

F-1-192

Eli Charles Renn Farmstead; "Woodlawn" Ca. 1820-1840; Ca. 1885-1900  
Adamstown vicinity  
Private

The Eli Charles Renn Farmstead is centered on a two-section frame dwelling in the Queen Anne style built about 1885 with a one-story brick rear wing built about 1820-1840 and its two stone outbuildings, a smokehouse and a springhouse, also built during the period of the brick section. Also remaining is a frame and stone bank barn built about 1900, located on a hill south of the domestic group. The Renn Farmstead is moderately significant for the architecture of the house, which has the characteristics of the Queen Anne style in its corner polygonal turrets, hipped roof with an observation platform, shingled gables, a deep veranda on three elevations, and cast iron roof finials. The twin turrets of the main facade are also representative of a local building trend in the Adamstown-Buckeystown area during the height of the Queen Anne style's popularity in the last quarter of the 19th century. The house was originally built by a Renn ancestor possibly in the period 1820-1840. In 1884, Eli Charles Renn (1860-1946) inherited the property from his father John H. Renn and proceeded to remodel the existing house. The expanded house and farm were called "Woodlawn". By 1900, Renn had also erected a large frame bank barn which is a typical representative of the late 19th century bank barn. In recent years, the house has been considerably altered on the interior, with the kitchen currently located in the former south parlor, the wood trim refinished, and modern wall coverings and floors.

F-1-192

Eli Charles Renn Farmstead; "Woodlawn"

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:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870

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 & Use

Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse

Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies

Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/barn

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Eli Charles Renn Farmstead; "Woodlawn"

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 5159 South Renn Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, 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 Robert C. Milligan et al

street & number 14300 Gunpowder Road telephone no.:

city, town Laurel state and zip code MD 20707

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1867

street & number 100 W. Patrick St. folio 1006

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-1-192

<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: 4

The Eli Charles Renn Farmstead is a formerly agricultural complex, now a private residence, centered on a circa 1885 frame Queen Anne style house with a one-story brick rear wing possibly dating from the first quarter of the 19th century and its associated outbuildings, which include a stone smokehouse and a stone springhouse, both of the first or second quarter of the 19th century, and a frame bank barn of about 1900. Several non-contributing concrete block outbuildings are located near the barn. The farmstead is located in open fields near a small stream on the south side of South Renn Road about 1/2 mile east of U.S. 15-340 near Adamstown, Frederick County, Maryland. A modern housing development is located north and northeast of the complex near South Renn Road. The principal elevation of the house faces west and the barn and agricultural outbuildings are located on a hill south of the house. Dates for the buildings are based on architectural evidence and land records.

The dwelling is a two-story frame building with twin corner turrets bracketing the west elevation and a one-story veranda extending on the north, west, and south elevations. The end of the veranda on the south elevation has been enclosed with glass panels. The one-story brick wing extends from the southeast corner of the frame section. The exterior of the house is covered with german siding and the corner turrets have patterned wood shingles on the exterior walls. The hipped roof is covered with composition material, possibly replacing original wood shingles or patterned slate, which were commonly used on similar houses of the same period in the Adamstown and Buckeystown areas. A widow's walk or observation platform with a plain railing tops the center of the roof. Cross gables with shingles face in each direction. The turrets are terminated in cast iron finials resembling eagles in flight. The west elevation cross gable between the turrets has a centered 1/1 window. The facade has three principal bays with the polygonal turrets forming two additional bays. In the center bay of the second story is a pair of 1/1 windows with replacement metal shutters. The center entrance has a diamond-patterned transom and sidelights flanking double paneled doors with elaborately scrolled hardware. The porch has turned columns and scroll-sawn brackets. The brick rear wing is painted white and has 6/6 sash under gauged brick arches with replacement metal paneled shutters. The roof is covered with corrugated metal. The floor plan of the house has been altered with additional walls on the main floor and the interior finishes have been much altered in wall coverings. The wood trim has been stripped and refinished. An unusual mantel in the present dining room is located in a corner and has flanking turned columns with a central globe feature. The original flooring is laid in a diagonal pattern and the original south parlor, now the kitchen, has a modern hardwood floor over the original floor. Interior shutters flank the windows in the main rooms.

Smokehouse: The stone smokehouse is a square building located northeast of the house. It has a concrete plastered exterior painted white with a single vertical tongue-and-groove door in the west elevation. The hipped roof is covered with corrugated metal. It appears to have been built about 1820-1840.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Ca. 1840; Ca. 1885-1900 **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 Eli Charles Renn Farmstead is moderately significant for the Queen Anne style architecture of its circa 1885 dwelling and the stonemasonry techniques illustrated in the two remaining outbuildings of the period 1820-1840. The brick original section of the house, currently the rear wing of the Queen Anne main section, was possibly built between 1820 and 1840 by a Renn ancestor on land which was purchased as early as the 1730's. The main section of the house with its corner polygonal turrets, shingled exterior walls, extended veranda, and observation platform, was built about 1885 by Eli Charles Renn (1860-1946), who inherited the farm from his father John H. Renn. Eli Renn apparently called the remodeled farmstead "Woodlawn". The Queen Anne style was then in its heyday in Frederick County, with the work of builders in Adamstown and Buckeystown recognized as being the leaders. The Renn House shows many of the most popular elements of the national style as well as local variations. The corner turret became a signature of the Adamstown Region builders, either singly or in pairs. Both nationally and locally, patterned shingle gable walls and entire walls were characteristics of the Queen Anne style. Varied rooflines, with balustrades, hipped and towered profiles, and often patterned wood or slate coverings were also common. In the Renn House, the original roof covering has been replaced, but the cast iron finials and the form of the observation platform or widow's walk remain in place. Eli Charles Renn was also responsible for the bank barn, which is a more commonly found representative of the bank barn of about 1900. Several examples of the same period are extant on other farmsteads in the Adamstown Region.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-1-192

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.  
Land Records of Frederick County  
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.  
Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted  
Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, 1169-1170.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10 acres

Quadrangle name Buckeystown, Md.-Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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

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

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 10 acres centered on the main dwelling, including the bank barn south of the house, and the springhouse and smokehouse on Tax Map 85, Parcel 145.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept.	date	July 1993
street & number	12 E. Church Street	telephone	696-2958
city 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.

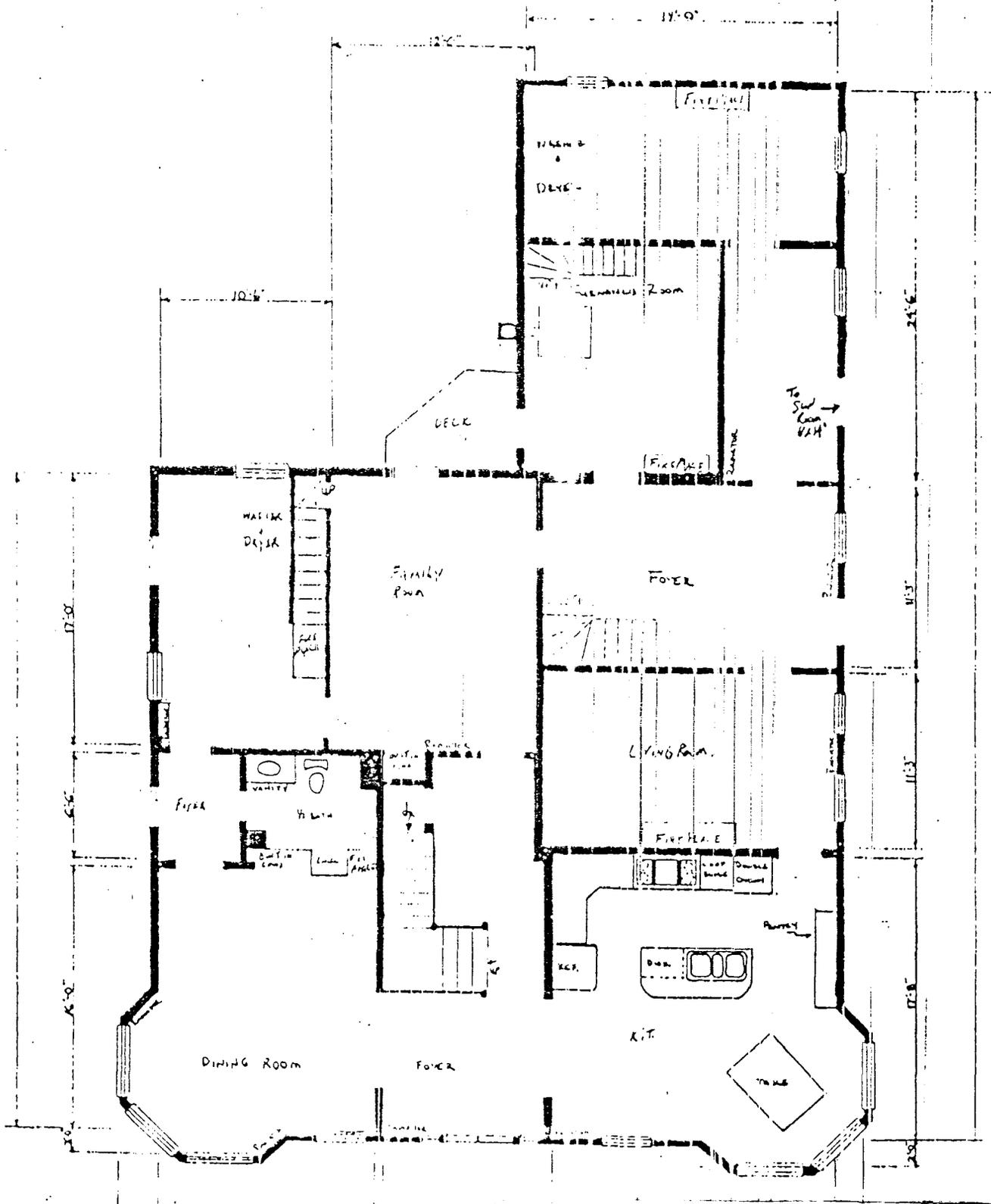
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

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

7.1 Description (Continued)

Springhouse: The stone springhouse is located southwest of the house with the spring flowing through the foundation toward the north across the front lawn of the house. The building is also covered with cement plaster and painted white. The roof is hipped with composition covering and the single door in the east elevation is tongue-and-groove. The springhouse is probably of the same date as the smokehouse. The two stone buildings were undoubtedly part of the original brick dwelling's outbuilding group.

Bank barn: The bank barn is located at some distance to the south of the house on a hill. The non-contributing concrete block structures are clustered around the barn, principally on its north and east sides. The barn itself was probably built about 1900, based on its tongue-and-groove siding on the upper structure and the more finished stonemasonry of the foundation. Louvred vents with arched tops pierce the walls. The roof is both standing seam and corrugated metal. Some of the vents have been closed off with metal sheets. A concrete block addition on the south gable end was added possibly in the 1940's or 1950's for tractor storage.



F-1-192  
 Eli Charles Renn Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 Present first floor plan provided  
 by Michael Milligan

5459 S. Renn Rd.

Lot Size, Description,  
Other Information,  
Original Tracts

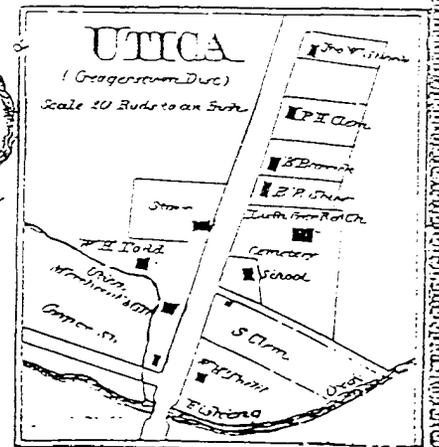
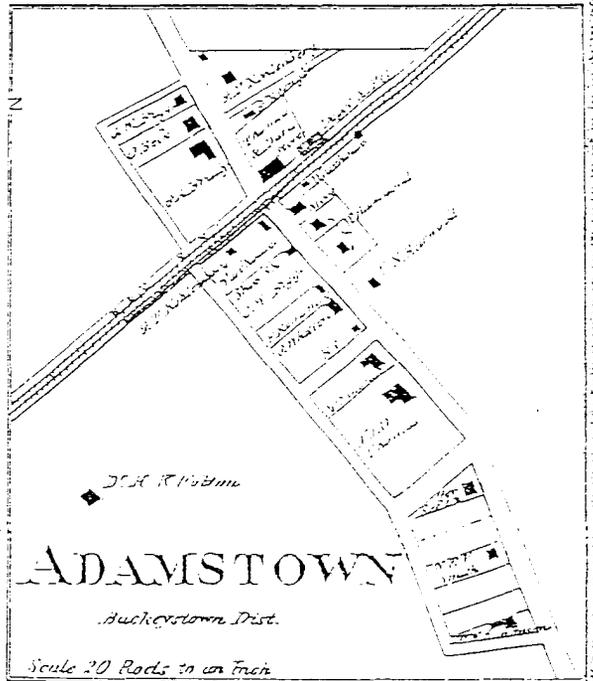
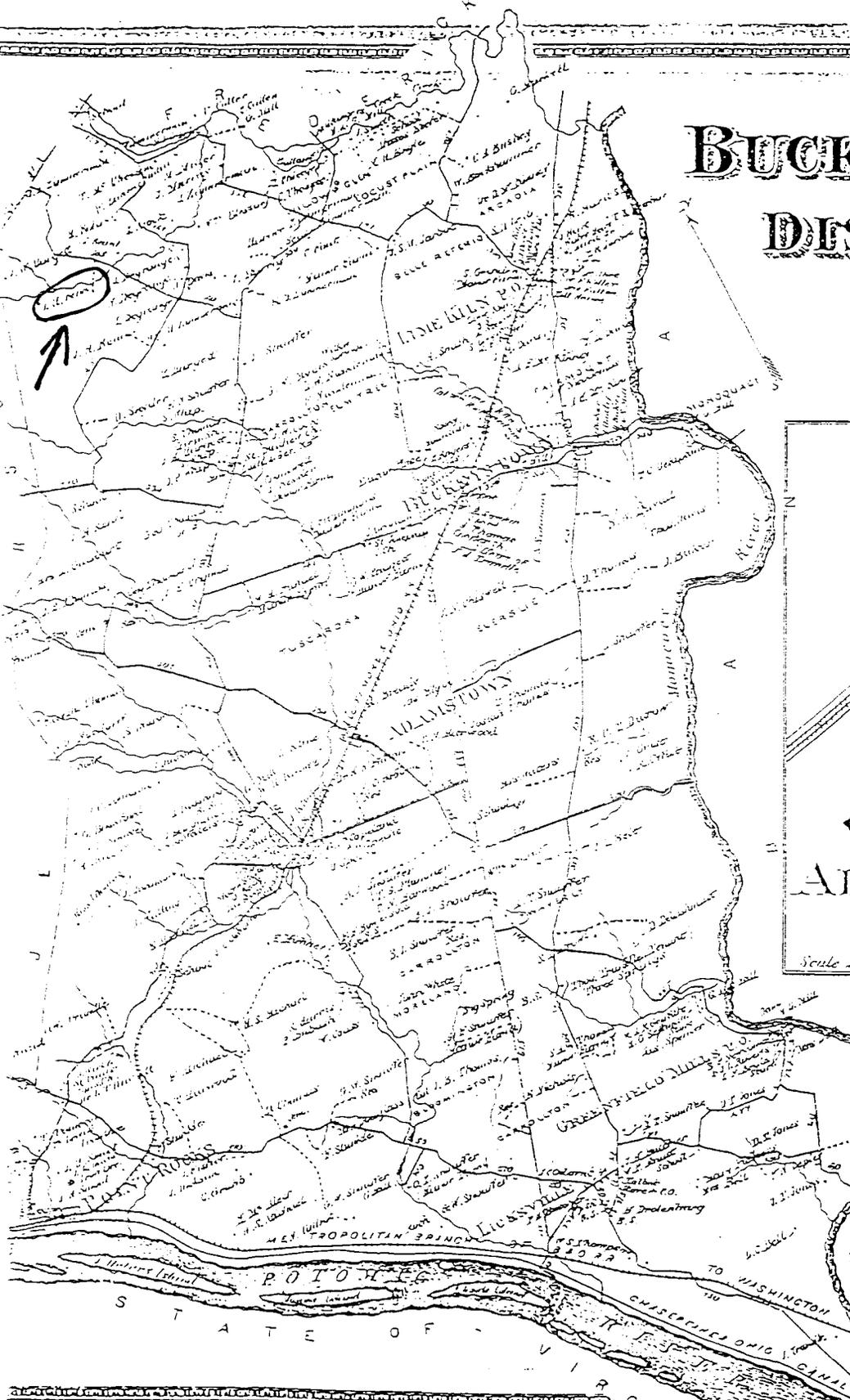
Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
1807/1006 5 Feb 93	Robert C., Ives S. & Michael R. Milligan	Robert C. Milligan, trustee of Grace E. Milligan Revocable Trust	126.1888A.		
1642/803 25 Apr 90	Robert C. Milligan trustee	Omenitsch Bros. Inc.	126-1888A.		
1523/219 3 Nov 88	Omenitsch Bros. Inc.	Pascal H. Renn, Jr. & Brenda L. Renn	3 Parcels P. 2: 1.2141A.	#750,000	Plat Book 43 Plat # 144 Parcel B: 1.2141A.
1312/701 5 Jul 85	Pascal H. Renn, Jr. & Brenda S. Renn	Pascal H. Renn, Jr. & Priscilla A Brewer (formerly Renn)			
799/191 27 Feb 69	Pascal H. Renn Jr. & Priscilla A. Wenn	John H. Renn	Parcels 1, 3, 4, 5, & 9 274.34A		Plat Book 5/171 Parcel B 1.21A.
543/10 8 Feb 55	John H. Renn	Dorothy E. Keyes			
543/3 8 Feb 55	Dorothy E. Keyes	John H. Renn, Pascal H. & Lena S. Renn			
455/283 15 Jul 46	John H. Renn, Pascal H. Renn	Ada S. Renn, et al, exec. of LW & T of Eli Charles Renn	9 Parcels P. 1: "Woodlawn"	#17,000	
Will Record JPP 2/48 28 Apr 1884	Eli Charles Renn	John H. Renn		#12,000	

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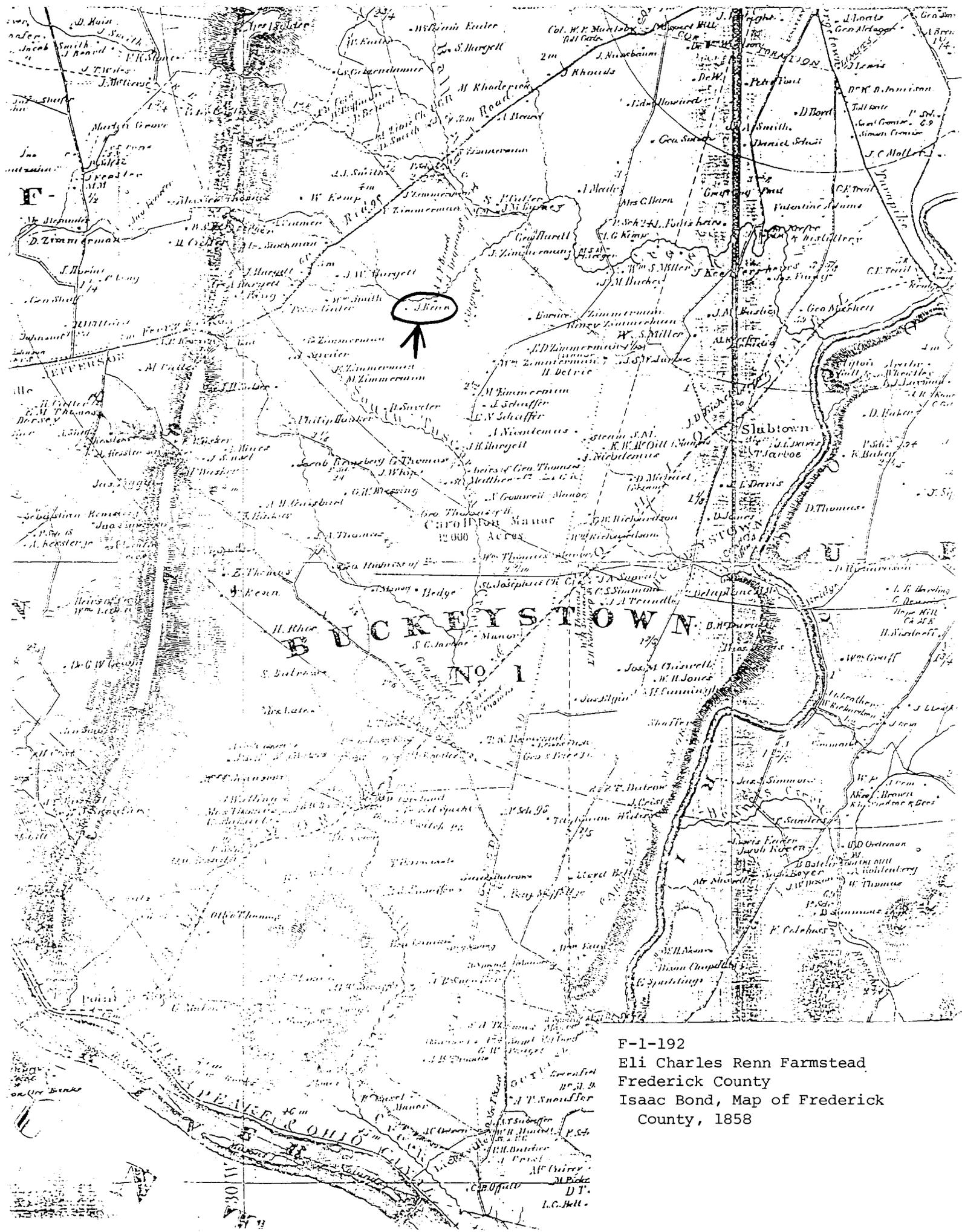
# BUCKLEYSTOWN

## DIST No. 1

Scale 1 1/2 inches to an mile



F-1-192  
Eli Charles Renn Farmstead  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
County, 1873



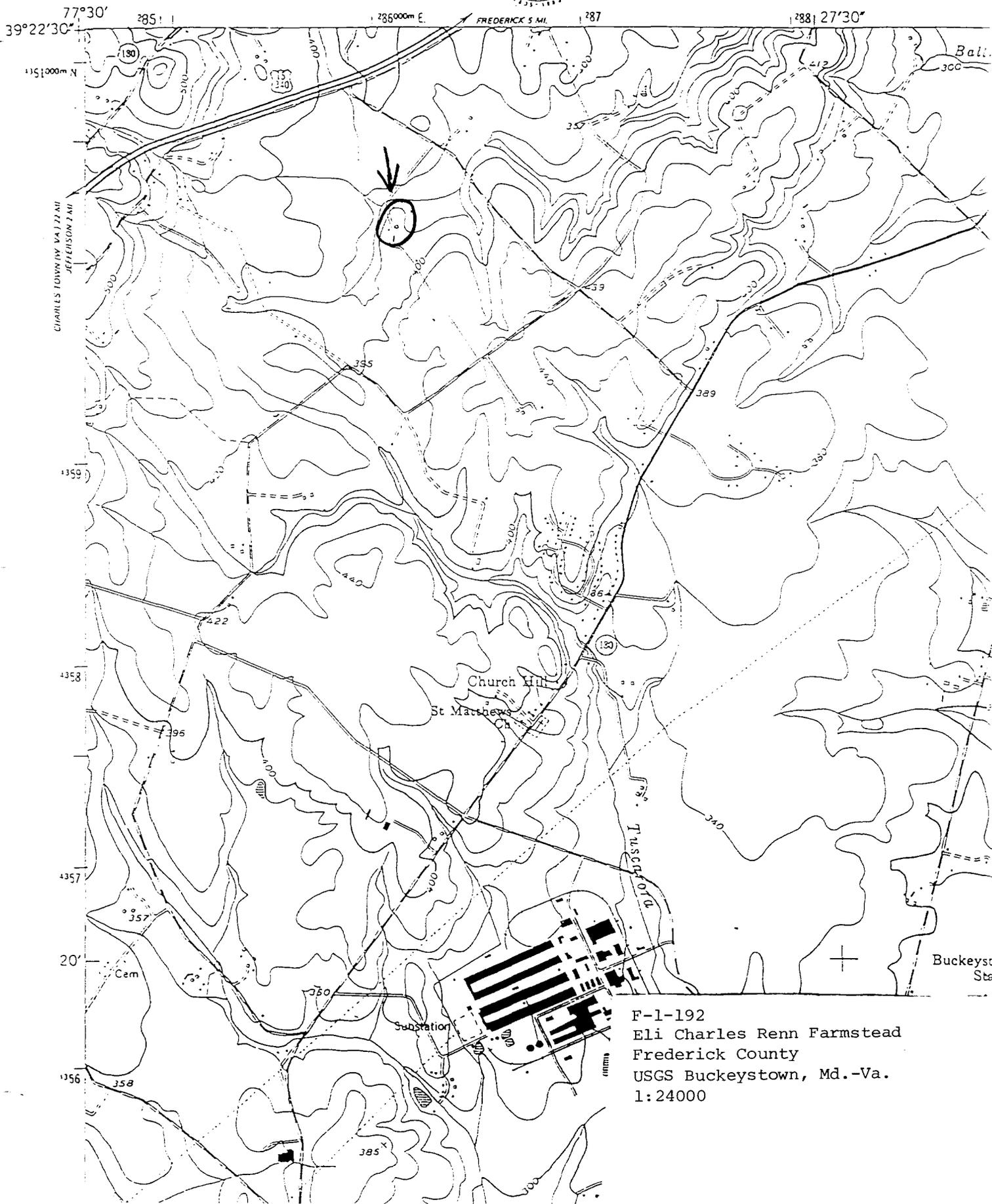
F-1-192  
 Eli Charles Renn Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick  
 County, 1858

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



FREDERICK  
2.1 MI. TO U.

5182 1 NE  
(MIDDLETOWN)



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Eli Charles Renn Farmstead  
Frederick County  
USGS Buckeystown, Md.-Va.  
1:24000



F-1-192

Eli Charles Renn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

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

West elevation

1/7



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Eli Charles Renn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

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

South elevation

2/7



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Eli Charles Renn Farmstead  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.  
Main door detail

3/7



F-1-192

Eli Charles Renn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

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

Dining room mantel piece

4/7



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Eli Charles Renn Formstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

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

Smokehouse, west elevation

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Eli Charles Renn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.  
Springhouse, north elevation

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F-1-192

Eli Charles Renn Formstedt

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

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

Barn, east elevation

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