NPS Form 10-900
(Expires 5/31/2010)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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 process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Smeltzer, Henry, Farmstead

other names/site number F-4-147

2. Location

street & number 3231 Bidle Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Middletown ☐ vicinity

state MD code MD county Frederick code 021 zip code 21769

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 8-26-10

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper — Date of Action

Smeltzer, Henry, Farmstead (F-4-147)
Name of Property

Frederick County, MD
County and State

Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	1	buildings
1		sites
2		structures
		objects
8	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed In the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling
Domestic/Secondary Structure
Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility
Agriculture/Subsistence/agricultural field
Agriculture/Subsistence/agricultural outbuilding
Agriculture/Subsistence/processing

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling
Domestic/Secondary Structure
Agriculture/Subsistence/agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: German traditional, mid 19th century

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls brick
roof metal
other

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

Smeltzer, Henry, Farmstead (F-4-147)
Name of Property

Frederick County, MD
County and State

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.)

☒ **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.

☒ **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.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or 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
Agriculture

Period of Significance

Ca. 1832- ca. 1960

Significant Dates

Ca. 1832

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(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
- ☐ designed a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

_____

Smeltzer, Henry, Farmstead (F-4-147)
Name of Property

Frederick County, MD
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 20 acres

USGS Middletown MD quadrangle map

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				4			

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD

organization Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc. date 10/09

street & number One West Franklin Street, Suite 300 telephone 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown state MD zip code 21740

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Charles and Kim Brown

street & number 19 Maryland Ave. telephone (H) 301-963-5760; (W) 301-803-1101

city or town Gaithersburg, state MD zip code 20877

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.*). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

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 Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

Physical Description

The Henry Smeltzer farmstead stands on a wedge-shaped twenty-acre parcel of land bounded on the west by Catoctin Creek on the north by Bidle Road and by adjoining lands on the south and east, just south of Middletown in Frederick County, Maryland. The complex features a two-story, six-bay brick bank house, facing due south. West of the house are the ruins of a frame bank barn which has collapsed. Behind the barn site, to its north, are two unusual rusticated concrete block silos. In addition there is a concrete block slaughter house and attached frame holding pens and a frame weighing house. Domestic buildings include a concrete block garage and a small well house; a frame play house does not contribute to the property. A farm lane runs south from Bidle road approximately 800 feet to reach the complex of extant buildings. The driveway ends in a circle at the original back side of the house, which over time has been converted to the main, "front" façade because of the access route.

The property is hilly with the house occupying a slope just below its crest and facing south where the landscape dips toward Catoctin Creek. To the north and east is a large-lot housing subdivision and beyond that is the town of Middletown and its National Register historic district. To the south and west is agricultural landscape. The house and the associated lands and buildings retain distinct integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Farmhouse:

The two-story brick bank house faces due south, away from the current entrance driveway and from Bidle Road. Originally the access was from Bidle Road at a point further to the west of the existing driveway, which left Bidle Road at the edge of Catoctin Creek and led to the south of the barn and house.

Constructed into the hillside, the house has an above-grade cellar wall along the south elevation. The brick house rests on a fieldstone foundation. Measuring 49 by 22 feet, it spans six bays; the two western bays, containing the kitchen and service area, are recessed with a two-story inset porch. The main four-bay façade displays Flemish bond brick work, while the recessed area of the front along with the side and rear walls use common bonding with a 5:1 stretcher to header row ratio. A brick corbelled cornice finishes the front and rear walls, and brick soldier courses (jack arches) top the window and door openings.

Windows have six-over-six-light sash within narrow rounded frames with mitered joints. Many windows have pairs of louvered shutters in deteriorated condition. The front door is in the main four-

bay section of the south elevation, in the second bay from the west end. Also in the south elevation are several other doors: one opening onto the recessed double porch from the kitchen, two at the upper level, and two doors leading into the cellar. There are no doors in either of the end walls, but the north wall has two doors: one opposite the main front door and one opposite the kitchen front door. Only the main front and rear doors have transoms, each with four lights. The jambs are paneled with small moldings, but the doors have been replaced. However, original or modified six-panel doors remain at the second story and the north kitchen door.

There are two surviving chimneys, both brick with parged surfaces, inside the west end wall for the kitchen and inside the west wall of the main portion of the house. There are fireplaces in the east end wall, but no chimney survives above the roof line. The roofing material is corrugated sheet metal nailed over older wood shingles.

Porches extend across the front and rear elevations. The front porch rests on high, poured concrete piers and has a poured concrete deck. The second-story recessed porch has a wooden deck. The first-story porches have wooden square posts with chamfered corners and metal pipe railing at the front elevation. The second-story porch has horizontal wooden rails. There are no railings on the rear porch.

The interior of the house at the first floor has a kitchen in the west end and two rooms, with a rear transverse stair hall behind the central room providing access to the exterior and the two main rooms, as well as containing the stair to the second floor. The kitchen has a large service fireplace in its west end wall with a simple mantel shelf. A half bath was added into the northwest corner of the room. Early twentieth century tongue-and-groove wainscoting was added to the room and mid twentieth century knotty pine paneling was added to the south, north and part of the east walls as well as the ceiling. Original plaster remains on part of the east wall and presumably survives beneath the other walls and ceiling. Original trims remain around the windows and doors, and a simple mantel shelf adds to the original material in the room. The trim includes a Grecian ogee backband. There is evidence that this room once had a staircase in its northeast corner that led to a second-story room above the kitchen. Now there is an added window in the north wall in the vicinity of the removed staircase.

The central room on the first story has in its west wall a fireplace, a door to the kitchen, and a window opening onto the recessed kitchen porch. Its south wall contains a window and the original front entrance off the south porch. The east wall has a door to the east room. The north wall has a door to the rear stair passage opposite the north entrance and a door to the cellar stairs beneath the main staircase, which is in the passageway. Original wood trims remain intact, including Grecian ogee

backband and a deeply molded mantelpiece with a frieze, a cornice with multiple moldings, and symmetrically molded pilasters. Tongue-and-groove wainscoting was added to the room.

The room at the east end of the first story is the parlor. It has two windows in the south wall opening onto the porch, one window and a fireplace in the east end wall, and one window in the north wall. The west wall has doors to the stair passage and to the middle room. Like the other rooms of the first floor, the east room retains original wood trim, including chair rail. The mantelpiece is detailed slightly differently from the one in the middle room, but similar in character with deeply cut small moldings in multiple courses, with pilasters, a frieze panel and heavily molded shelf.

Behind the central room and along the north wall of the house the passageway leads from the east room, past the north entrance to the stairway to the second floor. The stairway is boxed into the corner of the space as a winder or ramp stair. At the second floor the floor plan is quite similar, except that a door was added between the hallway and the room above the kitchen, probably in the early twentieth century, and the room above the kitchen was partitioned into a bath and two other rooms. The stairway to the kitchen was removed.

The house is in deteriorated condition, but rehabilitation work is scheduled with the help of preservation tax credits, made available through National Register listing. The architectural features and details of the house as well as documentary evidence suggest it was constructed in the 1830s, probably after Henry Smeltzer purchased the property in 1832.

Other Buildings:

In addition to the main house, there are several other buildings associated with the complex.

Immediately behind the house is a small well house, a framed gable-roofed building covered with German siding.

Behind the house, along the east side of the driveway, stands a concrete block garage with a gabled roof. It appears to date from the early-to-mid twentieth century.

To the west of the house are several agricultural buildings, including a concrete block slaughterhouse with attached frame holding pens, and a framed stable, which served as a weighing house for livestock before slaughter.

To the north of these buildings is the ruin of the collapsed barn, and a pair of rusticated concrete block silos which date from the early twentieth century.

In the yard east of the house is a frame child's play house with a gabled roof; dating from the late twentieth century, it does not contribute to the property.

Integrity Statement:

Although deteriorated, the Henry Smeltzer House retains a high degree of visual integrity to its ca. 1832 construction date. There were some alterations in the early and mid twentieth century, but the architectural development of the house reads easily and provides an excellent template for historic rehabilitation of the house. The house and the associated lands and buildings retain distinct integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The twenty-acre property retains some of the boundaries of the 1830s, encompassing agricultural lands and thus maintaining the historic character. The barn has collapsed but its location and associations remain intact. The two concrete block silos are quite unusual in mid-Maryland and are important architectural features whose materials and workmanship reflect the early twentieth century agricultural practice on the property. The slaughterhouse also portrays early and mid twentieth century use of the property.

Resource count:

5 contributing buildings: house, well house, garage, slaughter house, weighing house.
2 contributing structures: silos
1 contributing site: barn ruin
1 non-contributing building: playhouse

Statement of Significance

The Henry Smeltzer Farmstead is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its embodiment of patterns of local history, reflecting a long tenure of the land as a small farm and, in the more recent past, as a slaughter facility for Main's Meat Market in nearby Middletown. The farmstead and its surrounding agricultural landscape, dating from the early-to-mid nineteenth century, with alterations in the early twentieth century and added buildings and structures as late as the mid twentieth century, portray the use and occupation of the land over time. Originally attached to a flour mill operation, the land in the 1830s became associated with a general farm, likely focused on grain production for the nearby mill. In the early twentieth century the agricultural practice changed to meat production in association with a local meat market. Advances in transportation allowed the large-scale meat processing facility to be profitable, serving the surrounding region accessible by rail and automobile.

The farmstead derives additional significance under Criterion C as an example of an 1830s farmhouse which survives largely intact, along with its associated agricultural outbuildings. Although the bank barn collapsed and lies in ruins, its site conveys the character of the farm. The two surviving concrete block silos from the early twentieth century are rare in the area and provide additional architectural interest. The house retains many regional Germanic architectural traditions and, although there were alterations over time, the woodwork, trim, floor plan, hillside layout and façade arrangement remain fully intact and are important definers of 1830s farmhouse architecture as evolved by the predominant German-descended population of mid Maryland.

The twenty acres of land now associated with the property are part of the original forty-nine acres that Henry Smeltzer assembled through several transactions in 1832 and 1833. The west, north and east boundaries are the same as when Smeltzer acquired the several small tracts. Agricultural activity continued on the farm into the mid twentieth century with the slaughter facility that supported Main's Meat Market in Middletown. Thus the historic character of the property and its associations with the past have been maintained to the present time. The period of significance begins ca. 1832, the presumed construction date of the house, and ends ca. 1960, through which time the farm remained in continuous use and achieved its current and historic form and appearance.

Historical and Agricultural Context

The lands comprising Frederick County were in that part of Maryland which was often in colonial period records referred to as "the Barrens." The early landscape was not fully forested and contained areas of relatively open meadow and occasional rock outcrops. These rocky, open areas were perceived as infertile and described as barrens. As a result of the concept that the backcountry

was not fertile, settlement was not encouraged at first. Initial contact occurred when land grants were made to leading tidewater area citizens, and when Germans and Dutch from Pennsylvania and places further north passed through Maryland's Piedmont and Great Valley sections enroute to settle lands in Virginia. These early contacts occurred in the 1720s, and involved little in the way of actual settlement.

As settlement progressed from the initial interests of fur trading and subsistence farming there developed more substantial farms. Grain farming was prominent, and as a result many gristmills were established. The mills took advantage of the ample waterpower in mid-Maryland to convert grain into more easily transportable and marketable flour or meal. The prominence of milling was a significant feature of the local economy. It reflects the influence of Pennsylvania in that Frederick and Washington County developed a general agricultural economy with emphasis on small grains, rather than the staple economy focusing on tobacco that developed in eastern Maryland.

Eventually the region became known for grain production. Grain was sold in bulk, or processed into flour and meal, or distilled into whiskey. These commodities were shipped to markets in Baltimore or Philadelphia. Shipping from central and western Maryland and the grain growing regions of Pennsylvania and the Shenandoah Valley was a problem, and hindered the growth and prosperity associated with grain production. There was no inland water route to the farming areas, although navigation of the Potomac and Susquehanna were promoted or opposed by various factions. Rail service did not develop until the 1830s, so highway transportation had to serve the freight hauling needs of the region. Maryland promoted turnpike development, although most of these toll routes were privately funded. The output and growth in population in the western areas of Maryland encouraged construction and improvement of roads, which were generally described as "miserable and worst in the union" in the late eighteenth century.[1] Baltimore officials in 1787 laid out 20-foot wide roads to Frederick, Reisterstown and York, Pennsylvania. However, private turnpike companies, and in some cases mill owners, actually constructed the roads.[2]

In 1806 the Federal government began the construction of a highway that would lead to the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase lands comprising much of the central portion of the United States. The "National Road" began in Cumberland, Maryland, following the old Braddock Road, a rough wagon track established by explorers and traders, and led to Wheeling in Virginia (West Virginia) and later on to Terre Haute, Indiana. The main wagon road from Baltimore to Cumberland, a collection of privately owned and operated turnpike segments, was eventually upgraded and consolidated to become part of the National Road. The National Road became one of the most heavily traveled east-west routes in America with traffic passing all hours of the day and night. Stagecoaches, freight wagons, herds of swine, geese and cattle headed to market along the road, as individual traffic passed along the

pike. Taverns, inns and hotels were an important part of the travel-generated economy. Also important were blacksmith shops, wagon shops, and leather and harness shops.

Despite the advent of the C & O Canal and B & O Railroad in the 1830s as alternate forms of transportation, the National Road continued to be a major thoroughfare between Frederick, Hagerstown and points west. The road also served as a primary route during the Civil War for the invading Confederate army of General Robert E. Lee in 1862 and 1863, as well as the Union defenders throughout the war.

The turn of the twentieth century was punctuated in Frederick and Washington Counties with the development of the Frederick to Hagerstown interurban railway, a boon not only to the farmers transporting produce to the Frederick and Hagerstown markets but also for passenger travel and summer resort businesses. However, the electric railway struggled through the 1930s' Depression and, after a brief resurgence during WWII, most lines were discontinued.

The demise of the interurban railway followed the popularization of the automobile and road surface improvements in the 1920s. Faster speeds and increased traffic led to alternate highway construction beginning in the 1930s and culminated in the 1950s and 1960s with the Interstate Highway system. Such roads generally by-passed the small towns, which had grown along the historic transportation routes, spelling an end for many hotel and commercial businesses.

With many of the early transportation issues solved during the first half of the nineteenth century, Frederick County prospered. Farming and agricultural processing industries dominated, along with the iron industry. Wheat and corn (referred to in agricultural census records as "Indian Corn") were the largest crops, with swine and sheep being the dominant livestock produced. This information comes from the 1850 agricultural census, which probably recorded conditions similar to those in 1840 and earlier. Other crops included rye, oats, potatoes, orchard fruit, and hay. Wool and butter were also frequently listed in the 1850 agricultural census. The agricultural census for 1860 is similar. The largest quantities of product were wheat and corn, with much smaller amounts of oats and rye. New listings appear for orchards and hay, although fruit trees and hay crops were grown in mid-Maryland since the eighteenth century. In 1860 large amounts of butter were still being recorded.

Both Frederick and Washington counties grew in population in the first half of the nineteenth century and many farms have building complexes dating from this 50-year period. Substantially built houses of brick or stone and large bank barns reflect the agricultural prosperity of the region. Due to the fertile soils, most settlement in Frederick County occurred on the prime valley agricultural land or was clustered in towns and villages. Smaller farms and a few subsistence farms were located on the slopes of South Mountain. There the more humble log dwellings and smaller barns reflected the less

productive soils of mountain farms. Along the busy National Pike segment from Frederick through Middletown and Boonsboro to Hagerstown, the route was lined with habitations and businesses to serve the traveling public. Taverns and road houses were located almost every mile or so, with one, the South Mountain House, located at the summit of South Mountain.

By the time of the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, west central Maryland was well established and intensively farmed. Farms were characterized by fields and boundaries marked with wood or stone fences, orchards, small herds of cattle, hogs and sheep, and flocks of chickens and geese. Carefully maintained woodlots supplied firewood, building materials and fencing. Demand for wood was great in the nineteenth century with the need for construction material and fuel. Most households consumed about 10 cords of wood per year for heating. Historic photographs affirm the massive consumption of wood, revealing a landscape at the time of the Civil War with fewer trees than today.

Architectural Context

During the century from 1763-1860, first period architecture was gradually replaced or enlarged into more substantial and permanent form. The large "Swisser" barns with cantilevered forebays and a ramp or bank at the back, hallmarks of west-central Maryland and south-central Pennsylvania, replaced small log-crib stables and shelters for livestock and crops. Small log houses were improved with siding and additions, or replaced with stone, brick or larger log or timber frame dwellings.[3]

Due to the predominance of first and second-generation German settlers in Frederick County, there are some early buildings that exhibit distinct Germanic influence. By the early nineteenth century, the use of the traditional Germanic plan was synthesized with more formal Georgian or Neoclassical stylistic elements that were influencing contemporary architecture. The old continental type was gradually replaced by several hybrid arrangements with end chimneys and more formal facades, but with some traditional elements such as the floor plan often remaining.[4]

The people of mid-Maryland built according to the materials that were available to them, sometimes drawing upon long-established traditions based upon European and British patterns and upon their own interpretations of current styles and construction techniques, adapted to local conditions. Elements of fashionable styles were incorporated into the region's buildings along with traditional features. With the exception of exterior applications of stylistic door treatments and symmetrical fenestration, typically, the more fashionable architectural elements were found on the interior in the form of moldings, mantels, and stairs. Although there are pure stylistic examples, particularly dating from the later nineteenth century, the vast majority of the region's buildings are vernacular structures.

Mid-Maryland's barns originated in Pennsylvania, springing from German and English precedents. The region's first barns were the small log structures described in inventories of Conococheague Manor and other eighteenth century documents. By the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the barns familiar to us as hallmarks of the region appeared. These bank barns, built of log, stone, brick or frame covered with vertical siding typically, have a ramp at the back providing access to the upper threshing floor and an overhanging forebay at the front. The gable-end profile of barns varies among subtypes. Symmetrical gables and closed-end forebays tend to be a bit later than extended forebays. Stone barns tend to be earlier than brick barns, their date range is principally 1790-1850.

Silos were first manufactured in the 1870s and are now important visual markers on the rural landscape. Older silos are wooden staved structures, although brick, tile, concrete, metal and glass were also used, particularly in more recent structures. Silos are generally part of the conversion to dairy farming, providing a system for storage of feed, mostly fermented corn silage for the increased herds of cattle necessary for dairy farming.

"Truck farms," from which fresh produce, dairy products, and meats were delivered directly to local markets, shops, or even homes, also developed in mid-Maryland in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These generally smaller farms are identifiable by use-specific buildings such as for butchering, bottling, packing and cold storage.

Resource History

The Henry Smeltzer Farmstead, located on Catoctin Creek in the fertile Middletown Valley, was historically part of a larger tract of land called *Watsons Welfare*, first surveyed in 1744 (in Prince Georges County) as 100 acres for Daniel Dulaney (PG Co. Patented Cert. #2263). In 1751, Joseph Chapline had the tract resurveyed (in Frederick County) as 260 acres (FC Patent Record BY and GS 3, p. 374). It is not clear that Chapline ever developed the farm during his period of ownership before he sold it to Van Swearingen, Jr. in 1770 (FC DB N/232).

It was the Swearingen family that improved the 260-acre farm with a grist mill and sawmill, described in Van Swearingen's will dated 1784. Located at the southwest edge of the tract on the west bank of Catoctin (Kittoctin) Creek, the mill complex was included in Swearingen's devise to his sons John and Thomas, along with approximately 30 acres on the south end of the *Watsons Welfare* tract (ref. in FC DB 34/507). The mill appeared on the 1808 Charles Varle map of Frederick County. In 1809, John Van Swearingen (Thomas was deceased) sold off the mill and acreage he inherited to Henry and John Stemble for £1,500 (FC DB 34/507). (This mill complex is listed under MIHP #F-4-25, *Kinna's Mill Farmstead.*)

After passing through several intervening conveyances, the *Watsons Welfare* mill farm came under the ownership of George Bowlus in 1818 (FC DB JS7/37). Bowlus purchased the then 33 ¼-acre property for $7,000, indicating that it was well-improved, most of that value in the mill however. Ten years later, in 1828, George Bowlus sold 30 acres on the east side of the creek to Rebecca Phillips for $1,800, apparently minus the mill complex (FC DB JS30/578). Rebecca Phillips held the property for four years but made no improvements, selling it in 1832 to Henry Smeltzer for $1,813 (FC DB JS40/466). Smeltzer quickly added to his 30-acre tract in 1833 with two adjoining purchases, one 10 ½-acre piece of an adjoining tract called *Little Left* (no longer part of the subject farmstead) and the other a 7 ¼-acre piece of *Watsons Welfare* purchased from David Bowlus for $326 (FC DB JS42/410). The Smeltzer farmstead remained at approximately forty-nine acres through Henry's death in 1850 and through several later owners until after 1911, when then owner John Ahalt added additional parcels.

It was likely Henry Smeltzer who built the subject house after 1832, perhaps replacing an earlier dwelling associated with the mill complex. Johann Henrich Schmeltzer (Henry Smeltzer) was the son of Johann Adam Schmeltzer, who emigrated from Rotterdam in 1750 (www.geni.com/people/Valentine-Smeltzer/). Henry Smeltzer's close ties to his Germanic heritage likely influenced the plan of his new home. Generally nineteenth century Germanic farmhouses spanned four to six bays, often sat on a hillside with raised cellar, and had side gables. By the second quarter of the nineteenth century porches began to appear with frequency, either across the entire front or recessed in an inset containing two or three bays along the front elevation at the kitchen wall, such as with this house. Typical floor plans consisted of center passages with one or two rooms on either side, or a two- or four-room plan where the main entrance opened directly into a room, as with the Smeltzer House.

On the 1840 U.S. Population Census, Henry Smeltzer was listed in his 60s, with a wife and four teenaged children still living in his household. He also listed four slaves in his household and two household members occupied in agriculture. Jacob Smeltzer, probably his oldest son, was listed immediately following Henry. Jacob was in his 20s with a young wife and no children.

In July 1850 Henry Smeltzer was 77 years old and living in his son Daniel's household, likely still on the *Watsons Welfare* farmstead, but before the end of the year Henry Smeltzer was deceased. Daniel Smeltzer did not remain on the small farm; he and his brother Jacob, acting as executors of their father's will, sold the farm to a neighboring tenant farmer named Jacob C. Flook in 1854 (FC DB ES4/430). Flook paid over $3,000 for the forty-nine-acre farmstead improved with the Smeltzer brick dwelling house and likely a small bank barn. He appeared as the owner on the 1858 Bond map of Frederick County, which showed the mill on the west side of the creek as a merchant saw mill ("M.S.M."; see attached) But Jacob Flook, and apparently the Flook family members who followed him, had difficulties with money. The farm became the subject of several equity cases – in 1862 and in

1870. In 1873 Lewis Flook sold the farmstead to John Crone (FC DB CM10/69) who appeared as the owner with a blacksmith shop on the property on the 1873 Titus Atlas map of Middletown District (see attached). Crone sold the farmstead back to Jacob H. Flook in 1879 (FC DB TG11/245) and twenty years later, in 1899, it was again in equity court and the farm was sold for just $2,809 to Romer C. Yonkins (FC DB DHH3/359).

In 1924, again after passing through several short-term owners, local "meat store" owner Charles F. Main purchased several parcels including the forty-nine-acre Smeltzer farmstead (FC DB 350/236). Main operated a meat market in Middletown and appears to have purchased the nearby Smeltzer tract to serve as a finishing farm and slaughter house. Several buildings still in place on the farmstead include a concrete block slaughter house, frame holding pens, and a frame weighing house. Additionally, Main probably constructed the concrete block silos for storing silage for his livestock.

The Main family retained the Henry Smeltzer farmstead as part of their larger land holding until 1972 when the current twenty-acre farmstead parcel was divided out and sold to Donald and Lucille Smith (FC DB 890/36). The Smiths sold the farmstead to the current owners in July 2009 (FC DB 7424/23).

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[1] Robert J. Brugger, *Maryland a Middle Temperament*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 1985), p. 153.
[2] Brugger, p. 153.
[3] Paula S. Reed & Assoc., "Mid-Maryland: An Agricultural History and Historic Context," Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, draft 2003, p. 26.
[4] Much of the information in this section was developed in Paula S. Reed's doctoral dissertation entitled, "Building with Stone in the Cumberland Valley: A Study of Regional Environmental, Technical and Cultural Factors in Stone Construction," The George Washington University, 1988.

Major Bibliographic References

Brugger, Robert J. *Maryland, a Middle Temperament*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985.

Frederick County Land Records. Online through the Maryland State Archives: http://www.mdlandrec.net/msa/stagser/s1700/s1741/cfm/index.cfm.

Maryland State Archives. Plats.net, http://www.msa.md.gov/.

Reed, Paula S. "Building with Stone in the Cumberland Valley: A Study of Regional Environmental, Technical and Cultural Factors in Stone Construction." Doctoral dissertation. The George Washington University, 1988.

Reed, Paula S. & Assoc. "Mid-Maryland: An Agricultural History and Historic Context." Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, 2003.

U.S. Population Census Records. HeritageQuest Online. www.heritagequestonline.com.

UTM References:

Middletown MD USGS quadrangle map

1. 18/280150/4368432
2. 18/280231/4368199
3. 18/280187/4367977
4. 18/279947/4367931
5. 18/279954/4368180

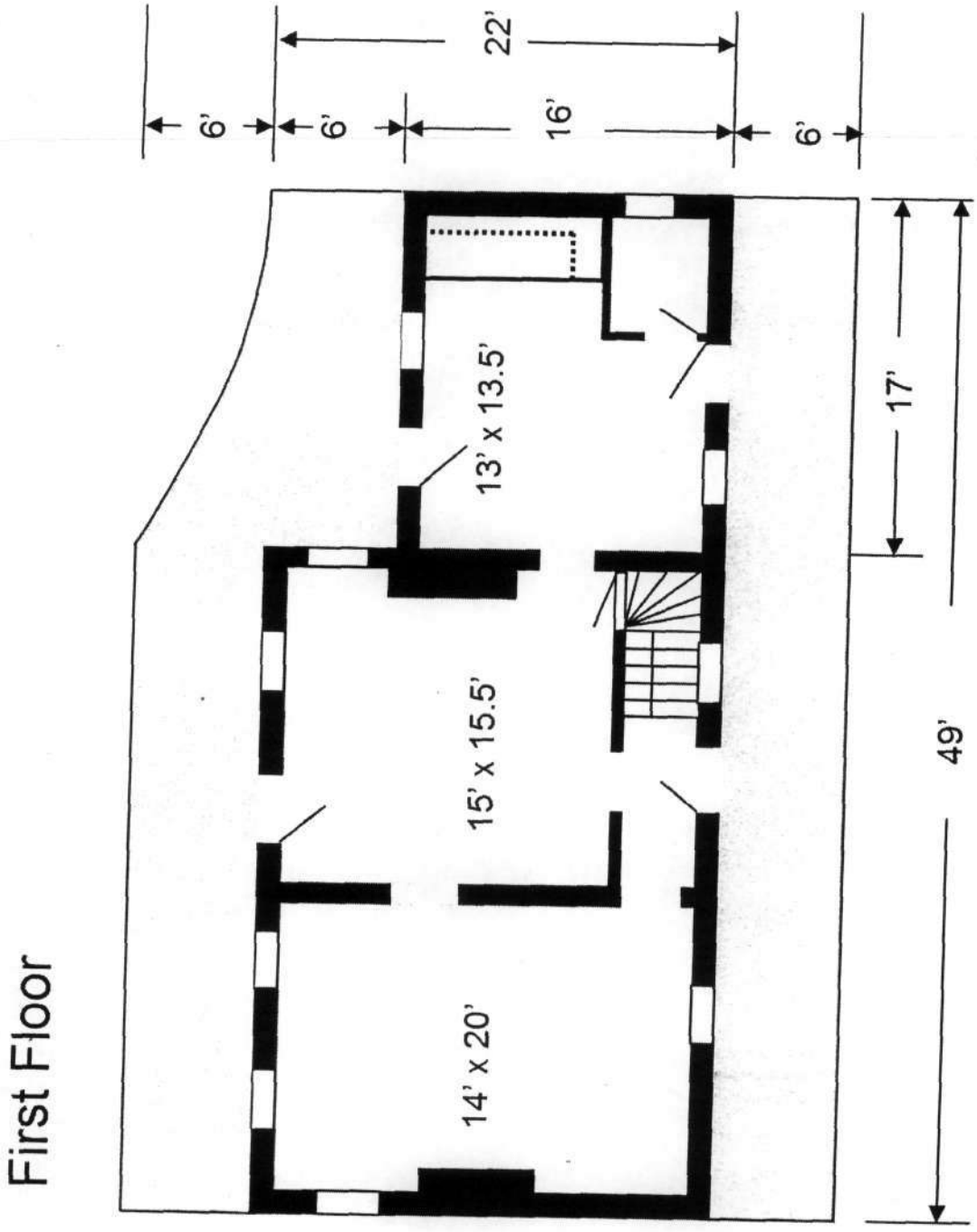
Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property contains slightly over twenty acres as shown on the accompanying plat map and has retained this acreage since 1972.

Boundary Justification

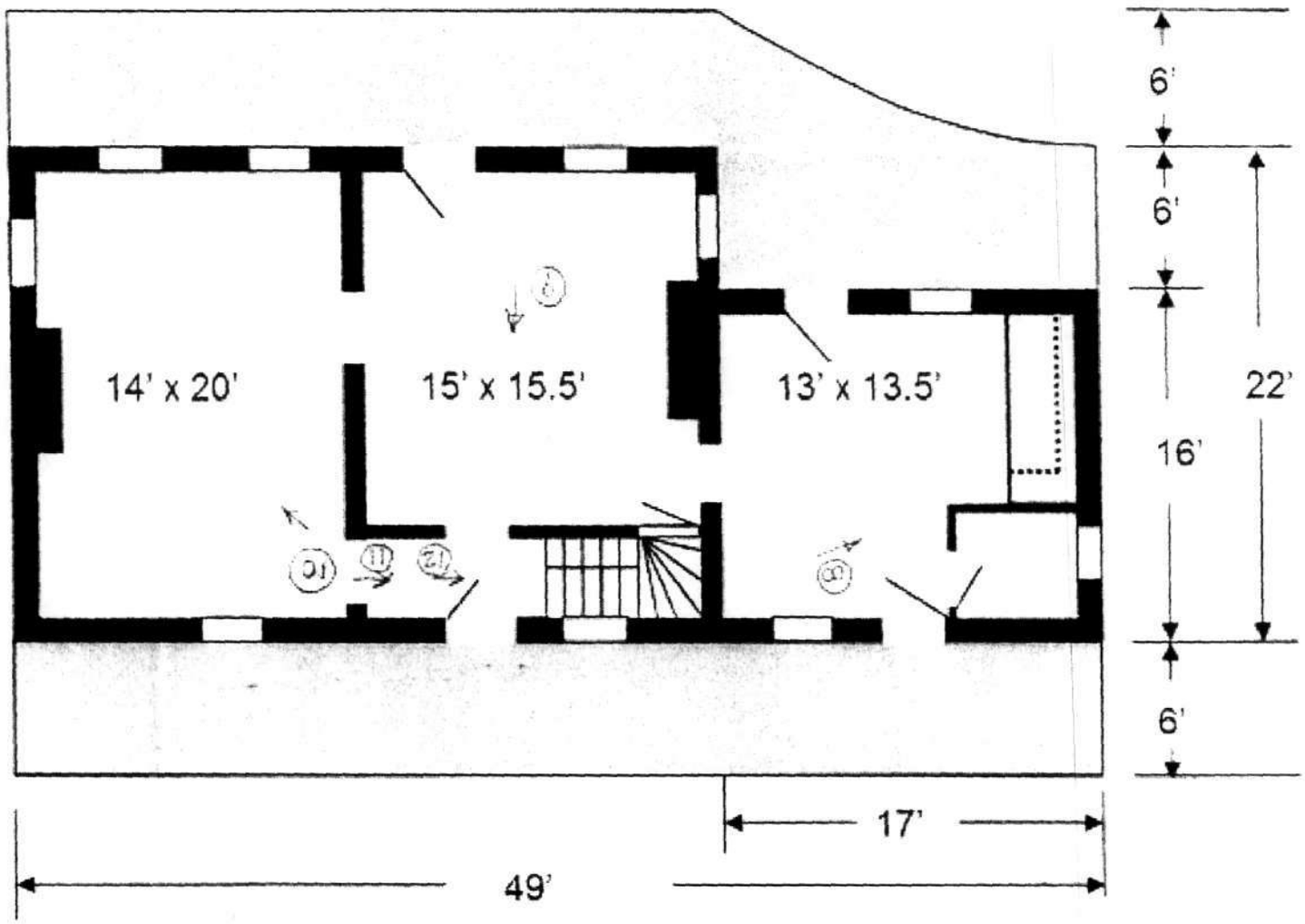
The current boundaries have been associated with the farmstead since 1972, and some of the boundary lines were established in 1832 and 1833 when Henry Smeltzer originally purchased the land. The boundaries capture the farmstead and surrounding agricultural fields to maintain the historic setting and agricultural landscape.

F-4-147, Henry Smeltzer Farmstead
3231 Bidle Road, Frederick Co., MD
Floorplan



First Floor

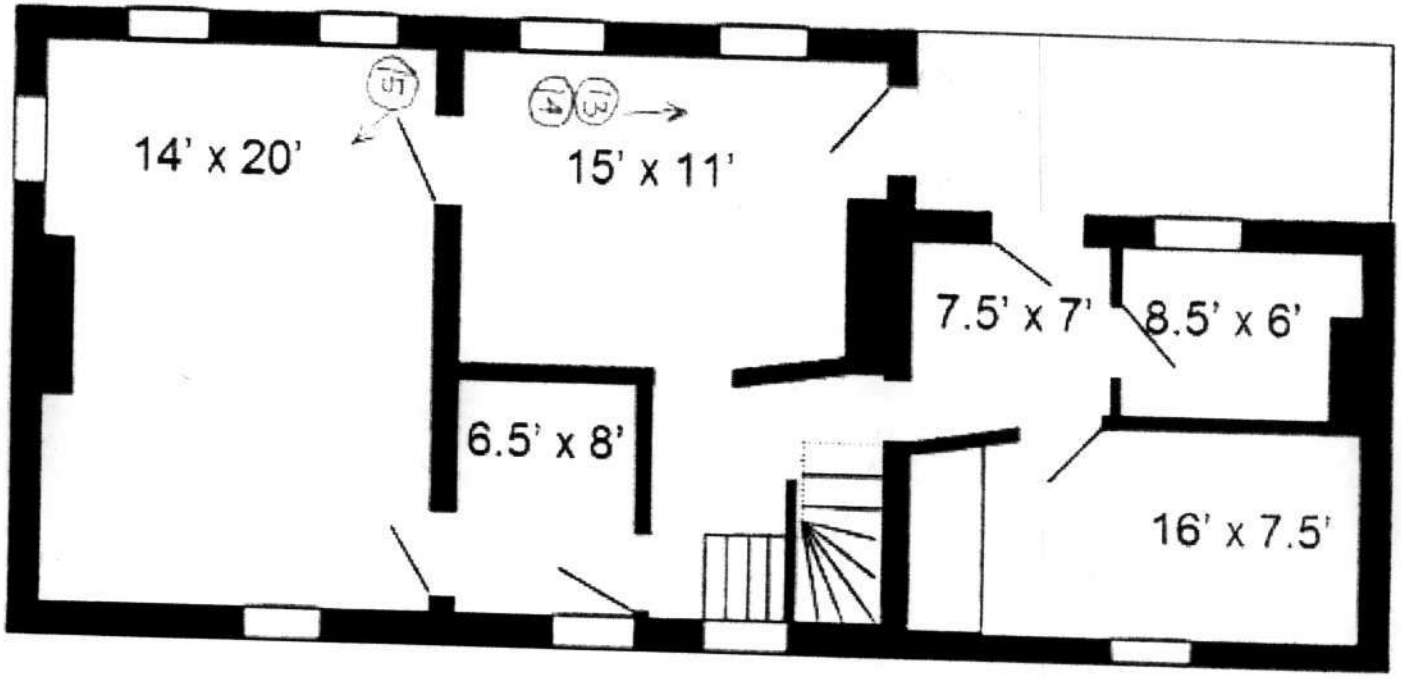
North



F-4-147
Henry Smeltzer Farmstead
3231 Bidle Rd.
Middletown, Frederick Co. MD

Photo view and number

Second Floor



North

F-4-147
Henry Smeltzer Farmstead
3231 Bible Road
Middletown, Frederick Co. MD

Photo view [illegible]

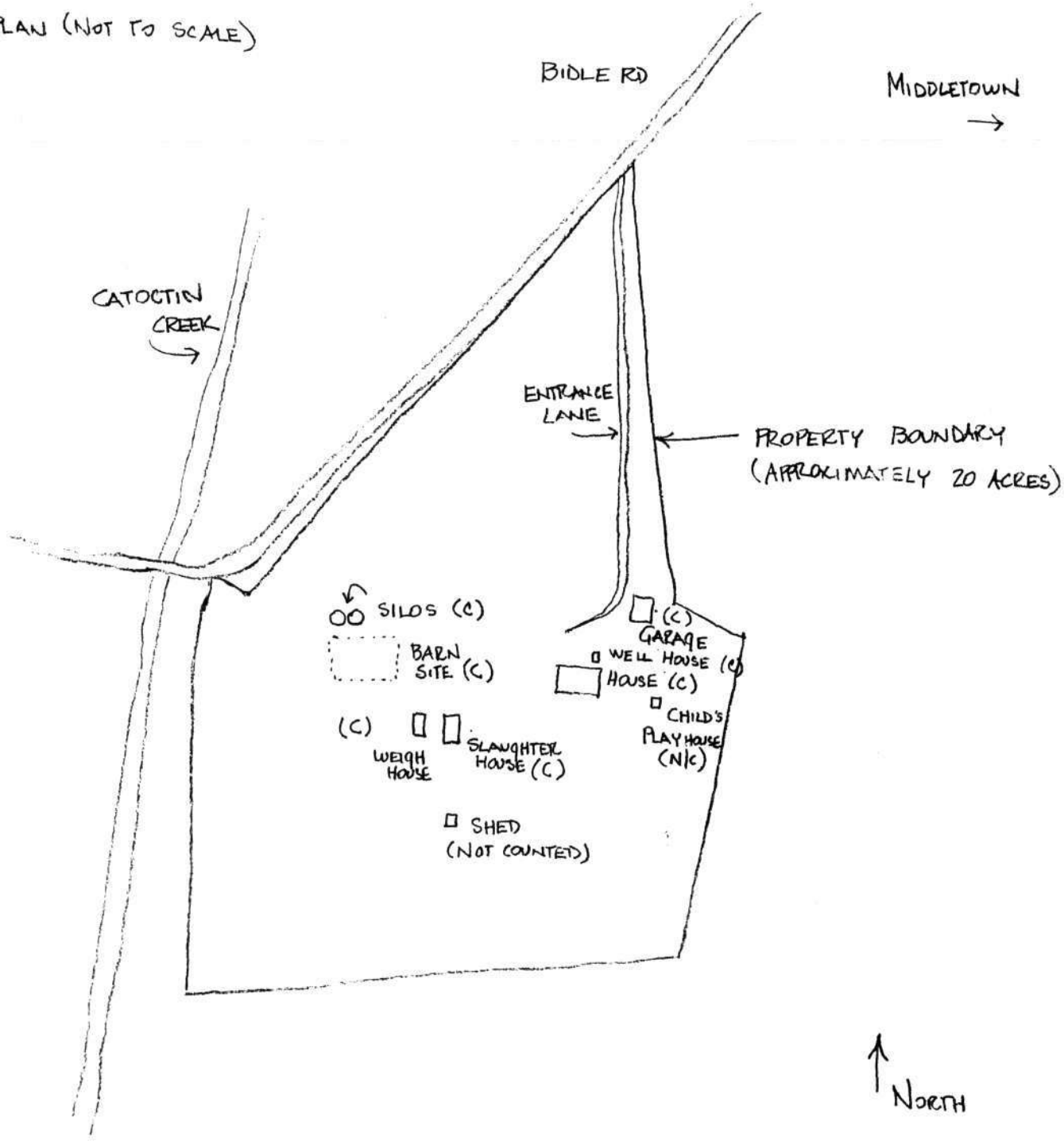
F-4-147

HENRY SMELTZER FARMSTEAD

3231 BIDLE RD

MIDDLETOWN, FREDERICK CO, MD

SITE PLAN (NOT TO SCALE)



F-4-147

HENRY SMELTZER FARMSTEAD

3231 BIDLE RD

MIDDLETOWN, FREDERICK CO, MD

SITE PLAN (NOT TO SCALE)

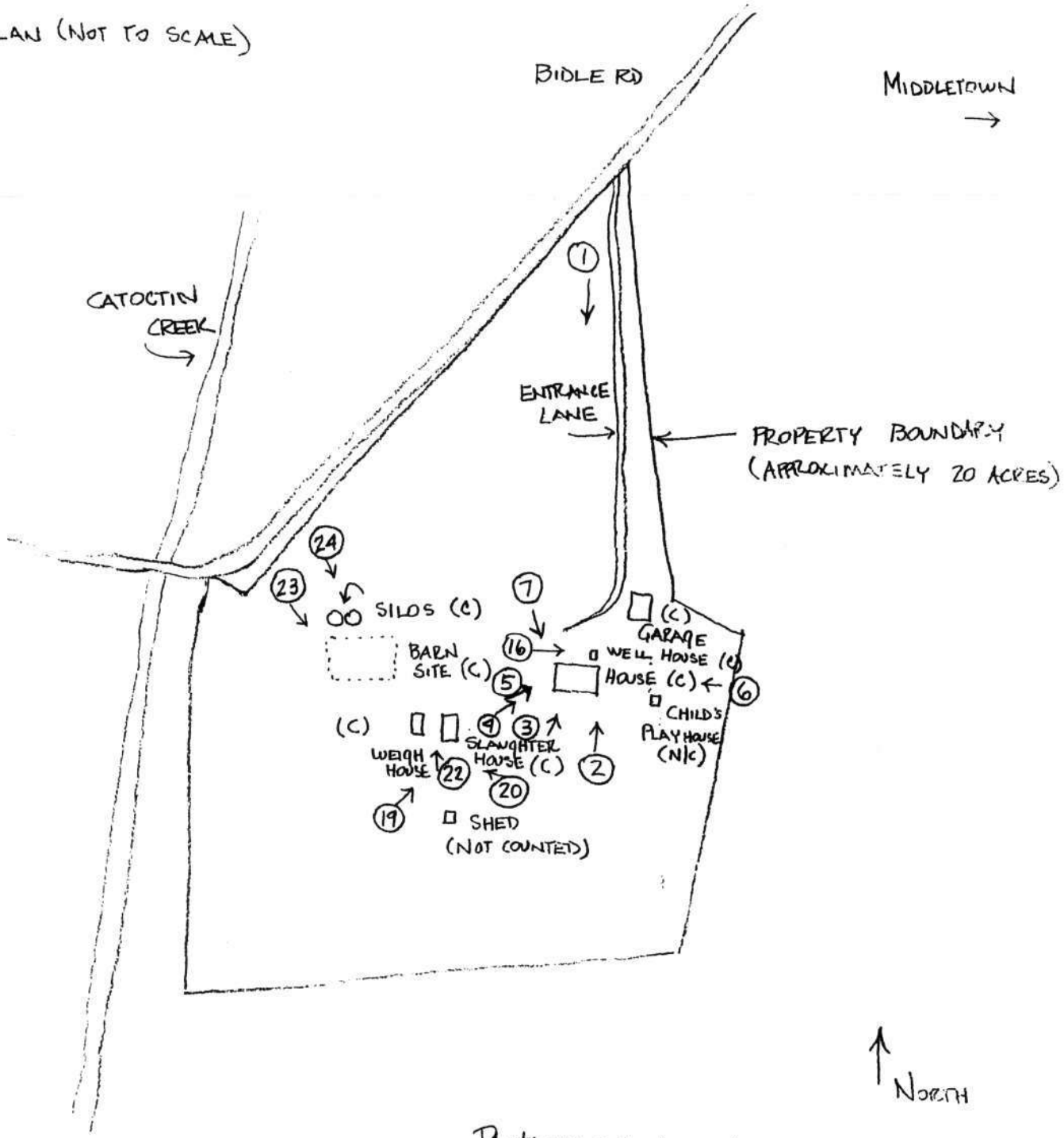
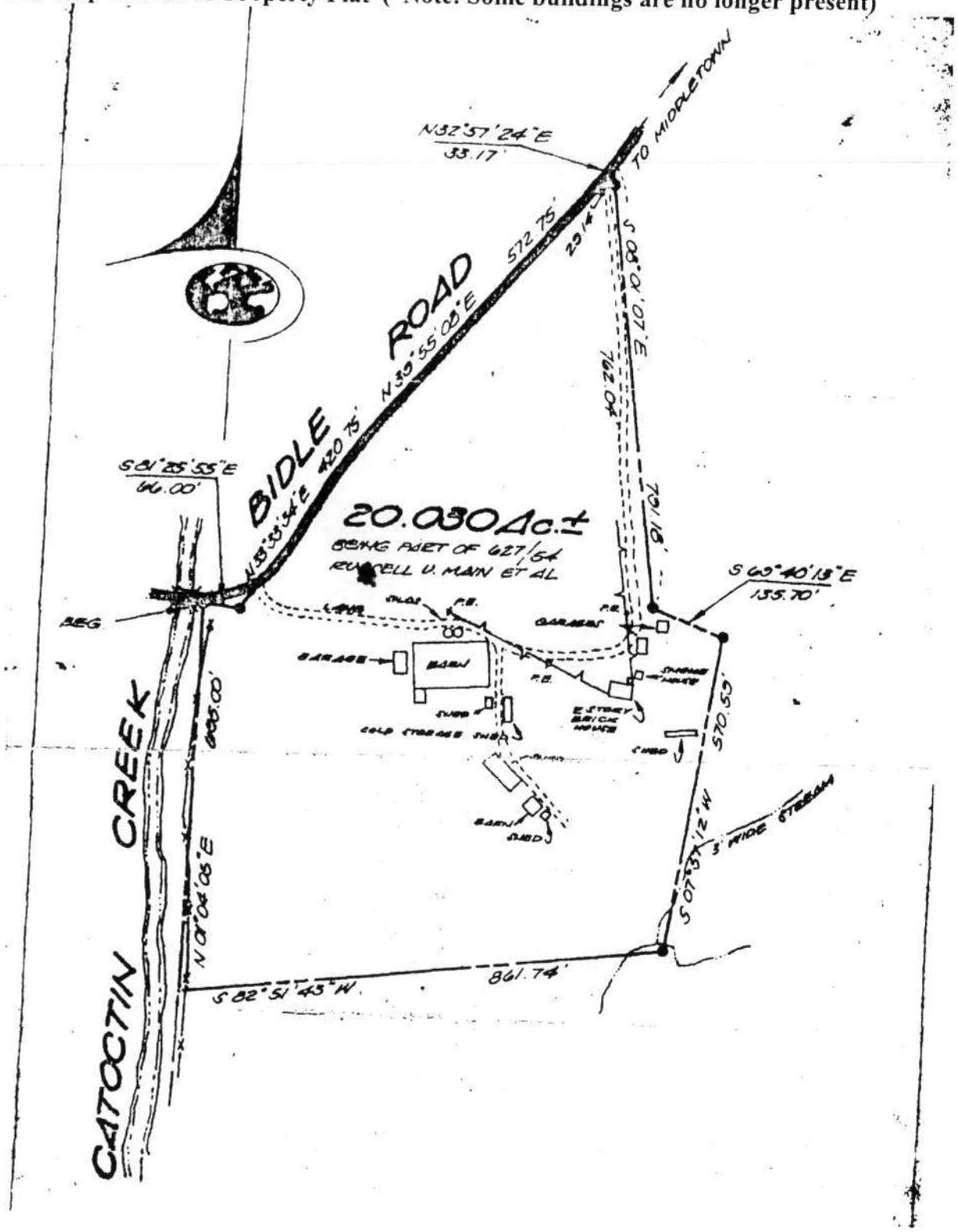
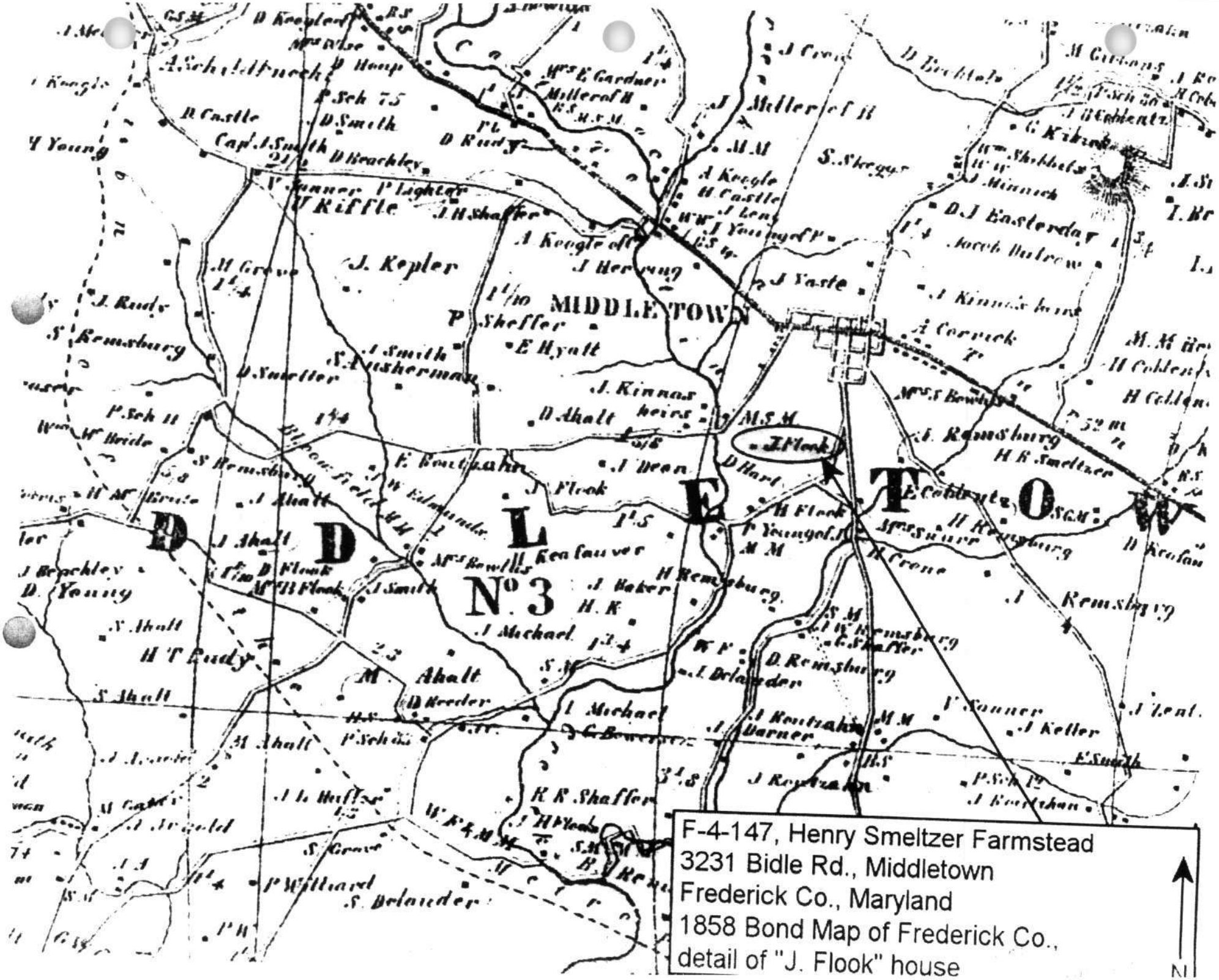
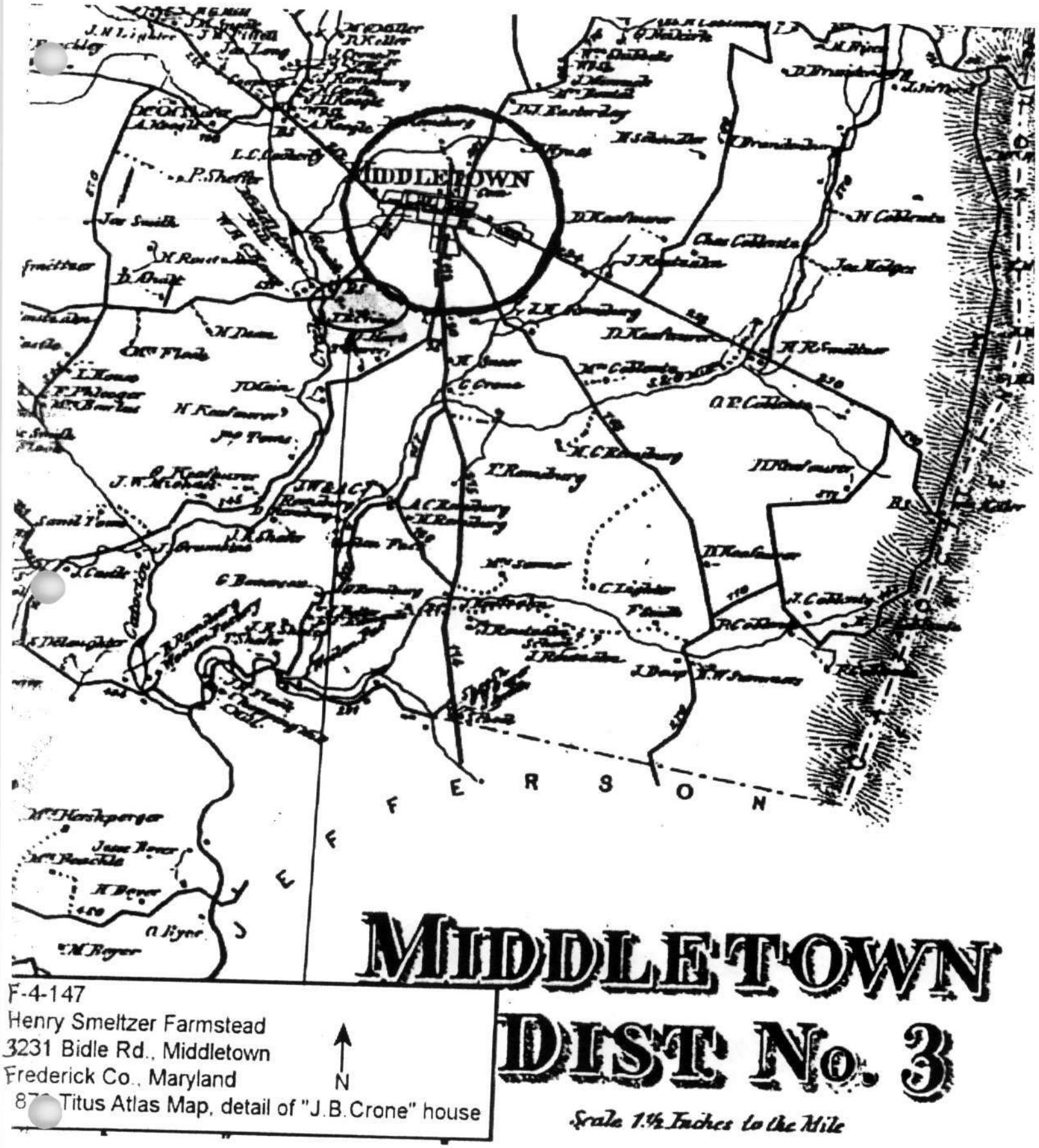


Photo view and number (Exterior)

F-4-147, Henry Smeltzer Farmstead
3231 Bidle Road, Frederick Co., MD
Site Map from 1972 Property Plat (*Note: Some buildings are no longer present)



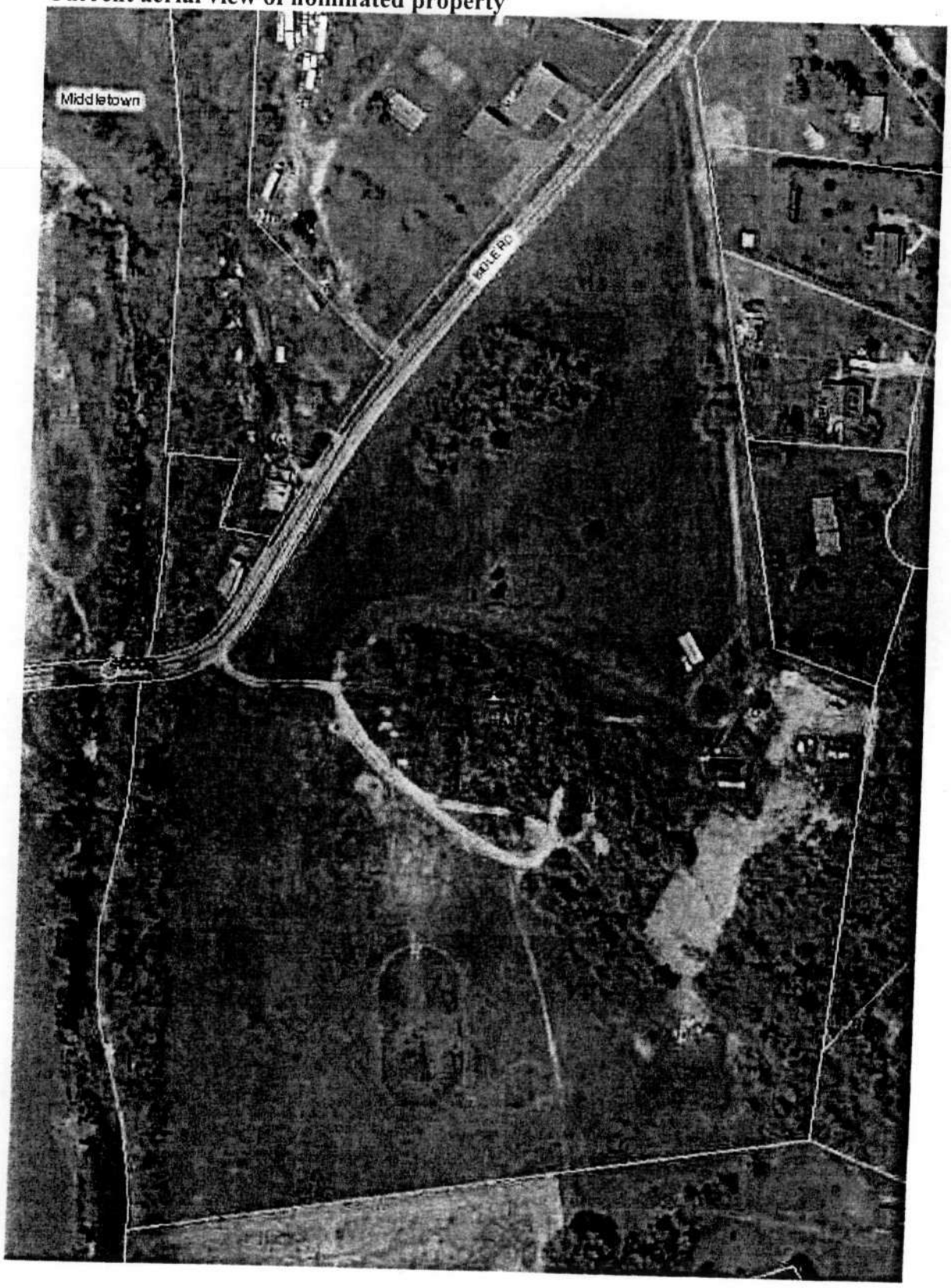

MIDDLETOWN
D D L E T O W
No 3
J. Kepler
J. Flook
F-4-147, Henry Smeltzer Farmstead
3231 Bidle Rd., Middletown
Frederick Co., Maryland
1858 Bond Map of Frederick Co.,
detail of "J. Flook" house
N

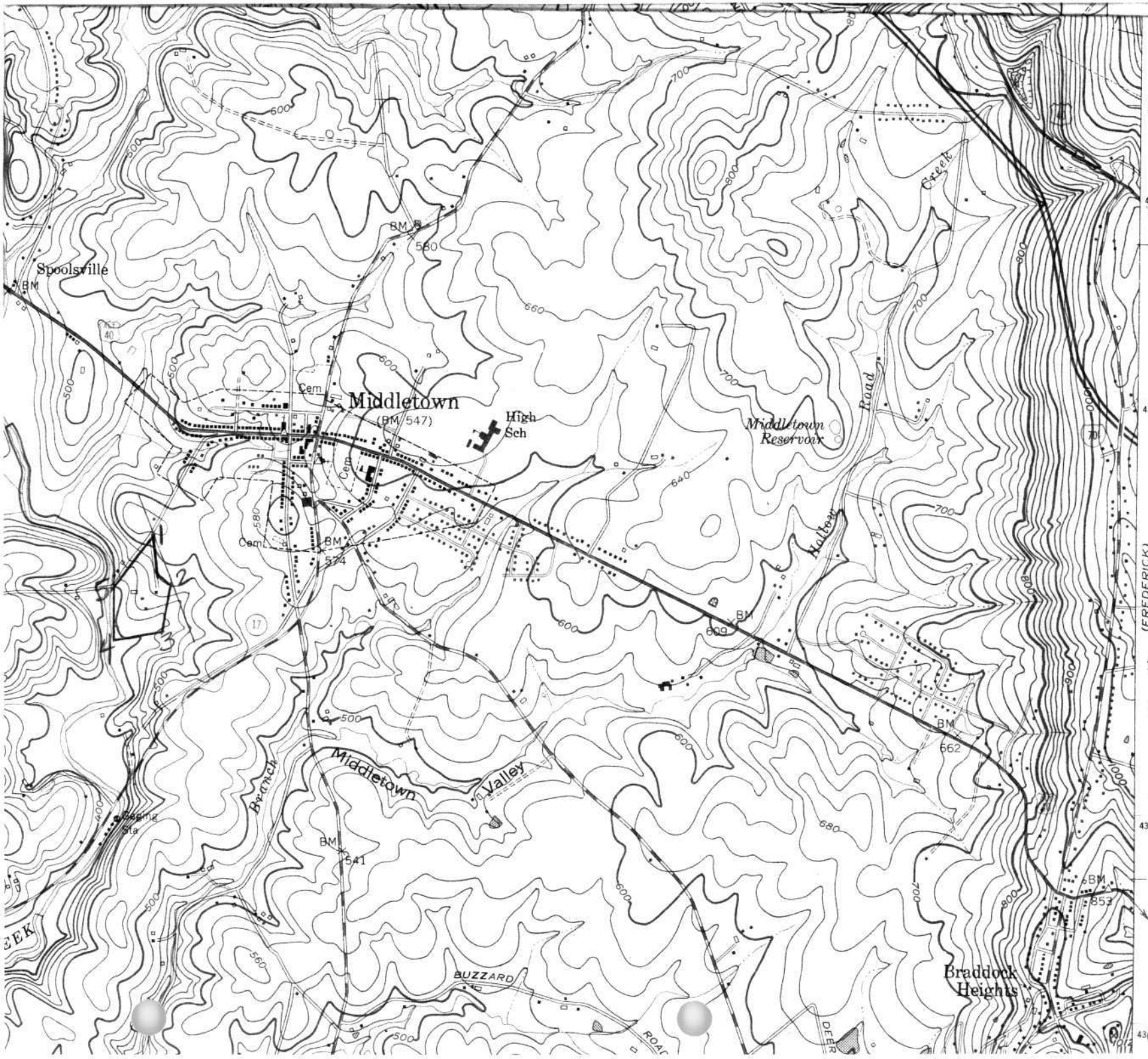


F-4-147
Henry Smeltzer Farmstead
3231 Bidle Rd., Middletown
Frederick Co., Maryland
87[illegible] Titus Atlas Map, detail of "J.B.Crone" house

N

F-4-147, Henry Smeltzer Farmstead
3231 Bidle Road, Frederick Co., MD
Current aerial view of nominated property





F-4-147
Smeltzer, Henry Farmstead
Middletown,
Frederick Co., MD
UTM References:
1. 18/280150/4368431
2. 18/280231/4368199
3. 18/280187/4367970
4. 18/279947/4367970
5. 18/279954/4368918