

F-7-104

David O. Thomas Farmstead  
Urbana vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1850; Ca. 1892-1920

The David O. Thomas Farmstead is centered on a two-story frame dwelling built about 1850 in a vernacular style which incorporates exterior details of the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles with a German building form characterized by an L-shaped plan. The house has among its outbuildings a frame and stone bank barn and a wagon shed/corn crib of about 1892, a deteriorated log slave quarter of about 1850, and a rusticated concrete block milk house of about 1920. The house has German siding, but it was being covered with vinyl siding at the time of survey. The five-bay main elevation has segmental arched, 2/2 windows and a doorway with a three-light transom. Louvred shutters flank the windows. The central cross gable and the end gables have a scroll-sawn and turned ornament at the peaks. The roof is patterned slate and two central chimneys rise above the ridge. The rear wing has an integral two-story porch with a scroll-sawn balustrade on the upper level. The significance of the farmstead is based on the architecture of the main dwelling, in which the exterior form and details are generally intact, showing the incorporation of elements from many historical sources which was common in the second half of the 19th century. David Otho Thomas (1814-1877) built the house and farmed until 1865, then retired to the general merchandise business in Buckeystown. His heirs sold the farm to Charles E. Trail (1825-1909), the owner of several large farms in the region in the early 20th century. His descendant still owns the property.

F-7-104

David O. Thomas Farmstead

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:

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 Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/barn

Agriculture/Subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic David O. Thomas Farmstead

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 3726 Baker Valley Road  not for publication

city, town Urbana  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 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 Theresa Trail Mathias

street & number 103 Council Street telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code MD 21701-5412

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 436

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 182

city, town Frederick state MD 21701-5412

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. F-7-104

<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: 5

The David O. Thomas Farmstead is centered on a circa 1850-1860 frame dwelling with Italianate and Gothic Revival details and its associated agricultural outbuildings including a frame and stone bank barn of about 1892, a wagon shed/corn crib of about the same date, a rusticated concrete block milk house of about 1920, and a deteriorated log dwelling which appears to have been a slave quarter dating from about 1850. The farmstead is located on open agricultural land on the west side of Baker Valley Road near the intersection of Fingerboard Road (Md. 80) about three miles west of Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland. The principal elevation of the house faces east and the agricultural buildings, which also include a non-contributing concrete block dairy barn and silo, a non-contributing concrete block meat house, and a non-contributing equipment shed, are located south of the house. The log quarter is located across an field to the north and is visible in a small grove of trees. The dates of the buildings are based on architectural details, land records, historical maps, and a biographical sketch in the 1910 History of Frederick County.

The dwelling is a two-story building with a five-bay main section facing east and a two-story rear wing extending to the west from the northwest corner of the main section. The wing has an integral two-story open porch on the south side. The exterior of the house has german siding in place, but, as of the survey date, vinyl siding was being installed over the wood siding. The east elevation has a central cross gable with a Gothic arched gable window with tracery muntins. A bargeboard gable ornament with turned and scroll-sawn elements decorates the cross gable. The window and door openings of the main section have segmental arches. The windows have 2/2 sash with louvred shutters. The shutters on the east elevation were temporarily removed for the vinyl installation, but will be re-installed. The doorway has a three-light transom and probably sidelights as well, but the door and sidelights were covered by protective material while the siding work was in progress and the configuration is not known. Other doorways of the same period and building type have been observed with arched molding panels on the door and paneled bases below the narrow sidelights. The foundation is field stone and the roof is patterned slate. Two chimneys rise near the center of the main section roof. The north and south elevations each have two bays with two round-arched attic windows. Gable ornaments in each match that of the east elevation. The rear wing has four irregularly spaced bays on each level of the open porch on the south side. The windows in the wing have flat arches with 2/2 sash. The doorways have two-light transoms. The upper level has a scroll-sawn balustrade. At the west end of the porch is an enclosed section with narrow 1/1 windows on each story facing south. The wing has two brick chimneys, one near the center point and a second at the interior west end wall. An exterior concrete block chimney is next to the original brick stack. The interior of the house was inaccessible for this survey.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed/corn crib appears to have been built about 1892, the date that the farm was purchased by Charles E. Trail. The exterior is covered with vertical tongue-and-groove siding and the roof is corrugated meta.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-104

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. 1850-1860; C. 1892-1920  
**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 David O. Thomas Farmstead is primarily significant for the vernacular architecture of the main dwelling, a composite of Italianate, Queen Anne, and Gothic Revival details on a basic L-shaped plan common to German buildings of the late 18th and 19th century throughout Frederick County. The house was probably built about 1850 by David Otho Thomas (1814-1877). He purchased three tracts of land from other Thomas family members from 1847 to 1849 totaling about 195 acres when his heirs sold the farm in 1892. The segmental arches of the house and its narrow vertically dominant window openings are typical of Italianate vernacular buildings, while the Gothic arched gable window is a single hint of the Gothic Revival style, details of which found their way into late 19th century historical revival styles, including the Queen Anne. The gable ornamentation is more typical of the Queen Anne style of the late 19th century, but could have been part of the original eclectic design. Thomas was a successful farmer, but in 1865, according to the 1910 History of Frederick County, he retired from farming and entered the general store business with a partner named Dutrow in Buckeystown. Thomas' heirs continued to farm the property, possibly with a tenant at the farmstead, until 1892, when Charles E. Trail (1825-1909) purchased the farm. Trail was also the owner of Riverside (F-7-43), south of the D. O. Thomas Farmstead, and several other farms in the Urbana vicinity. The bank barn and the wagon shed were probably built shortly after the Trail purchase. The property remains in the ownership of a Trail descendant.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-7-104

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.

Land Records of Frederick County.

Thomas, George Lercister. Genealogy of Thomas Family. Privately published, 1951-1954, P. 339.

(Continued on separate sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acresQuadrangle name Buckeystown, Md.-Va.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting		Northing				

B 

Zone	Easting		Northing				

C 

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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 5 acres centered on the dwelling on Tax Map 95, Parcel 90.

### 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 Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date January 1994street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city 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  
D-401/03-11  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

PS-2746

7.1 Description (Continued)

Arched louvred vents are in the gable ends. The north and south sides of the cribs have horizontal vented siding.

Bank barn: The bank barn has a stone foundation and a tongue-and-groove exterior on the upper frame structure. The arched louvred vents are identical to those in the wagon shed/corn crib, as is the siding, indicating that they were built at about the same time. The roof of the barn is corrugated metal. The north end of the stalls on the east side has been enclosed by concrete block for a milking parlor, with metal 4-light windows and a single door on the east. The remainder of the stall level has a louvred enclosure above horizontal boards. The concrete block enclosure probably took place about 1920.

Milk house: The rusticated concrete block milk house is located just north of the barn and nearest the enclosed corner of the stalls. It was probably built at about the same time, 1920, and the non-contributing dairy barn north of the milk house was built possibly in the late 1940's or early 1950's. The milk house has lighter colored quoin blocks and weatherboard gables. The roof is corrugated metal and the windows are 3/3 and 6/6. The doors are tongue-and-groove.

Log slave quarter: The log building north of the main farmstead group is in very deteriorated condition, but its 1-1/2 story height, two-room plan and evidence of plaster over lath interior walls shows that it was a dwelling. Some sections of the west and north walls are covered on the exterior with vertical siding. Brick debris near the east end of the building indicates that an exterior chimney once was in place, but has collapsed. The partially collapsed roof was probably wood shingles covered with corrugated metal. The south elevation has three bays with a doorway in the eastern bay. The windows and doors are missing. A single window opening is in the upper level. Its simple plan and distance from the main dwelling indicate that it was a slave quarter, probably built about 1850.

David O. Thomas Farmstead  
Frederick County

Survey No. F-7-104

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873

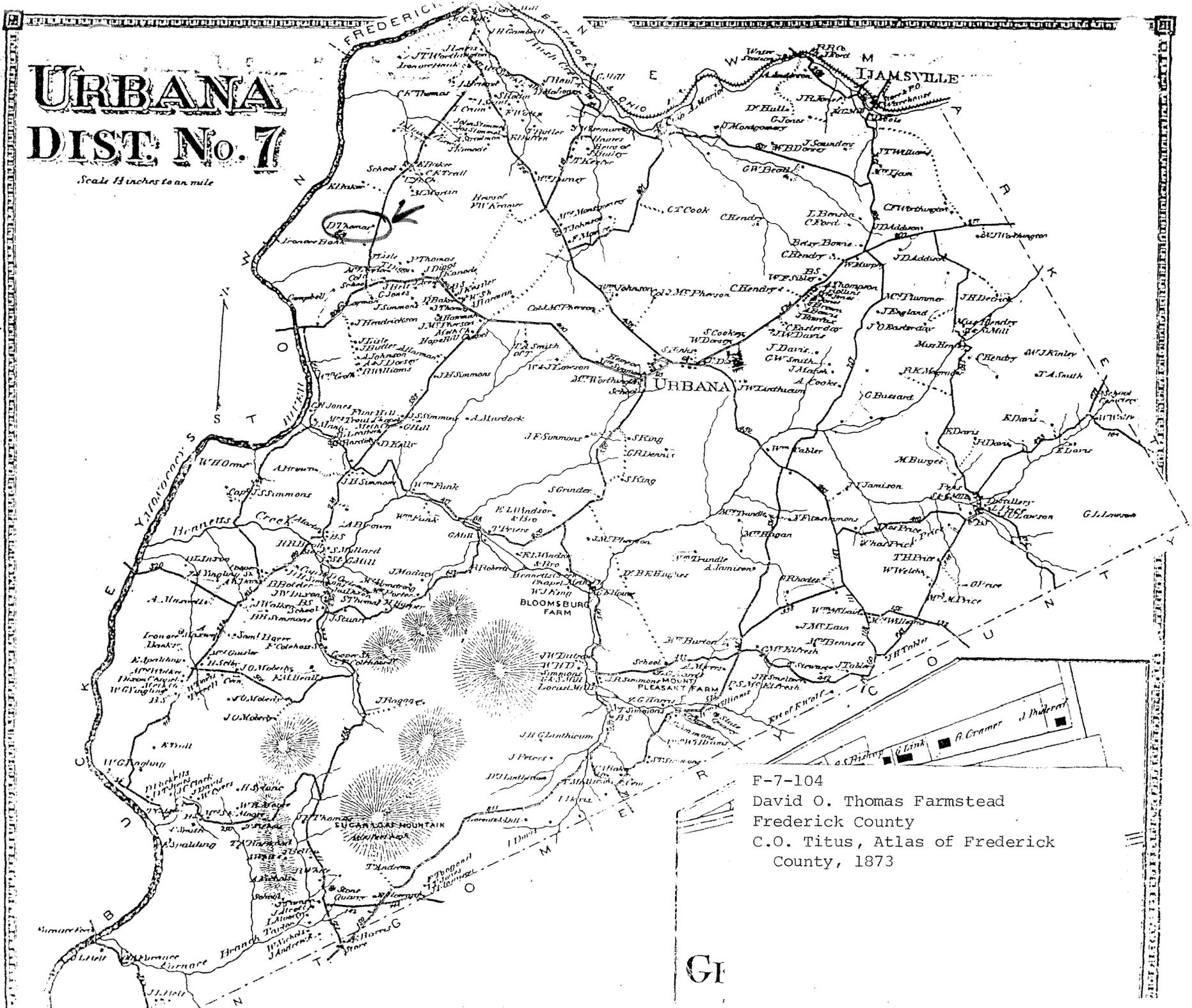
Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910.  
Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, p. 1364.

# 726 Baker Valley

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
436/182 21 Oct 42	Florence Trail Davidson, Thersa Trail Mathias et al, trustees	Charles Bayard Trail	"South Hermitage" farm <sup>ES 1/530</sup> 341 a. <sub>14 Dec 1852</sub> under will of Geo W. Trail (died 21 Sept 41)	
286/518 13 May 09	Charles B. Trail (died 8 Dec 44)	Henry Trail, et al	"South Hermitage" 425 a. less river road <del>425 a.</del> 385 a. except the northeast fields on west side of the Pike adjoining the North Hermitage Farm now tenanted by George Altman, containing 84 a.	\$25,800
ES 1/530 14 Dec 1852	Charles E. & Ariana Trail	Jacob M. & Anna Mary Kunkel	partition of lands held in common by both grantors & grantees as result of Equity 2141, property of John Hill McElfish, dec.	
			WBT 2/168 Equity Record Ariana Trail to receive "The Southern Part of the Hermitage" Part of "The Hermitage Resurvey on the Hermitage", "Araby", "Dry Work" 426 a., 1 R., 1 p.	
			JLJ 1/547 13 May 1892	
* JLJ 1/547 14 Apr 1892	Charles E. Trail	J. Granville & Frances W. Thomas J. Fenlon & Adelaide S. Thomas	farm called "Locust Grove" acquired by several deeds 195 a. R., 21 1/2 p.	\$8,543.90
1) WBT 6/166 20 May 1847	David Thomas	heirs of George Thomas		
2) WBT 10/270 2 June 1849	David Thomas	heirs of George Thomas		
3) WBT 7/537 7 Sept 1848	David Thomas	Eli Thomas et ux		

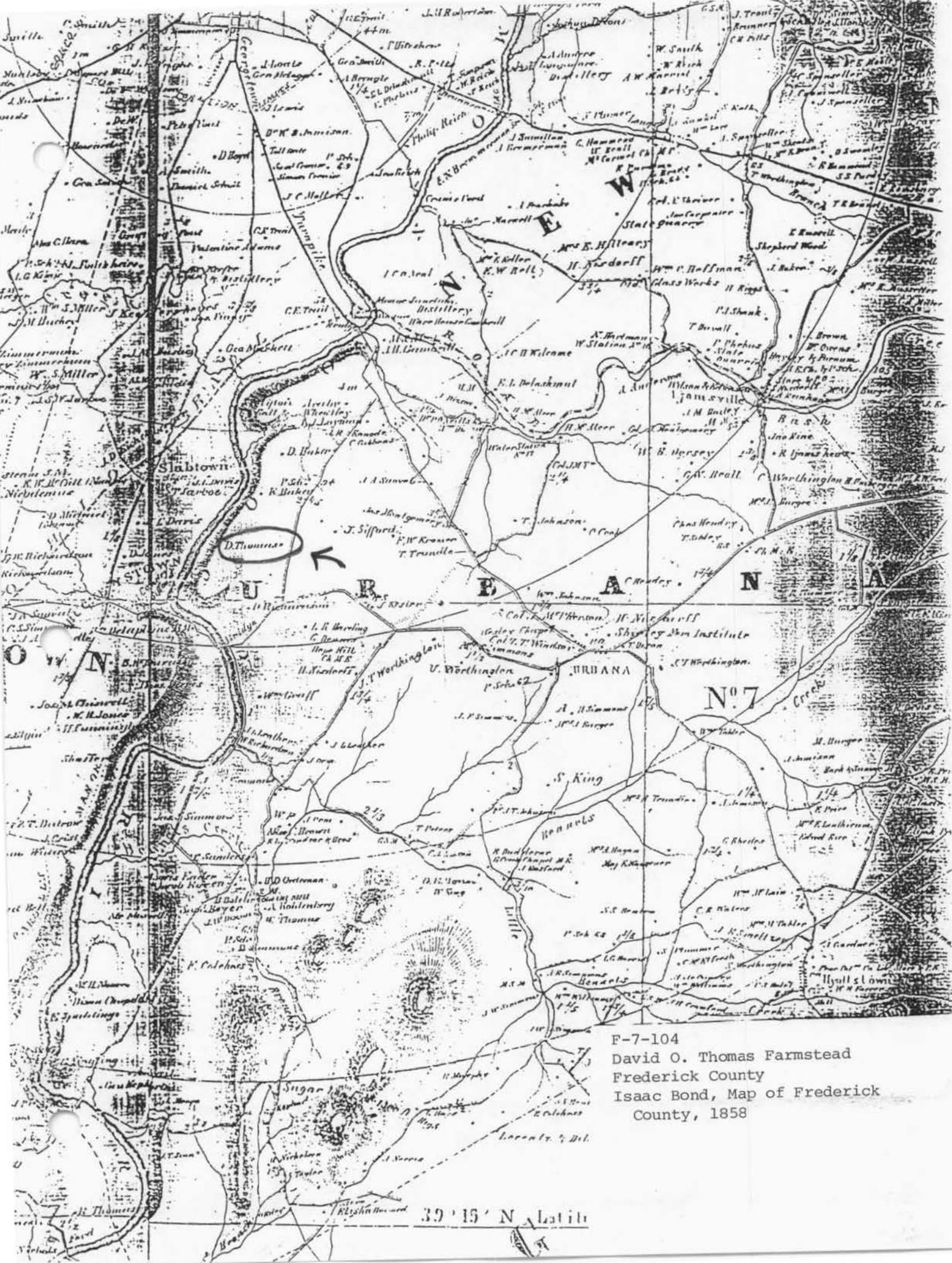
# URBANA DIST. No. 7

Scale 1/4 inches to an mile



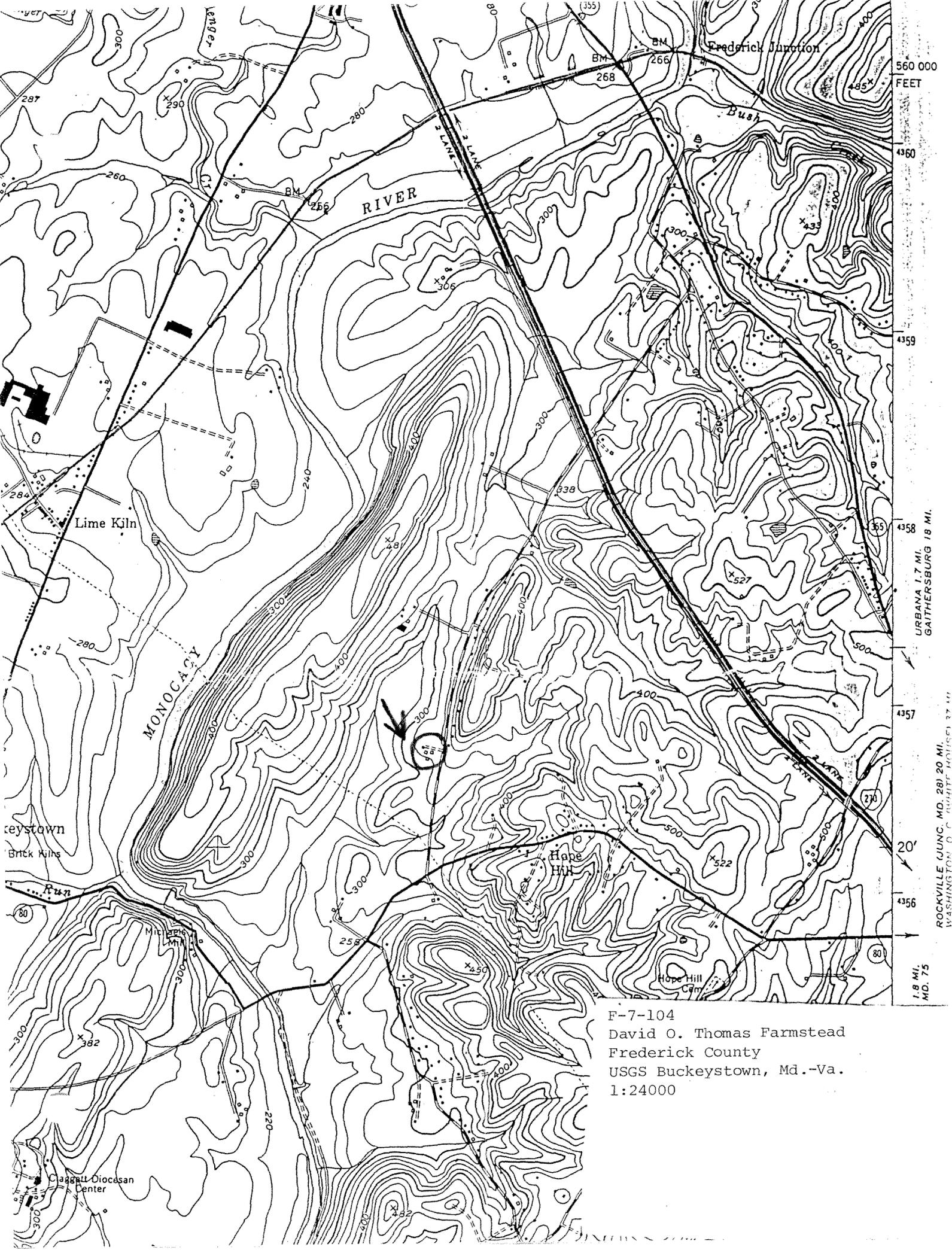
F-7-104  
David O. Thomas Farmstead  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
County, 1873

GE



F-7-104  
 David O. Thomas Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick  
 County, 1858

39° 15' N Latitud



F-7-104  
David O. Thomas Farmstead  
Frederick County  
USGS Buckeystown, Md.-Va.  
1:24000

560 000  
FEET  
4360  
4359  
4358  
4357  
4356  
URBANA 1.7 MI.  
GAITHERSBURG 1.8 MI.  
ROCKVILLE (JUNC. MD. 28) 2.0 MI.  
WASHINGTON (C. WHITE HOUSE) 3.7 MI.  
1.8 MI.  
MD. 75



F-7-104

David O. Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

December 1983

Near loc. 170 d. State Crownsville Rd

East elevation

1/5



T-1-104

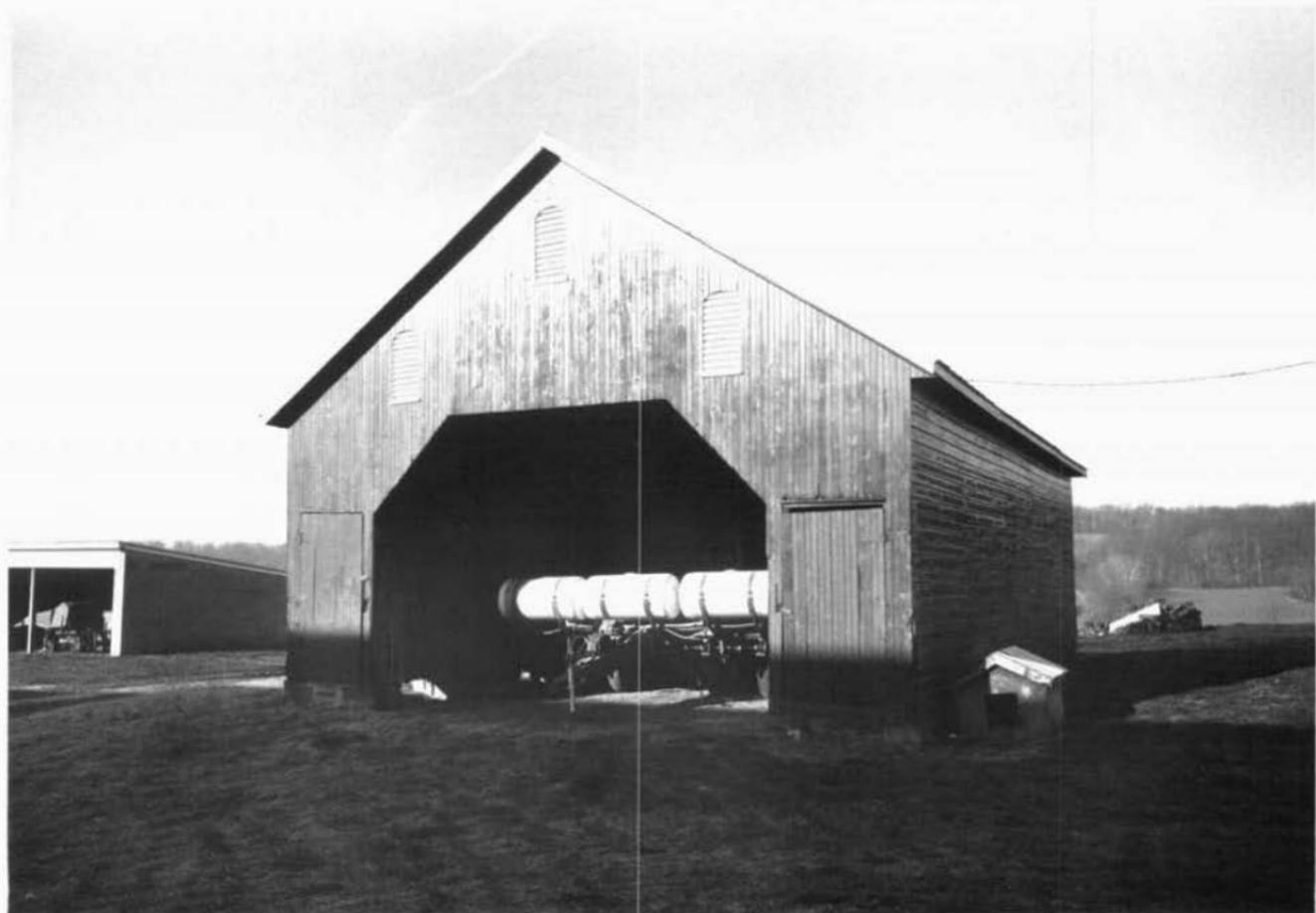
David O. Thomas Farmstead  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Dove

December 1972

Nea. loc.: Mid. SHPO, Crooksville, MD  
South elevation

2/5



F 7-104

David C. Thomers Farmstead

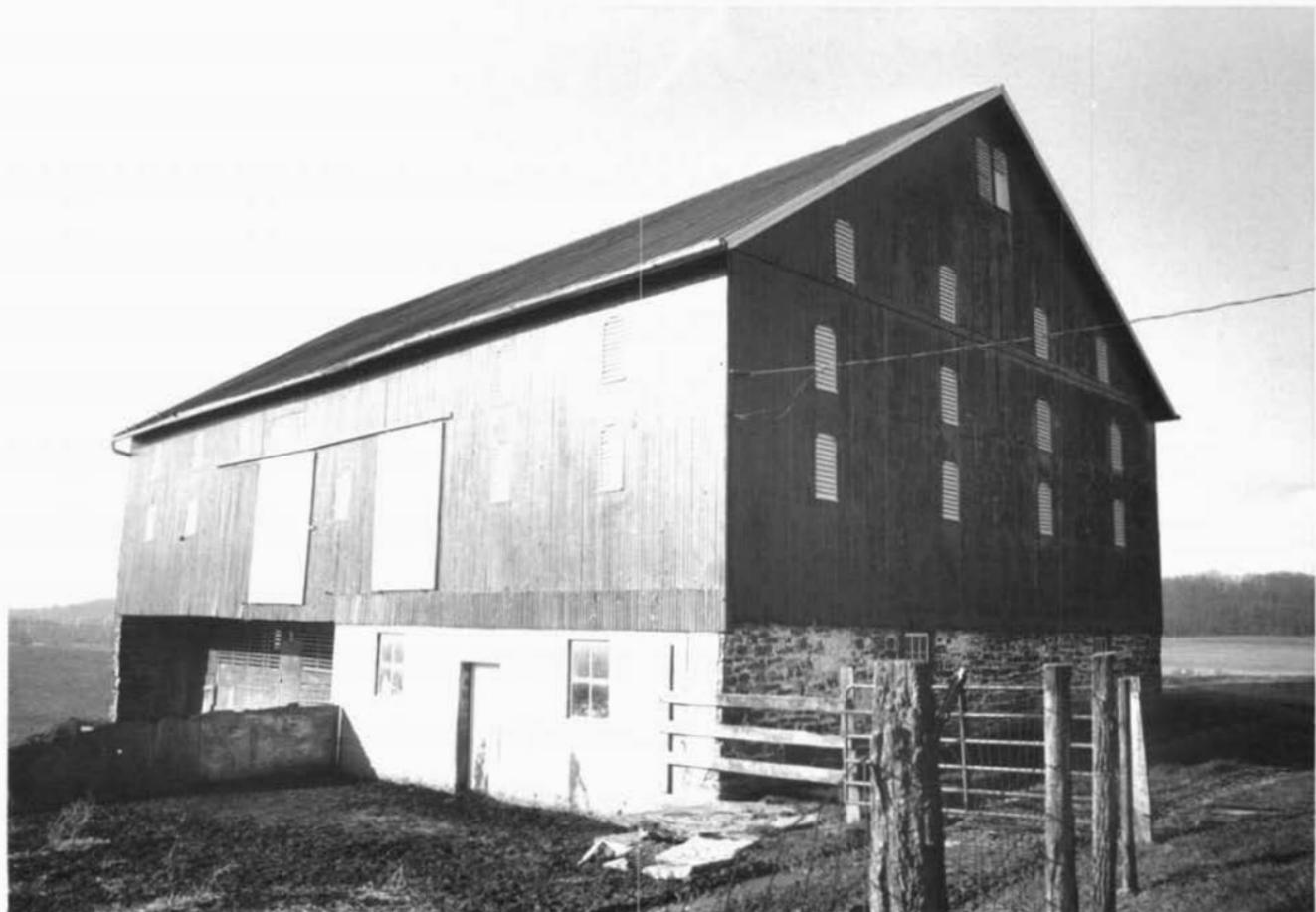
Frederick County

Note: Janet Durr

December 1972

Neg. loc. 1101. 3440. Crownsville, Md.  
Wagon shed / corn crib, east elevation.

2/5



F. 1-104

David O. Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

December 1985

Neg. loc. Md. SHPO-Circleville Rd

Bank barn, northeast corner view

4/5



