

CARR-1320

Abraham Leister Farm
Finksburg

The Abraham Leister house at 2938 Westminster Pike probably dates in part to the early nineteenth century although there is no documentary evidence to date the log sections of the building. The land was part of two parcels. Flin Gardner sold 43 acres in 1852 to Abraham Leister for \$700. Later in 1852 Leister purchased 36 acres from George Leister and thereby put together an average-sized farm. Both the 1862 and 1877 maps show two houses owned by Leister, so it is not even clear which one he was living in. In 1866, Leister held 63 acres and \$142 worth of livestock. In the next decade this increased indicating overall that he was moving from a little below average as a farmer to a bit above average. In 1876, the buildings on Leister's farm were finally described. First listed was a 1½-story frame dwelling with frame bank barn and other outbuildings. In 1882, Leister added new improvements worth \$400 to his property. This was very likely the 2½-story addition that became the front of the house. Leister died in 1897. After the sale of the farm in 1898 the property passed hands numerous times before being purchased by James A. Peeling in 1916. It remained in their family until 1987.

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Abraham Leister Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2938 Westminster Pike ___ not for publication

city, town Finksburg ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Carroll

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Michael G. & Fotini M. Cornias

street & number 938 Bloom Road telephone no.: 876-5763

city, town Westminster state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liber 1000

street & number 55 North Court Street folio 822

city, town Westminster state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1320

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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.

Summary: The Abraham Leister farm was originally set back off of the north side of Old Westminster Pike, just west of Finksburg. With the construction of Route 140 (Westminster Pike) and Route 91, the house is now at the northeast corner of these two roads. A frame smokehouse is the only outbuilding that survives. The house was apparently constructed in three stages and is now in a "T" plan. The cross of the "T" is the latest section, and now the front of the house. It faces west and is a three-bay by two-bay, 2½-story frame structure with a central passage and central-gable dormer. The foundation is of rubble stone. The walls are now covered with aluminum siding, and the gable roof has standing-seam metal. The center bay of the first story has double doors, each with one large light over one panel. The bays flanking these doors, and all three bays on the second story, have long, narrow 4/4 sash with exterior blinds. There is a box cornice with returns and an internal brick chimney with corbelled cap on each end. What is now the rear wing of the house is the oldest section and was probably originally built in two stages, though it is not clear which section was built first. Both sections are 1½ stories and two-bays square, are reportedly of log (though none is exposed), and are covered with aluminum siding.

The Abraham Leister farm was originally set back off of the north side of Old Westminster Pike, just west of Finksburg. With the construction of Route 140 (Westminster Pike) and Route 91, the house is now at the northeast corner of these two roads. The roadbeds were raised considerably, so the house now seems to sit in a low spot and is shielded from the roads by many trees. The barn was demolished when Route 91 was constructed. A frame smokehouse is the only outbuilding that survives.

The house was apparently constructed in three stages and is now in a "T" plan. The cross of the "T" is the latest section, and now the front of the house. It faces west and is a three-bay by two-bay, 2½-story frame structure with a central passage and central-gable dormer. The foundation is of rubble stone. The walls are now covered with aluminum siding, and the gable roof has standing-seam metal. The north end of the west wall, now in an enclosed porch, still retains original clapboard. The center bay of the first story has double doors, each with one large light over one panel. The bays flanking these doors, and all three bays on the second story, have long, narrow 4/4 sash with exterior blinds. The central gable has a semicircular four-light sash. There is a box cornice with returns and an internal brick chimney with corbelled cap on each end. There is also a lightning rod at the center of the ridge, and rods with a weather vane at the front of the central dormer and the north gable end. The north elevation of this section has a four-panel wood door in the east bay and a 4/4 sash in the west. The second story has two 4/4 sash, the east one being wider and shorter than the other sash.

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

The gable end has two four-light sash, as well. The south elevation of the front section has two 4/4 sash on each story, and again in the second story the east window is wider and shorter. The gable end has two four-light sash. According to the former owner, there was a porch that wrapped around the north, west, and south elevations of this section, with doors on the second story to walk out onto the roof of the porch. The outline of the porch survives in a concrete strip around the house.

The interior of this section has a center passage with a single run of stairs on the south wall. The west wall of the passage has ten-light double doors that open into the rear section. The north wall of the passage has been removed except for two posts, and opened up into the north room. The south room is entered by a door west of the foot of the stairs. The chimney, which was built only for a stove, is centered on the south wall. There is no cellar under this section. The joists appear to be 2 x 6, and run north-south. The attic has sawn 2 x 4 rafters that are mitered at the ridge and support lath with wood shingles. The north and east walls have brick nogging, and it is likely the other two walls do as well, though this could not be determined.

What is now the rear wing of the house is the oldest section and was probably originally built in two stages, though it is not clear which section was built first. Both sections are 1½ stories and two-bays square, are reportedly of log (though none is exposed), and are covered with aluminum siding. The south elevation has a porch on a brick and stone foundation. It is now enclosed and spans both sections. The raised attic story has three new aluminum sash, two in the west section and one in the east. There is a gable roof with standing-seam-metal covering and a brick chimney east of center. There is a lightning rod on either side of the gable. The east elevation of the rear wing has a single 6/6 sash on the north side of the first story. According to former owner, Kathy Peeling, there was an exterior stone fireplace and chimney in the center of this elevation. The north elevation has a 6/6 sash centered on the east section. The west section has an enclosed porch with a door in the center that has two lights above two panels. There is a new window on either side of the door.

The east section is one large room. There is a door in the west bay of the south wall that has one light over two panels, and a 6/6 sash in the east bay. There is also a door at each end of the west wall. Centered on the west wall is a straight run of stairs that used to have a door. According to the tenant, these stairs must have been added later because the ends of the joists were sawed off and toe-nailed into a new header. This is not now visible for examination. The center section is also one room, with a brick fireplace centered on the east wall and a winder stair in the northeast corner. The west wall connects with the double doors in the center passage of the front (west) section. The north wall of the center section has a central door with four lights above a lying

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Description (continued)

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panel in the center, with two panels at the bottom. The top two lights are smaller than the bottom two. Above the door is a five-light transom, and on either side is a 6/6 sash. North of this center section is the enclosed porch, which is divided in half by a wall with a door.

The exterior of the north wall of the center section, now enclosed in the porch, still retains rough clapboard siding. The east section has an original cellar with rubble stone walls that are plastered and whitewashed. The joists are mostly well covered, but appear to be $\frac{3}{4}$ -round logs that run east-west. The random width flooring is wider than that of the center section. The center section originally was not accessible or dug out, but has been partially opened. The rubble stone walls were not tied into the east section. The joists are $\frac{3}{4}$ -round logs, approximately nine inches in diameter, and run north-south. The flooring is random width. The rafters in both sections are $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ inches, are sawn, and are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge. There are tie beams that are approximately 2×4 and are half-lapped onto the rafters and presumably pegged, though the joining method is not visible. The tie beams act as ceiling supports for the second story. The roof was originally wood shingle. There are vertical posts, made of scantling, midway along the rafter between the tie beam and the ridge, and resting on the tie beam. These in effect create a queen post truss in the top half of the roof structure. There are also wind braces made of scantling. It appears that there is brick nogging in the east walls of both the east and center sections.

Southeast of the house is a hewn, mortised-and-tenoned timber-frame shed with board-and-batten siding that is referred to as a smokehouse, although there is insufficient evidence to corroborate this. The foundation is dry-laid stone and the gable roof, which is cantilevered on the west end, has new sheathing and asphalt roll roofing. The west elevation has a beaded-edge vertical board door on strap hinges. Above the door a horizontal board is nailed to the battens and has one wrought-iron hook on it. The east elevation has a new board door that the tenants installed to replace a deteriorated wall. The south elevation has a circular hole cut in the sheathing. Southeast of this building, under a new stone patio, is the rubble stone foundation of the former two-story summer kitchen.

8. Significance

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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 checked="" 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/
<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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input 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: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Summary: The Abraham Leister house at 2938 Westminster Pike probably dates in part to the early nineteenth century although there is no documentary evidence to date the log sections of the building. The land was part of two parcels. Flin Gardner sold 43 acres in 1852 to Abraham Leister for \$700. Later in 1852 Leister purchased 36 acres from George Leister and thereby put together an average-sized farm. Both the 1862 and 1877 maps show two houses owned by Leister, so it is not even clear which one he was living in. In 1866, Leister held 63 acres and \$142 worth of livestock. In the next decade this increased indicating overall that he was moving from a little below average as a farmer to a bit above average. In 1876, the buildings on Leister's farm were finally described. First listed was a 1½-story frame dwelling with frame bank barn and other outbuildings. In 1882, Leister added new improvements worth \$400 to his property. This was very likely the 2½-story addition that became the front of the house. Leister died in 1897. After the sale of the farm in 1898 the property passed hands numerous times before being purchased by James A. Peeling in 1916. It remained in their family until 1987.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
 Chronological/Development Period: Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870,
 Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
 Historic Period Themes: Agriculture, Architecture
 Resource Types: Small family farmstead, Rural vernacular

The Abraham Leister house at 2938 Westminster Pike probably dates in part to the early nineteenth century, when this was part of Baltimore County, although there is no documentary evidence to date the log sections of the building. The land was part of two parcels. One tract was purchased from Samuel Manning by Richard Manning in 1791, and then 36 acres of it sold to Michael Flater in 1830 for \$300. The relatively low price suggests little improvement to the property, but unfortunately the tax assessments from the period do not list buildings. In 1841, Flater had a house of wood, but in addition to this parcel owned another tract of 25 acres. His house was probably on the larger and more valuable parcel, but it could have been either frame or log. In 1847, Flater sold the 36 acres to George B. Leister for \$500. The second parcel was bought by

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Significance (continued)

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Flin Gardner, probably in 1806 from William MacCreery. In 1841, Gardner's 110-acre parcel also had a house of wood. Gardner sold 43 acres in 1852 to Abraham Leister for \$700. Later in 1852 Leister purchased the 36 acres from George Leister and thereby put together an average-sized farm. The 1½-story log section of the existing house was most likely one of the two houses of wood mentioned in 1841, but it is not clear whose house it may have been. The lack of an 1852 tax assessment for Woolery's District does not help to clarify matters, either. Both the 1862 and 1877 maps show two houses owned by Leister, so it is not even clear which one he was living in.

In 1866, Leister held 63 acres and \$142 worth of livestock. In the next decade this increased by 39 acres and almost \$100 more of livestock. His household furnishings also increased, indicating overall that he was moving from a little below average as a farmer to a bit above average. In 1875 he had added a new hay shed worth \$100, though this building has since disappeared. In 1876, the buildings on Leister's farm were finally described. First listed was a 1½-story frame dwelling with frame bank barn and other outbuildings, all worth \$1200. Since the 1½-story section is actually log, it was probably covered with siding and thus the structure underneath unknown to the tax assessor. The fact that this was listed first generally indicates that it was the primary residence. Leister also held a two-story frame dwelling, with a frame stable and sheds, barrack, and some other outbuildings associated with it. The lack of a barn suggests that this property was of secondary importance. This is an unusual documentation of the existence of a hay barrack, a rather temporary structure used to shelter additional crops from the weather that was probably once very common, but has never survived to be documented.

In 1882, Leister added new improvements worth \$400 to his property. This was very likely the 2½-story addition that became the front of the house and re-oriented it toward Westminster Pike. In 1892, Leister built a new house worth \$400, but the following year he sold it, along with a ½ acre of land. Leister died in 1897. His inventory shows that he was growing wheat, rye, oats, white corn, yellow corn, sweet corn, potatoes, clover, and timothy. He also kept three mares, two cows, a heifer and bull, two sows, seven pigs, and 75 or 80 chickens (an above average number for this period). For the most part, his house furnishings, like his farm tools and machinery, were very ordinary. He did own a Crown sewing machine, which is typical of the period. Most unusual is the Weaver Organ and stool. Most families had only a piano at this time, but Leister's organ was by far the most valuable item in the house at \$25.50. After the sale of the farm in 1898 the property passed hands numerous times before being purchased by James A. Peeling in 1916. It remained in their family until 1987. The current owner rents the property to tenants and has tried to get a zoning variance to make this a commercial property, which would probably result in the loss of the building.

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Abraham Leister Farm
2938 Westminster Pike

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
John Edward Peeling & Alice Colder Brock	?	Michael G. & Fotini M. Cornias	?	3-16-1987	LWS 1006	822	Deed fee simple	\$180,000, 15.831 a.
Farmers Supply Co.	Westminster, MD	John E. & Martha E. Peeling	Carroll	5-17-1944	EAS 183	476	Deed fee simple	\$10, 4 lots near Finksburg, lots 20, 21, 22, & 23 in Teiser's Addition to Finksburg. Each is 45 x 232 (1)
James A. Peeling (widower)	Carroll	John E. & Martha E. Peeling	Carroll	4-12-1926	EMM 147	502	Deed fee simple	\$1, 77 a. (2)
James A. Peeling (widower)	Carroll	Farmers Supply Co.	Westminster, MD	3-2-1935	EMM 161	521	Deed fee simple	\$500, 4 lots (1)
George E. & Mary Etta Benson (wife)	Carroll	James A. Peeling	?	3-28-1918	EOC 134	263	Deed fee simple	\$1000, lots 20, 21, 22, 23, & 24 (1)
Sigmund F. Teiser & Helen W. (wife)	Carroll	James A. Peeling & Estella A.V. (wife)	?	3-8-1916	ODG 128	387	Deed fee simple	\$7500 (2)
William F. Ward & Aday M. (wife)	Carroll	Sigmund F. Teiser	Baltimore City	3-28-1910	ODG 115	528	Deed fee simple	\$5 a. 43+ a. b. 34 a. c. 8 lots, 2 a. (1) & (2)

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2938 Westminster Pike

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
Sigmund F. Teiser & Helen W. (wife)	Carroll	George E. Benson	Carroll	3-8-1916	ODG 128	384	Deed fee simple	\$555, lots 21, 21, 22, 23, 24 (1)
Cora A. Hofreiter & Frank A. (husband)	Tazewell Co., Ill.	William F. & Aday M. Ward (wife)	Carroll	1-14-1907	DPS 105	414	Deed fee simple	\$4600, 3 tracts a. 43 + a. b. 34 a. c.. 8 lots, 12 a.
Florence E. Shipley, et al	Baltimore City	Cora A. & Frank A. Hofreiter	Tazewell Co., Ill.	1-7-1899	JHB 88	188	Deed	\$4000 a. 43 + a. b. 34 a. c. 8 lots, 12 a.
Marion J. Leister, et al heirs of Abraham Leister	Carroll	Florence E. Shipley, et al	Balt. City Tazewell, Ill.	10-28-1898	JHB 88	16	Deed	\$4000, 3 lots a. 43 + a. b. 34 a. c. 8 lots, 2 a. Abe dec. intestate
Flin Gardner	Carroll	Abraham Leister, Jr.	Carroll	4-12-1852	JBB 13	335	Deed Indenture	\$700, Number Nine - part of Bells Venture 43 + a. [no earlier ref.] [not in indexes] probably from Wm. MacCreery 19 Nov. 1806 (a)

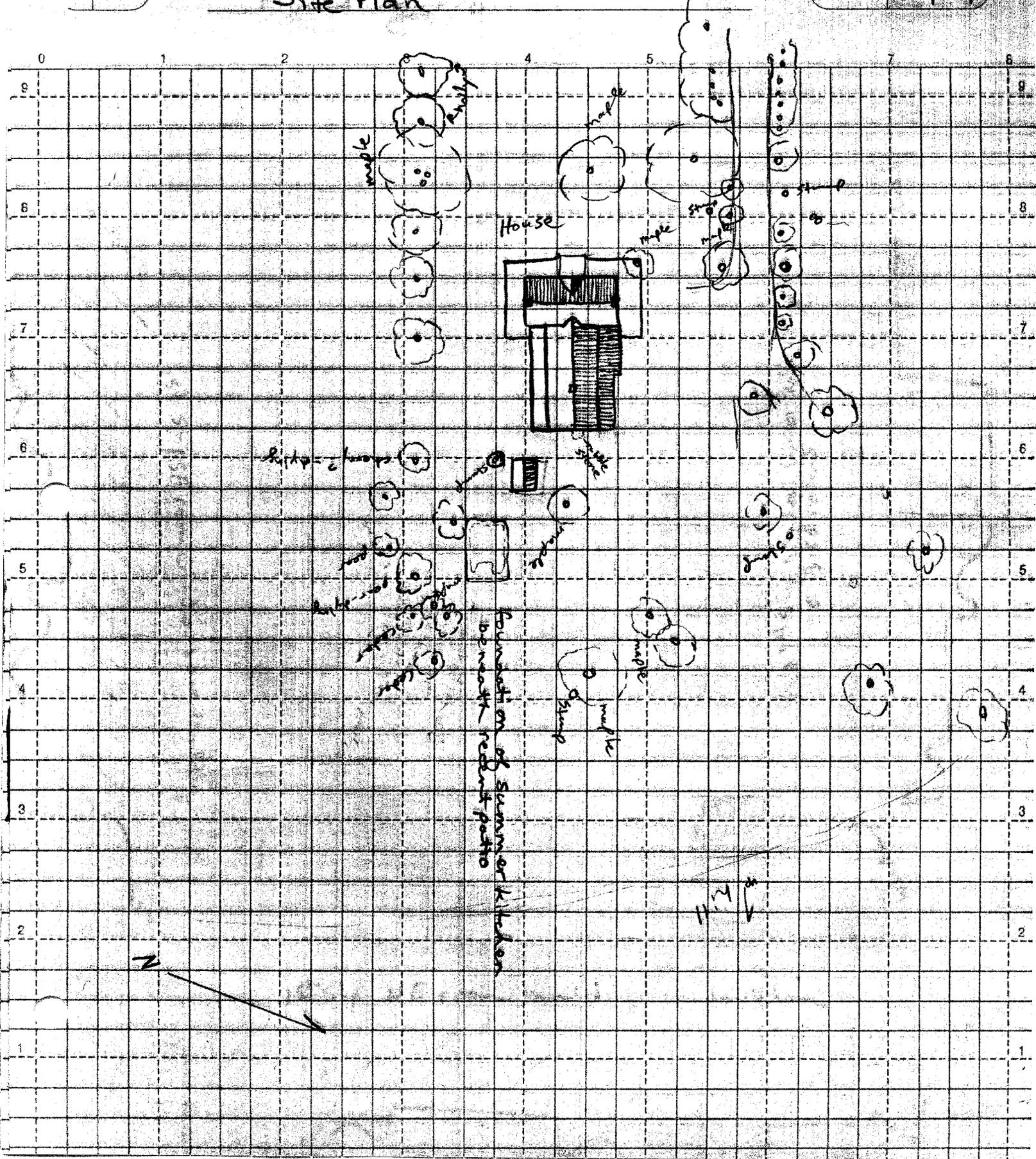
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 Abraham Leister Farm
 2938 Westminster Pike

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
George B. Leister	Carroll	Abraham Leister	Carroll	11-13-1852	JBB 14	175	Deed	\$500, Bonds Forrest Resurveyed, 34 a. part of first mentioned deed (see below) (b)
Michael Flater & Rachel (wife)	Carroll	George B. Leister	Carroll	5-8-1847	7	133	Deed Indenture	\$500, 36 a. [Michael not in Carroll Co. indexes] (b)
Richard Manning, Sr.	Baltimore County	Michael Flater	Baltimore County	9-1-1830	WG 206	545	Deed Indenture	part of Bonds Forest Resurveyed 36 a., \$300 part of 80 a. (b)
Samuel Manning		Richard Manning		8-11-1791				(b)

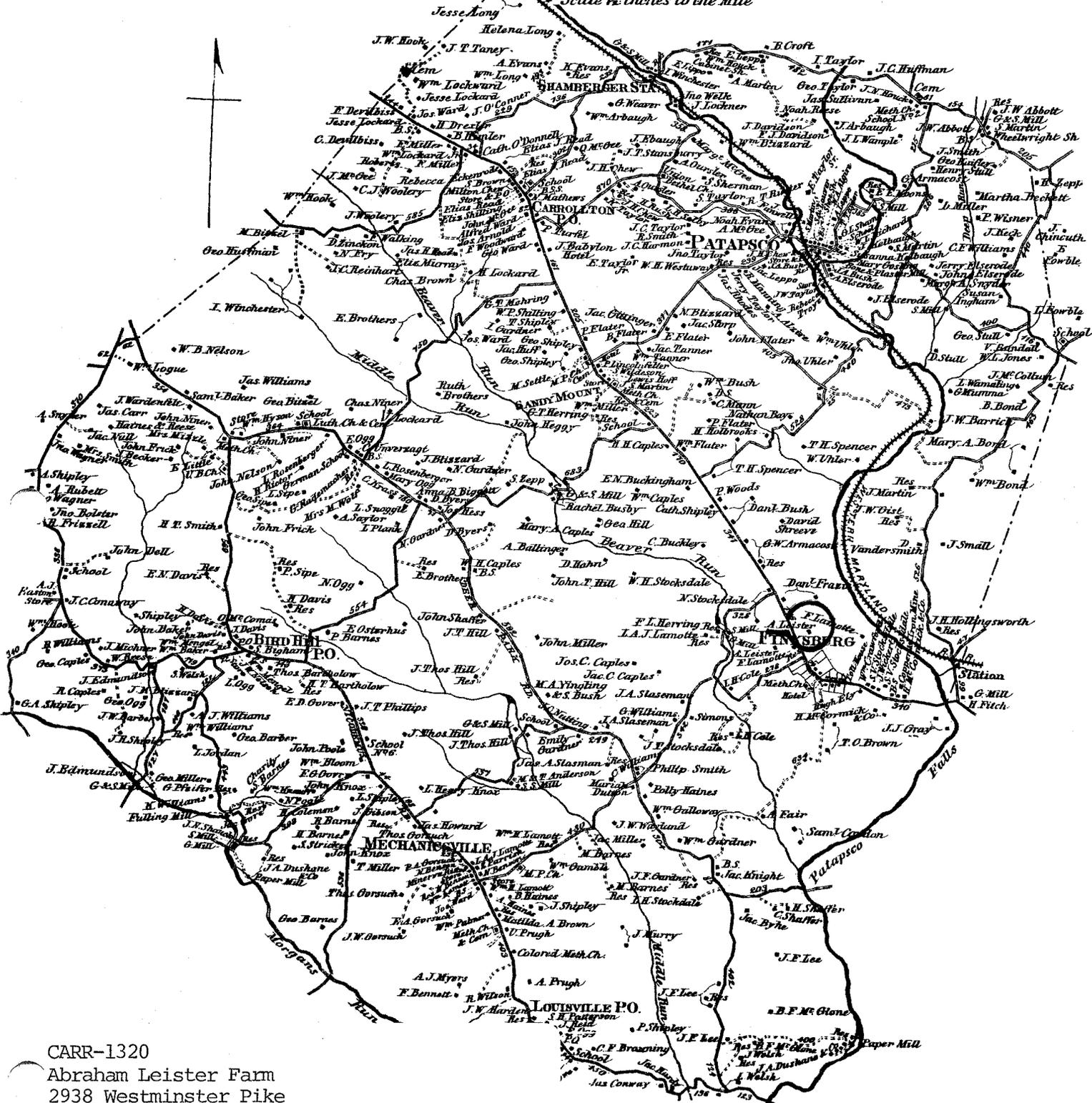
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2938 Westminster Pike
Site Plan



WOOLERY

DISTRICT No. 4.
Scale 1/4 inches to the Mile



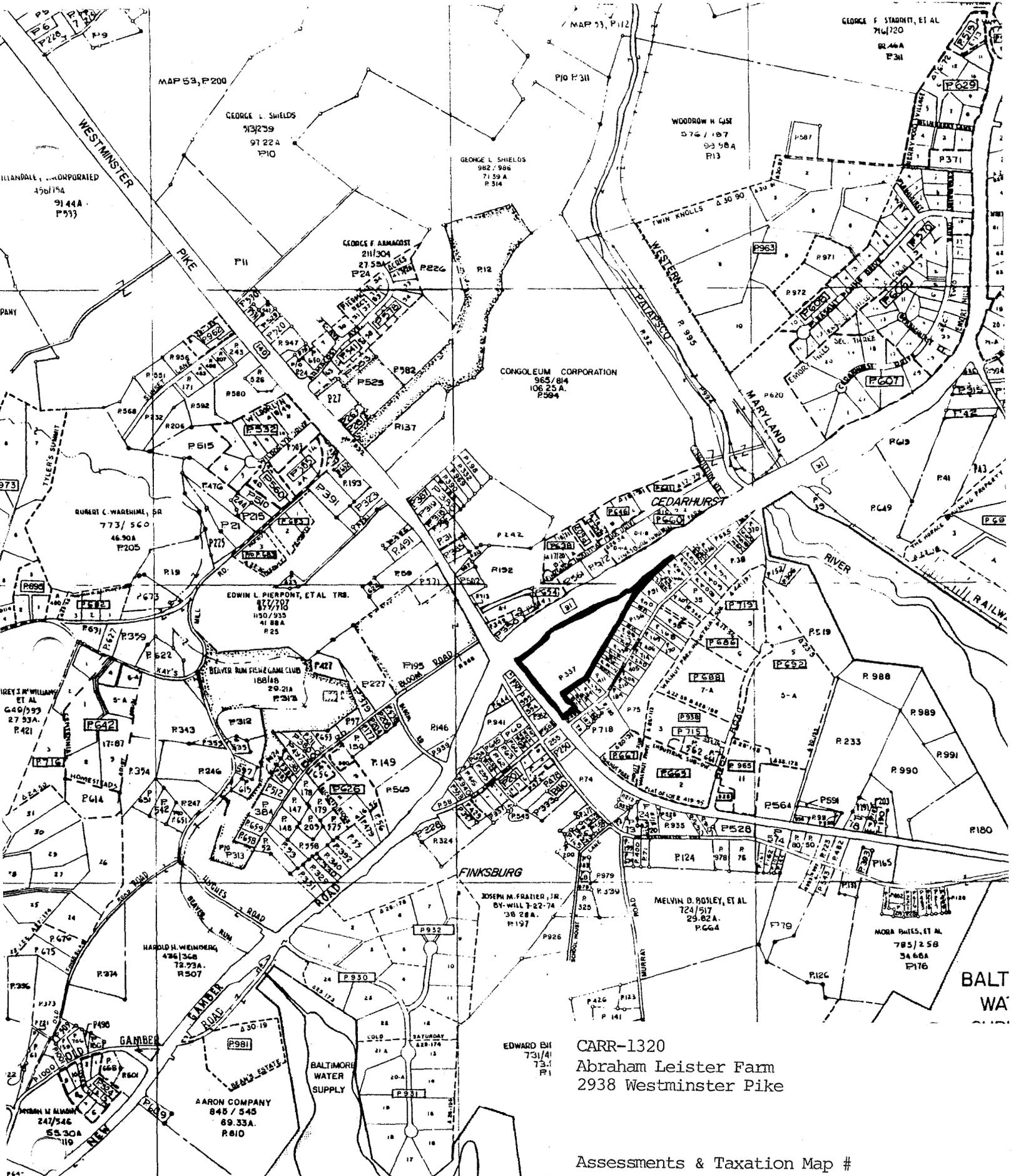
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2938 Westminster Pike

Lake, Griffin & Stevenson, Atlas 1877



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Abraham Leister Farm
2938 Westminster Pike

Martenet Map, 1862



827
(64)

MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5663
(HAMPS)

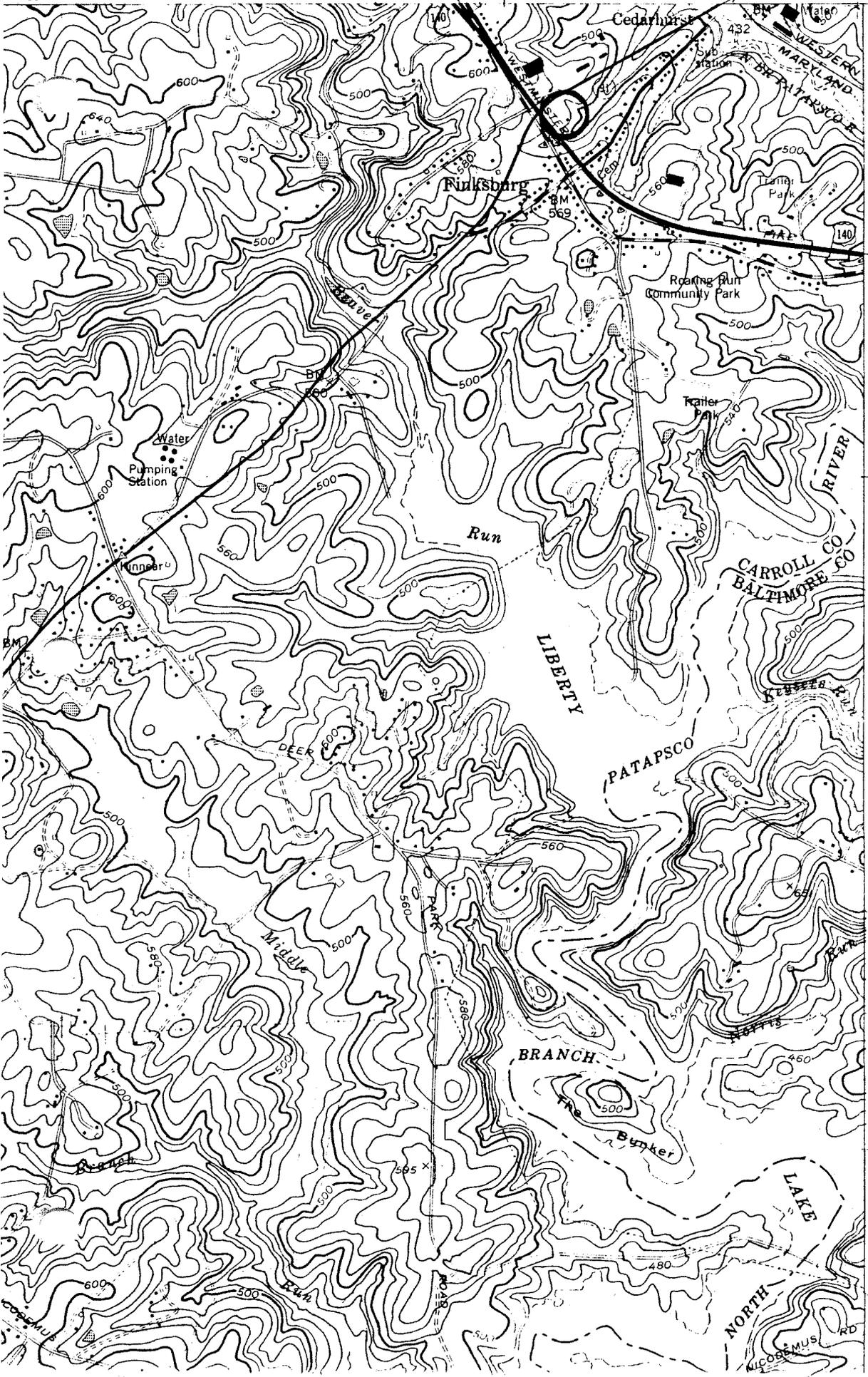
335 55'

GETTYSBURG, PA. 32 MI.
WESTMINSTER (JUNC. MD. 31) 7.6 MI.
1830 000 FEET FOWLESBURG 4 MI.

76°52'30"

39°30'

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REISTERSTOWN (JUNC. MD. 30) 2.8 MI.
4373
4372
600 000
FEET
4371
4370
27'30"
4369
DELIGHT (JUNC. U.S. 140) 3.9 MI.

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Abraham Leister Farm
2938 Westminister Pike

Finksborg Quad



Abraham Leister Farm

2938 Westminster Pike

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: September 1992

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

house - west elevation



Abraham Leister Farm

2938 Westminster Pike

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: September 1992

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

house - east: north elevations

2/3



Abraham Heister Farm
2938 Westminster Pike
Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: September 1992

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Smokehouse - west & south elevations