

F-3-82  
Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead  
Lewistown vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1840-1899

The Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead is centered on a circa 1840-1850 log dwelling with asbestos shingle siding and a two-story rear wing with an attached wash house and a circa 1840-50 brick bank barn with patterned vents in three elevations. The farmstead also includes a root cellar and a spring enclosure, both of which may be contemporary with the house, and a frame chicken house and a frame garage of the first quarter of the 20th century. The farmstead is principally significant for the architecture of the brick barn, a good example, although altered on its south elevation by a two-story modern extension of the hay loft and stall area, of the German brick bank barn. The diamond and wheat sheaf vent openings and its highly visible brick structure within the farmstead provide a clear mid-19th century setting and feeling which is only slightly lessened by the addition and the presence of a modern metal barn nearby. The farmstead was probably built by Frederick Schley, who bought the Springfield tract in 1839, which included as its main property the James Johnson House (F-3-77). The Schley farmstead was established directly on the farm road which linked the Johnson House with the Emmitsburg-Frederick Turnpike, now Hessong Bridge Road. Lewis P. Ramsburg owned the property from 1866 to 1882.

F-3-82  
Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead  
Lewistown  
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

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/other dependencies  
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn  
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/chicken coop

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 Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 11614 Hessong Bridge Road  not for publicationcity, town Lewistown  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 checked="" 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 Jacob R. Ramsburg, Jr.

street &amp; number P.O. Box 235 telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code MD 21701

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1408

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 50

city, town Frederick state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title James Survey of Frederick County F-20-7

date C. 1968  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state MD

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-3-82

<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: 5

The Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead is an agricultural complex centered on a circa 1840 log dwelling with asbestos shingle siding and an attached frame wash house of about 1860-1880 and a brick and stone bank barn with patterned vent openings in the gable ends, built about 1840-1850. The complex also includes a root cellar and a spring enclosure near the site of a demolished springhouse and a frame chicken house and a frame garage built about 1920, as well as a modern metal storage barn. The farmstead is located on the west side of Hessong Bridge Road about 1-1/2 miles north of Lewistown, Frederick County, Maryland. The farmstead is located on level ground and is set back about 100 yards from the road, with the dwelling being the westernmost structure in the group and its principal elevation facing south.

The dwelling has four bays on the south elevation with the entrance in the west inner bay. A one-story porch extends across the elevation with square piers and scroll-sawn brackets and a wood deck. The facade under the porch is covered with pressboard siding. The windows are 1/1 replacement sash and the doorway has a glazed panel door with a four-light transom. The roof is standing seam metal over wood shingles with a molded cornice which returns on the gable ends. Interior end chimneys rise at the gables. The west elevation has a single window at approximately the ceiling height of the first floor which lights the stairway. Two over two attic windows flank the chimney stack. The east elevation has two bays the first floor and two 2/2 attic windows. A two-story rear wing extends from the northwest corner of the main section. A one-story shed addition adjoins the west elevation of the wing and the east side of the wing has a two-story porch in which the first story is enclosed and extended with a corrugated metal shed roof and faced with german siding. The second story of both the wing and the main section north elevation have 6/6 sash which is probably original. The wing has two chimneys, one near the center and the other at the north gable end. The wash house was probably originally free-standing, but the extension of the rear wing attached the building to the house. The one-story wash house is covered with asbestos shingle siding and an exterior stone and brick chimney has been removed from the north elevation, which is now covered with plywood and has a modern door. The east and west elevation of the wash house has 6/6 windows. According to Mr. Study, the current tenant of the farm, a frame meat house originally stood north of the house but has been demolished.

The interior of the dwelling has been considerably remodeled, but the basic two-room plan is still discernible and the west and east parlors of the main section retain original mantels with Greek Revival stylistic influences. These include elliptical side columns and sharply defined bed moldings under the mantel shelf in the west mantelpiece and half-round moldings in the central panel in the east mantelpiece. In the kitchen at the north end of the rear wing is a third mantelpiece with half-round moldings. The walls are covered with masonite paneling and the staircase in the west parlor appears to be a replacement of the last quarter of the 19th century with paneled stringers and newel post.

(Continued on separate sheet)

# 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** C. 1840-1850      **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.

**SECTION 8: Significance:**

The Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead is principally significant for the architecture of the brick bank barn, which is a good example, although altered on its south elevation, of the German bank barn with patterned vents. The northern section of Frederick County in the Monocacy Valley seems to have the largest concentration of brick barns of this type; however, continued survey in the southern parts of the County may broaden the apparent range of occurrence. The neighboring Walkersville and Thurmont Planning Regions have several examples of brick barns of the period 1840-1875 with patterned vent openings, the most well-preserved being the barn at the Walkersville Farm Park (F-8-133). The dwelling at the Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead is minimally significant because of its exterior and interior alterations and the demolition of most of the domestic outbuildings. The general outline of its original floor plan, its probable log structure, and the three original mantelpieces are the most important elements of its remaining historical integrity. The farmstead was most likely established by Frederick Schley, who purchased in 1839 the "Springfield" tract on which the farmstead was built. The connection between the James Johnson House, the principal farmstead on Springfield (F-3-77), is clearly seen on the USGS quad map attached which shows the straight route of the original farm lane from Hessong Bridge Road, the former Emmitsburg-Frederick turnpike, through the Schley-Ramsburg farmstead to the James Johnson House. This relationship is obscured by current agricultural fields and the U.S. 15 right-of-way. In 1866, Lewis P. Ramsburg (1830-1908) purchased the property and in 1882, Americus G. P. Wiles (1847-1905) became the owner, retaining the farm until 1912.



7.1 Description (Continued)

Outbuildings:

Root cellar and spring enclosure: The root cellar and the spring enclosure are located southeast of the house near the site of the springhouse noted in the James Survey inventory form (F-20-7) of about 1968, which has since been demolished. The root cellar is a partially earth-covered mound with a whitewashed stone and concrete roof and south elevation, where a vertical board door leads into the below-ground cave. The spring enclosure is a lower mound with a similar enclosure on the south side and the remains of the stone-lined trough which ran through the lower level of the springhouse. Both structures are difficult to date, although the spring would be the most likely to be contemporary with the house. The root cellar site may have been in use since the same period, but its present appearance with the concrete block enclosure probably dates from the early 20th century.

Chicken house: The frame chicken house is located east of the house on the farm drive from Hessong Bridge Road. Built about 1900-1920, it has a shed roof with corrugated metal covering and german siding. The south elevation has ribbon windows across the entire elevation.

Garage: The frame garage is also apparently a circa 1920 structure. Located southeast of the chicken house, it has tongue-and-groove vertical siding and a vertical board door on the west elevation. The gable roof is covered with standing seam metal.

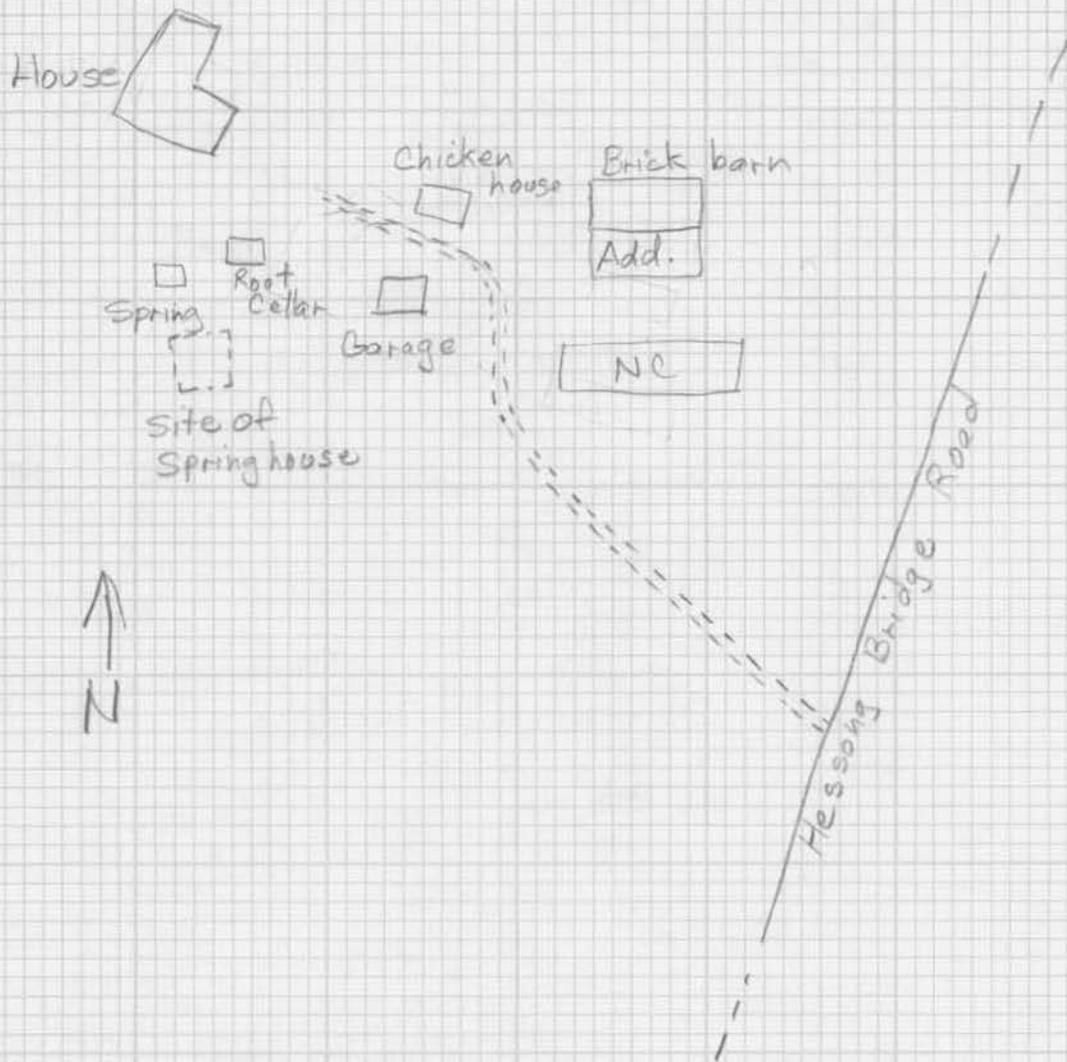
Brick barn: The bank barn is the most visible structure in the farmstead from the road. The foundation is field stone which has been repointed and the upper structure is 5:1 American bond with wheat sheaf and diamond pattern vent openings on the gable ends and the north elevation. The north side has large vertical board sliding doors and the roof is standing seam metal over wood shingles. The south elevation is dominated by a two-level extension of the hay loft supported above an open first level by concrete block columns. The extension has modern siding. The original forebay over the stalls is still visible from the open first level, with the vertical board ends just below the extension's second level floor. The original stall enclosure is also in brick, painted white, but the openings have been altered to some extent to allow access to the modern pens under the extension. The stone end walls show that the forebay side walls were built out with brick, interweaving with the stone quoins of the barn base. This alteration may have taken place in the period 1875-1900, judging by the apparent weathering of the brick in the original end wall and the forebay extension.

11614 Messing Bridge Rd.

LIBER/F O	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
140 8/50 10 Apr 87	Jacob R. Ramstung, jr.	James S. Grimes	P. 1:150A. AF 4/725, 25 Mar 1882		
1170/290 30 Apr 82	James S. Grimes	Randolph T. and Barbara Jean Bales			
462/200 16 Apr 47	Randolph T. & Edwin D. Bales	Harlow S. Bales widower			
<del>395/326</del> <del>23 Aug 34</del> 399/459 5 Oct 35	Harlow S. & Annie M. Bales	Muriel M. Bales			
395/326 23 Aug 34	Muriel M. Bales et al	John G. Jones, cum.			
395/325 23 Aug 34	John G. Jones	Muriel M. Bales	150		F-3-82
370/105 1 Dec 28	Muriel M. Bales	Walter S. & Clara A. Wills			
HW B 302/141 17 Sept 12	Walter S. Wills et ux	Frank C. & Anna E. Morwood			
HW B 302/140 17 Sept 12	Frank C. & Anna E. Morwood	Walter S. & Bradley E. Wills, attys for heirs of Americas G. P. Wills, dec.			

LIBER/FC	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
AF4/725 25 Mar 1882	Americus P. Miles	Lewis P. & Julia C. Ramsburg	<del>298 a.</del> 155 a.	\$12,000	
JWLC 4/211 22 Jun 1866	Lewis P. Ramsburg	John B. Kunkel et al	"Springfield" "Neighbors Agreed" "Osceola" 298 a.	\$24,000	
JWLC 3/181 12 Oct 1865	John B. Kunkel	George Ashley, trustee in Equity 2781	304 a. residue of "Spring field" tract sold to Frederick Ashley 29 Apr 1839	\$13,000	by John McPherson, Trustee
Williams & Mc Kinsey History of Frederick County, 1910 p. 1038: Lewis P. Ramsburg (1830-1908) = Julia Putnam p. 1387: A. G. P. Miles (1841-1905) = Sarah S. Hummer					

F-3-82



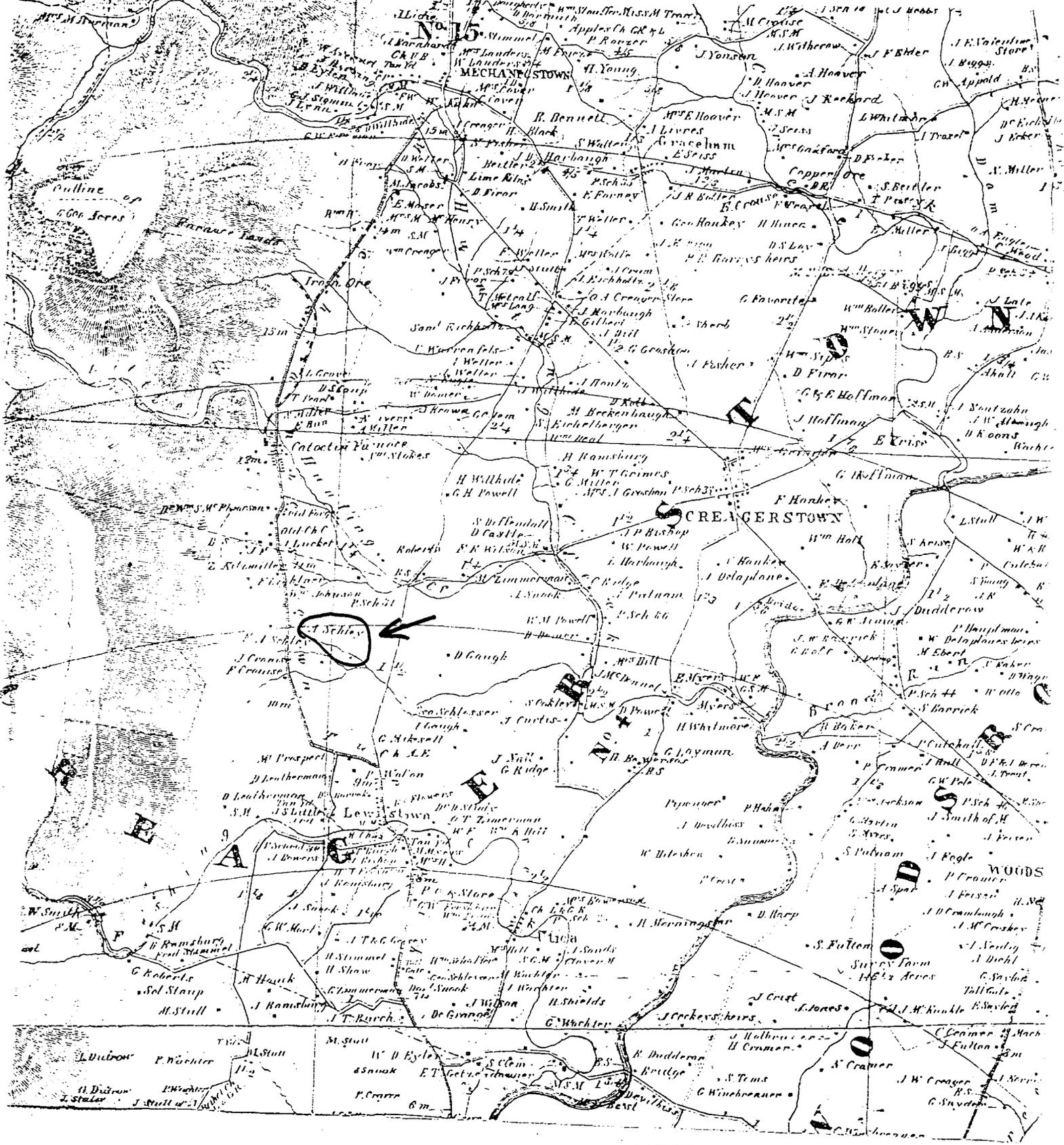
F-3-82

Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead  
Frederick County

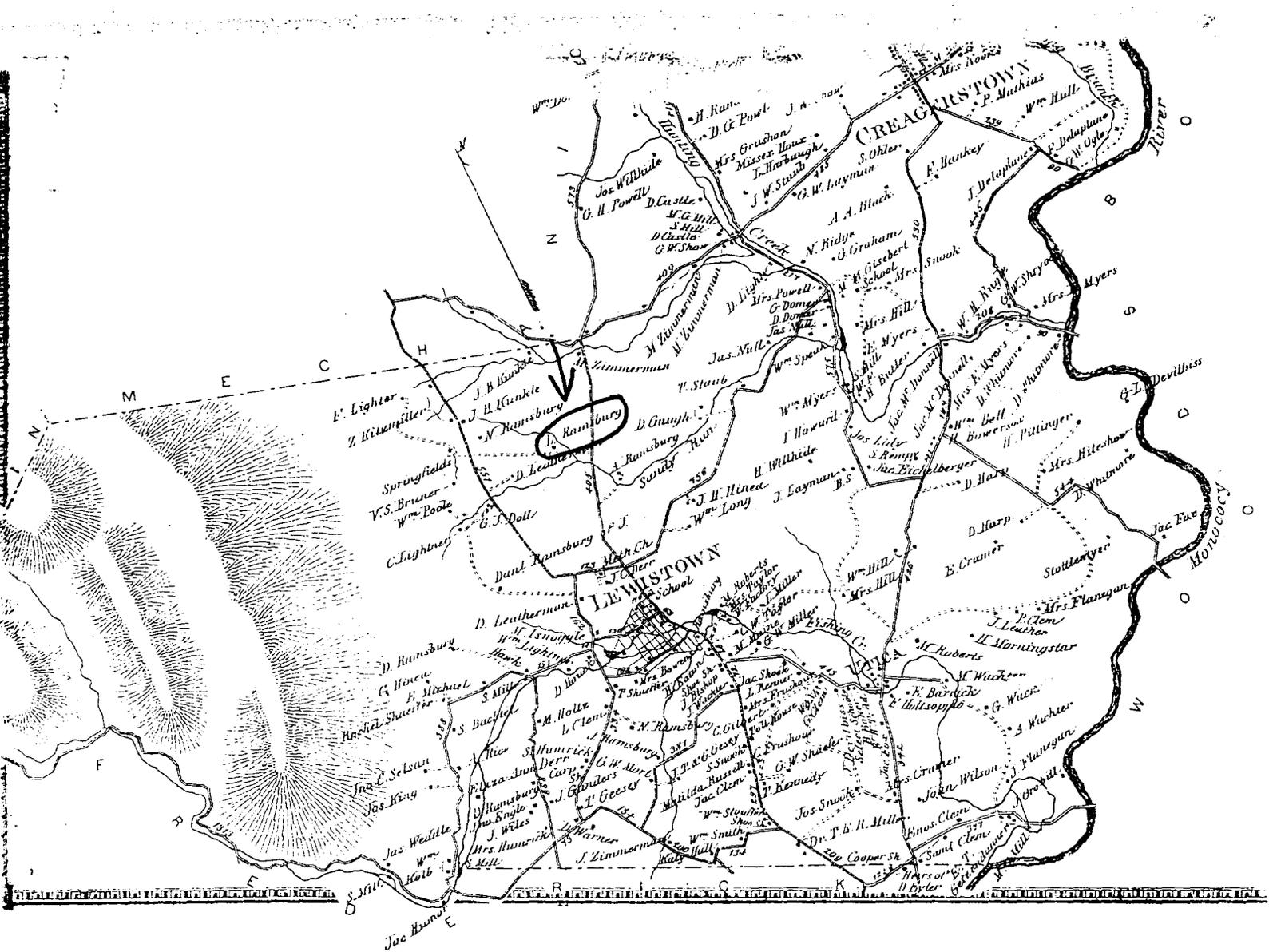
Janet Davis

September 14, 1992

Not to Scale

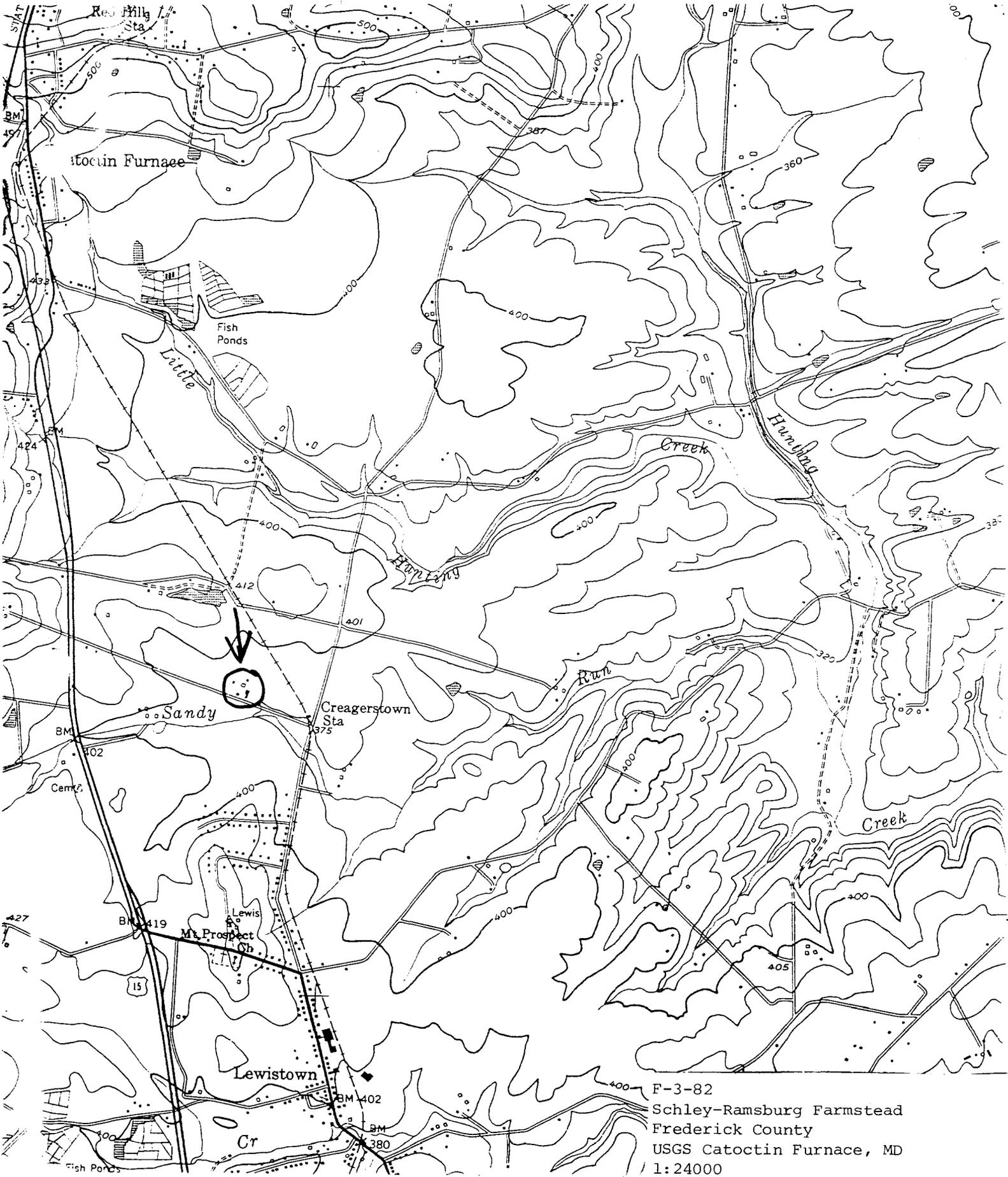


F-3-82  
 Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,  
 1858



agerstown F.D. 1873

F-3-82  
 Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
 County, 1873.



F-3-82  
Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead  
Frederick County  
USGS Catocin Furnace, MD  
1:24000



F-3-82

Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO. Crownsville  
Southeast corner view

1/5



F-3-82

Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1992

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

East elevation and rear wing

2/5



F-3-82

Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPo, Crownville, Md

Spring and root cellar, view from south

3/5



F-3-52

Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1992

Neg. loc: Md SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Agricultural outbuildings, view from southwest

4/5



F-3-82

Schley-Ramsburg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1992

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

Bank barn, northeast corner view

5/5