

Capsule Summary

Inventory No. CARR-1667

Miller-Bish Farm
2225 Littlestown Pike
Carroll County, MD
Ca. 1790s-1950s
Access: Private

The Miller-Bish Farm is located at the intersection of the Littlestown Pike and John Owings Road a few miles north of Westminster. The farm includes three log buildings: a two-story two-part farmhouse, a smokehouse, and an outbuilding. A rear shed addition gives the dwelling a saltbox profile. The log outbuilding was originally a small house which later was converted to a hog pen. The farm's timber-framed bank barn stands on a stone and brick foundation. The remainder of the farmland northeast of these buildings is used by Carroll County as a sports complex.

The Miller-Bish Farm is located primarily on the early tract "Ligonier" at the south edge of the small 19th century settlement of Mt. Pleasant. The farmhouse faces the Littlestown Pike, an 18th century road that was improved as a turnpike in the early 19th century. The two-part log house and outbuildings, constructed by John Miller Jr. and Sr. in the late 18th through early 19th centuries, are rare survivors utilizing this once predominant building material. The dwelling's saltbox profile is uncommon in this region. The otherwise typical bank barn's foundation is built with an unusual combination of brick and stone. Alfred W. Bish farmed the property from 1865 though 1898.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-1667

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Miller-Bish Farm (pref.)
other Ligonier (orig. tract)

2. Location

street and number 2225 Littlestown Pike not for publication
city, town Westminster vicinity
county Carroll

3. Owner of Property (gives names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Carroll County Board of Commissioners
street and number Carroll County Courthouse telephone
city, town Westminster state MD zip code 21158

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll Co. liber 846 folio 607
city, town Westminster tax map 30 tax parcel 157 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: Not previously recorded

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	4 1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	4 1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. CARR-1667

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/>	excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	good	<input type="checkbox"/>	ruins
<input type="checkbox"/>	fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	altered

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

Summary:

The Miller-Bish Farm is located at the intersection of the Littlestown Pike and John Owings Road a few miles north of Westminster. The farm includes three log buildings: a two-story two-part farmhouse, a smokehouse, and an outbuilding. A rear shed addition gives the dwelling a saltbox profile. The log outbuilding was originally a small house which later was converted to a hog pen. The farm's timber-framed bank barn stands on a stone and brick foundation. The remainder of the farmland northeast of these buildings is used by Carroll County as a sports complex.

Description:

The Miller-Bish Farm is located several miles north of Westminster, MD, on the east side of the Littlestown Pike (MD Rt. 97). John Owings Road borders the south edge of the property. The farm buildings are clustered together, with the remainder of the farmland used by Carroll County as a sports complex. The farmhouse sits about 50 feet from the Pike. A smokehouse, log outbuilding, and a timber-framed bank barn are located east of the dwelling. The county has constructed a small metal storage building north of the barn. A low stone wall defines the southwest corner of the property.

The two-story log house has a single-story shed-roofed frame addition covering the east side, forming a saltbox shape. A porch covers the main west-facing façade. A stone cellar underpins the house. The two-bay-deep main log section was built in two parts: a two-bay northern block with a three-bay southern addition. Each part has an end chimney. The second story's eastern log wall, never sided or plastered, is visible in the attic space under the rear addition's shed roof.

The original late 18th century part of the 16' 6"-deep house measures 20' 6" long. Although the house was somewhat remodeled when the addition was built in the early 19th century many original features remain. The northern door appears to occupy its original location. Iron supports flanking the doorway once held a bar to secure the door. Summer beams running north-south suggest that the house was originally divided into two narrow rooms. A chimney at the north end of the house was rebuilt in modern brickwork in the 20th century.

A tightwinder stairway in the northwest corner leads from the second floor to the attic. It appears that the original stair from the first floor to the second was once located in this corner below the attic stair. This area is now a closet. The closet's board and batten door is fitted with a window. The narrow horizontal window, now blocked, in the closet's exterior wall once provided light for the stair. 6/6 sash windows are trimmed with ovolo moldings. HL hinges are another original feature found in the house.

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Inventory No. CARR-1667

Name Miller-Bish Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

A door at the back of the second floor bedroom leads into the rear shed attic. As this red-painted beaded board door with beveled battens appears to be original, there may always have been a porch or shed here. The v-notched log wall is whitewashed.

The addition contributed a central stair and southern parlor to the structure. The new entrance is flanked by four-pane sidelights. The door's raised panels are set in the unusual pattern of two vertical panels at the top, followed by a set of square panels, then a single horizontal panel, and finally another set of vertical panels. Narrow double-beaded moldings trim the addition's 6/6 sash windows. The southern mantel's panel tapers from the corners to a central point. Chamfered pilasters are topped with carved six-point daisy-like flowers. The mantel's cupboard built into the east side is closed with a two-panel door.

The rear shed's three rooms have been remodeled. This area appears to date from the mid-19th century. The shed has 6/6 windows. Four-pane windows light the shed attic as well as the main attic.

The roof construction of both log sections is mortise-tenon-pegged. The original part's top log rests atop the joists on either side. The curved rafter feet are exposed in the shed attic below.

The cellar divisions reflect those of the main floor. A fireplace is located in the south end. The area under the porch floor has been enclosed in concrete block and the resulting storage rooms are accessible from the main cellar. As the ground slopes downhill the southwest corner of the cellar is fully exposed.

The house has a metal roof and the walls are covered with aluminum siding. Aluminum storm windows have been fitted over the originals. The first floor west façade protected by the porch is stuccoed, probably an original treatment. The porch appears to be of early construction. Chamfered posts rest on pillars joined by a narrow handrail and three horizontal boards. The boards run through a central supporting board. The porch floor is covered with concrete, and the dwelling's stone foundation is painted white.

The log smokehouse stands at a slight angle nearly perpendicular to the rear of the original part of the dwelling. The 8'x10' building rests on a high stone cellar which is accessible from the west side, two steps below grade. The batten door has a horizontal grille with short bars cut into the top. A pent roof supported by a tapered top log on either side is cantilevered over this end. The v-notched log walls are chinked and whitewashed. A short, wide batten door opens into the upper smoking chamber on the east end. Standing seam tin covers the roof and wide boards sheathe the gable ends. The exposed rafter feet resemble those of the original house.

The 20'x 14' log outbuilding to the east has been substantially altered. This small log house served as a hog pen and is now used as a kennel. A 5' deep board-and-batten frame addition covers the north façade, the resulting saltbox roofline resembling the main house. An entrance in this side leads through the addition to a door in the original north wall. Six-pane windows light the shed addition and the attic. The rebuilt south wall has four square openings in the lower log wall and three in the stone foundation. Two small unfenestrated openings appear in

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Name Miller-Bish Farm

Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

the east end. The building is covered by a metal roof. The v-notched log walls are chinked and exposed.

The bank barn's forebay faces south. The timber-framed structure stands on a fieldstone foundation on the north and east. The west end brick wall stands on a stone base. The north ramp leads through large barn doors to the upper level with an open threshing floor flanked by haymows and board-enclosed granaries. The typical pegged heavy timber framing includes angle braces and hay ladders.

Louvered openings ventilate either end of the lower level. A small batten door hung on wrought iron strap hinges covers an opening in the west end of the foundation's north wall. The interior of this section was not accessible. Batten doors and four-pane windows open into the framed south wall under the forebay. Another door is located in the north end of the west foundation wall.

A metal roof covers the barn. Modern red metal vertical siding sheathes the main walls, but not the gables, over the original vertical wooden boards. The paired louvered ventilators have been preserved. At the top of either gable a 6/6 sash window is flanked by louvers and topped by a decorative peaked board.

The barn is used by the county for storage. The majority of its original structure has been preserved. The farmhouse and other outbuildings are leased as a private residence.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CARR-1667

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates 1790s-1950s **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates Circa 1790; first half 19th century

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary:

The Miller-Bish Farm is located primarily on the early tract "Ligonier" at the south edge of the small 19th century settlement of Mt. Pleasant. The farmhouse faces the Littlestown Pike, an 18th century road that was improved as a turnpike in the early 19th century. The two-part log house and outbuildings, constructed by John Miller Jr. and Sr. in the late 18th through early 19th centuries, are rare survivors utilizing this once predominant building material. The dwelling's saltbox profile is uncommon in this region. The otherwise typical bank barn's foundation is built with an unusual combination of brick and stone. Alfred W. Bish farmed the property from 1865 through 1898.

Significance:

The Miller-Bish Farm is located on part of John Head's 2,270 tract "Ligonier" ("Legionier"), resurveyed in 1764 from the 1756 tract "Three Springs".¹ John Miller Sr. (1747-1835) resurveyed his part of the tracts "Legionier", "Bare (sic) Meadow", "Little did I Think It", "The forked Oak", and "Needsmuch", totaling 202 ¾ acres, in 1792.² Miller was listed on the 1798 tax assessment as the owner of "Ligonier": 237 ½ acres: 2 log houses & barn, as well as "part Ligonier": 26 acres: cabin- useless.³ The original part of the farmhouse was one of these houses, and was probably built by John Miller Sr. The log outbuilding may also have existed at that time, as well as the smokehouse and the barn foundation with an earlier superstructure. In 1826 John Miller Jr. (1788-1870) and his wife Elizabeth (1792- 1868) bought the farm, which then totaled 300 acres, for \$2,5004. In 1847 seventy three acres of the tract was sold to Edward Lynch⁵, who sold it to Alfred W. Bish in 18656. At the time of the 1880 census Bish (56) lived on the farm with his wife Mary A. (53) and daughter Emma C. L. Ephraim S. Bish (56, farmer) and his wife Martha lived next door. He may have been a relative who farmed with Alfred. When Alfred died in 1898 the inventory of his estate listed livestock such as horses, cows, and

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Name Miller-Bish Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

hogs. Crops such as wheat, rye, and hay were listed. Farm implements included a windmill, a horse power and thresher, various wagons and buggies, plows, and a circular saw.⁷

In 1916 after Mary Amelia Bish died daughter Emma, then married to a Bankert, sold the farm to William A. and Mollie C. Bowman.⁸ The farm was operated by several different owners until Carroll County bought the property in 1983.⁹

The small, square, two-story log house with a two-room plan and an end chimney is a once common mid-18th century form of which there are few survivors. Examples are found in Berks and Chester Counties, PA, and in Washington County, MD. The final saltbox profile of this dwelling is unusual for this region. The complex of three early log buildings is especially rare. The barn is a good example of its type, and the use of both brick and stone in the foundation suggests a rebuilding of an earlier structure. The entire complex is in good condition and displays a wide variety of significant architectural features.

Note: For Historical Context, please refer to *An Agricultural History of Mid-Maryland*, a Maryland Historical Trust grant funded context development project administered through The Catocin Center for Regional Studies, 2002-2003.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CARR-1667

Frederick Co. MD Land Records and Wills.

Carroll Co. MD Land Records and Wills.

Horvath, George J. Jr. The Particular Assessment Lists for Baltimore and Carroll Counties 1798. Silver Spring, MD: Family Line Publications, 1986.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Philadelphia: Lewis H. Everts, 1882.

Tracey, Arthur G. Notes on Early Maryland Land Patents: Historical Society of Carroll Co., Westminster, MD.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 76.67 acres

Acreage of historical setting 10 acres

Quadrangle name Littlestown Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The surveyed property is described in the legal boundaries for Map 30 Parcel 157 in the tax assessment records for Carroll Co., MD.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Merry Stinson, Architectural Historian

organization Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc. date June, 2003

street & number 105 N. Potomac Street telephone 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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Name Miller-Bish Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

¹ Dr. Arthur G. Tracey Papers, Historical Society of Carroll County.

² Frederick Co. Deed Book WK-10/453, 1792.

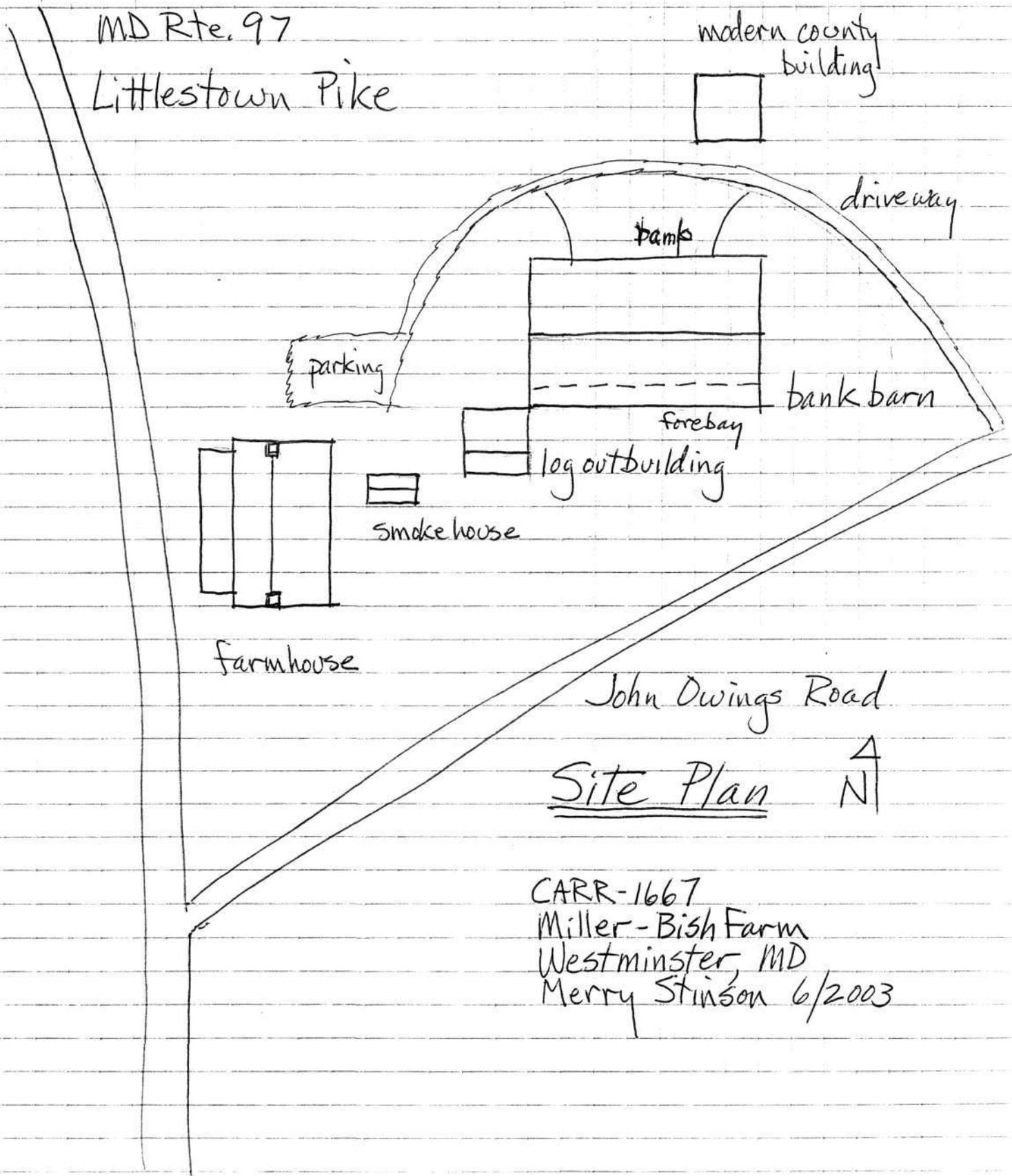
³ George Horvath, Jr., The Particular Assessment Lists for Baltimore and Carroll Counties, 1798, (Silver Spring, MD, Family Line Publications, 1986), District 3.

⁴ Frederick Co. Deed Book JS-24/164, 1826.

⁵ Carroll Co. Deed Book 6/518, 1847.

⁶ Carroll Co. Deed Book JBB-20/259, 1865.

⁷ Carroll Co. Inventories, JDB-17/126, 1898.

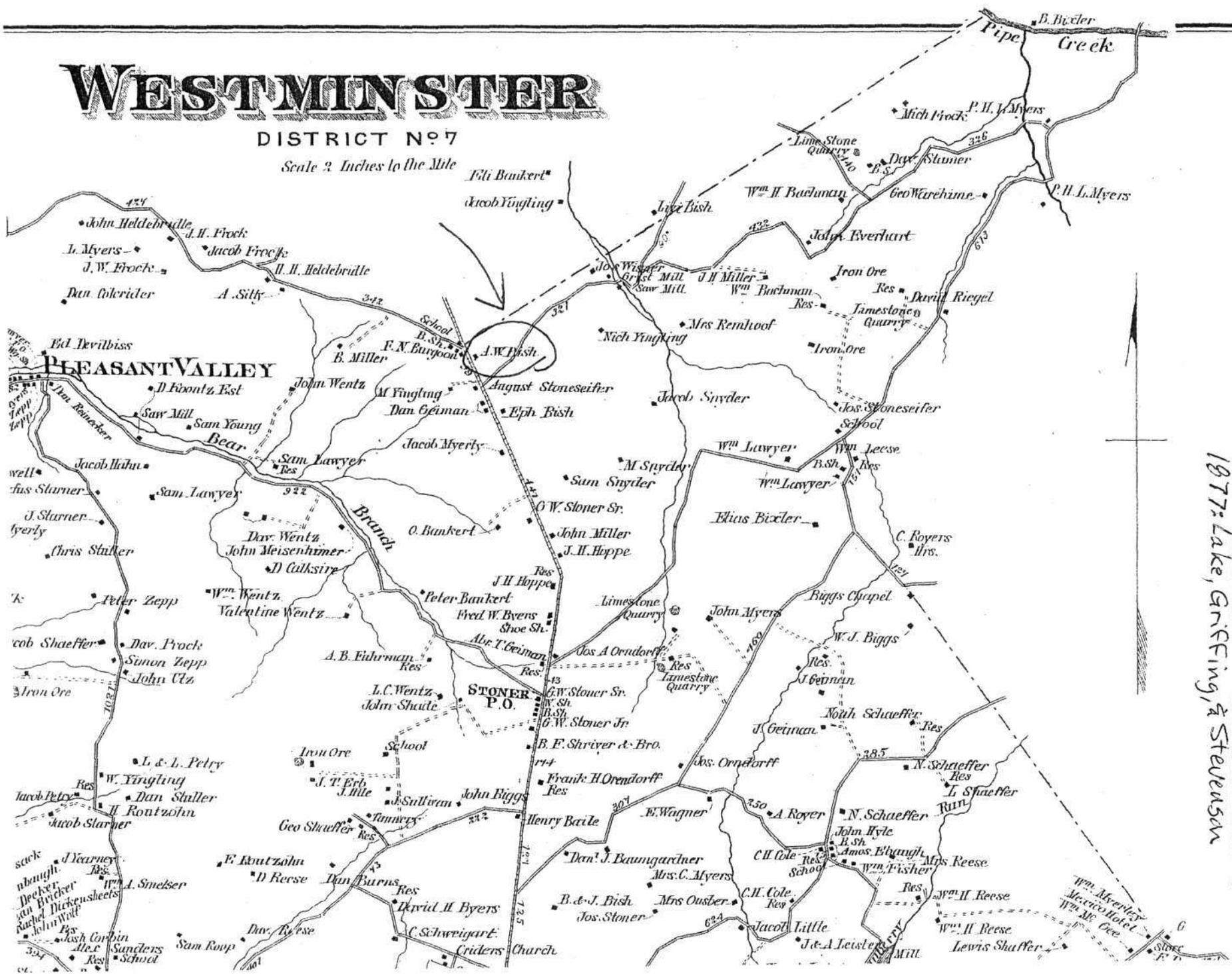


CARR-1667
 Miller-Bish Farm
 Westminster, MD
 Merry Stinson 6/2003

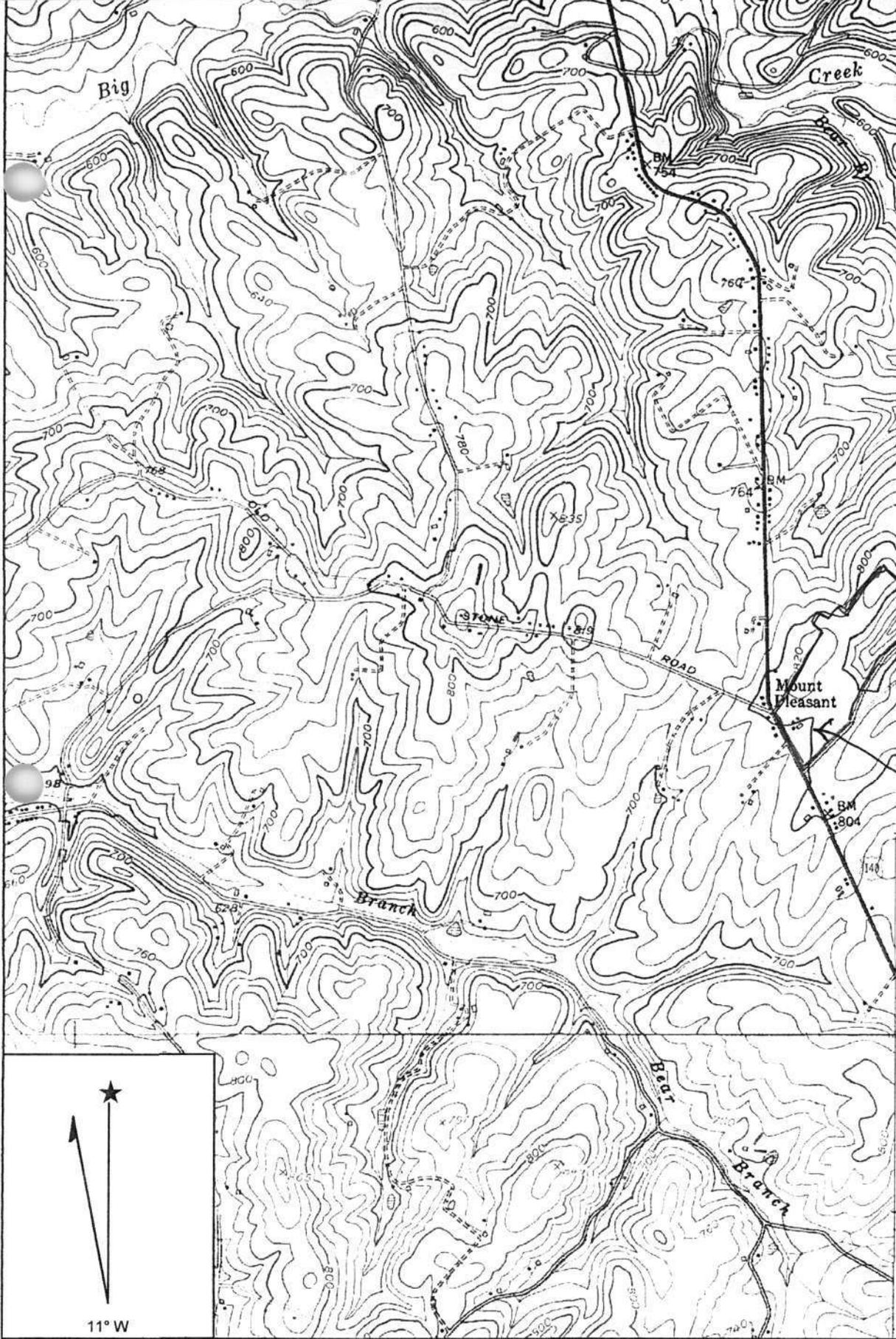
21

WESTMINSTER

DISTRICT NO 7
Scale 2 Inches to the Mile



CARR-1667 Miller-Bisk Farm
 CARROLL CO. MD June 2003
 Illustrated Atlas of Carroll Co. MD
 1877: Lake, Griffing, & Stevenson



CARR-1667
 Miller-Bish
 Farm
 Westminster, MD
 Littlestown USGS
 Quad, Carroll Co.

Name: LITTLESTOWN
 Date: 7/7/2003
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 38' 22.3" N 077° 01' 01.7" W



CARR - 1667

Miller - Bish Farm

Carroll Co MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPO

barn: S. elev.

1 of 19



CARR- 1667

Miller-Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPO

S & E elevs.

2 of 19



CARR-1667

Miller-Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPO

S & E elevs.

3 of 19



CARR-1667

Miller - Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPO

E & N elevs

4 of 19



CARR- 1667

Miller - Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPD

porch (w)

5 of 19

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED



CARR - 1667

Miller - Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPD

main entrance (w)

6 of 19





CARR- 1667

Miller-Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPO

W. elev.

8 of 19



CARR - 1667

Miller - Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPO

w. elev.

9 of 19



CARR - 1667

Miller - Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPD

w/ Selevs.

10 of 19



CARR - 1667

Miller-Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPO

E. elev.
11 of 19



CARR- 1667

Miller - Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPO

Smokehouse: S's Elevs.
12 of 19



CARR - 1667

Miller - Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPD

Smokehouse: W & Selevs.

13 of 19



CARR - 1667

Miller-Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPO

w. elev.
14 of 19



CARR- 1667

Miller-Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPD

log out building: Wiselöv.

15 of 19



CARR - 1667

Miller-Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPO

barn: w. elev.

16 of 19



CARR- 1667

Miller-Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPO

barn: S & E elevs.

17 of 19



CARR - 1667

Miller - Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPO

Barn: N. opening
18 of 19



CARR - 1667

Miller-Bish Farm

Carroll Co. MD

Merry Stinson 6/03

MD SHPD

barn interior

19 of 19

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-1667

Page 1 of 1

Name of Property: Miller-Bish Farm (Lingonier)

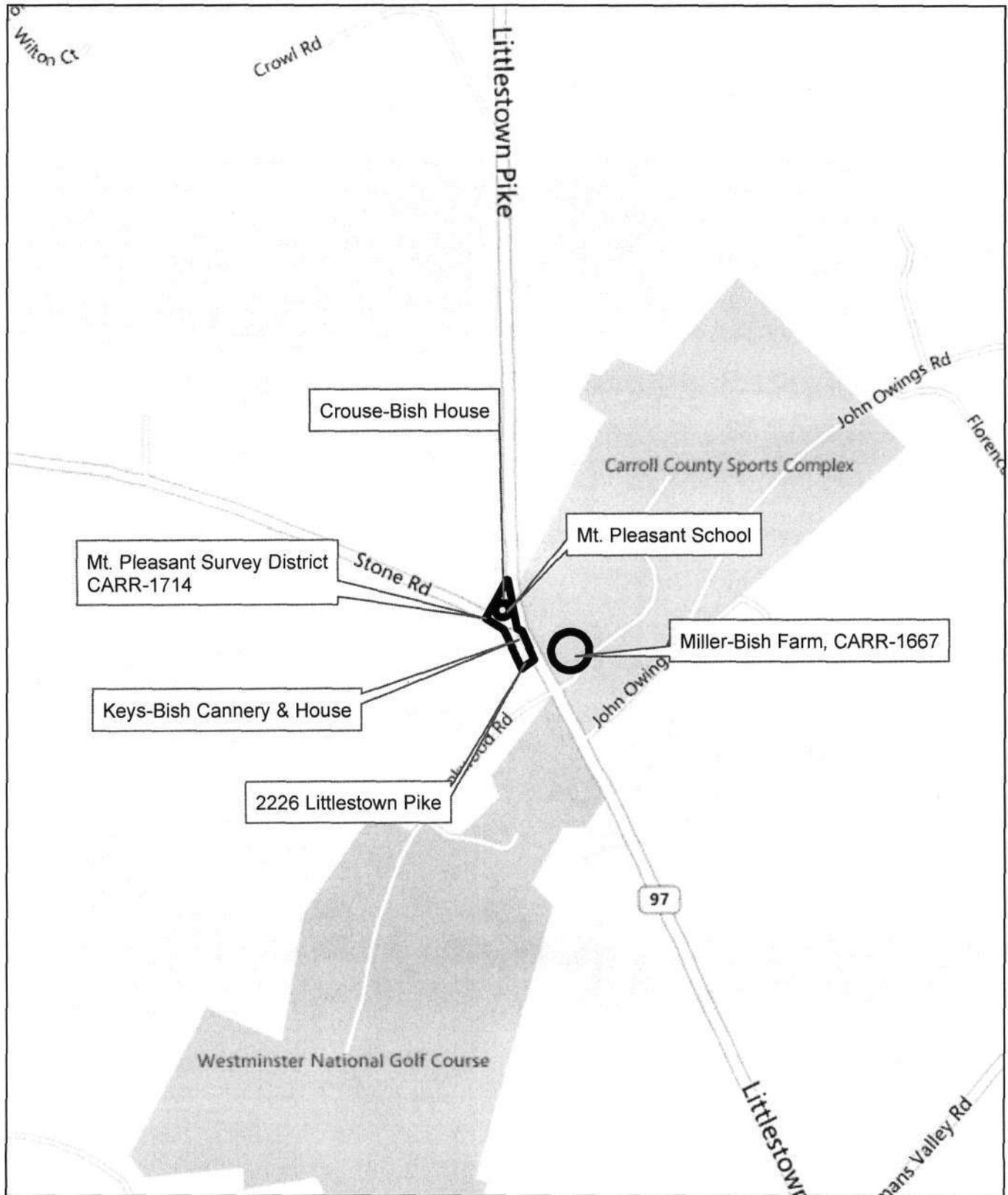
Location: 2225 Littlestown Pike, Westminster

SHA conducted field work for its MD 97 at Stone Road Intersection Improvement Project in 2008 and 2009. Because of possible improvements on MD 97 south of the intersection, SHA included an investigation of the Miller-Bish Farm, MIHP No. CARR-1667. During SHA's field investigations on July 9, 2009, the Miller-Bish Farm consisted of the 2-story log farm house and the log smokehouse identified in the 2003 MIHP form. When SHA returned to the field in December 2011, the house had been demolished and replaced with a prefabricated one-story dwelling on a concrete foundation. Only the log smokehouse remains – the log outbuilding and bank barn have also been removed, although that was done before 2009 (there was no evidence of them in 2009). The former Miller-Bish Farm stands on the grounds of the Carroll County Sport Complex on the west side of MD 97.



Looking west at house and log smokehouse

Miller-Bish Farm, CARR-1667
Littlestown USGS Quadrangle 1:12000
Location Map





CHAR-1667
MUSEE - BUSH FARM
CARROLL CO., MD.

BRIDGE

JULY 2009.

MD SA 20

1/2 FRONT FAHDE - WEST
SHOWING DOUBLE DOORS



Case-1667

MUSEE-BISH FARM

Charles Co., MD.

POUNDER.

JULY 2009.

MD SAPO.

EAST & NORTH FACIES SHOWING,
"SALT POOL"

2/2.