

F-7-16

Richard Johnson House  
Urbana vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1780-ca. 1920

The Richard Johnson House is a two-story stone dwelling built in three probable sections between 1780 and 1808 with a circa 1800 stone smokehouse as well as a late 19th century wagon shed/corn crib, a circa 1900 frame bank barn, and a frame chicken house of about 1920. The house has a main section with three bays and a side hall entry, adjoined by a side two-story wing which may have been built in two sections beginning about 1780. According to a mid-20th century researcher, the house was gutted by fire at an early date and was reinforced and rebuilt on the interior. Tie rods in the main section seem to indicate that early rehabilitation work was done on the house. The main section was added after purchase of the property by Roger Johnson, the father of Richard Johnson (1781-1831), who owned the property until 1835. The house is moderately significant in architecture for its stonemasonry construction of the period about 1780-1808. It was much altered on the interior in the 1960's and a modern addition was built on the rear of the wing, but retains some interior trim and the main staircase intact.

F-7-16  
Richard Johnson House  
Urbana  
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, A.D. 1680-1815  
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 & Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse  
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn  
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/chicken coop  
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary

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 Richard Johnson House

and/or common Heritage Hills

**2. Location**

street & number 2329 Dixon Road  not for publication

city, town Urbana  vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Four - S Venture Ltd. Partnership c/o Martin P. Schipper

street & number 2329 Dixon 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 1729

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 1271

city, town Frederick state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory of Historic Properties F-7-16

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state MD

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" 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 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: 5

The Richard Johnson House is a two-story stone dwelling built in at least three stages beginning about 1780 with the last section built about 1808 forming a three-bay main section with a side wing fronted by a two-story open porch. The dwelling has one remaining domestic outbuilding, a stone smokehouse probably built about 1780-1800, and three frame agricultural outbuildings dating about 1875 to 1920, a wagon shed/corn crib, a frame and stone bank barn, and a chicken house. The buildings are located on the north side of Dixon Road about two miles south of Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland. The principal elevation faces south and the outbuildings are located east of the dwelling. The property is entered through a modern stone gate bearing the current name of the farm, "Heritage Hills". Dates are based on architectural evidence and land records.

The principal section of the house is the three-bay section built about 1808 at the west end of the structure. It has a side hall plan with the entrance in the west bay. The raised panel door has 6 panels and a three-light transom. A modern flagstone and brick stoop rises to the doorway. The windows are 6/6 with raised panel wood shutters. The bracketed cornice was added at an unknown date. This Italianate style feature is common to the period about 1850, but its excellent condition and apparent level of craftsmanship suggests that it may have been mid-20th century replacement of a circa 1850's cornice. Since the property was sold in 1871 to Dr. Benjamin Hughes, it is possible that the original bracketed cornice was added at that time to update the appearance of the house and to replace a deteriorated early 19th century cornice. The roof is composition material, replacing a slate roof described in a 1959 Frederick News-Post article by Ralph Martz as being "bedded in a clay mixture". On the west gable end of the main section is a rebuilt exterior brick chimney flanked by 6/6 attic windows. Tie rod ends in the wall appear to have been placed in the 19th century at a date not yet determined. The Martz article refers to a gutting fire in the house during the Johnsons' ownership, which caused the reinforcement of the rear wall and the rebuilding of the interior. Martz's sources or evidence to support the fire theory are not named, but the tie rods' star end plates are also on the north or rear wall of the main section. The Johnsons owned the property until 1835, so the reinforcement could have taken place around that date. The north elevation of the main section also has three bays and the bracketed cornice as on the south elevation. A non-functional rear door at the back of the side hall has a low height and no transom and the off-set window above lights the interior stair landing.

The side wing of the house appears to have been built in two sections, judging by a visible joint on the south elevation, which has a two-story open porch. The first story of the porch is enclosed by screen panels and the upper level has a plain horizontal railing and square posts. The wing has a lower roof height than the main section and the cornice is boxed. The windows are 6/6 with simple molded architraves. The roof is composition as on the main section. An interior end chimney is located at the east gable end. This gable end has no openings except a 6-light attic window and a modern glazed panel door at the first story, opening on .

# 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 checked="" 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. 1780 - C. 1920      **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 Richard Johnson House is moderately significant in architecture for its stonemasonry construction dating from about 1780 to 1808. The vernacular structure has the typical side-wing plan of German building techniques with the main section of about 1808 showing the symmetry of the side hall plan, a subtle influence of the Federal style based on Georgian architectural sources. This plan is common to many stone, brick, and log houses of the first quarter of the 19th century in Frederick County. The earliest section may be one of the apparent two sections of the side wing, although interior and exterior alterations in the 1960's have obscured evidence which may confirm dating. Richard Johnson (1781-1839) was the oldest of 12 children of Roger Johnson (1749-1831), the founder with his three brothers of several iron foundries in Frederick County. Roger Johnson was in charge of Bloomsbury Forge and the Bush Creek Forge near Riehl's Mill. Local tradition states that Roger purchased the property in 1808, which contained the part now a section of the wing, and enlarged for Richard's residence. Richard married Julianna Dorsey in 1815, the usual event which caused the purchase or expansion of a residence, although it is possible that the house was enlarged over the 7 years between 1808 and 1815. In 1835, the Johnsons sold the property to Benjamin Dudderar (1798-1860). In 1871, Dr. Benjamin Edward Hughes bought it and possibly added the bracketed cornice to the main section. Under the ownership of Dr. Hughes and subsequent owners, the surviving agricultural outbuildings were added to the building group.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-7-16

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858  
 Land Records of Frederick County  
 Martz, Ralph F. "Long and Colorful History Goes With House Near Urbana" Frederick News Post n.d., photocopy in Frederick Co. Planning Dept. Historic Sites file F-7-16  
 Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 acres  
 Quadrangle name Urbana, Md. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 3 acres centered on the dwelling on Tax Map 105, Parcel 30

### 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 November 1993

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~~ MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
 Shaw House DHCP/DHCD  
 21 State Circle 100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
 (301) 269-2438 814-7400

7.1 Description (Continued)

concrete terrace. Two doors open on the first story of the south side of the wing and one of the windows flanking the center section door is 2/2. The north side of the wing has a 1967 one-story room addition adjoining the wing at a right angle.

The interior of the house has been considerably altered since 1960, but retains some original doors and hardware. The wing has been especially altered by the removal of interior walls and the addition of modern wood paneling. The staircase in the side hall of the main section retains its scroll closers and possibly walnut railing.

Outbuildings:

Smokehouse: The one-story stone smokehouse dating from about 1780-1800 is located northeast of the wing and has a single vertical board door in the south elevation. The roof is corrugated metal. A modern frame pool house addition was built on the rear of the smokehouse after 1960. The smokehouse is now used for storage and as a bath house for the adjoining modern swimming pool.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed/corn crib was built about 1890-1900 east of the house and domestic outbuildings. It has vertical siding on the south elevation with horizontal vented boards on the crib sides. The original drive passage on the south is boarded and a partially open-sided shed addition on the west elevation is used as a tractor shed. The north elevation of the wagon shed is covered with tongue-and-groove siding and the roof is corrugated metal. On the east side of the wagon shed is a modern residential addition.

Bank barn: The frame bank barn has a stone foundation which may have supported an earlier structure, but the current structure appears to have been built about 1900-1910. Tongue-and-groove siding covers the exterior and sliding doors are on the west side. A non-contributing concrete silo stands near the ramp on the west elevation.

Chicken house: The frame chicken house was built in the first quarter of the 20th century. It has vertical siding and a corrugated metal roof. On the west elevation, the building has a 3/3 window and a second single pane opening.

Gravestone: A grave stone which was salvaged from a family graveyard near the house is located near a fence behind the house. It is inscribed to Laura Johnson, apparently an infant, the daughter of Richard and Julianna Johnson. The Johnsons had three children who survived to adulthood. Other gravestones from the cemetery were removed from the property in the mid-20th century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Heritage Hills

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

East Side of Dixon Road, North of Dr. Perry Road 6th E.D. 7

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF Urbana

Frederick

STATE

COUNTY

Map 105 - Parcel 30

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. Gerald Schipper

Home: 253-8777

Telephone #: 665-5885

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 369

Md. 21701

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: 703

Folio #: 405

STREET & NUMBER

North Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Md.

21701

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

F-7-16

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**  
 UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**  
 ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED    DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Heritage Hills is a large Federal style two and a half story stone house built in two parts which faces southwest from the east side of Dixon Road. Built with a random stone foundation, the main block on the north end is three bays wide with a three light transom door located in the first bay. The gabled roof has two brick chimneys at each end. A boxed cornice with decorative brackets and a plain frieze supports a slate roof. A two story addition to the south side is four bays wide; a three light transom door is located in the second bay. A two storied galleried porch extends from the west side. The asphalt roof with a plain cornice has a brick chimney on the south end. A one story modern addition is located to the west side.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1780

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Roger Johnson

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Heritage Hills is important to the Urbana area as one of the remaining houses built by the Johnson brothers when the Johnson Furnace was in operation in the 1780's.

Heritage Hills built with poplar rafters and oak floors was constructed by Major Roger Johnson, the youngest brother of Governor Thomas Johnson, for his son Richard.<sup>1</sup> The eighteen inch walls support a slate roof bedded in a clay mixture. The house is believed to have been gutted by fire when the Johnsons resided there; the rear wall had to be reinforced and the interior remodeled. It is located on "Resurvey on Plummer's Delight", and was named Heritage Hills by the current owners. A graveyard was located to the rear of the house but all of the grave stones have been removed. An inventory of the house in 1835 includes such items as five featherbeds, two dining tables and one tea table.<sup>2</sup>

Heritage Hills is one of the four Johnson residences remaining in the area. Further research is being done on the Johnson family and furnace complex by the Sugarloaf Regional Trails and more information will be forthcoming.

1 Frederick County Land Records Liber JS 48 Folio 135

2 Ibid.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Frederick News-Post, unknown date

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Cherilyn Widell

9/5/77

ORGANIZATION

Frederick County Historical Preservation

DATE

1-301-663-8300 Ext. 266

STREET &amp; NUMBER

12 East Church Street, Winchester Hall

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland 21701

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

OF-7-16

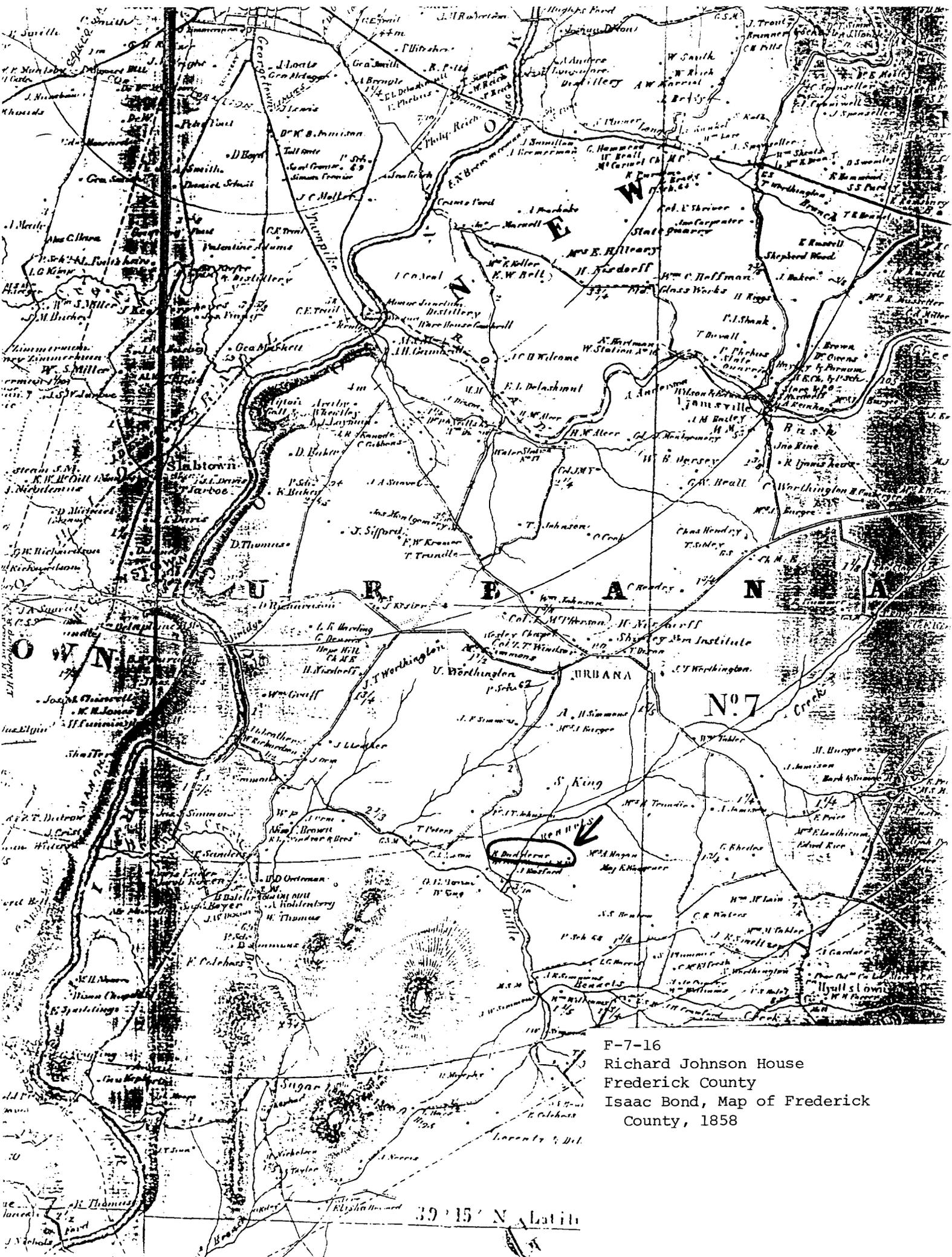
Bennett

Little

Bennett

FREDERICK CO  
MONTGOMERY

F-27-16

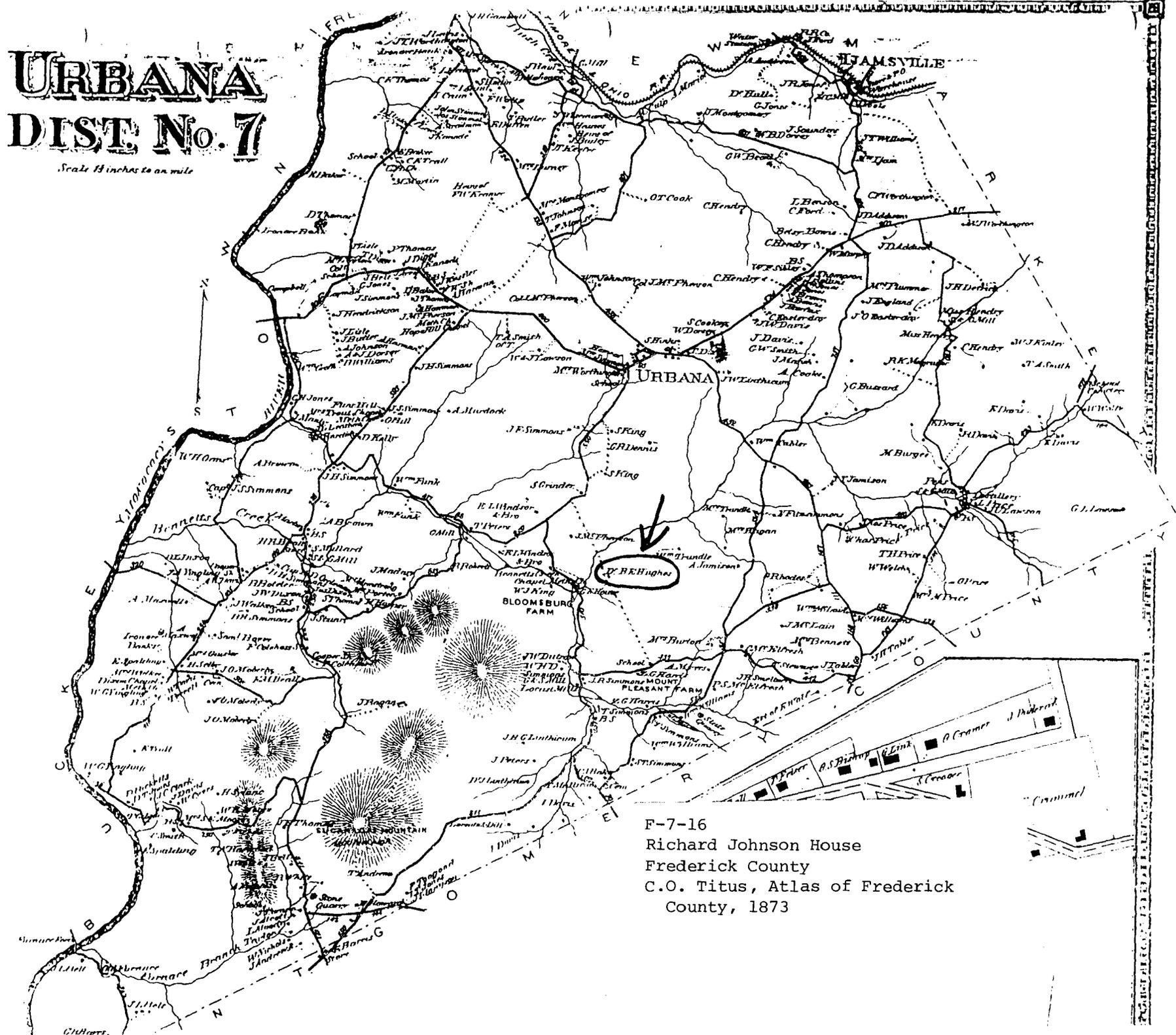


F-7-16  
 Richard Johnson House  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick  
 County, 1858

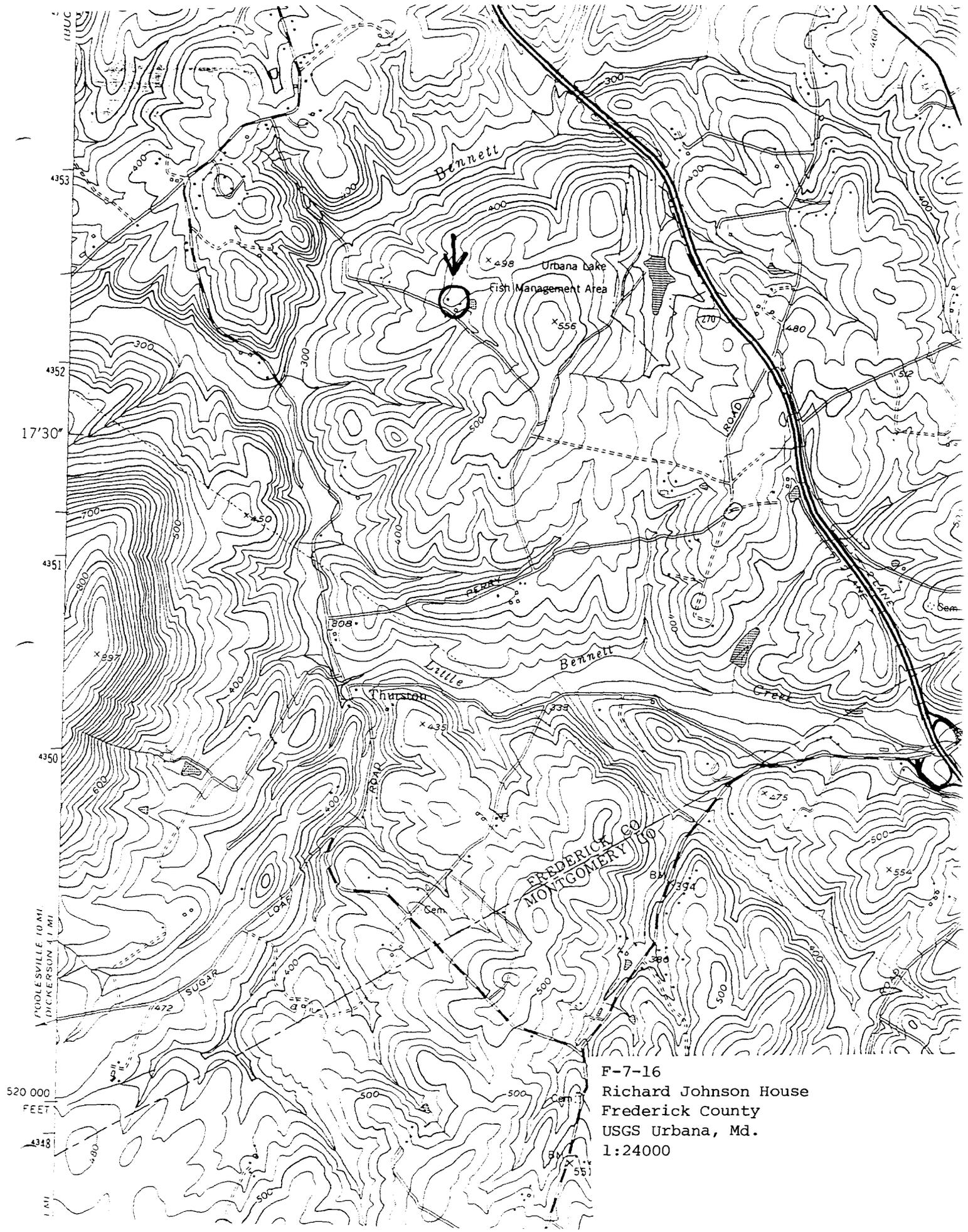
39° 15' N. Latitud

# URBANA DIST No. 7

Scale 1/2 inches to an mile



F-7-16  
Richard Johnson House  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
County, 1873



F-7-16  
Richard Johnson House  
Frederick County  
USGS Urbana, Md.  
1:24000



























Schipper Place (Heritage Hills)

F-7-16

East side of Dixon Road

West view





Schipper Place (Heritage Hills)

F-7-16

East side of Dixon Road

East view

