

F-6-73

Ca. 1800

Biggs Farm

Rocky Ridge vicinity

Private

The Biggs Farm is located on Sixes Bridge Road in close proximity to the Monocacy River. The principal elevation of the house faces north. The house was constructed in two sections; the earliest stone section, circa 1800, and a later log addition, circa 1830. Both sections share the same gable roofline of standing seam tin. A stone bank barn is located to the east of the dwelling. The farm is significant as an early nineteenth century farm in Frederick County. The stone architecture of the barn and the dwelling house is distinctive in the region. Interior detailing in the stone section of the main house is particularly important. The location of the farm on the Monocacy River connects it to early settlement patterns in the county.

F-6-73

Biggs Farm

Emmitsburg

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:**  
Rural Agrarian Intensification 1680-1815  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870  
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

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

**Resource Type:**  
Category: Buildings

**Historic Environment: Rural**

**Historic Function and Use:**  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Agricultural/Subsistence/agricultural outbuilding/barn

**Known Design Source: None**

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Biggs Farm

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Sixes Bridge Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Emmitsburg \_\_\_\_\_  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 Earl S. Bell

street & number 8317 Hadden Drive \_\_\_\_\_ telephone no.:

city, town Takoma Park \_\_\_\_\_ state and zip code MD 20912

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse \_\_\_\_\_ liber 1544

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street \_\_\_\_\_ folio 796

city, town Frederick \_\_\_\_\_ state MD 21701

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Anthony James Survey

date 1974 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

pository for survey records Frederick County Department of Planning & Zoning

city, town Frederick \_\_\_\_\_ state MD 21701

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-6-73

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved

date of move

\_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

(Typed on separate sheet)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-6-73

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

### Specific dates

### 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.

(Typed on separate sheet)



### 7.1 Description:

The Biggs Farm is located on Sixes Bridge Road in close proximity to the Monocacy River near Emmitsburg, Maryland. The principal elevation of the house faces north. A stone bank barn is located to the east of the dwelling.

The house was constructed in two sections; the earliest section, circa 1800, and a later addition, circa 1830. The earliest section is of stone construction. It is 2 bays wide and one and one-half stories high. It has large stone quoining. A paired brick chimney rests on the east gable end. The addition is connected to the west wall of the stone section; it is of log construction sheathed in german siding. It is two stories and two bays wide. It has an off center brick chimney. Both sections share the same gable roofline of standing seam tin.

The principal facade of the building faces north. The stone section has two 2/2 windows; the log section has a door in the east bay and a small 1/1 window on the first floor and two 4 & 4 sliding casement windows on the second. A one story open porch covers the log section with chamfered columns. The south elevation has two 2/2 windows and 2 filled-in basement windows in the stone section. The log section has 4 bays on the first floor composed of a door and 6/6 windows and two 4 & 4 sliding casement windows in the second.

The west gable end (log section) has 6/6 windows on the first and second floor and a curved fascia board. The east gable end also has a curved fascia board. It has two 2/2 windows on the first floor with heavy stone lintels. The second floor has two center 4/4 windows flanked by two 3/6 windows. The gable peak suggests that the roofline was slightly raised to accommodate the later log addition.

The interior consists of a two room plan in the stone section and a three room plan in the log addition. The stone section has window surrounds with corner blocks. There are also two mantelpieces, one in each room. They both have narrow proportions with careful detailing. Each has a different design; one with a diamond pattern, the other with corner blocks and fluting. The log section has tongue and groove panelling in the kitchen and otherwise plain trim throughout.

The one surviving outbuilding is a stone bank barn. The banked section opens to the east. The gable ends are distinguished with slit ventilators that widen into the interior.

### 8.1 Significance:

The Biggs Farm is significant as an early nineteenth century farm in Frederick County. The stone architecture of the barn and the dwelling house is distinctive in the region. Interior detailing in the stone section of the main house is particularly important. The location of the farm on the Monocacy River connects it to early settlement patterns in the county.

Considered within its historic context, the Biggs Farm is a unique dwelling house demonstrating one and one-half story stone architecture with two story log construction under one roofline. There are a few other examples that combine log and stone architecture but they are usually larger in scale. The building has retained a high level of integrity in both the interior and exterior. The accompanying stone bank barn elevates the importance of the farm as an early complex.

The property was associated with the Biggs family from its beginnings. The Biggs were one of the earliest English families who settled in Frederick County (Williams, Vol. I, 10). William and Benjamin Biggs, brothers, acquired an estimated 1500 acres along the Monocacy River by the late eighteenth century. B. Biggs is denoted on the 1808 Varles Map in the vicinity of the property. In the early 1800s, Benjamin sold his interest to William and moved to West Virginia.

In 1805, William sold part of the tract, "Benjamin's Good Luck" to John Yantis for 1200 pounds (Land Deed W. R. No. 47, 137). Yantis (also Yandis) probably constructed the dwelling house and the barn during his period of ownership. In 1814, he sold the "plantation" to Frederick Biggs, one of William's sons, for \$3,660 (Land Deed W.R. 47, 492). By that time, property was comprised of 90 acres with buildings and improvements. According to Scharf (p. 563), the farm, located on the Monocacy opposite the mouth of Stony Branch, was known as "Rich Level".

Frederick died in 1840. In 1858, William Biggs, his son, resided on the farm. By 1873, E. Valentine owned the property. Elias Valentine purchased a 100 acre farm from an Edward Biggs (Williams, Vol. II, 1587).

According to the renter at the property, the owner has plans to demolish the barn and, possibly later, the house. The stone bank barn should undergo further analysis and research before this demolition occurs. There is only one other of its type in the surrounding region.

Biggs Farm  
Frederick County

Survey No. F-6-73

9.1 Bibliography

Atlas of Frederick County, Maryland, C.O. Titus and Co., Philadelphia, 1873.

Land Deeds and Wills, Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, Maryland.

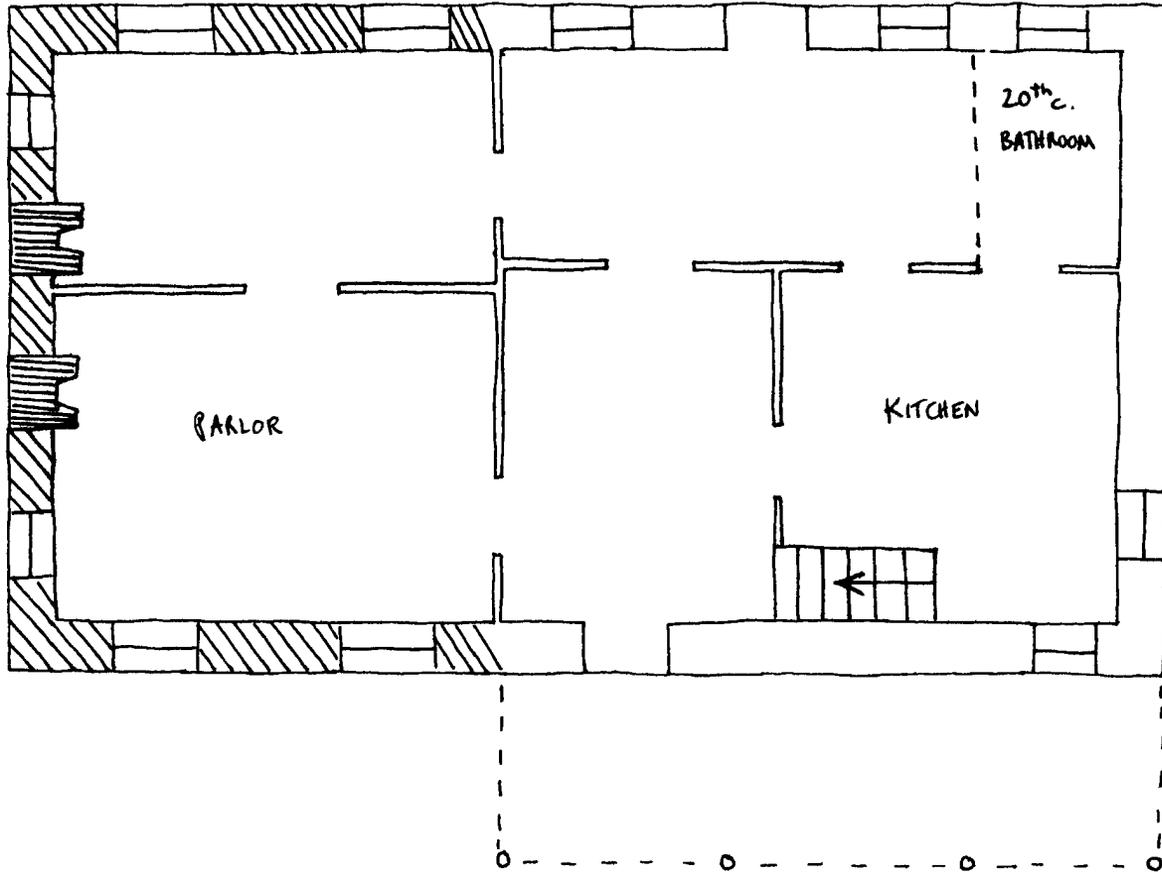
Map of Frederick County, Maryland, Isaac Bond, Baltimore, 1858.

A Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, Maryland, Charles Varle, Philadelphia, 1808.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland, Vol. I, Louis H. Everts, Philadelphia, 1882.

Williams, T.J.C. History of Frederick County, Maryland, L.R. Titsworth & Co., Frederick, 1910.

F-6-73  
BIGGS FARM  
EMMITSBURG VICINITY  
FREDERICK COUNTY



- LOG
- ▨ STONE
- ▩ BRICK



M.K. SHIPE | JUNE 1991

| NOT TO SCALE

# EMMITTSBURG

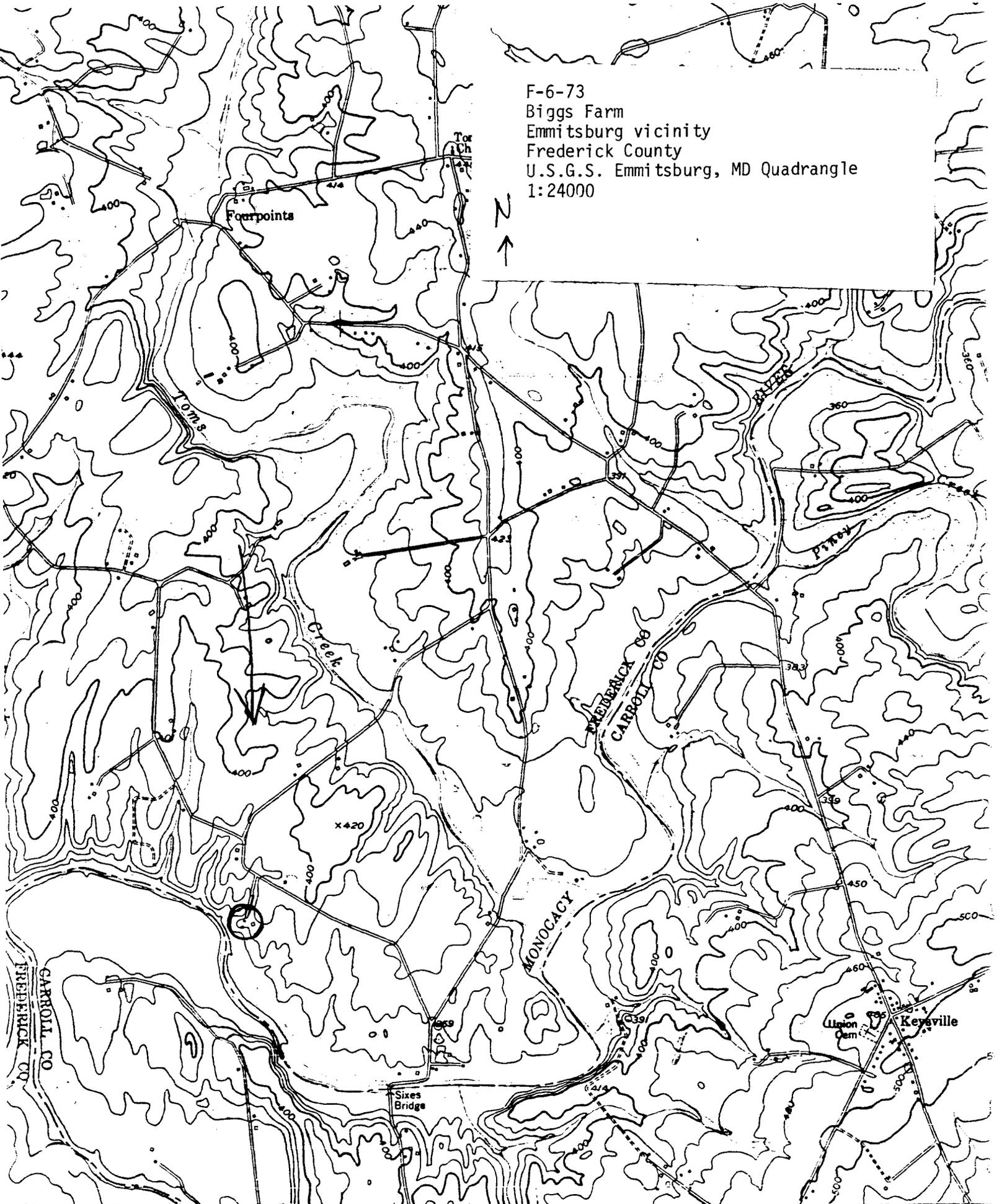
## DIST. No. 3

Scale 1/4 inches to the mile

F-6-73  
Biggs Farm  
Emmitsburg vicinity  
Frederick County  
Atlas of Frederick County, Maryland, C.O.  
Titus and Co., Philadelphia, 1873.



F-6-73  
 Biggs Farm  
 Emmitsburg vicinity  
 Frederick County  
 U.S.G.S. Emmitsburg, MD Quadrangle  
 1:24000



000) SE 302 303 17'30" 304 INTERIOR- GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D C - 1872 2 140 000 FEET (PA.)

DETOUR 1.5 MI. WOODSBORO 7 MI. 3062000 E





F-6-73

Biggs Farm

14842 SIXES Bridge Rd.

Emmitsburg vicinity

Frederick County

Photo: MARY K SHIPE

May 1991

Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust  
Crowsville MD

North elevation

1/4



F-6-73

Biggs Farm

14842 Sixes Bridge Rd.

Emmitsburg vicinity

Fredonk County

Photo: MARY K SHIPE

MAY 1991

Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust  
Prawnsville MD

South elevation

2/4



F-6-73

Biggs Farm

14842 Sixes Bridge Rd.

Emmitsburg vicinity

Fredrick County

Photo: MARY K SHIBE

MAY 1991

Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trst  
Cransville MD

Interior detail - Living Room

3/4



F-6-73

Biggs Farm

14842 Sixes Bridge Rd.

Emmitsburg vicinity

Frederick County

Photo: MARY K SHIBE

MAY 1991

Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust  
Crownsville MD

Bank Barn