

F-3-85

Ramsburg/Sears Catalog House;  
Site of Lake View Hotel and Casino  
Lewistown vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1913-1918

The Ramsburg/Sears Catalog House is a 2-1/2 story frame house designed and published in the Sears, Roebuck and Company catalog during the years 1913 and 1916-1918, "The Milton". It is a Colonial Revival style dwelling with a projecting two-story porch with a stucco exterior and full pediments on the porch and the gable ends. Certain changes in the finished house from the catalog design include the pebble wall of the porch pediment, the roofing of the pergolas flanking the porch projection, and a dentil molding in the cornice and eaves which replaces the originally designed brackets. The house is located on the still-visible foundation outline of the Lake View Hotel, a 1908 frame resort hotel built by Charles J. Ramsburg along with a nearby Casino. The Casino burned in 1910 and the hotel itself was destroyed by fire a few years later. Ramsburg then built the "Milton" on the foundation, taking advantage of the Hagerstown & Frederick trolley line which ran through the resort property to facilitate delivery of the house materials. The finished house is a good representative of the Sears catalog houses of the larger type. It also demonstrates the broadening effect of the trolley system on architectural design in Frederick County.

F-3-85  
Ramsburg/Sears Catalog House  
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:  
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

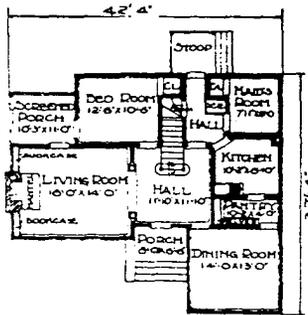
Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Known Design Source: Sears Roebuck & Co. Catalog Design "The Milton",  
appeared in catalog for the years 1913, 1916, 1917, and 1918.  
Ramsburg House has some modifications in trim and materials.

No. 204



There is an individuality about this house that will please the man who is looking for something really different from the general run of buildings in any vicinity. Two unique features are apparent on the first glance at the illustration, namely, the wing for the living room affording light from three sides and the screened sleeping porch on the second floor.

Details and features: Seven rooms and one bath. Screened sleeping porch on second floor. Fireplace flanked by bookcases in living room; semiopen stairs.

Price and catalog number: 1913 (204)

Price: \$1,318

## THE MILTON



A colonial-style house with a wide overhanging roof. The center portion of the porch is two stories high with a gabled roof. On both ends there is a large open terrace with a pergola roof.

Details and features: Seven rooms and one bath. Two-story gabled porch over entrance supported by square tapered columns; bay window in dining room; front door

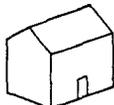
with beveled plate glass. Built-in bookcases and seats in living room; built-in buffet in dining room.

Price and catalog numbers: 1913 (210); 1916 (264P210); 1917 (C210); 1918 (210)

Price: \$1,520 to \$2,491

Locations: Norfolk, Neb.; Somerville, N.J.; New York, N.Y.; Fayette, Ohio

F-3-85  
Ramsburg/Sears Catalog House  
Frederick County  
"Milton" design, from Stevenson &  
Jandl, Houses By Mail



# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ramsburg/Sears Catalog House (preferred); Site of Lake View Hotel & Casino

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 7114 Lake View Road  not for publication

city, 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 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 June Esther Conway

street & number 7114-A Lake View Road 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 1259

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 786

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-3-85

<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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input checked="" 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 Ramsburg/Sears Catalog House is a 2-1/2-story frame dwelling built about 1913-1918 according to the "Milton" Sears, Roebuck and Company house design which appeared in the catalog for those years, with some changes in materials and trim by the local builder. The house is located on the east side of U.S. 15 at the northwest terminus of Lake View Road, about one mile south of Lewistown, Frederick County, Maryland. The principal elevation faces northwest across a man-made pond and the former right-of-way of the Hagerstown & Frederick trolley line which passed in front of the original building on the site, the Lake View Hotel, which burned about 1912-1918, the foundation of which traces the footprint of the building as a concrete walk around the Sears house erected over part of the foundation. Also on the property, but unlocated because of plant growth, is the site of a Casino built along with the hotel in 1908, which burned in May 1910.

The house is in the Colonial Revival style with a symmetrical facade and a two-story projecting central porch with a full pediment. The lower level is a raised basement story and the main floor is reached by broad concrete steps rising to the wood deck of the porch. The exterior is covered with stucco and the roof is composition with an exterior chimney on the east gable end. The gable ends also have full pediments. The northwest elevation has three main bays with the entrance in the center bay. The beveled glass door is original, as are the multiple-pane sidelights. A polygonal bay window is located in the west bay. The windows are 6/1 and are paired. The eaves are extended and the pediments in the porch and end gables have dentil molding. The pediment of the porch has a random pebble surface. Between the porch piers is a plain balustrade. Flanking the projecting porch on the flat side porch roof are cast iron railings. The east and west elevations have two bays with returned eaves on the base of the gable pediment. The west elevation has paired sash in the pediment. At the rear of the house is a two-story rear wing with flanking one-story shed additions. A modern vinyl-sided wood shed addition surrounds the entire south end of the rear additions. A interior chimney is located near the junction of the two-story rear addition and the main section. A shed dormer projects from the roof of the addition. The house exterior is in generally fair condition; the porch deck is the most deteriorated. The interior of the house was inaccessible for this survey.

The outline of the hotel foundation is surfaced with concrete and forms a large rectangle with the Sears house set roughly in the center. The northwest corner of the hotel foundation clearly shows a turret at this location and several small rectangular partitions are located near the southwest corner of the old foundation. A circa 1908-1910 postcard of the hotel in the possession of Mrs. Edna Buhrmann shows the building had two corner turrets, balustraded balconies, two-story sun porches on the rear, and a central cupola with what appears to be a cross or weathervane on the top.

# 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 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. 1913 - 1918      **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.

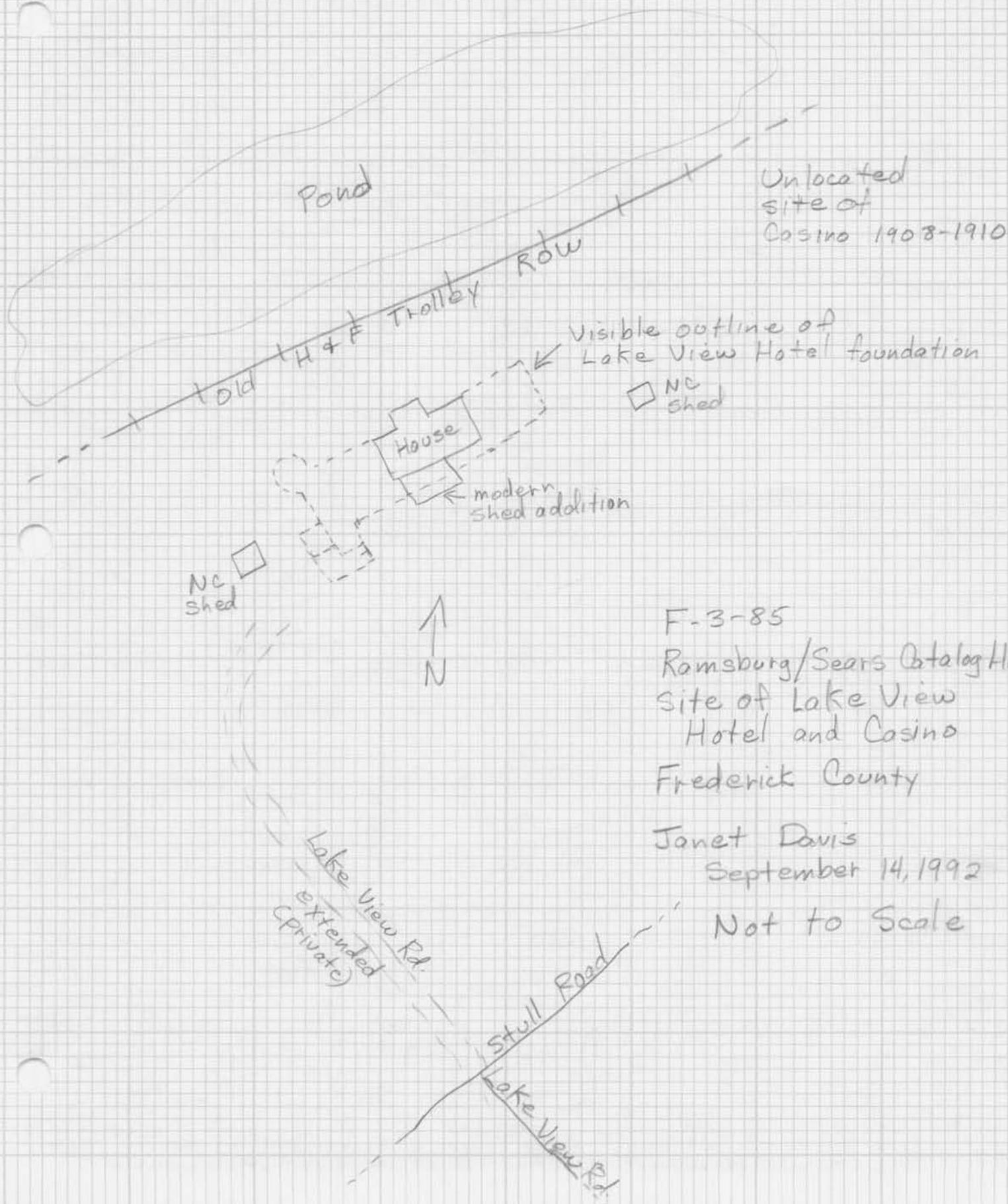
The Ramsburg/Sears Catalog House is a good representative of the early 20th century Colonial Revival designs which the Sears, Roebuck and Company sold through their catalog in ready-to-build units, with pre-cut lumber, fittings, and trim during the early 20th century. The house design is "The Milton", which appeared in the 1913, and 1916-1918 catalogs. Certain changes to the design are apparent in the Ramsburg House, principally in the dentil molding in the cornice and pediments replacing the brackets, the pebble wall of the main elevation pediment, and the porch roofs with cast iron railings over the open-air pergolas, all as shown in the published design of 1918 in Stevenson and Jandl's Houses by Mail. The designs for the previous years may have included such variations and further research in the Sears catalogs may reveal the sources of the Ramsburg House changes. The house was built by Charles J. Ramsburg on the site of his Lake View Hotel, built in 1908 with a nearby Casino, which burned in 1910. The hotel burned a few years later, at a date not yet determined, but prior to 1922, when the present structure was mentioned in a Frederick News article about Lewistown along with a brief history of Ramsburg's hotel venture. The Ramsburg House also demonstrates the effect of the Hagerstown & Frederick Electric Railway on Frederick County, in that machined building materials could be transported to areas which prior to 1908 had been limited to locally produced materials. This made greater sophistication and variety in design accessible to rural and small town residents.

Ramsburg was one of the officers of the Washington, Frederick & Gettysburg Railroad, which was incorporated into the Frederick & Middletown Electric Railway (later Hagerstown & Frederick Railway), a trolley line which eventually linked Thurmont and many of the Monocacy Valley towns with Frederick and Hagerstown. The WF&G line ran through Ramsburg's property and he built the Lake View Hotel and Casino to capitalize on the summer resort business generated and supported by the trolley line, hoping to copy the success of Braddock Heights, Pen Mar, Highfield, and Blue Ridge Summit, all served by the interlocked trolley and train routes in the region. The property included a landscaped lake for canoeing and swimming, which still exists as a rectangular pond just north of the house, and a two-story Casino with a roller skating rink, dance hall, bowling alley, and other amusements. The 1908-1910 postcard view shows the Lake View trolley stop, an open-air platform next to the rails and the pond. The hotel itself was a four-story frame structure with a roof garden and corner towers. The resort was apparently an almost instant success and the hotel carried on for a few years after the Casino fire, but, when it was also destroyed by fire, Ramsburg built the present structure on the foundation as his private residence. The trolley continued to run through the property until the line was shut down in 1954.



LIBER/F O	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1259/786 20 Sept 84		June Esther Conway, pers. rep. of estate of Esli Sutton Conway, dece.			
720/315 22 Mar 65	Esli Sutton Conway & E. Virginia Conway, his wife	Nancy E. Van Sessen	7 deeds: 1. 7.8a. 487/598, 18 Oct 50 2. 599/420, 23 May 58 3. 4a. 637/376, 26 May 60 4. 686/12, 22 May 63		
			5. 645/227, 10 Oct 60 6. 680/280, 28 Mar 63 1st + 2nd parcels		
			7. 651/598, 19 May 61 1st + 2nd parcels		
720/311 22 Mar 65	Nancy E. Van Sessen	Esli Sutton & E. Virginia Conway			
1. 487/598 18 Oct 50	Esli Sutton Conway et ux	J. Ruskin Loy & Mary M Loy	7.8a. Grantors agree to rebuild front steps in satisfactory manner by 1 Apr 59		
1. 441/553 3 Apr 44	J. Ruskin Loy et ux	Amos S. & Myra E. Anderson			

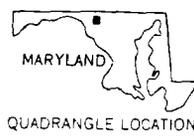
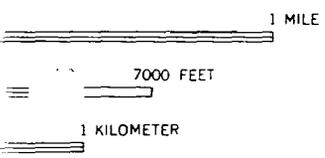
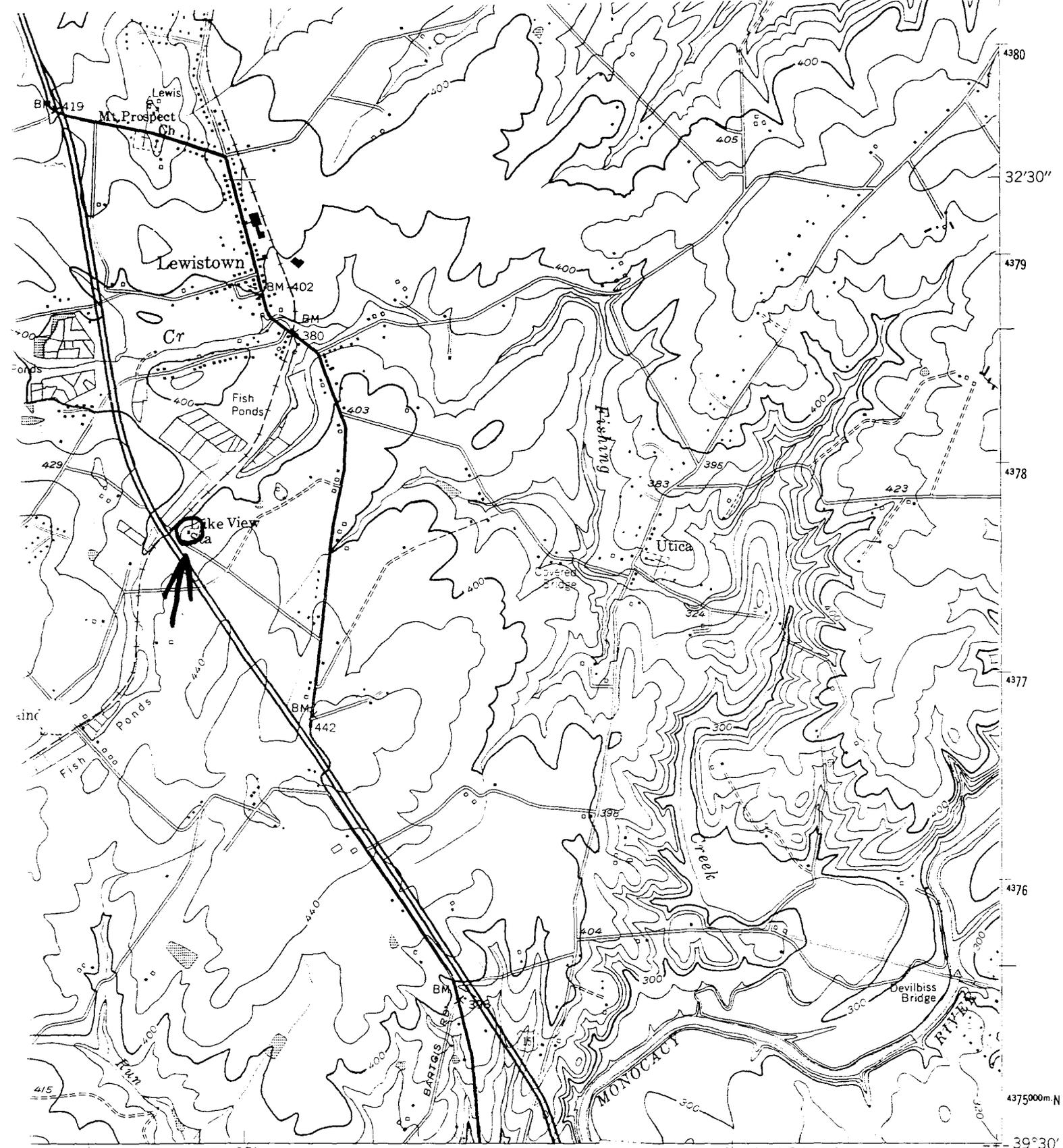
LIBER/FO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1. 439/215 27 Aug 43	Amos S. Anderson et ux	Reverend Rittenhouse Home for Homeless Persons, Inc.	(Trustees decided to move organization to York, Pa. Real estate no longer needed)	\$4500	
1. 434/554 25 Aug 42	Reverend Rittenhouse Home for Homeless Persons, Inc.	Charles Alonzo Rice & Ruth Rice, his wife, Mary M. & Charles C. T. Stull		\$2500	
1. 428/293 5 Apr 41	Charles Alonzo Rice & Mary M. Stull	Federal Land Bank of Md.	Plat No. 280-502 Plat Back EGH 2/16 - Property of Charles J. 244A. May 4, 1928	\$8500	Romsberg at Lake View
1. ECW 426/33 4 Nov 40	Federal Land Bank of Balto.	Amos A. Holter, assignee of mortgage of Charles J. & Mary M. Romsberg (sic) to Fed. Land Bank dated 11 May 1928, 367/140	Refs 8 deeds ranging in date from 1892 - 1924	\$7,500	
1. 367/140 11 May 28 (mortgage)	Federal Land Bank	Charles J. Romsberg	refs same 8 deeds 1. STH 286/435, 8 Jan 1892 2. STH 267/302, 26 Apr 1901 3. STH 286/437, 27 Mar 06 4. STH 286/440, 2 Apr 06	\$10,000	
			5. STH 287/377, 21 Mar 07 6. HWB 292/290, 3 May 10 7. 324/167, 18 Feb 18 8. 346/541, 29 Feb 24		
	Frederick News-Ex. 24, 1922:				



F-3-85  
 Ramsburg/Sears Catalog House  
 Site of Lake View  
 Hotel and Casino  
 Frederick County

Janet Davis  
 September 14, 1992

Not to Scale



F-3-85  
Ramsburg/Sears Catalog House  
Frederick County  
USGS Catoclin Furnace, Md.  
Med 1:24000

(WALKERSVILLE)  
5562 IV NE



F-3-85

Ramsburg/Sears Catalog House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

October 1992

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

Lake View Hotel postcard, ca 1908-1910



F-3-85

Ramsburg/Sears Catalog House  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1992

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

Northwest elevation

1/2



F-4 86

Ramsburg / Sears Catalog House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1992

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

Southeast elevation

2/2