

F-5-82  
Robert Nelson House  
New Market vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1854-1855

The Robert Nelson House is an altered example of a square-plan Greek Revival vernacular dwelling of the mid 1850's. A projecting two-story center bay on the east elevation has a two-story entry porch, one of the characteristics of the Greek Revival style. The brick walls are painted, but weathering has revealed an apparent two-stage building sequence, perhaps several years apart. The first story is 5:1 American bond and the second story is 9:1 American bond and of a different quality of brick. Other differences are a dog-tooth cornice course on the central section and south elevation which does not appear on the north elevation, and the lack of bargeboard trim on the north elevation. The five-bay facade has 6/6 windows with louvred shutters. Center bay doorways open on both the first and second levels of the entry porch. In the mid-20th century, additions were made to the original short rear wing on the east elevation. North of the house is an early 20th century windmill on an iron tower and a small frame and stone bank barn of the late 19th century. The house was probably begun by Robert Nelson (1780-1875) and completed to the first story. In 1869, the property was sold to his brother Nathan (1798-1875). Both brothers died in 1875 and Nathan's daughter Susan R. Nelson owned the house until her death in 1900. Either Nathan or Susan may have raised the roof to the second story height and completed the house.

F-5-82  
Robert Nelson 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  
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930 A.D.

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

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn

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 Robert Nelson House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 11732 Old Annapolis Road  not for publicationcity, 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 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 George B., Jr., and Elizabeth B. Delaplaine

street &amp; number 11732 Old Annapolis Road, Rt. 1, Box 378 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 568

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 561

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-5-82

<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

The Robert Nelson House is a two-story brick dwelling in the vernacular Greek Revival style built about 1854 on the northwest corner of Green Valley Road (Md. 75) and Old Annapolis Road near New Market, Frederick County, Maryland. The house has a low hipped roof with a projecting gable front and a two-story porch on its principal facade oriented east toward Green Valley Road. A modern brick two-story addition is on the northwest corner and extends across the west elevation. The property also contains a late 19th century small frame bank barn on a stone foundation and a windmill on an iron tower frame, probably dating from the early 20th century. The dates of the structures are based on architectural evidence and land records.

The original plan of the house appears to have been roughly a square with a slightly projecting center two-story gable section on the east elevation and a short rear wing near the northwest corner. The square plan has a low hipped roof currently clad in composition shingles. Two interior brick chimneys rise near the junction of the gable roof of the projection with the hipped roof. In the mid 20th century, a two-story brick addition was built adjoining the northwest corner of the square. A second addition with aluminum siding was built adjoining the southwest corner, leaving only the west end of the wing with an interior chimney exposed and flanked by the additions. With the most of the original west elevation thus obscured from view, and the interior of the house being inaccessible for the survey, the remaining parts of the original house reveal an ambiguous building history.

The east elevation has five bays with the center three bays in the projecting gable section. The center bay has an entrance on both levels with three-light transoms. The two-story porch has square columns, a concrete deck on the first level, and a plain balustrade on the second level. The windows are 6/6 with louvred shutters. The outer bays in this elevation also have 6/6 and louvred shutters. Small flat-roofed porch extensions shelter the first story windows. The brick walls are painted white and the center gable section and the south brick section have a dog-tooth course just below the eaves. These sections and the upper level porch roof also have a scroll-sawn bargeboard trim. The north section has neither the dog-tooth course nor the bargeboard. The white paint has weathered on both the north and south sections, leaving a definite line above the first story windows. The brick pattern thus revealed is 5:1 on the first story and 9:1 on the second story. The north elevation has a gable-roofed stone bulkhead over the cellar entrance. Corrugated metal covers the bulkhead roof. The apparent construction sequence may have been a one-story building completed in about 1854-1855 and a few years later raised to two stories using a different quality and coursing pattern of brick. The absence of the dog-tooth course on the north elevation remains unclear.

Barn and windmill: The small frame bank barn is located 250 feet north of the dwelling and the windmill stands approximately halfway between the house and the barn. The barn has a fieldstone foundation and a vertical board cladding on the upper frame structure. The roof is corrugated metal. The stalls on the east side are partially enclosed with flush horizontal boards. The windmill appears to date

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-5-82

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. 1854 **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.

The Robert Nelson House is minimally significant as an altered example of a vernacular Greek Revival style residence of the 1850's. The principal elevation and original plan reveal two characteristics of the style in the two-story entry porch and the low hipped roof. The house was probably built about 1854-1855 by Robert Nelson (1780-1875), who sold the property to his brother Nathan (1798-1875) in 1869. In 1875, both Nelson brothers died and the house became the property of Nathan's unmarried daughter Susan Rebecca Nelson (1831-1900). She apparently occupied the small 28-3/4-acre farm until her death. The house may have been begun by Robert, but only completed as a one-story structure before being sold to Nathan. Either Nathan or Susan Rebecca Nelson completed the house to its two-story height.

The Nelson family owned a large tract of land in the vicinity of Old Annapolis Road and most of the buildings surviving to the present are stone houses of traditional German-influenced design. The Robert Nelson House is unusual in the New Market Region for its vernacular style influenced by the Greek Revival.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-5-82

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.

Holdcraft, Jacob M. Names In Stone, V.2. Privately published, Ann Arbor, Mi., 1966, p. 842

Land Records of Frederick County

(Continued on separate sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 28 acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>				
	Zone	Easting		Northing	

B	<input type="text"/>				
	Zone	Easting		Northing	

C	<input type="text"/>				
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>				
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E	<input type="text"/>				
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>				
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G	<input type="text"/>				
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H	<input type="text"/>				
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## Verbal boundary description and justification

Concurrent with Tax Map 70, Parcel 17

## 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 Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date April 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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DACH/DHCH  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2001  
514/7100

Robert Nelson House  
Frederick County

Survey No. F-5-82

#### 7.1 Description (Continued)

from the early 20th century. No other outbuildings of the original farmstead remain, although a 1900 equity record description indicated that several other outbuildings were extant at the turn of the century.

Robert Nelson House  
Frederick County

Survey No. F-5-82

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

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 pp. 1112, 1122.

11732 O.A.R.

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
568/561 31 May 56	George B. Jr. & Elizabeth B. Delaplaine	Sains & Doro- thea Monk	28a., 3b., 24 sq. p.	
479/45 7 Apr 49	Sains & Dorothea P. Monk	Ralph A. & Esther B. Grinder	28a., 3b., 24 sq. p.	
462/144 17 Mar 47	Ralph A. & Esther B. Grinder	M. Margriet Rayston, widow	CM 3/173	
370/473 17 June 29	Eppa C. & M. Margriet Rayston	Eugene Sponseller	358/297, 10 June 26 CM 3/173, 13 Feb 1869	
366/485 23 June 28	Eugene Sponseller	Ernest A. Laurence atly in fact for heirs of George W. Higdon, dec.		\$4,850
358/297 10 June 26	George W. Higdon	Charles E. & Mary E. Albaugh		
STH 278/335 25 Jan 07	Charles E. Albaugh	Emma J. & Shes. B. Maynard	Emma Maynard nee Jones STH 278/334, 18 Jan 07 John N. Clay et ux to Emma J. Maynard	\$2,500
DHH 15/465 22 Dec 07	Emma Jones	John P. Jones	TG 10/39	\$2,000
DHH 7/331 9 Oct 1900	John P. Jones	John N. Clay & Frank L. Stoner, trustees	Equity 7232 Mary J. Clay et al vs. Henrietta Nelson Equity Record DHH 3/242	\$2,400
TG 10/39 11 Mar 1878	Mary J. Clay & Susan R. Nelson	Margaret Swemley & Elisha Swemley & Marian & Elisha Cummings, Susan R. Nelson, trustee of Henrietta & Henry Nelson, heirs of Nathan Nelson cl. 1875	Part of "Friendship", "Partnership", "Nathan's Undertaking" 28 3/4 a., 24 sq. p.	\$3,000

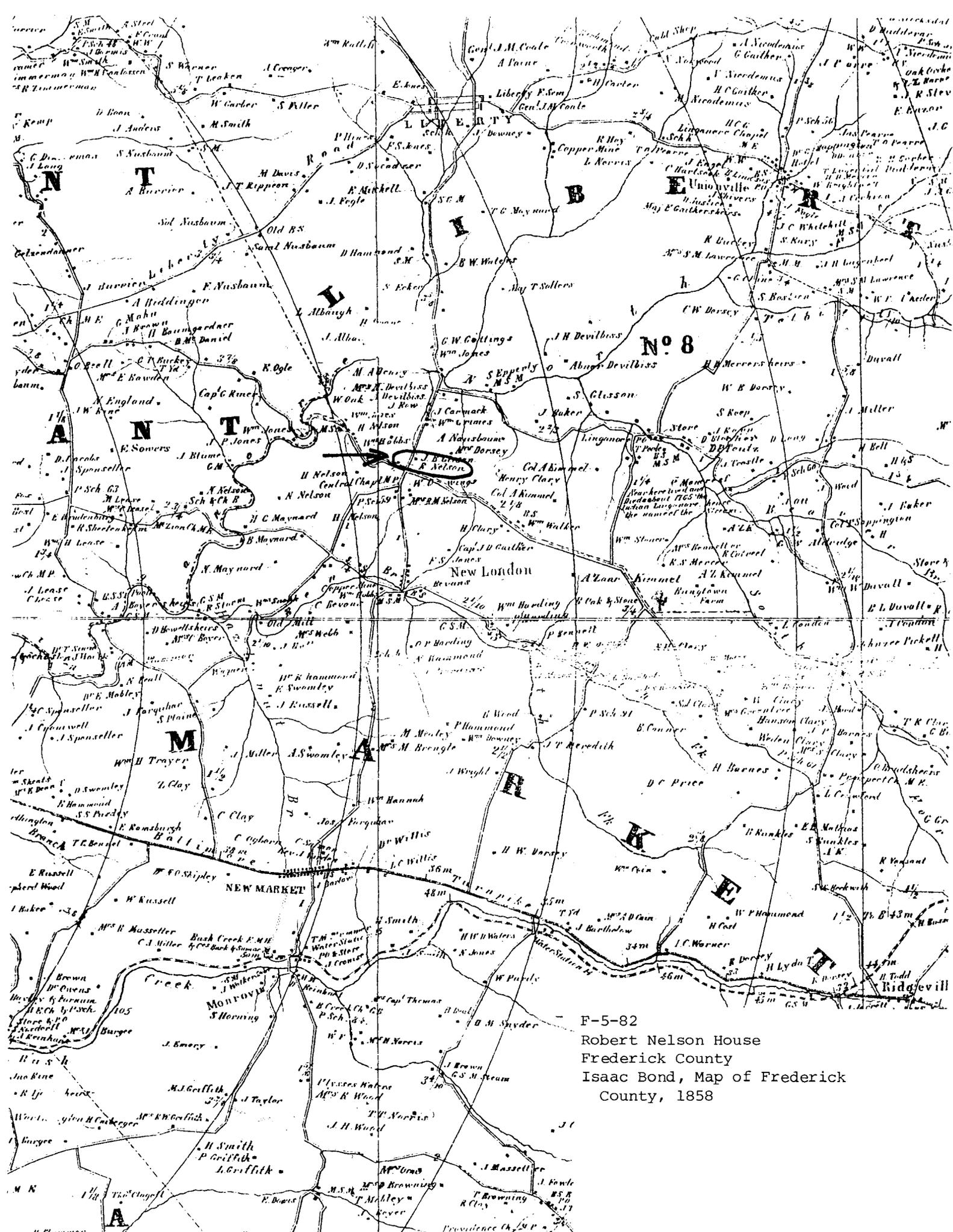
F-5-82

Liber/Folio                      Grantee                      Grantor                      Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous                      Cost

Equity Record  
DHH 3/242  
1900                      Advertisement of Sale  
".... improved with a substantial two-story brick dwelling house, stable, and all other necessary outbuildings. This property has good water at the house and a good variety of all kinds of fruit, the trees at the present time being in good healthy bearing condition and as in view of its proximity to churches, schools, and delightful location one of the most desirable properties in the County."

*check date*  
CM 3/173  
13 Feb 1869                      Nathan Nelson                      Robert Nelson                      28 3/4 A. 24 sq. p.                      \$4,150

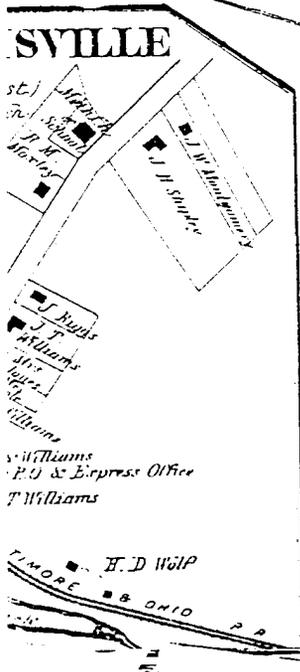
ES 4/651  
3 June 1854                      Robert Nelson                      <sup>1716</sup>  
<sub>1872</sub>  
Henry & Sarah Nelson                      28 3/4 A. 24 sq. p.                      \$862.85  
<sub>2.1864</sub>  
<sub>6-5-11-0</sub>



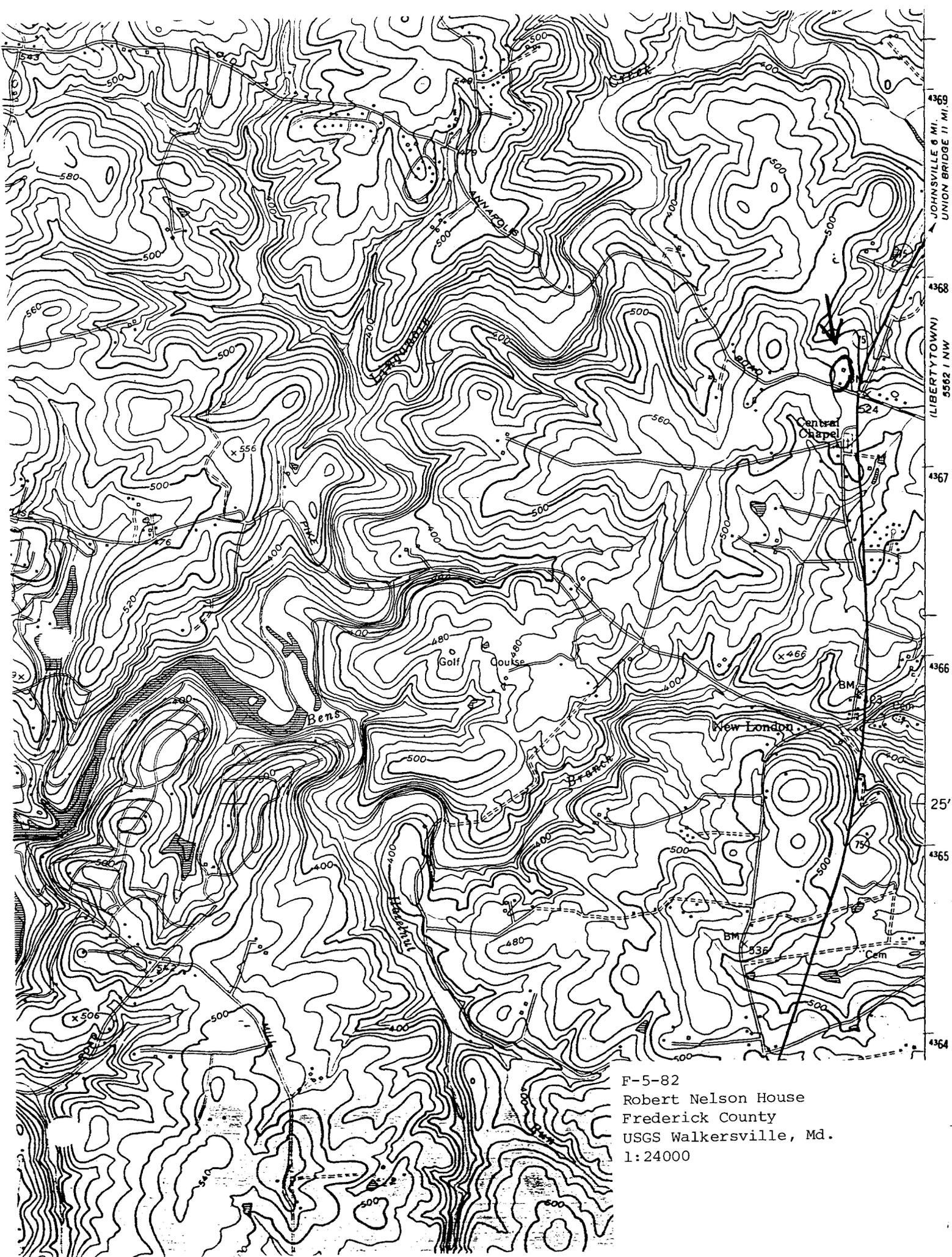
F-5-82  
 Robert Nelson House  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick  
 County, 1858

# MARKET DIST No. 9

Scale 7 1/2 inches to the mile



F-5-82  
Robert Nelson House  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
County, 1873



F-5-82  
Robert Nelson House  
Frederick County  
USGS Walkersville, Md.  
1:24000



F-5-82

Robert Nelson House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

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

East elevation

1/5



F-5-82

Robert Nelson House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

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

Northeast corner view

2/5



F-5-82

Robert Nelson House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

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

Southeast corner view

3/5



F-5-82

Robert Nelson House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

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

View of house and windmill from north

4/5



F-5-82

Robert Nelson House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

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

Barn, east elevation

5/5