

F-7-15

Levi Price House and Distillery Site
Urbana vicinity
Private

Ca. 1808; 1882-1925

The Levi Price House is a two-story log and frame dwelling composed of two sections, the earliest built about 1808 which forms the center section of the present house, flanked by two gable-fronted sections built in 1882. The center hall of the house is decorated by extensive Renaissance Revival style frescoes painted by J. Winter of Frederick in 1882, the artist leaving his name and the date under the main staircase. The 1882 wings had jib windows opening on the wide veranda on the main elevation; the window bases were covered by vinyl siding in the 1980's. Associated with the house is a two-story stone water supply building with an extended gable roof. It held a water tank on the top level which supplied water to the house and was filled by a hydraulic ram system. A frame meathouse and a garage are also located near the house. A log tenant house built about 1840-1850 has an exposed stone foundation and a modern entry porch to the center bay entrance. The two-story house has a rear wing with a stone chimney base on the end. A frame bank barn and an extensively altered cow barn, with an addition which was originally an early 20th century trolley shelter in Chevy Chase, Maryland, are located on the opposite side of Price's Distillery Road. The distillery site on Bennett Creek was originally the location of a saw and grist mill owned by John Cook in 1808 and in about 1870 was converted to a distillery by Elijah Price. His son Levi (1831-1909) brought the distillery to its greatest success. Shortly after its purchase by Gabriel U. Lawson, the Prohibition era began and the distillery was forced to close down. Its dismantling took place over several years from the early 1930's to the 1950's. The complex is moderately significant for the architecture of the main dwelling and its interior decorative features and for the untested potential archeological information about the 19th century milling and distilling industry which may exist in sub-surface remains.

F-7-15

Levi Price House and Distillery Site

Urbana

Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Crecderick, 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
Economic (Industrial)

Resource Types:

Category: Building and Site

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Domestic/secondary structure/garage

Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse

Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies

Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn

Industry/Processing/Extraction/manufacturing facility/mill

Known Design Source: None; Interior fresco paintings in principal
dwellings signed by J. Winter, Frederick, 1882

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Levi Price House and Distillery Site

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2729 Price's Distillery Road not for publicationcity, 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 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 | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <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 Alfred W. and Jane M. Knowles

street & number 2729 Price's Distillery Road telephone no.:

city, town Clarksburg state and zip code MD 20734

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 770

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio

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-7-15

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | date of move _____ |

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 6

The Levi Price House and Distillery Site is centered on a two-story frame and log dwelling erected in two periods, the first about 1808 and the second in 1882, its associated outbuildings dating from the late 19th and early 20th century including a stone water supply building, a frame meathouse, a frame garage, and a log and frame tenant house built about 1840-1850, a frame and stone bank barn of about 1875, and a considerably altered and enlarged 1920's cow barn. The distillery site has no remaining above-ground structures and its archeological potential has not been tested; however, it was the site of a circa 1808 saw and grist mill which became a distillery in about 1870 and was demolished in the early 1930's. The property is located on the north and south sides of Price's Distillery Road east of its intersection with Green Valley Road (Md. 75) near Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland. The property is about one mile from the Frederick-Montgomery County boundary and is geographically nearer to Hyattstown, Montgomery County, than to Urbana. The principal dwelling and the tenant house are located on the north side of Price's Distillery Road and the distillery site and the two barns are on the south side. The dwellings face south. Dates of the structures are based on architectural evidence, a dated interior inscription in the main dwelling, personal interviews, historical maps, and land records.

The relationships between the buildings in the complex are shown in the attached site plan, based on a sketch provided by Mr. Marion Lawson.

Levi Price House: The dwelling's principal elevation faces southwest toward Bennett Creek and the site of the distillery. The oldest section, believed to be a log house built about 1808, is the two-story section located in the center of the facade between two gable-front additions built in 1882. The date of the center section is based on the 1808 Varle map on which the earliest mill on the site, Cook's Mill, is shown. A miller's house was presumably extant at that time. The three-bay center section has a side hall entrance and 2/2 windows which probably replaced the original sash in the 1880's. The exterior of the house is covered with vinyl siding over german siding. The windows are flanked by modern replacement shutters. The doorway has a transom and sidelights and the door has arched molded panels. The 1882 gable sections have two bays in each, with 2/2 sash as in the center section. The cornice is bracketed and a pointed arch gable window is in each section. The roof is corrugated metal. A one-story porch with Tuscan columns extends across the entire facade and over the south elevation as well. The columns on the south elevation are modern fluted metal. The vinyl siding conceals the paneled bases of jib windows in the two bays of each of the 1882 sections on the west elevation. The north and south elevations each have cross gables and the north elevation has a one-story projecting, polygonal bay. The south elevation has a side entrance to the house and a third entrance to the kitchen occupying the east end of the section. The east elevation of the house reveals a U-shaped plan, with the older center section recessed between the two 1882 wings. A two-story extension was added to the center section, probably during the 1880's work.

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-15

| 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates C. 1808; 1882-1925 **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 Levi Price House and Distillery Site is moderately significant in architecture for the design and interior features of the main dwelling house, a composite of an early 19th century log structure with 1882 wings featuring a highly decorative frescoed center hall painted by a local artist, J. Winter. The complex is also moderately significant in industry as the site of an early 19th century grist and saw mill converted to a liquor distillery in about 1870 by Elijah Price. Under the ownership of his son Levi Price (1837-1909), the distillery was highly successful in the late 19th and early 20th century, reflected in the additions and decoration of the dwelling. After Price's death, the distillery was purchased by the Lichtenstein Distilling Company of Cumberland, Maryland, and then by Gabriel U. Lawson, but it was shut down by the Volstead Act and the subsequent years of the Prohibition period. The distillery buildings were slowly dismantled over the years from about 1933 to the 1950's, with its materials being used in several buildings in the Urbana vicinity.

The archeological potential of the distillery site has not been tested and the dismantling of the buildings, down to the dispersal of the foundation stones, may have damaged its integrity. However, sub-surface evidence and surrounding artifact scatters dating from the early 19th century saw and grist mill may be intact, as well as historical photographic documentation of the distillery established in the early 1870's, which has not been researched in this survey.

7.1 Description (Continued)

The interior of the house has been considerably altered in wall finish and the floors are mostly carpeted, except in the center stair hall. The walls of the stair hall are completely covered with painted frescoes in the Renaissance Revival style, the work of J. Winter of Frederick, who left his name, residence, and date under the staircase. The frescoed walls originally were in every room of the house, according to Mrs. Knowles, the current owner, and Mr. Marion Lawson, a resident of the house in the 1920's and 1930's. All except the work in the stair hall has been painted or covered with wallpaper. The center log section has a fireplace opening flanked by an arched cupboard with a carved keystone detail. The mantelpiece is not original to the house, but is in the Georgian style. Mrs. Knowles said that an iron fireback dated in the late 1770's was in the fireplace opening prior to the renovation of the house in the late 1960's. In the north gable section, now the living room, is a carved and grained slate mantel of the 1880's. The south gable section is the dining room. The kitchen occupies the rear part of the south gable section, with a secondary staircase just inside the south entrance door.

Water supply building: The two-story stone structure just east of the southeast corner of the dwelling was built in the late 19th century to house the water supply to the house. It was brought to the building by a hydraulic ram in terra cotta pipes and stored in a tank under the gable roof which extends over the south elevation. The roof projection is supported by brackets from the walls and the face of the gable is covered with german siding. The upper story of the building has 2/2 windows in each elevation and a vertical board door in the south elevation. The present wood stairway replaces a larger stair with railings which was removed due to deterioration. The lower level door is just below the staircase and opens to reveal a dug-out cellar originally concealed below the floor, removed because of deterioration. According to Mr. Lawson, the cellar was used for cool storage of foods and the first story of the building was a wash house. The upper level was a general purpose domestic work room. The hydraulic ram and the water equipment were referred to in 1910 and 1953 deeds to the property.

Meathouse: The frame meathouse has vertical board siding on all but the west elevation, which has weatherboards and a projecting gable roof. The roof is corrugated metal. The door is battened vertical boards. It appears to date from the last quarter of the 19th century.

Garage: The frame garage was moved to its present location from the Cockey-Lawson House property (F-7-70) east of the Price House on Price's Distillery Road in the 1920's. It has vertical board siding with double, cross-braced swing doors on the west elevation. A later open-sided shed extension for equipment storage was added in the 1930's.

Tenant house, 2729A: The two-story frame tenant house is located northwest of the Price House at the northeast corner of the road intersection. It probably has log structure and is on a raised stone foundation with weatherboard siding over the upper structure. The west elevation has three bays with a center entrance reached by a modern entry porch. The windows are 6/6 with replacement

7.2 Description (Continued)

shutters. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. A one-story rear wing on the east elevation has the base of an exterior stone chimney still in place, indicating that the wing is probably original to the structure. The date of the tenant house is probably about 1840-1850, but further research on the history of the distillery complex and examination of the interior may place the date in the first quarter of the 19th century.

Bank barn: The small frame bank barn is located on the south side of the road southeast of the Price House. It has weathered vertical siding and a corrugated metal roof. The stall level on the west elevation was altered in the 1970's by the addition of half-timber and brick infill. A shed addition on the southeast gable end was probably built in the 1930's or 1940's. Two vertical board doors are located near the north end of the lower level, one with cross bracing. A door with strap hinges is at the south end of the west elevation. The barn was probably built in the last quarter of the 19th century.

Cow barn and extension: The highly decorated frame structure located near the southwest corner of the bank barn was built about 1923 as a cow barn, with board and batten siding and a gable roof. The southeast gable end originally contained doors opening into the barnyard and a feed aisle door was near the northwest corner. In the late 1960's and early 1970's, the cow barn was extensively altered for use as a dwelling and architectural features such as half-timbers and brick infill, leaded windows, a Colonial Revival door surround, an exterior brick chimney, and a cupola were added. In the late 1970's or early 1980's, an early 20th century brick trolley shelter originally located in Chevy Chase, Maryland, was disassembled and rebuilt adjoining the west side of the cow barn.

Levi Price House & Distillery Site
Frederick County

Survey No. F-7-15

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Lawson, Mr. Marion. Personal interview, Dec. 2, 1993

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

272 Prices Distillery Rd.

F-7-15

Lot Size, Description,
Original Tracts,
Miscellaneous

Liber/Folio

Grantee

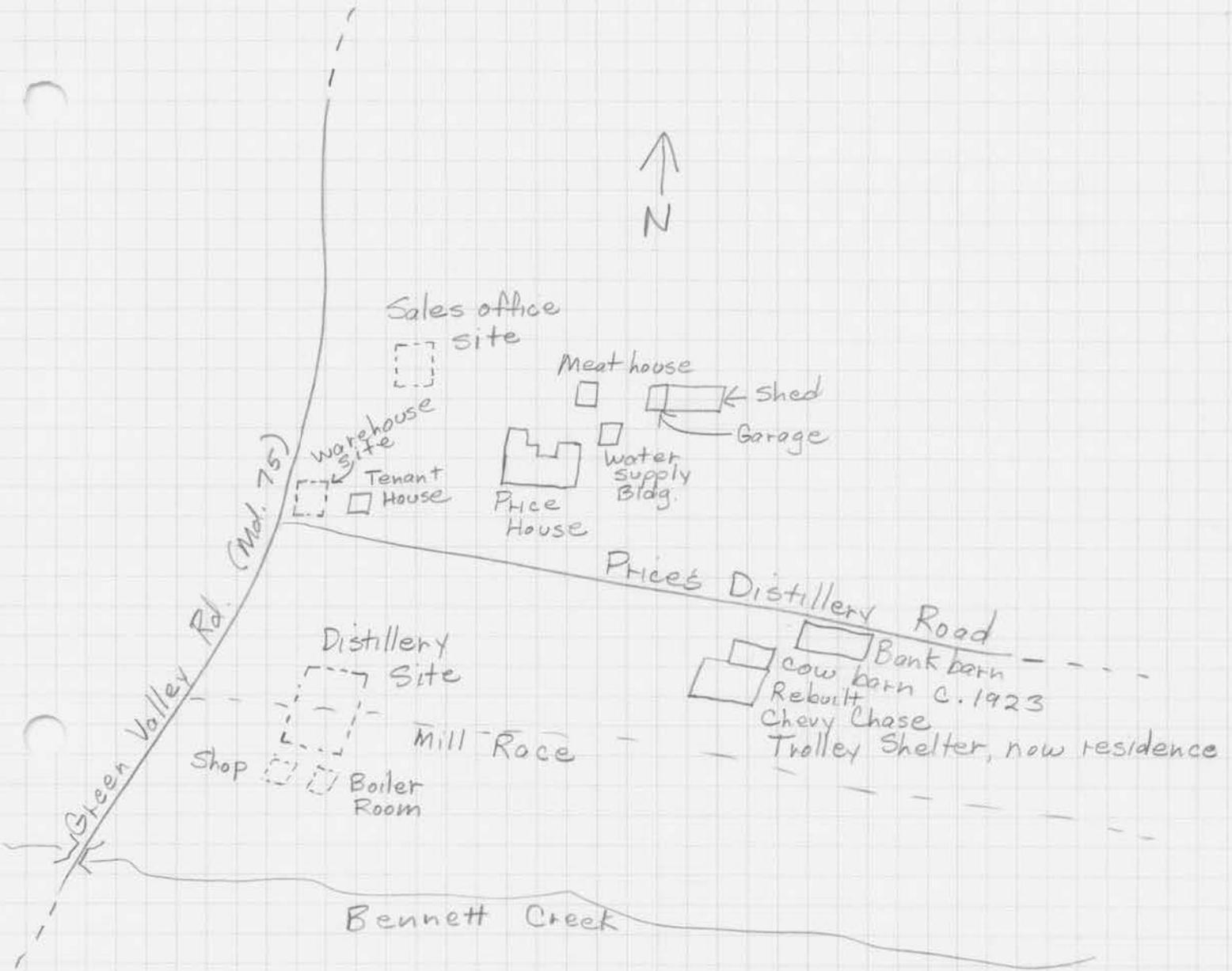
Grantor

Cost

| Liber/Folio | Grantee | Grantor | Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous | Cost |
|----------------------|--|---|---|-------------|
| 770/598 10 Aug 67 | Alfred W. & Jane M. Knowles | Property Redevelopment Corp. | 18.227A. 581/196 | |
| 766/601 6 June 67 | Property Re- development Corp | Orr E. & Maxine Ott Reynolds | 66.37A. | |
| 581/196 13 Apr 57 | Orr E. Reynolds et ux | Philip H. & Winifred H. Chadborn | 66.37A. | |
| 520/68 9 Apr 53 | Philip H. Chadborn et ux | Charles L. & Mary Fenuick | 66.37A. 35.53A. west of state road 30.84A. east of state road Together with the small frame house and the large frame house, including the water equipment appurtenant thereto, garage, smokehouse and other outbuildings... and also together with all the furniture new in both houses.... | |
| 501/69 8 Sept 51 | Charles L. Fenuick et ux | Harry P. Williams et al | 66.37A. | \$23,300 |
| 446/283 28 Feb 45 | Harry P. & Elizabeth B. Williams | Stella M. Lawson, widow of Gabriel M. Lawson | 281.4A. part of the 298 1/2A. farm conveyed to Gabriel M. Lawson 362/315 329/323 | |
| 454/344 6 Sept 45 | Harry P. Williams et ux | Horace Spence et al | 92 A., 16 sq. p. located at Prices Distillery adjoining lands of grantee, see 446/282 | |
| 362/315 4 May 27 | Gabriel M. & Stella Lawson | H. Kieffer DeLaunier et al, trustees in Equity 11,114 | 298 1/2 A., adjoining tract of land known as Prices Distillery (see Cockey Lawson House F-7-70) | \$18,805.50 |

F-7-15

| Liber/Folio | Grantee | Grantor | Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous | Cost |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|-------|
| 329/323 19 Dec 19 | Gabriel M. Lawson | Lichtenstein Distilling Co. | P. 1: 39 a. 21 sq. p., part of the 42 a. tract indicated lot 1 in deed to Lem Price CM 6/665 | \$750 |
| | | | P. 2: 24 a. 1 R., 20 sq p. known as the Water Right property, part of 33 a. tract known as part of the "Miller's Grove" surveyed by Thos. Browning Nov. 6, 1868 Lot No. 3 in CM 6/665 | |
| HWB 297/425 HWB 306/456 24 Nov 13 | Lichtenstein Distilling Co. | Sarah and Elsa Lichtenstein Allegheny Co. | | |
| HWB 292/425 18 Mar 10 | Lichtenstein Distilling Co. | Reuben Lichtenstein et al | | |
| HWB 290/402 23 Feb 10 | Reuben Lichtenstein et al | Ernest F. Price, et al exr. of LW & | Improved by a frame distillery house, machinery and appliances with a capacity of about 2 barrels of whiskey, leg a gall and T of Lem Price, dec. | |
| CM 6/665 6 Jan 1869 | Eli Price | Sarah Ann Price | <p># 2,076.25</p> <p>Lot #1: part of "Grommet Prospect" later surveyed called "Rasberry Plains" 42 a.</p> <p>Lot #2: "part of WR 31/124 "The Principal" Survey Revised "Wild Cat Spring" 2 1/2 a.</p> <p>Lot #3: part of "Miller's Grove" 10 3/4 a.</p> <p>holding capacity of about 1000 barrels, also a substantial flour and grist mill, and a fine two story frame dwelling containing 11 rooms, garret and cellar and by necessary outbuildings Two water rights - one for the distillery and one for the mill and pipe spring water supply to the dwelling house by means of a hydraulic ram.</p> | |



F-7-15

Levi Price House and
Distillery Site

Frederick County

Janet Davis
Nov. 8, 1993

Not to Scale

(Adapted from Site Plan
provided by Marion Lawson)



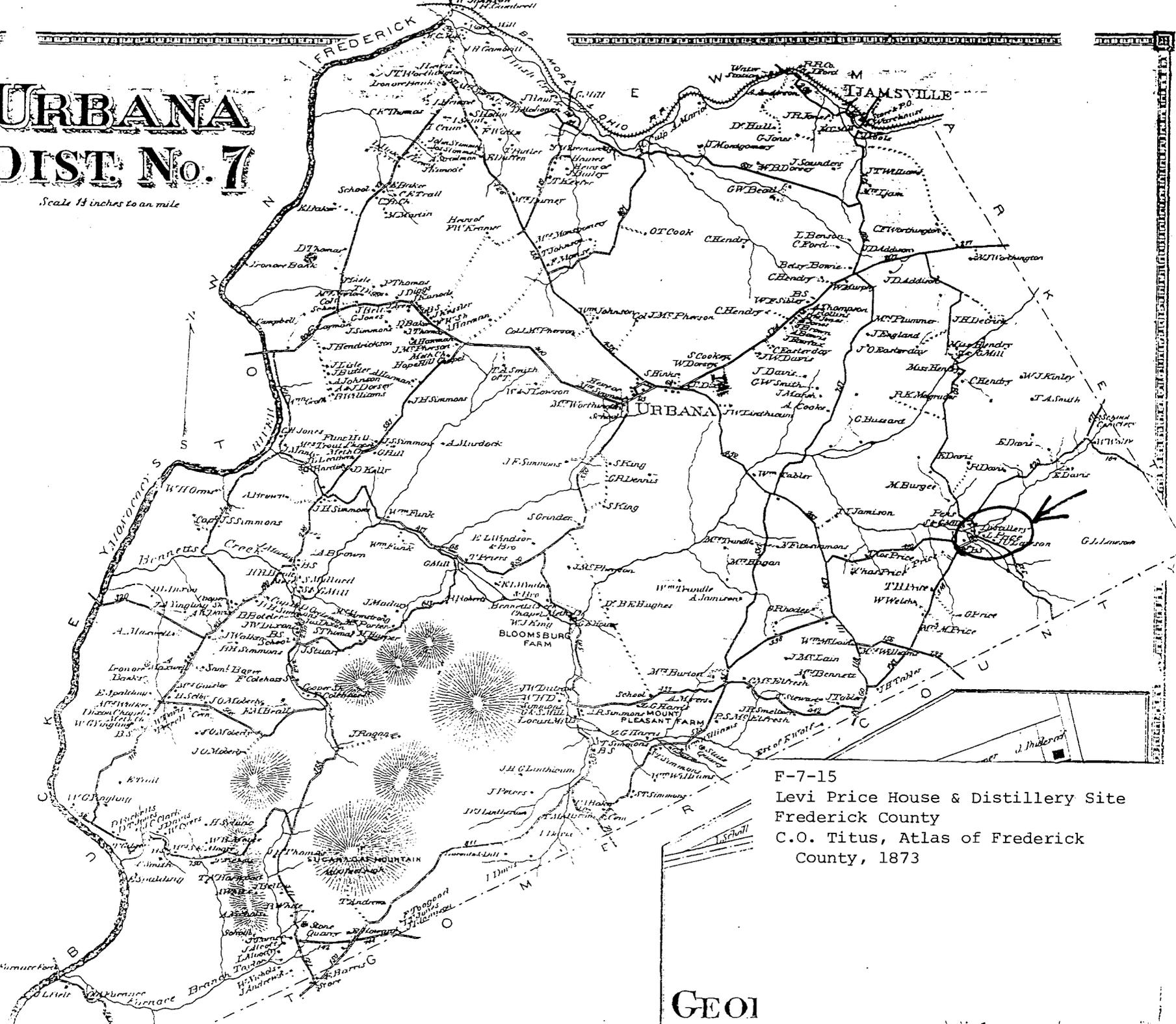
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Levi Price House & Distillery Site
Frederick County
Charles Varle, Map of Frederick &
Washington Counties, 1808
Cook's Mill, later site of distillery



F-7-15
 Levi Price House & Distillery Site
 Frederick County
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
 County, 1858

URBANA DIST. No. 7

Scale 14 inches to an mile



F-7-15
Levi Price House & Distillery Site
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873

GEOI



F-7-15
Levi Price House & Distillery Site
Frederick County
USGS Urbana, Md.
1:24000



F-7-15

Levi Price House and Distillery Site

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1993

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

West elevation

1/11



F-7-15

Levi Price House and Distillery Site

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1993

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

East elevation

2/11



F-7-15

Levi Price House and Distillery Site

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1993

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

Fresco painting, main staircase (poor focus)

3/11



F-7-15

Levi Price House and Distillery Site

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1993

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

Fresco painting, 1st floor stair hall

4/11



F-7-15

Levi Price House and Distillery Site

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1993

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

Water tower/wash house, south elevation

5/11



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Levi Price House and Distillery Site

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1993

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

Meathouse, southwest corner view

6/11



F-7-15

Levi Price House and Distillery Site

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1993

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

Garage, southwest corner view

7/11



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Levi Price House and Distillery Site

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1993

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

Tenant house, west elevation

8/11



F-7-15

Levi Price House and Distillery Site

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1993

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

Barn, west elevation

9/11



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Levi Price House and Distillery Site

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1993

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

Cow barn built by Samuel Lawrence, 1920, view
from northeast

10/11



F-7-15

Levi Price House and Distillery Site

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.
Clayton Chase Trolley - the site as relocated and
rebuilt as addition to lower level parking, view
from northeast

n/n