NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018
(Rev. 10-90)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Grossnickel, Peter of P., Farm

other names/site number F-4-113

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2. Location

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street 11720 Wolfsville Rd.
not for publication n/a city or town Myersville vicinity n/a
state Maryland code MD county Frederick code 021 zip code 21773

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

6-24-98

Signature of certifying official Date

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

2-4-113

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register _____
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register _____
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
____ removed from the National Register _____

____ other (explain): _____

_____ _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

_x_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

_x_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
12	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
2	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
14	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in National Register 0
Name of related multiple property listing n/a

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC secondary structure

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC secondary structure

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
roof Slate
walls Stone
other WOOD

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

_x_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
_x_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
____ B removed from its original location.
____ C a birthplace or a grave.
____ D a cemetery.
____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
____ F a commemorative property.
____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE
ETHNIC HERITAGE

Period of Significance 1804-1947

Significant Dates c. 1840-1850

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a
Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
_x_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 32 acres
USGS quadrangle Myersville, MD
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	282720	4381660	D	18	282840	4381190
B	18	283100	4381650	E	18	282710	4381280
C	18	282960	4381170				

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property comprises two parcels indicated as "Farm Lot 2" and "Rem." on a plat dated 17 May 1994 and recorded among the land records of Frederick County as Plat No. 30 P-36-2.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, approximately 32 acres, comprises all the contributing elements of the resource within a setting which reflects its historic agricultural character. Additional open space surrounding the nominated property does not directly contribute to the significance of the resource.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Jo Lampl
organization Lampl Associates date February 1998
street & number 5111 Allan Terrace telephone (301) 320-9054
city or town Bethesda state MD zip code 20816

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name Patricia Hurwitz
street & number P. O. Box 674 telephone (301) 293-1736
city or town Frederick state MD zip code 21075

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Description Summary:

The Peter of P. Grossnickel Farm consists of a mid-19th century, Greek Revival farmhouse and 13 related buildings and structures situated in the Middlepoint section of the Middletown valley of Frederick County. Along with the ca. 1840-1850 dwelling, the property features an 1881 tenant house, with corresponding barn, spring house, and washhouse/privy; an 1884-1897 bank barn; a pre-1830 granary; a mid-19th century (or later) wood shed; late 19th century hog pen/chicken house; a pre-1830 beehive oven; a late-19th century smokehouse; a spring house with a turn-of-the-century Late Victorian cottage addition; an early 20th-century, concrete block milk house; and a log summer kitchen of unknown date.

The farm is significant for the number of associated structures and their overall integrity. The property stands on open farmland on the west side of the Wolfsville Road (at #11720 Wolfsville Road, or Maryland Route 17) in the hamlet of Middlepoint, located midway between Myersville and Wolfsville. The farm is one of four known properties in the immediate vicinity which were associated with the Grossnickel (or, Grossnickle) family, one of the German families who settled the valley in the early- to mid-19th century and who also were instrumental in founding the Grossnickle Church of the Brethren. Each of the four extant Grossnickle farms features a 2 1/2-story, extremely well-constructed stone farmhouse from the mid-19th century and related outbuildings. The Peter of P. Grossnickel Farm is distinguished among the other family properties by its comprehensive collection of outbuildings. It is located upon the tract known as "Six Daughters," originally purchased by Peter of P.'s father, Bernhard Peter Grossnickel in the early 19th century.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The graveled drive to the property runs westward from the Wolfsville Road, continuing straight toward the barn and forking south toward the dwelling and domestic area. Situated on the same north/south alignment, the house and barn are oriented differently, however, with the house facing southeast and the barn due east. Each of these two primary structures has a cluster of associated outbuildings, laid out in a pattern typical of the Piedmont region of Maryland. In close proximity to the house are the beehive oven, smokehouse, and spring house/cottage. A painted, wooden picket fence surrounds the facade of the house and embraces these domestic outbuildings in its sphere. On the west bank of a small creek that runs in a north/south direction through the property is the summer kitchen. The woodshed is located at the rear of the house, nearest the kitchen wing of the main house. A series of large, stone steps leads from the drive to the rear of the dwelling. The agricultural buildings are located along the drive, both preceding the barn and just across from it. These include a hog house/chicken coop; wagon shed/corn crib; and a granary. Behind these buildings, a grassy rise leads to corn fields and, eventually, to Middle Creek further west. The property also contains a second cluster of buildings for a tenant family, including a late 19th-century dwelling, small barn, spring house/smokehouse, and washhouse/privy. These buildings are located to the north of the main farm and sit directly on the Wolfsville Road.

The House

The Peter of P. Grossnickel House is a two-and-a-half story, L-shaped, four bay stone house facing southeast. It was built for farmer Peter Grossnickel (son of Bernhard Peter Grossnickel). Peter Grossnickel, the original owner, was also known as "Peter of P." on maps, in historical

records, and on his gravestone, indicating that Bernhard Peter went by his middle, not formal, name.[1]

The house's principal gable roof is oriented on a northeast/southwest axis. Supported on a limestone foundation, this center passage, single-pile dwelling is extended to the rear by a one-and-a-half story, one-bay kitchen wing that is original to the main block. Tradition has it that the kitchen wing was built earlier than the rest of the house, but there is no evidence to support this conclusion, especially given the continuous stone wall on the building's southwest face. The house is quite substantial in scale (approximately 40 feet across and 23 feet deep), with a kitchen wing that is of approximately 12-foot width and 16-foot depth. The house's 18-inch thick walls are built of variegated green and gray limestone, set in a random pattern and infilled with untooled sand mortar. The slate covering the gable roof on the main block was recently renewed; the kitchen wing roof was also recently sheathed in standing-seam metal.

The main facade is three bays wide on the first floor and four bays above. The center entrance is flanked by two, 9/6, double-hung sash windows. The entrance is ornamented with a flat-roofed, dentiled portico in the Greek Revival style composed of four square piers with simple caps. Two pilasters flank the door. The porch is accessed via a run of wooden steps lined with an iron rail (not original). The porch landing features a wooden railing. The house's facade is plastered within the porch section. The single, wood door in the main opening is not original. There is a four-light transom, but no sidelights.

Window sash throughout the main block are 9/6 in the first floor and 6/6 in the second floor. Small, rectangular attic windows are six-paned. Windows have wooden sills and rectangular fieldstone lintels. A pair of paneled shutters still exists on the southwest wall of the kitchen wing. Other shutters are louvered wood. The boxed cornice is wood, with the rake

[1] This given name of "Peter" is corroborated by an 1804 survey of the Six Daughter's tract issued to "Peter Grossnickle." (Survey Book THO 2/364, Frederick County Land Records).

boards extending beyond the wall plane. There are two interior end chimneys, both of which have been recently repaired above the roofline with new brick stacks. The kitchen wing features an exterior stone chimney with brick stack, which has been repaired as well.

The gable ends of the main block are typical in their symmetrical presentation, with two ranges of openings on each face and louvered windows flanking the chimneys at the attic level. The northeast face features a full door to the cellar, which is partially above grade.

The kitchen wing extends to the northwest with dimensions of 15'-8" x 11'-11". The rear elevation of the house thus features an L-shaped, one-story, open porch composed of the back side of the main block and the northeast side of the kitchen wing. Both stone walls within the porch area have been plastered like that of the front porch.

The interior of the house follows a traditional center hall/single pile plan with rear kitchen wing. Doors in the front and rear elevations are slightly off-center, due to the center stair. Each of these doors is marked by a large stone threshold, as is a third exterior door leading from the kitchen wing to the back porch. The rear door of the main block is a four-panel door with a new knob. The front door appears to be an early 20th century door within its original frame. Otherwise, doors in the house are primarily six-panel in configuration. The house features moldings typical of the Greek Revival period, including Grecian ogee and bead window moldings (produced on planes manufactured between 1780 and 1855), and chair rail and baseboard moldings. Several doors, most window moldings, chair rails, and the central stair, are grained. This honey-colored graining was designed to simulate oak and is in excellent condition. It is a quite distinctive feature of the interior. At least one coat of paint can be seen underneath the graining in all of the various rooms in the house. This visual data, coupled with the graining's manifestation in the 1881 tenant house until a recent renovation, appear to indicate that the graining is an alteration to the house; probably of early 20th-century vintage. (See Tenant House Complex below.)

The 6' 10"-wide center hall includes a square baluster stair that rises to the second floor. It features a modest newel post topped by a well-worn, rounded finial. The wooden handrail is supported by square balusters that rise from an open stringer. The carriage is decorated with scrolled stair brackets that are grained. The area below the carriage exhibits grained, paneled sheathing (at least some of which consists of a reused door, which can be seen along the stair to the cellar). White paint is visible underneath the stair graining. In the center hall ceiling there is a molded circular medallion similar in spirit to the bull's-eyes so common in the Greek Revival period. It is composed of a series of applied circular moldings fastened to the plaster ceiling and presumably framed a hanging lamp. The hall features a molded chair rail and baseboard (which are slightly different in profile from those throughout the rest of the house).

To either side of the hall are the parlors, now subdivided into two rooms each, but which were originally deep rooms with central fireplaces on their end walls. These parlors were equal sized (a little over 14 feet wide by 23 feet deep), and were accessed by six-panel doors, one of which remains and features a rim lock with knob. Both parlors were partitioned at some point in their history to subdivide them into smaller rooms. It is possible that this occurred circa 1863, with the death of Peter of P. Grossnickel and the inheritance of the farm by his son Elias. In his will, written in 1855, Peter of P. dictated to Elias that his mother (Peter of P.'s wife), Rebecca, should receive the "eastern room in the lower story of the dwelling house, as well as part of the room directly above it in the second story" for her living quarters.[2] (While this almost certainly dates the second-story partition to that date, it is not as specific to the division of the first story.)

[2] Will of Peter of P. Grossnickel (APK 1/304, Frederick County Land Records), executed in 1863.

The partition walls on the first floor occur northwest of the chimneys. Today, the northeast parlor features a kitchen at its front end, and a dining room at the back. The partition at this end of the house occurs approximately 16' 5" deep from the facade. The front kitchen features its original chair rail and baseboard molding, but also has a new, brick mantel with a tin flue cover above the fireplace opening; a linoleum floor; and an acoustical tile ceiling. The dining room portion of this parlor also features its original chair rail and baseboard molding, as well as original wood flooring of uneven widths (approximately six inches wide on average). On the partition wall, a clear seam, change in baseboard molding profile, and abrupt termination of the chair rail (which, originally, matched the depth of the chimney breast) all point to the partition wall as an added element.

The southwest parlor now functions as a living room at its front and a home office at its back. At this end of the house, the partition occurs 14' 2" back from the facade. The living room features an original wood mantel, displaying the characteristic horizontality, layered moldings, and wide, unadorned frieze of the Greek Revival style. Its opening has been sealed and is concealed behind wood sheathing. It has a new tile hearth. The living room features the same chair rail and baseboard molding as that in the opposite parlor. In the office, the same break in the baseboard molding and stop in the chair rail indicate the addition of the partition wall at this end of the house. The office windows and wall trim feature the graining seen in the hall, and there is a prime example of graining on the six-panel door that leads from the office to the kitchen wing. Underneath the graining in this area and the central passage, one can see a blue/green coat of paint. The door between the office and the kitchen wing features a substantial rim lock with lever handle, indicating, to some degree, the segregation of this space from the rest of the house. Damage to the plaster in the office wall reveals an interior construction method of plaster added directly over a mud coating. The floorboards in the office are original and are secured by cut nails of the 1830-1880 period.

A modern bath has been added to the first floor of the house by carving out a small portion of the southwest parlor. It is accessed via a door from the center passage.

Directly behind this southwest parlor is the kitchen wing. Its cooking fireplace has now been sealed, but an original cupboard and closet flank the former opening to either side. The cupboard's upper portion has three panels each on two doors with a simple knob and bar latch. The lower portion consists of a tongue-and-groove two-door cupboard with stone floor. The closet to the right of the chimney features a beaded board door and a "Lima Bean latch."[3] The interior of the closet reveals machine-made lath (dating the house to the post 1840 period) and historically provided storage space beneath the chimney flue. The closet and cupboard are grained, as are the window and door architraves in the room. The graining in this room differs slightly, however, from that throughout the main block, being more golden in its hue and showing less decorative flourish. At least one earlier coat or paint (a gray color) shows underneath the graining in this room. The original kitchen flooring is unknown since a plywood floor lies underneath the current carpet. The attic space above the kitchen is accessed via a panel in the plastered ceiling, and there is no indication that the kitchen space ever featured an interior stair. This attic space presumably served, therefore, for storage, which is substantiated by its complete segregation from the second-story living quarters of the main block. A newer, glass and panel door on the northeast wall of the kitchen wing leads to the exterior porch. As expected, the kitchen does not have the original chair rail or baseboard elements found throughout the rest of the house. A new baseboard has been added.

The stair hall to the second floor is dominated by the open, square baluster stair and walls of simple beaded sheathing. The same chair rail found on the first floor can be seen on the stair hall's northwest wall, underneath a window. Visual evidence and description from Peter of P.'s

[3] Donald Streeter, "The Historical Development of Hand Forged Iron Builders' Hardware," H. Ward Jandl, ed., *The Technology of Historic American Buildings*, Washington, D.C.: Foundation for Preservation Technology, 1983, p. 19.

will, point to an original floor plan of two, L-shaped chambers flanking the central stair opening. A transverse partition, in line with the stair rail and located between the middle two facade windows, features original baseboard trim. These rooms featured the molded chair rail element and baseboard seen on the first floor. Based on the fact that the chair rail mold continues across the chimney breast, however, these spaces appear to have been heated either by ambient air or by stoves. (One of the rooms still features a floor vent, and the plaster on the chimney breast does not reveal stove flues.)

Currently, the upstairs is partitioned into four bedrooms and a walk-in closet/room. Directly at the top of the stairs, beaded sheathing frames two six-panel doors with mature cut nails, moldings, and rim locks. Doors to the right and left of the stair landing, on the other hand, are wood-sheathed and featured wire nails, pointing to the likelihood that these openings are a later alteration. The need for these doors was occasioned by the subdivision of the single-pile plan into a double-pile plan, like that of the first floor and, in the eastern end of the house at the least, dates to circa 1863, when Rebecca received her own room. Partition walls that run parallel to the house's facade feature baseboard trim that does not match the original and are devoid of chair rail moldings. Both of the larger chambers at the building's north end feature closets of simple beaded sheathing which were apparently added.

The enclosed stair to the attic is located in a corner of the northwest chamber. It features a six-panel door to the attic and a small closet beneath the stair. The attic door features a Norfolk latch identical to that seen on a door to the cellar. The unfinished attic is an 18-bent, timber-framed space comprised of common rafters and collars. The rafters are mortised, tenoned, and pegged together at the ridge, and there is no ridge board. Collars are sash-sawn. A single purlin on each slope, located below the collar level, is supported by tension braces. These latter members are circular sawn and are secured with wire nails, indicating a probable late 19th or early 20th century alteration. The

chimneys are plastered in the attic. Floorboards are laid throughout the entire attic space and are secured via mature cut nails.

A grained, six-panel door with decorative Norfolk latch, like that on the attic door, is located in the center passage behind the stair on the first floor and leads to the cellar. An open wood stair descends to a large, plastered cellar with a dirt floor. Walls in the cellar are plastered, but only a bridging summer beam is whitewashed on the ceiling. The major timbers are the ground sills and the single, hewn summer beam that runs lengthwise from gable end to gable end and is continuous across the width of the house. The joists are flush with the principal framing members, and all members are sash sawn. Joists run in a transverse fashion except in the area under the center hall, where sleepers are mortised into tenons and pegged into the transverse joists, which are paired at the intersection. Mature cut nails can be seen throughout the cellar. The cellar chimneys do not appear to have had working fireplaces. The exterior beaded board door to the cellar features a long strap hinge and wrought nail heads on the door and frame, which is consistent with the use of older nails on exterior doors of this type beyond the general period of usage for wrought nails (which ended in the early 19th century.) There are three openings on the facade wall in the cellar (the southernmost one being longer and having a sloped interior sill) and two openings on the northeast wall (the above-mentioned door and a new small window opening for a vent).

Other Building/Structures on the Property

The Peter of P. Grossnickel Farm contains a rare number of contributing associated structures, including a tenant dwelling, barn, and spring house; a bank barn; a granary; a wood shed; a hog pen/chicken house; a beehive oven; a smokehouse; a spring house/Victorian cottage; a summer kitchen; a small, concrete-block milk house next to the barn; and a washhouse/privy behind the tenant house.

Tenant House Complex

Immediately north of the entrance to the farm and facing east on the road is a 2 1/2-story tenant house likely built by then owner, Elias Grossnickle, and located at 11728 Wolfsville Road. It was constructed in 1881, according to two inscriptions which read "Built 1881," located in the attic on the south chimney wall and a nearby rafter. The building is of "Pennsylvania Farm House Type,[4] a form first categorized by cultural geographer Henry Glassie in essays on the vernacular architecture of the Delaware Valley. As such, it represents the merger of the traditional, central chimney, three-room German plan house and the Georgian symmetrical form established in this country by the late-18th century. The house features a stone foundation, and has wood German siding underneath newer vinyl German siding added in 1996. The house's windows also have been replaced recently with six-over-six, double-hung vinyl windows with fake muntins. Despite these newer materials, the house is still identifiable as a Pennsylvania Farm House Type, based on exterior organization and interior plan.

It features the traditional four-bay facade associated with the Pennsylvania Farm House Type: two central doors and two end windows on the first floor. Its gable end walls are symmetrically composed and are two bays deep. The rear elevation is three bays wide with a central door. The seemingly symmetrical house features an asymmetrical plan of three rooms on the interior. There is a long parlor at the south, a shorter parlor to the north, and a small room located in the house's northwest corner. True to the form, the south parlor features a working fireplace fed by a chimney and the north parlor a smaller mantel covering the opening to a stove chimney. The partition dividing the north end rooms features a built-in corner located beside the chimney. The location of the stairs in the house is slightly different from the typical Pennsylvania Farm House given its central location at the front of the house (as opposed to the rear). On

[4] Henry Glassie, "Eighteenth-Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building," in Dell Upton and John Vlach, eds. *Common Places* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1986), pp. 394-425.

the second floor, the room pattern repeats that of the first floor, except that a bathroom has been carved out of the southwest corner. Until recently, the house featured decorative graining on most of its wood surfaces like that is found in the main Peter Grossnickel of P. house.

The kitchen to the house was located originally in the cellar, which features a large cooking fireplace at its south end, plastered walls, and a whitewashed ceiling. Circular sawn joists and a hewn summer beam (bridging) can be seen in the basement. Access to the attic is from a closeted stair housed in the southeast bed chamber. The door to the attic features hardware identical to that on the cellar door to the house. The roof is a pegged, common rafter roof which meets a pair of angled ridge boards at the ridge line.

Associated with the house and presumed to date from the same period are a small wooden barn (immediately to the north of the house on the Wolfsville Road), a wood-clad spring house (that likely features a smoke house in its upper portion) on a stone foundation to its south, and what may be a washhouse (partially log) attached to a privy to the west of the main house. The washhouse structure is deteriorating.

Bank Barn

The bank barn is a large frame Pennsylvania barn upon a stone foundation. It is located to the north of the house, facing east. The barn features three large loft openings on its east face. According to Grossnickel descendants, the structure is a late 19th -century replacement of an earlier barn. This information matches insurance policies to Elias Grossnickel, owner of the property following Peter. Elias' 1883-1884 policy insures a barn for $600, and his 1897 policy insures one for $900. The ca. 1884-1897 date also matches circular sawn materials and wire nails found throughout the structure. On the forebay elevation at the stall level, a cinder-block wall with windows has been added as a partial enclosure. The barn is currently being re-sided, due to poor condition of the existing boards. The barn already features a new, standing-seam metal

roof. The pound area is contained by two masonry walls and an electric fence/wood post fence on the south side. The barn is currently used for hay storage and housing sheep.

Granary

To the south of the barn just opposite the driveway is a freestanding granary. It is constructed of logs, raised off the ground on posts, and clad in board-and-batten siding secured with wrought nails. Its roof features one slope of standing-seam metal and the other of corrugated metal. There is a simple wood board door. In the interior, three grain bins line the structure's east wall. The granary is probably from the pre-1830 period.

Wood Shed

Continuing along the driveway toward the main house, one finds a wood shed parallel to the granary and to its south. It is a timber framed structure with board walls and a standing-seam metal roof. The framing consists of both small, barked-log rafters and hewn posts and beams. The timbers are pegged together at major intersections and nailed elsewhere. Wooden members show the use of both the sash and circular saw, probably dating the wood shed to at least the mid-19th century.

Wagon Shed/Corn Crib

A combination wagon shed/corn crib is located east of the bank barn, on the opposite side of the driveway. Its form is that of a gabled main block with a shed-roofed crib projection on its south. In the gabled section is a central, open wagon stall and a narrow corn crib to its north. The shed roof portion of the structure now functions as a vehicle stall with access from its east face. The structure sits upon a concrete-block foundation, has vertical wood board walls, a corrugated metal roof, and two, six pane windows on its south face. The building features mature cut nails on the interior and wire nails on the planking, so the structure is

probably of the 1830-1880 vintage, with post-1880 siding and a newer foundation.

Hog Pen/Chicken Coop

This combined structure has a form and roof profile similar to the wagon/shed corn crib but is positioned facing southeast and slightly smaller in scale. Its gabled main block rests on a stone foundation and contains animal pens (one of which currently houses a ram), with a loft-story chicken coop above. A well-ventilated, but enclosed pound area projects from the main block's southeast face and sits upon a cinder block foundation. The building has wood board walls secured with wire nails, and a corrugated metal roof.

Summer Kitchen

A summer kitchen is located just to the north of a small creek that runs through the property in a north/south direction. The building is approximately 21 feet long by 17 feet wide, and is constructed of whole, barked logs and hewn logs with mortar infill. The date of the log structure is not clear. Both wire and mature cut nails can be found on steps to the loft portion of the structure, and there are sash-sawn and circular sawn members. In addition, there are wire nails in the interior, but these do not appear to have served any structural purpose.

The structure features a large, exterior stone chimney (with brick stack) on its north face, and narrow, rectangular openings for casement windows on its other three elevations. The siding is wood board, and the roof, standing-seam metal. The two existing sliding casement windows on the east and west faces feature two-over-two windows in each casement. Surrounding the windows are frames featuring a simple bead/beveled edge molding, suggesting that the windows are at least of late 19th-century vintage as is the board siding, which is secured with large wire nails.

The interior features one large open room on the first floor and a loft space above. The first-floor space is whitewashed, but the loft space appears always to have served a storage purpose, since the flooring is not nailed down, there is no evidence of whitewash, and the only opening is a loft-style opening on the building's south end. The unfinished quality of the loft space and the small size of the structure as a whole make it unlikely that it was an earlier Grossnickel home, as tradition holds.[5]

On the first floor, the wood floor has been partially covered in concrete. The fireplace opening at the north end is very large, and still features a heavy iron crane at its front end. To the left of the fireplace is a shelf area, the location of which may have been original to the structure.

Smokehouse

To the northeast of the main house and the southwest of the summer kitchen is a smokehouse. It is constructed of hewn logs with mortar infill set upon a stone foundation. It is sheathed in German siding secured with wire nails and capped with a more recent standing-seam metal roof. On the interior, the dirt floor shows evidence of a pit near its center and the logs are charred. The smell of smoke remains. The wood-framed roof structure also features wooden hooks for hanging the meat. The smokehouse

[5] The survey of the Six Daughters tract, executed for Peter Grossnickle (Bernhard Peter) in 1804, mentions that "1 old log schoolhouse" was the only improvement on the property Grossnickle assumed. Since his original tract was 218 acres - much larger than the 113 acres of today - this log structure is not likely the summer kitchen, but rather the log school house that is identified on 1858 and 1873 maps slightly south on the Wolfsville Road, just south of Meeting House Road. This small log structure on the creek still stands today. The school house mentioned in the survey was originally part of Christian Leatherman's property, prior to its sale to Grossnickle. While this attribution of the log structure seems logical, it is not definitive, since the original boundaries of the Six Daughters tract are indicated by stones planted in the vicinity of trees and bordering historical tract names, making the degree to which the tract stretched southwards unclear.

does not exhibit a source of ventilation, but this is likely due to the addition of a new standing seam metal roof.

Beehive Oven

A brick, beehive oven is located just to the west of the smokehouse in the domestic area of the farm. It is contained within a wood-board structure resting on a stone foundation featuring a small brick interior chimney at its north end. The gable roof of the structure is sheathed in corrugated metal. The oven itself features a parapeted brick face and is accessed via an opening at the south end, closest to the house. Nails on the exterior board walls have wrought heads, pointing to this as one of the farm's earliest structures (pre-1830), along with the granary. Currently, a dog house also is located within the enclosure.

Springhouse/Victorian Cottage

The springhouse is located close to the main dwelling, and slightly to its east. It is a hewn log structure with board siding on a stone foundation. It has been lengthened by the addition of a small, cottage residence at its west end. This alteration probably occured around the turn of the 20thcentury. The whole structure has a standing-seam metal roof.

The springhouse portion of the structure is accessed on its east face via a board door built into the sloping ground. The interior of the springhouse still features a trough; now made of concrete. The spring itself flows into the structure from a plastered well that extends deep below the floor surface of the springhouse. This well area is accessed via an internal door in the springhouse.

A frame 1-1/2-story, residential section was added to the west face of the springhouse around the turn of the 20th century and effectively lengthened the structure to a rectangular footprint and reoriented it to the west. The residential facade of this structure has a porch across its

brief expanse. Windows were added in the log section and a scalloped vergeboard placed at both gable ends. The structure is covered in German siding. There is a center chimney on the ridge line.

Milk House

A small, concrete block milk house is located immediately adjacent to the barn on the north side.

Former Structures

A masonry silo was removed recently from the property. Also removed at an unknown date were two structures located to the south of the house - a large sheep barn and a chicken coop - a second chicken coop near the granary, and a hay barn/machine shed behind the bank barn. These structures appear in a 20th-century photograph of the farm owned by the Grossnickel family. There also was a blacksmith shop in the field down from the tenant house, along the small stream that runs through the property's eastern portion.

Significance Summary

The Peter of P. Grossnickel Farm meets National Register Criteria A and C for historical and architectural significance at the local level. The farm meets Criterion A for its association with the wave of German Brethren immigration into the Middletown Valley of Frederick County in the mid-18th through mid-19th centuries. During this first half of the 19th century, Peter of P. Grossnickel was one of the leading members of the German Brethren Church in the area. The Grossnickel family established several successful farms in the immediate vicinity, located on two large tracts of land known as "Six Daughters" and "Two Sons." At least four of these farms still stand in the Middlepoint area. Each has its trademark 2 1/2-story stone house, and all appear to have been built around mid-century. In 1847, the Grossnickel family also erected the first German Brethren Church structure in the Middlepoint area, called "Grossnickle's Church of the Brethren," just to the south of the Peter of P. Grossnickel Farm on Wolfsville Road. The enclave of houses and church indicate the local prominence and prosperity of this farming and lumber family and the history of the community as a German Brethren stronghold. The farm of Peter of P. Grossnickel, one of the community's most devout and esteemed members, is a proud symbol of this German Brethren settlement.

The property also meets Criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of a vernacular Greek Revival dwelling and a highly intact farmstead from the mid-19th century in the Middletown valley area of Frederick County. The main dwelling is an instructive example of the adaptation that occured in rural Maryland when the Germanic and Anglo-American building traditions merged. With its execution in the native fieldstone preferred by German builders, but its single-pile, center passage plan, the house reflects the growing influence of the ideal, Georgian form. A Pennsylvania Farm House Type tenant house on the property further indicates this trend toward the absorption of the Continental house into the more mainstream Georgian mode. Finally, the inclusion within the property of 13 outbuildings vividly illustrates the regional penchant towards dispersion of the rural landscape, with domestic and agricultural

functions scattered across the property in a number of outbuildings or structures.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Peter of P. Grossnickel House and most of its outbuildings were built by the third Peter Grossnickel to reside in the Middletown Valley and at least the fourth Peter Grossnickel in the German-originated family line. Peter of P. Grossnickel was the grandson of an earlier Peter Grossnickel, Jr. who made the trip from Germany to Philadelphia in the mid-18th century. Together, the immigrant Peter Grossnickel, Jr. (1728-1755)[6] and his brother John (1717-1782) were the founding members of the Grossnickel line in Frederick County. It was the elder brother John who left Germany first, arriving in 1738 in Philadelphia from Wittenberg.

The Grossnickels were German Brethren. The German Brethren originated in Schwarzenau, Germany as a group of dissatisfied Christians who withdrew from their communion and organized a class of their own. This small band of dissidents believed that personal reverence was paramount to religious formality. In 1708, they elected Alexander Mack, a writer and philosopher, as their first minister and began calling themselves the Church of the Brethren. With the persuasive ministry of Mack, the congregation grew quickly in Southern Germany, and as their numbers grew so did their persecution by the German government and other denominations. When William Penn invited them to settle in Pennsylvania in 1719, they accepted, and the first wave of German Brethren emigrated to Philadelphia, settling in the city and Germantown.

Alternately called "Dunkards" for their practice of ritual baptism, the group also became known as "German Baptist Brethren," or just "German Baptist." Although their numbers grew in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, the German Brethren continued to face persecution in their

[6] According to genealogical research housed at the Frederick County Historical Society, Peter, Jr. died very young, living only from 1728-1755. This death date may be incorrect.

new homeland for their nonconformity. Like the Quakers and Mennonites, the Brethren did not believe in the practice of slavery, and would go to slave auctions, buy slaves, and set them free. Other habits that were viewed with suspicion were their refusal to bear arms, join the army, take part in the Revolution, fight against the Indians, or accept prevailing currency.

Circa 1746, John Grossnickel was joined in Pennsylvania by his brother Peter, Jr., and the two settled in fertile Lancaster, increasingly a destination for German immigrants. At some point over the next 20 years, the two brothers migrated south to the Middletown Valley of Maryland, drawn by the offer of free land.[7] In 1767, John Grossnickel regstered a mark to identify his cattle, sheep and hogs with the Frederick courthouse, placing him squarely in the county by that date.[8]1 One inconsistency in sources revolves around whether both brothers went to Pennsylvania and then Maryland, or whether one settled in Pennsylvania and another in the Middletown valley. There is also mention of a third brother, "Daniel," who may have stayed in Lancaster/York County, Pennsylvania.[9] By 1770, there were 1,500 followers of the Church of the Brethren in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The Grossnickels would have found the Middletown valley a pleasant reminder of their German home, with its rolling foothills and other German-speaking residents. There, they settled to farm and practice their religion freely. Along with the Grossnickels, other emigrants fromYork County, Pennsylvania included the Wolfs, Hoovers, and Leathermans. The initial congregation of German Brethren in Frederick was known as the Middletown Valley congregation and was headed by Elder Daniel leatherman,

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[7] One inconsistency in sources revolves around whether both brothers went to Pennsylvania and then Maryland, or whether one settled in Pennsylvania and another in the Middletown valley. There is also mention of a third brother, "Daniel," who may have stayed in Lancaster/York County, Pennsylvania.

[8] C.E. Schildknecht, "The genealogy of the Grossnickles," *The Frederick Post*, July 13, 1991, p. B-7.

who came to Frederick County from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, settling in Harmony and dying near Ellerton.

John Grossnickel married a woman named Susannah, and purchased enough land for a successful farm. He and his wife had no descendants.[10] John Grossnickel's brother, Peter, however, marrried Anna Margretha Becker in 1749 and was responsible for continuing the Grossnickel lineage.[11] The second generation of Grossnickels in the Middletown valley sprang from this marriage of Peter to Anna. Together, they had two sons, named John (1754-1815) and Bernhard Peter (1750-1822). The first son became known as "Old John." The second son became known simply as "Peter." In 1774, Peter met and married Christina Studebaker and together they had nine children, eight of whom survived. In 1777, "Old John" married Elizabeth Neith (or Neff) and had 12 children.

Again, it was the Peter line that led ultimately to the construction of the Peter of P. Grossnickel House. In 1775, Bernhard Peter (known as Peter) was reportedly living on his Uncle John's farm, called "Stoney Arabia" (it is unclear what became of his own father's farm), and, eventually, inherited it.[12] Bernhard Peter also purchased additional land in the Middletown valley area in 1794 and in 1796, and, by 1804 had two large tracts of lands resurveyed and named. Property he had purchased from Christian Leatherman (known as "Batechelors Luck") was renamed "The Six Daughters" and contained 218 acres. Property originally owned by John Grossnickle and known as "Stoney Arabia" was renamed "The Two Sons" and contained 294 acres. Bernhard Peter also had aquired a smaller, 40-acre tract known as "Rum Spring."[13]

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[10] Schildknecht, "The genealogy of the Grossnickles."

[11] Although there are discrepancies in the various sources of information on early Grossnickel genealogy, the information contained in this nomination is taken primarily from genealogical data contained at the Frederick County Historical Society in the Grossnickel vertical file.

[12] Schildknecht, "The Genealogy of the Grossnickles."

[13] Six Daughters is resurveyed in Survey Record THO 2/364 and Two Sons in THO 2/366 (Frederick County Land Records).

When Bernhard Peter Grossnickel died in 1822, he passed the Two Sons tract to his eldest son John (1783-1863) and the Six Daughters and Rum Springs tracts to his younger son, Peter (1786-1863).[14] In his will, Bernhard Peter indicated that his own "dwelling plantation" was located on the Two Sons tract.[15]

Due to the repetition through several generations of the given names "Peter" and "John, " authorities (and perhaps the people of the valley) began to identify the brothers by their progenitor, thus the third Peter of Middletown valley became known as "Peter of P," which appears on atlases from the mid-19th century and on his gravestone. Again, it was this "Peter of P." Grossnickel (1786-1863) who built the 2 1/2-story stone farmhouse that stands today at 11720 Wolfsville Road and is recorded in this nomination. His brother John, who inherited the "Two Sons" tract, built a similar stone farmhouse which still stands and, according to Grossnickle family members, is the one south of the Peter of P. Grossnickel Farm on Highland School Road, just as it forks off Wolfsville Road. (This house appears as the John Grossnickle of P. farm on the 1858 Bond Map of Frederick County.) It is not known if any of Bernhard Peter's dwelling house remains. John Grossnickel, his son, also fathered a long line of Grossnickels and was a successful farmer. In addition, he was a lumberman who owned over 1000 acres of timber land on the Catoctin Mountain.

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[14] Will of Peter Grossnickle, Sr. HS 3/86 (Frederick County Land Records). There are inconsistencies in the historical record, due to the recurring given names of "Peter" and "John." According to T.J.C. Williams and Folger McKinsey's *History of Frederick County, MD*, Vol. 2 (L.R. Titsworth & Co., 1910), p. 1370, it was "Old John" Grossnickel and his wife Catherine's two sons, Peter and John, who inherited the land that sparked the Grossnickel farms and lineage. Both second-generation brothers, Bernhard Peter and "Old John," had sons named Peter and John, making it difficult to evaluate the various histories. However, deeds, wills, and resurveys validate that it was Bernhard Peter's line that inherited "Six Daughters" and Two Sons.

[15] Will of Peter Grossnickle, Sr. (Bernhard Peter), 1822, HS 3/86 (Frederick County Land Records).

With large families and marriages between cousins, Grossnickels became one of the most populous clans in the area. The census of 1850 listed 46 Grossnickels in the valley.[16] By the mid-19th century, with the teaching of English in the schools and the conversion in the churches from German to English prayer, the German spelling of Grossnick*el* had given way to the barely anglicized Grossnick*le*. Other Grossnickle houses which stand from the early-to-mid 19th century in the immediate vicinity include the J. Grossnickle farm at 11627 Wolfsville Road and the P. Grossnickle of J. House near Rum Spring at 10803 Highland School Road. The P. Grossnickle Jr. house, which would have stood across the street at 10814 Highland School Road, has been demolished. There are at least three other Grossnickel farms in the valley identified on the 1858 Bond Map of Frederick County: the Jacob Grossnickel and J. Grossnickel of J. Sr. farms to the north, and the J. Grossnickle property to the south, where the Wolfsville Road take a sharp turn. At least one of these houses is known to exist, but a more intensive investigation would be required to determine the exact number of Grossnickle farms remaining.

In the first 100 years of their meetings in Frederick, the Brethren met to worship in people's homes or barns. According to secondary sources, the first permanent place of worship for the Frederick County German Brethren in the 18th century was at settler Peter Grossnickel, Jr.'s house.[17] (This house no longer stands.) In the late-18th to mid-19th century period, sources place the German Brethren spiritual meetings at the following locations: the Peter (of P.) Grossnickel Farm at 11720 Wolfsville, the John Grossnickel (of P.) Farm at the corner of Wolfsville and Highland School Roads, the Ann Maria Moser Home (towards Hamburg), and the Michael Harshman Barn at 11485 Meeting House Road. Following the service, the congregation was invited to partake of a meal at the hosting member's home. These were all-day events which included the preachings of various members, "love feasts," and, when necessary, funerals.

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[16] C.E. Schildknect, "The Genealogy of the Grossnickles," *The Frederick Post*, July 13, 1991, B-7.

[17] J. Maurice Henry, *History of the Church of the Brethren in Maryland* (Brethren Publishing House, 1936), 136.

Beginning in the late 1830s, the Middletown Congregation saw fit to erect structures devoted solely to church practice. The first formal house of worship for the congregation was the Ann Maria Moser Church, in the eastern section of the valley, built in 1839 just a few yards from the home of Mrs. Moser, a devout member. (This building no longer stands on that site, but its logs were reused to build the Harmony Brethren Church.) There was need for a second meeting house, both larger and more centrally located, however, so along with their unmistakable stone houses, the Grossnickels built their own church at Ellerton. This construction of the Grossnickle's Church of the Brethren on Wolfsville Road in 1847 signaled the family's strong presence in the valley as well as the expanding German Brethren population. It was known at the time of its construction simply as "the meeting house," and was a utilitarian, wood structure. The construction date of 1847 is interesting, since it represents the same time period that Peter of P. Grossnickel built his stone house. The era, therefore, seems to represent a prosperous time for the family; a period when multiple members were able to upgrade living conditions on farmsteads, as well as construct a separate house of worship. The Grossnickels, Leathermans, and Hannah Harp were the largest contributors for the construction of the Grossnickle church.[18]

Peter of P. Grossnickel resided on his farm until his death at age 77 on August 6, 1863. In his will of 1855 and codicil of 1858, he left the farm to his son Elias, who continued to farm the property (Liber A.P.K. 1/Folio 304 and 306) and provide for his mother. Peter of P. also instructed that Elias reduce the land of the farm, but not to a size less than 130 acres during his mother, Rebecca's lifetime.[19] The farm was given to Elias since Peter of P. hae already given land to his other five sons in sums equal to that given Elias.[20] The Atlas of Frederick County for 1873

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[18] Ira C. Moser (Thomas Rose and Charles S. Martin, eds.) *The History of Myersville,* (Myersville Volunteer Fire Co., Inc., 1971. First published, 1905), p. 34.

[19] Will of Peter Grossnickle (Peter of P.), 1863, (APK 1/304 and 306, Frederick County Land Records).

[20] Ibid.

shows an "F. Grossnickle" as the owner of two properties on either side of the Wolfsville Road in Middlepoint (the sites of the Peter of P. and John Grossnickel Farms). Since there is no "F." Grossnickle in the family genealogy nor in the chain of title, it is presumed that it is a misprint, and should read "E." Grossnickle for Elias. Elias Grossnickel, a farmer, sold the farm to his son Charles Upton Grossnickel in March, 1898 (Liber DHH 1/Folio 523). Elias lived until the age of 83, dying in 1912. Charles Upton Grossnickel, a farmer, and his wife Ellen conveyed the land to Paul and Jennie Grossnickle in March 1938 (Liber 412/Folio 53). Jennie Grossnickle survived her husband Paul, and the representatives of her estate transferred the land to William W. Heuermann in January, 1994, the first non-Grossnickle to own the property (Liber 1974/Folio 1150). In November, 1995, the current owners, Jeff and Patricia Hurwitz, bought the land and improvements at public auction.

The German Brethren population in the Middletown Valley of Frederick County has remained vibrant since its mid-18th century settlement. Three churches still function in the area, covering the triangular geography established by the 18th-century settlement pattern. The oldest standing Brethren Church is the Harmony Brethren Church in Harmony. As previously mentioned, it was built in 1870 from the logs of the original Ann Maria Moser's Church. The second oldest structure is the current Grossnickle's Church of the Brethren, a Late Victorian edifice built in 1899 of red brick with a slate roof. It is a 1 1/2-story, rectangular, gable-roofed structure with segmentally arched, shuttered openings and two doors on its long side. It also features an addition and a separate parish hall. Directly behind the church and up a hillside is the cemetery, where members of the Grossnickel family, including Peter of P. Grossnickel, are buried. Finally, the Myersville Church of the Brethren was constructed in downtown Myersville in 1913, also with assistance from the Grossnickle family, amongst others. In 1936, these three Frederick churches formed a congregation, known by their historical namesake "the Middletown Valley Congregation" and shared ministers. While the congregation disbanded in 1963 and pastoral relationships ended, all three of these churches remain active today and Grossnickles figure prominently in the communities.

Architectural Significance

The Peter of P. Grossnickel Farm points to the mid-19th century acceptance by the German community of American building practices and farm layout. The well-constructed, 2 1/2-story stone house with its four-bay wide facade and center passage, single-pile plan, is an example of an evolution in progress; one that is leaving the asymmetrical, three-room German plan house of the 18th century behind in favor of the full-blown, 5-bay, symmetrical, center passage house of the 19th century. Executed in native fieldstone, but of a scale and order that reflect assimilation, the Peter of P. Grossnickel House retains a link to its German heritage only in material choice and tenant house form. The main dwelling is a distinctly American house, which is logical given its construction at the same time that English was eclipsing German as the language of choice for both schooling and prayer. Likewise, the layout of the farm, with its many associated outbuildings, signals the acceptance of the American farm geography of separate spheres for domestic and agricultural activity and the dispersal of that activity in numerous small structures. The number of outbuildings, including some of the rarer types, such as a stand-alone beehive oven and granary, makes the resource particularly compelling.

The Peter of P. Grossnickel Farm was built during a time of extensive construction in this part of the valley, much of which construction was sponsored by members of the Grossnickle family. The cohesiveness of the various Grossnickle farms in the area, with Grossnickle's Church of the Brethren in the heart of the community, makes the Middlepoint area an especially rich architectural reflection of the 19th-century German Brethren community.

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:	Piedmont
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Agricultural-Industrial Transition
Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:	Architecture
Resource Type:	
Category:	Buildings
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Farm
Known Design Source:	None

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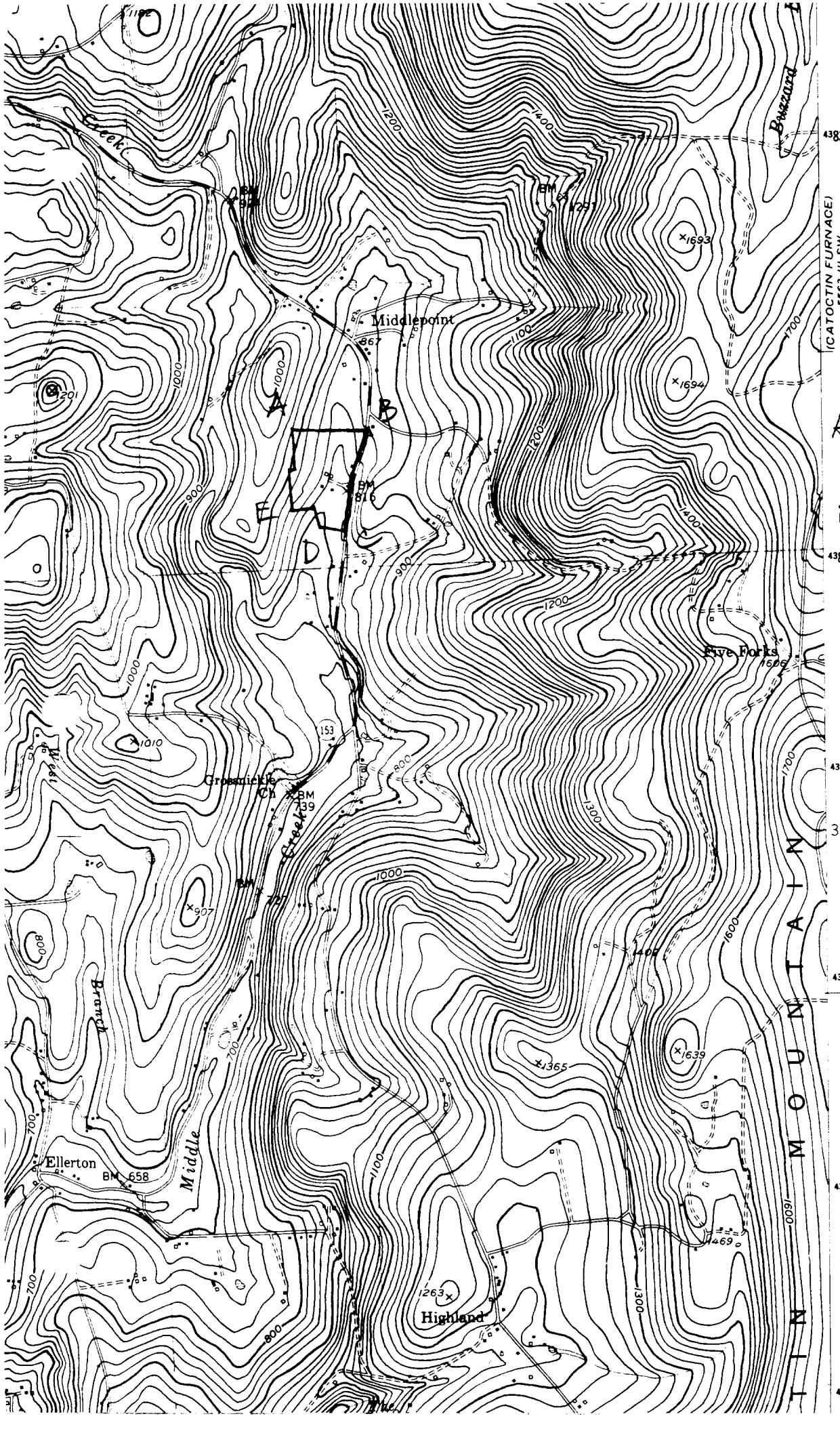

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GROSSNICKEL, PETER OF P., FARM
FREDERICK CO., MARYLAND

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D: 18-282960
4381170

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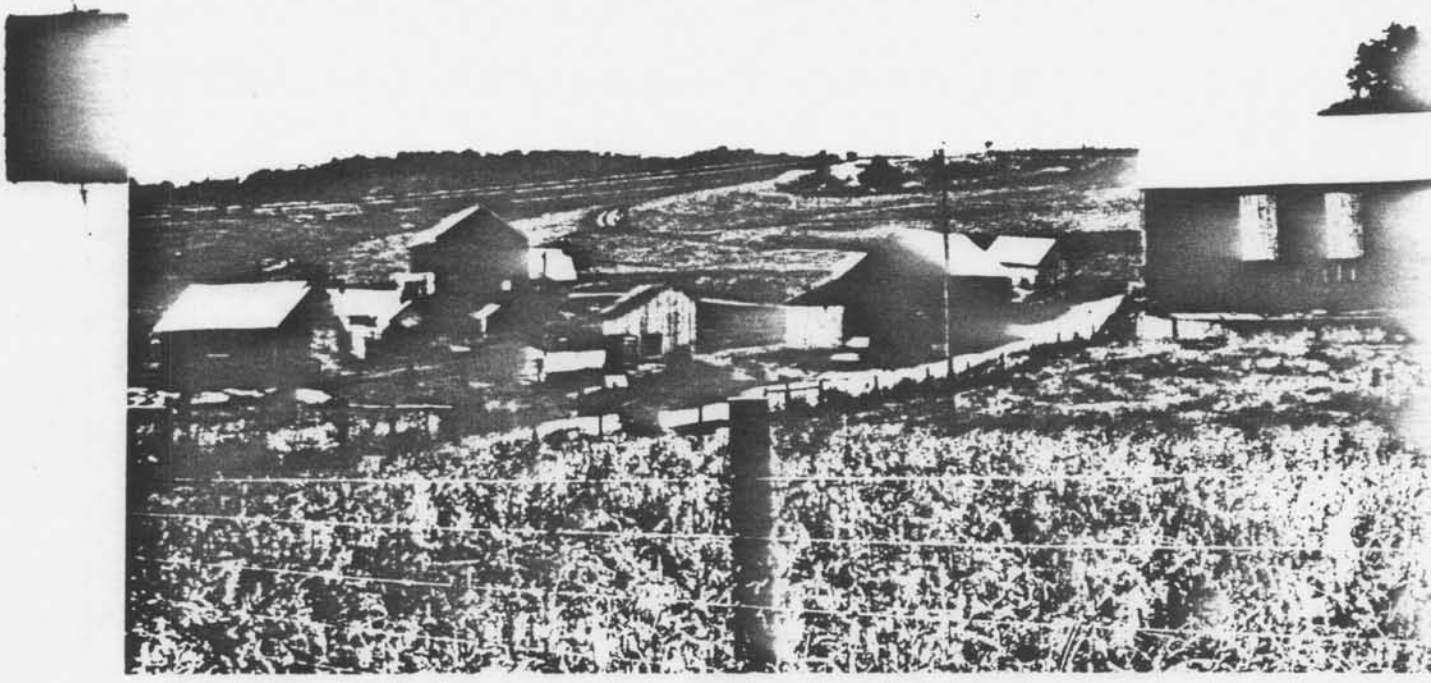

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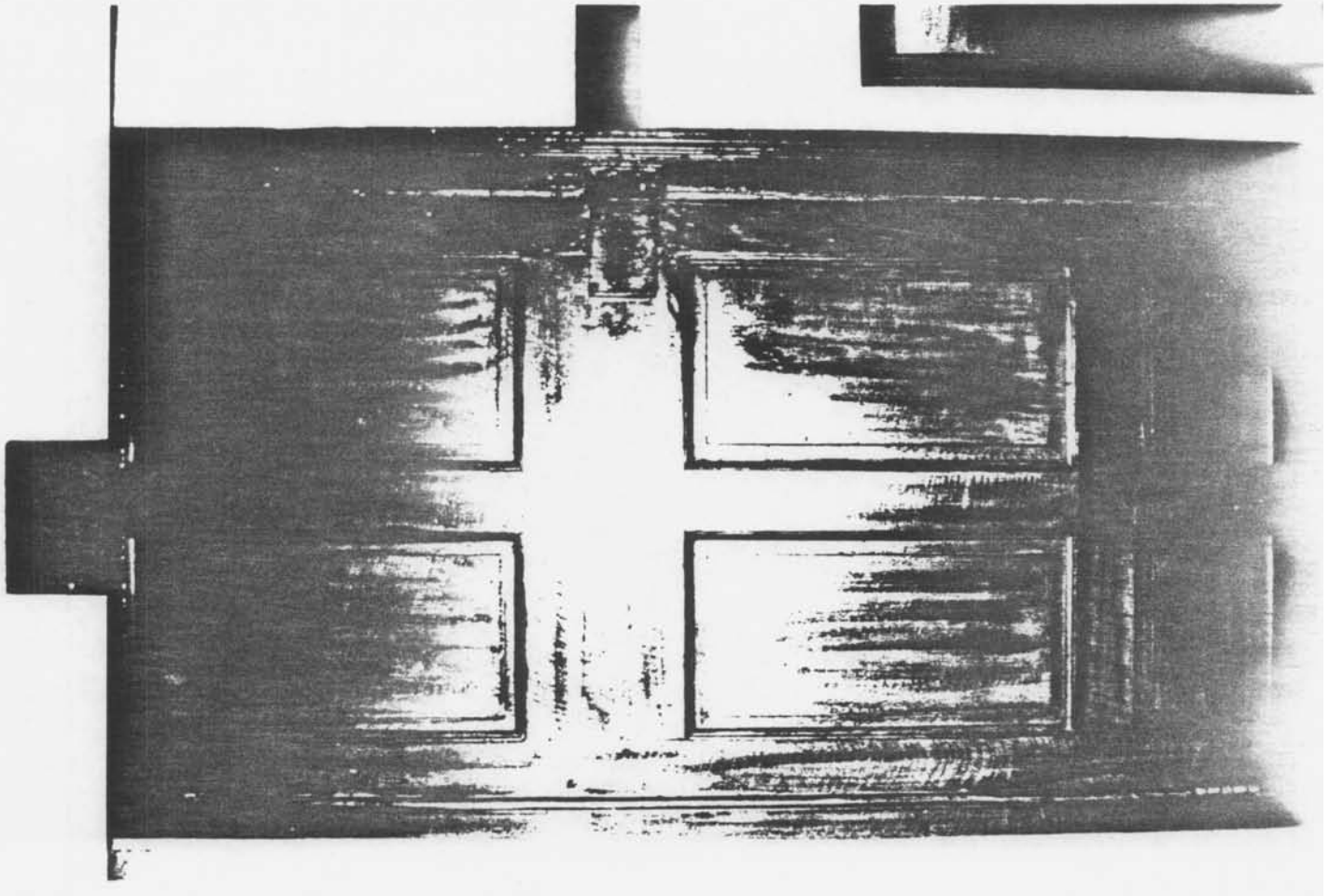

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