

F-4-34

Peter Shafer Farmstead
Middletown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1818-1920

The Peter Shafer Farmstead consists of a circa 1818 brick dwelling with a one-story rear wing, a stone root cellar and well house, a circa 1918 brick springhouse, and a circa 1875 wood shed, with a circa 1918 frame bank barn, and a circa 1875-1900 wagon shed/corn crib. The dwelling has a wide reception hall with double parlors and an unusually fine mantelpiece in the main room with fluted columns, floral capitals, and interlaced moldings. The complex is significant for the architecture of the house which has the proportions and details of an urban residence, and for its exemplification of the agricultural changes in similar farms during the period about 1875-1920. Built about 1818, the property was part of the wealth of "Marsa" Peter Shafer, who was known for the large numbers of slaves he owned during his ownership in the second quarter of the 19th century. A later owner, John R. Shafer, was described as the richest man in the Middletown Valley during the last quarter of the century.

F-4-34

Peter Shafer 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:
Agricultural Industrial Expansion A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Agriculture
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/storage/granary

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 Peter Shafer Farmstead

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6600B Roy Shafer Road ___ not for publication

city, town Middletown ___X vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Mrs. Dorsey H. Rice

street & number 6600B Roy Shafer Rd. telephone no.: (301) 371-6705

city, town Middletown state and zip code Md. 21769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 980

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 294

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-4-34

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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: 7

The Peter Shafer Farmstead is an agricultural complex centered on a circa 1818 brick dwelling with an associated well house and root cellar of about the same period, a frame woodshed probably built in the last quarter of the 19th century, and a circa 1918 brick springhouse on the site of an earlier two-story brick springhouse, and an agricultural outbuilding group containing a circa 1918 frame bank barn with adjoining non-contributing loafing sheds, a concrete silo, a milking parlor, and milk house built about 1967, a circa 1920-25 brick garage, and a frame wagon shed/corn crib built during the last quarter of the 19th century. The farmstead also contains several other non-contributing outbuildings. The property is located on the west side of Roy Shafer Road, about 0.2 mile from the road at the end of a driveway, and about 1/4 mile north of Bennie's Hill Road, near Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland.

The dwelling house is a two-story brick residence with a three-bay principal facade facing south. A rear one-story wing extends from the northwest corner of the house. An open porch is located on the east side of the wing. The main facade and west elevation are laid in flemish bond and the east elevation and rear wing are in American bond ranging from 4:1 in the lower courses to 5:1 on the upper levels. The main entrance is in the west bay with a rectangular transom with fan tracery over an 8-panel door. The window openings have gauged brick arches and wood sills with 9/8 sash and replacement louvred shutters. Some repointing has taken place in the spandrels of each bay between the first and second floors. The cornice is molded, corbeled brick and interior chimneys are located at the east and west gable ends. The roof is covered with corrugated metal. The east elevation has four bays with 9/9 windows on both floors and a single 4/2 attic window. Two entrances to the cellar are located in the stone foundation, each with vertical board doors. The cellar has two wood-barred windows in this elevation. The west elevation has two bays near the southwest corner, the north portion being occupied by the interior staircase. The rear wing has two entrances on the east side. The 9/9 windows and replacement shutters are the same as on the main section. The wing's roof is covered with pressed metal. The porch is integral to the roof, but the supports are now modern cast iron replacements. Two chimneys rise from the wing, one in the center and one at the north gable end. Evidence of a removed bake oven projection is visible in the repointed and spalled bricks of the north elevation.

The interior of the house has a side hall plan with double parlors on the east side. The entrance hall is very wide, with the staircase near the northwest corner. The closers are ornamented with scroll-sawn decoration and a paneled base. The plaster walls have a half-round, grained wood chair rail which continues up to the second floor. The 6-panel doors to the parlors are painted on the hall side and grained on the parlor sides. The floors are covered with wall-to-wall carpet. In the south parlor are plaster walls, molded chair rails and baseboards, and a highly individual mantelpiece. The vernacular craftsman appears to have been experienced in the Georgian and Federal styles still common in rural areas in the first decades of the 19th century, but created a rudimentary version of a Greek Revival mantel.

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 checked="" 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 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. 1818-1920 **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 Peter Shafer Farmstead is significant in architecture for the elegant proportions and fine details of the dwelling house, built about 1818 possibly by Peter Shafer's father John Shafer, who acquired the property in 1788. Peter Shafer (1802-1895) was known as "Marsa" Peter Shafer because of the large number of slaves he owned. John R. Shafer, apparently a nephew of Peter, who was childless, owned the farm in the period 1850-1892, and was known as the wealthiest man in the Middletown Valley during the last quarter of the 19th century. The family wealth probably contributed to the design of the house, which is more typical of an urban residence in its wide reception hall, large windows, chair rails, and mantelpieces. The front parlor mantelpiece is unusually fine, a clearly transitional work combining elements of the Georgian and Federal styles with early interpretations of the Greek Revival style then becoming the leading aesthetic movement in design. The farmstead is also significant in agriculture in its exemplification of the physical changes which took place in Frederick County farms over the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century.

According to an unlocated document in the current owner's possession, the craftsman who built the house was a man named Fulmer. No other information has yet been discovered about the construction of the house. The farm was part of Daniel Dulaney's holdings, which were sold as confiscated Tory property to John Shafer in 1788. Frederick County has other similar examples of rural houses with the fine details more often associated with city dwellings. An example is Linden Grove (F-1-80; National Register), built about 1790 near Frederick, which has narrow proportions and dormers with stepped parapets similar to those found in the city. The Shafer house has the wider proportions of the early 19th century and lacks dormers, but it has the interior spatial impression of an urban residence.

7.1 Description (Continued)

The frieze has a deep bolection profile, but is overlaid with dogtooth interlacing moldings. The opening is flanked by freestanding fluted columns with simple floral capitals. The same floral motif is repeated in a freestanding finial on top of the columns, perhaps suggesting the anthemion of a Greek temple. The second parlor has molded chair rails and a more traditional paneled mantelpiece. A modern bathroom and built-in closet have been added to this room near the interior wall adjoining the hall. The two rooms in the wing each have fireplace openings. The center room was probably the dining room and has molded chair rails and a paneled mantel. The walls are covered with modern wallpaper. The north room is the kitchen and has a corner fireplace opening with a molded surround. The surround covers the area on the right where the bake oven opening was located. A built-in pantry with a vertical board door and an enclosed stair to the attic of the wing are located to the left of the fireplace. On the both floors of the house were inverted "T" oil lamp sconces. One of these remains on the second floor under wallpaper.

Domestic outbuildings: Among the demolished outbuildings of the farm was a brick slave quarters which stood north of the wood shed. Following are the existing contributing domestic structures.

Well house and root cellar: The entrance to the well house is a stone wall built into the slope northeast of the house. A vertical board door and a corrugated metal gable roof cover the top. Above the roof is a late 19th century pump. The well house and root cellar probably date from about the same period as the main house, although the gable roofed section was probably built out at a later date.

Wood shed: A rectangular frame wood shed, now used as a garage with a modern lift door, is located east of the well house. It has board and batten siding and a vertical board door on the southwest corner. The roof is corrugated metal. The shed probably was built during the last quarter of the 19th century and appears in a circa 1890's photograph of the farm in the possession of the current owner, Mrs. Rice.

Springhouse: The brick springhouse is a rectangular building located southeast of the wood shed. It was built about 1918 with the bricks of the original brick bank barn which was replaced with the present barn. It has a corrugated metal gable roof and german sided frame gable ends. A single doorway is located in the northwest gable end and the windows on the side elevations have wood bars. In Mrs. Rice's 1890's photo of the farm, the original brick, two-story springhouse appears in the same location.

Garage: The rectangular garage is brick on a concrete block foundation. It is located southwest of the house at the edge of the farm driveway. Built probably in the 1920's, it has a corrugated metal roof and sliding tongue-and-groove doors on the south elevation.

7.2 Description (Continued)

Agricultural outbuildings:

Barn: The circa 1918 frame barn was built on the stone foundation of the original barn, which is also visible in the 1890's photo. The present barn has vertical siding and a corrugated metal roof. The lower level has adjoining modern, non-contributing loafing sheds and a non-contributing concrete silo is located near the west elevation next to the ramp. The non-contributing 1967 milking parlor and milk house adjoin the barn on the west elevation.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed/corn crib was built during the last quarter of the 19th century. It has clapboard siding and two window openings in the south elevation above the drive-through bay. The gable roof is corrugated metal. The structure is in deteriorated condition.

Peter Shafer Farmstead
Frederick County

Survey No. F-4-34

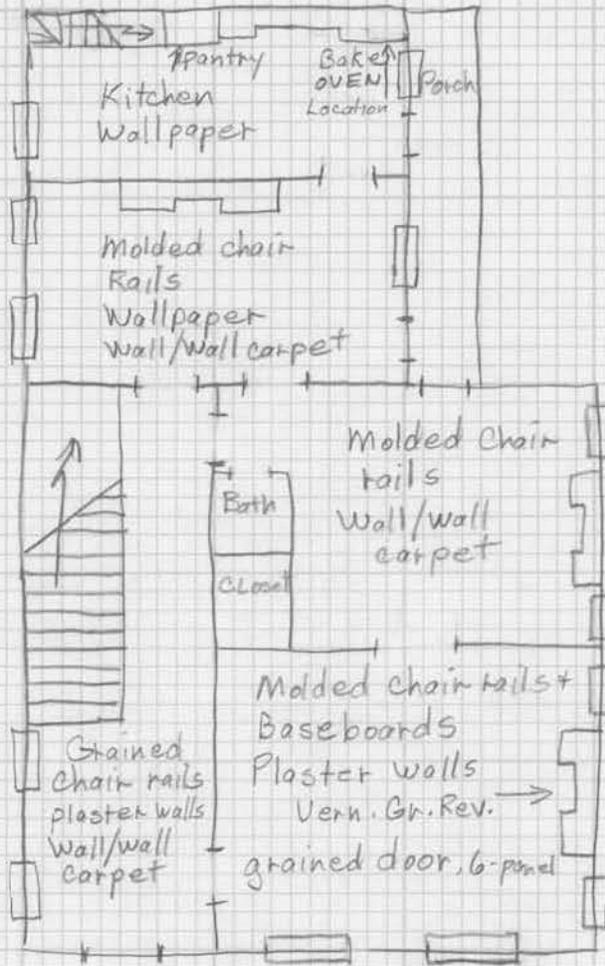
9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Rice, Mrs. Dorsey H., personal interview, March 2, 1992

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

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, Maryland, 1910. Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, p. 1486.

LIBER/FOLIO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
980/294 12 Feb 76	Dorsey H. + M. Louise Rice	Alma Ellen Taylor & J. Howard Taylor, Husb. (Alma - only child of	"Home Farm" of late John R. Shafer "Landlows" "Resurvey on Mason's Alley" "Kamsburg's Contract"	203a.	
5TH 265/430 4 Apr 04	Roy C. Shafer	Roy H. Shafer, died 8/21 Sarah C. Groff, widow	1952) "Home Farm" 203a.	\$7112.65	
JLJ 3/721 23 Mar 1893	Sarah C. Groff & Eliza E. Shafer, sisters	John E. Shafer, et al heirs of John R. Shafer	203a. including home farm	\$9,519.41	
ES 2/473 17 Nov 1850	John R. + Robert Shafer	Peter Shafer + Matilda Shafer no further ref	201a.	\$12,550.23	



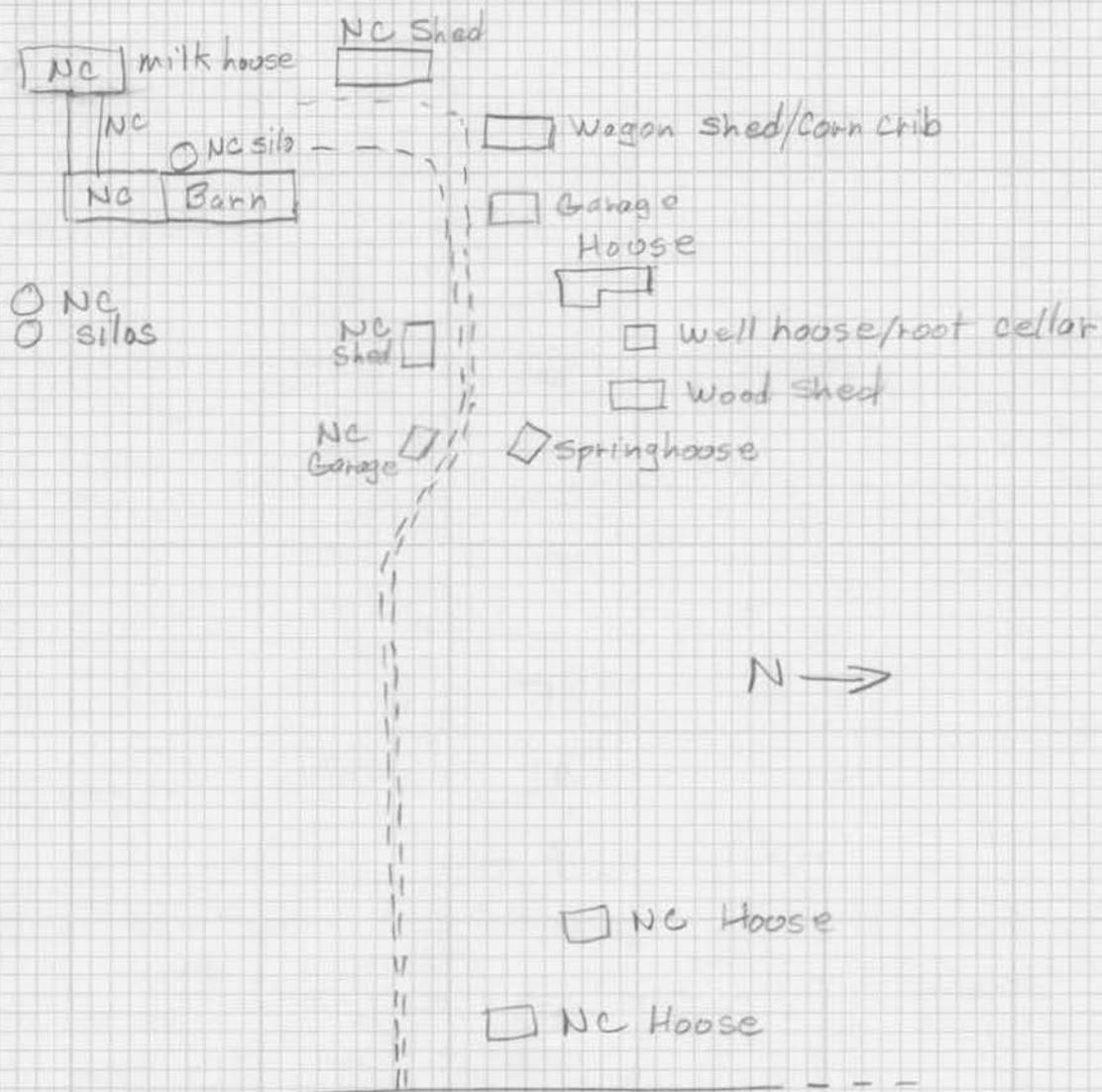
F-4-34

Peter Shafer Farmstead
Frederick County

Janet Davis

March 2, 1992

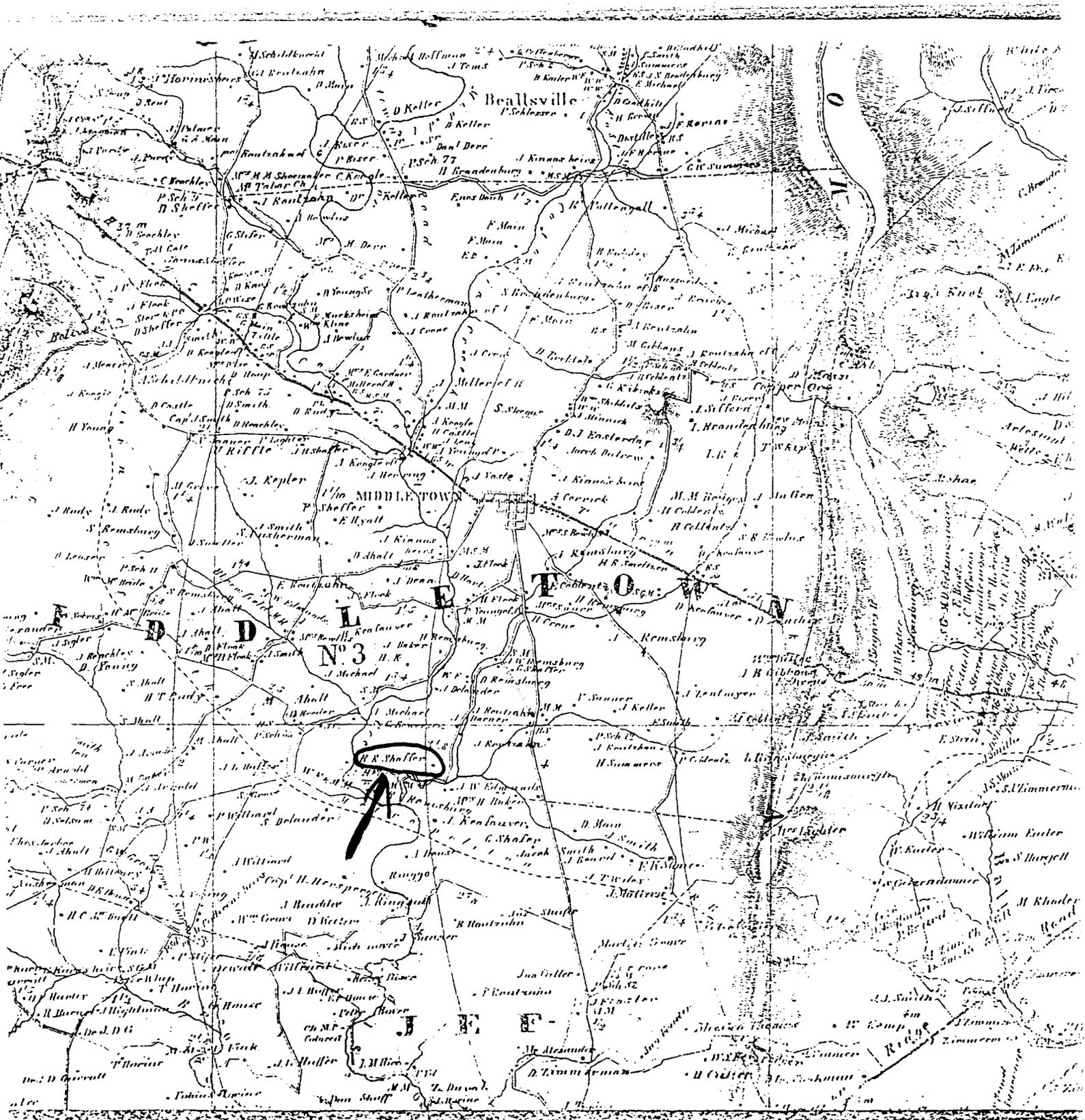
Not to Scale



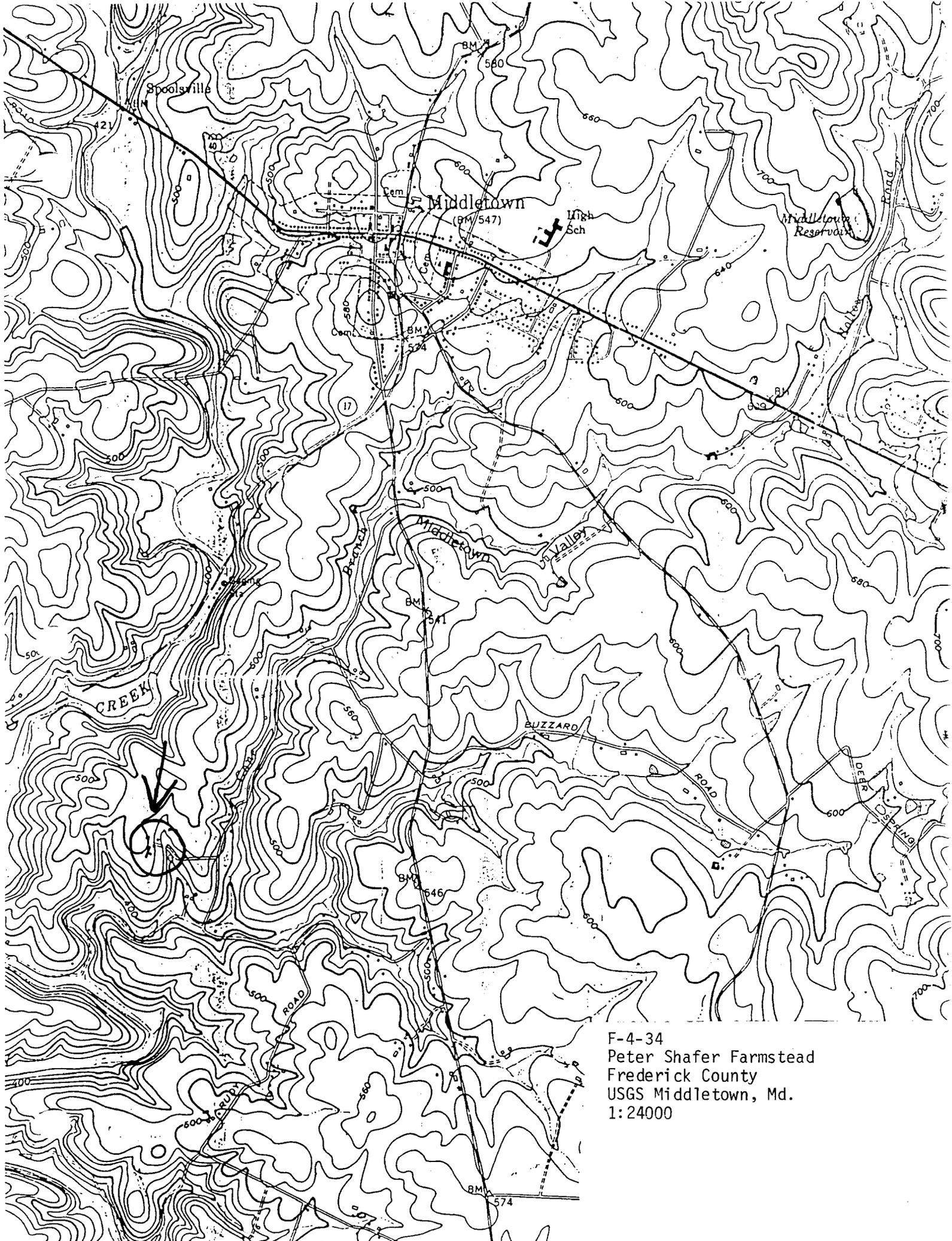
Roy Shafter Road

F-4-34
 Peter Shafter Farmstead
 Frederick County

Janet Davis
 January 28, 1992
 Not to Scale



F-4-34
Peter Shafer Farmstead
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,
1858.



F-4-34
Peter Shafer Farmstead
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, Md.
1:24000



F-4-34

Peter Sluder Farmstead

Fredrick County

Photo: Janet Lewis

January 2012

Neq. loc. Md. State - Poolesville, Md.

Southeast corner view

1/8



F-4-34

Peter Shafer Farmstead
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1972

Neq. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Well No. 4 west 1/2 S 1, view from east

2/8



7-4-31

Walter Kelly of Tallmadge

Provision Dept

Walter Jones Davis

Jan 1902

Geo. C. C. Md. SHPO. Lower 1000

Springfield. Sp. 1st 1000

3 1/2



F. 4-34

Peter Sinter Farnstead

Frederick Co. Md.

Historical Land Papers

January 1882

Loc. 1000. 1/11. 5110. Jacksonville, Md.

Especially of direct view

4/8



F-4 st

Peter Sina's Form # 13

Frederick, Md.

Kids: Jane & Chris

January 1992

Neg. loc.: Mid. SHPO, Chausville, Md.

Wagon shed, low elev., south elevation

5/3



F-4-24

Water Shaker Farm, near

Frederick, Co., Md.

Photo: Easton Lewis

March 1923

near loc. Mt. Siler, Greenfield, Md.

North elevation of farm with location
of oven

6/8



F. 4. 34

Peter Stater Townsend
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Lewis

March 1992

Men. loc.: Md. State Capitol, Md.
Main State Hall

7/8



F. 4. 34

Peter Shaler Farmstead

Fredrick County

Photo Janet Davis

March 1972

Loc. 1: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

located in the lot

3/8