

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes no

Property Name: Keys-Bish Cannery and House Inventory Number: CARR-1694
 Address: 2238 Littlestown Pike (MD 97) Historic district: yes no
 City: Westminster, MD Zip Code: 21158 County: Carroll
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Littlestown
 Property Owner: Ms. Betty Bish Tax Account ID Number: 0707004419
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 222 and 10 Tax Map Number: 30
 Project: MD 97 at Stone Road Intersection Relocation Agency: FHWA/MD SHA/Carroll County
 Agency Prepared By: MD SHA
 Preparer's Name: Kathryn Barrett & Anne Bruder Date Prepared: 03/12/2012
 Documentation is presented in: Project Review and Compliance
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: X A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
 Name of the District/Property: Mount Pleasant Survey District
 Inventory Number: CARR-1714 Eligible: yes Listed: yes
 Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Located on the southwest corner at the crossroads of MD 97 and Stone Road, the Keys-Bish Cannery and House closely addresses MD 97.

Cannery Description

Constructed in the mid-1920s, the long frame cannery building faces Stone Road and is composed of several additions to one main building. The end-gabled main building is five bays long and two bays wide and is clad in lapped wood siding. Supported on a rubble-stone foundation, the cannery building has a large, open-bay shed-roof addition on the south elevation and a small enclosed shed-roof addition projecting from the northwest corner. Rafter tails project from the medium pitched, standing-seam metal roof. The front (north) façade hosts three windows and two separate entrances. One window is a six-over-six double-hung wood sash system, while the others are composed of three vertical lights over one light. The small shed projecting from the front façade also features a six-over-six double-hung wood sash system and double wooden doors. The shed is clad with vertical wood siding. A single sliding barn door operates on the gable end of the building that faces east. Occupying the gable space on this end is a four-over-two wood sash window. The south elevation is dominated by the large open-bay shed-roof structure that houses old machinery and equipment associated with the former cannery operations. The metal roof slope of the main building extends over

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 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
[Signature]
 Reviewer, National Register Program

4/19/2012
 Date
4/20/12
 Date

his post and beam structure.

Two additional machinery sheds are located on the south side of the cannery building. One is composed of concrete block with a front gable roof, and the other is frame with a shed roof. A small separate frame building, what appears to be a privy, is located on the west side of the cannery building.

The cannery discontinued operation in the 1980s. However, much of the equipment remains within the building. The building is in fair, but deteriorating, condition with many wood members in need of repair or replacement.

House Description

The house is located on a small lot consisting of less than an acre, though was once part of over eleven acres and is associated with a cannery building now located on the adjacent parcel. Given that historically these buildings were on the same property and are directly associated with each other, they are both discussed within this evaluation.

Constructed in the early to mid-19th century, the house is composed of three main massings. The southern portion is a two-and-one-half story building with a two and one-half story ell projecting from the northwest side (back of the building). The other portion is a front-gabled, two and one-half story section added onto the northern portion of the L-plan house. This section projects forward slightly from the façade and features details different from the original, L-plan section. All portions of the house are supported by painted rubble-stone foundation walls. The entire house is also clad in aluminum siding and has a newer, continuous standing-seam metal roof over all sections, making it difficult to discern the evolution of the building (which portions are additions or original). All windows have been replaced with aluminum, one-over-one sash systems, with exception to the small, attic-level windows occupying the gable spaces.

The south wing of the house is five bays long and two bays wide with a modified central hall, double parlor plan. This symmetrical façade faces MD 97. Two interior end chimneys extend from the side-gabled roof of this portion of the house. The chimneys are composed of painted brick with a corbelled chimney cap. A one-story shed-roof porch extends from the length of the front façade. The porch roof is supported by simple square posts resting on a tongue and groove floor. The porch foundation is composed of concrete block piers. Detailed with a Greek-Revival style door surround featuring a multi-light transom, sidelights, and engaged pilasters, the original central door has been replaced with a contemporary panel and glazed door behind an aluminum screen door. The fenestration consists of five windows on the second story and two windows flanking the central door on the lower level.

The northern, front projecting section of the façade is composed of a three-bay wide by three-bay long massing. This front-gabled section features a one-story hipped-roof porch sheltering a front door flanked by a window on either side. Cornice returns and a small, arched, two vertical-light window details the front gable. The north elevation is a continuation of this section of the house. The end-gable roofline of the original, southern section continues through this elevation and ends in a gable detailed similar to the front with cornice returns and the small arched attic window. Two windows are found on the second story and lower level. A one story, shed roof portion extends from the back or western side of the building, the side of which is flush with the north elevation. Behind the shed-roof portion is the north elevation of the kitchen ell. Three windows, two up and one down, detail this elevation. A six-light window also punctuates the basement level of the kitchen ell.

The condition of the western elevation is complex with additions and modifications made when the house was converted into three apartments. Projecting from the northwest side of original section, the kitchen ell dominates this elevation. The kitchen is two and one-half stories with a partially above-grade basement. The end-gable roof slope extends to the south, creating a salt-box form. Based on the discontinuous masonry work on the basement level of the kitchen massing, there may have been a one or even two

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...ory porch extending from the south side, which has since been enclosed. An interior end, brick corbelled cap chimney rises from the roof ridge. According to the current owner, Ms. Betty Bish, there is a very large fireplace in the kitchen. The northern end of this elevation features the one-story shed roof portion complete with a single window. A dog-leg wooden staircase leads to the upper level of the kitchen ell.

The south elevation depicts the modified condition of the kitchen ell, in addition to the gable end of the original southern massing portion of the house. A second floor door and two windows are positioned on the second level of the kitchen ell, with the same configuration found on the lower-level. The two-bay gable-end elevation of the original massing has two windows on the attic, second story and first story. A single four-light basement window provides light into the basement of this section.

Historic Context

The Keys-Bish House has a varied and uncertain past with many owners, inhabitants, functions and alterations. The interior of the house was not accessible, and the exterior is covered with intact vinyl siding, making an accurate analysis of the building a challenge. Most information gathered on the building is based on land records, maps, census data and an oral interview with the current owner, Ms. Betty Bish.

In 1798, John Miller Sr. paid taxes on this parcel of land known as Bare Meadow, which was part of the Legioners tract and Shoemakers Lot in Frederick County. During this time, 237 ¼ acres comprised Miller's land with two log houses, and a barn (Frederick County Tax Assessment 1836). John Miller Jr. inherited his father's land following his death in the early 1830s, and subsequently sold off portions of the property. The land records following the Miller occupation are not consistent, with the last clearly referenced deed dating from 1836 when David and Catherine Smeach sold a small parcel of land to Jacob Erb. The deed indicates the transfer of land and premises, on eleven and (approximately) ¾ acres. Interestingly, the Frederick County tax record of 1836 does not list David Smeach, nor does the Carroll County record of 1837 mention Jacob Erb. Jacob Erb also inherited 333 acres (with a stone house and outbuildings) from his grandfather's estate in 1836. Located approximately five miles west down Stone Road from the subject parcel, the Erb Farm is listed in the MIHP as CARR-98. Jacob Erb likely lived on his family farm rather than the subject parcel, as the 1840 and 1850 census list him in District 2. It is unclear why Jacob Erb purchased this relatively small parcel of land the year he inherited a large farm. It may suggest the parcel, located on a crossroads linking Taneytown, Union Mills and Westminster, may have had a building on it, possibly a small business. The Erbs owned the property until 1851 when Jacob Stone purchased the property, and on the same day, transferred the eleven and ¾ acres to Stephen Keys and his wife Eliza for \$700. The Keys sold the property seven years later to George Shade for \$1,200 (Carroll County Land Records).

The large log house may have been constructed in this seven year period by the Keys. Constructed in several phases, the south wing appears to be the original house, based on the symmetry and placement of the two interior end chimneys. The kitchen ell was likely constructed with the southern portion. The house exhibits some stylistic features, such as the vernacular interpretation of a Greek revival door surround, and central hall double-parlor plan of the southern-most section. These features are unusual for a log house- especially in a county known for the German-influenced three-room plan with one and one-half stories. The plan and spatial massing with a formal central hall more closely resembles the Federal style brick houses in downtown Westminster than it does other characteristic German-influenced log houses on the outskirts of town. Interestingly, the Miller-Bish Farm (CARR-1667), located across the street, is similar in design with the symmetrical façade, central door with the same door surround detail, and two interior end chimneys.

Perhaps the Keys employed the services of their neighbor, Owen Bankert, who was listed as a carpenter in the 1850 census. The central hall, double-parlor plan is similar to the plan of the stone house built in 1790 on the aforementioned Erb family farm.

The house is also positioned relatively close to the road, rather than set-back with a driveway and surrounding farmland. This may

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suggest the building was constructed for a specific purpose- such as a hotel, public house, tavern, store, etc. Ms. Betty Bish indicated that she believed the house was used for these purposes, but does not know exactly when. She also noted that during renovations, a second story exterior door was revealed on the front of the house, indicating there once was a second story porch.

The proposed 1850s construction date is also consistent with the development of the Mt. Pleasant area. Established in the 1850s, the Bish Family Farm (CARR-1667) is located approximately one-mile northeast of the subject parcel. Likewise, the Frock-Burgoon Farm (CARR-1548), located approximately one mile northwest of this parcel, was established in the mid-19th century. Both of these farmhouses are also composed of two-story log construction. By 1862 several businesses and residences flanked MD 97 in the Mt. Pleasant area in addition the community's Mt. Pleasant School.

George Shade owned the subject parcel for less then two years when he sold it to Levi Frock for \$1,500 in 1860. By 1866, Levi Frock slightly expanded the parcel when he purchased approximately 1/10 an acre occupying the southwest corner of the intersection of MD 97 and Stone Road from Alfred and Amelia Bish, neighbors and occupants of the Miller-Bish Farm. The addition of this small tract completed the parcel to include the corner, which would have been an ideal location for a business. By 1862, Levi Frock operated a general store on this parcel (Martenet Map, 1862). Levi Frock is listed in the 1860 census as a 30 year-old merchant owning \$1,700 in land and \$2,000 in personal property, and living in District 7 (Westminster District). The 1863 W.O. Shearer map also indicates that Levi Frock occupied this parcel on the corner. Levi Frock (via Trustee, Joseph Shaffer) sold the parcel to Francis N. Burgoon in 1870, who lived there for twenty-five years before selling the property to pay off debts. Mr. Burgoon is listed as a huckster in the 1870 census, and also served as a Trustee for the Mt. Pleasant School, which was located across Stone Road from his house. John P. Gormely and Henry Bowers purchased the parcel for \$1,600 in 1895, and sold the parcel three years later to George Crass for \$1,550. In 1906, George and his wife Catherine sold the property to Reuben Bish, who owned the property for one year before selling it to Charles and Mary Starner in 1919 for \$3,100. The significant increase in the property value between 1906 and 1907 may account for the construction of the north addition to the house, which likely served as a general store. According to Ms. Betty Bish, this section of the house did function as a store at one time. Charles and Mary Starner owned the property between from 1907 to 1919 when Jacob and Carrie Frock purchased it for \$4,000.

The Mt. Pleasant Packing Company was likely established in or around 1924 when LeRoy Smeak and John Schweigart purchased the Keys-Bish House and property from George Smeak, LeRoy's father, in May of 1924. The small complex of buildings located behind the house was likely constructed as the cannery operation. The cannery does not appear on the 1889 Canned Goods Directory of North America, or the Directory of Cannery of the United States 1919. However, the Tri-State 1927 Directory Packers Association (which lists member processors by county in DE, MD and NJ listing local owned and operated canneries and those owned by firms from other counties and states), lists a Smeak and Schweigart Canning Co. in Westminster (Post Office) with the plant location as Westminster. The Smeak and Schweigart Canning Company packed tomatoes. The 1960 Processors DE, MD, VA and NJ lists the Mt. Pleasant Packing Company office and factory located in Westminster. As the nearest railroad line ran through the town of Westminster and not along MD 97, the Mt. Pleasant Packing Company is representative of a trend that many small farms employed: farming produce, canning the produce, and loading trucks to send canned goods into town for rail shipping to major cities. Among the products canned at the Mt. Pleasant Packing Company were damson plums, tomatos and hominy and customer work for other vegetables according to Ms. Betty Bish (personal communication with Anne Bruder 8/24/2009).

The canning industry in Maryland was primarily located in Baltimore during the mid-19th century. Many of the canning technologies used in outlying rural areas were developed in Baltimore, with inventions and improvements made in some of these rural industries. The railroads significantly facilitated local farmers' abilities to ship canned goods from rural communities into cities or larger distribution areas. The cannery business was an economically important industry at the time when shipping with refrigeration was not an option. The cannery industry also provided an alternative to farmers seeking to diversify agricultural

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Income following the Civil War and dissolution of slave labor. By the mid 1880's, twenty-six percent of all canneries in the county were in Maryland, with tomatoes as the dominant crop (Kee: 2006, p.53). In Union Mills, approximately seven miles from the Mt. Pleasant Packing Company, Benjamin Franklin Shriver established a cannery in 1868 and later opened an additional cannery in Carroll County. As exemplified by the Mt. Pleasant Packing Company, locating canning operations on or very near to the fields cultivated for the canned goods became common practice for some of the smaller rural canneries. The canned goods could then be taken into town for shipping on the railroad (Kee:2006, p.54). By 1919, Maryland was home to seventeen percent of all the canneries in the United States as the industry grew in popularity throughout the country. The industry provided jobs and stable income to farmers, and supported local economies.

Five years after going into business together, Smeak and Schweigart sold the parcel, cannery and house, to LeRoy Smeak and his wife as the sole owners. LeRoy Smeak owned the property until 1952 when he kept the house, and sold the cannery and adjacent fields to Airy Bish and her son Carroll Bish in 1952. Ms. Betty Bish, the wife of Carroll Bish, later purchased the house and cannery parcels from Edra Smeak in 1967. Ms. Betty Bish recalls that the cannery was in operation well into the 1980s. The house currently is configured into three apartments and the cannery building is used as storage, though much of the equipment remains in the building.

The Keys-Bish House marks the crossroads of the small Mt. Pleasant community. Past owners and occupants utilized the house to run businesses and raise families. The position of the house along a busy turnpike is a clear response to how the turnpike helped establish this small community. The cannery building exemplifies the trend of rural farms cultivating, canning and trucking goods into town. The house and cannery are directly associated with the events and trends that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the local history of Mt. Pleasant and Carroll County, thus qualifying it for eligibility under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any person or group of persons of outstanding importance to the community, state, or nation. Therefore, the Keys-Bish Cannery and House is not eligible under Criterion B. The Keys-Bish House has experienced many alterations, and while the building embodies characteristics of mid-19th century, rural farm house it has lost integrity of materials and workmanship. However, the buildings show how a house and business evolved together at a small cross roads community in Carroll County. The utilization of logs as building material is also characteristic of the Carroll County landscape. The cannery building is also a good example of this small industrial building type, located adjacent to the fields that once supplied produce for the building operations. The linear building with small outbuildings was specifically built to house the cannery equipment.

Therefore, the Keys-Bish Cannery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (events), while the Keys-Bish House is not individually eligible, but contributes to the significance of the cannery and to the Mount Pleasant Survey District. The Keys-Bish Cannery is notable in Carroll County's canning history as an example of a local, specialized cannery which canned tomatoes and damson plums between 1924 and 1985. Research conducted as part of this study did not identify persons of local, state or national significance and the Keys-Bish Cannery and House is not eligible under Criterion B (persons). Although the cannery retains its component parts, its significance stems from the events it is associated with rather than as an architectural example and it and the Keys-Bish House are not eligible under NRHP Criterion C (architecture). NRHP Criteiron D was not included in this study.

The historic boundary of the property includes the house, the cannery, and the agricultural fields behind the house and cannery within Tax Parcels 222 and 13 as shown on Carroll County Tax Map 30 totalling 0.587 acres.

Sources Consulted:

Brugger, Robert. Maryland, A Middle Temperament. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.

Hollifield, William. Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and Baltimore County, Baltimore County

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Eligibility recommended				Eligibility not recommended									
Criteria:	<u> </u> A	<u> </u> B	<u> </u> C	<u> </u> D	Considerations:	<u> </u> A	<u> </u> B	<u> </u> C	<u> </u> D	<u> </u> E	<u> </u> F	<u> </u> G	
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Historical Society, 1978.

Kee, Ed. Saving Our Harvest: The Story of the Mid-Atlantic Region's Canning and Freezing Insudtry, CTI Publications, Baltimore, MD, 2006.

Martenet, S.J. Martenet's Map of Carroll County, Maryland, Simon J. Martenet Surveyor & Civil Engineer, Baltimore, MD, 1862.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form for the Hampstead School (CARR-1267).

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland, Volume II, 1882. Reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968.

Shearer, W.O. Map of Carroll County, Philadelphia, PA, 1863.

Warner, Nancy M. et al. Carroll County Maryland. Westminster, MD: Carroll County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Weeks, Christopher. The Buildings of Westminster in Maryland, Fishergate Publishing Company, Inc., Annapolis, MD. 1979.

Carroll County Land Records

October 10, 1967. Edra Smeak to Betty Bish, Bk 428, p. 165

May 18, 1929. Virginia Yingling to G. LeRoy Smeak and wife Margaret, EMM bk, 152 p. 416; containing 11 acres

May 18, 1929. John Schweigart and G. LeRoy Smeak to Virginia Yingling, 11 acres, EMM bk 152, p. 415

May 19, 1924. George M. Smeak and Jacob and Carrie Frock to John L. Schweigert and G. LeRoy Smeak, EMM bk. 143 p.475, 11+ acres

April 1, 1919. Charles Starner and Mary Starnerto Jacob and Carrie Frock, EOC bk.134, p.20, 11+ acres, \$4,000

April 1907. Reuben Bish to Charles Starner, DPS bk. 106 p.148, \$3,100, 11+ acres

March 29, 1906. George and Catherine Crass to Reuben Bish, DPS bk. 104 p. 382, 11+ acres

February 17, 1898. John P. Gormley to George Crass, JHB bk. 86, p.234, 11+ acres, \$1,550

January 19, 1895. Francis N. and Catherine Burgoon (via trustee David Reese) to John P. Gormley and Henry Bowers, Bk. 80, p.137, \$1,600

October 6, 1894. Francis N. Burgoon to David Reese (Deed of Trust), Bk. 79, p. 413, \$2,640.

1870. Levi Frock (via trustee Joseph Shaffer), Francis N. Burgoon, Bk. 39 p. 10; 11+ acres. The cannery parcel and house parcel were combined with the deed from George Shade

November 27, 1866. Alfred Bish to Levi Frock, Bk. 33, p.179 17 square perches or 1/10 of an acre (4,356 sq. ft)

January 20, 1860. George Shade to Levi Frock, Bk. 26, p. 272, 11+ acres, \$1,500

March 1858. Stephen and Eliza Keys to George Shade, Bk. 23, p. 434, 11+ acres, \$1,200

March 22, 1851. Jacob Stone to Stephen Keys, \$700, 11+ acres, bk.12 p.270 (references Fred. Co. record 1836 p.305-306)

March 22, 1851. Jacob and Hannah Erb to Jacob Stone, Bk 12, p. 270

1836. David and Catherine Smeach to Jacob Erb, Bk. 4, p. 305/306 (Fred. Co. also references premises and land)

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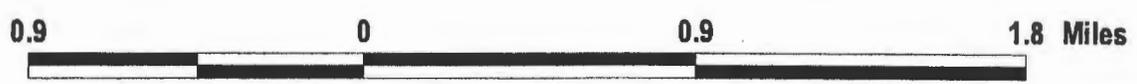
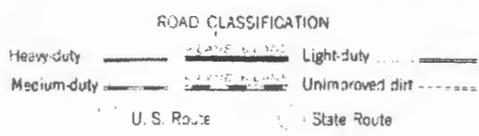
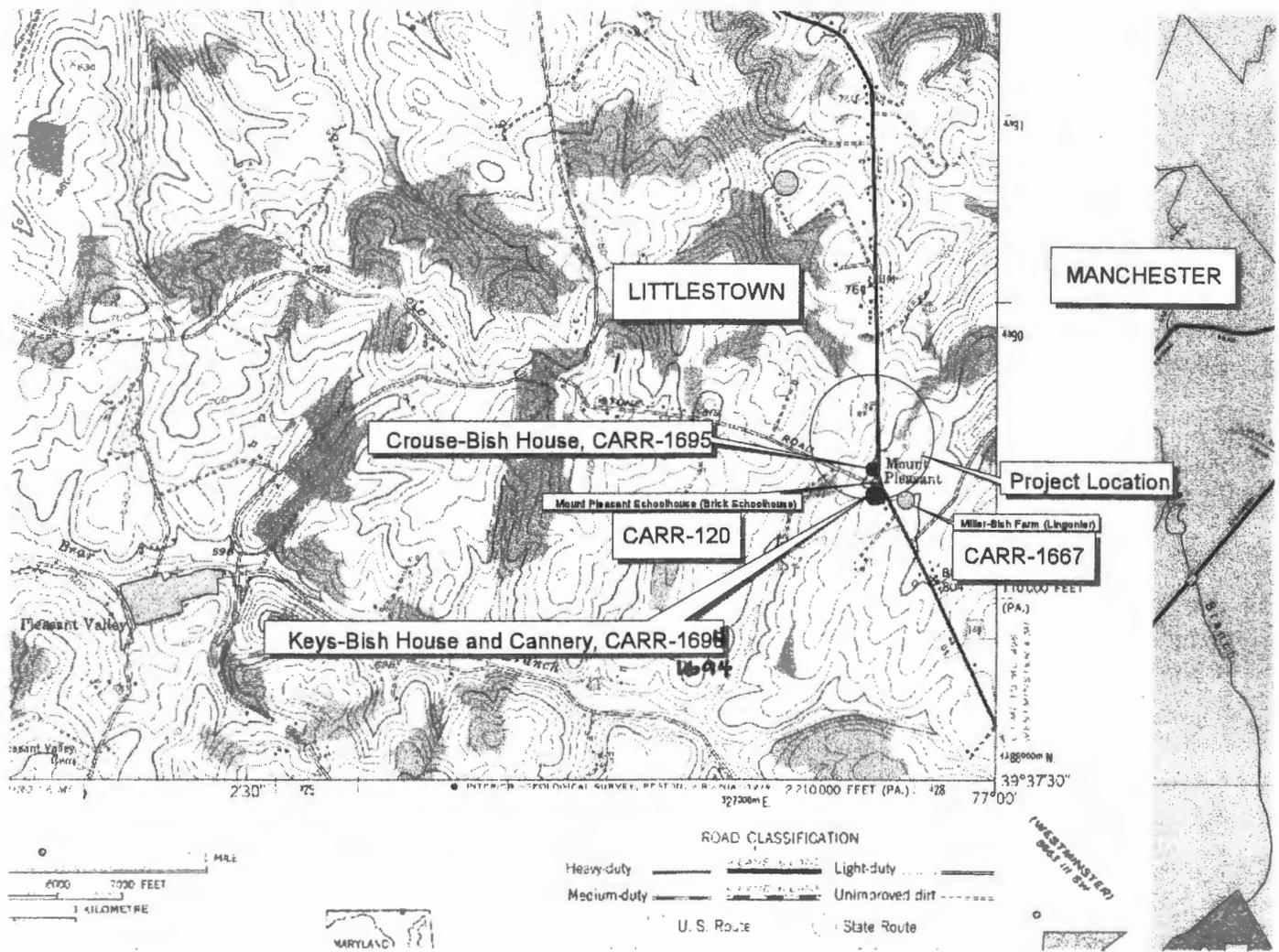
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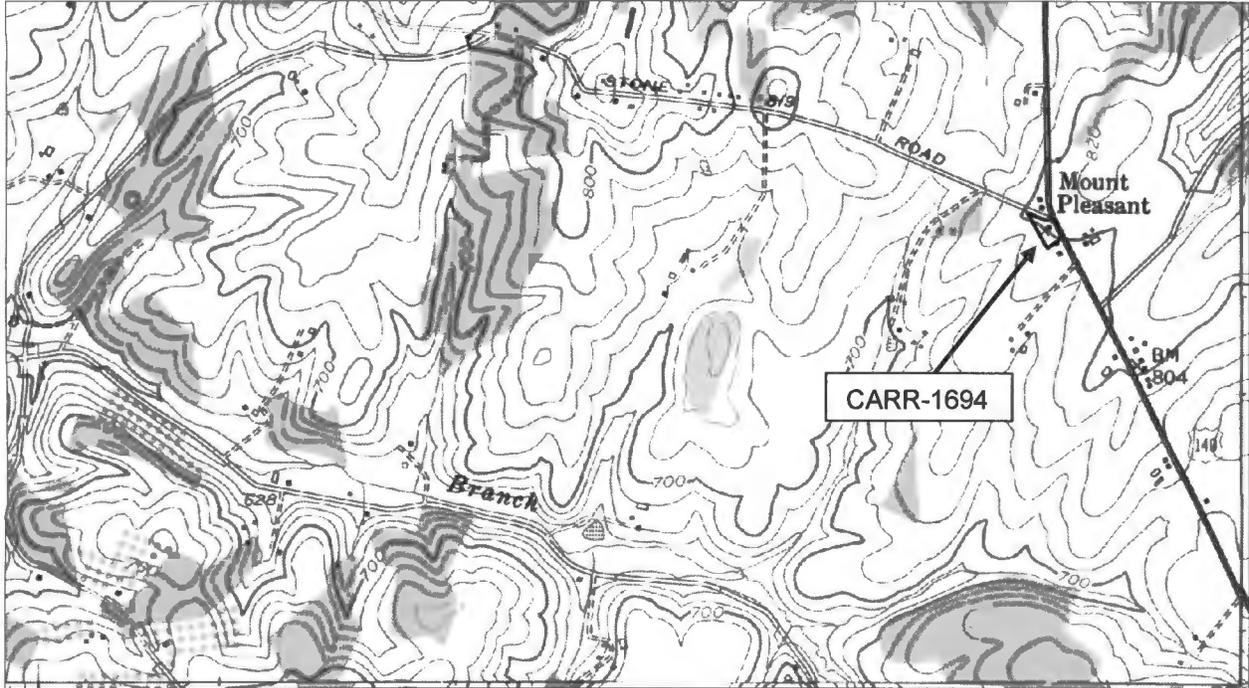
Resource Location Map on USGS Littlestown Quad



- Maryland Inventory of Historic Places
- Maryland Historical Trust Easements
- National Register of Historic Places
- USGS Topo Quad Index
- County



CARR-1694
Keys-Bish House and Cannery
2238 Littlestown Pike (MD 97)
Littlestown quad 1953, Photorevised 1971, Photoinspected 1984



National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map c. 2011-13



JKC 1/23/2015



CARR - 1694

Keys - Birch House & Cannery
Carroll County

SHA

January 2008

View of the front elevation (east side).



CARR-1694

Keys-Birch House : Cannery
Carroll Co.

SHA

Jan. 2008

View of the northeast corner of the
house.



CARR-1694

Keys - Bish House : Cannery
Carroll Co.

SHA

Jan. 2008

View of the west elevation.

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CARR-1694
Keys-Birch House : Cannery
Carroll Co.

SHA

Jan. 2008

View of the south elevation.

4/2



CARR-1694
Keys-Brook House & Cannery
Carroll Co,
SWA
Jan. 2008

View of the front door on the
south wing.

5/8



CARR-1694

Keys-Birch House : Cannery

Carroll Co.

SHA

Jan. 2008

View of the southeast
Roof : chimney detail.

~~1/8~~



CAER-1694

Keys-Porch House: Cannery

Carroll County

SHA

Jan. 2008

View of the north elevation of
the cannery.

7/8



CARR-1694

Keys - Birch House: Cannery
Carroll Co.

SHA

Jan. 2008

View of the south (back) elevation
of the Cannery.

8/8