

F-7-84

John F. Davis Farmstead
Urbana vicinity
Private

Ca. 1850; 1884-ca. 1925

The John F. Davis Farmstead is centered on an 1884 frame house with a log wing section which may have been built about 1850. The house has german siding and segmental arched window and door openings and an extensive veranda on two elevations. A scroll-sawn bargeboard edges the eaves and the center cross gable on the main elevation. The associated outbuildings include a frame smokehouse, a frame feed shed and a chicken house, a carriage house/garage, a frame bank barn, a dairy barn and milk house, and a wagon shed/corn crib. The outbuildings range in date from about 1850 to about 1925. The bank barn is probably an early 20th century replacement of an earlier barn on the same site. The farmstead is a fair example of the late 19th century agricultural complex, retaining a good variety of domestic and agricultural outbuildings. The dwelling is moderately significant in architecture for its exterior appearance, which retains its original siding and principal features, although the interior has been considerably altered. John F. Davis (1844-1928) built the frame house about 1884 after occupying the farm in about 1875. Lewis F. Ruprecht, a Frederick paper hanger, left a penciled signature and date of Sept. 10, 1884 on an upstairs wall. A carved board discovered in a chimney reconstruction is inscribed with the name Sargent L. Saville, Co. K, 12th Reg., and other figures. Its origin is unknown, but it is apparently a Civil War period artifact.

F-7-84

John F. Davis 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 Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use:

Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse
Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn
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 John F. Davis Farmstead (preferred); Sunnyside

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3029 Price's Distillery Road not for publication

city, town Urbana vicinity of congressional district Frederick

state county

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 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 Verdi Farm Ltd. Partnership

street & number 3029 Price's Distillery Road telephone no.:

city, town Ijamsville state and zip code Md. 21754

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1853

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 229

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-7-84

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	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: 8

The John F. Davis Farmstead is an agricultural complex centered on a circa 1884 frame dwelling with a log rear wing which may date from at least 1850 and its associated domestic and agricultural outbuildings dating from about 1875 to 1925. The outbuildings include a smokehouse, a chicken house, a feed shed, a carriage house/garage, a bank barn, a wagon shed/corn crib, and a dairy barn converted to a horse barn. The farmstead is located on the east side of Price's Distillery Road about 1 mile north of Green Valley Road near Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland. The farmstead is located at the end of a driveway running northeast off the road with the house at the eastern side of the building group and the outbuildings, except the smokehouse, located south, west, and northwest of the dwelling. Non-contributing agricultural and residential buildings are located on the larger farm property, but not associated with the original farmstead. Dates of the buildings are based on a dated interior inscription, architectural details, local histories, land records, and historical maps.

The dwelling is a two-story frame structure facing west with a two-story rear wing linking the 1884 part with the 1-1/2 story log structure on the east end of the wing which was built possibly around 1850. The 1884 section has five bays and a center cross gable with an arched 1/1 gable window. The exterior is covered with german siding and the roof is standing seam metal with interior end chimneys. A one-story porch extends across the west elevation and the south elevation of the main section and the two-story part of the wing. The porch posts are chamfered with scroll-sawn brackets. The bases of the posts have been replaced in recent years, duplicating the original materials and design. The deck of the porch is concrete. The window and door openings have segmental arches and louvred shutters flank the 1/1 sash. The door has arched molded panels with a transom and sidelights. A scroll-sawn bargeboard extends around the eaves of the 1884 section including the wing. The north gable end has two round-arched 2/2 attic windows. On the south elevation, the gable end has two bays on each floor with single panes in the attic windows. The south side of the wing has three bays with a center entrance under a two-light transom. On the north side of the wing, an original two-story open porch has been enclosed and extended on the first story to form a modern terrace room. The north side of the log section also has a modern extension incorporating a bedroom. The exterior of the log section also has german siding and the south elevation has a center entrance flanked by a 6/6 window. The upper level has a 6/6 window above the door. The roof of the log part is covered with corrugated metal.

The interior of the house has been considerably altered, with the removal of some interior walls and the relocation of the main staircase. One of two interior features of interest are a section of a second floor plaster wall which was revealed during renovation to have a penciled signature and date: "Louis F. Ruprecht, Paper Hanger, Sept. 10, 1884", which is two years earlier than the 1886 date cited in Williams & McKinsey's 1910 History of Frederick County. The 1906 Frederick City and County Directory contain advertisements for Henry F. Ruprecht as a "Manufacturer of

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-84

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; 1884 - C. 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 John F. Davis Farmstead is a fair example of a late 19th century farm complex, retaining a good variety of outbuildings in both the domestic and agricultural groups. All of the buildings have had some level of alteration, especially the dwelling, but the exterior appearance of the buildings clearly indicates their construction period. The house is also moderately significant in architecture for its exterior style, a typical late 19th century mixture of elements from several historical sources, including the Gothic Revival and the Renaissance Revival. The log section was undoubtedly extant in about 1875, when John F. Davis (1844-1928) began farming the property, which had been purchased from William Price by John's father Eli Davis in 1872. The tract "William and Elizabeth" was the location of several farms beginning at least as early as the 1790's and the small log house was probably existing around 1850, but did not appear on the 1858 Bond map. According to the 1910 History of Frederick County, John F. Davis called the property "Sunnyside" and built the main section of the house in 1886, although the interior inscription by Lewis Ruprecht indicates that it was built by 1884. In 1887-1888, Davis was appointed by President Grover Cleveland as inspector of cattle in Baltimore. He also ran for Frederick County sheriff in 1905 and was the doorkeeper in the State Senate for an unidentified period. The last of his three wives, Felissa Magruder Davis, sold the property in 1928.

7.1 Description (Continued)

Spring, Hair and Husk Mattresses, Upholstering in all its branches, New Feathers and Feather Beds always on Hand, Paper Hanging a Specialty, 31 East Third Street, Frederick". Lewis (sic) Ruprecht, probably a son of Henry, is separately listed as a paper hanger. The Ruprechts appeared in directories from 1859 to the 1920's. The other feature is a carved board discovered in the reconstruction of a fireplace in the wing. The board is lettered "Sargent L. Saville No. 1, Co. K, 12th Reg." A scrolled design flanks the name and near one end of the board is a pointing hand and the name "Peggy" and some unidentified vertical marks similar to hatch marks. No information about the board has been discovered, either identifying the named persons or how the board came to be used in the construction of the 1884 section. Further research in Civil War records may provide information on Saville.

Domestic outbuildings:

Smokehouse: The frame smokehouse is located immediately northeast of the modern bedroom addition to the log section of the rear wing. It has weatherboard siding with a vertical tongue-and-groove door on the south elevation and a second tongue-and-groove door above it to the loft section. The roof is covered with corrugated metal and the foundation is stone. The smokehouse was probably built in the 1850's, based on its apparent siting in relation to the log section of the house.

Feed shed and chicken house: A small frame, board and batted shed south of the house was once adjacent to a large chicken house, now demolished, thus suggesting that it was a feed storage building. It has a corrugated metal roof and a single door, also with battens, at the northwest corner. The remaining chicken house is currently used as a kennel and is located several yards south of the feed shed. It has vertical siding and a corrugated metal shed roof. Wire mesh covers the openings on the south elevation and a vertical board door is on the southeast corner. Both the feed shed and the chicken house appear to have been built in the first quarter of the 20th century.

Carriage house/garage: The frame carriage house is located near the driveway at the edge of the agricultural group west of the dwelling. The building has board and batten siding and a standing seam metal gable roof. The north elevation opening has been closed off with batted siding, leaving a single narrow doorway. A slider track above the opening remains in place. The carriage house was probably built in the 1880's and later used as an auto garage. It is currently a storage shed.

Dairy barn and milk house: The frame dairy barn and concrete block milk house are located at the west side of the farmstead with entrances from the driveway. The exterior of the barn is both vertical and board and batten and the roof is corrugated metal. A shed addition to the barn is on the northeast elevation. Sliding doors cover the opening on the southeast elevation. A door to the storage loft is above the opening. The concrete block milk house is adjacent to the southeast corner of the building. It has a corrugated metal roof and german siding in the gables. The southeast elevation has a single door flanked by a window. The dairy barn was probably built about 1910-1920 and the milk house in about the mid-1920's. The barn is currently used as a horse barn.

7.2 Description (Continued)

Bank barn: The frame bank barn has vertical and board and batten siding with painted arched "vents". The roof is corrugated metal. It has a fully enclosed stall level on the south elevation with board and batten siding. The barn appears to have been built about 1910-1920, and probably replaced an earlier barn on the same site.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed stands west of the bank barn and has vertical siding on the gable ends with an addition on the west end covered with tongue-and-groove siding which was apparently added for storage of a second grain type. The north and south sides of the corn cribs are covered with weatherboard siding, not vented as on most extant corn cribs. The building has stone piers supporting the cribs. The roof is corrugated metal. The wagon shed/corn crib was probably built about 1885.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Davis House

AND/OR COMMON

Verdi Horse Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Price's Distillery Road between Green Valley

CITY, TOWN

Rt. 80 — VICINITY OF Green Valley Frederick

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6th E D 7

STATE

COUNTY

Map 97 Page 1 37 318

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Edward A. & Marjorie Verdi

Telephone #: 865-5213

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 105A

Maryland 21754

CITY, TOWN

Ijamsville — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Court House

Liber #: 579

Folio #: 64

STREET & NUMBER

North Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland 21701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS F-7-34

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

F-7-84

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Davis House is a two and a half story ell-shaped frame structure which faces the east side of Price's Distillery Road between Green Valley and Route 80.

It is a private single-ownership residence that is detached from other buildings and non-related to Price's Distillery Road.

The principal facade is five bays wide and the main entrance door occupies the third bay. This four panel door has a two light overhead transom and a two side light transom with recessed paneling. Modern 1/1 windows occupying the remainder of the bays have louvered shutters and verge boards. A gothic window is located in the center front gable. The north gable contains two small four pane gothic windows; in the northwest gable are two gothic windows. A boxed cornice with return and decorative frieze supports a tin roof. Both the north outside chimney and the south inside chimney are single brick with corbelling. A stone foundation supports the frame construction. The concrete two step porch in front of the house extends around the southwest corner of the house and then extends further across the front of the east addition. The east side of the structure is one bay wide containing modern windows with louvered shutters.

The principal facade of the east addition is five bays wide and the main entrance door with two windows, paneling and a two light overhead transom is located in the fourth bay. The second bay contains a modern nine pane picture window two 3/3 windows are located in the east gable on either sides of the chimney. The east side which leads to the root cellar.

The log part of the building which was originally four rooms instead of the present two is located on the extreme east side of the building. The original interior floors and stairway still exist, however, the log walls have been plastered and clapboarded.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Frederick County, Md. TJC Williams, Reginal Publishing Co. P1456
 Frederick City and County Directory, 1895, Barley
 General Directory of Frederick City, 1887, Miller

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 143.14 acres

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

6/28/77

ORGANIZATION

Frederick County Historic Preservation

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Winchester Hall

TELEPHONE

1-301-663-8300 Ext. 266

CITY OR TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland 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.

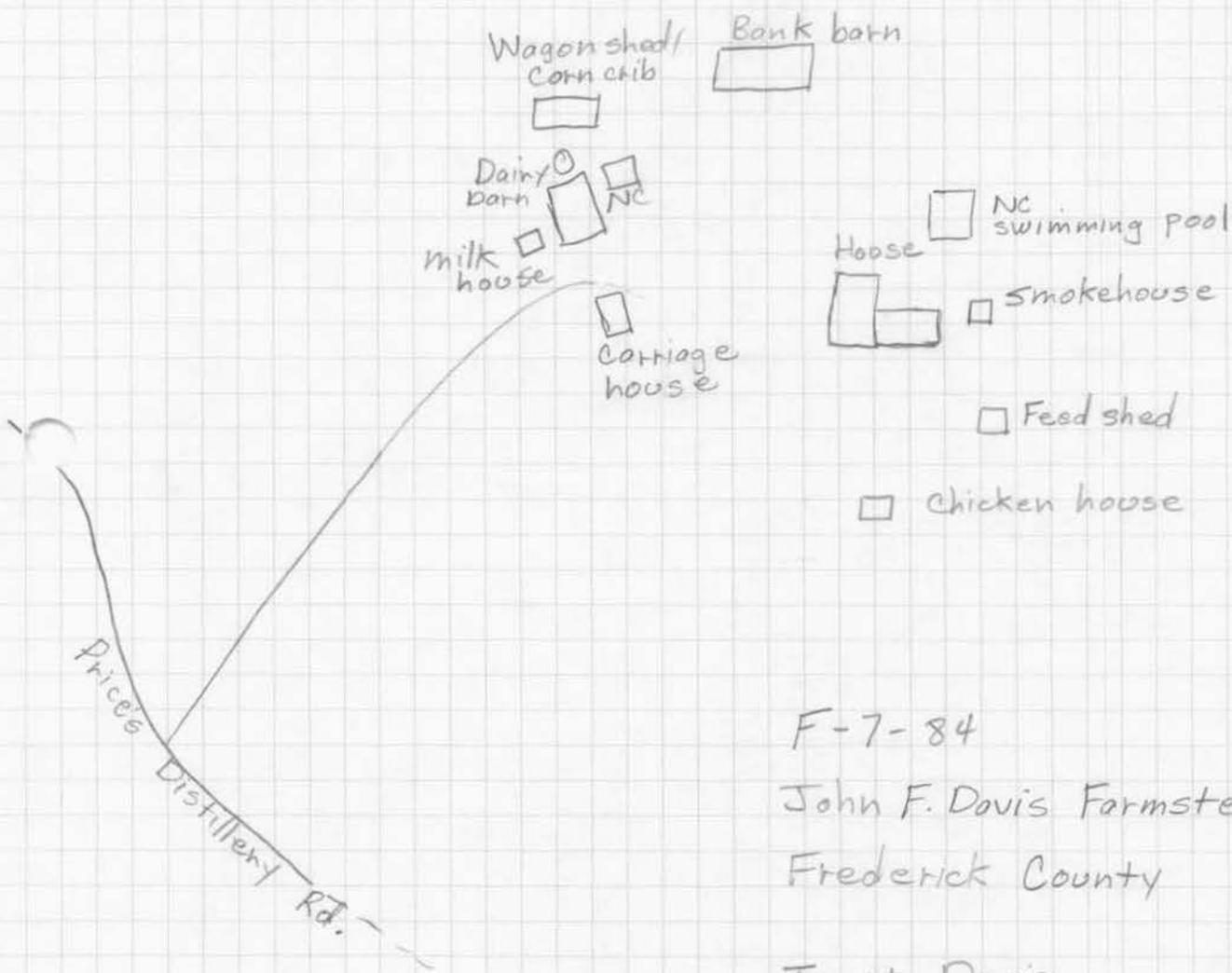
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

3739 ~~Atlanta Pike~~
 3027 Prices Distillery Rd.

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
1853/229 29 Dec 92	Verdi Farm Ltd. P'ship	Marjorie S. Verdi		
579/64 8 Mar 57	A. Edward & Marjorie S. Verdi	C. Roy & Marion E. Walker	153.5A.	
508/374 5 Nov 52	C. Roy Walker et ux	Thomas W. + Arhelia B. McDonough	153.5A.	
358/15 8 Apr 26	Thomas W. McDonough et ux	Felisa McShuder Davis & John F. Davis	153.5A.	284/37
284/37 11 May 08 29 Aug 1881	John F. Davis	Eli Davis et ux		
284/37 11 May 08	Felisa Ma- guder Davis	John F. Davis	153.5A.	
AF 4/256 29 Aug 1881	John F. Davis	Eli Davis et ux	part of "William & Elizabeth" 156.5 A. excepting 3 acres to be conveyed to Miel Burgee	\$3,500
CM 9/205 22 Oct 1872	Eli Davis	William Price	part of "William & Elizabeth" 156.5A. excepting 3 acres ... reserving to Wm. Price the tobacco and corn crops now upon said land	\$3,350
CM 7/201 6 Jan 1869	William Price	Sarah Ann Price, widow of Elijah Price et al, heirs of Elijah Price dec.	156.5A. "William & Elizabeth"	\$2,916.30
		no earlier refs		

F-7-84

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
HS 5/111 23 May 1837	Elijah Prise	Noah Philips ex. of LW & T of John Campbell et al.	"William + Elizabeth" 155 1/4 A.	\$500
WR 28/229 22 Oct 1805	John Campbell	Michael Rhine	part of "William + Elizabeth" 155 1/4 A.	\$1,863
WR 15/598 26 May 1797	Michael Rhine (sic)	Richard Coale	part of "William + Elizabeth" 179 1/4 A.	£100
<u>Unverified information:</u>				
26 Aug 1747	Abraham Greene	William + Elizabeth Meas		
Orill Record? LG # E F 96 19 Feb 1742			"William and Elizabeth" named after William + Elizabeth Meas, lived on "Dumpling Creek" 100 Acres	



F-7-84

John F. Davis Farmstead
Frederick County

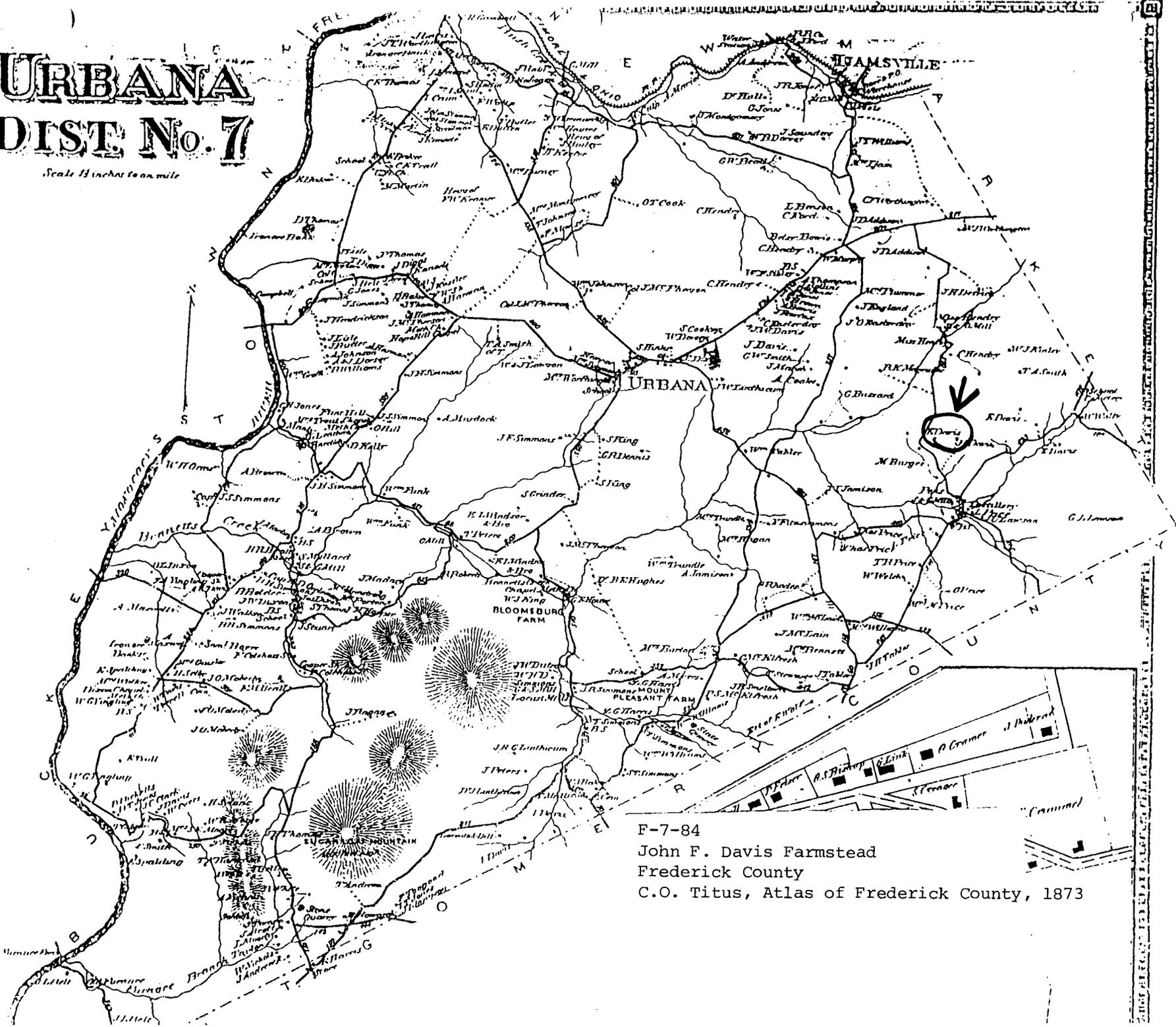
Janet Davis

Nov. 9, 1993

Not to Scale

URBANA DIST No. 7

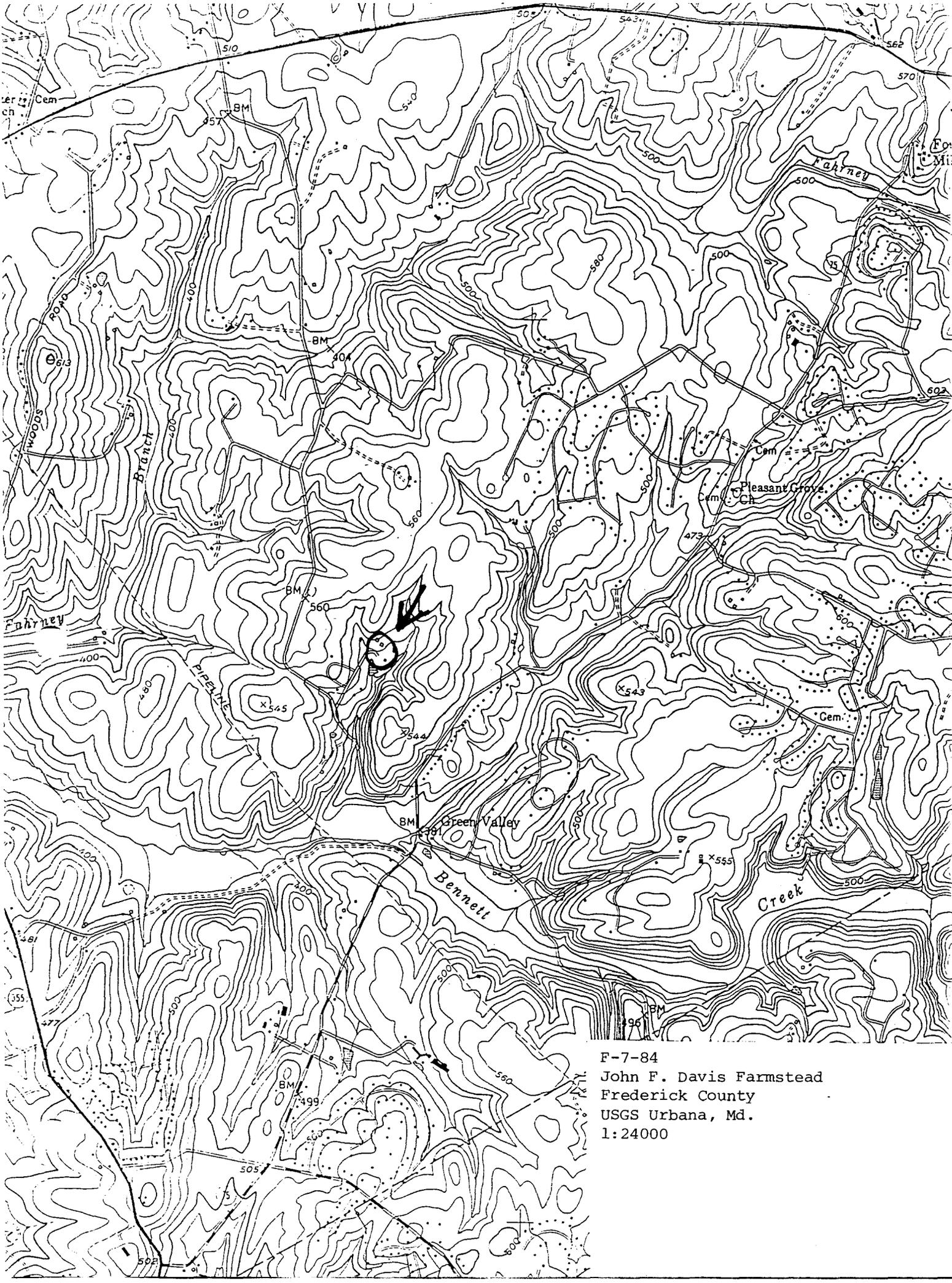
Scale 1/4 inch to a mile



F-7-84
John F. Davis Farmstead
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873



FC-7-04



F-7-84
John F. Davis Farmstead
Frederick County
USGS Urbana, Md.
1:24000



















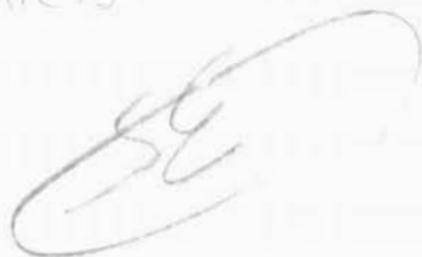
Verdi House

F-7-84

E/S Price's Distillery Road

Midway between Rte 80 AND Rte 75

North side

A large, hand-drawn oval containing stylized handwritten initials, possibly 'SE' or 'BE', written in dark ink.



Vendi House

F-7-84

E/S Price's Distillery Road Midway
between Rte 80 and Rte 75

West side

