

CARR-1405

843 South Main Street
Hampstead

1834-35; 1901-02

Summary:

The John Fisher House in Hampstead is located on what was originally two one-acre lots. The first was purchased by Fisher in August, 1834 for \$20. John Fisher is identified in one deed as a stone mason. In July, 1835 the Fisher's mortgaged their property "for cash advanced by the said Battis Branson to him the said John Fisher as also for materials furnished by said Battis Branson for him the said John Fisher in the construction of the dwelling house of said John Fisher" Thus it would appear that the existing log house was constructed in 1834-35. It is reasonable to assume that Fisher did the stonework for his house himself. The property was purchased by Daniel Null in 1843. In 1866 Null had listed among his assessment \$40 worth of tools. According to the 1876 tax his occupation was blacksmithing, as at that time the lot held "1 Two Story Log dwelling, 1 Log Barn, 1 Blacksmith Shop, some few outbuildings". The 1862 map does not indicate a blacksmith shop on the site, but the 1877 map does. Null retained the house until 1901. The sale in that year to John J. Abbott brought only \$770, suggesting that the additions and alterations had not been made at that time. Abbott seems to have embarked on them immediately, as the tax assessments note improvements to the property, valued at \$275, in 1902. The house is currently being dismantled.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CARR-1405

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John Fisher House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 843 South Main Street

not for publication

city, town Hampstead

vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Carroll

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: dismantled

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

name Bernard & Kathryn Sieverts

street & number 1313 North Main Street

telephone no.:

city, town Hampstead

state and zip code Maryland 21074

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex

liber CCC 415

street & number 55 North Court Street

folio 618

city, town Westminster

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1405

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

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

Summary:

The John Fisher House is located at 843 South Main Street in Hampstead, in northeastern Carroll County, Maryland. The house is a three-bay by one-bay, two-story structure with a rubble stone foundation, log walls with V-notch cornering, and a corrugated metal gable roof. It is currently being dismantled. There is an ell attached to the east elevation. It is a two-story, two-bay by one-bay structure with a standing-seam metal gable roof. The west elevation on the first story had a centered doorway with a window on either side. The second story had three windows. The windows in the log section were 2/2 double-hung sash with mortised-and-tenoned-and pegged joints. The rafters are 3/4-round logs that are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge. The rafter feet are cut off and spiked to the end floor board with one large nail. There is a winder stair in the northwest corner that leads to the attic. The first story of the ell has an enclosed dog-leg stair along the west wall with one room to the east. The addition appears to have 2 x 4 stud construction. The second story has a north-south passage along the west wall with one room to the east. The ell attic rafters are circular sawn and are mitered at the ridge. A few feet south of the house is a summer kitchen, which is one story and two bays by two bays. It has a concrete foundation, German siding with corner boards, and a gable roof. The summer kitchen appears to be of circular-sawn 2 x 4 construction and has German siding on the interior. The rafters are mitered at the ridge.

Contributing Resources: 2

The John Fisher House is located at 843 South Main Street in Hampstead, in northeastern Carroll County, Maryland. The house is located on the east side of the road and faces west toward the road. The house is a three-bay by one-bay, two-story structure with a rubble stone foundation, log walls with V-notch cornering, and a corrugated metal gable roof with a north-south ridge. It is currently being dismantled. Much of the siding has been removed from the log structure already. The interior walls and floor have also been removed. There is an ell attached to the east elevation. The ell has hexagonal asphalt shingle siding over top of novelty siding with cornerboards. It is a two-story, two-bay by one-bay structure with a standing-seam metal gable roof that has an east-to-west running ridge.

The west elevation on the first story had a centered doorway with a window on either side. The second story had three windows. The windows in the log section were 2/2 double-hung sash with mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged joints. The logs are hewn on both sides and the chinking between the logs is wood on the lower half. From below the second floor level up to the eaves, the chinking is primarily of stone with some wood. The north elevation on the first story has a door set east of center. The second story has a window set east of center. There is an interior brick chimney centered on this end and a wood box cornice survives here. Closer inspection of this box cornice reveals that it is wire-nailed and that it covers a portion of a smaller, earlier box cornice. No details could be determined

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

about the earlier cornice. The gable-end wall has been completely removed. The south elevation of the main block has one window opening centered on both the first and second stories. The gable end wall has also been removed on this elevation. The south elevation first-story window jambs have two thin boards on each side. These boards are $2\frac{3}{8}$ to 3 inches wide by $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch thick and are nailed to the log ends with cut nails. The window sill is circular sawn. This and the other window openings were probably enlarged and altered at a later date. On the east elevation of the log section there is a window opening in the north bay that was later closed off when the ell was added. This window opening appears to be original. The jambs are notched out at the top to follow the rounded contour of the bottom of the log above them. There are large spikes through the jamb boards into the log ends. These spikes appear to have wrought heads. The jamb boards are approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick. Both the center and south bays of the east elevation of this log section have doorways. The south bay of the east elevation is not covered by the later ell addition. The siding is in situ and there are vertical nailers attached to the logs. The clapboard is attached to them with cut nails. The bottom of each clapboard is notched on the back side so that it laps over the top corner of the clapboard beneath it. The logs also retain some whitewash on the exterior, suggesting that that was the original finish.

On the interior of the log section, in the cellar, there were two small window openings on the west elevation and one on the south elevation, set to the west. There was a stone fireplace in the cellar centered on the north wall. The first-story joists are hewn on top and bottom. They run east-west and are set in pockets in the stone foundation. These joists are 8 to 9 inches wide by 6 to 7 inches deep and are spaced between 19 and 30 inches on centers. On the first story, the interior of the logs is whitewashed and there was vertical split lath attached with cut nails. Most of the plaster and lath has been removed, as has the flooring. The ceiling was also lathed and plastered. There is no whitewash on the bottom sides of the joists. The second-floor joists also run east-west. They are hewn on all four sides and are set between two courses of logs. Neither the logs nor the joists are notched anywhere to hold them in place. The second floor also had vertical lath and a plastered ceiling. In addition, there were studs set south of center for a wall that ran east-west. In the log section, the second story, east elevation, north bay has the same arrangement as on the first story. This window opening was converted to a door at a later date. The bottom of the jamb board has the same "V"-cut that roughly follows the profile of the round log as can be found on the top of the jamb board on the first story.

There is a winder stair in the northwest corner that leads to the attic. The attic has mill-sawn, random-width floor boards that run north-south. The boards alternate between those with a tongue on each side and those with a groove on each side, and they are face-nailed with cut nails. The second story joists are 5 to $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep and are spaced 23 to $26\frac{1}{2}$ inches on centers. The log section attic joists project about 1 foot beyond the face of the wall. They appear to rest on the top log, but do not appear to be connected to it in any manner, and the ends appear to be hewn on the top and bottom only. The joist ends project beyond the outer face of the west wall, thus, the westernmost floor board also projects beyond this floor board, as do the rafter feet that are attached to this floor board. The rafters are $\frac{3}{4}$ -round logs that are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge. They have sawn Roman numerals and support mill-sawn lath and circular-sawn wood shingles that

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 3

are attached with cut nails. There are diagonal lath wind braces notched into the rafters at the corners. The rafter feet are cut off and spiked to the end floor board with one large nail. The rafters are hewn on the top side and are 3 to 4½ inches in diameter. They are spaced 21½ to 27 inches on centers. The lath is spaced 8 inches on centers.

The north elevation of the ell on the first story has a boarded-up window in the east bay and no opening in the west bay. The second story has two 2/2 sash, the west one is smaller. There is a wood box cornice with a fascia board underneath of it. The east elevation of the ell on the first story has no opening. There is a shed-roof, one-story addition set to the south. It has a standing-seam roof and hexagonal asphalt-shingle siding. The second story has a window opening set south of center. The south elevation of the ell has an enclosed porch.

The first story of the ell has an enclosed dog-leg stair along the west wall with one room to the east. There is a fireplace centered on the east wall that is closed off. The wood mantle has plain pilaster strips, a beaded interior edge, and a plain frieze. There is a beaded-edge, vertical-board door that leads to a closet underneath of the stairs. The architraves have a beaded interior edge. The walls are plastered and have circular-sawn lath with cut nails. The addition appears to have 2 x 4 stud construction.

The second story has a north-south passage along the west wall with one room to the east. This room has a four-panel door that has sunk fields and small ogee panel moulds. The pine floor is 3 inches wide and runs east-west. There is a railing at the top of the stairs that has a square newel and rectangular-in-plan vertical balusters. There appears to be an original projecting pantry on the first story with a closet above it on the second story on the south elevation in the southeast corner.

The ell attic rafters are circular sawn and are 1⅞ to 2⅞ inches wide by 3½ to 4 inches deep. They are spaced 24 inches on centers and are mitered at the ridge. The rafters support re-used boards that act as lath, and circular-sawn shingles. The attic joists are not accessible.

A few feet south of the house is a summer kitchen, which is one story and two bays by two bays. It has a concrete foundation, German siding with corner boards, and a gable roof of corrugated metal with an east-west ridge. The west elevation has a beaded-edge-and-center vertical-board door in the center and a window opening to the south. There is also a window opening in the gable end. The window frames have a beaded interior edge. The south elevation has two boarded-up openings. The north elevation has a vertical-board door set to the east. The summer kitchen appears to be of circular-sawn 2 x 4 construction and has German siding on the interior. The rafters are mitered at the ridge.

8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-1405

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1834-35; 1901-02 **Builder/Architect** John Fisher, mason?

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 John Fisher House in Hampstead is located on what was originally two one-acre lots. The first was purchased by Fisher in August, 1834 for \$20. John Fisher is identified in one deed as a stone mason. In July, 1835 the Fisher's mortgaged their property "for cash advanced by the said Battis Branson to him the said John Fisher as also for materials furnished by said Battis Branson for him the said John Fisher in the construction of the dwelling house of said John Fisher" Thus it would appear that the existing log house was constructed in 1834-35. It is reasonable to assume that Fisher did the stonework for his house himself. The property was purchased by Daniel Null in 1843. In 1866 Null had listed among his assessment \$40 worth of tools. According to the 1876 tax his occupation was blacksmithing, as at that time the lot held "1 Two Story Log dwelling, 1 Log Barn, 1 Blacksmith Shop, some few outbuildings". The 1862 map does not indicate a blacksmith shop on the site, but the 1877 map does. Null retained the house until 1901. The sale in that year to John J. Abbott brought only \$770, suggesting that the additions and alterations had not been made at that time. Abbott seems to have embarked on them immediately, as the tax assessments note improvements to the property, valued at \$275, in 1902. The house is currently being dismantled.

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

The John Fisher House in Hampstead is located on what was originally two one-acre lots. The first was purchased by Fisher in August, 1834 for \$20 and the second his wife, Elizabeth, bought in May, 1835 for \$15. In the latter deed, John Fisher is identified as a

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 2

stone mason. In July, 1835 the Fishers mortgaged their property to Battis Branson of Baltimore County. That document stated:

Whereas the said John Fisher stands duly indebted to the aforesaid Battis Branson in the full and just sum of one hundred and five dollars current money "for cash advanced by the said Battis Branson to him the said John Fisher as also for materials furnished by said Battis Branson for him the said John Fisher in the construction of the dwelling house of said John Fisher. . . ."

Thus, it would appear that the existing log house was constructed in 1834-35. It is reasonable to assume that Fisher did the stonework for his house himself. Less clear is whether Branson was involved in the construction or just lent money and materials to finance it. Most likely it was the latter, since records indicate that Branson owned lots in Baltimore City, but seems not to have owned many tools. He died in 1841, and his inventory records two desks and a lot of books, but only one saw frame, three old axes, a maul, a ladder, an iron square, and some boards. Branson also owned a house and lot in Hampstead, and was a resident of Carroll County when he died.

The mortgage the Fishers made required them to pay back the loan by 30 July 1838. They did not comply, and Branson's wife and executor, Mary, was forced to take it to High Chancery Court in 1842. The property was ordered to be sold, and at that time it was noted that ". . . the improvements on said property consist of a TWO STORY LOG HOUSE." The property was purchased by Daniel Null; in 1852, its value was \$800, indicating a house that was pretty much average for the period. By 1866 Null had added 20 more acres, presumably adjacent to this land. Listed among his assessments were \$40 worth of tools. If he was living in town, and with so little land, he must have had a trade or profession, which the possession of the tools indicates. According to the 1876 tax assessment, it was blacksmithing, as at that time the 22 acres held "1 Two Story Log Dwelling, 1 Log Barn, 1 Blacksmith Shop, some few outbuildings." The dwelling was worth \$300 and the barn and outbuildings another \$200. The 1862 map does not indicate a blacksmith shop on the site, but the 1877 map does.

For the next twenty years Null sold off portions of his tract, but retained one acre with the house until 1901. The sale in that year to John J. Abbott brought only \$770, suggesting that the additions and alterations had not been made at that time. Abbott seems to have embarked on them immediately, as the tax assessments note improvements to the property, valued at \$275, in 1902. An early-twentieth-century photograph of the site shows its transformation, with jigsawn brackets on the front porch, a wood shingle roof on the house but standing seam metal on the front porch, a pump at the front corner of the house, a garden surrounded by wire fencing to the south, right alongside Main Street, a grape arbor, some fruit trees, a large shade tree along the street with a whitewashed trunk, a small

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM**

Survey No. CARR-1405

Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 3

outbuilding that may be a privy or smokehouse near the back corner of the projecting pantry, and a barn in the distance.

John Abbott's occupation is unknown. He purchased a 97-acre farm in 1897, but sold it when he purchased this Hampstead property. At that time he had livestock worth only \$65 and private securities of \$1,400, suggesting that he was never a farmer. He sold the Fisher house in 1914. The house is currently being dismantled and the log section may be moved or stored for later re-erection.

KS/lh:12-20-94:Carr1405.sig

CARR-1405
 John Fisher House
 843 South Main Street - Hampstead

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
Ella Naomi Bucher, widow	Carroll	Bernard L. & Kathryn W. Sieverts (wife)	Carroll	12-28-1966	CCC 415	618	Deed fee simple	\$5.00, 1.67 acres, 4 lots & remaining portion Martin d. 5-26-1929 - left to Mary Martin for life, and to grantor
George W. Martin & Mary A. (wife)	Carroll	Herbert W. & Ella Naomi Bucher (wife)	Carroll	4-25-1924	EMM 143	416	Deed fee simple	\$5.00 lot: (1) 13,317 sq. ft. (2) 13,275 sq. ft. (3) 20,132 sq. ft. (4) 12,900 sq. ft.
John J. Abbott & Lucinda (wife)	Carroll	George W. Martin	Carroll	1-29-1914	ODG 123	506	Deed fee simple	\$5.00, 1 acre, 2 r, 27 sq. p.
Daniel Null	Carroll	John J. & Lucinda Abbott (wife)	Carroll	2-23-1901	JHB 93	69	Deed fee simple	\$770, 1 acre, 2 r, 27 p.

CARR-1405
John Fisher House
843 South Main Street - Hampstead

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
William H. Kennard, trustee	Baltimore City	Daniel Null	Carroll	12-6-1843	JS 3	172	Deed Indenture	High Chancery Court, 9-7-1842, Mary Branson exec. of Battis Branson v. Eliz. Fisher, et al sale 11-22-1842, \$197, 2 tracts, part of Spring Garden & Landoff (1) 1 a. 21 p. (2) 1 a. 2½ sq. p.

CARR-1405
 John Fisher House
 843 South Main Street - Hampstead

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
John & Elizabeth Fisher (wife)	Baltimore County	Battis Branson	Baltimore County	7-30-1835	<u>Baltimore</u> <u>Co.</u> TK 253	177	mortgage Indenture	2 tracts - Spring Garden & Landoff (1) 1 a. 21 p. (2) 1 a. 2½ sq. p. "Whereas the said John Fisher stands duly indebted to the aforesaid Battis Branson in the full and just sum of one hundred and five dollars current money for cash advanced by the said Battis Branson to him the said John Fisher as also for materials furnished by said Battis Branson for him the said John Fisher in the construction of the dwelling house of said John Fisher"

CARR-1405
John Fisher House
843 South Main Street - Hampstead

CHAIN OF TITLE

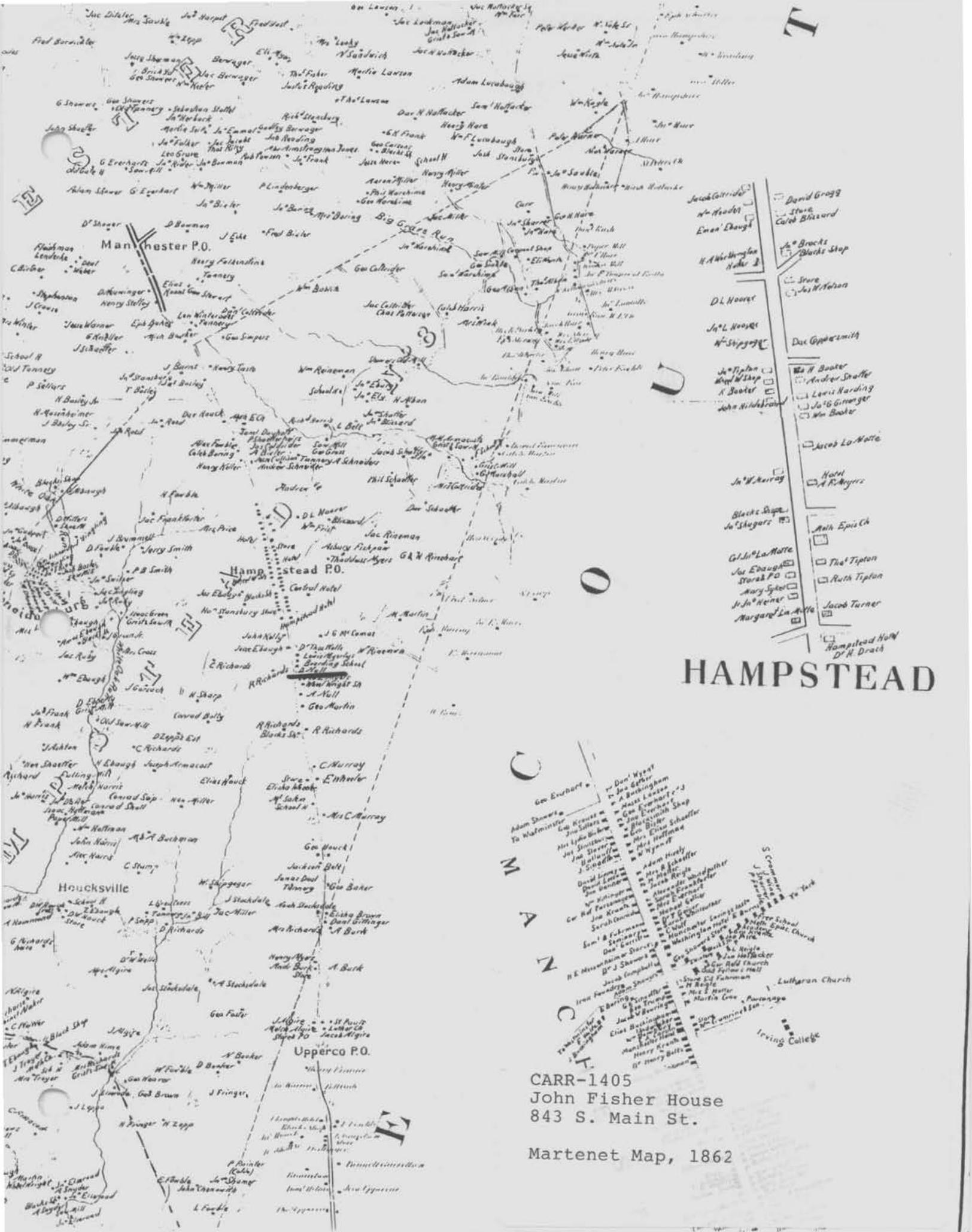
GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
John Murray, Jr. & Sarah (wife)	Baltimore County	Elizabeth Fisher (wife of John Fisher, stone mason)	Baltimore County	5-18-1835	<u>Baltimore County</u> TK 258	184	Deed Indenture	\$15, Spring Garden 1 a. 21 sq. p. (1)
Richard Richards, Sr.	Baltimore County	John Fisher	Baltimore County	8-30-1834	<u>Baltimore County</u> TK 243	420	Deed Indenture	\$20, Landoff 1 a. 2½ sq. p. (2)

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CARR-1405
John Fisher House
843 S. Main St.

Photograph printed in:
Carroll County Times
"Neighborhoods of North Carroll"
18 August 1994, p.4



HAMPSTEAD

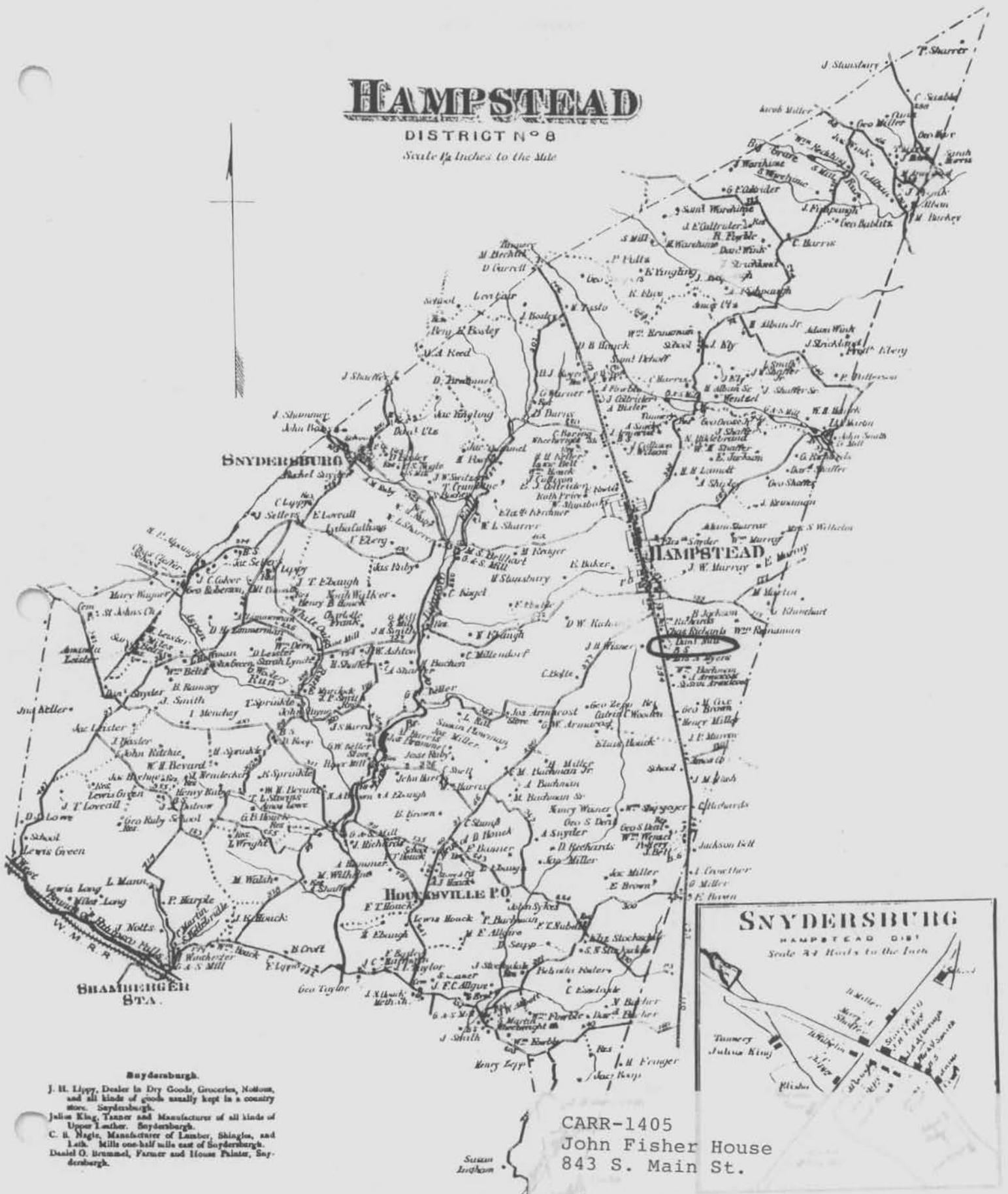
CARR-1405
 John Fisher House
 843 S. Main St.

Martenet Map, 1862

HAMPSTEAD

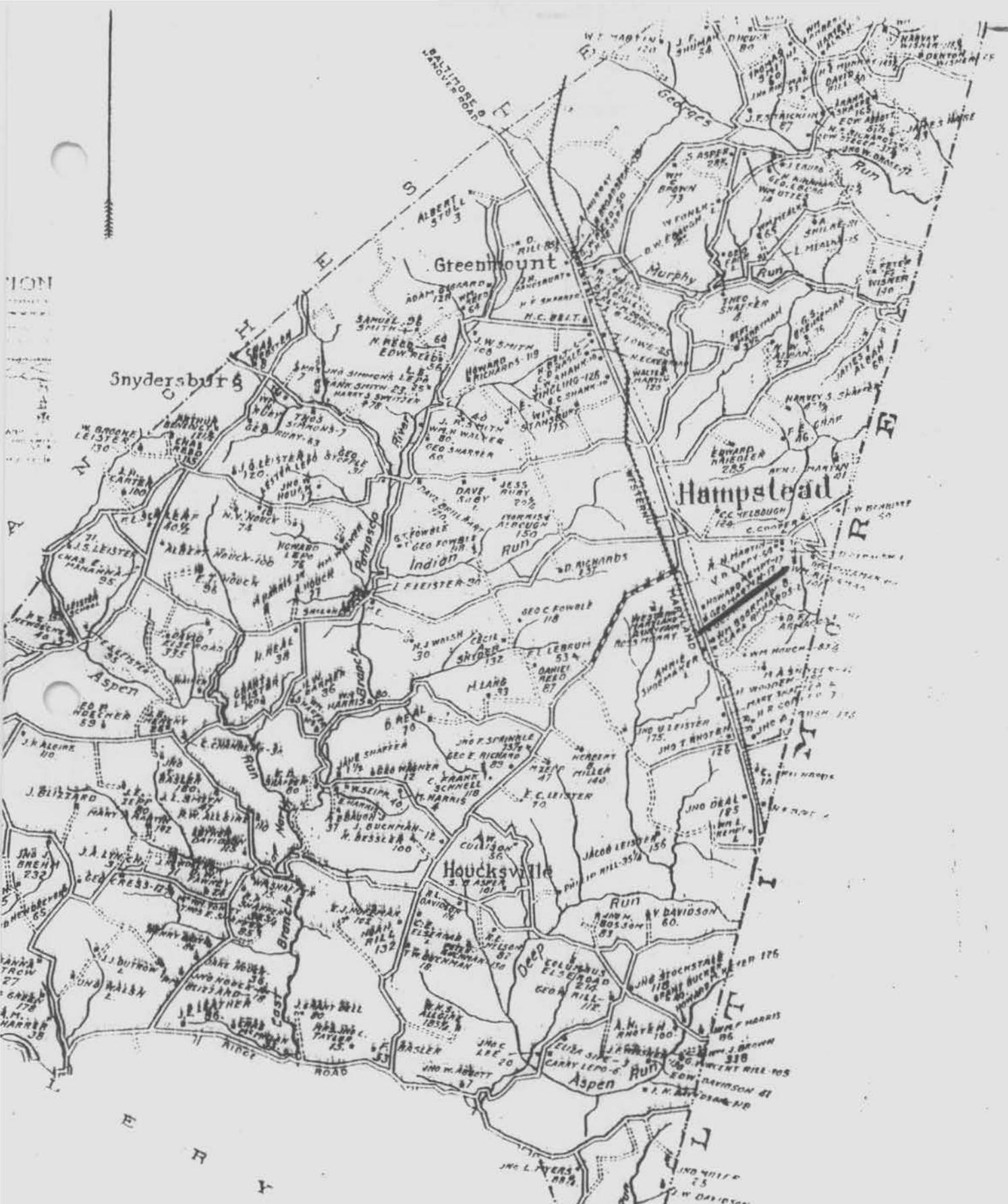
DISTRICT N° 8

Scale 1/4 Inches to the Mile



Snyderburgh.
 J. H. Lipp, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, and all kinds of goods usually kept in a country store. Snyderburgh.
 Julius King, Tanner and Manufacturer of all kinds of Upper Leather. Snyderburgh.
 C. B. Nagle, Manufacturer of Lumber, Shingles, and Lath. Mills one-half mile east of Snyderburgh.
 Daniel O. Brummel, Farmer and House Painter, Snyderburgh.

CARR-1405
 John Fisher House
 843 S. Main St.



CARR-1405
 John Fisher House
 843 S. Main St.



CARR-1405
John Fisher House
843 S. Main St.
Hampstead quad



John Fisher House

843 S. Main St. - Hampstead

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Shost

Date: July 1994

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

north and west elevations

1/5



CARR-1405

John Fisher House

843 South Main Street - Hampstead

Carroll County, Maryland

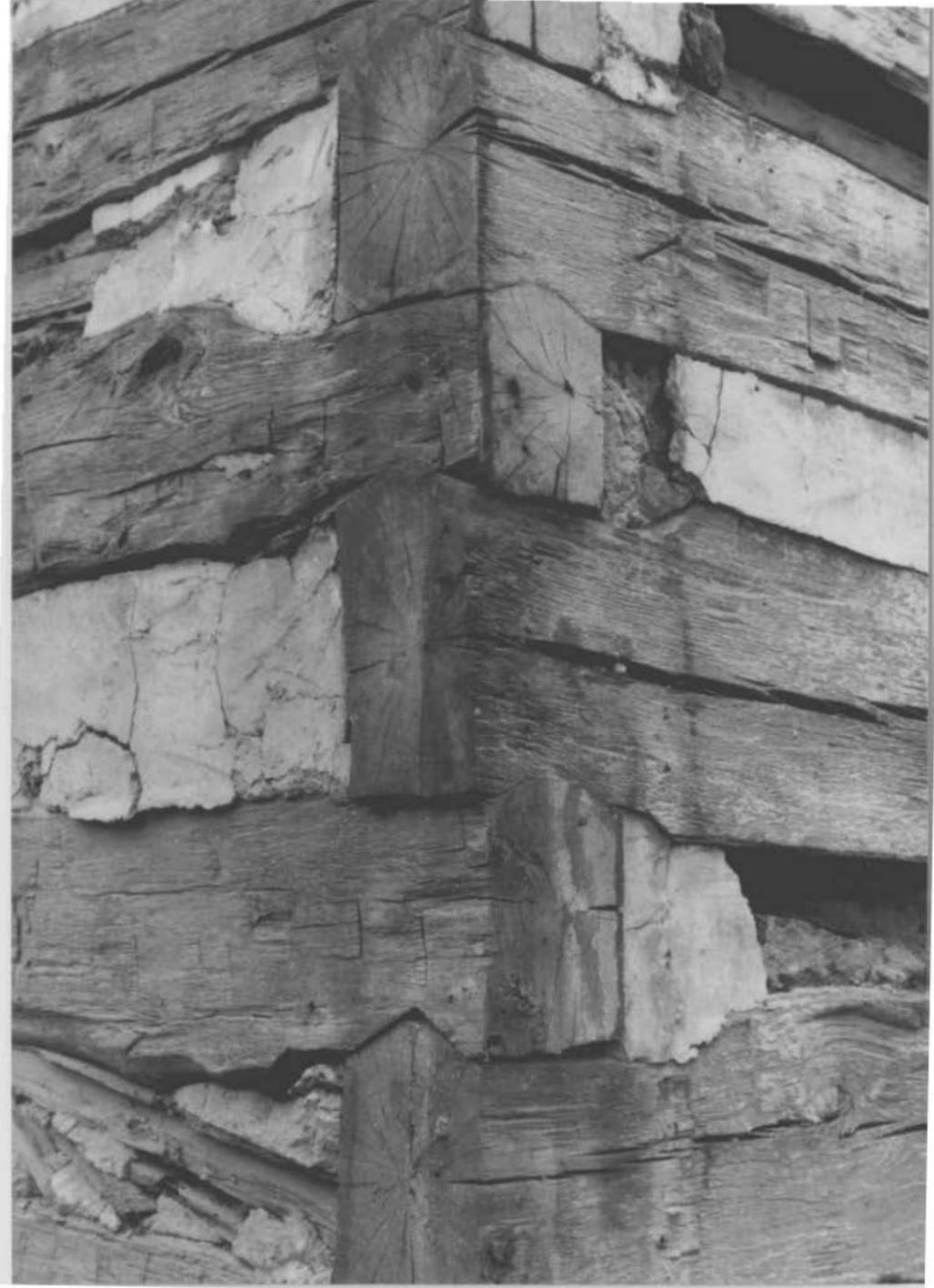
Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: July 1994

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

South elevation - house & summer kitchen

DC OVER N 111111 2 17 33



CARR. 1405

John Fisher House

843 South Main Street - Hampstead

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: July, 1994

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
northwest corner detail



John Fisher House

843 South Main St. - Hampstead

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: July, 1994

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

1st story interior - view north

8/15



John Fisher House

843 South Main St. - Hampstead

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: July 1977

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
attic ridge joint

7/5