

F-4-96

Shibbetts-Nikirk Farmstead
Middletown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1850

The Shibbetts-Nikirk Farmstead contains a circa 1850 log two-story house with german siding and a late 19th century Colonial Revival porch, with a frame wash house of about 1900, several frame chicken houses, and a hog barn, all dating from about 1900. The farm was established about 1846-1853 by William Shibbetts, who may have been the proprietor or a skilled worker at a wagon shop which stood just south of the farmstead during the third quarter of the 19th century. The small size of the farm, only 2 acres, the compact arrangement of the buildings in the group, and their simplicity are characteristic of the small farm for domestic needs which were established by craftsmen, skilled workers, and professionals such as teachers and doctors during the second half of the 19th century. Shibbetts sold the farm to George Nikirk in 1876 and the family held the property until 1947. Although the integrity of the buildings is somewhat lessened by modern alterations, the basic form and siting of the farmstead is clearly recognizable.

F-4-96
Shibbetts-Nikirk 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 Transition, A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

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
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/chicken coop

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 Shibbetts-Nikirk Farmstead

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 8108 Myersville Road not for publication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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Paul A. & Mariana Routzahn

street & number 8108 Myersville Road 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 543

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 469

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-96

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: 4

The Shibbetts-Nikirk Farmstead is centered on a circa 1850 log dwelling with german siding and a late 19th century porch with an associated frame wash house, several small chicken houses, and a hog barn dating from the period 1860-1900. The farmstead is located on the west side of Myersville Road about one mile north of Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The house is located close to the edge of the road behind a wire fence and the outbuildings are located to the immediate west and northwest of the house. The group also includes a non-contributing frame garage now used as a furniture repair shop.

The two-story dwelling has a two-room plan in the main section facing east. The three-bay elevation has an off-center arrangement with the door and the second story center bay placed close to the north bay. The one-story porch sheltering the first story has a concrete deck with four Tuscan columns and a dentil cornice in the Colonial Revival style of the period 1890-1920. The german siding was installed in the late 1950's, replacing the earlier german siding of the 19th century. The windows are 6/6 with louvred shutters and the frames are simply molded. The main door is a modern replacement. The cornice is boxed and the roof covered with standing seam metal. An exterior brick chimney is located on the north gable end, a replacement of the interior end chimney indicated by a patched section of the roof. The north and south elevations have a single bay with 6/6 sash and shutters. The north elevation has two 2/2 attic windows and the south elevation has a single attic window. A two-story rear wing extends from the northwest corner of the house and a small frame projection on the north side of the wing was added in the mid-20th century to house a laundry room. The south elevation of the wing has an enclosed one-story porch with modern aluminum sash and door. The narrow space between the wing and the wash house immediately to the west is covered with a metal roof, forming an open passage between the two structures. The interior of the house has a two-room basic plan which has been altered by the relocation of the stairway in the northwest corner and the removal of the original fireplace. The walls are covered with wallpaper and the hardwood floors installed in the 20th century are covered with wall-to-wall carpet. The two rooms are connected by a single doorway with a four-panel door. The window and door trim is very plain in the two rooms. The rear wing is occupied by the kitchen, where the cooking fireplace has also been removed, although the exterior brick chimney remains in place. The remodeling of the kitchen included the incorporation of the former exterior porch into the kitchen, removing the original outside wall on the south side. The enclosed porch visible from the exterior is a modern addition.

Outbuildings:

Wash house: The 1-1/2 story frame wash house appears to have been built about 1900-1910. It has german siding and a vertical tongue-and-groove door on the east elevation. An interior end chimney is located on the north gable elevation and the roof is corrugated metal. On the south elevation is a 6/6 window with louvred shutters.

(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 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. 1850 **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 Shibbetts-Nikirk Farmstead is a fair example of a small farmstead established in the period about 1846-1853 which apparently served the domestic needs of a skilled craftsman whose living was connected to a nearby wagon shop, now no longer standing. The 1858 and 1873 maps of Frederick County show that William Shibbetts was the owner during the third quarter of the 19th century and that a wagon shop stood just south of the house. Although no information has been discovered about Shibbetts, it is highly probable that he had a working connection with the wagon shop, perhaps as its owner. The farm has always been a 2-acre parcel formed from three purchases by Shibbetts from 1846-1853 and transferred to George Nikirk in 1876. The Nikirk family owned the farm until 1947. The small farm occupied by craftsmen, mechanics, and those with other non-agriculturally based livelihoods is characterized by its small acreage, simple structures, and compact arrangement, usually close to a road. A similar example is the Smith-Bowlus House (F-4-46) near Myersville, built about 1863-65 for Josiah Bowlus, a schoolteacher. Although the architectural integrity of the house has been somewhat reduced by modern alterations, the basic form of the log house and its attendant outbuildings, and the farmstead plan remains mostly intact.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-96

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.
Land Records of Frederick County
Routzahn, Mrs. Paul A., personal interview, June 9, 1992
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acresQuadrangle name Middletown, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

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 55, Parcel 49

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date July 1992street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city 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/DHCC
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2028
514-7600

7.1 Description (Continued)

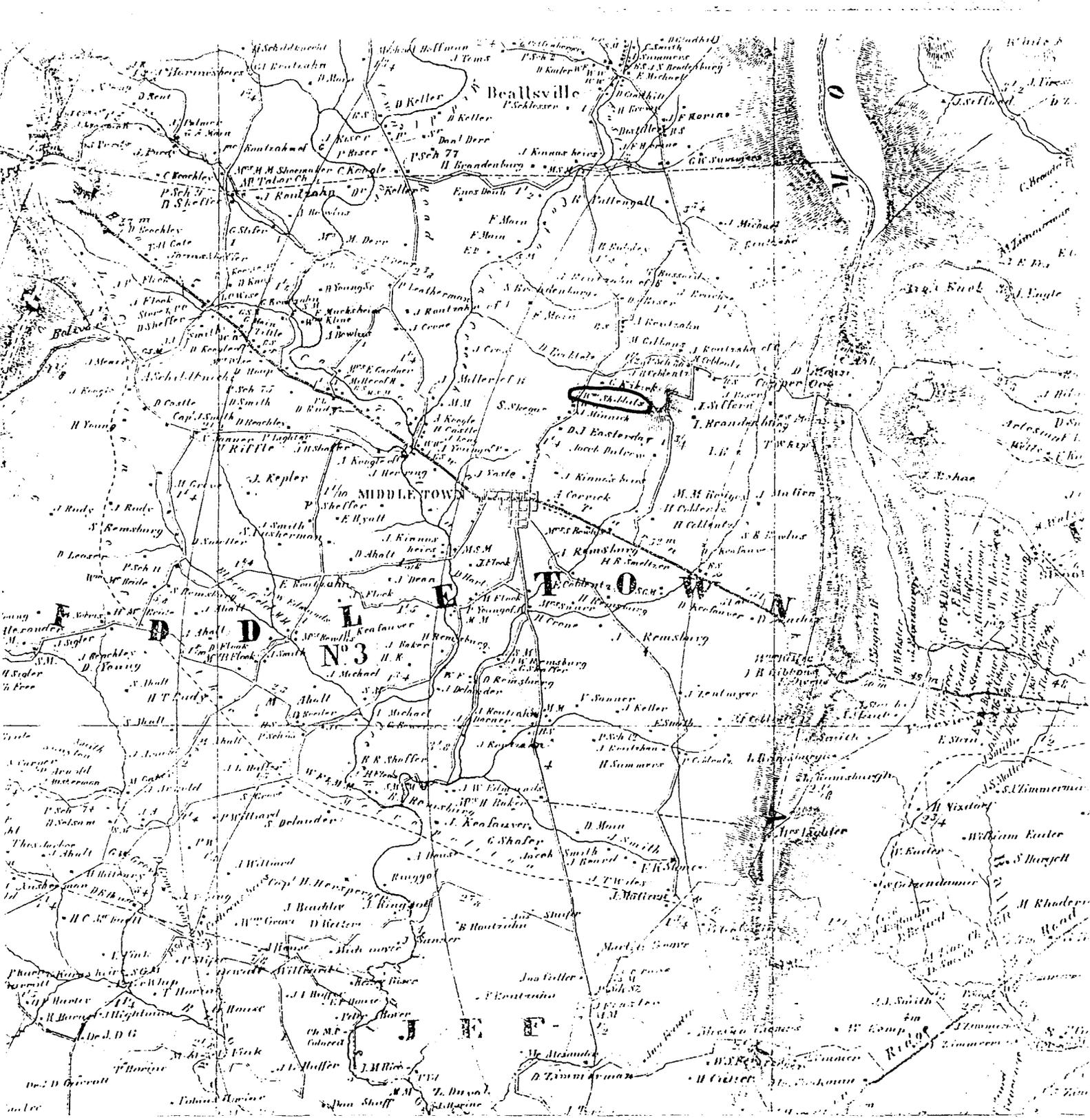
Chicken houses: The frame chicken houses are grouped north of the non-contributing garage to the northwest of the house, separated from the road by a vegetable garden. The three small frame structures may have been built in the early 20th century and have vertical siding with corrugated metal shed roofs. Several windows of different sizes are located in each, most facing the south.

Hog barn: The frame hog barn is located at the northeast corner of the chicken house group. Built about 1900, it has vertical tongue-and-groove siding and a concrete block wall on the east side. The roof is corrugated metal.

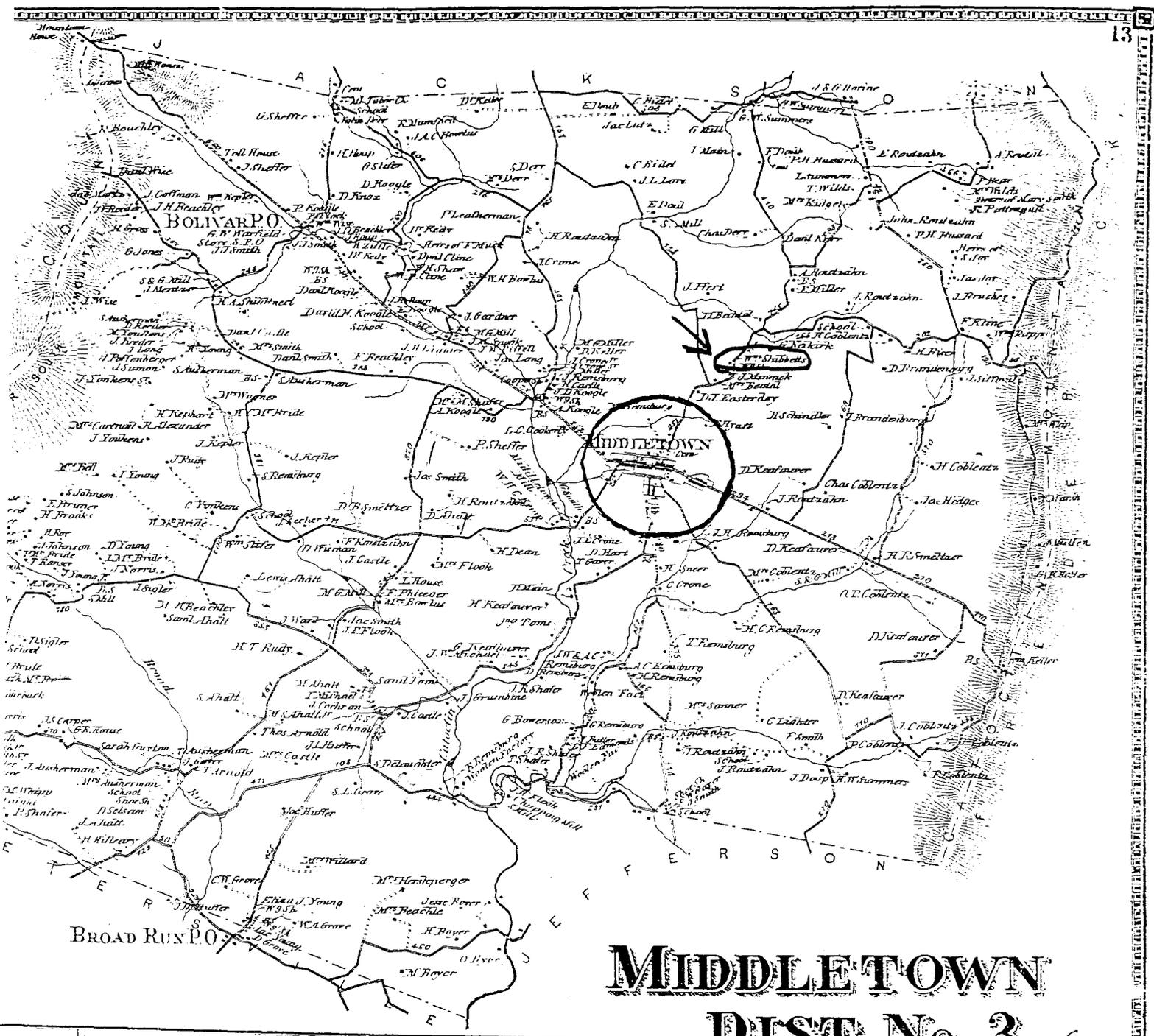
8108 Meyersville Rd.

LIBER/FOLIO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
543/469 22 Mar 55	Paul A. & Mariona J. Rautzahn	Arthur C. & Helen V. Flook	2 a.		
466/308 14 Nov 47	Arthur C. & Helen V. Flook	Albertus W. Nikuk widower		\$5500	
HWB 290/559 12 Feb 09	Albertus W. & M. Alberta Nikuk	Peter E. & Emma S. F. Bussard			
STH 278/217 22 Mar 07	Albertus ^w Nikuk	Charles E. Nikuk & Charles H. Deer, succ. exec of George Nikuk	1st tract		
WIP 4/474 4 Mar 1876	George Nikuk or Meikuk	William Shibbets & Mary E. Shibbets	3 parcels 3 deeds ranging from 1846 -1853	\$1500	

F-4-96



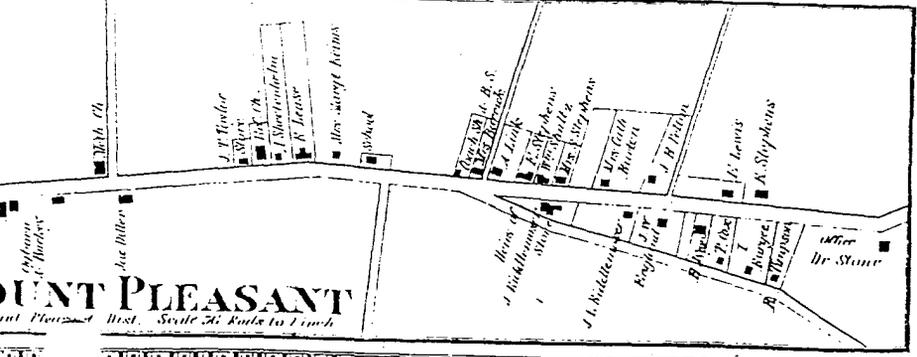
F-4-96
Shibbets-Nikirk Farmstead
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
County, 1858



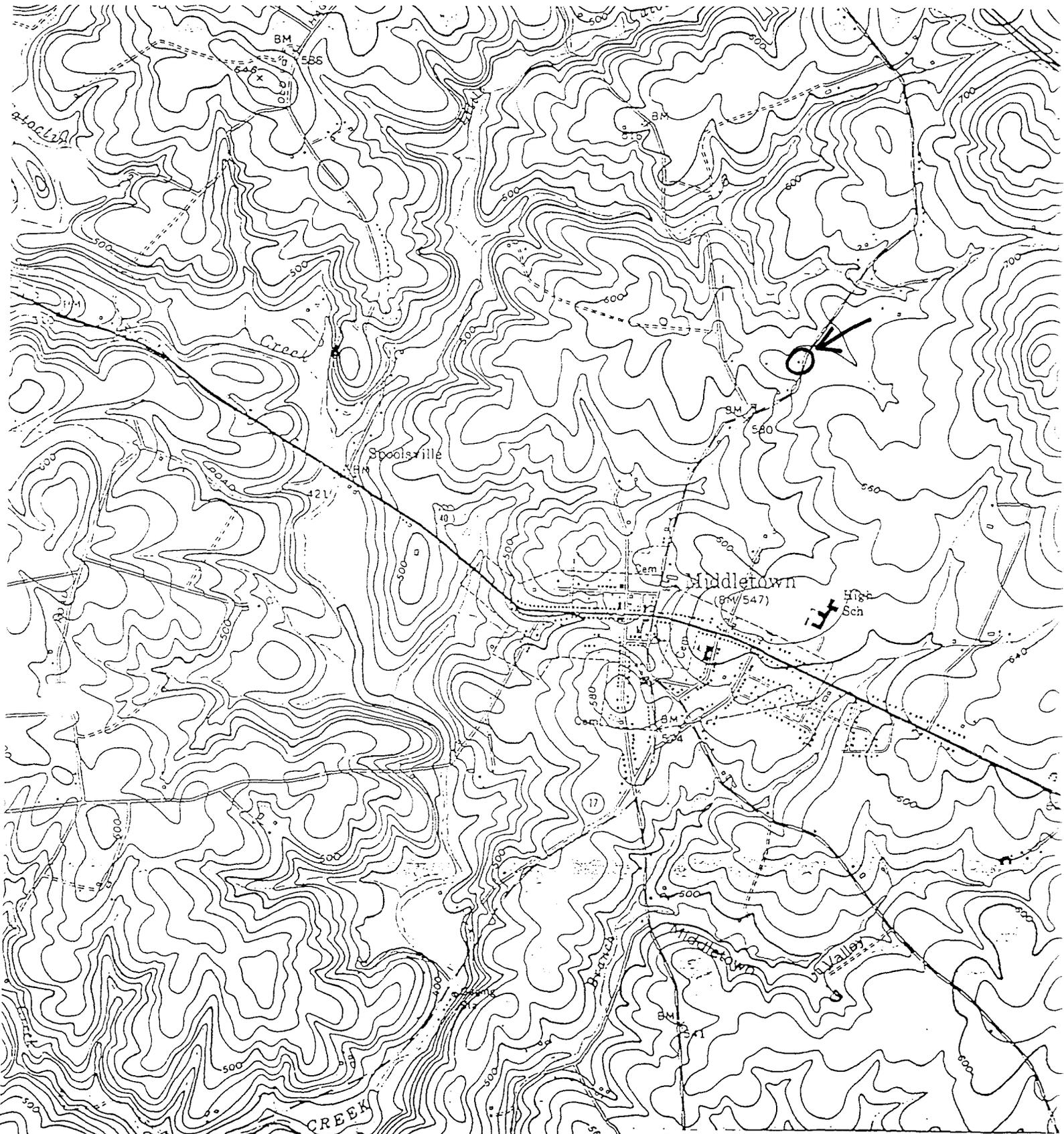
MIDDLETOWN

DIST No. 3

Scale 1 1/2 Inches to the Mile



F-4-96
 Shibbets-Nikirk Farmstead
 Frederick County
 C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
 County, 1873



F-4-96

Shibbetts-Nikirk Farmstead

Frederick County

USGS Middletown, Md.

1:24000



F-4-96

Shibbets-Nikirk Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

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

Northeast corner view

1/3



F. 4-96

Shibbets - Nikirk Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

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

South elevation & wash house

2/3



F-4-96

Shibbets - Nirkirk Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

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

Chicken houses and hog barn, view from east

3/3