

CARR-1322

Mathias-Smeach Farm  
Bachmans Mills (vicinity)

The Mathias-Smeach farm is located on what was a 457-acre tract of land patented in 1776 by Thomas French under the name Pallentine. In 1801, Joseph Mathias sold this part of the farm, consisting of 170½ acres, to Henry Mathias. The 1798 tax assessment noted "Built a log House" and "value of improvements since last assessment 30." Thus it would seem that the southern half of the existing brick-cased log house may actually date before 1798. In 1834, the Mathias farm was offered for sale. "The improvements thereon are a large two story log Dwelling-House, with a Log Kitchen attached to it; a double Log Barn, an Apple Orchard with choice fruit trees." The description suggests that the north (kitchen) section of the house had already been added by this time. The property was sold to Samuel W. Myers, who died in 1843. The farm was again advertised for sale, in 1843. "The improvements consist of a large two-story log dwelling house, rough casted and plastered, a new Switzer Barn, Carriage House, Smoke House and other necessary Out-Buildings. Also a Lime Kiln, and a fine thriving orchard of Apple, Peach and other varieties of Fruit Trees." The farm was purchased by Nathan Rogers of Baltimore City. Rogers sold the house to Jacob Wine and Wine's son-in-law Andrew Smeach. Two years later Jacob Wine died, leaving his half of the farm to Andrew Smeach in his will. Smeach died in February 1870. Perhaps the most intriguing item in the inventory of Smeach's property is the lot of brick valued at \$50.00. At that rate, there was probably around ten thousand bricks. This suggests that Smeach intended to brick-case his log house when he died. Smeach's widow, Ann, must have had the work completed because in the 1876 tax assessment it was noted that she had a two-story brick dwelling worth \$800. The farm was purchased in 1881 by William K. Leppo. Leppo was probably responsible for constructing many of the existing farm out-buildings during his tenure.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mathias-Smeach Farm

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 3535 Backwoods Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Bachmans Mills  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 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 George Warehime

street & number 3535 Backwoods Road telephone no.: 346-6242

city, town Westminster state and zip code Maryland 21158

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liber 1053

street & number folio 677

city, town Westminster state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1322

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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.

**Summary:** The Mathias-Smeach Farm is located at 3535 Back Woods Road about 3/4 of a mile north of Bachman's Mill in Carroll County, Maryland. The road bisects the farm, with the house, summer kitchen, and smokehouse on the east side, and the barn, corn cribs, hog pen and tool shed west of the road. The house faces west and is a five-bay by two-bay, two-story, brick-cased log structure apparently built in at least three stages. The southern three bays were apparently constructed first as a double pile, side passage plan house. The northern two bays were added later creating a central passage structure, and finally the entire house was cased in brick. It has all-stretcher bond brick on a rubble stone foundation, a gable roof with asphalt shingles, and double-hung sash with wood sills, splayed brick jack arches, and window frames with a beaded interior edge. Just east of the house is a 1 1/2-story, three-bay by three-bay frame summer kitchen. It has a rubble stone foundation, narrow German siding with corner boards, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. West of the house, and west of the road, is a bank barn that faces south. The lower story is of partially coursed rubble fieldstone and the upper story has vertical board siding. The gable roof has wood shingles. The upper level has six bents of circular sawn timber, with pegged mortise and tenon joints. It is divided into a mow on each end, with three wagon floors in the center. North of the barn is a wagon shed and corn crib set on stone piers. It has horizontal slats on the south and clapboard on the north, east, and west. The gable roof ridge runs east-west, and has wood shingles and two metal trap doors. The structure is built with a heavy-timber, mortise-and-tenon braced frame. The upper level is floored and has a center aisle that runs east-west. On either side of the aisle is a row of drying racks made of wood frames with galvanized wire bottoms.

The Mathias-Smeach Farm is located at 3535 Back Woods Road about 3/4 of a mile north of Bachman's Mill in Carroll County, Maryland. The road bisects the farm, with the house, summer kitchen, and smokehouse on the east side, and the barn, corn cribs, hog pen and tool shed west of the road. The ground slopes moderately from a small stream to the south of the buildings upward to a ridge north of the buildings.

The house faces west and is a five-bay by two-bay, two-story, brick-cased log structure apparently built in at least three stages. The southern three bays were apparently constructed first as a double pile, side passage plan house. The northern two bays were added later creating a central passage structure, and finally the entire house was cased in brick. It has all-stretcher bond brick on a rubble stone foundation, a gable roof with asphalt shingles, and double-hung sash with wood sills, splayed brick jack arches, and window frames with a beaded interior edge. The first story of the west elevation has a 2/2 sash in the north bay, then a door with one light above a row of three

Description (continued)

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square panels, with two lying panels at the bottom. In the center bay is a doorway that has been closed off, and the door removed, while the two southern bays each has a 4/4 sash. There is a three-bay, shed roof porch centered on the west elevation. This has six turned posts, and brackets. The second story has five 2/2 sash, and the boxed cornice has returns. The north elevation is two bays, with two 2/2 sash in each story and two four-light sash in the gable end. The south elevation has a boarded-up opening in the west bay of the cellar, with a vertical-board door on interior strap hinges in the east. The first story has two 6/6 double-hung sash, the second has two 2/2, and there are two four-light sash in the gable end. The east elevation has an enclosed porch on concrete block foundation in the center three bays of the first story. This porch has five six-light sash and a storm door. In the south bay was a window that was converted to a door and has since been converted back to a window, according to the owner. In the north bay is a 2/2 sash. On the second story there is a 2/2 sash in the south bay, no openings in the south-center or center bays, a 2/2 sash in the north-center bay, and a door (converted from a window) in the north bay.

The north addition only has a crawl space, which is not accessible, and none of the log structure is visible, although according to the owner there are logs that have been observed beneath the brick during masonry repairs. The south section logs appear to be hewn on all four sides, and appear to be V-notched. There is a stone buttress on the south cellar wall that supports the fireplace and chimney above. There are also brick piers that support two north/south summer beams, one on either side of the stone buttress. The west summer beam is comprised of four 2x10's ganged together, while the east one has six 2 x10's. The joists are circular-sawn 2x8's that run east/west. There is an opening in the north wall, now blocked in with recessed stone, that has a large stone lintel and sill. Several second-story joists are exposed under the stair landing, and are approximately 3x5, with a central tenon into the girt but no peg.

The passage has a dog leg, closed stringer stair on the north wall, with a stair landing at the east end and several risers along the south wall. The stairs are constructed with wrought-iron nails. Beneath the stringer are vertical, beaded-edge boards. The balusters and newel are square in plan, and the hand rail is wide and slightly arched, with rounded sides. There is a four-panel door to the cellar, with flat, sunken panels and quarter-round panel moulds. The door on the east end of the passage is also four panels, because it is under the stair landing and thus must be lower. The other interior doors are all six panels, with quarter-round panel moulds. The surrounds throughout the house are all flat, with a beaded interior edge. The flooring is milled pine, 2½ inches wide.

The southwest room has a large fireplace on the south wall. The wood mantelpiece has pilasters with sunken panels and ogee panel moulds, and the identical

Description (continued)

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panel motif in the frieze. The fireplace opening has a trifold vertical beaded-edge-board door which is hinged on the southeast side. The fire box is plastered and does not appear to have been used. The baseboards are flat boards topped with an ogee moulding. There is a four-panel door on the east wall. The southeast room is unheated. The baseboards here have a quarter-round moulding on top of a flat board. The north room is one large, open space set one step above the level of the passage. There is a large kitchen fireplace centered on the north wall, with a flat wood mantelpiece that has a beaded interior edge. One-half of one of the two original beaded-edge-and-center board bifold doors survives. The walls retain a beaded-edge vertical wainscot below the chair rail. There is a boxed-in summer beam that runs north-south, with one end bearing in the brick of the kitchen chimney. The stairs that were in the southeast corner of the room have been removed. They were apparently a single run.

The second story plan mirrors the first, with an additional room on the west end of the passage. The windows have the same surrounds as on the first story, and the door surrounds are the same, but with an applied ogee moulding along the outside edge. The southeast and southwest rooms have random-width floors. The north half is divided into two rooms, with two steps up to the northwest room. The northeast room is accessible only from the northwest.

The attic joists in the southern half run east-west and are approximately  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ . There is a random width tongue-and-groove floor. Several rafters are hewn, with a central tenon at the ridge, and pegged. They are about  $4 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ . These rafters used to have tie beams that were half-lapped, with a half-dovetail, and pegged. The remainder are circular sawn, are  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ , and are mitered at the ridge. A circular-sawn purlin has been added to each side, under the middle of the rafters, and is supported by queen posts that are nailed to the purlin and rest on the floorboards, but not over the joists. The rafters support wood lath, and at one time a slate roof. The rafters in the northern section are the same as those in the south, though only one hewn rafter survives. The studs on the north gable end are sawn, while those on the south are hewn, are about  $4 \times 3$ , and were once lathed and plastered.

Just east of the house is a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story, three-bay by three-bay frame summer kitchen. It has a rubble stone foundation, narrow German siding with corner boards, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The ridge runs east-west. The west, gable, end has a center door with one light above two lying panels. On each side of the door is a  $2/2$  double-hung sash, with another over the door, in the gable end. The north elevation has a central door with four panels, and is flanked by a  $2/2$  on each side, while the south elevation has two  $2/2$  sash only. The east elevation has no openings. There is a wrap-around porch on the west and north elevations with chamfered, square posts. The west

Description (continued)

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end of the porch has a brick foundation, and there is a hand-dug, stone-lined well under the southwest corner. The interior of the first story contains one large room with beaded-edge-and-center vertical board siding on the walls and ceiling. There is a large kitchen fireplace centered on the east wall, with a winder stair in the northeast corner. The mantel has five sunken panels with ogee panel moulds in the frieze. The center and end panels are square, and the other two are rectangular lying panels. The building is constructed with a circular-sawn and nailed heavy timber frame. The upper story joists rest on clamps that are let into the sides of the 1½-story-tall studs. The rafters are of 2¾x3¾ circular-sawn stock that are mitered at the ridge and support circular-sawn lath. The upper story has painted on the wall "JWF 1913" and "DO[W?] 192 [?]."

North of the summer kitchen is a smokehouse that has a concrete foundation, narrow German siding with corner boards, and a wood shingle gable roof with an east-west running ridge. There is a vertical board door on the west elevation and an open fire pit in the foundation of the south elevation. The interior has four horizontal beams that run east-west, and have nails in them for hanging up meat.

East of these outbuildings is a group that includes a poultry house with a poured concrete foundation, narrow German siding with corner boards and a shed roof. The south elevation has been altered. There is also a peep house. It, too, has narrow German siding with corner boards, but it is set on a concrete block foundation. There is a door on the west elevation and two 6/6 sash on the south. It has a shed roof. The hog pen has a concrete block foundation, as well, and narrow German siding with corner boards. There are two 6/6 sash on the north elevation. On the south are pens with concrete block walls, and the shed roof extends over these pens.

West of the house, and west of the road, is a bank barn that faces south. The lower story is of partially coursed rubble fieldstone and the upper story has vertical board siding. The gable roof has wood shingles, and a ridge that runs east-west. The lower level of the south elevation has CMU's and clapboard under the forebay wall, as well as a late shed appended to the building for a dairy operation. From west to east, there is a vertical, beaded-edge-and-center board door with a three-light transom, then three 6/6 sash, an opening in the wall with three four-light sash above, and finally four 6/6 sash. The upper story has, from west to east, three vents, a pair of small doors over a pair of large doors, each on strap hinges, two vents, two more pair of doors, two vents, another two pair of doors, and three vents. All of the vents are segmentally-arched, tripartite, and have a single light sash at the bottom center. The east elevation has a brick wall of 7, 8, and 9-1 common bond under the forebay. This wall has a semi-circular arch with a segmentally-arched door made of beaded-edge-and-center vertical boards on strap hinges. North of this is a beaded-edge-and-center vertical board dutch door and then two 6/6

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sash. The upper story has a beaded-edge-and-center vertical board door at each end, with four vents in the middle, and two shorter vents above. The vents on this elevation are bipartite. In the gable end is a 2/2 sash flanked by a vent on each side. It is topped by a semi-circular arch with wood fan-motif infill. The north elevation has three pairs of wagon doors with beaded-edge-and-center vertical boards, on rollers, in the center. On either side are two segmentally-arched, tripartite vents with one small, one-light sash in the bottom center of each vent. North of the west end of this elevation is a concrete silo, with metal dome roof, attached to the barn. The lower story of the west elevation has a milk room attached. This building has a concrete foundation, narrow German siding, and a shed roof with inverted-V-seam metal. There are two beaded-edge-and-center vertical board doors on the south elevation and an external brick chimney on the west end. The upper story of the west elevation of the barn is identical to the east elevation.

The interior of the lower level has three summer beams that are supported by recently installed posts. The joists are hewn on top and bottom only, and have a central tenon that sits in the mortised summer beam. There is a wood peg rail set into the east wall, and a wood box set into the stone of the southeast corner. The western half of the lower story was converted to a milking parlor, with concrete floor and metal stanchions. The upper level has six bents of circular sawn timber, with pegged mortise and tenon joints. It is divided into a mow on each end, with three wagon floors in the center. There is a granary and tool room in the northeast corner, and similar rooms in the southeast and southwest corners. The rafters are approximately 2x4 or slightly larger, are supported by two purlins on each side, and are mitered at the ridge. They support laths and wood shingles, and a metal track in the ridge. The granary walls are covered in painted names, dates, and initials. These are:

"Scott Sullivan Aug. 5 1907 Frizzellburg homesteads  
Roy L. Zahn Frizzellburg MD 1907  
William Sullivan 1907 Frizzellburg MD  
Charley Dickensheets Frizzellburg

Percy Leppo  
WR Leppo 1890

PL  
WS  
CD  
RZ  
SS  
June 30 1907

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R.E. Leppo  
J. Lippy  
M.V. Wolfe  
C.S. Little  
V.C. Wolfe  
G.T. Warehime"

There are also a lot of "1890"'s painted in the granary.

North of the barn is a wagon shed and corn crib set on stone piers. It has horizontal slats on the south and clapboard on the north, east, and west. The gable roof ridge runs east-west, and has wood shingles and two metal trap doors. Both the west and east elevations have a single 4/4 sash in the gable end, and a pair of bi-fold wagon doors on strap hinges on the lower level. These are made of vertical, beaded-edge-and-center boards. The top inner corner of each door is connected to a track above the door, which forces the door to fold in on itself rather than swing straight outward. The structure is built with a heavy- timber, mortise-and-tenon braced frame and approximately 2x4 rafters. It has a corn crib on the south side only and a straight run of stains on the east end, which runs north to south. They are hinged at the upper level to swing up out of the way of wagons coming through the east doors. The upper level is floored and has a center aisle that runs east-west. On either side of the aisle is a row of drying racks made of wood frames with galvanized wire bottoms. The County intends to demolish this structure very shortly in order to straighten a curve in the road.

South of the barn is a second wagon shed and corn crib. This structure has cribs on the east and west sides of a wagon shed, with a shed-roofed wagon shed attached to the west side of the west crib. The cribs have horizontal slats both inside and out. There is a rubble stone foundation and a wood-shingled gable roof with north-south ridge. The north elevation has a pair of bi-fold doors made of vertical, beaded-edge-and-center boards. These are hung on strap hinges and the inside top corner is connected to a track above the door. Above the doors the gable end is covered with German siding with corner boards, and has a 2/2 sash with a very wide center muntin, and a wood louvered vent on either side. The north elevation of the shed attached to the west side has a pair of vertical, beaded-edge-and-center board doors on strap hinges. There is German siding above these doors, and on the west elevation. The south elevation matches the north, except that it has a pair of small, vertical, beaded-edge-and-center board doors on strap hinges in the gable end. The building is constructed of a circular-sawn, heavy-timber braced frame and rafters that are larger than 2x4 and are mitered at the ridge.

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**Description (continued)**

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Just northwest of the south wagon shed is a 1½-story hog pen that has a concrete foundation, narrow German siding with corner boards, and a wood shingle gable roof with ridge running east-west. The north elevation, which has been altered, has four low openings, with four wood pens north of the building. Both the east and west elevations have a beaded-edge-and-center vertical board door to the south, with another in the gable end.

South of the southern corn crib is a tool shed with a concrete foundation, narrow German siding with corner boards, and a wood shingle gable roof with east-west ridge. It is built of 2x4, nailed lumber. The north, south and west elevations each have a six-light sash, and the east elevation has a vertical, beaded-edge-and-center board door to the south. There is a terra-cotta chimney pipe on the west end of the structure.

South of the tool shed is a garage built with a circular-sawn-and-nailed heavy-timber braced frame. It has a concrete foundation, vertical board siding, and a gable roof covered with corrugated metal. The east elevation has a pair of beaded-edge-and-center vertical board doors on rollers.

# 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/ 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

### 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.

**Summary:** The Mathias-Smeach farm is located on what was a 457-acre tract of land patented in 1776 by Thomas French under the name Pallentine. In 1801, Joseph Mathias sold this part of the farm, consisting of 170½ acres, to Henry Mathias. The 1798 tax assessment noted "Built a log House" and "value of improvements since last assessment 30." Thus it would seem that the southern half of the existing brick-cased log house may actually date before 1798. In 1834, the Mathias farm was offered for sale. "The improvements thereon are a large two story log Dwelling-House, with a Log Kitchen attached to it; a double Log Barn, an Apple Orchard with choice fruit trees." The description suggests that the north (kitchen) section of the house had already been added by this time. The property was sold to Samuel W. Myers, who died in 1843. The farm was again advertised for sale, in 1843. "The improvements consist of a large two-story log dwelling house, rough casted and plastered, a new Switzer Barn, Carriage House, Smoke House and other necessary Out-Buildings. Also a Lime Kiln, and a fine thriving orchard of Apple, Peach and other varieties of Fruit Trees." The farm was purchased by Nathan Rogers of Baltimore City. Rogers sold the house to Jacob Wine and Wine's son-in-law Andrew Smeach. Two years later Jacob Wine died, leaving his half of the farm to Andrew Smeach in his will. Smeach died in February 1870. Perhaps the most intriguing item in the inventory of Smeach's property is the lot of brick valued at \$50.00. At that rate, there was probably around ten thousand bricks. This suggests that Smeach intended to brick-case his log house when he died. Smeach's widow, Ann, must have had the work completed because in the 1876 tax assessment it was noted that she had a two-story brick dwelling worth \$800. The farm was purchased in 1881 by William K. Leppo. Leppo was probably responsible for constructing many of the existing farm out-buildings during his tenure.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
 Chronological/Development Period: Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815,  
 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

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Significance

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ADDENDA

The Mathias-Smeach Farm was purchased in 1843 by Nathan Rogers, and it was suggested that the property was strictly an investment. This can now be confirmed, as when Rogers first offered the farm for sale on 30 September 1847 it was being occupied by a William J. Beggs. The advertisement described the improvements simply as ". . . a good comfortable Two-Story House, with Back building, and well and pump at the door. There is also a good Bank Barn with a Shed at each end, nearly new." This barn, probably the same Switzer barn listed in 1843, was most likely a frame structure that replaced the older log barn. It in turn has been replaced by the current building. The back building listed in the ad was probably the log kitchen mentioned earlier, and was actually on the side, not the back, although there could have been an addition on the rear that no longer survives. The farm had been improved by the application of 7,000 bushels of lime since Rogers purchased it 3½ years ago. There was, of course, a lime kiln on the premises to make this more feasible.

Source: The Westminster Democrat, 14 February 1848, p. 3, c. 6.

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Significance (continued)

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The Mathias-Smeach farm is located on what was a 457-acre tract of land patented in 1776 by Thomas French under the name Pallentine. Its earliest history is unknown, but in 1788 the entire tract was purchased from Robert Walsh, a Baltimore merchant, by Joseph Mathias, a Frederick farmer. The purchase price was £300. Two months later, Mathias had sold off 120 acres, and probably continued to sell off tracts. In 1801, Joseph Mathias sold this part of the farm, consisting of 170½ acres, to Henry Mathias for £130. Judging by the 1798 tax assessment, however, Joseph had already sold the farm to Henry, though the deed had not been executed. It was also noted "Built a log House" and "value of improvements since last assessment 30." Thus it would seem that the southern half of the existing brick-cased log house may actually date before 1798. Unfortunately, we do not know when the previous assessment was taken. Henry Mathias died before 1825, at which time his widow, Mary, was assessed for a log house and barn on 225 acres.

In 1834, the Mathias farm was offered for sale, subject to the life estate of Mary in eight acres. The farm had about 116 acres in timber, 15 acres in meadow, and the remainder was tillable and fenced. "The improvements thereon are a large two story log Dwelling-House, with a Log Kitchen attached to it; a double Log Barn, an Apple Orchard with choice fruit trees." There were several springs, including one near the dwelling, and a well with a pump near the kitchen door. The description suggests that the north (kitchen) section of the house had already been added by this time. The double log barn mentioned is most likely a double crib barn with a threshing floor between the two log hay mows, all under a single roof. The property was sold to Samuel W. Myers, who died in 1843 and left everything to his widow. He left her a rather considerable estate for the period. This included two horses, a mare, two colts, four cows, a bull, four heifers, thirteen hogs, three sows with pigs, and six sheep. There was the usual large assortment of tools found on a farm, plus a windmill valued at \$12.00 (unusual for this early period) and a wash machine. The house already had several stoves to heat it, at least six beds, plus a crib and a cradle, and typical other furniture of the period. The fish net suggests a more varied diet than just what the farm produced. On the other hand, the bee hives that were commonly found on farms before the Civil War were not listed in Myers' inventory.

The farm was again advertised for sale, in 1843, and now had only approximately 50 acres in timber and 15 in meadow, suggesting Myers had cleared a lot of land. All of the fields were fenced, some had recently been limed, and most of them had water. In addition, a stream cut through the tract. As for the buildings, "The improvements consist of a large two-story log dwelling house, rough casted and plastered, a new Switzer Barn, Carriage House, Smoke House and other necessary Out-Buildings. Also a Lime Kiln, and a fine thriving orchard of Apple, Peach and other varieties of Fruit Trees." Thus it would appear that, before the house was cased it had been stuccoed. The farm was purchased by Nathan Rogers of Baltimore City, but he apparently used it only as an investment since, when he sold it in 1852, he still listed the city as his home.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1322

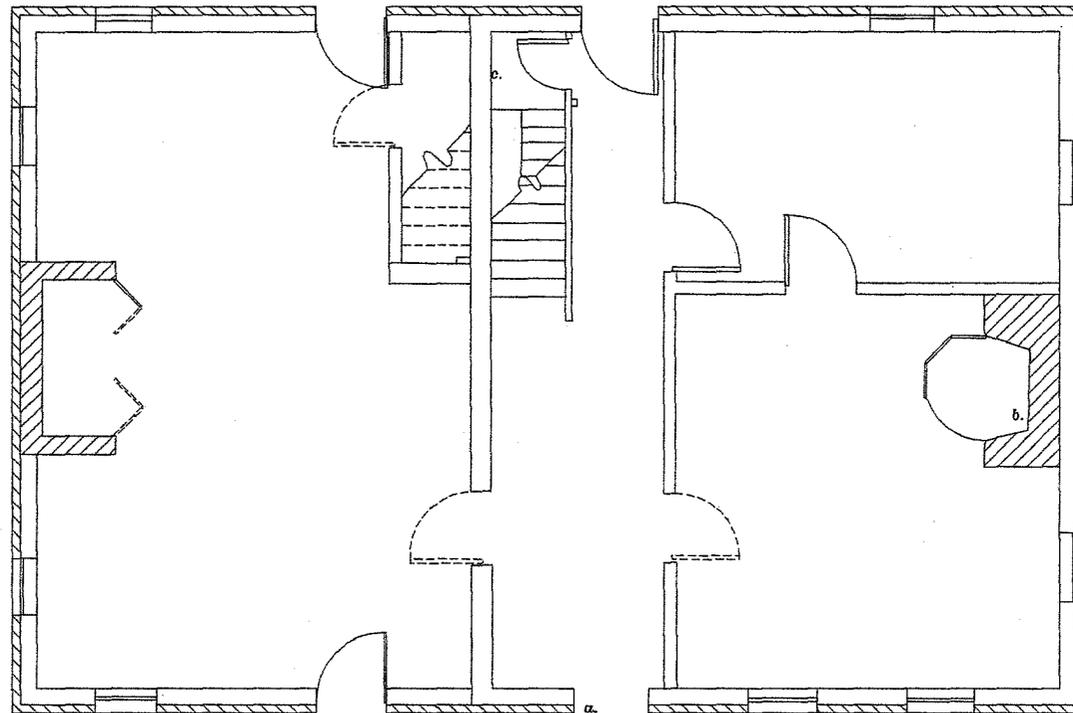
Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 3

Rogers sold the house to Jacob Wine and Wine's son-in-law Andrew Smeach. Two years later Jacob Wine died, leaving his half of the farm to Andrew Smeach in his will. Smeach seems to have been a very successful farmer during his tenure. In 1852, his livestock was worth \$352. Fourteen years later it was valued at \$816. In addition, he had farm machinery worth \$251 and produce on hand valued at a very high \$380. The furnishings in his house, which had been valued at only \$84 in the earlier assessment, were now worth \$323. There was a frame barn on the property, which may well have been the new Switzer Barn mentioned in the 1843 ad. Smeach died in February 1870. His farm was stocked with two horses, two mares, a foal and a colt, five cows, a bull, three calves, three heifers, eight shoats, a boar, a sow, five pigs, eight sheep and lambs, and an interest in three hives of bees. Along with the innumerable typical farm tools, Smeach owned a horse-powered threshing machine, which must have cut down on the farm labor at a time when many farmers were still threshing their wheat by hand. The house was filled with eight beds, the typical furniture including the ubiquitous corner cupboard, and a cooking stove. Perhaps the most intriguing item in the inventory of Smeach's property is the lot of brick valued at \$50.00. At that rate, there was probably around ten thousand bricks (in 1879 brick sold for \$5.50 per thousand in Union Bridge). This suggests that Smeach intended to brick-case his log house when he died. Smeach's widow, Ann, must have had the work completed because in the 1876 tax assessment it was noted that she had a two-story brick dwelling worth \$800. Unfortunately, when the farm was finally advertised for sale in 1879, it was described merely as having ". . . a good dwelling House, large Switzer barn, and all the other necessary out-buildings usually found on a first class farm." The 1876 tax assessment also suggests that Ann Smeach and her children continued to farm the land, as she owned four horses, five cattle, eight sheep and eight hogs.

The farm was purchased in 1881 by William K. Leppo. Leppo was probably responsible for constructing many of the existing farm out-buildings during his tenure. The barn, which is built of circular-sawn heavy timber, has the dates 1890 and 1907 painted all over the granary. The former was probably the date of construction and the latter a repainting done by Scott Sullivan, William Sullivan, Roy Zahn and Charlie Dickensheets, all of Frizzellburg. The tax assessments list no changes during William Leppo's ownership, nor that of Robert Leppo, who purchased the farm in 1909 and sold it three years later. Jonas Lippy owned it until 1934, when the property joined many other tracts in the vicinity owned by the Myers family and leased to tenant farmers. This continued until 1987, when the current owner bought the house and out-buildings, along with twenty-one acres.





a. Front door now blocked off  
no evidence visible to indicate  
original swing of door.

b. Interior plastered.

c. Log walls exposed hear.

note: late, enclosed porch on  
rear not shown.

Prepared by: Carroll County Department of Planning

CARR  
1322

Mathias-Smeach Farm-House  
3535 Backwoods Rd.

First Floor  
Plan

April 1993  
Kenneth M. Short

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 FEET



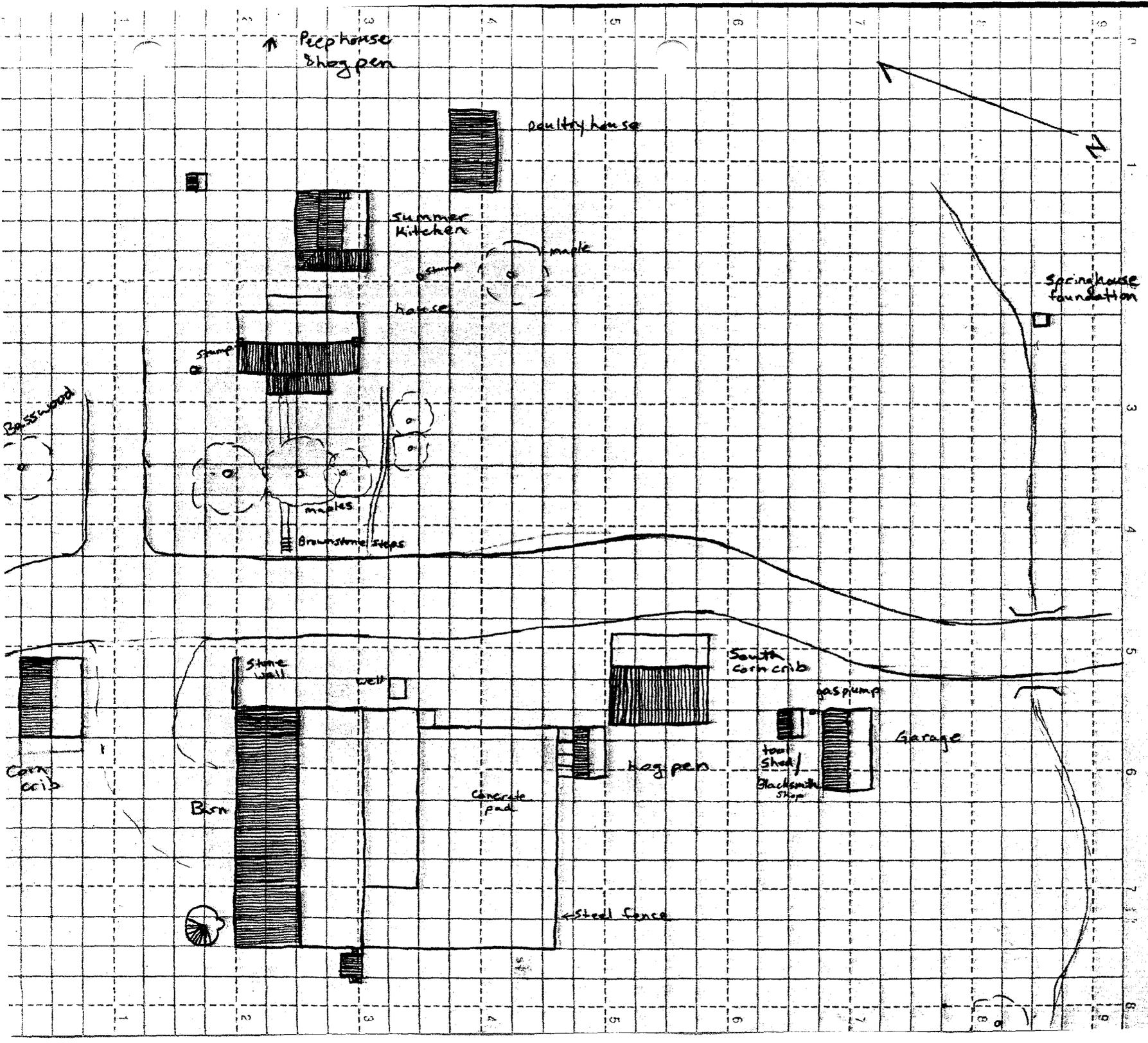
3535 BACKWOODS RD  
Site Plan

CARR-1322

PREPARED BY  
DATE

KMS

15 Oct '80



CARR-1322  
Mathias-Smeach Farm  
3535 Backwoods Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
J. Frank Powl & Henrietta Myers Miller, trustees for Edna Powl Myers Mudge	Adams	George Edward Warehime	?	10-20-1987	1053	677	Deed fee simple	\$85,000, 21.4 a. part of parcel #5, tract #2 of 175+ a.
Robert P. Myers & J. Frank Powl, reps. of Edna Powl Myers Mudge	?	J. Frank Powl & Henrietta Myers Miller, trustees	?	11-17-1968	<u>Wills</u> LWS 968	210	Bequest	
Jones M. Lippy, widower	Carroll	Clinton N. Myers	York	11-5-1934	EMM 161	368	Deed fee simple	\$10, 182+ a. part of Palentine & Gotham 175+ a. & part of Big Meadow Resurveyed 7 a.
Robert E. & Alverta L. Leppo (wife)	Carroll	Jona M. & Clara M. Lippy (wife)	?	3-29-1912	ODG 119	143	Deed fee simple	\$10,500 part of Palentine, Gotham, & Big Meadow Resurveyed 182+ a.
William K. Leppo & Amelia C. (wife)	Carroll	Robert E. & Alverta L. Leppo (wife)	?	4-1-1909	DPS 111	187	Deed fee simple	\$9000

CARR-1322  
Mathias-Smeach Farm  
3535 Backwoods Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

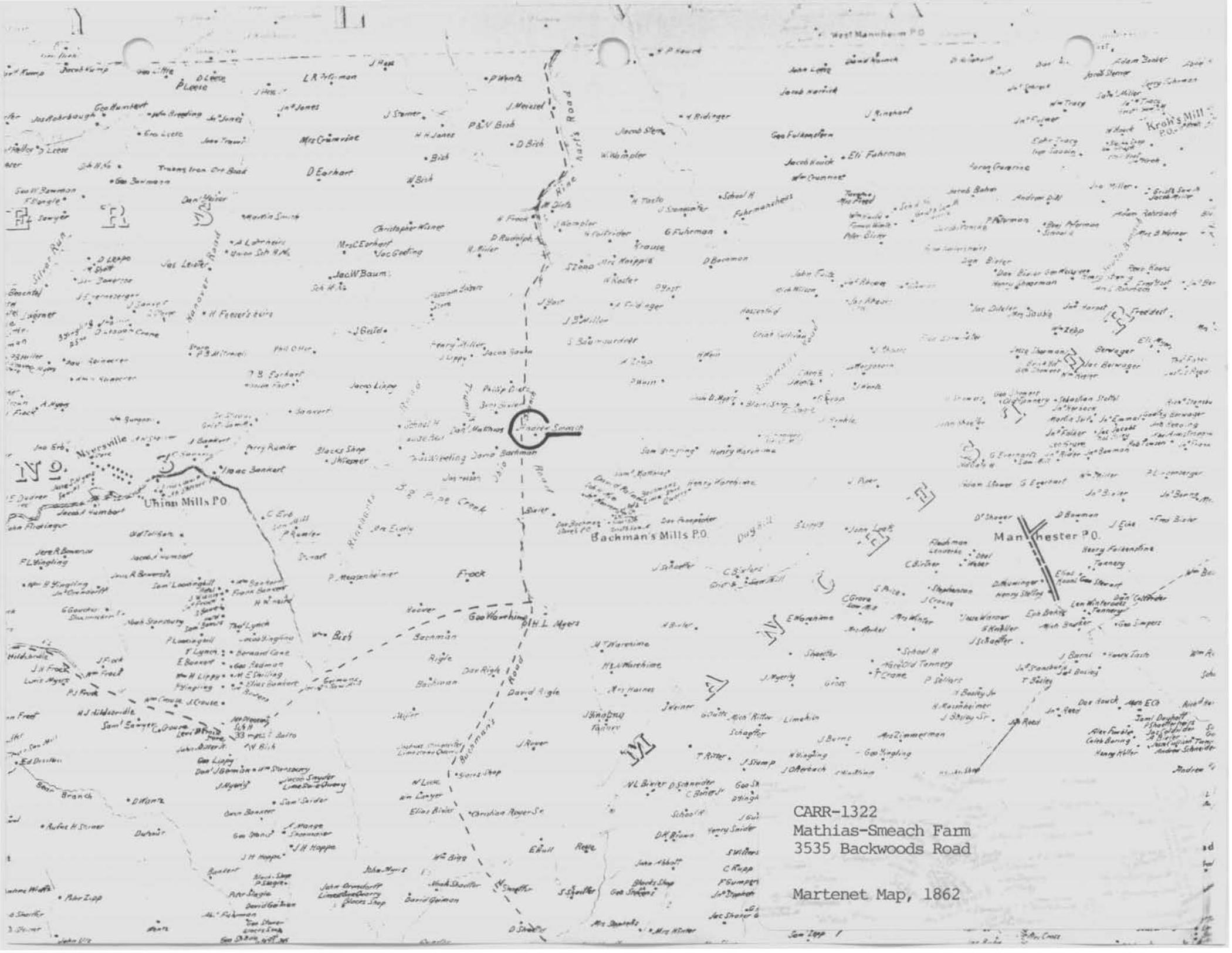
GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
Philip H.L. Myers, trustee for Andrew Smeach	Carroll	William K. Leppo	?	4-5-1881	FTS 55	104	Deed	Andrew Smeach dec. - intestate Equity #1869. 26 Feb. 1879, Andrew Smeach et al v. Ann Marie Smeach, et al 175 a. & 7 a. sold 27 Sept. last \$5478.75
Jacob Wine	Carroll	Andrew Smeach	Carroll	22 Aug. 1854, 11 Sept. 1854	<u>Wills</u>		Bequest	½ interest
Nathan & Eunio Rogers (wife)	Baltimore City	Jacob Wine & Andrew Smeach	Carroll	4-7-1852	JBB 13	416	Deed	\$5113.50, 175 a. & 7 a.
Philip H.L. Myers exec. to Samuel W. Myers	Carroll	Nathan Rogers	Baltimore City	4-15-1844	JS 3	236	Deed	will - 17 Mar. 1843, JB1-265, \$3469.878, 175 a. & 7 a. probated 15 May 1843

CARR-1322  
 Mathias-Smeach Farm  
 3535 Backwoods Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

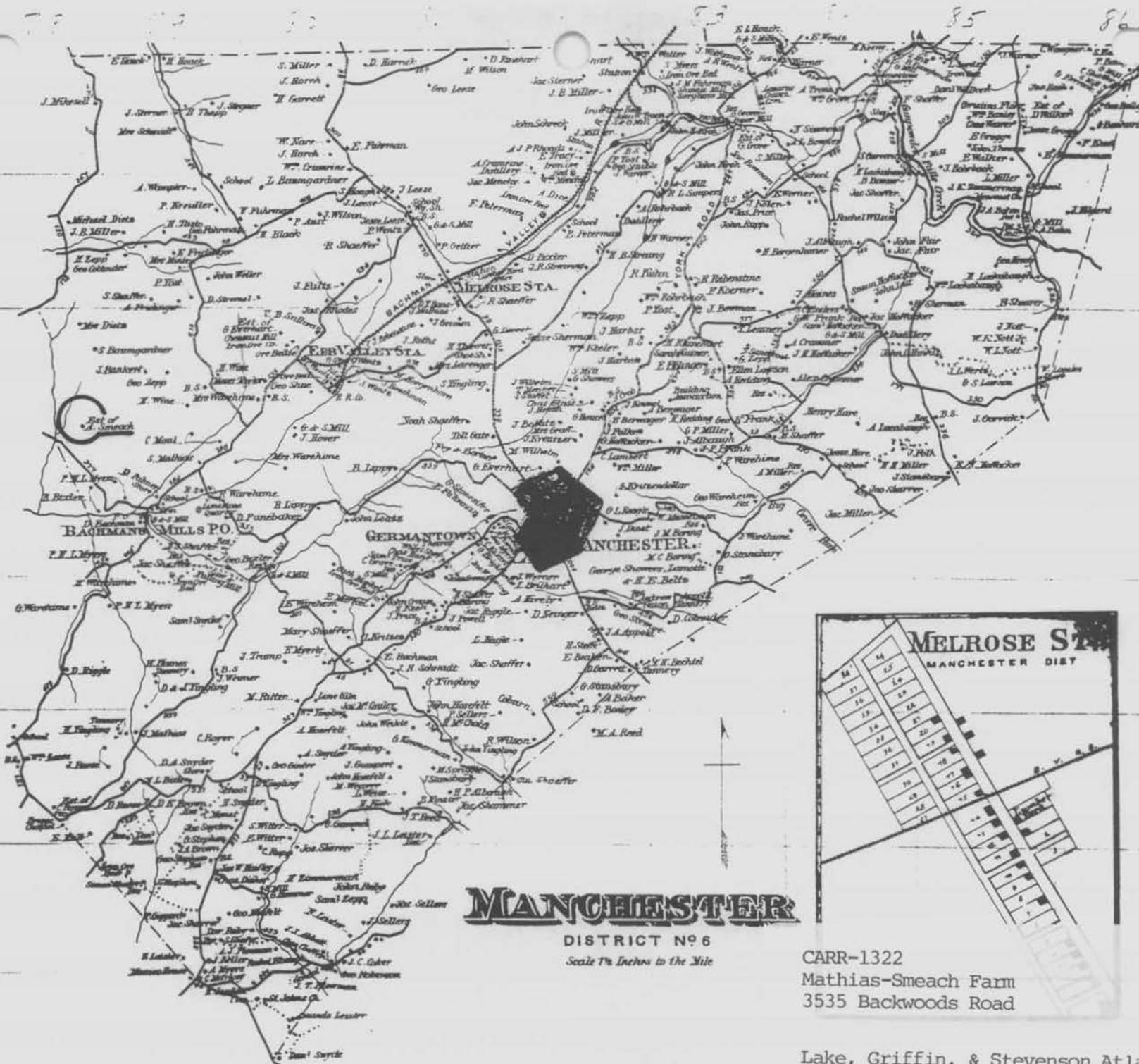
GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
John Henry Hoppe, trustee for Henry Mathias, dec.	Carroll	Samuel W. Myers	Carroll	4-14-1838	WW 2	150	Indenture	Fred. Co. Equity, 9 Jan. 1834 sold 21 Feb. 1834, \$1837.66, 175 a. & 7 a. [no previous ref.]
Joseph Mathias	Frederick	Henry Mathias	Frederick	2-10-1801	WR 20	467	Deed Indenture	£130 Palentine, 170 ½ a.
Robert Walsh, merchant	Baltimore town	Joseph Mathias, farmer	Frederick	3-27-1788	WR 8	83	Deed Indenture	Palentine, 457 a., £300

KS/lh:1322titl.



CARR-1322  
 Mathias-Smeach Farm  
 3535 Backwoods Road

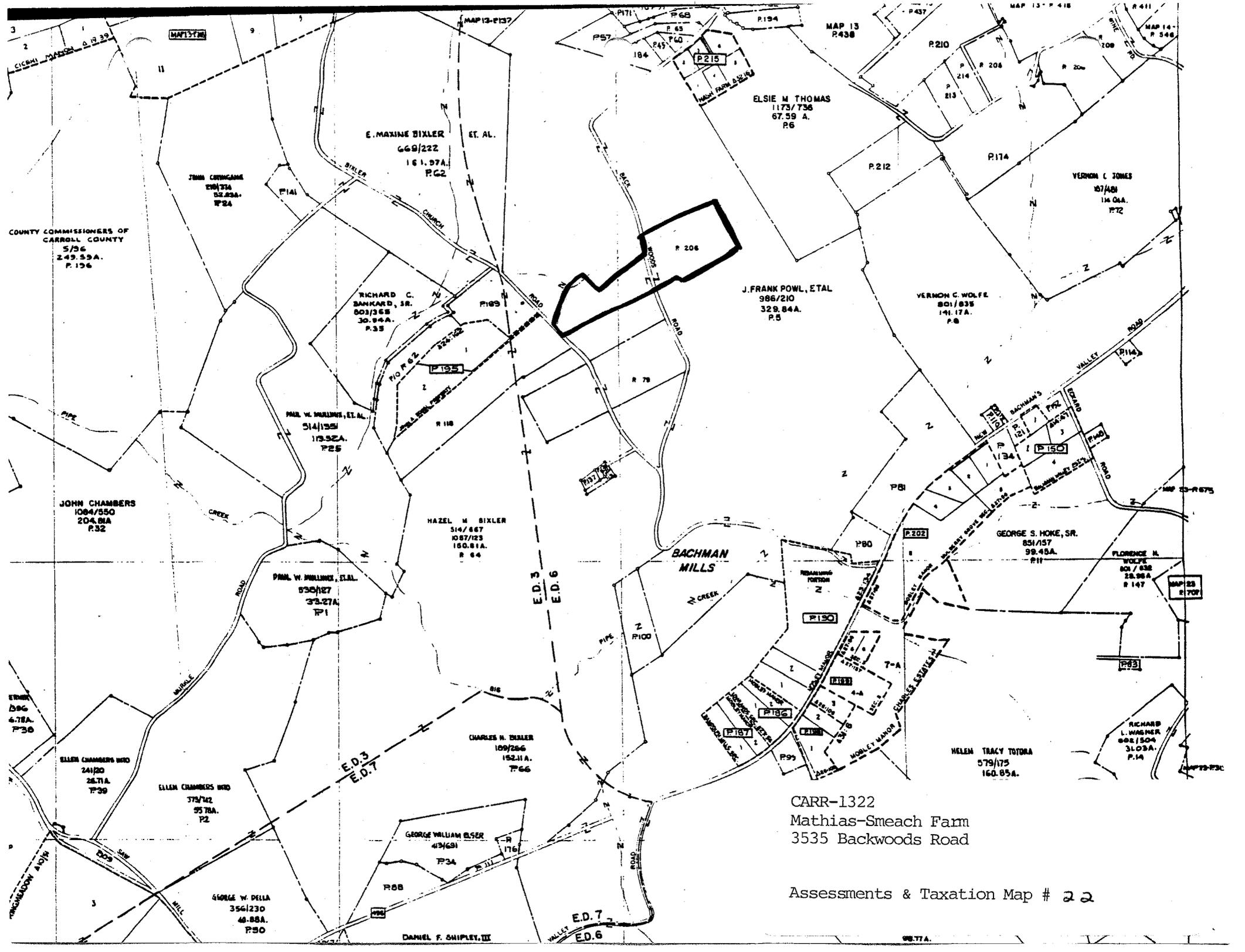
Martenet Map, 1862



# MANCHESTER

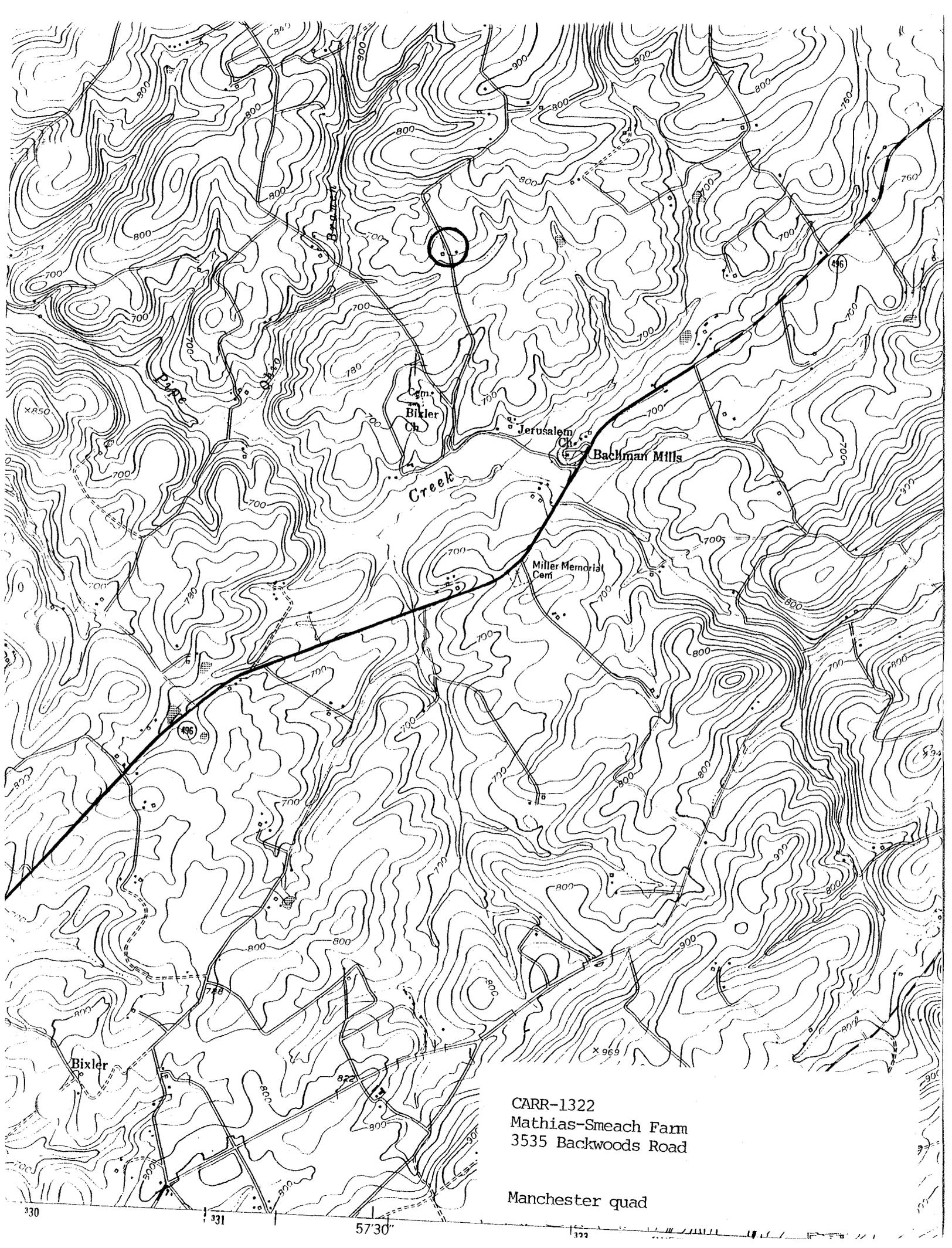
DISTRICT NO. 6  
Scale 1/4 Inch to the Mile

CARR-1322  
Mathias-Smeach Farm  
3535 Backwoods Road



CARR-1322  
Mathias-Smeach Farm  
3535 Backwoods Road

Assessments & Taxation Map # 22



CARR-1322  
Mathias-Smeach Farm  
3535 Backwoods Road

Manchester quad

330 331 57'30" 332



Mathias - SMEACH FARM

3535 Backwoods Road  
Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Skort

Date: October 1992

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
house - north & west elevations

1/7



Mathias - Smeach Farm

CAK12-1322

3535 Backwoods Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: October 1992

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Summerhouse - north elevation

2/7



Mathias - Smeach Farm CHRX-1322

3535 Backwoods Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: October 1992

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

barn - east: north elevations

3/2



CHARV-1322

Mathias-Snieach Farm

3535 Backwoods Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: October 1992

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

barn - south elevation



3535 Backwoods Road  
Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: October 1992

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
corn crib - south : east elevations

5/7

Mathias-Smeach Farm



Mathias-Smeach Farm

CHM - 1302

3535 Backwoods Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: October 1992

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

north. corn crib - upper story interior - view  
west

6/7



Mathias-Smeach Farm

3535 Backwoods Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Shurt

Date: October 1992

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

South. corner: hog pen - east & north  
elevations

7/2