

F-8-7

Circa 1797

Nothing Venture, Nothing Gett  
Woodsboro  
Private

Nothing Venture, Nothing Gett consists of a farmhouse and surrounding farmland which according to land and tax records was purchased in the last quarter of the eighteenth century by Henry Christ, son of Jacob Christ, an early German immigrant from York County, Pennsylvania. The existing stone house was constructed soon after this purchase. The two and one-half story east section and rear one and one-half story addition appear to be the earliest sections of the residence to be built.

The rear section of the house with central chimney, large cooking fireplace and original paneled door with strap hinges suggests that it is the earliest section of the building. Even the modern layout of the building suggests it may have originally accommodated a German floor plan. The front sections of the residence contain diagonal fireplaces and federal style molding suggesting a building date after 1820.

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## NOTHING VENTURE, NOTHING GETT

The cellar under the main house has iron barred windows. Only the north side is open as the yard must have been filled at a later date. A covered stone stairway leads out the west side to the service entrance. The first floor is insulated by thin boards covered with a mud and lime mixture wedged into the cross beams. A wide center stone wall supports the house. A main beam has bowed through the years. A ductless hot air furnace was installed in 1918. Electricity was not made available until 1938. Modern plumbing conveniences were added in 1954.<sup>4</sup>

A stone smokehouse about 8' x 10' was located on the north side of the house. Tenants bulldozed this structure into the spring without the permission of the owners. With hard work the stones may be removed from the spring, but the smokehouse is gone forever!

On a hillside southeast of the house lies a massive random stone bank barn about 50' x 92' long with unique side rooms striding the fifty-one foot bank. The side rooms about 16' x 10' inside are completely surrounded by stone walls with only one doorway inside and one outside window. These side rooms are unusual in barns of Frederick County, but quite common in Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania where the builder's family once lived. Each opening has large stone lintels and some still have pinned wood slats for venting intact. The barnyard is surrounded by a curved stone wall. The barn has been modernized to qualify to ship milk having thirty-two stanchions, pipeline milkers, concreted covered barnyard and a 12' x 60' silo. At the turn of this century (c. 1900) the barn burned to the ground leaving only the stone walls standing.<sup>5</sup> It was completely rebuilt of chestnut.

An acre pond is nestled between the house and the barn providing fire protection, recreation facilities, and aesthetic value.

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<sup>1</sup>Grace Louise Tracey, Notes from the Records of Old Monocacy, Hampstead, Maryland, 1958, pp. 3, 17; map between pp. 138 and 139.

<sup>2</sup>Harvey E. Measell, deceased. Children: Elmer and Olive, residents of Frederick County, Maryland, personal conversation.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ralph Holweck, owner

<sup>5</sup>Raymond Grimes, neighbor now deceased witnessed this event as a small child. Daughter: Harriet R. Clawsey, Walkersville, Maryland, personal conversation.

## SIGNIFICANCE

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## NOTHING VENTURE, NOTHING GETT

The land is fertile and very productive providing a good life for the following families:

Krise Family	1788-1841	53 years <sup>12</sup>
Phillip Cutshall	1841-1867	26 years <sup>13</sup>
Eli K. Slagle	1867-1917	50 years <sup>13</sup>
Harvey E. Measell	1917-1953	36 years <sup>14</sup>
Ralph Holweck	1953	26 years and counting <sup>15</sup>

The fields were laid in contours in 1954 to maintain their high productivity. Today the farm is a one hundred fifty acre family operated dairy farm.

<sup>1</sup>T.J.C. Williams and Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County Maryland, A Biographical Record of Representative Families, II (Reprint of the original edition of 1910; Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1967), p. 883.

<sup>2</sup>York County, Pennsylvania Land Records, Liber 2T; Folio 41, and Record of Wills, Liber ; Folio 180-181.

<sup>3</sup>Maryland Hall of Records, Chancery Records: 1803, Liber 53; Folio 223-226, Annapolis.

<sup>4</sup>Williams, Biographical Record, p. 1195-1196.

<sup>5</sup>Frederick County Land Records, Liber WR 8; Folio 248.

<sup>6</sup>Maryland Hall of Records, Patented Certificate of Survey #2821-88; 1762, Liber BCVGSN 14; Folio 606, Annapolis.

<sup>7</sup>Harvey E. Measell, deceased former owner. Children: Elmer and Olive Measell, residents of Frederick County, Maryland, personal conversation.

<sup>8</sup>Maryland Hall of Records, Frederick County Commissioners of the Tax Assessment of 1798, #19268, CR #35204, p. 27, Annapolis.

<sup>9</sup>Frederick County Land Records, Liber WR 28; Folio 362.

<sup>10</sup>Frederick County Record of Wills, Liber R.B. #1; Folio 355.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., Liber H.S. #3; Folio 593.

<sup>12</sup>Frederick County Land Records, Liber HS 13; Folio 63.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., Liber DSB 1; Folio 421.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., Liber 320; Folio 356.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid., Liber 514; Folio 330.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY (con't)

- 2 -

Williams, T.J.C., and McKinsey, Folger. History of Frederick County, Maryland. A Biographical Record of Representative Families, Vol. II., Reprint of the original edition 1910. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1967.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC "Nothing Venture, Nothing Gett"

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

9727 Oak Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Woodsboro

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF Oak Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

E.D. 11

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Helen S. & Ralph Holweck

Telephone #: 301-898-7834

STREET & NUMBER

9731 Oak Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Woodsboro

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF Oak Hill

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21798

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: 514

Folio #: 330

STREET & NUMBER

North Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland 21701

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

F-8-7

<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 type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The large two and one-half story ell shaped random stone residence faces east on a knoll near a spring-fed stream which rambles down the hillside to the Monocacy River. The old farm lane to the farmstead follows beside this stream to the Old Manor Monocacy Road not far from Stull's Ford. The hillside along the lane is walled with native fieldstone. A small covered porch with a peaked roof and four petite columns protects the recessed panelled entrance to the house. The panelled door is topped by a single light transom and a unique decorative trim of repeated circles. Four windows spread across the upper front of the house. All the windows are double hung 6/6 with original wooden sills and cut wedges stone lintels, and are covered with storm windows. All the stonework is laid at random except for massive meticulously cut quoins. A thin cement wash now peeling in places was applied during this century. The entrance hall possesses an open staircase with carved balusters and opens upon three spacious rooms, each containing a fireplace; two sharing a massive joint corner chimney. The two chimneys on the main house are located flush with the gable on the south and north. The ceilings are nine and a half feet high. Chair rails are abundant throughout the house. Much of the woodwork has been 'feathered'. The panelled fireplace mantel in the north parlor is beautifully executed. A large first floor closet has been converted into a modern bath. The open stairway leads to an upper hallway opening to three spacious bedrooms. A landing at the midpoint of the staircase has small half-tread steps to another private bedroom facing north. A door closes the partly balustered stairway to the floored attic above. A low, heavy batten door panelled in the cross and open bible, and strapped hardware leads from the center hallway to the one and one-half story rear section. This section could have been an early pioneer cabin used as living quarters while the barn and the main house was built. There are two outside entrances. One faces south with a wide roof overhang and an enormous stone serving as a step onto a large area paved with natural flat stones. The other entrance opens north onto a large stone porch which leads to a stone-walled spring. A large fireplace with an opening nine feet long and five and one-half feet high, and with a twelve inch square wooden lintel divides the 18' x 28' area into two rooms. There is a small arched opening in the back of the fire wall which probably served as an oven. The former owner who rented the farm, beginning in 1912, described this room to have had a hard dirt floor with a crude stairway to the loft above. The beams and trusses are hand-hewn. The roof trusses have roman numerals carved into one side. Matching numbered trusses are pegged at the apex. The laths of the roof are quite close indicating wood shingles probably were the original roof covering. The residence is now covered with metal corrugated roofing. The stones are cut and laid so that no flashing is necessary about the chimney.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

F-8-7

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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. 1797-1801

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Crise

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old stone farmhouse is an excellent example of fine native stonework prevalent along the upper Monocacy River, and also displays the opportunities at hand and the rewards of hard work in settling the western lands of Maryland. The unique feature of this home is the well planned floor layout and massive size. Five families have owned the house throughout the years and no major modification has been necessary.

The house was built by the Christ (Crist, Crise, Krise) family. The progenitor, Jacob, a German, sailed from Rotterdam in the ship, "Robert and Alice" and landed in Philadelphia, September 24, 1742, and was only seventeen years old.<sup>1</sup> He married and lived in Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania,<sup>2</sup> before settling on "Turkey Thicket" near Rocky Ridge, Maryland in the seventeen sixties.<sup>3</sup> He built a fine stone house and barn there.<sup>4</sup> In 1788 his son, Henry, purchased for only six pounds, 527 acres across the Monocacy River, a part being "Nothing Venture, Nothing Gett."<sup>5</sup> Robert Wood, brother of Joseph Wood, the founder of Woodsboro, patented this tract of one hundred acres in 1762.<sup>6</sup>

The four previous owners of the residence have proudly narrated "the house was completed in 1801 and the barn some years sooner."<sup>7</sup> In 1798 the tax assessment was increased from 575 pounds to 725 pounds listing as a new improvement "a stone dwellinghouse and barn."<sup>8</sup> The west wing of the house could be classified as a stone dwellinghouse by pioneer standards of that time permitting the completion of the main house by 1801 as narrated by previous owners.

In 1806, Henry divided the farm between two of his sons, John and Henry, Jr., for \$1,800.00 each.<sup>9</sup> John, Margaret, his wife, and family of eight children purchased the stone house. In 1812, John passed away at fifty years of age, describing in his will which rooms of the house belonged to his wife alone and which were to be shared by the family the rest of her life.<sup>10</sup> His son, Samuel, inherited the farm upon the death of his mother, Margaret, in 1828.<sup>11</sup> Samuel sold the farm in 1841 making a total of fifty-three years of Krise family ownership.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis; Frederick County Courthouse; York County, Pennsylvania, Courthouse.

Tracey, Grace Louise. "Notes from the Records of Old Monocacy." Hampstead, Maryland, 1958. (Mimeographed)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 150 acres today; 527 acres in 1788.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded on three sides by paved county road: East-Weddle Road, North & West - Oak Hill Road, South - adjacent to farm of Robert Measell

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

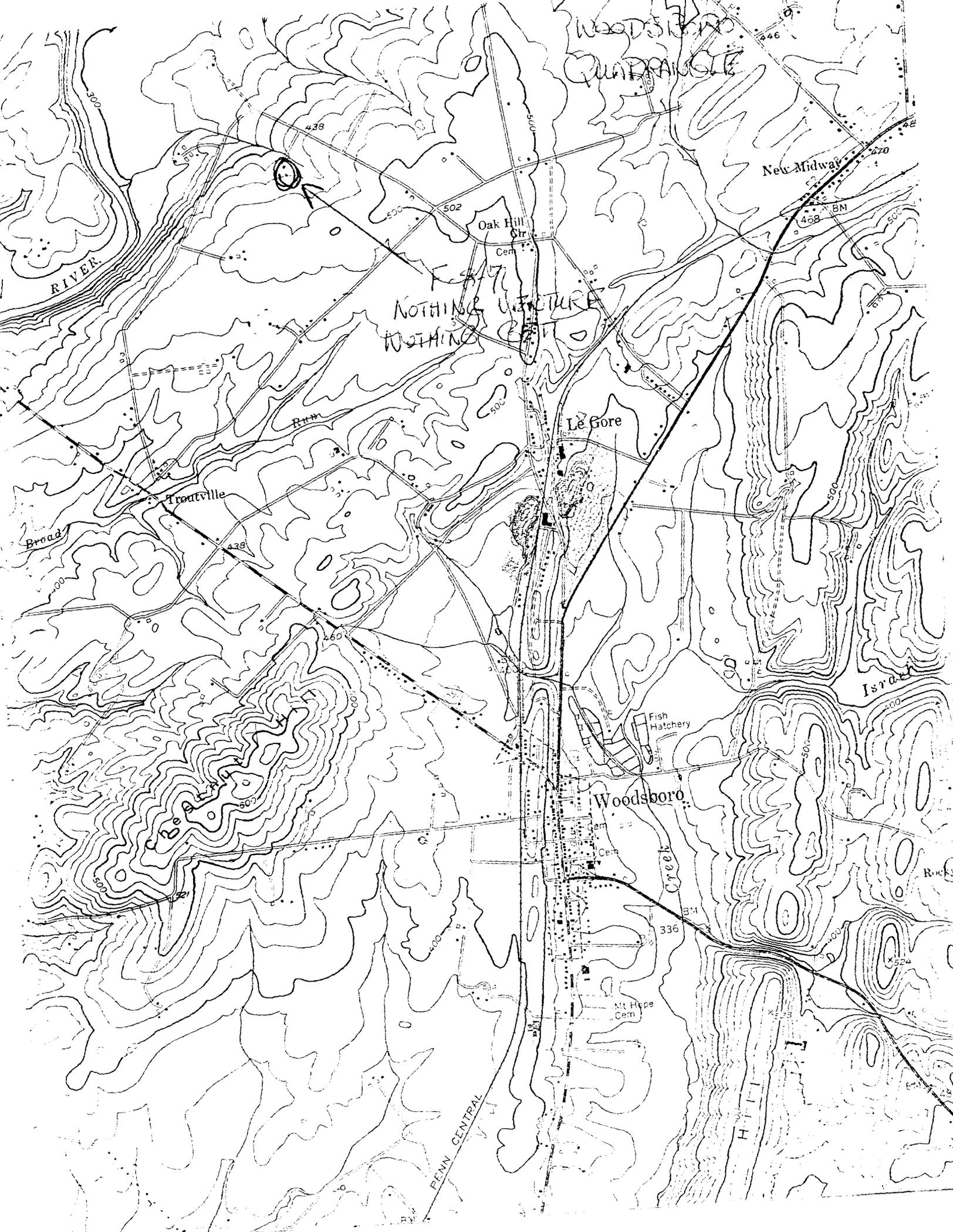
**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	clh
Cherilyn Widell, Sites Analyst; prepared by Mrs. Helen S. Holweck	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation	8/7/78
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
12 East Church St., Winchester Hall	694-1063
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Frederick	Maryland

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



WOODSBORO  
QUADRANGLE

NOTHING VENTURE  
NOTHING

HILL

RIVER

Broad

Troutville

Oak Hill  
Cem

Le Gore

Woodsboro

Fish  
Hatchery

Mt Hope  
Cem

PENN. CENTRAL

New Midway

Island

Rock





F-8-7

Nothing Venture

Nothing Get

OAK HILL RD

WOODSBORO

CEW 6/79

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION



F-8-7

Nothing Venture

Nothing Get

OAK HILL RD

WOODS BORO

CREW 6/79

EAST ELEVATION



F-8-7

Nothing Venture

Nothing Gett

OAK HILL RD

WOODS BORO

CEW 6/79

BARN



F-8-7  
Nothing Venture

Nothing Cell

OAK HILL RD

WOODS BORO

CEW 6/79

REAR WEST ELEVATION



F-8-7

Nothing Venture

Nothing Succeed

OAK HILL RD

WOODSBORO

CEN 6/79

INTERIOR - MANTLEPIECE