

F-4-22

Christian Rensburg Farmstead  
Middletown vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1810-1900

The Christian Rensburg Farmstead consists of a circa 1810 brick dwelling with two stories, a one-story porch, and a four-bay flemish bond north facade, a two-level frame and stone garage, possibly an alteration of an early 19th century stone outbuilding to early 20th century use, a decorated frame bank barn of about 1850-1875, a frame wagon shed/corn crib of about 1875, and a concrete silo of about 1900. The farmstead's significance is the architectural integrity of the house, which shows the gradual transition of German-built rural houses from the four-bay type to the five-bay design influenced by English houses in the southern part of Frederick County. The barn is also a good example of the application of decoration to the functional vent openings and cupolas of the German bank barn, the most common type built in the county.

F-4-22

Christian Rensburg Farmstead  
Middletown  
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:  
Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
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: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Domestic/secondary structure/garage  
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn  
Agriculture/subsistence/storage granary

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Christian Rensburg Farmstead

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 6934 Roy Shafer Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Middletown  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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Robert E. Hawkes, et al

street & number 3935 Bussard Rd. 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 997

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 128

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-4-22

<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 Christian Rensburg Farmstead is centered on a two-story brick dwelling built about 1810 with one domestic outbuilding, a garage which may have been adapted from a two-level springhouse or other structure of the early 19th century, and three agricultural buildings, a circa 1850-1875 frame bank barn with decorative cupolas, an early 20th century concrete silo, and a circa 1875 frame wagon shed/corn crib. The farmstead is located on the west side of Roy Shafer Road near the intersection of Bussard Road about one mile south of Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The farmstead is reached by a lane crossing Cone Branch, a tributary of Catoctin Creek, which runs north to south through the property.

The dwelling has a flemish bond north elevation with a one-story porch with square posts across the four bays of the facade. The entrance is in the west center bay and has a late 19th century door with a glazed upper panel below a plain transom. The window arches are gauged with wood sills and 9/9 sash. The cornice is boxed and the gable roof is covered with standing seam and corrugated metal. Interior chimneys are located at both the east and west gable ends. The gable elevations have two bays each with square attic windows flanking the chimneys. On the rear or south elevation is a one-story wing in 5:1 American bond. It has a corrugated metal gable roof and a boxed cornice. An interior chimney is located at the south end. The west elevation of the wing contains two 4/4 windows. In the angle on the east side is a concrete block porch with a block enclosure of a rear entry to the main section. The ghost of a rear one-story porch is visible on the south wall of the main part. On the rear exposed basement level under the main section is an entrance under a segmental brick arch just above the stone courses. The door is vertical board. The interior was inaccessible for this survey.

The garage has an exposed stone lower level on the east side and the upper frame section, covered in board and batten and vertical siding, has double doors on the west. Although the stone lower level was inaccessible to confirm its original function, it appears that the garage portion is an early 20th century use of an earlier stone domestic outbuilding.

The frame bank barn and the other agricultural structures are located north of the dwelling and the farm lane passes through this group before arriving at the domestic group. The barn has vertical siding and a stone lower level on the east elevation. The gable roof is corrugated metal. On the east and south elevations, the barn has round-arched, framed, louvred vents and a fan-shaped vent in the south gable. At each end of the roof ridge is a louvred cupola. The concrete silo is located on the west elevation next to the ramp. The wagon shed/corn crib is located south of the barn and has a corrugated metal gable roof. The siding is vertical board.

# 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 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** Ca. 1810-1900 **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 Christian Rensburg Farmstead is principally important for the architecture of its dwelling house and the frame bank barn, each of which is a good representative of their separate types and periods. The brick house has flemish bond on the main elevation and a four-bay facade, conforming to the transitional type of German rural residence of the early 19th century when the tradition of four instead of five bays was still strong. Later German-built houses were more likely to have five bays in imitation of the Georgian style houses being built by the English families in the southern part of Frederick County. The flemish bond brick pattern was commonly used throughout the county from the mid-18th century well into the 19th century, as was common in all the former English colonies. The bank barn is the basic German type with the added embellishment of articulated vent openings and ridge cupolas. These were the usual ways in which the functional barns were given architectural distinction in the mid to late 19th century. This barn is in a highly visible location on a hill facing the road, an early 19th century link to several mills and woolen factories along Cone Branch and Catoctin Creek.

The farmstead is missing many of its probable original outbuildings, but the quality and integrity of the dwelling and the barn are equally important in context with more complete farmsteads of the same period. The Routzahn-Darner Farmstead (F-4-21) is a comparable example, although the house on that property is about 10 years later. The decoration of the barn vents may be a somewhat unusual surviving element in the Middletown Valley. Although several barns with highly decorative vents are found in the Monocacy Valley, the Middletown Valley has fewer. Whether this only means that the decoration was present and later removed or was never applied is a question that further survey and research should address.

Christian Rensburg (1785-1874) was both a farmer and a linsey-woolsey manufacturer, according to Williams and McKinsey's History of Frederick County, p. 1423. He came to the farm after his first marriage in 1806; it is not clear whether the house was existing in 1806, but surely was built by 1810. Rensburg built a woolen factory on the property, which apparently was located south on Cone Branch, as indicated on the 1858 and 1873 maps. No identifiable factory structure remains, although the site is probably now on a separately owned parcel. John W. Rensburg, Christian's son, later owned the property, and his name is shown on the 1873 map. The Rensburg (alternate spellings found in the Land Records are Ramsburg and Rensberg) family retained ownership until the mid-1970's.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-22

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.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 acres  
Quadrangle name Middletown, Md. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<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 3 acres centered between the dwelling house and the agricultural buildings including both the domestic and agricultural groups on Tax Map 65, Parcel 50.

### 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 February, 1992

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

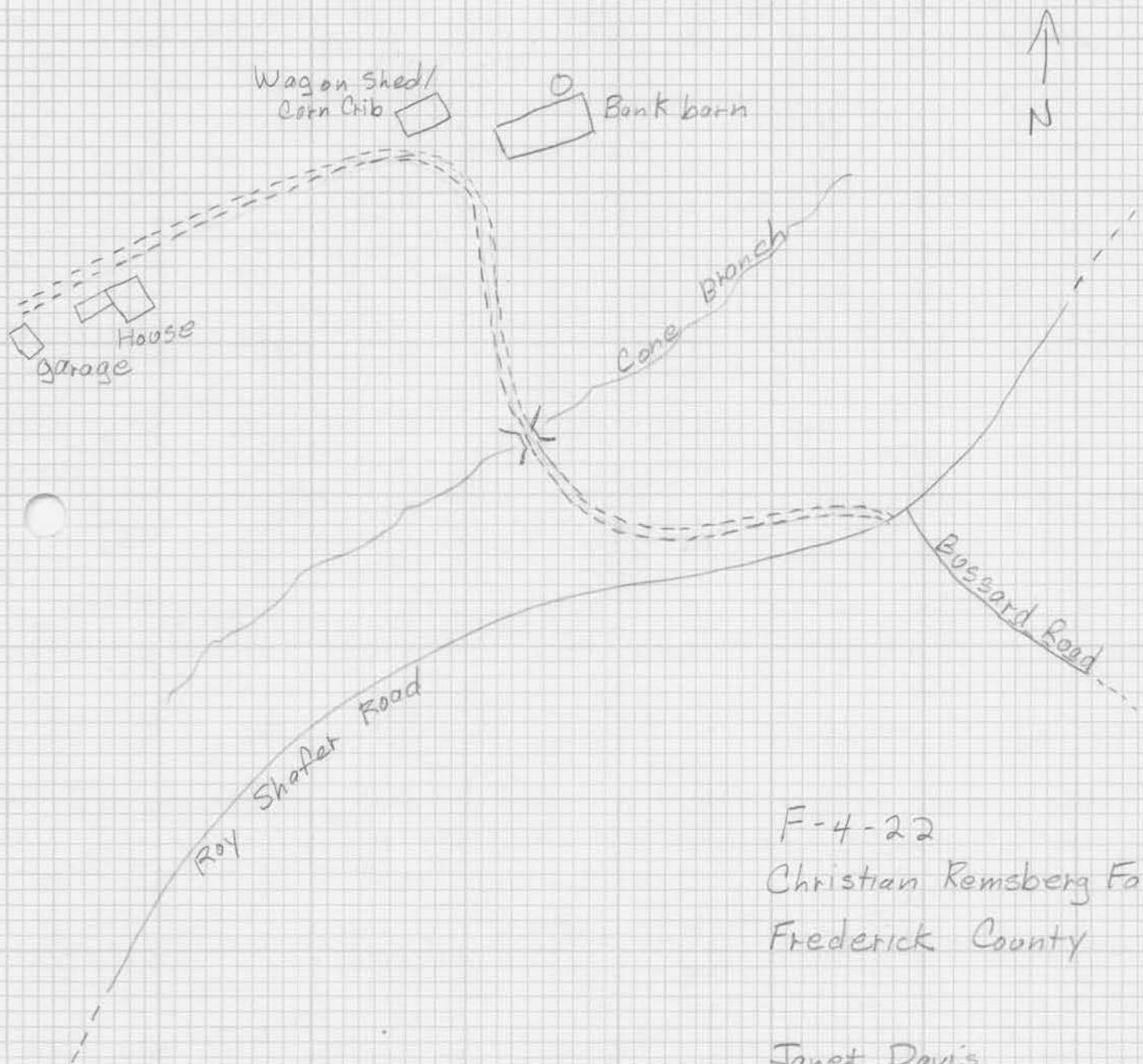
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

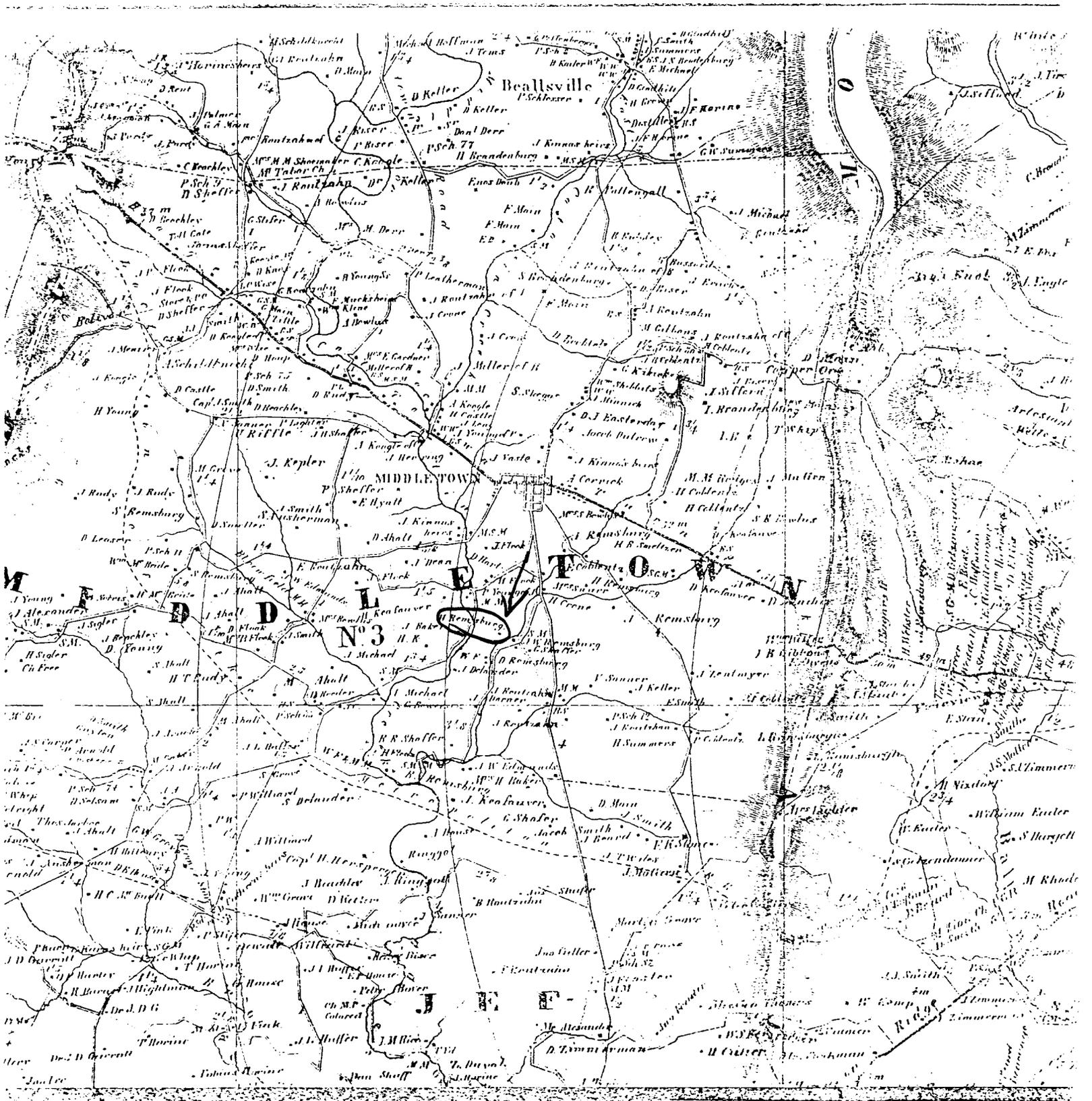
MAIL ROOM  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2021  
514-7600

LIBER/FC. 0	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
997/128 30 Aug 76	Robert E. Hauker, Douglas M. + Evelyn D. Hauker	Fredericktown B + Trust succ. trustee of Harold A. Ramsberg	218 A.	\$325,000	
845/232 18 Mar 71	Fredericktown B + J. + H. A. Ramsberg, trustees	Harold A. Ramsberg			
<del>372/199</del> <del>7/14/218</del> <del>30 Sep 29</del> 414/218 8 Oct 38	Harold A. Ramsberg <del>Charles H. Ramsberg</del>	Charlotte O. Fritz Charles H. Ramsberg + wife	101A.		
372/199 30 Sept 29	Harold A. Ramsberg Charles H. Ramsberg	Charlotte O. Fritz	"John W. Ramsberg Farm" 102 #A.		
324/320 2 Apr 18	Charlotte O. Fritz	Erroy R. Ramsberg + Frank X. Ramsberg. adm. under last will of John W. Ramsberg	"Ramsberg's Content"	\$9,256.50	



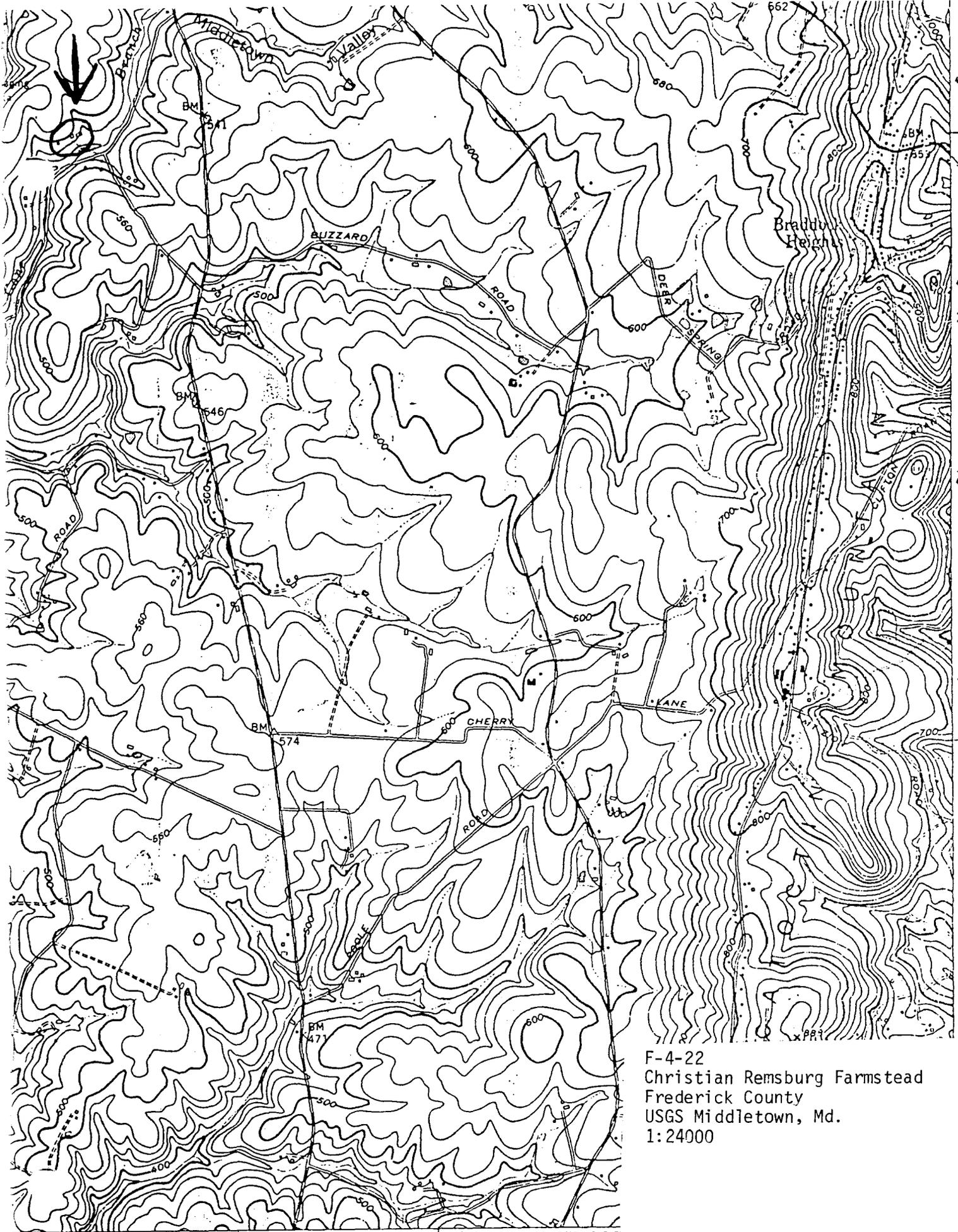
F-4-22  
Christian Remsberg Farmstead  
Frederick County

Janet Davis  
January 27, 1992  
Not to Scale



F-4-22  
Christian Remsburg Farmsstead  
Frederick County  
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick  
County, 1858





F-4-22  
Christian Remsburg Farmstead  
Frederick County  
USGS Middletown, Md.  
1:24000



F-4-22

Christiana Remulsion Farmstead

Fredrick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1992

Loc. loc.: Md. SHPO, Cranesville, Md.

North elevation

1/5



F-4-20

Christian Memorial Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

In July 1992

Map. loc.: Md. SH 3 Creswellville Rd.

South elevation

2/5



F. 4-22

Christen Semsberg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 2002

Prog. 22: Dist. 1110, Cross St. 1115'

3000, north west corner view

3/5



7 4 22

Christian Reuchlin: 1800s school

- Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

2000/1/2000

James M. ... HPO. ...

... corner view

4/5



F-4-22

Christian Reformed Foundation

Frederick County

Maria J. + Davis

January '99

Leg. tax - W. St. St. Clearville, Md.

Barrowest elevation

5/5