

F-1-184

William H. Renn Farmstead  
Adamstown vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1897-1920

The William H. Renn Farmstead is centered on a circa 1897 frame dwelling with polygonal bays, a center cross gable, and a two-story rear wing. The exterior is covered with asbestos shingles. The probable turret roofs of the polygonal bays have been removed, along with the original slate roof, and replaced with composition material. The outbuildings include a circa 1850 stone smokehouse which was associated with an earlier dwelling on the farm, a circa 1897 frame bank barn, a frame garage, chicken house, wagon shed/corn crib, and a rusticated concrete block milk house. All except the smokehouse date from the period 1897-1920. The farmstead is moderately significant for the architecture of the main house, which features in altered form, the typical elements of the late 19th century Queen Anne style popularized by several local builders in the Adamstown, Buckeystown, and Doubs vicinity. The polygonal bays were frequently used by these builders, although in the original design, would have turret roofs in patterned slate. The Renn house bays are truncated, the roofs having been removed and the slate replaced by modern material. The porch may also have had more detailed trim work, as this was also very common in the turn of the century period. The outbuildings are typical examples of the functional agricultural buildings of the period. The farm originated as a tenant farm on Carrollton Manor and was purchased from Emily Harper, Charles Carroll's heir, in 1867 by George A. Bready, whose family had occupied the tract for many years. In 1889, George C. Renn bought the farm and sold in 1897 to his son, William H. Renn, who had the present buildings erected. The former dwelling with which the smokehouse was associated was demolished.

F-1-184

William H. Renn Farmstead

Adamstown

Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Domestic/secondary structure/garage

Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies

Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn

Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary

Know Design Source: None

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIESMaryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic William H. Renn Farmstead

and/or common Green Meadows

**2. Location**street & number 5514 Mountville Road  not for publicationcity, town Adamstown  vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name William M. and Doris Kathleen Renn

street &amp; number 5514 Mountville Road telephone no.:

city, town Adamstown state and zip code MD 21710

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 641

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 83

city, town Frederick state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

repository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-1-184

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 6

The William H. Renn Farmstead is an originally agricultural complex now principally a private residence centered on a circa 1897 frame dwelling with two stories and a perpendicular rear wing and its associated domestic and agricultural outbuildings, including a stone smokehouse built about 1850-1875, a frame garage of the early 20th century, a frame wagon shed/corn crib built about 1897, a frame and stone bank barn of about 1897, a rusticated concrete block milk house, and a frame chicken house, both of about 1920. The farmstead is located on the north side of Mountville Road about 1/4 mile west of the B&O Railroad tracks near Adamstown, Frederick County, Maryland. The building group is sited at the end of a driveway from Mountville Road where a gate and signpost with the current owners' names and the name of the farm "Green Meadows" are displayed. Dates for the buildings were estimated from land records, local histories, and architectural details.

The dwelling faces south and has a five-bay principal elevation with a center cross gable and polygonal bays at the corners. A one-story porch with Tuscan columns extends across the south elevation. The concrete block deck replaces the original wood deck. The exterior of the house is covered with asbestos shingle siding, concealing the original german siding. The windows are 1/1 replacements in the main section, although some of the original 2/2 sash remains in place on the rear wing. In the cross gable is a Gothic arched window with tracery muntins. The chimneys are located near the center of the gable roof, which is covered with composition material, replacing the original patterned slate. Since the polygonal bays are a common feature in the Adamstown Region and were built with turret roofs, it may be assumed that the flat roofs of the bays once had conical roofs of slate. The center entrance has a 4-panel door with arched molding panels. A three-light transom and sidelights surround the doorway. The two-story rear wing has a two-story open porch on the east side. Turned columns and a balustrade are on the upper level and modern cast iron replacement columns are on the first story. The base of the porch is concrete as on the main elevation porch. An enclosed section on the second level porch was the original bathroom in the house, added in the early 20th century. Later, a second family bathroom was made in a former second story bedroom and the original bathroom became a small servant's room with its own bath. The enclosed section on the first story porch below this part is a pantry off the kitchen in the wing.

The interior of the house has been considerably altered in finishes, but the main floor plan of the house remains virtually intact. The window and door openings have corner blocks and pine trim. Wallpaper covers the plaster and lath interior walls. Hardwood floors are still in place. Molded mantels which appear to be original are also present.

## Outbuildings:

Smokehouse: The square plan stone smokehouse is located on the east side of the entrance drive to the complex. According to Mr. Renn, the building was associate

(Continued)

# 8. Significance

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** C. 1897 - 1920 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The William H. Renn Farmstead is moderately significant for the architecture of the circa 1897 dwelling and the outbuildings, which range in date from about 1850 to 1920. The house reflects a commonly found local version of the Queen Anne style which features twin corner turrets on polygonal bays. The basic plan of the house is the five-bay L-shaped plan found in Frederick County from the late 18th century well into the 20th century. In the last quarter of the 19th century, local contractors in Buckeystown, Adamstown, and Doubs began to add polygonal bays to the corners of the main elevations and the gable ends, along with elaborately trimmed porches, cornices, gable ornaments and shingling, and roof finials and crests. The roofs were usually patterned slate. The variation in surface planes and finishes was characteristic of the Queen Anne style from about 1880 to 1915. The William H. Renn Farmstead may have had more of the elaborated trim, but it has been removed over several periods of remodeling, along with the turret roofs over the polygonal bays. The frame outbuildings reflect the most commonly used materials and designs of the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century. The farm was originally one of the Carrollton Manor tenant properties and was occupied for many years by the Bready family. In 1867, George A. Bready purchased the farm of 272 acres from Emily Harper, one of Charles Carroll of Carrollton's heirs. A 97-acre section of this tract was bought in 1889 by George C. Renn and in 1897, William H. Renn (born 1871), his son, acquired the farm. According to Williams & McKinsey's History of Frederick County (1910), "it has fine stretches of meadow land and has been brought to a high state of cultivation. His farm has one of the best springs of water in Frederick County, and is an exceptional(ly) fine dairy farm, on which he keeps twenty-five choice milch cows. Mr. Renn has built for himself a comfortable two-story frame dwelling, a bank barn, and all the necessary buildings. Besides his farming, he has a fine traction engine, a threshing machine, and a hay packer with which he has been doing a profitable business for twelve years. . . . He is one of the leading business men of the county and was one of the organizers of the Adamstown Canning Company." Grove's History of Carrollton Manor (1928) includes a memoir by Rev. Guy Bready in which he recalls that during the Civil War the open meadows were frequently used as camp sites by both the Union and Confederate armies, probably because of the good spring water. Guns and swords left behind by the armies were supposedly dumped into a well near the original dwelling (later demolished) by local boys fearing to be caught with weapons by military authorities. No trace of these has been found.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-1-184

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858  
Grove, William J. History of Carrollton Manor. Frederick: Marken & Bielfeld, Inc.,  
1928; 164-165, 432-433.  
Land Records of Frederick County  
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acresQuadrangle name Buckeystown, Md.-Va.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres centered on the dwelling on Tax Map 103, Parcel 7

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date June 1993street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state MD 21701

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

MAILED  
JUN 15 1993  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
614-7600

7.1 DESCRIPTION (Continued)

with an earlier dwelling on the farmstead which was located just east of the smokehouse in a field now used as a pasture. The smokehouse has a hipped standing seam metal roof with a scalloped bargeboard trim in rather deteriorated condition. The peak of the roof rises into a small cupola vent, now covered with the metal roofing material. The interior of the building has a board floor with a small open stone fireplace in the southwest corner, and open rafters with hooks. Mr. Renn states that the area under the smokehouse was used in the early 20th century as an icehouse. The date of the smokehouse may be as early as 1850, but further research on the history of the tract may reveal a more exact date.

Garage: The frame garage is located behind the house and has tongue-and-groove siding and sliding doors on the east elevation. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. It appears to have been built in the period about 1910-1920.

Chicken house: A small frame chicken house stands next to the garage, with vertical siding and a corrugated shed roof. Mr. Renn states that the building has been moved several times within the farmstead and it is currently not in use. Its date is probably about 1920.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed corn crib faces south and has vertical siding and a corrugated metal roof. It appears to date from about 1897, a date supported by local histories. It is currently used as a storage building.

Bank barn and milk house: The frame bank barn has a stone foundation and vertical and board and batten siding. Louvred arched vents are in all elevations. The roof is covered with corrugated metal. The rusticated concrete block milk house is located just south of the barn. It has a gable standing seam metal roof. The barn was probably built about 1897 according to land records and local histories, and the milk house was added in the early 1920's. A non-contributing concrete block dairy barn and milk house are also in the complex, currently in use as storage and workshop.

William H. Renn Farmstead  
Frederick County

SURVEY No. F-1-184

9.1 BIBLIOGRAPHY (Continued)

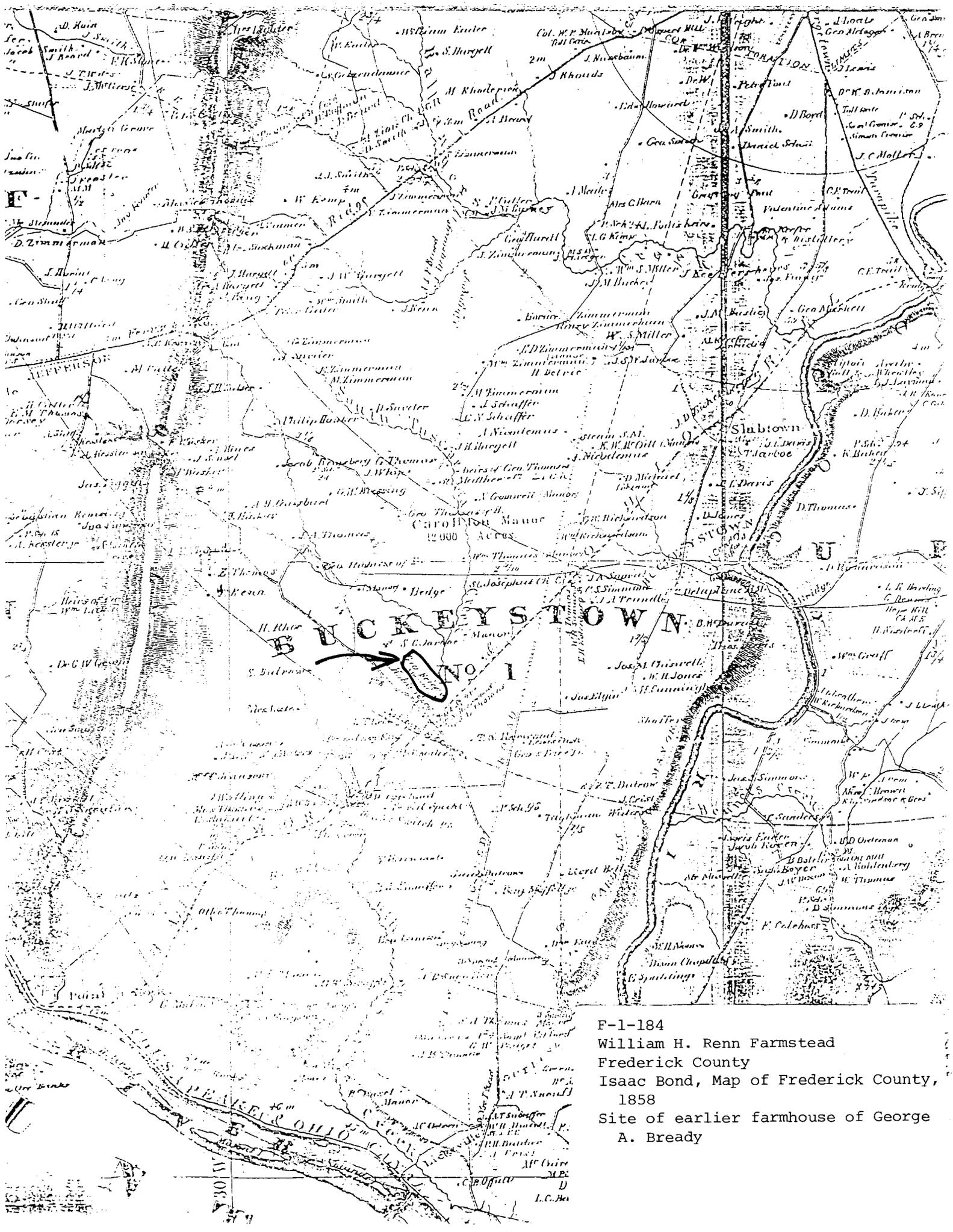
Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910.  
Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, 1169-1170.

# Renn Farm

Lot Size, Description,  
Other Information,  
Original Tracts

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
641/83 1 Aug 60	William M. & Doris K. Renn	Nevian Hatcher	97 a. <del>22</del> <sup>23.9</sup> 30.3 sq. p. "Home Farm"		
641/80 1 Aug 60	Nevian E. Hatcher	Wm. M. & Doris K. Renn			
641/74 1 Aug 60	Wm. M. & Doris K. Renn	Beatrice S. Renn & Benjamin L. Shuff, execs of LW & T of W. Homer Renn, dec		\$30,000	
Will Record TME 1/191 1 May 59	Wm. M. Renn	W. Homer Renn	"...right and privilege to purchase the home farm consisting of 98 a... for \$30,000."		
549/476 28 Jul 55	W. Homer Renn	W. Homer & Meredith E. Renn, execs of LW & T of Wm. H. Renn, dec		\$15,000	Will Record HDR 2/442 31 Jan 55
444/251 17 Oct 44	Wm. H. Renn	W. Homer Renn	3rd Parcel "Home Farm" 97 a., 32., 31 sq p.		
425/329 17 Aug 40	W. Homer Renn	A. LeRoy McCaidell & Charles C. Renn, suc. trustees			
376/560 20 Jan 31	A. LeRoy McCaidell C. C. Renn, Albert S. Brown, trustees in Equity	Wm. H. & Edith L. Renn 12, 183			
JLJ 16/516 20 Oct 1897	Wm. H. Renn	George Calvin Renn et al	Part of Lot No. 8, one of the Grand Divisions of Cavellton Manor <del>1300</del> 97 a., 32.	\$7,500	
WIP 9/78 25 Mar 1889	George Calvin Renn	Henry E. Smith		\$12,317.50	



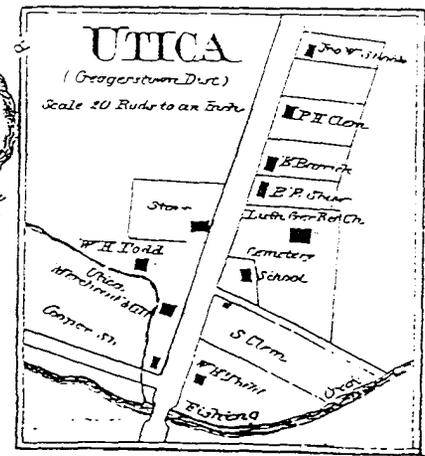
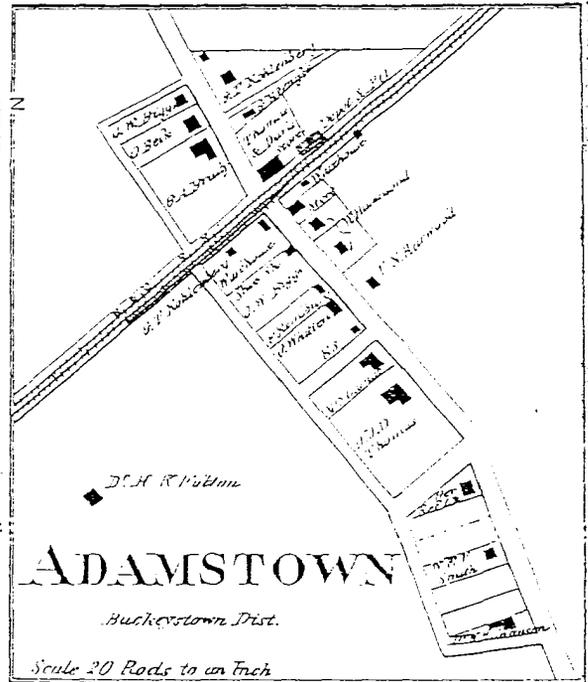
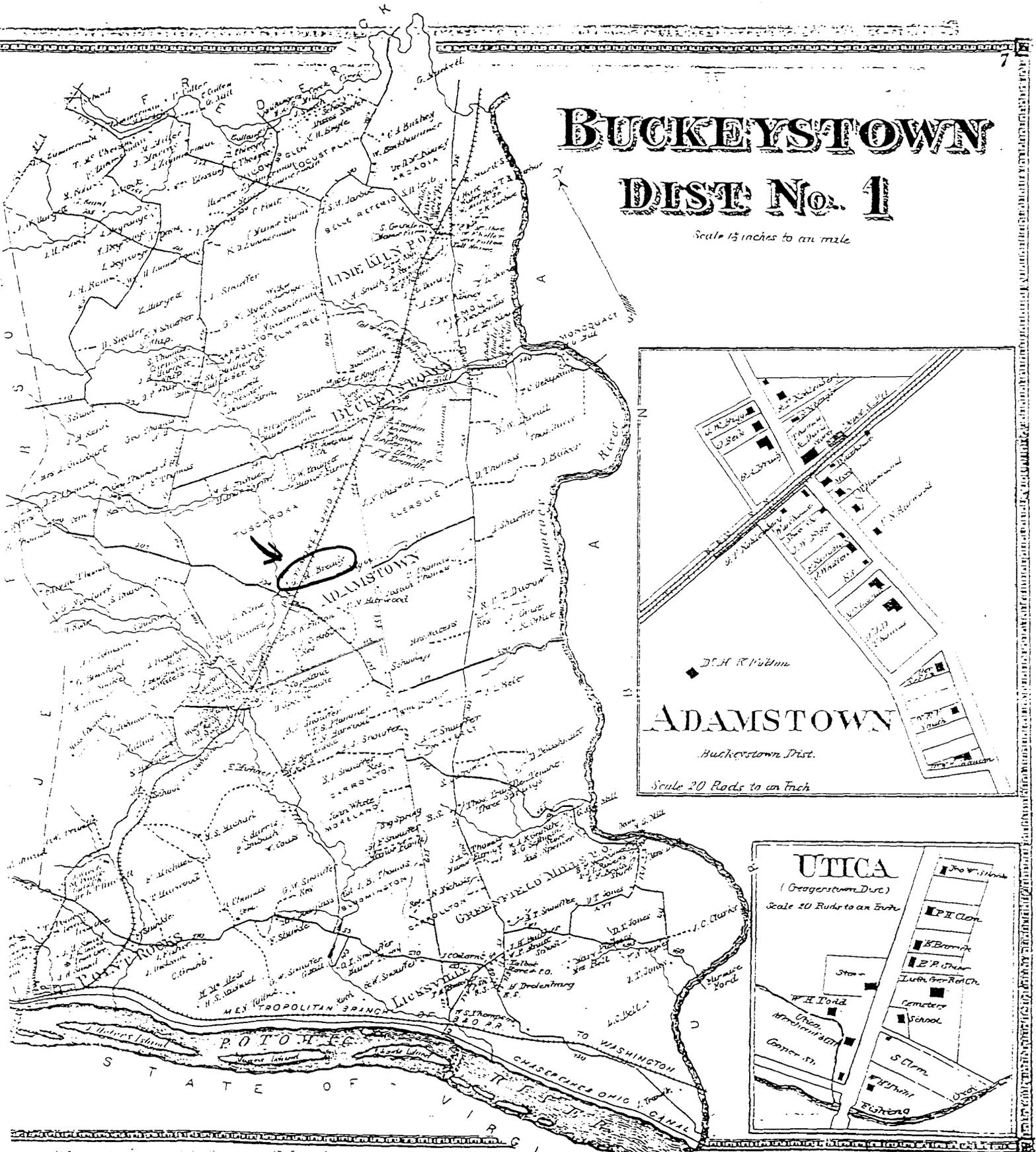


F-1-184  
 William H. Renn Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,  
 1858  
 Site of earlier farmhouse of George  
 A. Bready

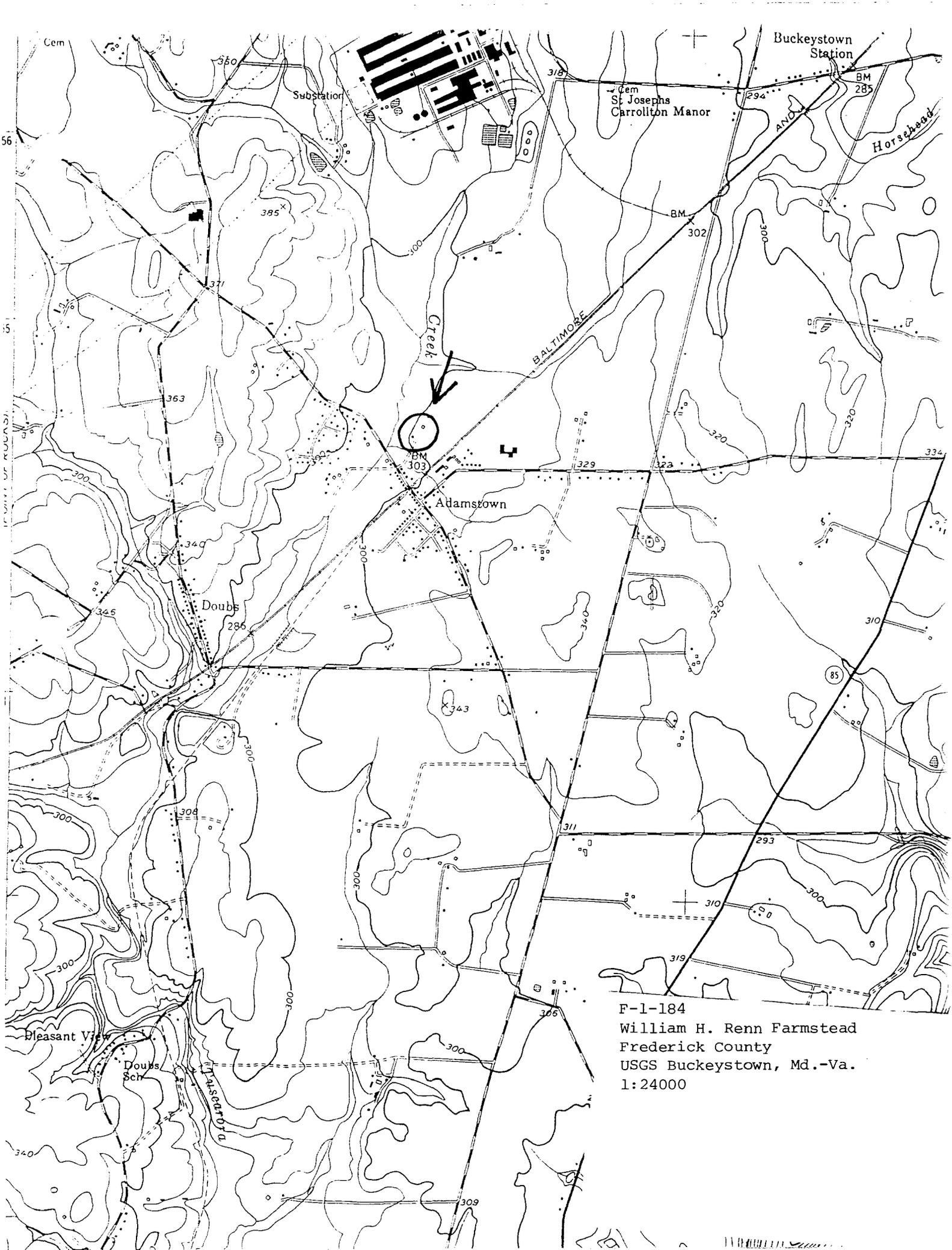
# BUCKEYSTOWN

## DIST No. 1

Scale 15 inches to an mile



F-1-184  
 William H. Renn Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
 County, 1873  
 Site of earlier farmhouse of  
 George A. Bready



F-1-184  
William H. Renn Farmstead  
Frederick County  
USGS Buckeystown, Md.-Va.  
1:24000



F-1-184

William H. Renn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Mid. SLIPo, Crownsville, Md.

South elevation

1/7



F-1-184

William H. Renn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO. Crownsville, Md.

Northeast corner view

2/7



F. 1-184

William H. Penn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Poolesville, Md.

Smokehouse, north elevation

3/7



F-1-184

William H. Kern Farmstead  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1973

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md  
Garage and chicken house, east elevations  
4/7



F-1-184

William H. Rem Farmstead  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1975

Neg. loc.: Md. 5413, Crownsville, Md

Wagon shed/corn crib, southeast corner view

5/7



F. 1-184

William H. Renn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SUPO, Crownsville, Md.

Bank barn and milk house, east elevations

6/7



F-1-184

William H. Renn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Bark barn and milk house, view from south

7/7