

F-4-83

Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained  
Braddock Heights vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1800

The stuccoed stone house called Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained after an early tract name was built about 1800 and has a three-bay south elevation with a side-hall plan and an entry porch. The two-story rear wing has a modern enclosed porch on the east side and two sections of exposed original stone wall. The stucco was applied in the mid-20th century. A two-story 1950's addition adjoins the west elevation. On a separate neighboring parcel are two domestic outbuildings contemporary with the house, a stone springhouse and a log slave quarters. The house is a fair example of a stone dwelling of the early 19th century. Documentation through deed research puts the date at least as early as 1820, but Williams and McKinsey's history suggests the house may have been built about 1789, possibly by Samuel Temple. The Coblentz family and kin owned the property from 1821 to 1896, and, with other Coblentz properties in the vicinity, further research to date and identify the remaining buildings should clarify the history of Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained.

F-4-83

Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained  
Braddock Heights  
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

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies

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 Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained; John Philip Coblentz House

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 4514 Deer Spring Road  not for publication

city, town Braddock Heights  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 James and Ella Bell Fraser, Jr.

street & number 4514 Deer Spring Road telephone no.:

city, town Braddock Heights state and zip code Md.

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 645

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 468

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Frederick County Landmarks Foundation #40

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Frederick County Landmarks Foundation

city, town Frederick state Md. 21702

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-4-83

<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: 3

Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained is a two-story stone dwelling built about 1800 with a white stucco exterior applied in the mid-20th century, with two domestic outbuildings, a stone springhouse and a log building possibly built as slave quarters located on an adjoining, separately owned parcel. The main house is located on the north side of Deer Spring Road about 1/2 mile west of Maryland Avenue near Braddock Heights, Frederick County, Maryland. Currently a private residence, the house was formerly the principal domestic building in an agricultural complex. The only remaining agricultural buildings are two non-contributing concrete block structures, a dairy barn and milk house currently used as storage.

The stone house faces south toward the road and is set back about 300 feet on a semi-circular driveway. The south elevation has three bays with an entry porch on the west bay sheltering the 4-panel door with a 3-light transom. A Frederick County Landmarks Foundation plaque, No. 40, is affixed to the right of the doorway. The porch has a gable roof with square posts and appears to be an early 20th century construction, possibly replacing an earlier porch. The windows are 6/6 with replacement shutters. The cornice is boxed and the chimneys are located at the interior gable ends of the main section. The roof is covered with composition material. A two-story frame addition of about 1955-56 is attached to the west gable end. It has aluminum siding. At the east side of the entry porch are the double doors to the cellar. The positioning of these doors is unusual in the context of other Frederick County dwellings of the same period. The more frequently observed locations of the cellar entrance are at the rear of the main section, at the gable ends, or on an exposed basement level on the main elevation. A possible explanation is that the entrance was relocated, but access to the cellar was not possible during the field survey to confirm this theory. The east elevation of the main section has two bays with the same 6/6 sash and replacement shutters as on the south elevation. Two 2/2 attic windows are located in the gable. The two-story rear wing has a modern enclosed porch and a bath addition on the east side. Two sections of the eastern exterior wall of the wing have been stripped of stucco, revealing the original fieldstone construction. The rest of the wing remains covered with stucco. The composition roof of the wing is broken by two chimneys, one in the approximate center and the other at the north gable end, which has no openings save the two attic level windows.

The interior plan of the house is a single room with a side entrance and stair hall in the main section. The floors are covered with hardwood applied in the 1960's and the plaster walls are painted. In the parlor, the fireplace is covered and the mantel has been removed. The rear wing contains two rooms, the central one being the present kitchen which was modernized in the 1950's. The fireplace opening is also closed in this room. The north room is now a den and the walls are covered with 1960's paneling. The former cooking fireplace is still in place, but its surround, including the oven on one side, has been covered with paneling. A corner stairway at the southwest corner of the room leads to the second floor of the wing.

(Continued on separate sheet)

# 8. Significance

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>			
<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** C. 1800 **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.

Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained is a fair example of a circa 1800 stone dwelling. Its stucco-covered exterior and mid-20th century interior remodeling have somewhat obscured its integrity, but the basic plan remains intact and the exposed stone wall surfaces suggest that some of its character is restorable. The name "Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained" is taken from one of two tracts mentioned in the earliest documented land record in 1821 in which parts of this tract and "The Resurvey on Dent's Neglect" were combined to form an approximately 180-acre parcel. Since much of the stylistic influences usually found in mantels and other interior features have been removed from the house, it is possible that the house could have been built around 1820. However, Williams and McKinsey's History of Frederick County (1910) suggests that the house may date from about 1789 and was built by Samuel Temple (alternate spellings Templing, Templin). The history describes this as one of the earliest houses in Middletown Valley, although at least one house in the vicinity, the Vincent Sanner Farmstead (F-4-19), has a date of 1784. The 1821 deed records the transfer of the property from a Richard Templin to Philip Coblentz (later known as John Philip Coblentz). The current owner, Mrs. Fraser, believes that the house may have been built for a daughter of an early owner at the time of her marriage. Further research on other Coblentz properties in the vicinity of Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained may clarify its date.

Most of the contemporary houses in the vicinity of Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained are brick rather than stone. The Vincent Sanner Farmstead is a two-story, flemish bond structure with a water table and belt course, features which indicate a slightly higher level of architectural sophistication and which are usually found in Georgian and Federal style buildings than in rural houses of the period. The stone houses tend to be more clearly based on the German building traditions, with rough fieldstone in uncoursed walls, with either a rear or side wing. The Peter Shafer Farmstead (F-4-34) is a later brick version of the plan found in Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained. The Shafer house, built about 1818, has a three-bay main elevation with a side hall entrance and double parlors.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-83

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, p. 1289.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.71 acres

Quadrangle name Middletown, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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## Verbal boundary description and justification

Concurrent with Tax Map 65, Parcel 43

## 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 June 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.

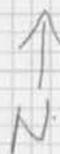
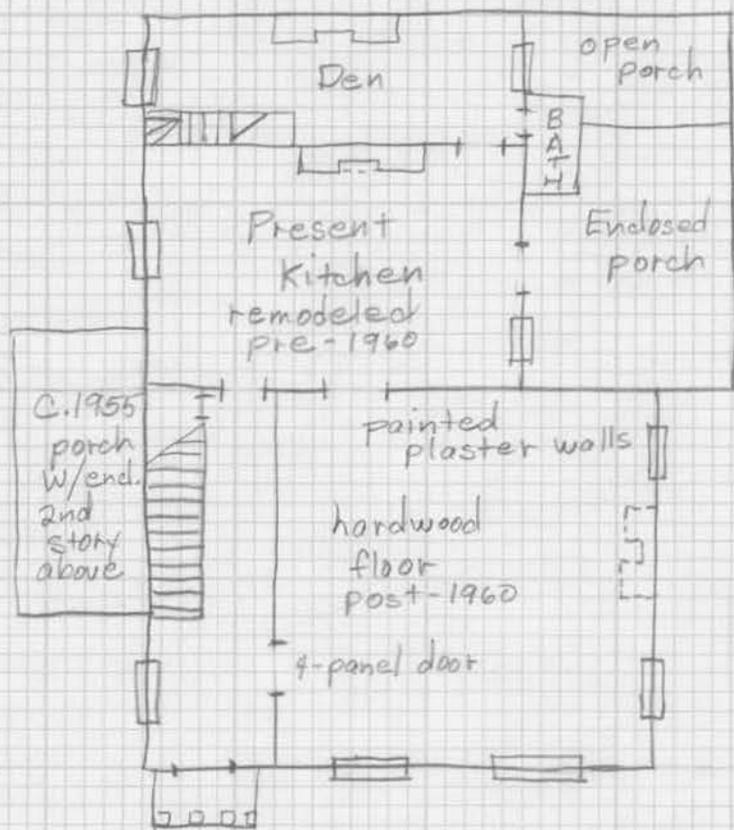
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
 DHCP/DHCE  
 100 COMMUNITY PLANNING  
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032

7.1 Description (Continued)

Outbuildings: The two contributing outbuildings are located about 100 feet west of the house in a grove of trees on a separate parcel. (The exact parcel is unclear; the two possible map references and owners are William J. Valois, 4502 Deer Spring Rd., Middletown, MD 21769, Tax Map 65, Parcel 155; and Margaret N. Crow, 6728 Deer Spring Rd., Middletown, MD 21769, Tax Map 65, Parcel 71, Lot 106.) The stone springhouse is a one-story structure in deteriorated condition. It has a corrugated metal gable roof with an extension over the east end sheltering the doorway, which has no door. The log building is said to have been built as slave quarters and its distance from the main dwelling seems to preclude its use as a summer kitchen. The one-story building has a corrugated metal gable roof with no visible chimney. The vertical board door and a 1/1 window, a replacement, are located in the east elevation. On the south gable end, rusticated pressed metal siding covers the upper part of the gable surface. The other elevations were not observed. Both outbuildings appear to date from the first quarter of the 19th century.



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 Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained  
 Frederick County

Janet Davis  
 June 1992  
 Not to Scale

Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained

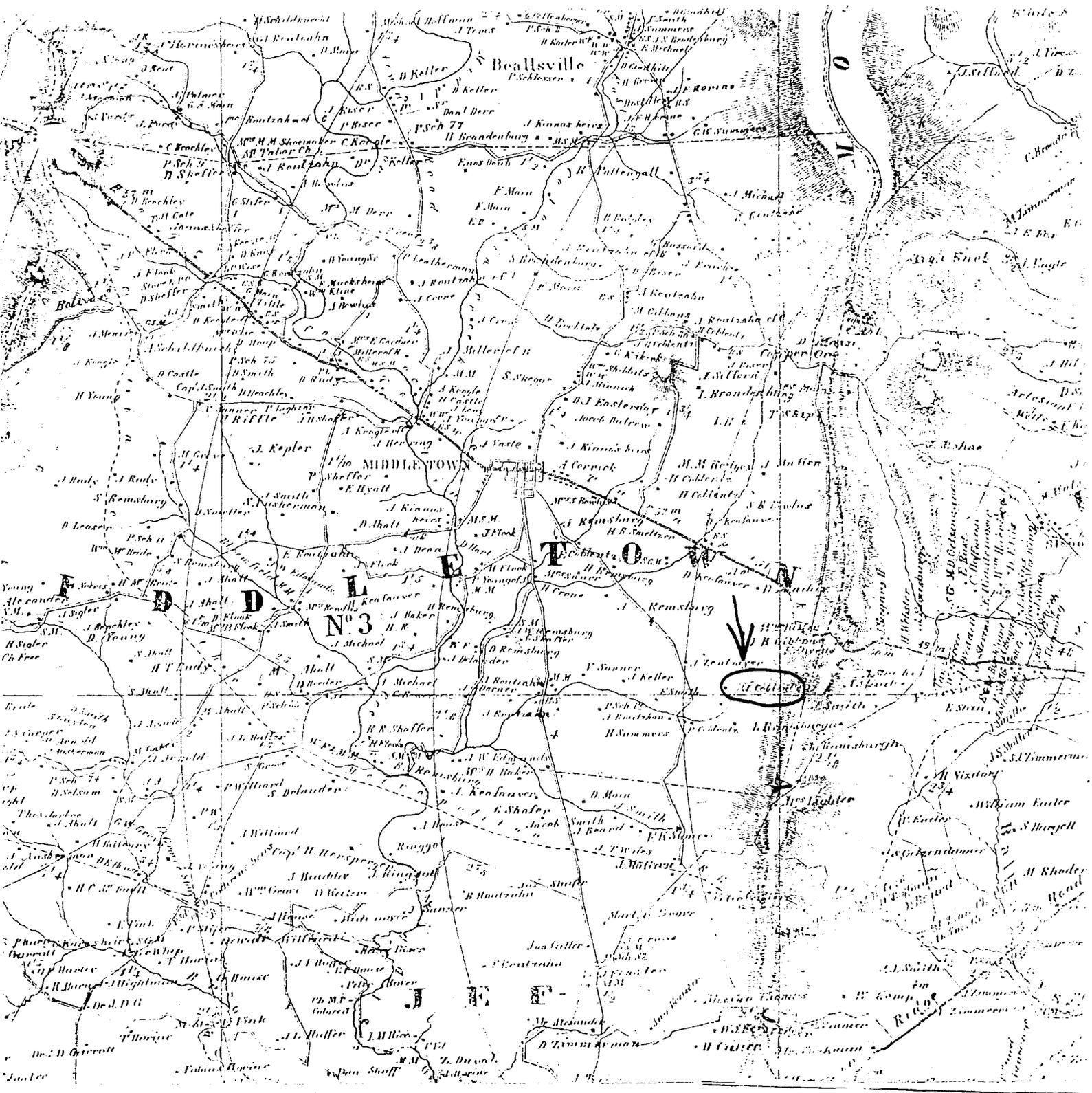
LIBER/FOLIO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
645/2468 9 Nov 60	James & Ella Bell Graser, Jr.	Western Md. Trust Co. & Carl S. Walter, execs of last will & test of Roy H. & Doris K. Walter	2.71A.	\$16,025	
543/165 26 Jan 55	Roy H. & Doris K. Walter	Elizabeth Lewis Peters & Charles R. & Virginia E. Baldwin	2.71A. Plot # 31 in proposed development of "Sunset Hills"		
543/163 26 Jan 55	Charles R. & Virginia E. Baldwin	Elizabeth Lewis Peters	1/2 interest in 65 3/4A.		
543/162 26 Jan 55	Elizabeth Lewis Peters	Charles D. & Roxie W. Stap	65 3/4A.		
514/189 30 Mar 53	Charles D. & Roxie W. Stap	Edward L. Bell & Helen L. Bell & Lillian R. Abrecht	65 3/4A.		
489/290 9 Dec 50	Elmer E. Waterman & Edward L. & Helen L. Bell	John H. & Marion E. Coblentz, Jr.	72A.		
446/371 28 Mar 45	John H. & Marion E. Coblentz, Jr.	George L. Ofert	72A.		

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Nothing Ventured Nothing Gained P. 2

LIBER/F. 10	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
368/451 21 Dec 28	<del>George L. &amp; M. Eva</del> Ifert H. Kieffer DeLanter	<del>H. Kieffer DeLanter</del> George L. & M. Eva Ifert	Tract #2 80 A.		
416/569 22 Apr 39	George L. Ifert	M. Eva Ifert	Tract #2 "Main farm" 80 A.		
JLJ 11/735 1 Apr 1896	George L. Ifert	Sarah A. V. Main	"Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained" 80 A.	\$5,206.50	
TG 10/320 1 Oct 1878	Sarah A. V. Main wife of George J. Main	Edward J. Coblenty & wife Catherine	<del>80 A.</del> 143 A. "Nothing Ventured Nothing Gained" "The Resurvey on Dent's Neglect"	\$7,000	
TG 10/317 28 Sept 1878	Edward J. Coblenty	John C. Coblenty exec. of John Coblenty of P.	Nothing V... Nothing G... 50 A. "The Resurvey on Dent's Neglect" & "Nothing V. Nothing Gained" 130 A.		
HS 20/71 22 May 1843	John Coblenty son of John P. Coblenty	John Philips Coblenty	"Nothing V... G" "Dent's Neglect" 130 A. & 50 A.	\$2,000	
JS 13/95 11 Apr 1821	Philip Coblenty (aka John Philip Coblenty)	Richard Templin  (no earlier refs)	"Nothing V... G" "... Dent's Neglect" 130 A. (contained schoolhouse & yard which given 19-yr. was to revert to Philip Coblenty)	\$6,700	

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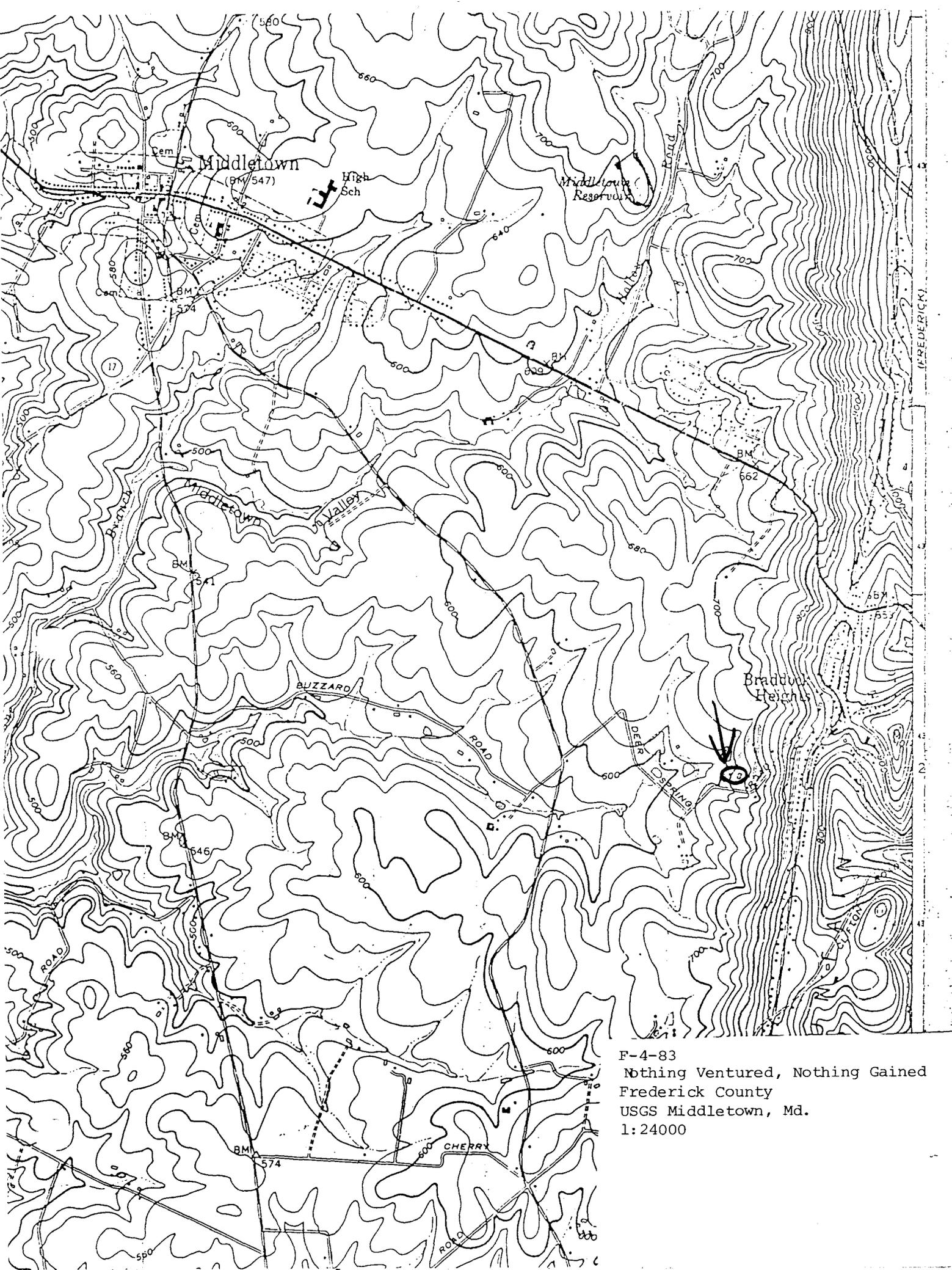


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Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained  
Frederick County

Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,  
1858





F-4-83  
Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained  
Frederick County  
USGS Middletown, Md.  
1:24000



F-4-83

Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

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

South elevation

1/3



F-4-83

Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

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

Northeast corner view

2/3



F-4-83

Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

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

Quarters and springhouse, east elevation

3/3