

F-4-84

Charles M. Brane House  
Middletown vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1895

The Charles M. Brane House is a frame, two-story dwelling with a central cross gable, a one-story porch, and asbestos shingle siding originally built about 1895 to replace an earlier farmhouse. The former 70-acre farm of which the house was the main structure has been developed around the house as a modern subdivision and all other buildings of the farmstead have been demolished. The house has a common vernacular style found throughout Frederick County during the last quarter of the 19th century. Its integrity level is low because of exterior finish alterations and interior changes made when the house was converted to two apartments.

F-4-84

Charles M. Brane House

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:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function and Use:

Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Charles M. Brane House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 7105 Willow Tree Drive  not for publication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 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 Robert J. & Doris F. McCutcheon

street & number P.O. Box 95 telephone no.:

city, town Braddock Heights state and zip code Md. 21714

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1010

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 202

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-4-84

<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

The Charles M. Brane House is a two-story frame dwelling built about 1895 as the principal dwelling of a 70-acre farm which has been developed in the 1970's and 1980's as a residential suburb surrounding the former farmhouse, the only remaining structure of the original farmstead. It is located on the east side of Willow Tree Drive about 100 yards south of U.S. 40A near Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The former entrance drive to the farmstead is still partially visible as an intermittent allee of trees just east of Willow Tree Drive, crossing an open space north of the Brane House. The principal elevation of the house faces north and its exterior is covered with asbestos shingle siding. It is currently used as a duplex apartment building, but will be returned to single family use in the near future.

The Brane House's north elevation has three bays with a central cross gable featuring paired round-arched windows. A one-story porch with modern cast iron columns shelters the first story and center entrance. The porch originally had Tuscan columns, as seen in the half-round pilaster columns at the junction of the porch and the front wall of the house. The windows are paired 1/1 sash in each bay with replacement louvred shutters. The paneled door has glazed upper sections. The roof is composition material with interior end chimneys. The house has a two-story rear wing with an integral two-story porch. A modern frame stairway on the east side leads to the second level as the entrance to the upper level apartment. A one-story shed addition which contains a pantry is attached to the south elevation of the wing. A screened one-story porch on the west elevation was added when the building was converted to two units. The main floor interior was inaccessible; however, the second story has pine trim and grained doors with bull's-eye corner blocks. Improvements in the bathroom and added partition walls suggest that similar features would be present in the first floor. Williams and McKinsey's History of Frederick County (1910) describes the house as having ten rooms when built and the farm as having a new barn. The barn and all other outbuildings have been demolished.

# 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		

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**Specific dates** C. 1895 **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

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

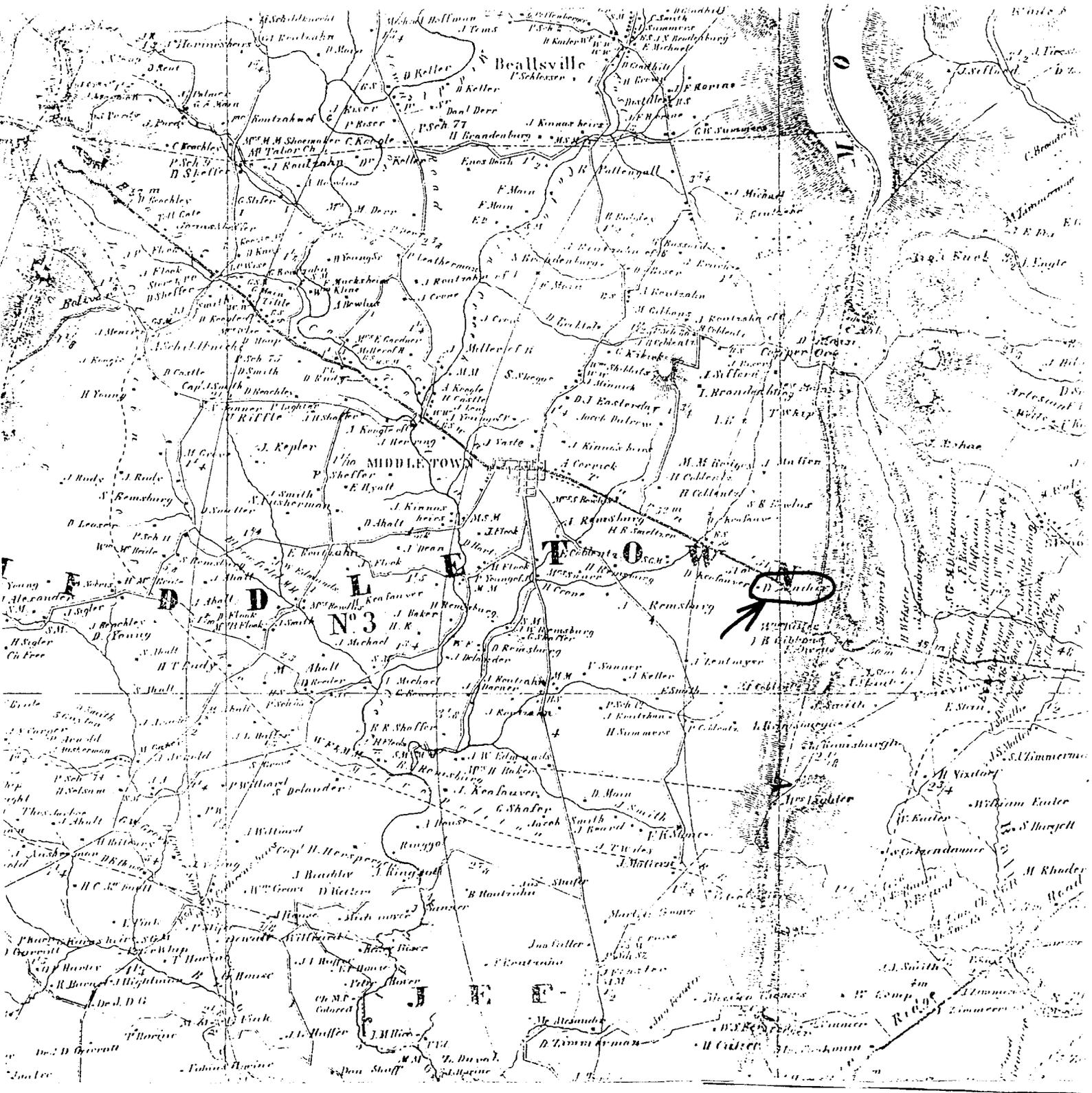
The Charles M. Brane House, built about 1895 to replace an earlier residence, has a common vernacular style found in structures of the last quarter of the 19th century throughout Frederick County. Its integrity level is low, having been resurfaced with asbestos shingles and composition roofing. The interior has been divided into two units and the other buildings of the original farmstead have been demolished. The siting of the house within a modern subdivision is maintained only by a designated "open space" which is part of the Brane House parcel. Traces of the former entrance drive are the only reminders of the former farmstead, established in the second quarter of the 19th century as the Daniel Menchey farm. In 1893, Charles M. Brane (1857-1921) purchased the 70-acre farm and, in time, replaced the original house with the existing frame house with a ten-room original plan and added a new barn. In 1910, the farm was described in the county history as "well improved, under a high state of cultivation and has one of the best orchards in the district." Only the dwelling remains standing, the farm having been developed as a subdivision in the 1970's and 1980's.



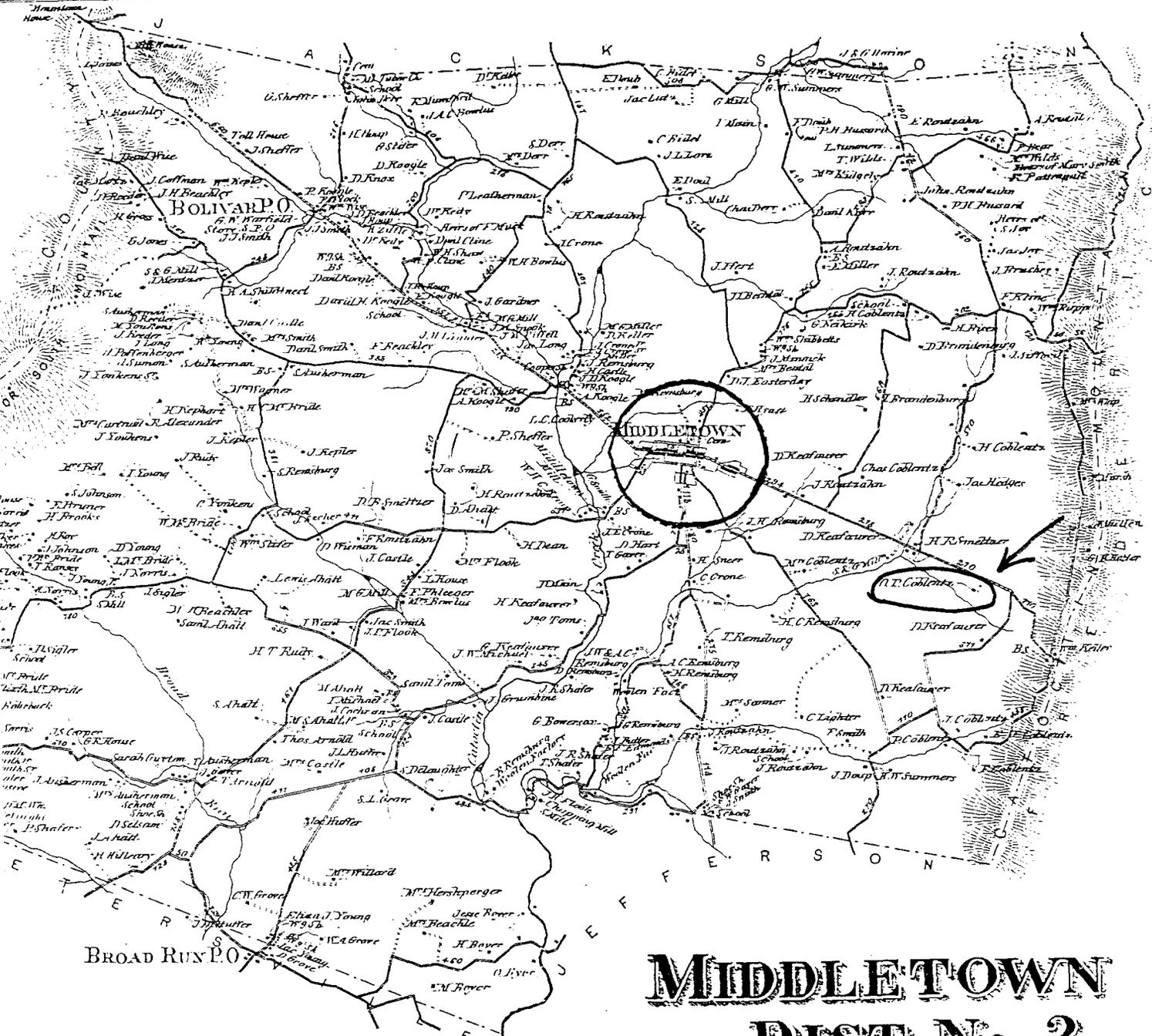
7105 Willow Tree Dr.

LIBER/F 10	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1010/202 5 Jan 77	Robert G. & Doris S. McCutcheon	Fountaindale Dev. Co.	Lot 4, Block F Fountaindale South + "Open Space" 100 x 150 feet, imm. north of Lot 4		
953/838 3 Jan 75	Noah E. Kefauver, Jr. (Pres. of Fountaindale Dev. Co.)	Noah E. Kefauver	<del>700</del> 65 A. #81/480 31 Oct 49		
630/329 29 Dec 59	Noah E. Kefauver, Jr.	Noah E. & Lucretia F. Kefauver	P. 2: 354/465 7 Oct 25		
481/480 31 Oct 49	Noah E. Kefauver, Jr. & Lucretia F. Kefauver	Mary B. & Daniel M. Castle	70 A. 418/319 19 Jul 39		
418/319 19 Jul 39	Grace B. Holter & Mary B. Castle	Sarah E. Brane	70 A.		
JLS 3/636 27 Mar 1893	Sarah E. & Charles M. Brane (Charles died 30 Aug 21)	Emma F. & Charles C. Colbentz	700. Commonly known as the "Menchey Farm, devised by will to	\$4,300	F-4-84
WIP 9/76 11 Mar 1889	Emma F. Colbentz	Eliza Menchey & Rebecca P. Colbentz	700. devised by will of Mary Menchey will Rec'd CH 1/445 29 May 1859	\$4,000	





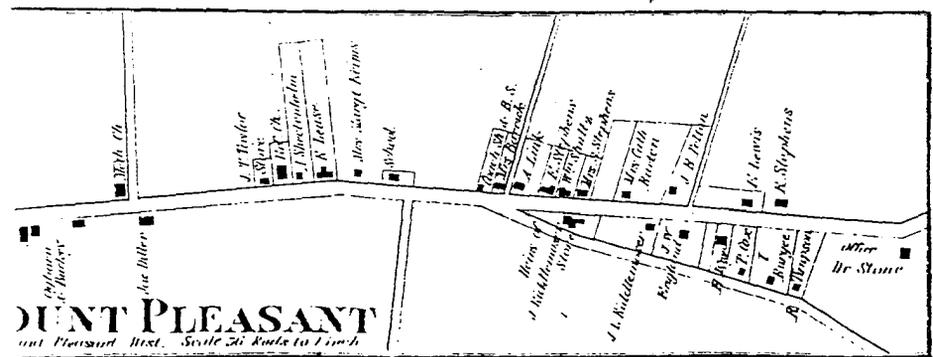
F-4-84  
Charles M. Brane House  
Frederick County  
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick  
County, 1858.



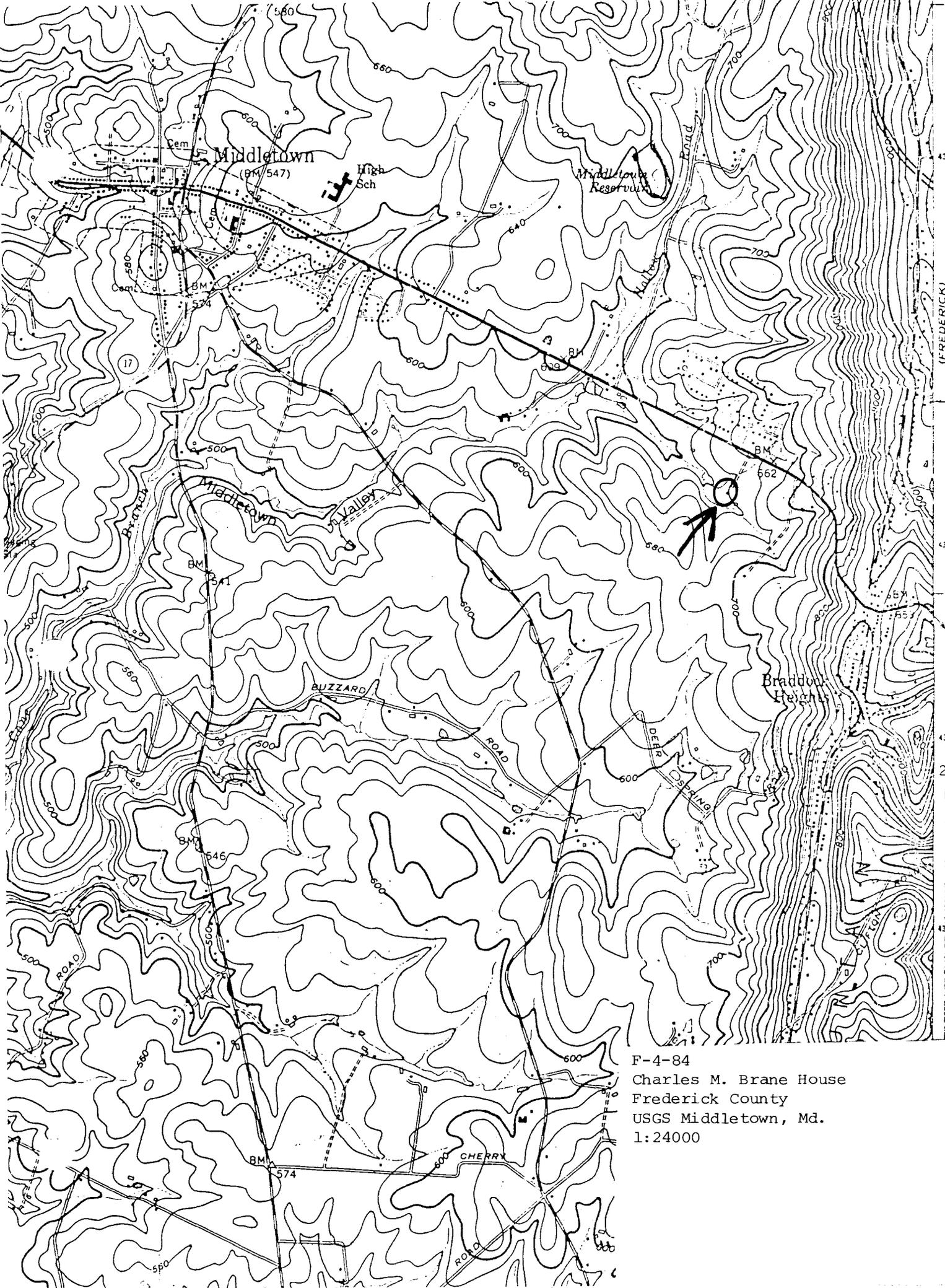
# MIDDLETOWN

## DIST No. 3

Scale 1 1/2 Inches to the Mile



F-4-84  
 Charles M. Brane House  
 Frederick County  
 C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
 County, 1873.



FREDERICK

F-4-84  
Charles M. Brane House  
Frederick County  
USGS Middletown, Md.  
1:24000



F 4-84

Charles M. Brane House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

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

Northwest corner view

1/2



F-4-84

Charles M. Brane House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

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

Southeast elevation

2/2