

F-4-30  
Motter's Tavern  
Middletown vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1800-1859

Motter's Tavern is a two-story, white-painted, brick tavern with a six-bay main elevation and a two-story rear wing which was built about 1800-1808 on the edge of the south side of the National Road (now Old National Pike). The north elevation has a one-story porch probably added during the 1860's or 1870's and two entrances, now boarded, which entered the central hall and the front tavern room which has a pass-through opening where drinks were distributed. The large attic is fully floored for dormitory sleeping space and a loading door with a hoist brought goods to the attic for storage. In common with Fox's Tavern (F-4-28) and the Beachley House (F-4-29), Motter's Tavern shares the pass-through opening, the dormitory attic, and the full width staircase to the attic, features which defined the tavern as a separate type of residence from private houses of the period. Once accompanied by several agricultural outbuildings, the tavern is now the only structure on the property and is a professional office. Built probably by Henry Motter, the tavern appeared on the 1808 Varle map which identified major stops on the National Road and other major routes in Frederick and Washington Counties. It may have operated until the late 1850's when it apparently became a private residence. For a short period in the mid-1980's, it was a bed and breakfast inn, but has been used as an office since 1990.

F-4-30  
Motter's Tavern  
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

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning  
Economic (Commercial & Industrial)  
Transportation

Resource Types:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function and Use:  
Commerce/Trade/restaurant/tavern

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 Motter's Tavern

and/or common Fountaindale Inn

## 2. Location

street & number 4253 Old National Pike  not for publicationcity, 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 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 Joseph F. Brown III

street &amp; number 405 E. Main Street 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 1644

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 1050

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Paul Brinkman/Anthony James Surveys of Frederick County F-228/F-34

date C. 1968  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state Md.

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-4-30

<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

Motter's Tavern (Fountaindale Inn) is a two-story brick building with a six-bay north elevation and a two-story brick rear wing which is sited on the south edge of Old National Pike (U.S. 40A) just south of the intersection of Hollow Road about 1 mile east of Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The building was erected about 1800-1808 as a tavern on the National Road, the route of which is now U.S. 40A, and later became a private residence with agricultural outbuildings. The outbuildings were demolished in the early to mid 1980's after a brief term as a bed and breakfast inn and the house is currently a professional office with a parking lot located to the southeast.

The tavern's main elevation is laid in flemish bond which is painted white. The brick is spalled in numerous places on the entire exterior. The north elevation has a one-story porch over the center four bays. The porch has scroll-sawn brackets, a dentil molding, and turned columns, features found on porches built during the last quarter of the 19th century. The porch deck is modern flagstone, probably laid during the last 20 years. The facade has two entrances which are currently boarded by vertical lath, the current principal entrance being located in the rear wing. The window openings have gauged arches and wood sills. The sash is 9/9 on the first story and 9/6 on the second story. The cornice is corbeled brick. The gable roof is slate and the double interior end chimneys are rebuilt above the roof. The extended eaves at the gable ends have drip panels at each corner of the roof. The east and west gable ends, which are 5:1 American bond, each have two bays, with small rectangular attic level windows with 4/2 sash. In the east gable, one of these attic windows is replaced with a vertical board door where a hoist in the attic was used to raise supplies. The rear wing extends from the southwest corner of the main section. It appears to have been built in two stages, with an interior chimney between the second and third bays and an interior chimney on the south gable end. On the west elevation, the wing and the main section stone foundation is exposed, with 9-light windows in the main section and a 6/6 window and a modern door into the cellar located in the wing. On the east elevation of the wing is a rebuilt two-story frame porch which is integral to the design of the brick portion. The porch posts are square and the railings are plain horizontal members. Each level of the wing has two doorways, with paneled soffits and three-light transoms. The 6-panel doors are replacements.

The interior of the building has been much changed in terms of finishes and plan during its several conversions from commercial to residential to hotel to professional office use. The main features of a central hall with a full width stair to the fully floored attic, and a pass-through window in the east front room remain intact, although much painted and currently blocked from general view. Several Greek Revival mantelpieces are also in place. One of the most intriguing interior features are three wall paintings over the doorways in the west rear room of the main section. Thought to have been painted by an itinerant artist during the 19th century, their exact date is unknown. The romantic landscapes show picturesque towered buildings which suggest the mid-19th century. The paintings have been

(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/ 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 checked="" 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	C. 1800-1859	Builder/Architect
check:	Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
	and/or	
	Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
	Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Motter's Tavern is a good example of an early 19th century tavern built on the National Road as a way station and inn for travelers. Shown on the 1808 Charles Varle map of Frederick and Washington Counties as "Mottre", the house was undoubtedly an important stopping place on the major route to western Maryland and the Ohio Valley. Its large proportions and unusual 6-bay main elevation set it apart from the usual residential house of the period. The interior shows the commercial use in the pass-through window in the east parlor, the full width staircase to the attic where dormitory space for travelers was maintained, and the loading door in the attic. The interior wall paintings are another unusual feature of the house which suggests its public use. Two other rural taverns in the Middletown Valley on the National Road have similar features to Motter's Tavern: these are Fox's Tavern (F-4-28) and the Beachley House (F-4-29). Fox's was built about 1780 and is a stone building located on an earlier route to Sharpsburg which preceded the National Road. The Beachley House is a stone house built about 1800-1810 which formerly had a white stucco covering, giving it the nickname "The White House". Both have the same major features as Motter's Tavern, but are smaller, each with five bays and shorter rear wings. The taverns exemplify the importance of the National Road as a feature of early 19th century life, both in their function as adjuncts to turnpike travel and as economic ventures.

Motter's Tavern was probably built about 1806 by Henry Motter (ca. 1767-1830), son of Valentine Matter, a Dutch immigrant to Frederick County in about 1760. In 1806, Henry purchased land from his father and, as noted, a tavern stop under an alternate spelling of his name appears on the 1808 map. A board found in the second floor of the building commemorates a Christmas in the house in 1816 and is signed by E. Dutrow, indicating it was a gathering place by that date. In Henry's will dated 19 July 1826, John S. Motter received the "Tavern Stand" tract containing the building, along with furniture, liquor, glassware, barrels, chairs, and other items including the blacksmith tools as stated in Section 7, and several slaves. The period in which Motter's Tavern operated is unclear, but it probably lasted until John S. Motter sold the property to Henry R. Smeltzer (1809-1875). Scharf's History of Western Maryland (1882) stated that a cannonball fired during the September 14, 1862 Battle of South Mountain pierced a wall of the house. No evidence of this event has been found in the structure. In 1882, Smeltzer's aged widow Sarah, the surviving child of Revolutionary War hero Sgt. Lawrence Everhart, was still occupying the house as her residence. Shortly thereafter, she died and the property

(Continued on separate sheet)



7.1 Description (Continued)

framed and covered with glass to protect them. The second story of the wing contains the most evidence of the early 19th century origin of the building. Here in a room with an added modern bath and closet are a simple fluted mantelpiece on a closed fireplace, molded chair rails and door surrounds, and grained 6-panel doors with some original box locks. A Frederick County Landmarks Foundation plaque, No. 220, is located on the entrance in the rear wing.

The original inventory form on Motter's Tavern (common name: Fountaindale Farm) in about 1966-68 listed several agricultural outbuildings and a brick springhouse on the property. One of the outbuildings must have once contained a blacksmith shop, as the tools were mentioned as part of the bequest of Henry Motter to his son John S. Motter in 1826. All of the outbuildings had been demolished by early 1992.

Motter's Tavern  
Frederick County

Survey No. F-4-30

8.1 Significance (Continued)

became part of the Daniel Kefauver property (see F-4-36). It was apparently occupied by various members of the Kefauver family until 1984, when it was purchased by Clarence Kresin who attempted to operate a bed and breakfast inn in the old tavern building. The remaining outbuildings were probably demolished at this time. Since 1990, it has been the office of Joseph Brown III, a surveyor.

Motter's Tavern  
Frederick County

Survey No. F-4-30

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. V.1 Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882. P. 574; 578.

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

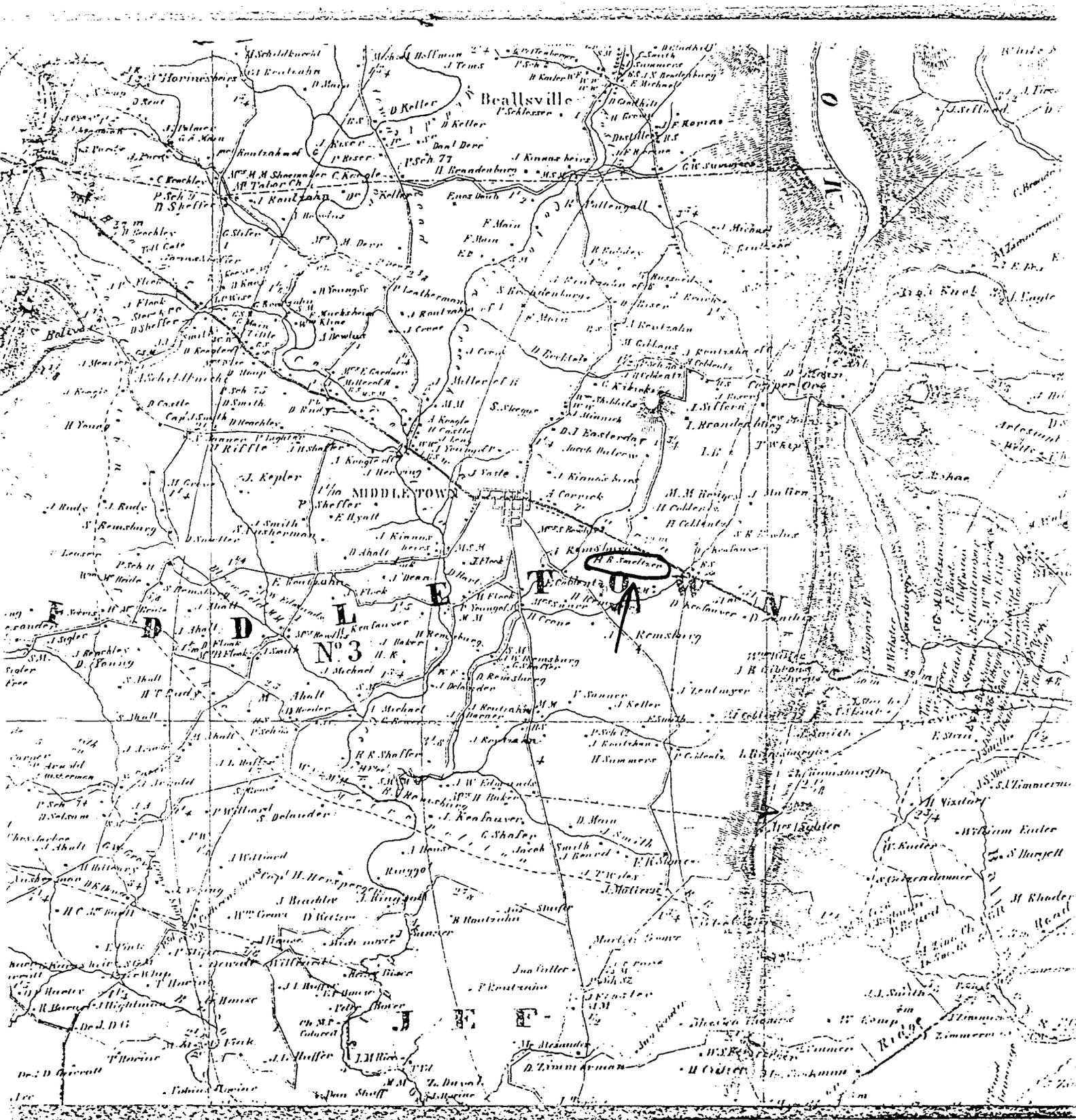
Varle, Charles. Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, 1808.

#37 4253 O.N.P. LIBER/F. NO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1644/1050 14 May 90	Joseph F. Brown III & Virginia E. Brown	Clarence E. Kresin	Lot 602, Sect. VI Fountaindale South 2.62 A. 4253 O.N.P.	\$240,000	
1267/187 28 Dec 84	Clarence E. Kresin	Noah Edmund Kefauver, Jr.			
630/329 29 Dec 79	Noah E. Kefauver, Jr.	Noah E. & Lucretia F. Kefauver	P. 1: 183A. Valentine's Retirement Four and a Half Gallons of Rum Smith's Mistake Rectified	(mentions "Sawm Stand" Henry Miller to John Miller	
395/63 21 Jun 34 P. 4	Noah E. & Lucretia F. Kefauver	Leslie N. Coblenty			
395/62 21 June 34 P. 4	Leslie N. Coblenty	Noah E. & Lucretia F. Kefauver	203 3/4 A.		
336/270 28 Sept 21	Noah E. Kefauver	Anna L. Kefauver Exec. of. Martin E. Kefauver		#32,600	
DHH 15/555 12 Jan 03	Martin E. Kefauver	D. E. Kefauver + Amanda E. Kefauver	203 B/4 A. (mentions "Sawm Stand" 1st. parcel 183A.	#18,500	
		no further refs			

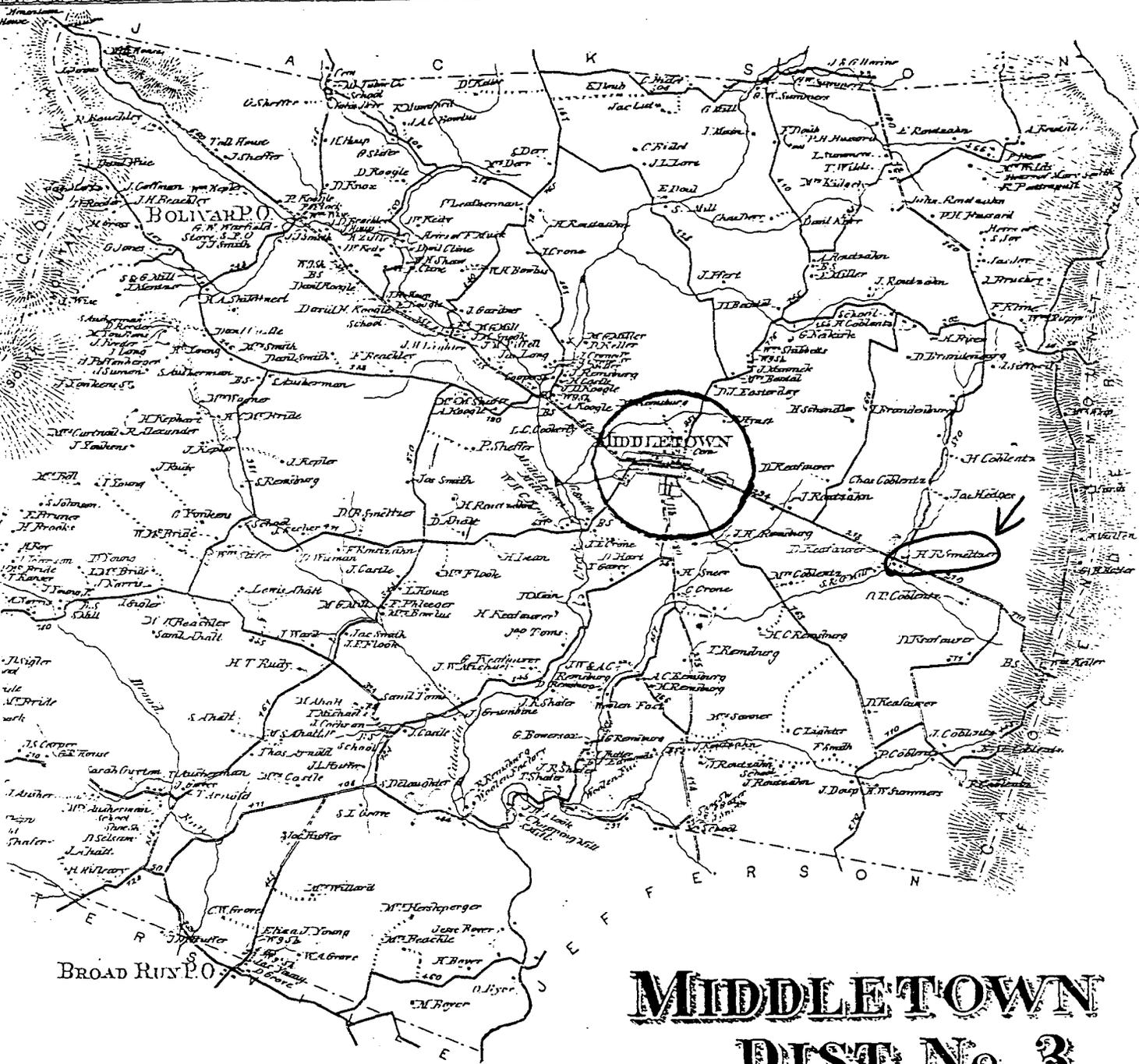
LIBER/F. 10	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
AF 5/54 16 Mar 4 Apr 1882	Daniel E. Kefauver	Sarah A. Smeltzer	Valentine's Retirement Four and a Half Gallons of Rum, Smith's Mistake 1830.	\$169.470	
BGF 5/57 17 Oct 1859	Henry R. Smeltzer	John S. Motter	1830.	\$17,013.75	
G MET 1/175 10 Nov 1830	John S. Motter	Henry Motter	Tavern Stand + furnishings 17 3/4 A. + furnishing of tavern, liquor blacksmith tools & stocks		
F 1/203 21 Nov 1770	Valentine Motter	J. Thomas Schley "Dunholder"	180 A. "Schley's Consideration"		



F-4-30  
 Motter's Tavern  
 Frederick County  
 Charles Varle, Map of Frederick and  
 Washington Counties, 1808



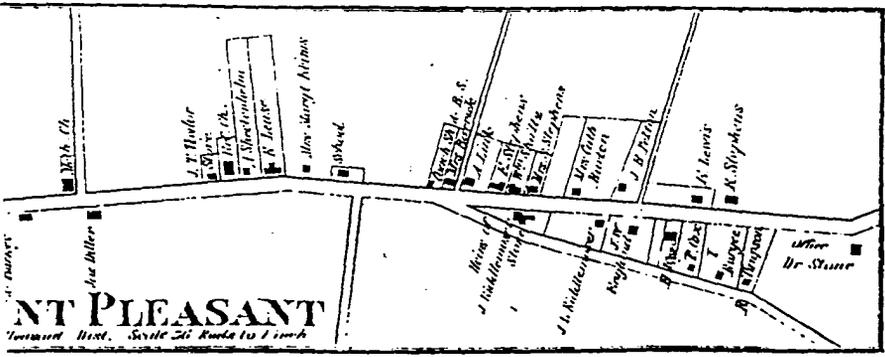
F-4-30  
Motter's Tavern  
Frederick County  
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,  
1858



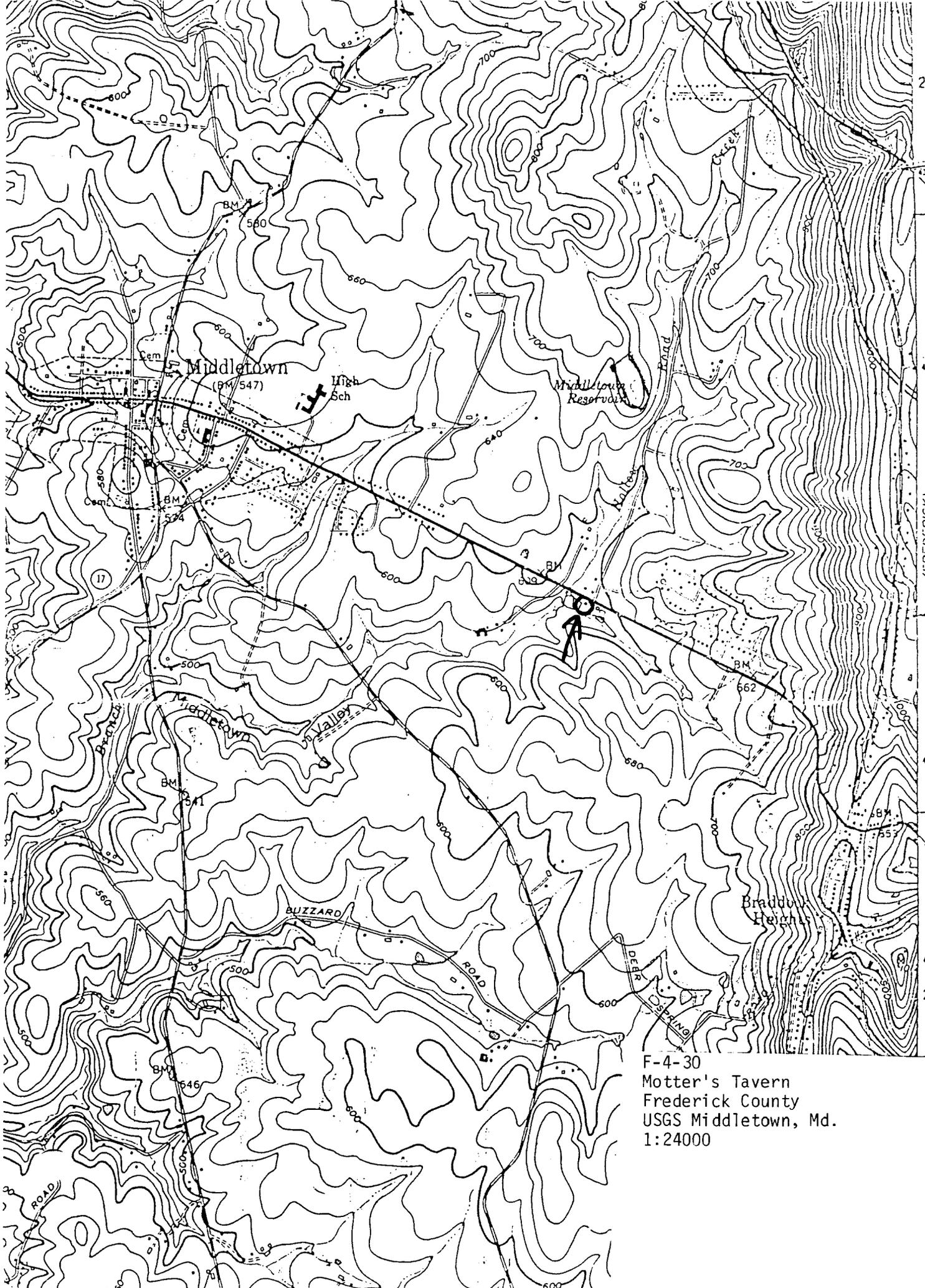
# MIDDLETOWN

## DIST No. 3

Scale 1 1/2 Inches to the Mile



F-4-30  
 Motter's Tavern  
 Frederick County  
 C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
 County, 1873.



F-4-30  
Motter's Tavern  
Frederick County  
USGS Middletown, Md.  
1:24000



F-4-30

Moffet's Tavern

Fredrick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1992

Reg. 500 - Md. HPO, Crownsville, Md.

North east corner view

1/2



F-4: 30

Löffler's Towhee

Frederick County

Photo: Jorel S. L.

January 2012

Mon. loc.: N.J. SIFPO - Snowsville, Md.

West elevation

2/4



F-4-30

Mottet's Tavern

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1992

1/29. 100. 3/11. 5/11. 7/11. 9/11. 11/11.

Southeast corner of

3/1



F. 4 30

Motter's Tavern

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1912

Neg. loc. in lib. SHPO. Stauntonville, Md.

2nd floor, near wing, mantel piece and grained doors

2/4