

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	1101022204
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DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Fat Oxen
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
East side of Md. Route 355, South of Tabler Road NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Urbana

STATE
Maryland

VICINITY OF
 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6th

CODE
24

COUNTY
Frederick

CODE
021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Leisure Tech. Northeast, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER
1 Airport Road

CITY, TOWN
Lakewood

VICINITY OF
VICINITY OF

STATE
New Jersey

08701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Frederick County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
North Court Street

CITY, TOWN
Frederick

STATE
Maryland

21701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

F-7-1

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fat Oxen is located one-third of a mile northeast of Urbana, Frederick County, a quarter-mile off of Maryland Route 355. The structure is unpretentious, yet elegantly refined. Constructed of Flemish bond brick, the house rises from a knoll one and one-half stories over a high rough stone foundation. The kitchen wing is attached to the southeast elevation and is also one and one-half stories in height. Both the main block and subsidiary wing are unusually deep for a house of this scale. The roof rises at a very gradual pitch. Fat Oxen dates from the third quarter of the eighteenth century and is basically Georgian vernacular in style.

The house has two double parlors with a partially open center hall and is five bays wide and two bays deep. The wing is two bays wide and two bays deep. A high wooden mid-nineteenth century porch with railings shaded the two doors on the facade until it was removed in 1976. The doorway in the third bay is original. The subsidiary door in the fourth bay appears to have been added at a later date. Perhaps this doorway was a window at one time. This change would greatly enhance the stylistic refinement. Two period dormers grace the roof over the facade. A basement bulkhead entrance is located at the northwest corner of the structure. Most window sash are six-over-six. Central enclosed chimneys are found at either end of the house and an extremely wide stone chimney originally covered the southeast elevation. A more modern brick stack now rises through the gable end.

The rear elevation has been greatly altered throughout the life history of the structure. However, the original 18th century door frame and nine-over-nine sash remain.

The interior of Fat Oxen exhibits many alterations, and woodwork from every period can be found. However, much of this woodwork is of great merit, including beaded chairrails, baseboards, flat panelled shutters in the window reveals and interior doors. Each of the four main rooms in the main block have back to back interior corner fireplaces. The mantels are rare due to the fact that the raised panelled over face design continues down only one side of the fireplace opening. This design alternates from the left to right side of the opening, depending upon which direction the opening faces. The chimneys are rare in that they are asymmetrically placed along the roof ridge line. This arrangement is most evident on the basement level. Only one brick hearth remains visible. The period stairway exhibits heavy moulded handrails and simple rectangular balusters. A heavy chairrail runs across the stair landing and continues to the second floor level.

The second floor consists of four extremely simple rooms with windows in the gable ends. All original flooring materials are random width pine. Some of the flooring has been covered with modern materials.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1)

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FREDERICK COUNTY

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The basement area is perhaps one of the few intact period cellars in the area. A finished wooden stair descends from under the main stair to the dirt floor. Original plank cellar partitions and sorting bins are extant in the southeast half of the basement and make this level of the structure extremely interesting to the architectural historian and archeologist.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PERIOD				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fat Oxen has been owned by a long line of distinguished citizens of Maryland. As early as 1783, it may have been owned by Charles Beall of the Beall family, one of the earliest English families to settle in the Urbana area, according to Scharf's History of Western Maryland. The property was then purchased by Captain Thomas Sprigg, a member of another English family which settled early in the Frederick area.

After Sprigg's death, the property was put up for public auction and purchased by John McPherson Sr. He arrived in Frederick from Pennsylvania in 1781. As a commissioned lieutenant in the Revolutionary Army, he became an agent in charge of supply rations for British prisoners. Later, he worked as president of the Common Council for the local legislature. Scharf states that he was one of the largest manufacturers of iron and owners of real estate in Western Maryland. In his will, McPherson instructed that any income from the property be given to his brother Edward but that at his brother's death, the land be given to the child or children of his son, John McPherson, Jr.

In 1879, the house and adjoining properties were resurveyed and the tract was named "Hampton." Ann Grahame Ross, daughter of John McPherson, Jr., gained possession of the property on which the house was standing at this time. Ann Ross was the granddaughter of Governor Thomas Johnson and resided at the famous Ross house on Court House Square in Frederick. Her father owned and operated Catoctin Furnace for some time and managed the Central National Bank. He founded Araby Mills in 1830 and was a prominent projector of the National Turnpike from Washington to Wheeling.

Although, Fat Oxen has always been a farmhouse, its owners have made outstanding contributions to the community of Urbana and indeed, Western Maryland.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Swann, Don. Colonial and Historic Homes of Maryland. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1939. Reprint, 1975. P.70.
 Lake, Titus & Co. Atlas of Frederick County, Maryland. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1873. P.21.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jack L. Finglass/Cherilyn Widell

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Frederick Co. Planning & Zoning Commission 12/76

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

Winchester Hall

663-8300-Ext 266

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

21401

Frederick

Maryland 21701

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

EST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

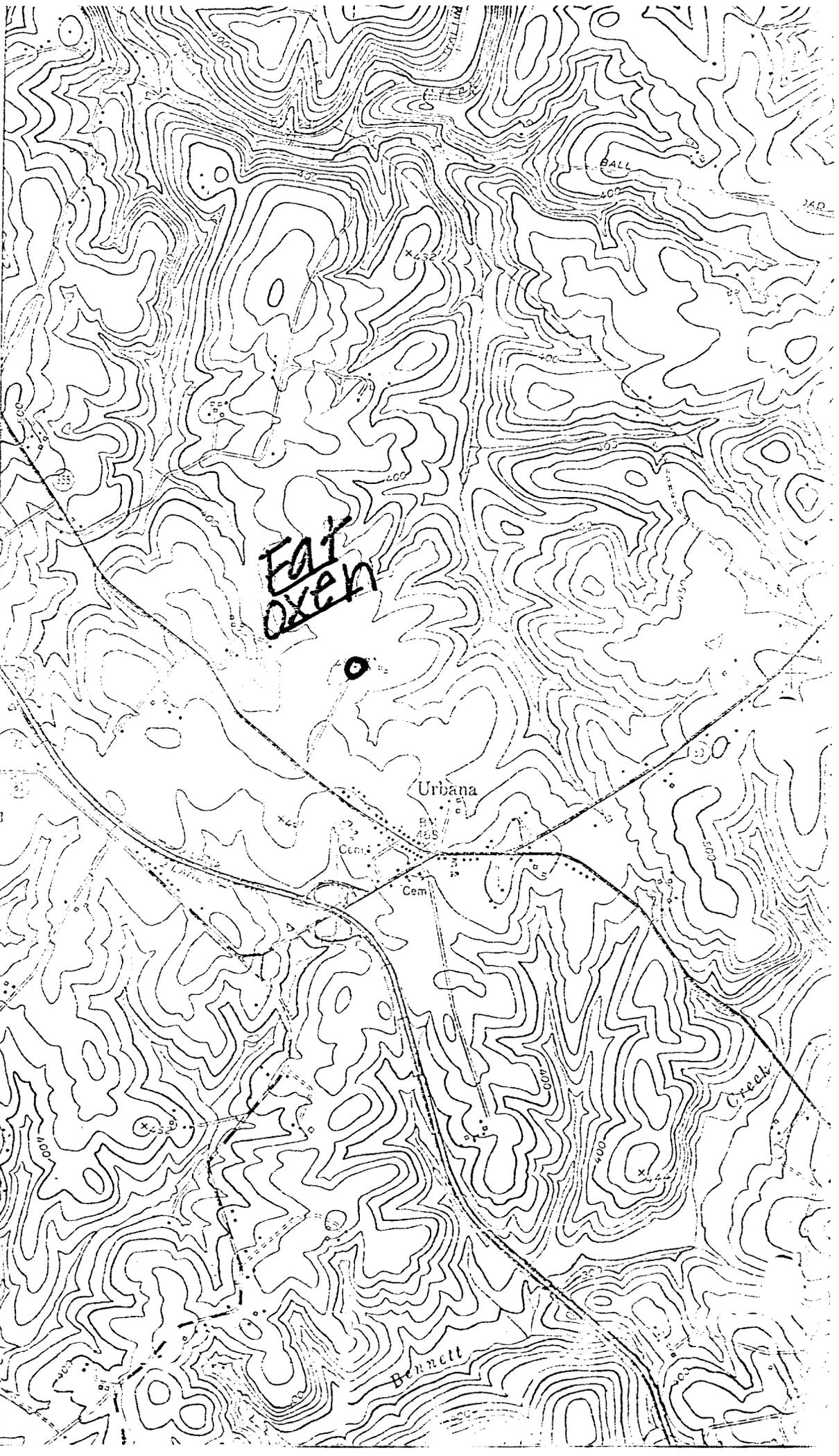
4359
4358
4357
20
4355
4355
4353

VIRGILIA 6.5 MI.
BUCKEYSTOWN 21 MI.

Urbana
Quad

F-7-1

5562 IV SW
(BUCKEYSTOWN)



Eat
Oxen

Urbana

Cem.
Cem.

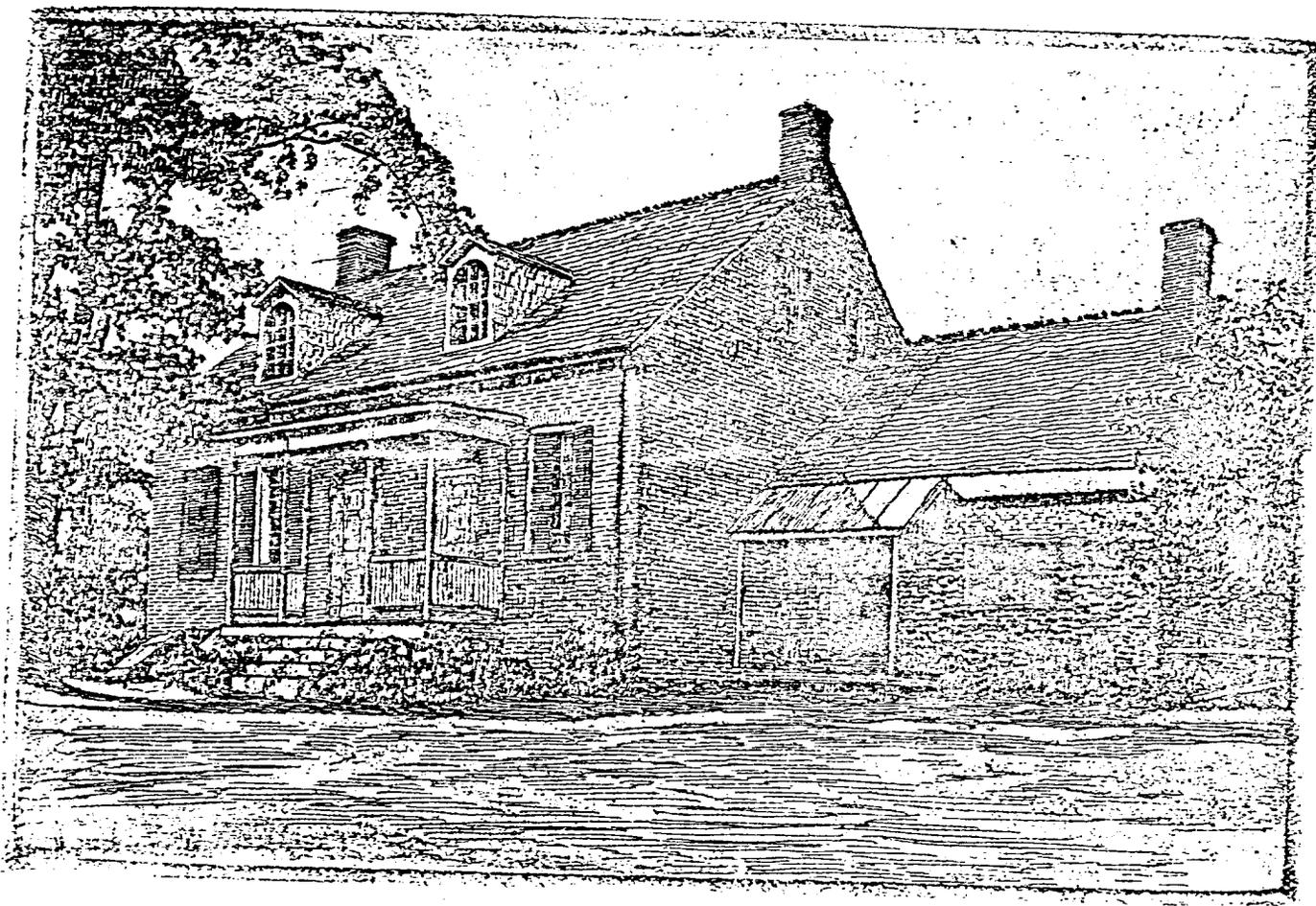
Bennett

BALL

Creek

F-7-1

F-7-1





FAT OXEN

Urbana, Frederick Co., Maryland

Photographer: *Jack R. Funglass*

Negative Located: MHT

Date Photograph Taken: *Winter 1976*

Exterior View

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FAT OXEN
FREDERICK COUNTY

Exterior



FAT OXEN

Urbana, Frederick Co., Maryland

Photographer: Jack L. Pigglass

Negative Located: MHT

Date Photograph Taken; Winter 1976

Exterior - Rear View

F-7-1

FAT OXEN
FREDERICK COUNTY

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Rear