

F-2-47

Rockville School  
Jefferson, Maryland vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1867

The Rockville School is a one-story brick schoolhouse built about 1867 with a projecting foyer on the south elevation which was the original entrance. Converted to a private dwelling in the early 1930's, the entrance is now in one of the three original window bays on the west elevation. The vernacular corbeled cornice on the south elevation of the foyer and the main section is an interesting feature influenced by the then-popular Romanesque Revival style. The school is significant for its largely unaltered exterior form, found in many rural schoolhouses of the second half of the 19th century, and as an example of the proliferation of educational institutions in the late 19th century.

F-2-47  
Rockville School  
Jefferson  
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, Community Planning

**Resource Types:**

**Category: Building**

**Historic Environment: Rural**

**Historic Function and Use:**  
Education/school/schoolhouse

**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 Rockville School

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 6403 Old Middletown Road  not for publication

city, town Jefferson  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 W. & Joan M. Shafer

street & number 6403 Old Middletown Road telephone no.:

city, town Middletown state and zip code Md. 21769

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1305

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 206

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-2-47

<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: 1

The Rockville School is a one-story brick schoolhouse built about 1868 on the east side of Old Middletown Road just south of the intersection of Roy Shafer Road near Jefferson, Frederick County, Maryland. The schoolhouse is now a private residence, but the general form of a gable-roofed main section with a lower projecting foyer on the south elevation is still intact. The original entrance in the south elevation of the foyer has been bricked up and the current entrance is in the west elevation in the center bay of three on that side. The only decorative feature of the building is a corbeled cornice on the original foyer south elevation and the south gable end of the main section.

The building is rectangular in plan with three bays on the east and west elevations. The walls are 5:1 American bond. As stated, the present entrance is in the center bay of the west elevation. A modern shed porch shelters the doorway. The sash is modern 1/1. The stone foundation is raised slightly on the west elevation and an exterior cellar entrance is located at the southwest corner of the building. An original rear door is located near the northeast corner of the schoolhouse on the north elevation. It has a four-panel door with a plain transom. In the foyer projection, the infilled section contains a single center window where the original door was located. The roof is standing seam metal, a recent alteration.

The corbeled cornice feature is an interesting vernacular version of Romanesque Revival style corbeling, done in large, building bricks, giving a blocky, oversized look to the detail.

The interior of the schoolhouse was not accessible for description, but the current owner, Mrs. Shafer, stated that the interior retains no original features of the school.

# 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 checked="" 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. 1867 **Builder/Architect**

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

The Rockville School exemplifies the education theme in the third quarter of the 19th century in Frederick County and, although altered for private residential use, retains the general form of a typical brick rural schoolhouse of the period. In continuous use until the early 1930's when consolidated elementary schools were erected in Jefferson and Middletown, the school represents the proliferation of rural schools in the second half of the 19th century. The architecture theme is represented in its vernacular corbeled cornice, which is unusual among the surviving schoolhouses of the second half of the 19th century, being a feature more likely to be found on urban schools.

At least four schoolhouses remain in the Jefferson Election District: the Rockville School, the Willowdale School (F-2-48), located about one mile south of the Rockville School, the Mountville Colored School (F-2-44) and the Lander School at 2539 Lander Road. Three are currently residences. The Lander School is apparently an 1890's frame building with much alteration to its exterior appearance. The Willowdale School is a frame building of about 1855 and, like the Rockville building, has a relocated entrance. Of the four identified schoolhouses, the Mountville School, an 1880's frame building, has the most similar design to the Rockville School, but has been greatly altered in exterior siding and also has a relocated entrance. Because Mountville is one of two identified remaining rural colored schools of the late 19th century in the County, its significance is greater than the others. Rockville ranks with Willowdale as good examples of the schoolhouse type, each of a different decade and representing different standards of construction.

The name Rockville does not appear on historical maps, but is mentioned in some biographical sketches in T.J.C. Williams' History of Frederick County (1910) without further identification. Edward Smith, the owner of the John Smith Farmstead (F-2-49) nearby, recalls the area around the school near the Shafer Road intersection as being called Rockville.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-2-47

Land Records of Frederick County  
Titus, C.O., Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Middletown, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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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

Concurrent with Tax Map 75, Parcel 106

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date September 1991

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  
301-514-7600

LIBER/FOL. )	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1305/206 14 Oct 85	Robert M. & Joan M. Shafer	Gladys F. Smith & Betty J. Harbaugh	D.G. 375 R. 52 sq. p. (1910) + 50 sq. p. 2 parcels	\$35,000	
601/80 15 May 80	Gladys F. Smith & Evaliella Crampton & Betty J. Harbaugh	H. Kieffer DeLauter	1. 1st parcel. <del>indeed below</del> 52 sq. p. 2. 2nd parcel. 50 sq. p.		
<del>591/88</del> <del>15 Jan 80</del> 601/80 15 May 80	H. Kieffer DeLauter	John C. Crampton, Gladys F. & George Smith Evaliella Crampton heirs of Martha F. Crampton			
591/88 15 Jan 80 (recorded Oct. 17, 1957)	Alton M. Haffer Martha F. Crampton	Board of Education			
DSB 2/125 6 Oct. 1867	Lewis H. Steiner et al, Board of School Comm.		2nd parcel - 50 p. for P.S. 107		
DSB 2/126 6 Oct. 1867	Lewis H. Steiner et al, Board of School Comm.		1st parcel - 52 p. for P.S. 107		

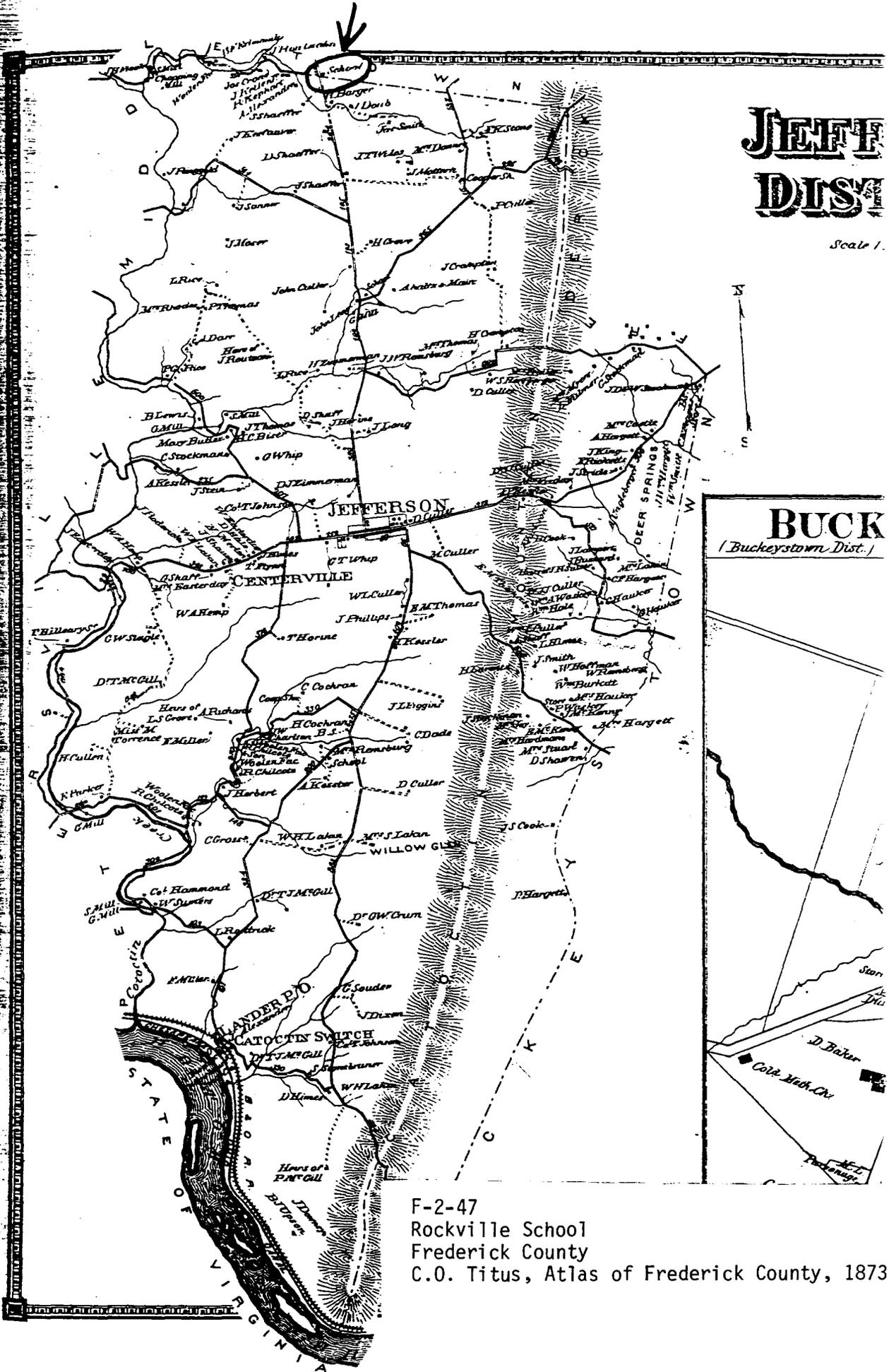
# JEFF DIST

Scale 1.

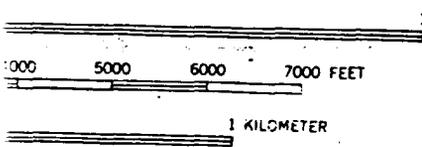
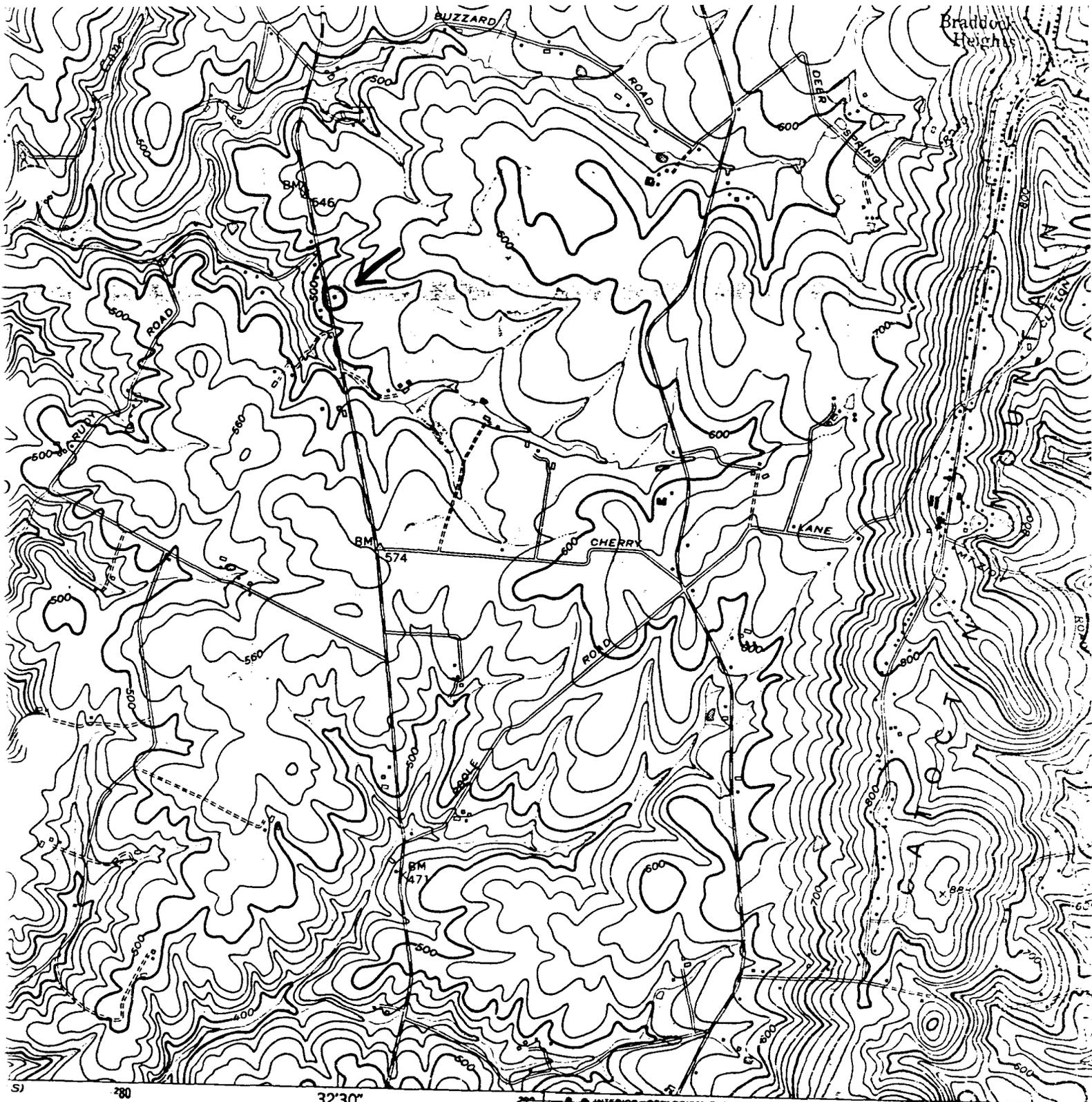


# BUCK

(Buckeystown Dist.)



F-2-47  
Rockville School  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.



FEET



QUADRANGLE

F-2-47  
 Rockville School  
 Frederick County  
 USGS Middletown, MD.  
 1:24000

ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 MBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

N. MD  
 AD RANCL  
 N 5922.5--W 7750/7.5  
 1953  
 PHOTOREVISED 1971  
 AMS 5462 I NE--SERIES V231







