Schroyer's, Steel's, and Torrey's. J.G. Kolb designed and built the pulpit and the lectern for Grace.

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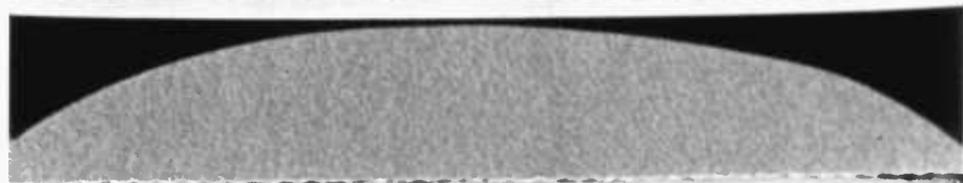
Well some say it is and some say it isn't... Where do you think it is?
Maybe on the corner of Maple Street and Morris Avenue.....
This store was owned by Long's, Cuppett's Montague's and Nicklow's. R. H. Schlosnagle
said, he owned this store for 33 years. It is now owned by W. & M. Labor.
That is if we have guessed right.

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BEER

Keim

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Friendsville Historic District

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10/81

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Friendsville Historic District

Mark Edwards



#4 Wake Street

10/81

G-II-A-208

Friendsville Historic District

Mark Edwards



10/81

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Friendsville Historic District

Mark Edwards



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Mark Edwards

Home-Made Light for the Farm

Take a look at the picture above.

Notice the prosperous farmer who has just returned from town after dark.

He is in the act of lighting up his barn, and the space in front.

This he does without a match of any kind.

He simply walks up and pulls a little short chain, and presto, he has it—a flood of beautiful, white Acetylene Light.

Light that actually shows up every buckle on the team's harness, and everything inside the barn just as plainly as all these things would show in broad daylight.

If you have ever lived on a farm you will appreciate the advantages, the comfort and the satisfaction of a barn light that can be turned on without a match.

You can probably recall many a cold winter night when you came home numb with the cold, and with fingers all thumbs tried to unbutton two coats to find a match, which you tried to scratch on a damp board. After which you probably fought a few rounds with a smoky lightning-bug lantern, and put in an hour doing chores, that you could have done in half the time with such a light as the one shown in the picture.

An Acetylene Lighting System like the one shown in the illustration often includes a light on the back porch where it can be instantly turned on to illuminate the yard, and a light in the cow barn to make milking easy, as well as one inside and one in front of the horse barn.

All these lights come in mighty handy too when there is trouble among the stock, or a sick animal to take care of through the night.

These barn and out-building lights are of course enclosed in solid globes, and can be fastened anywhere they are wanted—in front of the stalls, in the harness room, to the barn ceiling, to a post, or the top of any door, inside or outside.

It may surprise you to know that just such lighting plants as the one we have illustrated have been installed in over **175,000 farms and country homes** in the United States.

In every case an automatic tank-like machine, called a generator, is set up in one corner of the basement, or in an out-building, and from this machine the Acetylene which makes the light is carried through common gas pipes to burners located all over the place.

That's all there is to an **Acetylene Light Plant**. Just the **generator, the pipes, and the fixtures**.

Such a plant can be set up in from two to four days by any man who can cut and fit pipe.

The work can be done without inconveniencing the family, or injuring walls or carpets.

All burners are handsome and ornamental, and are permanently attached to walls or ceilings.

In barns, etc., the light is, for safety's sake, always enclosed in a tight globe.

For these reasons Acetylene Light is very much safer than kerosene lamps or lanterns, both of which are so often tipped over with disastrous results.

As a matter of fact, enclosed Acetylene Burners, fixed to light by the pull of a chain without matches, are the safest lights ever installed on a farm.

Most fires on farms are caused by the careless handling of lanterns and matches by hired help.

Consequently, any scheme of lighting that can be operated without matches, lanterns, or lamps, reduces the risk of fire to the minimum.

But, this is only one of the advantages responsible for the popularity of Acetylene as a farm illuminant.

Acetylene is so much like sunlight in color that it will actually **grow plants** almost as well and as fast as the sun itself.

This has been proven by extensive experiments conducted by the Department of Agriculture of the Cornell University.

On account of its sunlike quality, Acetylene is the only perfect artificial light to read by. And, for the same reason, it is a germicide, and has the same health-giving quality as true Sunlight itself.

Then, best of all, **Acetylene costs less** than any of the inferior illuminants. An Acetylene plant once installed will furnish light, candle power considered, for one-third less than kerosene oil.

There are several kinds of Acetylene Generators on the market. To give perfect satisfaction under all circumstances, a good generator should have the following features:

It should be made of heavy sheet steel strong enough to last over twenty years.

It should be automatic in every way. It should make gas only while the burners are lighted and should stop making gas when the burners are shut off.

The machine should practically do all the work itself and should not require more than fifteen minutes attention once a month. All the work necessary would be the recharging of the machine with Union Carbide and the cleaning out of the residue. All of which will be easy work for any school boy.

The cost of such a lighting plant depends upon the size of the machine wanted, its location and minor conditions.

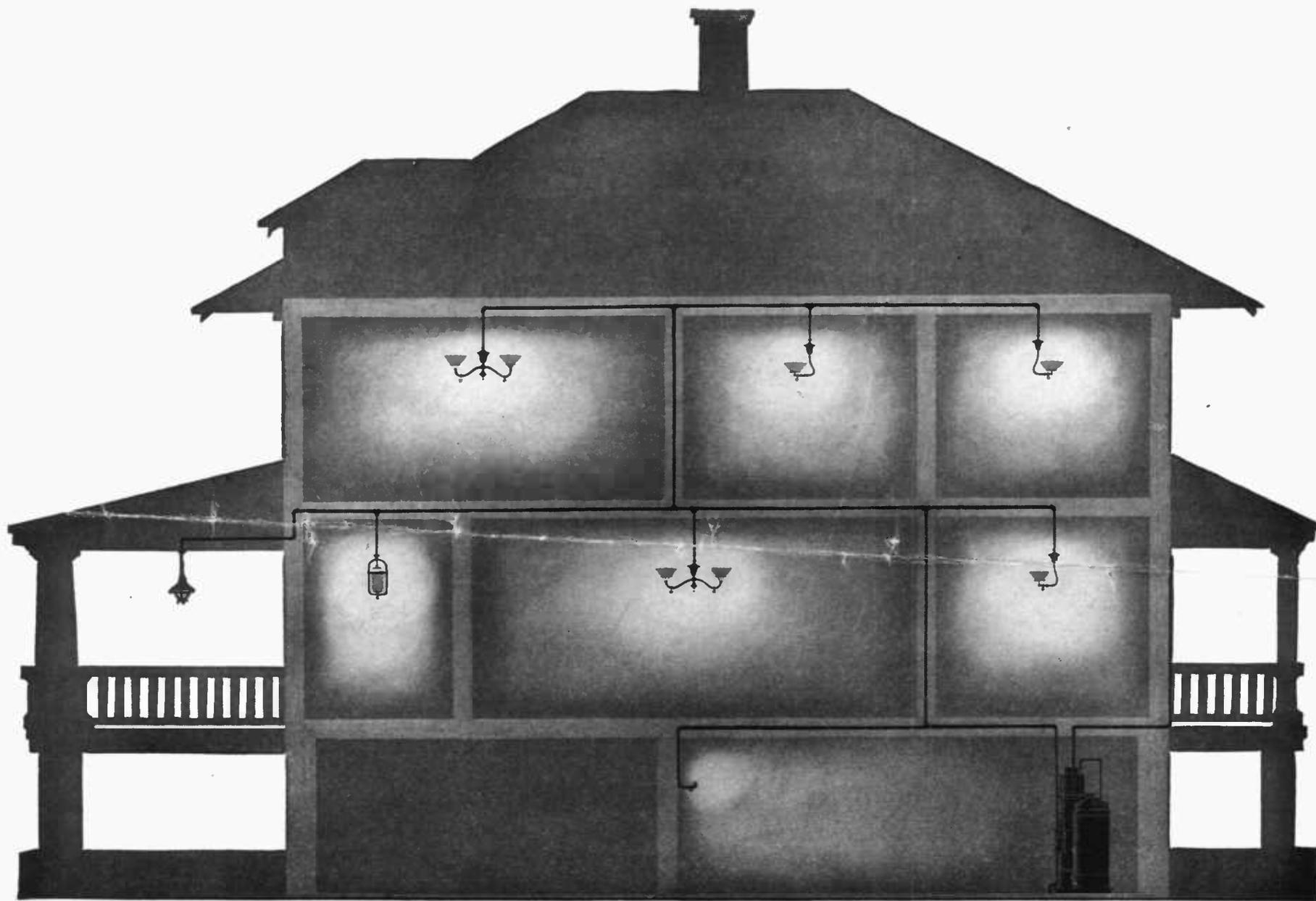
If you will fill out and return the enclosed blank form, you will receive, by return mail, complete information and an estimate as to cost of a plant to suit your requirements; all absolutely free.

You will be surprised to find out how easily and cheaply you can make this wonderful light yourself.

Not only light for every room in your house, but light in your out-buildings, barns and barnyard, and don't forget, light that can be turned on by the pull of a chain without the use of matches.

It will pay you to return enclosed information blank at once, as we are offering a special proposition at this season of the year.

G-II-A-208
Friendsville 1-D



SKETCH SHOWING HOW AN ACETYLENE GENERATOR IS CONNECTED IN THE CELLAR WITH PIPES RUN THROUGH WALLS AND OUT OF SIGHT

G-TE-A-308

Friendsville HD



G-I-A-208

Friendsville ID