

F-7-38

Centerville Survey District
Urbana vicinity
Private

Ca. 1870-1930

Centerville's survey district is an approximately 5-acre area along the south side of Fingerboard Road extending roughly between Spencer Lane and Thompson Drive. The 9 contributing buildings are mostly two-story frame and log dwellings with modern artificial siding and corrugated metal or composition roofs. Most have three bays and one-story porches, with 2-story or 1-1/2 story rear wings and shed additions. Most houses have been considerably altered with additions to the rear and side elevations or the enclosure of one-story porches. The only non-residential building in the district is a frame tavern of the 1930's, Brown's Tavern, a functional structure which was also expanded in random additions. The district is significant as a fair example of a post-Civil War African-American community established by former slaves. It shares the characteristics of simple frame houses with little or no decoration, closely built siting, and locations within walking distance of working farms, mills, and other employment centers with other similar settlements such as Della, Pleasant View, and Hopeland, all villages established about the same time by blacks.

F-7-38

Centerville Survey District

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: District

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Commerce/Trade/department store/store

Known Design Source: None

7. Description

Survey No. F-7-38

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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: 9

The Centerville Survey District encompasses approximately 5 acres and 11 buildings located on the southeast side of Fingerboard Road (Md. 80) about 1-1/2 miles northeast of Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland. The district is residential in use and has 9 contributing buildings, two of which are unoccupied, and 2 non-contributing buildings. The contributing residences are mostly frame and log vernacular structures built during the period about 1870 to 1930 by freed African-American slaves. All of the houses now have modern artificial exterior siding and most have additions and extensions made during the last quarter of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century. One of the unoccupied buildings is a tavern, built in the 1930's and expanded with functional additions over several years up to about 1960. The tavern and the second unoccupied building, a dwelling, are in fair condition and the other dwellings are in good to fair condition. Dates of the buildings are based on land records, historical maps, and architectural details.

The district's buildings are generally closely built, with non-contributing modern residences more widely spaced adjoining the south end of the district and extending along two lanes running southeasterly from Fingerboard Road, Spencer Lane and Thompson Drive. One of the contributing dwellings and the two non-contributing buildings are located on the northeast side of Thompson Lane, these being the only structures in the survey district which do not face Fingerboard Road. The typical house is a two-story frame or log building with two rooms originally on the ground floor, three bays with a center entrance, and 2/2 or 6/6 windows. Most have a two-story rear wing or one-story shed addition on the rear housing the kitchen. The houses and the rear projections are simple in design and detail, in a compact, economical scale, although the modern alterations have obscured the original outlines on most of the houses to a moderate extent. Chimneys were usually located on the interior gable ends or in the center of the house. Many now have exterior concrete block chimneys or no visible exterior chimney locations. Roofs are mostly composition, corrugated metal or standing seam metal. Siding, probably covering or replacing german siding on most houses, is asbestos shingle, pressboard, aluminum, or vinyl. Following are brief descriptions of the contributing structures:

9545 Fingerboard Road: The two-story house has asbestos shingle siding with three bays on the first story and two on the second story. An originally open one-story porch was enclosed in the 20th century. The roof is standing seam metal and has an off-center chimney. The windows are 2/2. A 1-1/2 story rear wing extends from the south elevation. The house is one of several in the district built by the Thompson family. Its general form strongly suggests that it may be log and therefore may predate the earliest identified land record dated 1880. Owners: John and Ora Thompson, 9545 Fingerboard Road, Ijamsville, MD 21754.

9547 Fingerboard Road: The house has two stories and is covered with pressboard siding, with three bays on the first story and two on the second. An entry porch

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-38

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 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	Ca. 1870-1930	Builder/Architect
check:	Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
	and/or	
	Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
	Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Centerville Survey District is significant primarily as an example of a post-Civil War African-American community established by former slaves and other blacks. In common with Pleasant View, Della, Hopeland, and other similar settlements which were established in the southern part of Frederick County during the period about 1865-1900, Centerville is composed of simple frame and log dwellings based on the vernacular dwellings common to most of Frederick County, heavily influenced by German building techniques. The two-story houses with perpendicular rear wings are mostly altered by modern siding and later additions which obscure much of their 19th century origins. Centerville may be the only one of the late 19th century African-American villages to have a 20th century commercial building, a 1930's tavern. Located between the towns of Urbana and Ijamsville, Centerville's inhabitants walked to jobs in the area and established the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church at the intersection of Ijamsville and Fingerboard Roads in about 1883. Although located about 1/4 mile from the survey district, the vicinity of the church and the neighboring schoolhouse for black children (demolished in the mid-20th century) were also considered part of the Centerville community. The 1858 Bond map shows a Methodist Episcopal church near the location of the survey district, with a blacksmith shop on the north side of Fingerboard Road. No residences are shown. The 1873 Titus Atlas map, however, has a closely ranked series of 5 or 6 dwellings marked with the names Thompson, Jones, Davis, Brown, Fairfax, and others. Land records indicate that many of the extant buildings were erected on the lands of Lloyd Thompson who died about 1906, leaving two sons and at least one daughter, all of whom received lots which had been surveyed and platted in 1905. This 1905 plat by R. A. Rager has not been located, having been in Lloyd Thompson's possession at his death.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-7-38

Erickson, Marie Anne. "Centerville", Frederick Magazine (July 1992), 14, 22.
Land Records of Frederick County
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name Urbana, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="checkbox"/>					
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

B	<input type="checkbox"/>					
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

C	<input type="checkbox"/>					
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

D	<input type="checkbox"/>					
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

E	<input type="checkbox"/>					
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

F	<input type="checkbox"/>					
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

G	<input type="checkbox"/>					
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

H	<input type="checkbox"/>					
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres as shown on the attached quad map section

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date October 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032
301-278-7100

7.1 Description (Continued)

shelters the doorway. The roof is covered with corrugated metal and a slight irregularity in the ridge may indicate the location of an original center chimney. The 1/1 windows are replacements, as are the shutters. A two-story rear extension projects on the southeast corner. The house was also a Thompson family residence, and was probably built about 1870, although the title record is only traceable to about 1880, as was that of 9545. Owner: Wilhelmina B. Ransford, 9547 Fingerboard Road, Ijamsville, MD 21754.

Unoccupied house: The only unoccupied residence in the survey district, this house has no visible house number. It is built at a slight angle to the plane of the other houses facing Fingerboard Road and is very close to 9547 on its north side. A driveway runs between the two houses to a modern residence to the southeast which is not included in the district boundary. The unoccupied house is a two-story frame or log building with hexagonal asphalt tile siding. The roof is covered with corrugated metal and an interior chimney is located at the northeast gable end. The three-bay north elevation has a center entrance with a glazed panel door. A one-story porch extends onto both the north and west elevations. The rear wing has 1-1/2 stories. The house is generally deteriorated condition. It was probably built about 1870. The owner could not be verified for this record.

9539 Fingerboard Road: This house is a much-altered 1-1/2 story building in which the structural material, log or frame, could not be determined from exterior observation. It has asbestos shingle siding and a composition roof with two dormers in the north side. The chimney is located on the interior southwest end. The window and door openings on the three-bay facade have been altered, with the entrance off-center under a small entry porch. The visible concrete block foundation may replace or face an original stone foundation. The rear wing is one story. The house may have been built about 1892 by Thomas Chase, who bought one acre of land from Ann Horman for \$50 in that year, but in a September 1916 lawsuit, the lot was described as containing a "1-1/2 story stone dwelling, a good stable, meat house, and hen house." Since the lot was split in 1925, both 9539 and 9537 may date from that period, replacing the demolished stone house. Owners: Chris D. Sprenkle and Dodie L. Waters, 9539 Fingerboard Road, Ijamsville, MD 221754.

9537 Fingerboard Road: The house is also considerably altered in its exterior appearance. It is a 1-1/2 story house with pressboard siding and a shed dormer in the corrugated metal roof. The three-bay facade has an off-center doorway sheltered by a metal awning supported on cast iron uprights. The windows are 2/2 on the north elevation, but are of various styles on the other elevations. A one-story shed addition is located on the south elevation. The house may date from about 1925, as described above. Owners: Lana E. Sewell et al, 1002 Peach Orchard Lane, Brunswick, MD 21716.

9535 Fingerboard Road: The house is a two-story frame or log building with pressboard siding and a three-bay first story. A one-story porch with cast iron columns shelters the center entrance. The second story has two bays. The windows are 1/1 replacements and the louvered shutters are also modern

7.2 Description (Continued)

replacements. An interior chimney and an exterior concrete block chimney are at the gable ends. The roof is corrugated metal. The two-story rear wing extends from the south elevation. A non-contributing garage is located behind the house. This house was probably built about 1877 by Alfred Thompson, who bought a total of 72 square perches for \$80 in two deeds from Thomas Clagett in that year. Owners: Floyd N. and Edna M. Lyles, 3819 Big Woods Road, Ijamsville, MD 21754.

9527 Fingerboard Road: This lot contains both a dwelling and the tavern, which is currently not occupied. The dwelling is a two-story frame or log house with artificial stone exterior. The three-bay north elevation has a one-story porch with cast iron columns. The second story has metal awnings at the windows, which are 2/2. The roof is standing seam metal and an interior end chimney is on the east gable end. A 1-1/2 story wing extends from the rear elevation. A one-story addition is on the east elevation. The tavern is a one-story rambling structure with no definable bay patterns and various exterior siding, indicating the several additions made to the original structure over many years. Much of the exterior has aluminum siding and groups of three windows flank a projecting foyer entrance on the north elevation. The composition roof has a deteriorated standing metal sign reading Brown's Tavern, Sandwiches and Beer. The building was probably built about 1933-1935 by Norris Brown, the purchaser of the property in 1930. Present owners: Marvin Gibbs and Ernestine M. Brown, 9527 Fingerboard Road, Ijamsville, MD 21754.

9708 Thompson Drive: The two-story log and frame dwelling has aluminum siding and a corrugated metal roof. The southwest elevation has three bays on the first story and two on the second, with a modern flat-roofed porch supported on cast iron columns. The windows are 2/2 with metal awnings. An exterior concrete block chimney is on the gable end. A 1-1/2 story rear wing extends from the northeast corner and a one-story addition is on the south gable end. The date of the house is probably about 1870, although the land records indicate only that the property was part of the Thompson family lands. In 1941, the house was described as having 6 rooms, with a small fruit orchard nearby on the 2-3/4 acre lot. Owner: Mrs. Edith M. Thompson, 9708 Thompson Drive, Ijamsville, MD 21754.



F-7-38

Centerville Survey District

Frederick County

Janet Davis

Oct. 13, 1993

Not to Scale

Centerwill S.D.

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

F-7-38

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
9545 Fingerprint 508/514 19 Nov 52	John & Ora Thompson	James H. & Kacker Lina L. Cramer	70 sq. p.		
508/512 19 Nov 52	James H. Cramer et ux	John & Ora Thompson	70 sq. p.		
274/51 6 Feb 06	John Thompson son of Lloyd & Elsie	Lloyd & Elsie Thompson	70 sq. p. survey & plat with other adjoining lots having been made by R.A. Rogge survey, 25 Sept 05, in possession of Lloyd Thompson	#30	
DHH 7/577 7 Jan 01	Lloyd Thomp- son	Glenn H. Northington, Trustee In Equity 6729	Lot of which Ann (Sibley) Maxman died seized & possessed	#110	
WIP 9/509 10 Nov 1880	Ann Harman	Wm. J. Hindley & ux	part of lot No. 3 laid off as called "Daniel's Small Tract" 5 Acs	#250	
9547 Fingerprint 1000/996 15 Oct 76	James R. Ransford & Milhelmina B. Ransford	Calvin M. & Phyllis L. Diggs	73 sq. p.		
956/568 27 Feb 75	Calvin M. & Phyllis L. Diggs	Frank M. Thompson et ux	73 sq. p.		
740/500 14 Feb 66	Frank M. & Rebecca V. Thompson	Helen Stewart	73 sq. p.		
740/498 14 Feb 66	Helen Stewart	Frank M. & Rebecca V. Thompson Roland M. & Lillian B. Thompson	73 sq. p.		
274/51 6 Feb 06	Benjamin Thompson	Lloyd Thompson et ux	Benjamin died intestate leaving as heirs sons Frank & Roland	#30	
(rest of chain as above for 9545 from DHH 7/577)					

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
9539 <u>Fingerboard</u> 1440/476 13 Aug 87	Chris D. Sprinkle & Dodie L. Waters	Gladys B. Lyles, widow	0.4073 a.	\$72,100	
460/488 6 Mar 47	Earl M. & Gladys Lyles	Helen J. Mock	northern half of 1st parcel in 460/485		
460/485 6 Mar 47	Helen J. Mock	Earl M. Lyles et ux Gilbert L. Lyles et ux Melvin R. Lyles et ux Morris L. Lyles et ux	1st. : 352/116		
352/116 3 Jan 25	Ernest & Bessie Lyles	Eldridge Bowie et al	1 acre, improved w/a 1 1/2 story stone dwelling, a good stable, meat house, hen house	\$200	
320/59 4 Jan 17	Eldridge Bowie et al	Wm. C. Rhoads, Sheriff	Writ of <u>Fieri Facias</u> again Sept 1916 suit against estate of Thomas Chase, dec.	\$148	
JLJ 3/154 15 Sept 1892	Thomas Chase	Ann Harman	1 acre	\$50	
WIP 9/509 10 Mar 1880	Ann Harman	Wm. J. & Mary E. Kindley	Part of lot # 3, called Daniel Small Tract (Tract?) 5 Acres		
9537 <u>Fingerboard</u> 1513/775 31 Aug 88	Lana E. Seydell Paul M. Lyles Lester J. Lyles, Jr.	Lana E. Seydell attain back for Adrian Lyles &	southern half of 1st parcel in 460/485 question of Lester M. Lyles	Equity 33679	
460/488 6 Mar 47	Morris L. Lyles (aka) Lester M. Lyles & Adrian Lyles, his wife				
(see title for 9539 for remaining chain)					

F-7-38

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

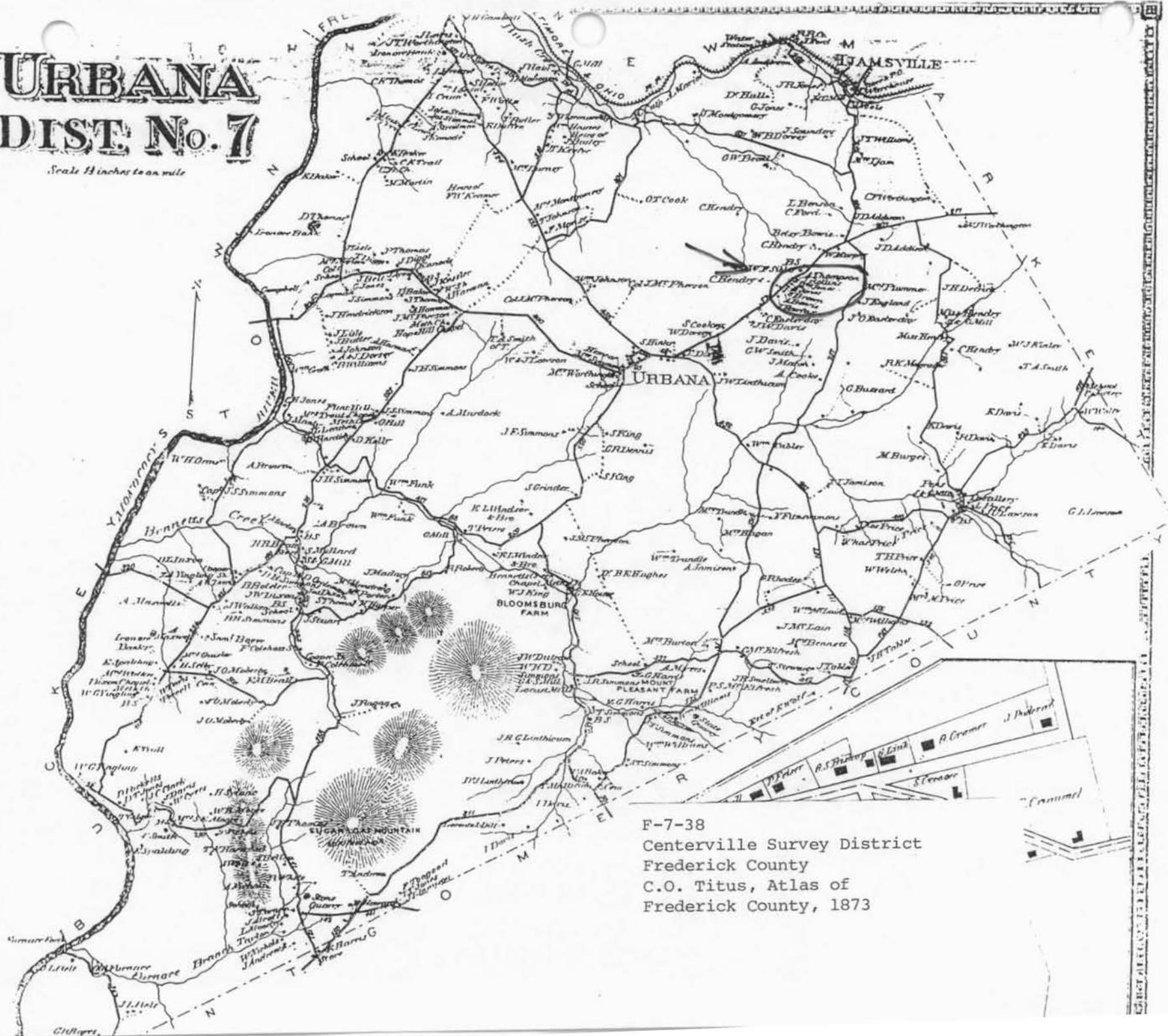
Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
9535 Fingerboard 460/487 6 Mar 47	Loyal N. + Edna M. Lyles	Helen F. Mock	2nd parcel in 460/485 3/4 A.		
460/485 6 Mar 47	Helen F. Mock	Earl W. Lyles et al	2nd parcel		
310/451 23 Nov 14	Bessie Lyles	Charles + Maggie Thompson			
Will Record SDT 1/421 29 May 14	Charles + Bessie Lyles, children of Alfred	Alfred Thompson	LW + T dated 4 May 14 1 acre of land, 1 set of carpenter's tools, 1 cook stove, 1/2 dozen chairs		
TG 7/748 30 Apr 1877	Alfred Thomp- son	Thomas Clagett et in	Lots # 243 of Daniels Small Tract" 50 sq. p.	\$50	
TG 7/748 30 2 June 1877	Alfred Thomp- son	Wm. J. Kinsley et in	22 sq. p. "Daniels Small Tract"	\$30	Kindly acquired from Clagett
9527 Fingerboard 1259/55 13 Jul 82	Marvin Dibles tenants in common w/ Ernestine M. Brown	Ernestine M. Brown	1 A., 1 R., 26 sq. p. in village of Centerville		
1046/669 10 Apr 78	Ernestine M. Brown	Ernestine M. Brown, pers. rep. of estate of Margaret E. Brown No. 12,190			
376/191 21 Oct 30	Norris W. + Margaret E. Brown	Philmore Bryan	1 A., 1 R., 26 sq. p.		
	Philmore + Robert Howard, sons of	Henry Bryan	died intestate		

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

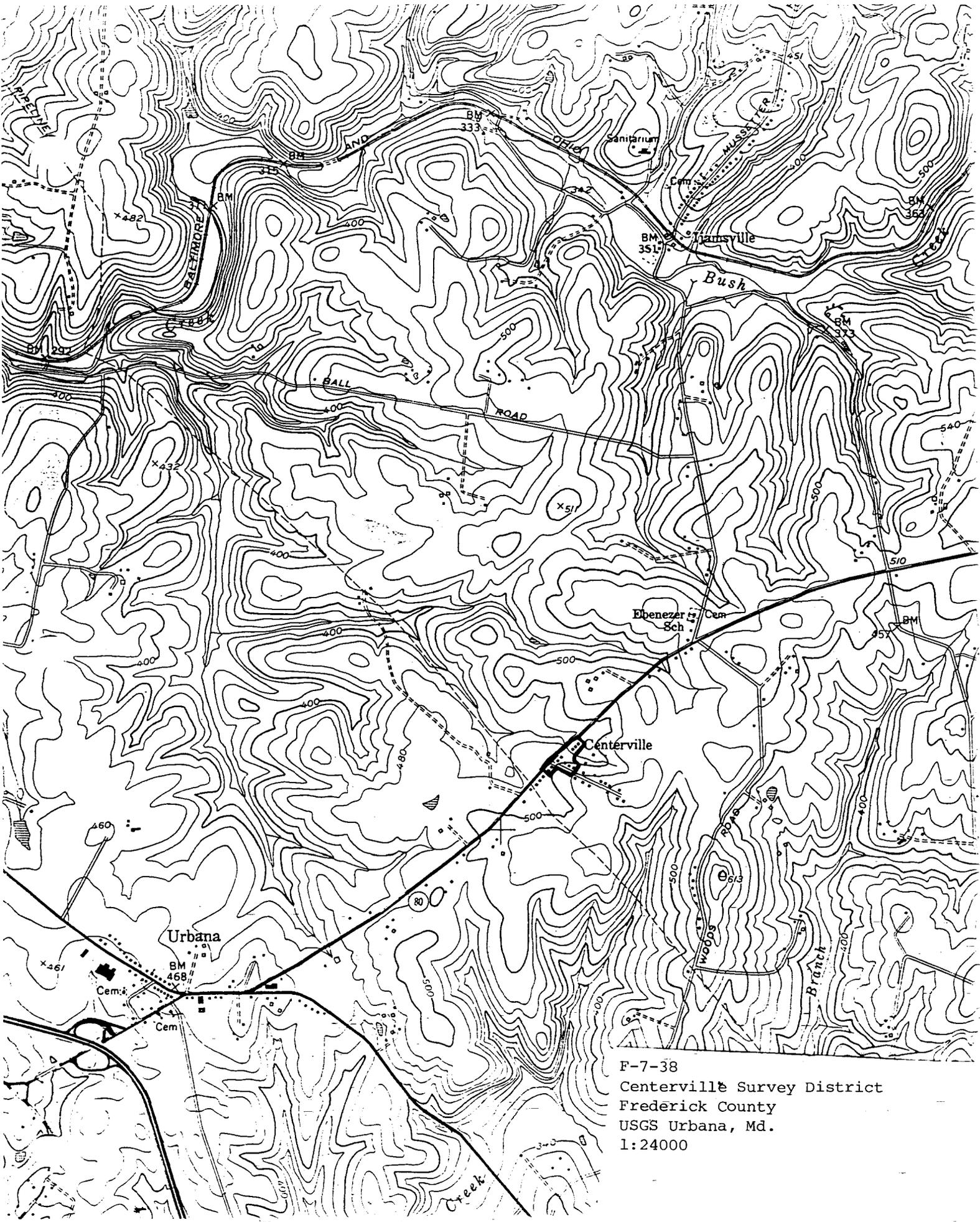
Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
9527 Fingertboard (Cont.) WIP 9/490 21 Sept 1889	Henry Bryan	Rufus K. & Columbia Magruder	1 a., 1 R., 26 p.	\$204	
AF 3/464 13 Apr 1881	Rufus K. Magruder	Wm. H. Henke, trustee in Equity 4375, James Boyle et al vs. Henry Bryan et al			
CM 9/65 2 Aug 1872	Letha Jones	Joseph Wood et al		\$28.75	
CM 7/316 15 Oct 1870	Joseph Wood	Caron & Letha Jones		\$28.75	
CM 7/316 4 May 1870	Caron Jones	Thos. & Cynthia Clagett	1 a., 1 R., 26 p.	\$84.75	
27 May 1850	Thos. Clagett	M. Hammond			
9708 Thompson Dr. 1178/315 28 May 82	George A. & Elick M. Dean	George A. Thompson	P. 1: 79 sq. p., Lot # 3 on plat made by R. O. Rager 276/144 & 973/367 P. 2: 3 1/2 a. 443/163 & 320/196		
P. 1: 973/367 18 Oct 75	George Thompson	Marie Walter Walter & Mabel Weedon	79 sq. p. George, Marie & Mabel - heirs of Wm Thompson		
P. 1: 276/144 6 Feb 06	William Thomson	Lloyd & Elsie Thompson	79 sq. p.	\$30	

URBANA DIST. No. 7

Scale 1/4 inches to an mile



F-7-38
Centerville Survey District
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of
Frederick County, 1873



F-7-38
Centerville Survey District
Frederick County
USGS Urbana, Md.
1:24000













