

# Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. F-5-112

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**Name of Property:** Nelson-Norris Log House

**Location:** 11548 Old Annapolis Road, New Market, Maryland

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This addendum is an update including changes to the property since its original documentation. This addendum also provides additional agricultural data for the property based on the U.S. Census of Productions of Agriculture and based on historic context data from *Tillers of the Soil: A History of Agriculture in Mid-Maryland* (Reed 2011). Agricultural census data are available for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. Chain of Title research completed for this addendum specifically was focused on the periods of occupation covered by agricultural census; current research did not extend beyond this period of time.

### 3. Owner of Property (new)

Elizabeth Ellen Delap  
11548 Old Annapolis Road  
New Market, MD 21774

### 7. Description

#### *Current Property Description*

The owner of the property did not respond to requests for access to F-5-112. All photographs were taken from the public right-of-way. Frederick County, MD At a Glance 2011 aerial imagery was used to assess standing structures. Resources that were visible from the public right-of-way were verified in the field. Frederick County, MD At a Glance also provided aerial imagery from 1988, 2000, 2005, 2007, and 2009. These maps allowed limited analyses of the farm over time.

A two-story exposed log dwelling (1850) was documented in the 1994 MIHP form for F-5-112. The house has been extensively renovated since the 1994 survey. It now is clad in vinyl siding and has windows with replacement vinyl sashes. The raised stone foundation is still visible. The roof is now clad in asphalt shingles; the interior end chimneys noted in the 1994 form have been covered or removed. A one-story addition has been added to the south elevation of the rear wing of the house. Based on aerial imagery the addition was added prior to 2005. The addition also is clad in vinyl siding and features windows with replacement vinyl sashes.

According to the latest Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Real Property Data, the property currently includes 32.21 acres (Maryland Department of Assessments & Taxation 2013).

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## 8. Significance

### *Historic Context*

The first half of the nineteenth century saw the establishment and maturation of Frederick County as an agricultural center. The grain-based agriculture established during the previous century matured and intensified through the early 1800s. Advances in agricultural technology and transportation networks allowed for greater production and increased distribution across mid-Maryland. As a result, agricultural prosperity in Frederick County reached its peak in the years leading up to the American Civil War.

For much of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, wheat was the preferred cash crop throughout Frederick County and the surrounding region (Reed 2011:25). For nearly two centuries, tobacco cultivation provided the economic foundation of tidewater Maryland and Virginia to the south and east; however, wheat gained popularity in mid-Maryland due to a number of factors. Grain cultivation was less labor and soil intensive, and grain exports faced fewer trade restrictions (Reed 2011:25). Much of the grain produced in Frederick County was sold through the Port of Baltimore, which had overtaken Philadelphia as the nation's principal milling center by 1805 (Reed 2011:25-26). Dozens of water-powered flour mills were established within Frederick County in an attempt to capitalize on the growing surplus of wheat (Reed 2011:31). By 1810, Maryland trailed only Pennsylvania and Virginia in flour production, with mid-Maryland mills producing over \$1.5 million worth of flour annually. Much of the region's grain also was used in whiskey distillation; Frederick and Washington county distilleries produced over 350,000 gallons of whiskey in 1810. Rye often was planted in marginal areas for use in whiskey distillation during this period (Reed 2011:31-34).

The growth of grain-based agriculture during the early nineteenth century was facilitated in part by expanding networks of transportation, which allowed grain, flour, and whiskey to reach larger urban markets for sale and consumption. By 1800, the City of Frederick served as the commercial epicenter of the surrounding county. Over 2,600 citizens resided in Frederick at the turn of the century, providing numerous services to farmers in the surrounding countryside (Reed 2011:22-23). The importance of Frederick as an agricultural market town increased rapidly after the 1830s, when the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad completed a spur line into the city (Reed 2011:35). The new rail connection allowed grain and produce to be shipped to Baltimore quickly and inexpensively. Farms located in the southern part of the county also could rely on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which paralleled the Potomac River from Cumberland to Georgetown (Reed 2011:35).

Grain production was driven by several breakthroughs in agricultural technology. The invention of the mechanical reaper in the 1830s "enabled a farmer to harvest ten to fifteen acres of wheat a day compared

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to one or two cut by hand” (Reed 2011:37). Mechanical threshers, improved horse rakes, and grain drills also were introduced during the first half of the nineteenth century, reducing the labor needed to plant and harvest wheat (Reed 2011:37-38). Frederick County farmers also experimented with new farming practices in order to maximize their yield. Crop rotation and fertilization were used to replenish nutrients depleted by grain cultivation; popular soil additives included manure, clover, and gypsum (Reed 2011:34). New tools and practices were propagated by local agricultural societies. The Agricultural Society of Frederick County organized the county’s first agricultural fair in 1822; the Frederick County Fair would go on to be the largest agricultural fair in Maryland (Reed 2011:34).

Despite the many technological advances that took place during the antebellum years, farmers faced an ever-increasing need for labor. Many Frederick County farmers were descended from German immigrants, who “generally opposed slavery, or considered it too much of a luxury” (Reed 2011:39). As a result, the number of enslaved African Americans was lower in Frederick County than in tidewater Maryland, where plantation cultivation of tobacco was more common. Slaves comprised 15.6 percent of the population of mid-Maryland in 1820, as compared to 26.4 percent statewide (Reed 2011:39). By the outbreak of the Civil War, in 1861, free African Americans outnumbered enslaved African Americans in mid-Maryland 7,859 to 5,461 (Reed 2011:39). The majority of slaves in Frederick County worked in agriculture, although some were engaged in manufacturing and other industries. Agricultural slaves often worked alongside hired farmhands, especially during the busy planting and harvest seasons.

The agricultural prosperity of Frederick County is evident in the agricultural census of 1850. Wheat and “Indian” corn dominate the lists of crops grown in the county, illustrating the reliance on grains as cash crops (Reed 2011:40-41). Significantly smaller amounts of oats and rye also were reported; it is possible that the rye was being distilled into whiskey. Other crops, such as potatoes (both Irish and sweet), often were listed as well and likely were grown for consumption on the farm. Livestock numbers typically were small, with most farmers owning “fewer than a dozen horses, milch cows, cattle, and mules” (Reed 2011:41). Swine, however, typically were present in larger numbers, with 40 to 50 being common. Sheep also were common, with many farms producing over 30 pounds of wool annually. Large amounts of butter, ranging from 300 to over 1,000 pounds, also were manufactured. Converting raw dairy products to butter extended its marketable life (Reed 2011:41). Some larger landowners also produced small amounts of tobacco.

The onset of the American Civil War presented a substantial check to the agricultural prosperity of mid-Maryland. The divided loyalties of the inhabitants and the region’s location in a contested border state ensured that Frederick County would play host to both armies. Mid-Maryland voters overwhelmingly rejected Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 election, instead casting the majority of their ballots for John Bell and the Constitutional Union Party (Reed 2011:46). Despite their antipathy towards the Republican Party,

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the majority of mid-Marylanders remained committed to the preservation of the Union during the secession crisis that followed the election; for most, the cultural and commercial ties with the north proved stronger than the desire to support secession and slavery (Reed 2011:46-47). The loyalty of the region was tested in the fall of 1862, when the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia invaded Maryland. Southern commanders expected rebel sympathizers to see the army as a liberating force and subsequently flock to the cause. The agricultural wealth of mid-Maryland also made the region a tempting target to the invading army, which looked to replenish dwindling supplies of food and forage (Reed 2011:47-48). The Confederates, however, soon found that there was little enthusiasm for their cause among the citizens of Frederick County and the surrounding region. The first military action in Maryland was turned back following the Battle of Antietam on September 17, and in the subsequent actions in 1863 and 1864 the Confederate forces would treat mid-Maryland as hostile territory (Reed 2011:48, 54).

The war years brought hundreds of thousands of soldiers to the region, which took an enormous toll on the agricultural output. Both armies foraged extensively to feed soldiers and horses, barns and farmhouses became hospitals for the sick and wounded, fields of crops were trampled, and horses were pressed into army service. Southern forces initially attempted to compensate farmers for goods by paying them in Confederate money, but this process was abandoned by 1864 when Maryland was viewed as federal territory open for plunder (Reed 2011:48, 57-58). Federal forces also offered farmers compensation through a claims process, but proof of loyalty was required and the process sometimes took several years (Reed 2011:52-53). Over the course of the war the region saw three major actions and countless smaller raids, skirmishes, and other troop movements, resulting in thousands of dollars in damage to mid-Maryland farms. Recovery during the post-war decades was often slow, and many farmers were unable to reclaim their pre-war prosperity (Reed 2011:60).

The latter half of the nineteenth century brought unprecedented changes to mid-Maryland farms. As farmers struggled to recover from the destruction of the Civil War, they found themselves faced with increased competition, growing urbanization, and economic uncertainty. All of these factors would undermine the traditional grain-based economy of Frederick County and drive the transition towards more diversified economic practices.

The same rail connections that benefited Maryland grain farmers during earlier decades became a detriment after the war as they allowed for the shipment of massive amounts of Midwestern wheat to east coast milling centers (Reed 2011:63-64). The process of grinding the hard red wheat commonly grown on the Great Plains required new technology in order to maximize efficiency. Roller mills, patented in 1880, soon became the standard in milling technology, and many Maryland mill owners struggled to upgrade their facilities (Reed 2011:64). The majority of Frederick County mill owners were unable to pay for the

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expensive steel roller equipment in order to compete with larger industrial mills; by the end of the nineteenth century, the few mills that survived did so by producing livestock feed.

Mid-Maryland farmers also faced growing urbanization and labor migrations during the decades following the Civil War. By 1910, over 40 per cent of Maryland's population lived in the city of Baltimore, while the cities of Cumberland and Hagerstown also grew rapidly to become the second and third most populous cities in the state, respectively (Reed 2011:65). Industrial and manufacturing industries thrived in these cities, drawing in laborers from all over rural Maryland. Much of this industrial growth bypassed Frederick, due to the city's location along a rail spur rather than a main rail line. Frederick grew during this time, but at a slower rate than the aforementioned cities; by 1910, the population had risen to only 10,411 (Reed 2011:65). Many farm laborers moved to cities in search of work as wheat prices stagnated and new machinery reduced the amount of labor required (Reed 2011:67).

The growth of Baltimore and other urban centers forced mid-Maryland farmers to transition away from wheat production and towards more diverse agricultural production. Dairy and orchard produce would overtake grains as mid-Maryland farms adapted to support growing urban populations in Baltimore and Washington. Faster rail transport, coupled with the invention of the refrigerated rail car in 1875, allowed fresh farm products to survive longer and be shipped further. During the second half of the nineteenth century, the number of orchards in Frederick County expanded and, by 1880, fruit processing was the third largest industry in Maryland (Reed 2011:70). Fresh fruit was taken directly to Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, and mid-Maryland produce was transported to markets all over the east coast (Reed 2011:70). Several canneries were established in Frederick to take advantage of the region's productivity.

Agricultural diversification during this period also led to the rise of commercial dairying, which would come to dominate Frederick County agriculture through much of the twentieth century. Small numbers of "milch cows" were common on mid-Maryland farms throughout the nineteenth century, and farmers typically produced several hundred pounds of butter annually. By 1910, the average dairy herd had increased to twenty cows, and excess milk was being sold to local creameries and to creameries in Baltimore (Reed 2011:71). Butter remained the most popular way to extend the shelf life of dairy products, and butter factories that could produce thousands of pounds of butter daily were established in Frederick and Carroll counties. Commercial ice cream manufacturers also were founded, beginning with C.F. Main of Middletown in 1911 (Reed 2011:71-72). The shift from grain to commercial dairy production altered the rural landscape as more fields were left in pasture or planted in clover or other hay crops (Reed 2011:74). Some wheat was still grown as a cash crop, however, corn was produced primarily for livestock feed. By the eve of the Great Depression, the statewide production of wheat amounted to \$9,053,000, while dairy had grown to \$25,156,000 in gross income (Reed 2011:75).

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Urban migration was intensified by the Great Depression and America's involvement in the Second World War. The drought of 1930 cost Maryland farmers over \$38 million in losses, while multiple bank failures exacerbated the situation for struggling farmers (Reed 2011:75). Many farmers left mid-Maryland in search of work in nearby cities. The farmers who remained continued to adapt towards dairy farming by altering and renovating farm buildings. Electricity became common place in rural Maryland during the 1930s, allowing dairies to adopt electrical refrigeration. Older bank barns were relegated to hay storage and housing for other livestock as specially constructed concrete-block dairy barns became commonplace (Reed 2011:76). The urban migration that typified the period preceding World War II was partially reversed during the decades following the war. Middle-class city dwellers, encouraged by the availability of land and the new interstate highway system, moved to newly created suburban developments. Rural land that once comprised dairy and wheat farms transitioned into residential communities for commuters working in Washington or Baltimore, setting a precedent that continues into the twenty-first century (Reed 2011:76).

## *Property History*

Property-specific agricultural census data were recorded in 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. Data specific to the Nelson-Norris Log Farmstead were available for 1860, 1870, and 1880; no data associated with the owner of the property were present in the 1850 agricultural census.

Research conducted during the preparation of the 1994 MIHP form for the Nelson-Norris Log House indicated the farm was an investment property occupied by tenants during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Current research indicates that the property was owner-occupied from 1858 through at least 1880.

Henry and Sarah Nelson were prominent land owners in the New Market area, owning several parcels in addition to the Nelson-Norris Log House (see MIHP F-5-101 and F-5-89). There is no indication the Nelsons resided at the Nelson-Norris Log House. The 1850 agricultural census records Henry Nelson as the owner of a 250 acre farm in the New Market district (F-5-101). He is not recorded operating a farm consistent with the Nelson-Norris Log House suggesting the property was occupied by tenants during this period (Hitselberger and Dern 1978:530-531).

In 1858, Henry and Sarah Nelson sold the 128 1/4 acre property to John Henry Nelson, who retained ownership of the parcel until 1862. The 1860 agricultural census indicates that John Henry Nelson farmed the parcel. John Henry Nelson is recorded as the owner of a farm consisting of 100 acres of improved, and 28 acres of unimproved land. Nelson's farm was valued at \$5,000.00 and his farm implements at \$25.00. Nelson owned four horses, five milch cows, three "other cattle," and 27 swine. His livestock was

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valued at \$664.00; the value of the livestock slaughtered at the farm in the year ending June 1850 was \$125.00. Nelson's farm produced 300 bushels of wheat, 650 bushels of Indian corn, 200 bushels of oats, 60 bushels of Irish potatoes, eight tons of hay, and three bushels of clover seed. The farm also produced 330 pounds of butter (U.S. Agricultural Census 1860). John Nelson appears on Schedule 2 of the census as a slaveholder of one nine year old girl (U.S. Census 1860).

In 1862, the property was sold to John Norris (FCLR BGF 8:430). A John G. Norris appears on the 1870 agricultural census operating a farm in the Liberty District of Frederick County. The farm comprised 96 acres of improved land valued at \$4,500.00 with farm implements valued at \$200.00. Norris paid a total of \$500.00 in wages to laborers, including the cost of room and board. He owned four horses, four milch cows, seven "other cattle," and seven swine. Livestock was valued at \$886.00; the value of animals slaughtered was recorded as \$75.00. The farm produced 100 pounds of butter. Norris harvested 92 bushels of winter wheat, 625 bushels of Indian corn, 80 bushels of oats, and 11 tons of hay. The total value of farm production was estimated at \$745.00 (U.S. Agricultural Census 1870).

In 1874, Ariana M. Barrick purchased the property from Henry M. Norris, executor of the Last Will and Testament of John Norris for the sum of \$4,118.00 (FCLR TG 2:657). The 1880 agricultural census recorded Ariana Barrick's husband, Charles W. Barrick, as the owner of a farm consisting of 100 acres of tilled land, one acres of permanent meadows, pastures, vineyards, or orchards, and 27 acres of woodland. Barrick's farm was valued at \$5,000.00, farm implements at \$25.00, and livestock was valued at \$150.00. Barrick spent \$56.00 in fertilizer. The value of all farm production for 1879 was estimated as \$650.00. Barrick had 12 acres of mown grassland and 20 acres not mown; he harvested eight tons of hay. Barrick owned one horse and 22 swine. He had two milch cows and two "other" cattle on hand; in 1879, one calf dropped on the farm, three cattle were purchased, one live "cattle" was sold, and one died, strayed, or was stolen. The farm produced 150 pounds of butter. There were 28 barnyard poultry and three "other" poultry on the farm; 100 dozen eggs were produced. In 1879, Barrick grew 570 bushels of corn on 20 acres, 80 bushels of rye on five acres, and 325 bushels of wheat on 32 acres. He had 40 apple trees on one acre; the trees produced 100 bushels of fruit. The total value of orchard products was \$20.00. Barrick cut 65 cords of wood. The value of forest products for 1879 was \$60.00 (U.S. Agricultural Census 1880).

The agricultural output of the Nelson-Norris Log House is generally consistent with the agricultural trends identified by Reed (2011) in *Tillers of the Soil*. The property was likely tenant occupied in 1850. However, in 1860 it was owner-occupied by John Nelson. Like other farmers in Frederick County, Nelson focused his energy on grain production, with a particular emphasis on wheat and corn. He also maintained livestock numbers generally consistent with the larger pattern of limited livestock noted by Reed (2011:41). For the most part, this trend was continued by Norris in 1870. Grain production under Norris' tenure focused on corn, rather than wheat. In addition, farm production declined overall between 1860

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and 1870. Although this might be attributed to the change in ownership during the period, Reed (2011:60) notes that many farms in the region were slow to recover or unable to recover from the effects of the American Civil War. The decline in agricultural production on the farm may be reflective of the slow pace of that recovery. The Barrick's continued to cultivate primarily wheat and corn in 1880; they also maintained modest numbers of livestock.

## 9. References Cited

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2013 Frederick County, MD GIS Mapping Resources, Info At a Glance. Available online at <http://webmaps.frederickcountymd.gov/>.

Frederick County Land Records (FCLR)

Various Dates Deeds and Equity Cases on file at the Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, Maryland.

Frederick County Wills (FCW)

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Hitselberger, Mary Fitzhugh, and John Philip Dern

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United States Agricultural Census Records

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United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census (US Census)

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United States Manufacturing Census Records

Various Dates Frederick County. Microfilm records on file at the Maryland State Archives,  
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2003 *History of Frederick County, Maryland*. Volume II. Genealogical Publishing Company,  
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## Photo Log:

MIHP # F-5-112

Nelson-Norris Log House

Frederick County, Maryland

Photos taken by: Travis Shaw and Rebecca Gatewood

Photos taken on: April 9, 2013

Photo paper and ink: Epson Ultrachrome K3 ink on HP Premium Photo Paper (high gloss)

Verbatim Ultralife Gold Archival Grade CD-R, PhthaloCyanine Dye

F-5-0112\_2013-04-09\_01      House, south elevation, looking north

F-5-0112\_2013-04-09\_02      House, north elevation, looking southeast



F-5-0112-2013-04-09-01  
NELSON-NORRIS LOG HOUSE  
FREDERICK CO, MD

TRAVIS SHAW + REBECCA GATEWOOD

09 APRIL 2013

MDSHPO

HOUSE, S ELEV, LENGTH N

$\frac{1}{2}$



F-5-0112-2013-04-09-02

NELSON-NORRIS LOG HOUSE

FREDERICK CO, MD

TRAVIS SHAW + REBECCA GATEWOOD

09 APRIL 2013

MDSHPO

HOUSE, N ELEV, LKNG SE

$\frac{2}{2}$

F-5-112  
Nelson-Norris Log House  
New Market vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1850

The Nelson-Norris Log House is an unoccupied, partially rehabilitated log dwelling built about 1850, probably as a tenant farmer's house on the lands of Henry Nelson. It was purchased with about 128 acres in 1862 by John Norris (1803-1873) in whose family it remained until 1944. Its log structure is revealed by the partial removal of the german siding which covered its exterior until recent years. The south elevation has a center entrance with a 6-panel door and a whitewashed, plastered wall surface on the first story. This may indicate that a one-story porch, now missing covered the entrance level. The upper story has german siding still in place. The log structure is revealed on the east gable end and in deteriorated sections of the german siding on the west gable end. A two-story rear wing has modern plywood siding, now weathered and in fair condition on the west elevation, and a one-story porch with a deteriorated shed roof on the east elevation. The building is a fair representative of a mid-19th century log dwelling.

F-5-112  
Nelson-Norris Log House  
New Market  
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

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

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 Nelson-Norris Log House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 11548 Old Annapolis Road  not for publication

city, town New Market  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 type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 Alice R. Smith and Elizabeth Ellen Delap

street & number 7550 Green Valley Road telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code Md. 21701

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1766

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 476

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

repository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-5-112

<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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input checked="" 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 Nelson-Norris Log House is a two-story exposed log dwelling built about 1850 on the north side of Old Annapolis Road about 0.4 mile east of Linganore Creek near New Market, Frederick County, Maryland. The house is currently unoccupied and appears to have been partially rehabilitated in the recent past, with modern plywood siding on the west side of the two-story rear wing and evidence of late 19th century german siding on the main section having been partially removed. Work does not seem to have been carried on for at least a year. The date of the building is based on architectural evidence, historical maps, and land records.

The principal south elevation has two bays on the first story and three on the second story. A one-story porch may have sheltered the facade, but has been removed. German siding over the log structure remains in place on the second story. A weathered 6-panel door is in the center entrance. The exterior of the first story is covered with whitewashed plaster. The windows are 6/6 with some louvered shutters still in place. The roof is covered with corrugated metal and interior end chimneys are on the east and west gable ends. The east gable end has no openings except a centered attic level window which is boarded. The gable face still is covered with german siding, but the lower log wall has been stripped of its cladding, leaving the vertical studs to which the german siding was attached still in place. The west gable end has no openings except a single 6/6 window in the first story and a cellar entrance with a vertical board door in the exposed stone foundation. The german siding is in place, but in very deteriorated condition.

The two-story rear wing has vertical plywood siding on the west elevation, with two bays containing 6/6 windows above the exposed stone foundation. The north gable end of the wing is also covered with the plywood siding and has a single centered first story window. An off-center enclosed chimney rises from the corrugated metal roof. The east side of the wing has a one-story porch with a metal shed roof. The roof supports are in poor condition and the door and window openings on the first story are boarded. The north elevation of the main section reveals two bays of 6/6 windows and partially removed german siding. The interior of the house was inaccessible for this survey.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-5-112

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**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 Nelson-Norris Log House is a fair representative of the mid-19th century log dwelling, although its current neglected and deteriorating condition has lowered its integrity, as have the unfinished rehabilitations which left plywood siding on the rear wing. The house was probably built about 1850 by Henry Nelson or a tenant farmer of Nelson's large holdings in the vicinity (see Nelson-Jones House, F-5-89). In 1858, Henry sold a 128-1/4 acre farm, part of "Nathan's Undertaking", to John Henry Nelson, who in turn sold it in 1862 to John Norris (1803-1873). His descendants apparently continued to hold the farm as an investment, with tenants occupying the log house, until 1944.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-5-112

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.  
Holdcraft, Jacob M. Names In Stone. Privately published, Ann Arbor, Mi., 1966.  
Land Records of Frederick County  
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Walkersville, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

Approximately 1 acre centered on the log house on Tax Map 69, Parcel 40.

## 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 August 1994

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.

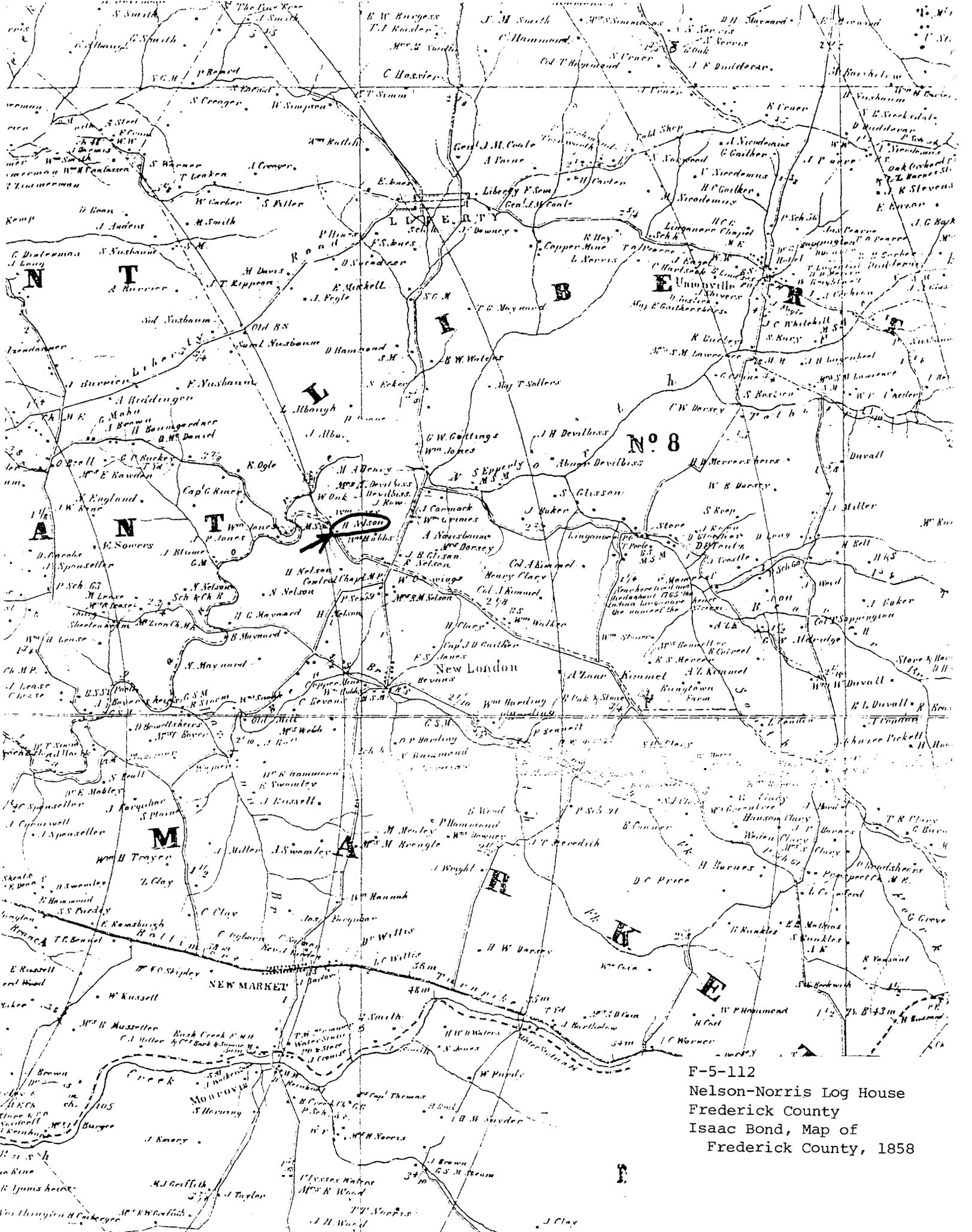
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MAILED  
DHCP/DHOS  
100 COMMUNITY TRAC  
CROFTSVILLE, MD 21038-2000

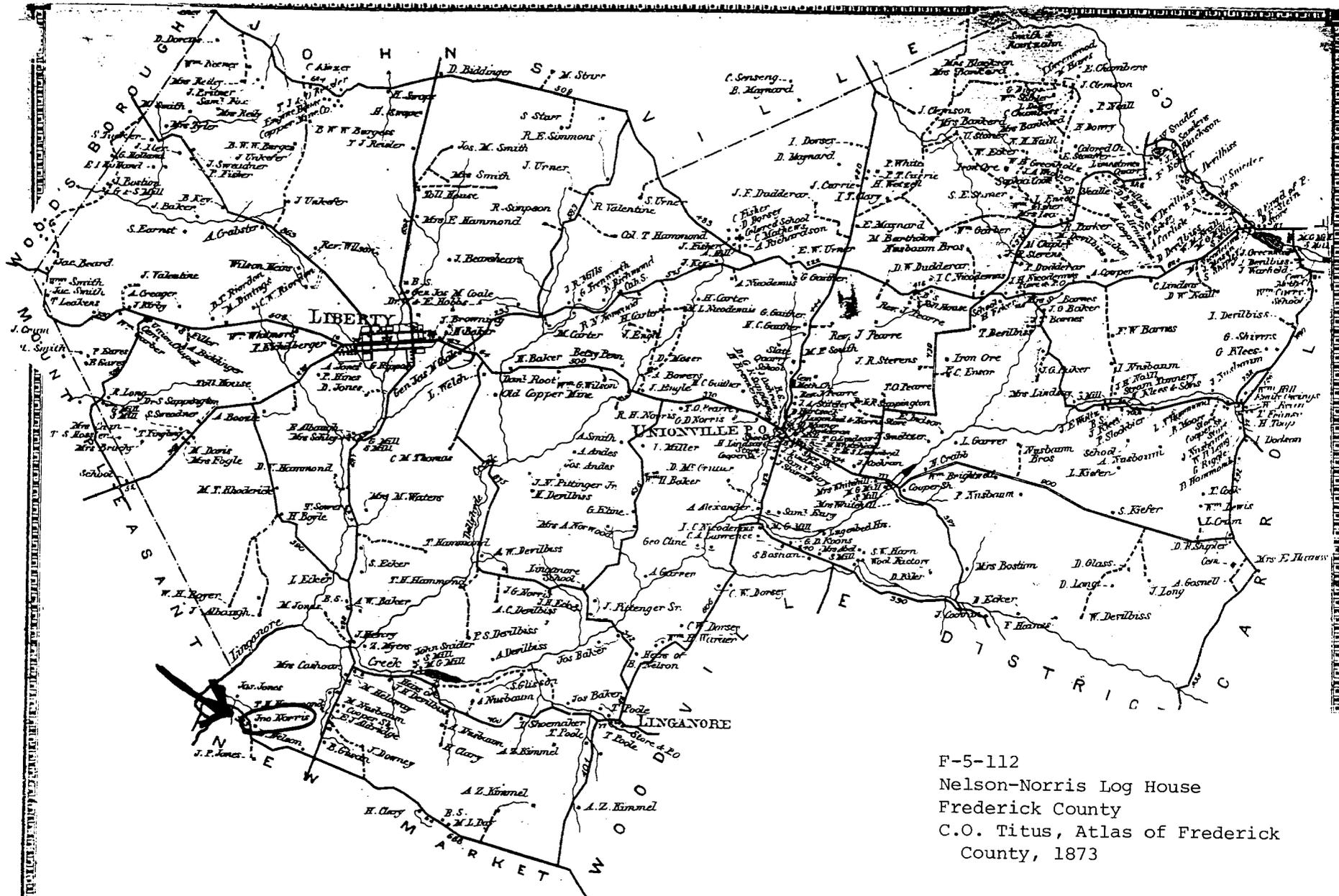
11548 Old Annapolis Rd.

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
1766 / 476 27 Feb 92	Alice R. Smith & Elizabeth Ellen Delap	Alice R. Smith	128 1/4 A., 20 sq. p. less 1.4426 A. conveyed to Robert Minge & Elizabeth Ella Delap 1006 / 709	
553 / 181 13 Sept 55	Charles S. Smith jr. & Alice R. Smith	Gladys B. Virts (aka) Fox & Raymond Fox	128 1/4 A., 20 sq. p.	
444 / 367 14 Nov 44	Gladys B. Virts	Charles H. Barrick et al heirs of Ariana M. Barrick	128 1/4 A., 20 sq. p.	
TG 2 / 657 24 Nov 1874	Ariana M. Barrick	Henry M. Morris. exec. of LW & T of John Morris, dec.	128 1/4 A., 20 sq. p.	\$4,118
BGF 8 / 430 30 Mar 1862	John Morris	John Henry & Jennie Mrs. Nelson	128 1/4 A. 20 sq. p.	\$5,500
BGF # / 399 1 Apr 1858	John Henry Nelson (father)	Henry & Sarah Nelson (parents)	part of "Mathans Undertaking" " " " Partnership " 128 1/4 A. 20 sq. p. (no mention of improvements)	\$2,635

F-5-112



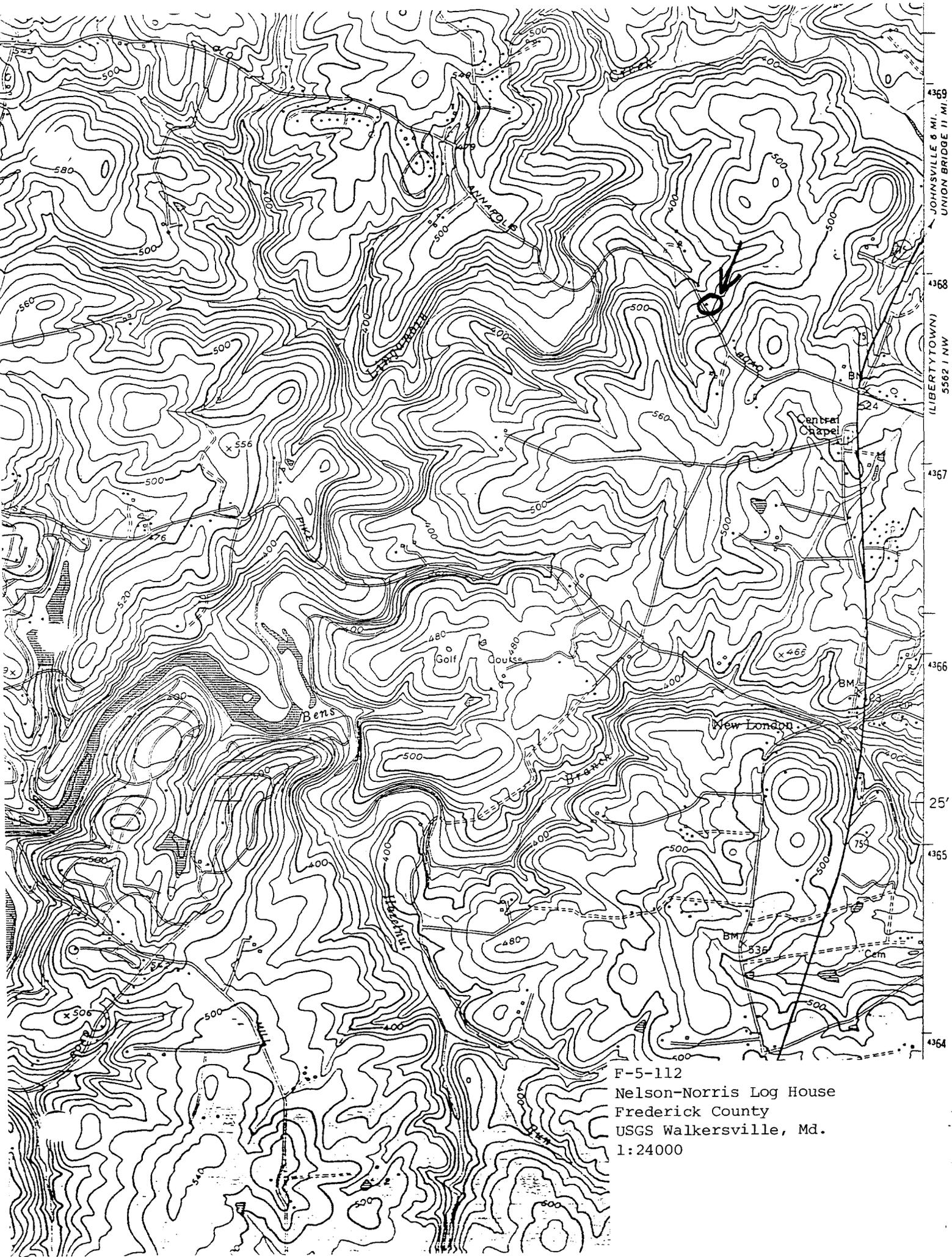
F-5-112  
Nelson-Norris Log House  
Frederick County  
Isaac Bond, Map of  
Frederick County, 1858



F-5-112  
 Nelson-Norris Log House  
 Frederick County  
 C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
 County, 1873

# LIBERTY

## DIST. No. 8



JOHNSVILLE 6 MI. N  
LIBERTY TOWN  
UNION BRIDGE 11 MI. N  
5562 1 NW

4369  
4368  
4367  
4366  
25'  
4365  
4364

F-5-112  
Nelson-Norris Log House  
Frederick County  
USGS Walkersville, Md.  
1:24000



F-5-112

Nelson-Norris Log House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1994

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

Southeast corner view

1/3

12284221 NNNNN



F-5-112

Nelson-Norris Log House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1994

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

Northeast corner view

2/3



F-5-112

Nelson-Norris Log House  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis  
193184221 N.N.N.13

June 1994

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

Northwest corner view

3/3