

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Wright-Downey Farmstead Survey Number: F-5-84

Project: New Market Loop 230 kV Transmission Line Agency: DNR/PSC

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the available information, the Wright Downey Farmstead, located at 5800A Detrick Road in southeastern Frederick County, does not appear to be individually eligible for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties. The two-story log farmhouse was constructed c. 1847. Unfortunately, the farmhouse retains little sense of its original architectural character, as it has been covered in vinyl siding and has been subject to other alterations. Also on the property are a number of outbuildings and barns dating from the late 19th century through the 20th century, including a c. 1890-1900 barn, a meathouse, chicken house, wagon shed/corn crib, hog barn, and a c. 1940 concrete block dairy barn and milk house. Although the property retains a number of 19th century farm buildings, the property does not convey a sense of the county's rich agricultural heritage as well as other properties in the same vicinity. Thus, the property does not appear to have sufficient significance for listing under Criterion C for architecture. It is not known to have any association with significant events or people, and thus does not appear to be eligible for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties under Criteria A or C.

While the property does not appear to merit individual listing, it would likely contribute to an historic district. The surrounding area, which retains numerous historic farmsteads within a largely unaltered setting, may constitute an historic district.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project File, Maryland Inventory  
Form F-5-84, Historic Evaluation Report: New Market Loop 230 kV Transmission Line

Prepared by: Christine Davis Consultants (report); Janet Davis (1994 form)

Elizabeth Hannold 1/22/97  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
Peter McKenty 2/6/97  
Reviewer, NR program Date

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Dwelling-single residence; domestic outbuildings  
Agricultural-animal shelter, food storage, outbuildings

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

F-5-84

Wright-Downey Farmstead

New Market vicinity

Private

Ca. 1847-1940

The Wright-Downey Farmstead is centered on a circa 1847 log dwelling which now has aluminum siding and includes several domestic and agricultural outbuildings ranging in date from about 1847 to 1940. The house has five bays and a two-story rear wing. The frame bank barn may have been built originally at the same time, but the interior structure and exterior appear to date from about 1890-1900. A concrete block dairy barn and milk house were built about 1940. The other outbuildings include a frame meathouse, a chicken house, a wagon shed/corn crib, and a hog barn. The farmstead was established about 1847 upon the marriage of William Downey and Margaret Jane Wright. The farm was transferred to Jesse Wright, Margaret's father, from a brother of William Downey in what was probably a dower agreement. After Jesse's death about 1883, the farm was transferred to Margaret and became part of the larger holdings of the William Downey family, which also owned the Downey House (F-4-83), access to which is via the driveway into the Wright-Downey Farmstead. The farmstead is minimally significant for the architecture of the house, which although covered with modern siding, retains the basic form of the mid-19th century log house, and for the internal plan of the farmstead, in which the domestic and agricultural groups are defined by both placement and farm road circulation patterns.

F-5-84  
Wright-Downey Farmstead  
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  
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse  
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn  
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Wright-Downey Farmstead

and/or common

**2. Location**street & number 5800A Detrick 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 checked="" 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 Harold D. and Edythe Harshman

street &amp; number 5828 Detrick Road telephone no.:

city, town Mt. Airy state and zip code MD 21771

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 597

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 549

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory of Historic Properties F-255

date 1970  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state MD

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-5-84

<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: 7

The Wright-Downey Farmstead is an agricultural complex centered on a circa 1847 log dwelling with artificial siding and its associated outbuildings, including a frame bank barn, a concrete block dairy barn and milk house, a meathouse, a chicken house, a wagon shed/corn crib, and a deteriorated hog barn, as well as several non-contributing agricultural buildings. The outbuildings appear to date from about 1850 to 1940. The farmstead is located on the west side of Detrick Road about 1-1/4 miles north of Old National Pike (Md. 144) near New Market, Frederick County, Maryland. The main elevation of the dwelling faces south and the domestic outbuildings are located northeast of the house. The agricultural buildings are west and south of the domestic group. The driveway leading off Detrick Road passes through the farmstead between the domestic and agricultural buildings and continues 1/2 mile to the northwest to the William Downey House (F-5-83), a property historically related to the Wright-Downey Farmstead. Dates of the buildings are based on architectural evidence, land records, historical maps, and a biographical sketch of the Wright and Downey families in the 1910 History of Frederick County.

The dwelling is a two-story structure with five bays on the south elevation. A two-story perpendicular rear wing extends from the northwest corner of the main section. Interior end chimneys are located at the east and west gable ends and at the north end of the rear wing. The roof is covered with corrugated metal. All windows are 6/6 and are flanked by replacement metal shutters. The center entrance on the south elevation is fronted by a concrete stoop. A six-panel door which appears to be original is covered by a glass panel storm door. A single metal shutter on the right side of the doorway may conceal a sidelight and a multiple light transom is above the panel door. On the north elevation, the main section has three bays, with a doorway in the easternmost bay, possibly converted from an original window. The rear wing has an enclosed one-story porch on the east side. As on the south elevation, the windows are 6/6 with replacement shutters, except in the enclosed porch which has a pair of 1/1 windows and a small 2/2 window. The east gable end has only attic windows flanking the interior chimney stack. The west gable end has two bays. The interior has been much altered in the 20th century, with most walls covered with wallboard or wallpaper and the floor is covered with wall-to-wall carpet.

Domestic outbuildings:

**Meathouse:** The frame meathouse is located northeast of the dwelling. It is a small rectangular building on a concrete block foundation, probably replacing an original stone foundation. The upper structure is covered with german siding and the gable roof is corrugated metal. A five-panel door is centered on the south gable end to an upper level and a second door is immediately below opening to the lower level. The meathouse appears to date from about 1890-1900.

**Chicken house:** The frame chicken house is located northeast of the meathouse and probably was built about the same time. It has tongue-and-groove siding and corrugated metal shed roof. Windows open on the southeast elevation.

# 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/
<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 checked="" 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. 1847-1940 **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 Wright-Downey Farmstead is minimally significant in architecture for the form of the circa 1847 dwelling, which, although covered with modern artificial siding, still reveals the characteristics of its mid-19th century origins in the five-bay facade and the rear wing. The farmstead is also a fair representative of the planning of agricultural complexes in the mid-19th century, the definition between the domestic and agricultural groups being discernible, although some domestic outbuildings may have been replaced or removed in the early 20th century. The typical buildings which are found in most surviving 19th century and early 20th century farmsteads are present in the Wright-Downey group: dwelling, chicken house, weathouse, bank barn, dairy barn and milk house, hog barn, wagon shed/corn crib. The farm probably was built by William Downey (1825-1902) about the time of his marriage to Margaret Jane Wright, the daughter of Jesse Wright. In what was apparently a dower arrangement between the two families, John Downey, William's brother, sold a 543-acre tract which he had received from his mother Cordelia Downey in 1840 to Jesse Wright in 1847, the year that William and Margaret were married. In 1883 after Jesse's death, the farm was transferred to Margaret by the other heirs of Jesse Wright. The ownership of the farmstead and the William Downey House (F-5-83) was thus virtually the same from that point, having been closely allied by the 1847 marriage. The principal access to the Downey House remains through the Wright-Downey Farmstead as shown on the 1858 and 1873 maps.



7.1 Description (Continued)

Agricultural outbuildings:

Bank barn: The frame bank barn with a stone foundation probably was built about 1847-1850, but the existing upper structure appears to have been built about 1890-1900. The exterior is covered with vertical siding, which is somewhat deteriorated on the south elevation. The stall level under the forebay on the south elevation is enclosed with flush horizontal boards and lath for ventilation. Near the ramp on the north elevation is the base of a concrete silo. A frame loafing shed adjoins the barn on the west gable end.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed with flanking corn cribs is located southwest of the house at the edge of the driveway which passes between the wagon shed and the barn. Built about 1890-1900, the wagon shed has stone piers supporting the cribs and vertical siding. The siding is deteriorated on the south elevation and the corrugated roof is also in poor condition.

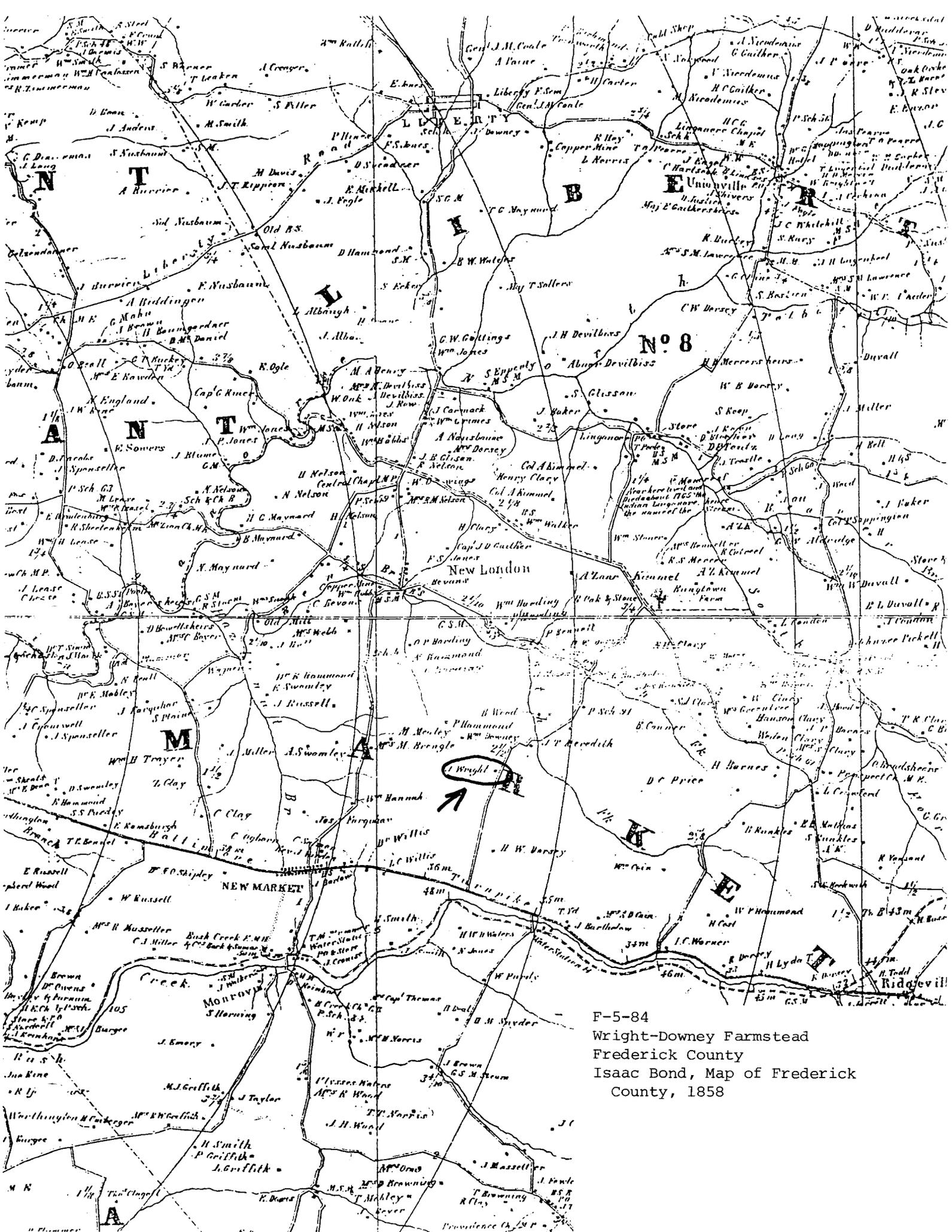
Hog barn: The deteriorated hog barn is located southeast of the bank barn. It is a long rectangular one-story building with a partially missing corrugated metal roof. Horizontal siding is still in place on the south elevation, but much of the north side is in ruins. The hog barn was probably built about 1920.

Dairy barn and milk house: The concrete block dairy barn and milk house located north of the bank barn were built about 1940 and have lighter colored corner blocks and german sided gable ends. The barn has a metal gambrel roof and the milk house, near the northeast corner of the barn, has a gable roof with metal vents on the ridge.

5800A Detrick

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
1962/430 7 Dec 23	H. D. & L. W. Harshman Paulina	Harold D. & Elythe C. Harsh- man	Parcel 1: 1650. Lot 1, being laid off from Downey 233 a. 2 R., 18 sq. p. P. 2: 1920, 2 R., 2 sq. p.	\$309,000
597/549 16 April 58	Harold D. & Elythe C. Harshman	Harry H. Harshman widower	233 a., 2 R., 18 sq. p.	
421/132 17 Oct 39	Harry H. & Ella L. Harsh- man	Marian Douglass Detrick, widow	4410., 2 R., 2 sq. p. less 2070., 3 R., 24 sq. p. leaving 2330., ± conveyed conveyed in 388/488 & Oct 33	
5TH 269/155 19 Dec 04	Frederick L. & Margaret Jane Detrick	Margaret J. Downey	Frederick & Margaret were children of Margaret Downey's dec. daughter Elyse Detrick 4410., 2 R., 2 sq. p.	
AF 7/403 14 Aug 1883	Margaret J. Downey, wife of William Downey	heirs of Jesse Wright and Charles Salmon	AF <del>7/414</del> , AF 9/128-1180. Salmon to Margaret LW&T of Jesse Wright TL McL. 1/538 Margaret Downey, May 1884	
WBT 6/193 6 Jul 1847	Jesse Wright	John Downey	5430. "Pleasant Valley", "Dorsey's farm", "Good Meadow", "Outlands", Downey on "Mead"	\$8,900
HS 12/94 9 Dec 1840	John Downey (son of Cordelia)	Cordelia H. <del>Downey</del>	5490., 2 R., 27 p.	
HS 12/96	William Downey	Cordelia H.		

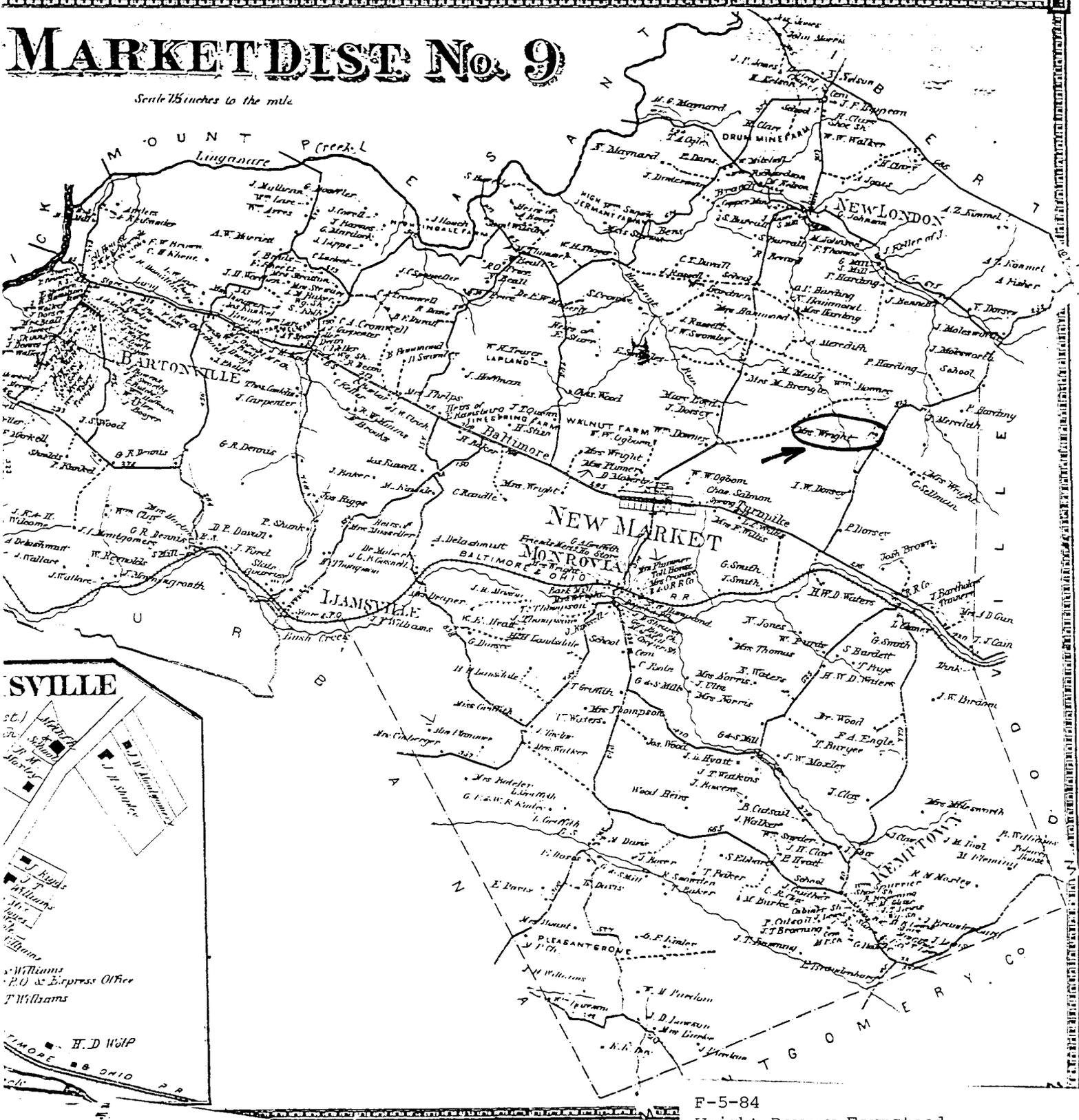
F-5-84



F-5-84  
Wright-Downey Farmstead  
Frederick County  
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick  
County, 1858

# MARKET DIST No. 9

Scale 75 inches to the mile



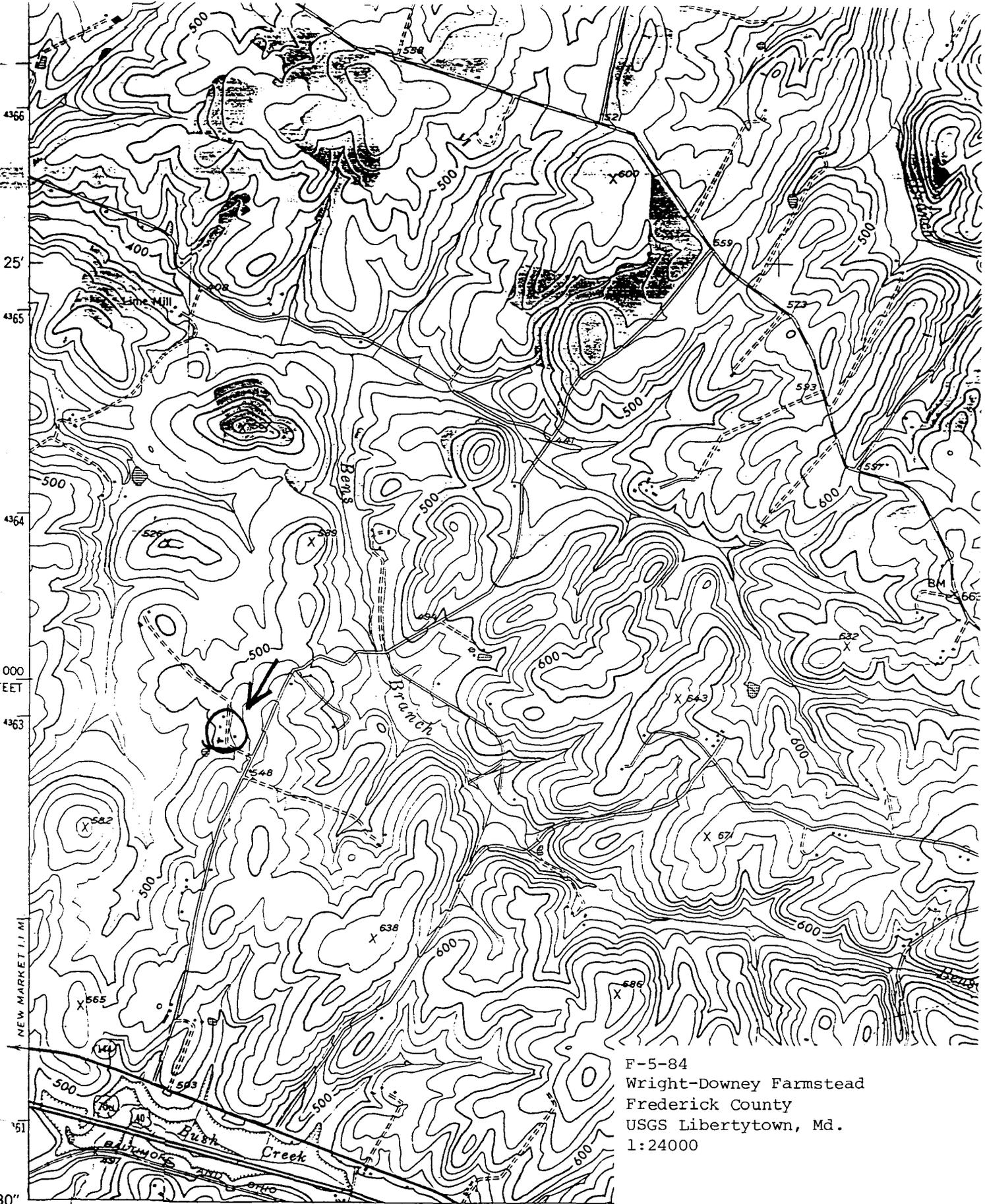
F-5-84

Wright-Downey Farmstead

Frederick County

C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick

County, 1873



F-5-84  
 Wright-Downey Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 USGS Libertytown, Md.  
 1:24000

Mapped by U. S. Forest Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey

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MN | \*



F-5-84

Wright - Downey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

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

South elevation

1/6



F-5-84

Wright - Downey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

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

Northeast corner view

F<sub>16</sub>



F-5-84

Wright - Downey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

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

Meat house, South elevation

3/6



F-5-84

Wright - Downey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

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

Wagon shed / corn crib, south elevation

4/6



F-5-84

Wright - Downey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

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

Bank barn & hog barn, view from south

5/6



F-5-84

Wright-Downey Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

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

Dairy barn and milk house, with elevation

6/6