

CARR-1554

2932 Sykesville Road, Gamber Vicinity

Summary:

The existing records for the Davis Family Farm create more questions than they give answers. John Davis first acquired the land in 1837 from Isaac Cassell of Know County, Ohio. Cassell was probably a Carroll Countian who had moved west shortly before the actual creation of the County. The farm was in two tracts, one of 148 acres and the other of 104 acres. Together, the purchase price was \$250, or about \$1 an acre. The price is very low, even for poor quality land with little or no improvements, and one wonders whether there were circumstances that are not explained by the documents.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CARR-1554

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Davis Family Farm

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 2932 Sykesville Road  not for publication

city, town Bird Hill  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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Ruth Saylor and Jane Spencer

street & number 2932 Sykesville Road telephone no.: (410) 848-2689

city, town Westminster state and zip code Maryland 21157

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liber LWS 770

street & number 55 N. Court Street folio 944

city, town Westminster state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1554

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

See Attached

# 8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-1554

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 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**

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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.

See Attached

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1554

See Attached

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 87.51 A.

Quadrangle name Finksburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short

organization Carroll County Planning & Develop date May 24, 1999

street & number 225 North Center Street telephone (410) 386-2145

city or town Westminster state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: ~~Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438~~

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

Description

Section 7 Page 1

The Davis Family farm is located at 2932 Sykesville Road, also known as Route 32, in the Bird Hill vicinity of east-central Carroll County, Maryland. The house is on the west side of the road and faces east toward the road, with a barn on the east side of the road. The site was struck by a tornado in July 1996. The roof of the house was blown off in the storm and has never been found. The barn was also severely damaged, and all of the buildings are in the process of being demolished. The house is a two-story six-bay by two-bay structure with a wing on the rear, or east, elevation and an addition to the wing. Surviving evidence suggests the house had a gable roof with a north-south ridge.

The east elevation indicates the house was built in at least two stages. The southern three bays are frame, while the northern three bays are of log. Most of the siding has been removed; it is German siding that is sash sawn and fastened with cut nails. On the frame section, the German siding with corner boards was covered by tar paper and asbestos shingles. Judging from the nail-hole pattern, the German siding is the earliest siding on the frame section. This section has heavy timber, braced, mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged framing with hewn post and girts, and braces from the post down to the sill and from the post up to the plate. The joists rest on top of the front girt and two of them are pegged to this girt from above. The studs are sash sawn 2 by 4's with a tenon on top that sits in a mortice on the bottom face of the girt. The interior has riven lath. The first story of the east elevation has a center entrance with a door that has one light over two panels. There is a two-over-two sash on either side of this opening. The second story has window openings in the end bays and no opening in the center. There is a large wood peg driven through the northeast corner post into a log to the north to tie the frame section to the log section, suggesting that the log section is the earlier of the two.

The northern log section has v-notch cornering. The logs were whitewashed and there are ghosts of vertical nailers on the second story. The first story has a center entrance with a door that is identical to that on the south section. There are ghosts of vertical lath fastened to the logs and evidence of lath nails in them. There is some lath and plaster on the ground, and it would appear the lath is circular sawn and fastened with cut nails. On either side of the center door is a two-over-two double-hung sash. The second story has window openings in the end bays but no opening in the center bay. There was formerly a porch across the whole six bay front of the house, but it is now gone. Seven brick piers with concrete caps survive, as does the wood deck that is wire nailed to the joists below.

The north elevation of the log section has circular-sawn weather boards with cut nails. On the first story the east bay has two six-over-one sash. There is an exterior brick chimney in the center that has a metal clean-out door on the exterior. On the second story the west bay has a four-light sash, and there are traces of asbestos shingles over tar paper here.

The north elevation of the wing has infill on the first story with German siding and four two-

Description

Section 7 Page 2

light casements. The east bay has a door with four lights over two lying panels. The second story appears to have been an open porch and has tongue-and-groove wood decking. There are weather boards on the east and west interior sides and a plaster finish on the north side. The second story has two bays. There is a door with four panels in the east bay and a closed-off window opening in the west bay.

The west elevation of the wing has asbestos shingles over tar paper over German siding that is fastened with wire nails. The bottom of this German siding is half lapped whereas the German siding on the east elevation of the frame section has a groove on the bottom of it. This elevation is of three bays. The first story has two one-over-one sash in the north bay and appears to have the same thing in the center bay. The south bay has a one-over-one sash. On the second story, the north bay is clipped at the top corner, there is no opening in the center bay, but there is a window opening in the south bay. In the southwest crook of the house, formed between the wing and the frame portion of the main block, is a one story addition with a CMU foundation, asbestos shingle siding over horizontal board sheathing that is fastened with wire nails, and a shed roof that slopes to the west. The south elevation of the wing has a one-over-one sash in the far western bay of the first story, which is not covered by the addition. The second story of this elevation has a window opening in the center.

The west elevation of the frame section has a six-over-six sash on the second story. A piece of wood box cornice with return survives at the southwest corner. The south elevation of the frame section has asbestos shingles over tar paper over top of German siding fastened with cut nails. The first story has paired one-over-one sash and there are no openings on the second story.

There is a cellar under the framed section only and it only has exterior access from the south elevation, in the east bay. The cellar has a dirt floor. The first story joists run east-west and are hewn on top and bottom. There is a built-in cupboard on the south elevation, set to the west. It has two vertical-board doors below two larger vertical-board doors. It appears that this recess was an earlier access to the cellar.

The first story has a single room in the log section, a single room in the frame section, and a single room in the wing. The northeast room, which is in the log section, has 2 ½ inch wide pine flooring which runs east-west. The architrave has a quirked-ogee-and-bevel backband and a beaded interior edge. On the walls are vertical circular-sawn lath fastened with cut nails. These are attached to horizontal nailers that are attached to the logs, which are whitewashed. Centered on the north wall is a chimney and possibly a fireplace that is closed off. In the northwest corner of the room is a two-flight stair with a landing in the corner. The stairway runs up from the center of the north wall to the west corner, then turns to the south and continues up. The stairway has a turned and moulded handrail typical of the twentieth century and sawn brackets typical of the circa 1950's. There is a doorway on the west wall that leads to the wing and a door on the south

Description

Section 7 Page 3

that leads to the frame section. This later door is of beaded-edge vertical boards.

The southeast room in the frame section has 3 ½ to 5 inch wide pine flooring that runs north-south. There is a fireplace centered on the south wall that has slightly splayed brick jambs that are plastered. There is a wood mantel with plain pilaster strips and a plain frieze. It has a quirked ogee and bevel bed mould. There is a winder stair in the southwest corner that has one step set below a six-panel door. There is a closet beneath the stair that has a four-panel door. The door appears to be a shortened version of the six panel door on the stairway. The lath on the south wall is circular-sawn, but the rest of the room has riven lath with cut nails. The door on the north elevation, leading to the log section, has the same architrave as that in the log section. The door on the west elevation has four panels and has a beaded-interior-edge frame.

The northwest room, in the first story of the wing, appears to have a doorway on the south elevation, set to the east, that has been closed off and a window in the center of this elevation that has also been closed off. There is an interior chimney centered on the west wall. There is beaded-edge-and-center vertical board half wainscot in the room below a bolection-moulded chair rail. The north elevation has a beaded-edge vertical-board door set to the west, leading to the porch.

The second story of the log section has a stair landing in the northwest with a passage on the west wall and rooms in the northeast and southeast corners. The logs are whitewashed and have circular-sawn vertical lath covering them. Both of the rooms have raised floors and sheet rock on most of the walls. The wall along the east side of the passage, which runs north-south, may be early, as it has narrow studs, circular-sawn lath, and cut nails. This wall cannot be original, though, as whitewash on the north wall stops short of the wall on both sides. The white wash indicates that there was probably a chimney on the north wall that was about 2 feet 10 inches wide. The top log on the north elevation is slightly notched on the bottom and laps over the top log on the east elevation. A peg is driven down from the top through both the north log and the east log. The north log projects beyond the front, or eastern, face of the wall about 6 inches. There is no apparent connection of the attic joists to the top, front, or east log.

The frame section on the south is divided into two rooms by a center wall that runs east-west. This wall has a doorway in it. The frame section has random-width pine flooring that runs north-south, is 5 to 9 inches wide, and is face-nailed with cut nails. There is a winder stair to the attic in the southwest corner. The south girt has a 1 inch notch on the bottom that laps over the top plate on the east. The girt is only attached to the plate by being toenailed with two cut nails. There is an interior brick chimney on the south elevation. There is no north girt on the second story of the frame section, and thus nothing to tie the front and back walls together above floor level.

The second story of the wing has a hewn, mortised and tenoned and pegged frame. The south

Description

Section 7 Page 4

girt is actually a plate notched on the top to take rafter feet. It is not clear whether there was a gable roof on the one story structure here or whether this is a re-used timber. However, the studs below the girt are sash sawn, are 2½ by 4 inches, and are tenoned into the girt, while the studs above the girt are toenailed to the girt with cut nails and are 4 by 4's. The plate is a circular-sawn 2 by 4, and there are cut nails driven through the plate from the bottom, apparently to hold the attic joists. An original random-width floor runs east-west, and there is scrap nailed on top and a new pine floor running north-south laid on top of it. The new flooring is 2 ½ inches wide.

The barn on the east side of the road was set on a basically flat site with a ramp built up on the west and the forebay facing east. Since being damaged most of the upper story has been demolished. The stone foundation had a framed forebay wall with horizontal boards fastened with cut nails. The joists are hewn on top and bottom and most are circular-sawn. Some of the joists are of re-used timber. Much of the timber here from the dismantled upper story is also circular-sawn and was mortised and tenoned and pegged. The lower story has two circular-sawn summer beams running north-south, and each beam has five posts beneath it. The east elevation of the first story has a vertical-board Dutch door on machine-made strap hinges to the south, an identical door north of it, then a six-light sash, two more identical doors, another six-light sash, a window opening, and another identical door in the northern-most bay. There is peg rail on the south wall above the window openings. A Dutch door is set to the east, with a wood box set in the east corner. This box is made of circular-sawn boards, as is the wood lintel above it. The door frames are both hewn and circular sawn. There is a frame wagon shed on the north side of the barn. It has circular-sawn posts and joists that are mortised and tenon and pegged. The northern wall of this structure is of concrete. The northern elevation of the lower story has CMU infill on the west end and a Dutch door. The western ramp has a stone wall on the north side.

Contributing Resources 1

Significance

Section 8 Page 1

The existing records for the Davis Family Farm create more questions than they give answers. John Davis first acquired the land in 1837 from Isaac Cassell of Know County, Ohio. Cassell was probably a Carroll Countian who had moved west shortly before the actual creation of the County. The farm was in two tracts, one of 148 acres and the other of 104 acres. Together, the purchase price was \$250, or about \$1 an acre. The price is very low, even for poor quality land with little or no improvements, and one wonders whether there were circumstances that are not explained by the documents.

In the 1841 tax book, these two tracts only total 50 acres, not 152, and a third tract has 137 acres. Complicating matters, Davis buys a lot of land in the vicinity of this farm, in both large and small parcels. The value of his livestock, \$166 in 1841, \$206 in 1866, and his lack of farming implements suggests that he was more a land speculator than a farmer. He sold the farm to his son, William H. Davis, in 1874; it was 86 acres at the time. The tax books two years later note a "Two story frame dwelling" and "Frame Barn" on the property. In 1895 William H. Davis is assessed for a new barn, undoubtedly the one that was recently destroyed. The use of circular-sawn timber throughout this barn, which commonly dates to after 1890, and the use of cut nails, which tend to disappear from building practice after 1895, argue for a date of c. 1890-1900, with the period c. 1890-95 being more likely than the later period. The farm was acquired by Pearl and William E. Davis in 1912. The present owners are believed to be their daughters.

The history of the house can only be pieced together from details of the building. The earliest portion was a two-story log section which was originally whitewashed on the interior and exterior. There are no details to accurately date the building, but the use of exposed log, inside and out, would be more typical of pre-1830 buildings, and the earlier the period the more typical is this feature. A two-story frame addition was made to the south prior to 1850, judging from the use of riven lath. A one-story frame addition was added to the west, probably after the south addition, though this is not certain. Both the log and south frame sections were modernized in the late nineteenth century, with the addition of German siding and new windows and trim. A second story was added to the frame addition in the early twentieth century, with another addition on the southwest at a later date. Numerous other smaller changes were also made. After the roof was removed in the storm, the building was dismantled for partial reuse of some of the material by Dr. Griffin.

**Geographic Organization:**

Piedmont

**Chronological/Development Periods:**

Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1554

Significance

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**Historic Period Themes:**

Agriculture, Architecture

**Resource Types:**

Small Family Farmstead, Rural Vernacular

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1554

Bibliography

Section 9 Page 1

Carroll County Land Records.

Carroll County Tax Assessments; 1841, 1866, 1866-1876, 1876, 1876-96, 1896-1910.

Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Carroll County, Maryland*. Baltimore, MD, 1862.

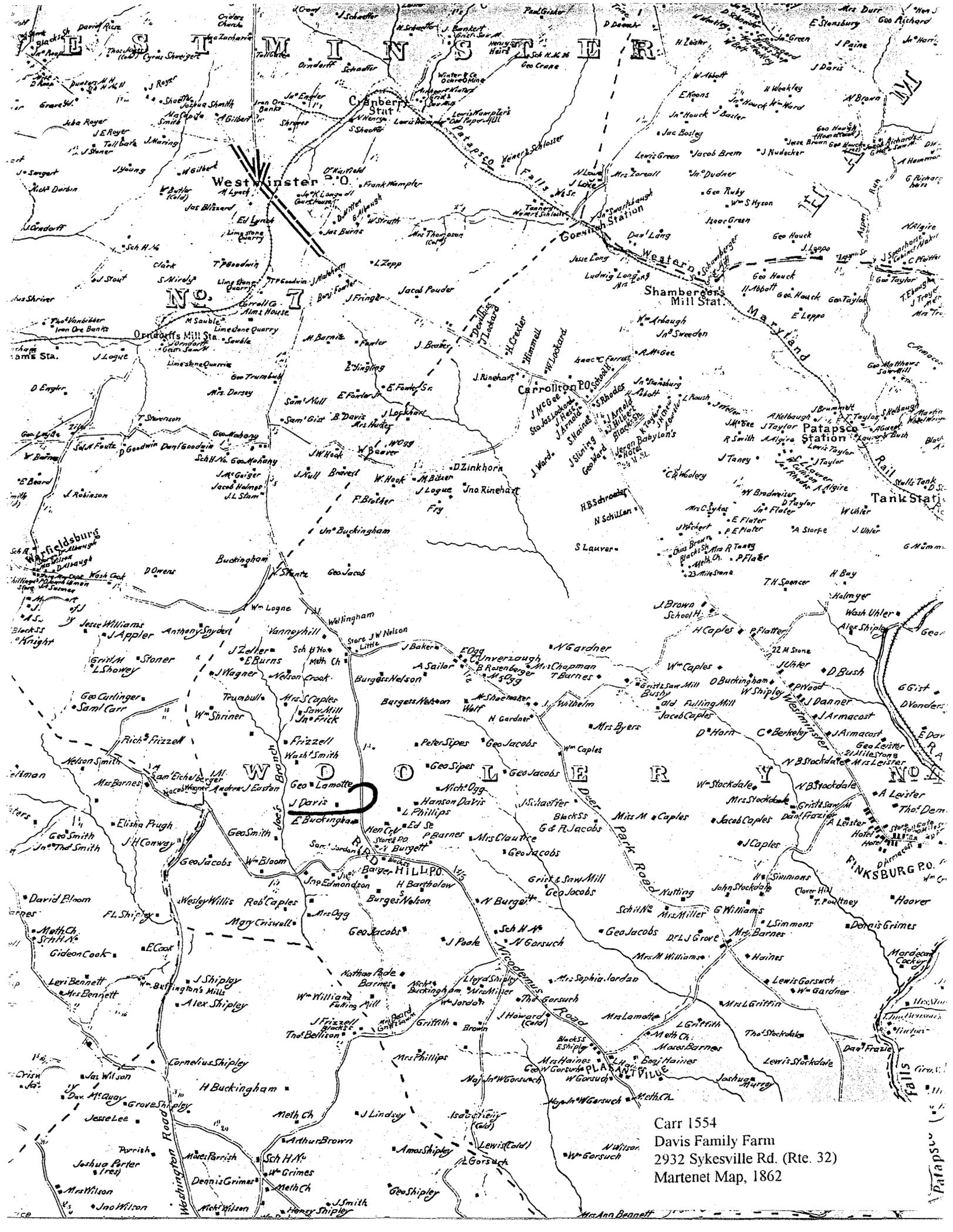
Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, *Illustrated Atlas of Carroll County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA,  
1877.

Rand McNally, *New Detailed Survey of Carroll County, Maryland*. New York, 1917.

CARR-1554  
Davis Family Farm  
2932 Sykesville Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
Ruth E. Saylor Jane E. Spencer pers. rep of Pearl G. Davis	Carroll	Ruth E. Saylor Jane E. Spencer	?	15 Jul 1980	LWS 770	944	Deed Fee Simple	\$1.00 1) 86 + ac 2) 2 1/4 ac
Ralph G. & Emily F. Hoffman (wf)	Carroll	Pearl G. & William E. Davis (hus)	?	20 Jan 1940	LDM 172	101	Deed Fee Simple	\$10.00 86 + ac (1)
Pearl G. & William E. Davis (hus)	Carroll	Ralph G. Hoffman	?	20 Jan 1940	LDM 172	100	Deed Fee Simple	\$10.00 86 + ac (1)
Elias N. Davis et al execs of William H. Davis	Carroll	Pearl G. Davis	?	10 Jun 1912	ODG 120	52	Deed Fee Simple	will WA 11-88 \$8,500 public sale George's lot & Duncan's lot 86 + ac (1)
John Davis & wf Rachel	Carroll	William H. Davis [wf is Sarah E. Davis] [Wm is son of John]	Carroll	26 Dec. 1874	FTS 44	350	Deed Fee Simple	\$2589.75 86 + ac Davis road runs along NW side of farm on 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13 <sup>th</sup> lines of farm - is county road [no prev. ref] (1)
Isaac & Lydia Cassell (wf)	Know Co., Ohio	John Davis	Carroll	7 Mar 1837	WW 1	161	Deed Indenture	\$250 2 tracts 1) Duncan's lot 148 ac 2) George's lot 104 ac

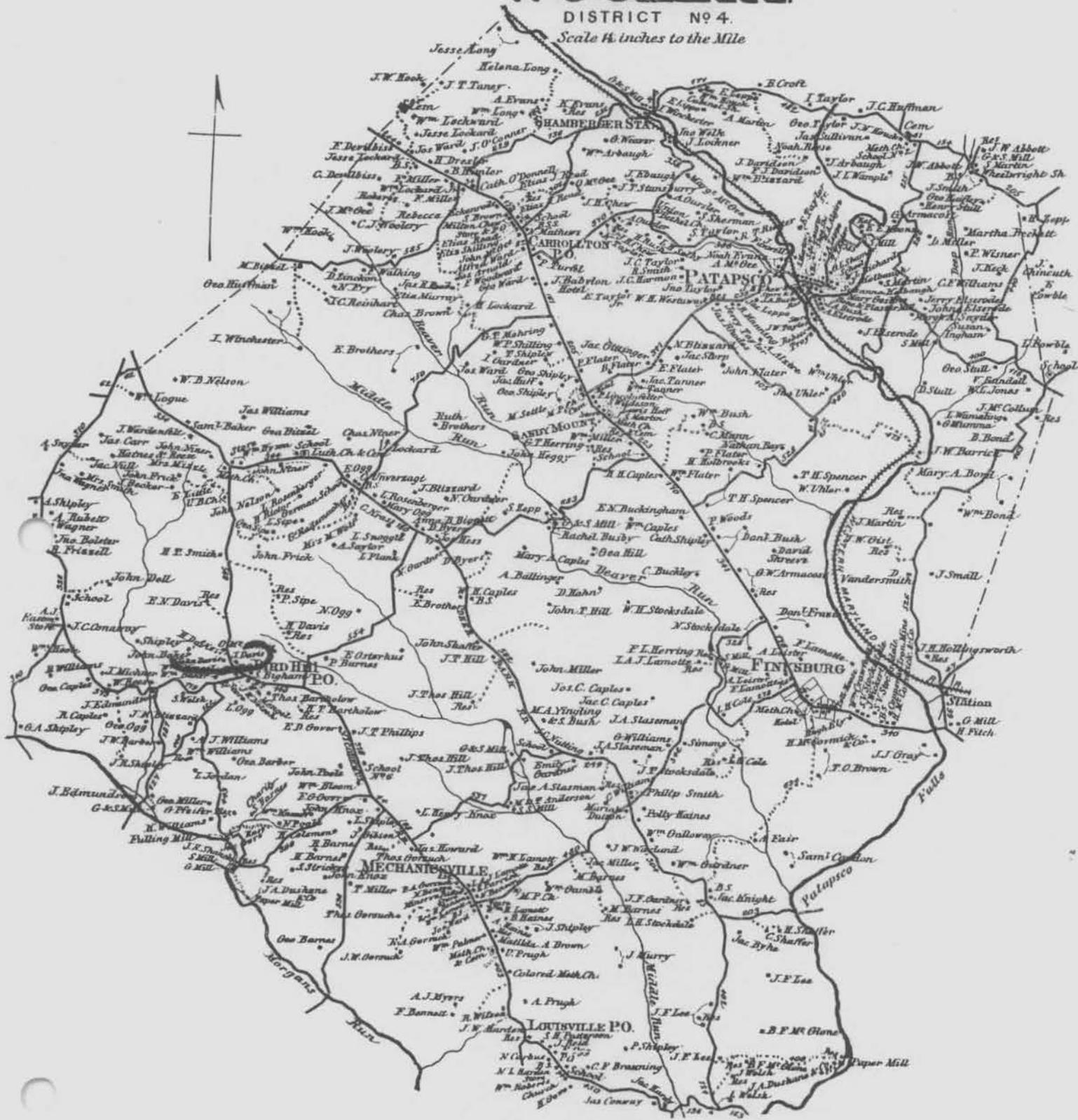


Carr 1554  
Davis Family Farm  
2932 Sykesville Rd. (Rte. 32)  
Martinet Map, 1862

# WOOLERY

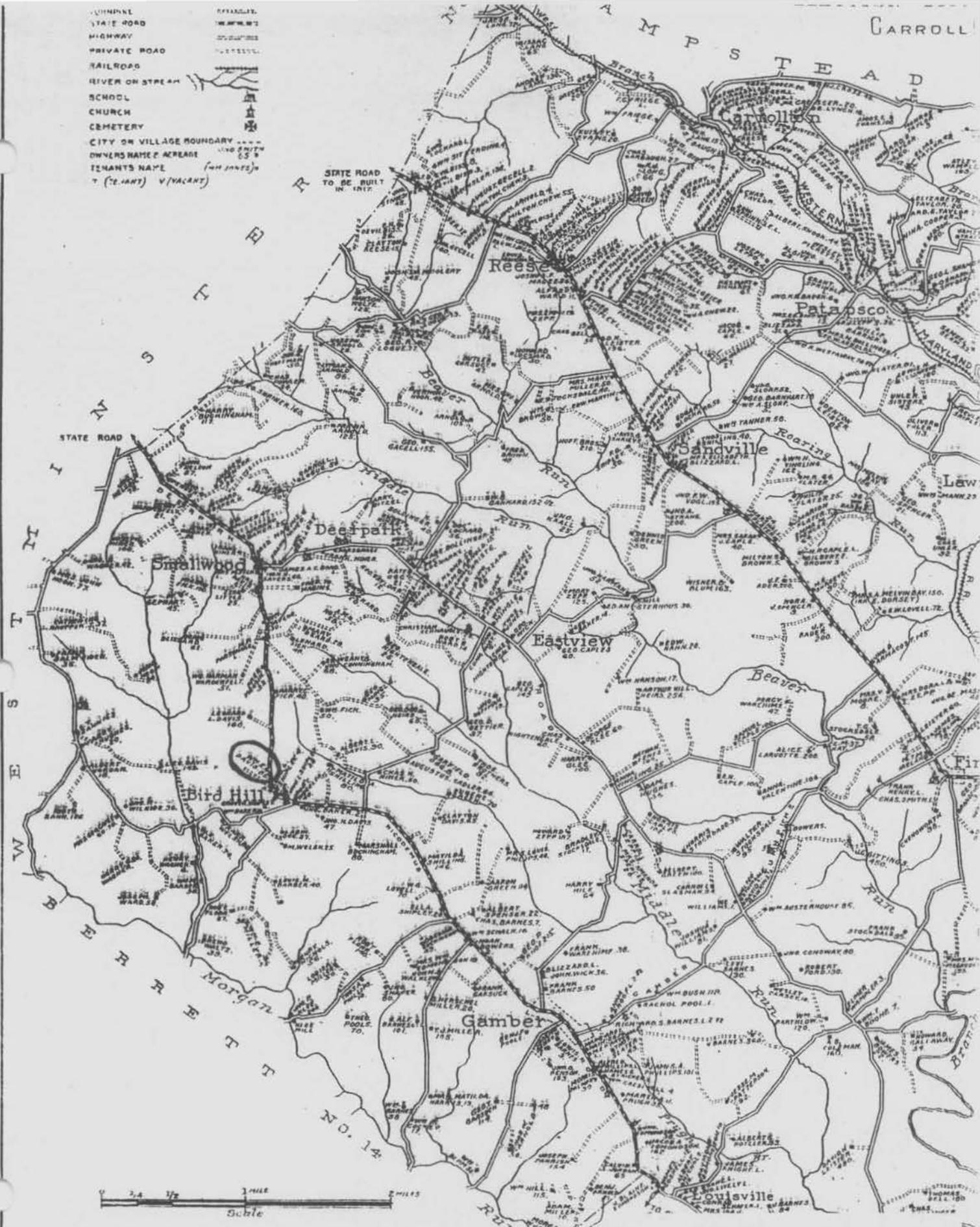
DISTRICT NO. 4.

Scale 1/4 inches to the Mile

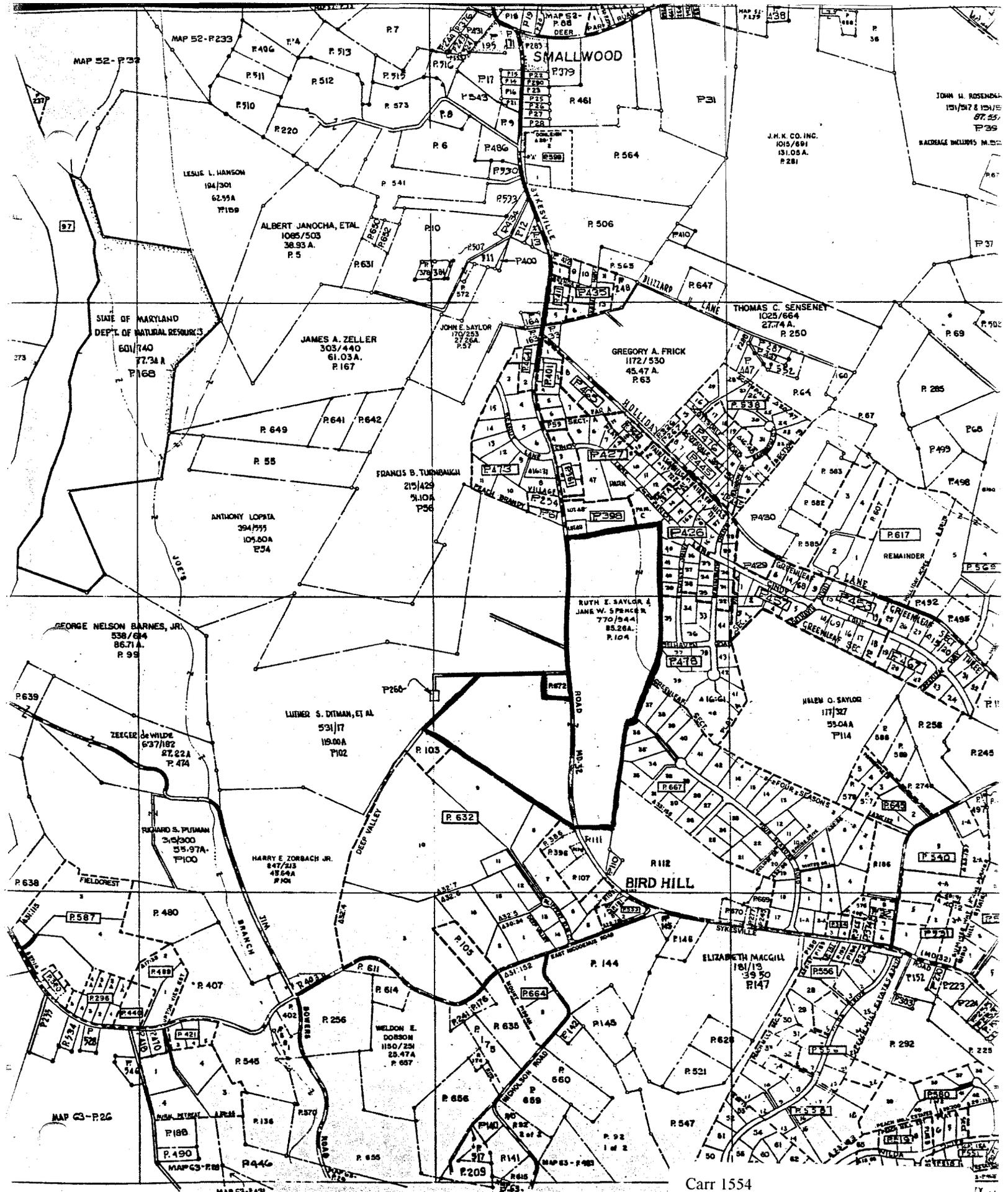


Carr 1554  
Davis Family Farm  
2932 Sykesville Rd. (Rte. 32)  
Lake. Griffing & Stevenson Atlas, 1877

- UNIMPROVED
- STATE ROAD
- HIGHWAY
- PRIVATE ROAD
- RAILROAD
- RIVER OR STREAM
- SCHOOL
- CHURCH
- CEMETERY
- CITY OR VILLAGE BOUNDARY
- OWNER'S NAME & ACRES
- TENANT'S NAME
- T (TENANT) V (VACANT)



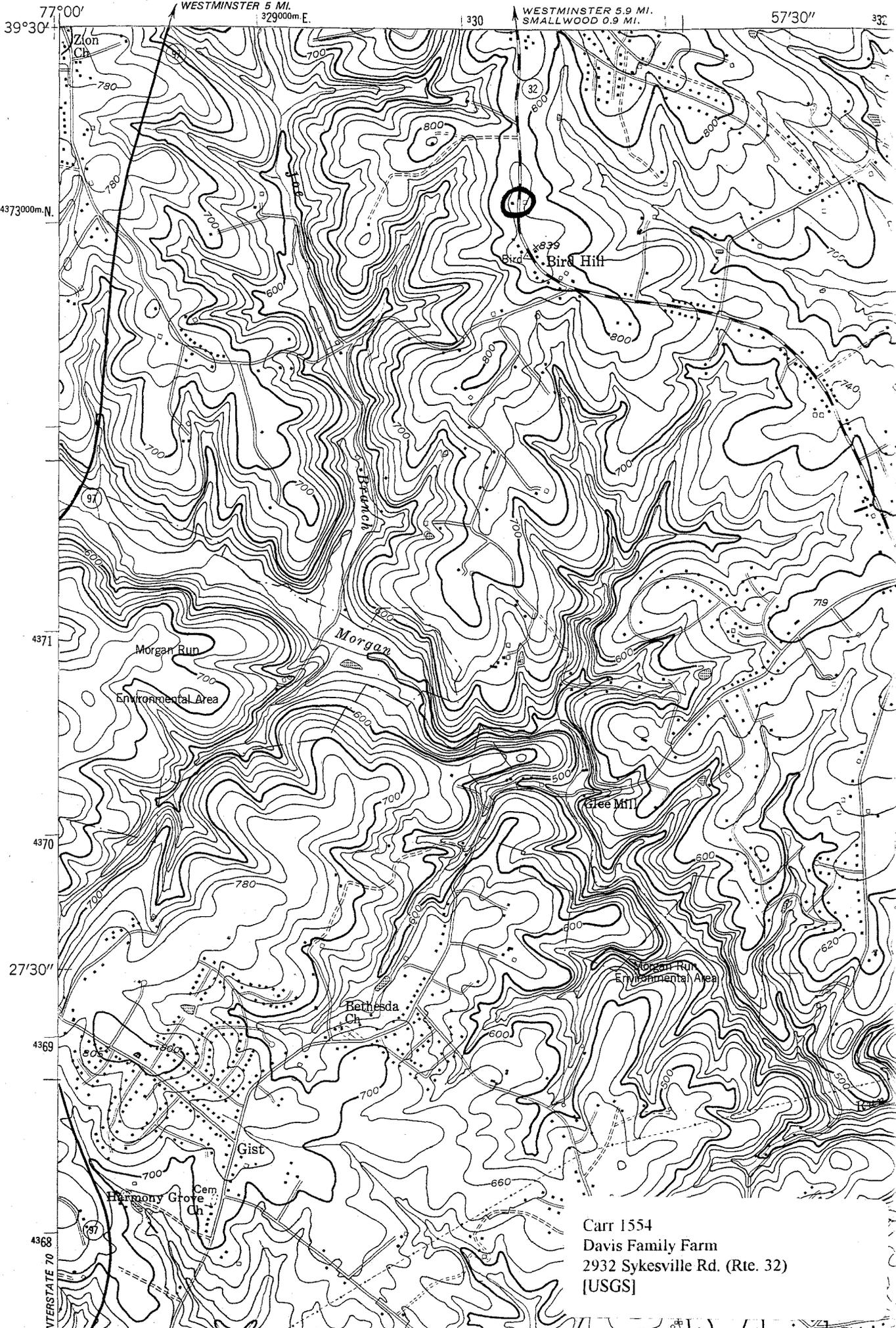
Carr 1554  
 Davis Family Farm  
 2932 Sykesville Rd. (Rte. 32)  
 Rand McNally Atlas, 1917



Carr 1554  
 Davis Family Farm  
 2932 Sykesville Rd. (Rte. 32)  
 Assessments & Taxation Map, Parcel

SCALE  
 1" = 100'  
 1" = 200'  
 1" = 400'

# GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Carr 1554  
Davis Family Farm  
2932 Sykesville Rd. (Rte. 32)  
[USGS]



Carr-1554

Davis Family Farm  
2932 Dykeville Rd (Rte 32)  
Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: Aug 96'

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust  
N. Elev.

10F4



Carr-1554

Davis Family Farm

2932 Sykesville Rd (Ate 32)

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Shook

Date: Aug 96

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

E. Elev.

2 OF 4



Cam-1554

Davis Family Farm  
2932 Dykesville Rd. (Rte 3a)

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Abbott

MSK

Date: August 96

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

W&S. Eless

3 of 4



Carr-1354

Davis Family Farm  
2932 Dykeville Rd (Rte 32)

Carrall County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth A. Short

Date: August 96'

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

SE. RM- 5. elev

4 OF 4