

F-7-70  
Cockey-Lawson House  
Urbana vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1815

The Cockey-Lawson House is a two-story brick house built about 1815 with considerable alterations in the Italianate style about 1850-1870, and recent additions still on-going in 1993. The five-bay northwest elevation has an arched and fanlighted center entrance flanked by 4/4 windows. A central pediment with a fanlight in the roof was probably an addition along with the bracketed Italianate cornice, and a one-story polygonal bay on the east gable end during the mid-19th century. A one-story porch on the west gable end was enclosed with casement windows, possibly in the early 20th century. In 1993, a two-story addition filled in the angle between the main section and the two-story rear wing. The house was probably originally built by Williams Cockey, who purchased a large parcel from Thomas Cook, then running the mill nearby which became Price's Distillery in the mid-19th century. Cockey may have also been in business in the mill. By the early 1870's, the house had been acquired by James U. Lawson and several generations of the Lawson family worked at the distillery while occupying the brick house. The Italianate alterations may date from their purchase of the property. The Lawsons retained the property until 1945.

F-7-70

Cockey-Lawson House

Urbana

Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Crederick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870

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

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 Cockey-Lawson House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 2633 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name William B.D. Harris and Harriet M. Harris

street &amp; number 34 S. Market Street 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 838

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 345

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-7-70

<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: 1

The Cockey-Lawson House is a two-story brick dwelling erected about 1815 on the northeast side of Price's Distillery Road about 1/4 mile from the intersection of Green Valley Road near Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland. The site is about 1/4 mile from the Frederick-Montgomery County boundary and is geographically nearer to Hyattstown, Montgomery County, than to Urbana. The principal elevation of the house faces northwest, with a two-story rear wing on the southeast side, and several non-contributing agricultural outbuildings, the remainder of the original farm complex, located on the south side of Price's Distillery Road. The house has recently been altered by a large addition in the angle between the main section and the wing and rehabilitation work is still in progress. The date of the house is based on architectural evidence, land records, and historical maps.

The house has a five-bay main elevation with the walls laid in 7:1 American bond. The center bay is emphasized by a pediment which was probably added in the late 19th century. The roof is composition material with interior end chimneys and an Italianate cornice with paired brackets has been partially removed on the northwest elevation, leaving the unadorned frieze in place. The full cornice is still on the west elevation and the rear wing. The cornice was added during the period about 1850-1870, probably with the central pediment and a one-story polygonal bay on the east gable end. This bay has a slate roof, suggesting that the main roof was also originally slate. The central entrance has an arched fanlight and sidelights, with an 8-panel door. The windows are 4/4 with flat arches. These windows appear to be replacements of the period 1850-1870, possibly replacing the original windows of about 1815 which were more likely 9/6 or 6/6. In the central pediment is a fanlight window. On the west gable end of the main section is a flat-roofed, enclosed sun porch with casement windows. The date of the porch is unknown, but it may have been originally an addition of the mid-19th century as an open-sided feature and was enclosed in the early 20th century. The two-story rear wing has been obscured on the east side by the recent addition which fills in the angle between the wing and the main section. A projecting modern bay window has been added to the south end of the original wing. The interior of the house was inaccessible for this survey.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-70

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 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. 1815 **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 Cockey-Lawson House is moderately significant for the architecture of the principal facade and the mid-19th century additions in the Italianate style which indicate a period of modernization which probably corresponded to a change in ownership. The house was apparently built by William Cockey, who purchased a 471-acre tract, part of the "Addition to Grommet's Prospect" from Thomas Cook. Cook established the mill near the house which became Price's Distillery in the mid-19th century, and Cockey's deed specifically excludes the water rights Cook had previously established for the operation of his mill. The connection of Cockey with the mill is not yet clear, but further research may show that he was involved in its operations. The title chain is also obscure about the date of acquisition of the property by John H. Lawson, but Cockey is still shown as the owner on the 1858 Bond map. John H. Lawson and others sold the house and 298-1/2 acres to James U. Lawson in 1872. The Lawson family owned the distillery during this period, along with Levi Price, and its prosperity was probably the source of the extensive alterations to the house in the Italianate style. The Lawsons held the property until 1945. In 1910, an equity sale was ordered, and the advertisement listed a wealthy farmstead of the late 19th or early 20th century:

"This farm is improved by a substantial brick dwelling house containing ten rooms, a fine bank barn, wagon shed, corn crib, and necessary outbuildings; also by two tobacco houses and a blacksmith shop. This farm is conveniently divided into six fields under good fencing with running water in every field but one. Twenty acres of the farm is woodland, well set in fine timber. Mr. John Lawson residing on the farm . . ."

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-7-70

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858  
Land Records of Frederick County  
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873  
Urbana Civic Association. History and Legends, Urbana District 1976. Frederick Hig  
School Press, 1976, p. 36

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3 acres

Quadrangle name Urbana, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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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 3 acres centered on the brick dwelling on Tax Map 105, Parcel 42

### 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.

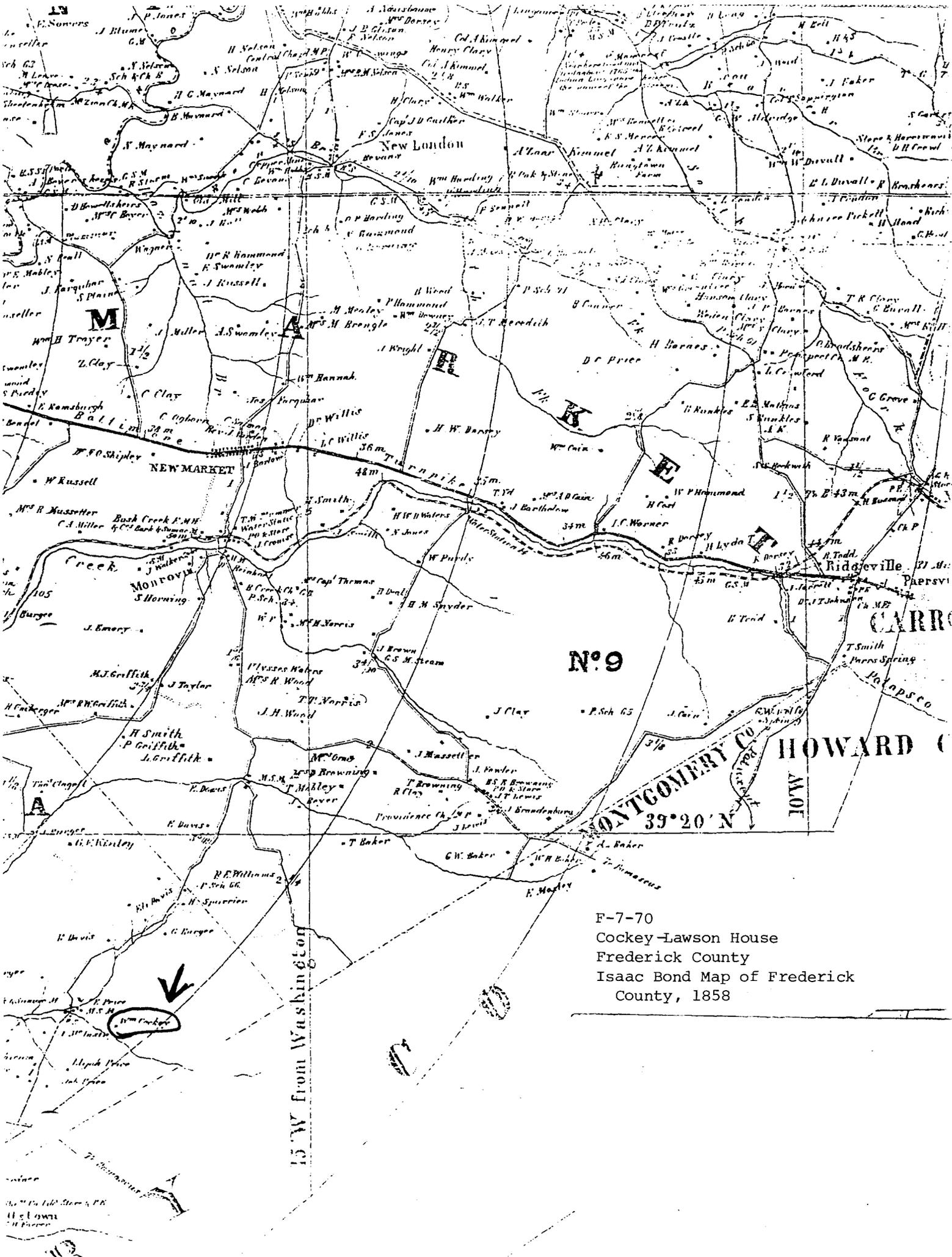
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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 .514-7600

2633 Prices Distillery Rd.

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
83 8/345 22 Dec 70	Wm. B. D. + Harriet Harris	Bertram J. + Mildred P. Cleaves		
501/66 8 Sept 51	Bertram J. + Mildred P. Cleaves	Harry P. + Elyrich S. Williams	P. 1: 166.54 A. } - 446/283 P. 2: 34.49 A. } 201.03 A. "- together with the brick mansion house, farm bldgs. and all water, ways ..."	#25,500
446/283 28 Feb 45	Harry P. Williams et al	Stella M. Lawson widow of Gabriel U. Lawson	"... located at The Old Prices Distillery Property"	
362/315 4 May 21	Gabriel U. + Stella M. Lawson	H. Kieffer De Lauter et al Trustees in Equity	298 1/2 A. farm adjoining the tract known as Prices Distillery 11,114 HWB 292/197. 19 Apr 10	#18,805. 50
HWB 292/197 19 Apr 10	John Lawson	Charles T. K. Young + Alice D. Young	"The News" Mar 30, 1927 298 1/2 A., being the home farm of James U. Equity 8504 Lawson, dec. CM 9/234	#17,014.50
Equity Record HWB 2/491 1910	Advertisement of sale "This farm is improved by a substantial brick dwelling house, containing 10 rooms, a fine bank barn, wagon shed, corn crib, and necessary outbldgs also by two tobacco houses and a blacksmith shop. This farm is conveniently divided into six fields under good fencing with running water on every field but one. Twenty acres of the farm is woodland well set in fine timber." Mr. John Lawson residing on the farm.			
CM 9/234 9 Apr 1872	John H. Lawson James U. Lawson et al	John H. Lawson et al	"Addition to Brommetts Prospect 298 1/2 A. WR 45/188, 16 June 1813 Cook to Wm. Cooky	#1,000
WR 45/188				
WR 45/188 16 June 1813	William Cooky	Thos. Cook	"Addition to <del>Brommetts</del> <del>Prospect</del> <sup>Brommetts</sup> Prospect including mill <sup>(1813)</sup> <del>improvements &amp; barn</del> 471 A. together with all houses, buildings gardens, orchards, ways, water, except those privileges heretofore granted John Cook for the use of his mills	#10,000

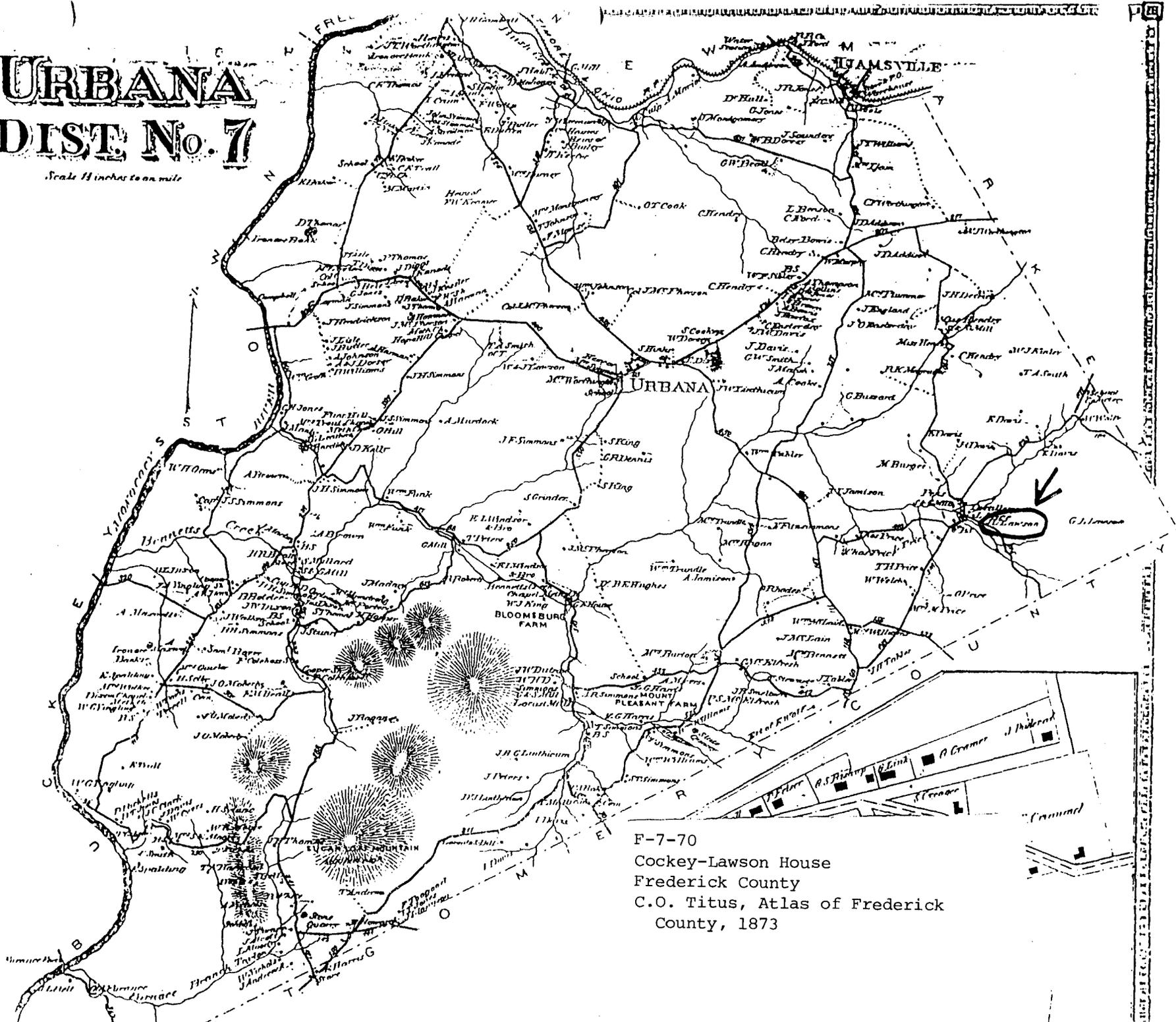
F-7-70



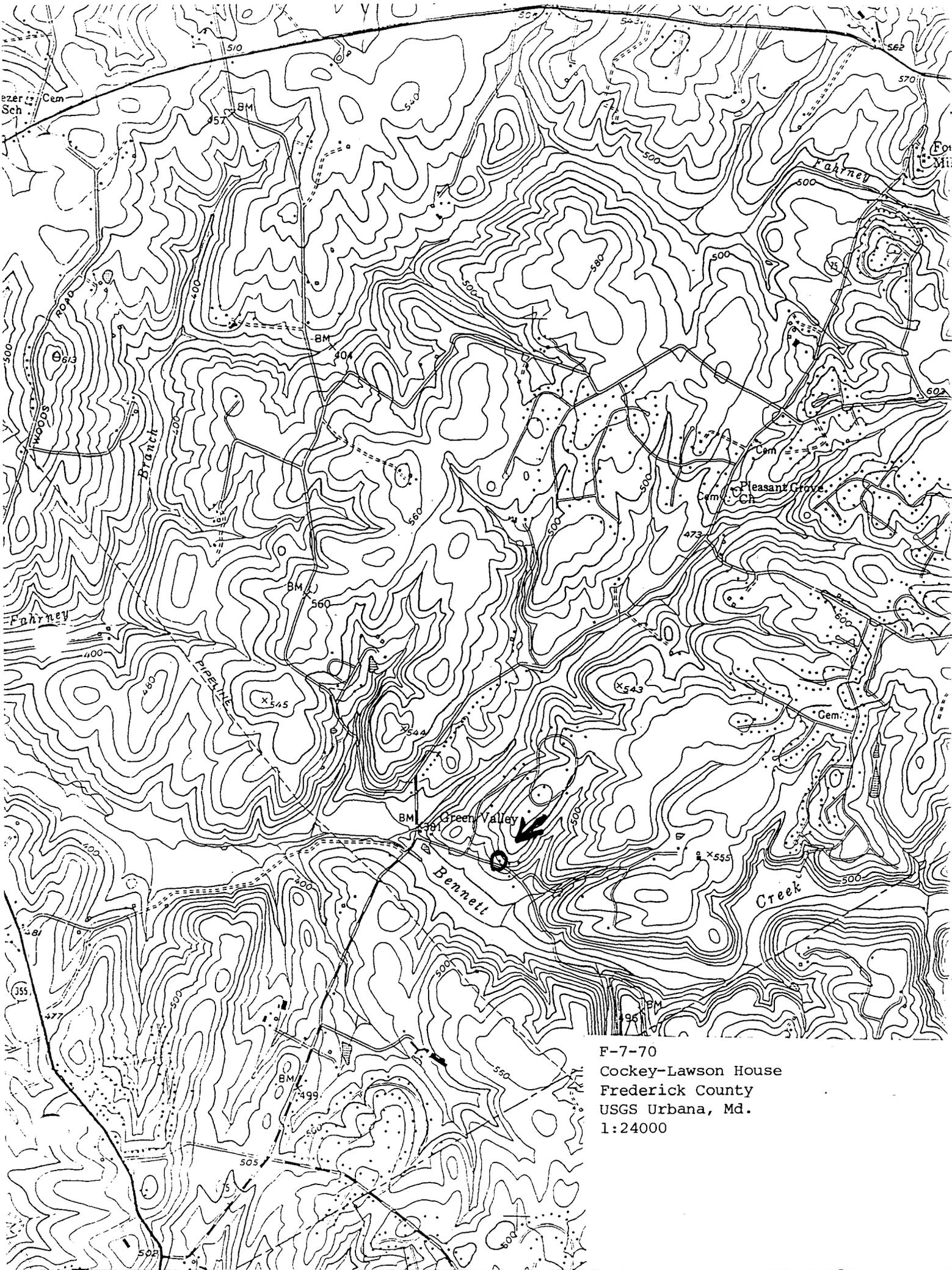
F-7-70  
 Cockey-Lawson House  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond Map of Frederick  
 County, 1858

# URBANA DIST. No. 7

Scale 1/4 inches to an mile



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Cockey-Lawson House  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
County, 1873



F-7-70  
Cockey-Lawson House  
Frederick County  
USGS Urbana, Md.  
1:24000







