

# THE PEACE AND PLENTY RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Petition for Designation of a Rural Historic District in  
Frederick County's Register of Historic Places



*Looking Eastward on England Farm.*

*“The Peace and Plenty Rural Historic Landscape, with over two centuries of agriculture and attendant long-term family ownership of property, evokes a clear sense of time and place, powerfully linking this cultivated landscape with the past.”* -2016 Historic Survey and Evaluation

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## Introduction

By this Petition, the undersigned property owners request that their farmsteads be designated a “rural historic district” in the Frederick County Registry of Historic Places. These properties encompass over 1000 acres of farmland, with multiple historic structures and landscapes. They have been extensively studied by certified historians, recognized for their historic significance by the Maryland Historic Trust, and most have been deemed individually eligible for designation on the National Registry of Historic Places and/or inclusion within a rural historic district.

In what follows, we describe the prior surveys and evaluations of these historic resources and why they are eligible for designation as a “rural historic district” under the County’s Historic Preservation Ordinance.

## Prior Surveys and Evaluations

Under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, federal approvals of electric transmission lines must be preceded by historic resource assessments, including resource surveys and evaluations. The purpose of

these assessments is to determine whether historic resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places are located in the vicinity of the proposed transmission lines. In 1996, such an assessment was undertaken in the New Market District of Frederick County when transmission lines were proposed in the vicinity of Ben's Branch.

## **Standards and Guidelines**

These historic resource assessments were undertaken in accordance with "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes," (National Register Bulletin, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.) ("Federal Guidelines"). "The "Standards and Guidelines for Architectural and Historical Investigations in Maryland" (Maryland Historic Trust, Maryland Department of Planning) ("State Guidelines") are based on the Federal Guidelines and were also consulted. These Guidelines require that surveys of historic resources be conducted by certified historians with educational backgrounds and professional expertise in the fields of architecture, rural landscapes, archeology or anthropology, among others.

## **Certified Historians**

This 1996 Survey was conducted by Christine Davis Consultants, Inc., a qualified and experienced consulting firm in this field. The results of this survey and evaluation were recorded on a "State Historic Sites Inventory Form" and submitted to the Maryland Historic Trust ("MHT Inventory Form No. F-5-124) as the "Peace and Plenty Rural Historic Landscape".

Thereafter, a second survey and evaluation of these properties was conducted in 2013 by Robert C. Gatewood and Associates, a qualified and experienced consulting firm in this field. ("The 2013 Addendum"). This survey and evaluation presented additional information on the historic significance of this rural landscape.

## **References**

The 1996 Survey and 2013 Addendum were based on extensive reviews of relevant historical materials and resources, including historical maps, tax assessment maps, atlases, census data, historic sites inventories, land records, soil surveys, aerial surveys, on-site observations and

reconnaissance. They also include a review of relevant literature on the history of Frederick County and the New Market District. A list of these references is set forth in the bibliographies below.

The 1996 Survey and 2013 Addendum also relied on historic and architectural reviews separately conducted on each of the historic farmsteads encompassed by the proposed rural historic district. These historic reviews include detailed accounts of prior ownership and chain of title, architectural features, associated outbuildings and agricultural productivity, based on data in the U.S Census of Productions of Agriculture. They also include sketch maps of farmhouses and associated buildings, roads, streams, pastures, fields and wetlands; diagrams reflecting interior designs; and photographs of the farmhouses and related landscapes. The results of these reviews are described in the 1994 and 1996 New Market Inventories of Historic Sites and the Maryland Historic Sites Inventory Forms for each farmstead. This information is readily searchable on-line.

Based on these reviews, the Maryland Historic Trust determined that [six] of the [eight] farmhouses within the proposed district are eligible for individual listing to the National Register of Historic Places. The basis for these “determinations of eligibility” are set forth in “Eligibility Review Forms” appended to the Inventory Forms for each of these farmhouses. The remaining two farmhouses were determined to be eligible for inclusion in a “rural historic district.”

In what follows, we provide an overview of the natural resources, historic structures and historic context of the proposed district. We also present detailed descriptions, photographs, and a site plan of each farmstead included in the proposed district. These descriptions variously paraphrase, update, summarize, excerpt, or quote verbatim the information from the relevant Maryland Historic Trust Inventory Forms.

## Overview: Location, Natural Resources and Historic Structures

The Peace and Plenty Rural Historic District, located in the New Market District of southwestern Frederick County, Maryland includes eight (8) farms and one (1) agricultural lime plant on over 1,000 acres of land. Ben's Branch and its tributaries flow through nearly every farm in the district or is within close proximity. Lime Plant Road bisects the northeastern portion of the district with Old Annapolis Road, Detrick Road and Old National Pike forming partial boundaries to the north, east, and south.

The Maryland Inventory Form for Peace and Plenty describes the geography of the area as:

*This rural historic landscape located in Ben's Branch Valley within the Piedmont Upland Region of the Western Piedmont physiographic province is characterized by metamorphic phyllites, schists and marble. These rocks provided the building materials for the rural landscape's stone farmhouses, outbuildings, foundations, and walls...*

*The Rural Landscape is associated with prime farmland soils on the south and southeastern sections where the lands have continuously functioned as agricultural fields. Other important soils in the district include Linganore and Manor channery loams covering wood lots, pasture lands and hay fields. Manor soils are very droughty and can be excessively drained; therefore, lands associated with this soil type are not commonly used for crops such as wheat or corn. Similar limitations exist for the Linganore series, which tend to be moderately to severely eroded. Dominating the center of the Rural District is a large woodlot associated with Linganore channery loam formed from weathered blue to black slatey shist or phyllite. In some areas where the soil has eroded this bedrock is evident on the ground surface (Frederick County 1985).*

*Ben's Branch of the Monocacy Creek and its tributaries dominate the Peace and Plenty Rural Historic Landscape. The farmsteads are evenly distributed across the landscape...*



As one of several tributaries to Ben's Branch, this creek originates from a large spring on the southeast boundary of Peace and Plenty and along with wells was a primary source of drinking water for residents and livestock in the early days.

Each of the farms within this proposed district has a historic farmhouse; five are stone buildings, two are brick, and one is log. In addition, there are eight bank barns and one dairy barn for a total of nine contributing barns dating from 1870 to 1940. Twenty-eight additional agricultural outbuildings contribute to the district. There is one cemetery within the district, the James-Kimmel family cemetery located on the Daniel James farm. Finally, a historic lime plant and two quarries dating to 1915 is located along Ben's Branch and is within the proposed rural historic district. Forty-seven non-contributing buildings include modern houses, garages, sheds, and barns.

The Maryland Inventory Form F-5-124 further describes the landscape and character of the district, which is applicable to this proposed local district, as follows:



Pond as a reservoir and for recreational purposes.

*Farmhouses are oriented to tributary springs captured in stone springhouses... The majority of properties still have one or more ponds that function as small reservoirs and, in some cases, as recreational features for fishing and swimming. For example, Still Work's pond is an important*

*landscape feature with a gazebo and a designed landscape. Two ponds on either side of the Walter Burrall Lime Plant (F-5-120) had evolved into important landscape features as the two deep, oval ponds reflect the steep cut faces of the limestone quarries. These ponds evince the industrial use of the land and contribute to the recreational use of the land through their current function as picnic areas.*

*The majority of Peace and Plenty farm houses face south or southwest and are located at the end of long lanes originating at county roads. The buildings usually conform to a linear pattern influenced by topographical features, springs, and roads. The original lanes of crushed limestone still provide a circulation system*



*Internal road network connecting farms within Peace and Plenty.*

*among the Peace and Plenty farms. Bracketing the lanes are a diversity of vegetation...[or crops]; wide agricultural fields in the area of the...[Daniel James] farm; and natural vegetation along the entrance to the...[Basil Harding] House... Stone, metal and concrete*

*culverts carry roads and lanes over streams. There are no bridges within the landscape suggesting that before culverts were emplaced, fords were used at stream crossings.*

*Stone farmhouses in Peace and Plenty are characteristically two-and-one-half story stone houses with three to five bays and dating between ca. 1760 and 1837. The architecture and scale of the buildings and later stone additions built between 1790 and 1885 retain a high degree of integrity and significantly contribute to the landscape. There are two large brick houses in the Peace and Plenty Rural landscape. The first brick house was constructed ca. 1760 by William Downey, who belonged to one of the founding families in Peace and Plenty. This house held Western Maryland's first Masonic Lodge meeting. It was expanded to a five-bay building ca. 1815-1825. Another house in the William Downey family, probably part of a dower, is a two-story log building, built ca. 1847 and now covered with aluminum siding (F-5-84). The second brick house, constructed ca. 1870, was built by Ignatius W. Dorsey, an office in the Confederate Army. This Italianate house reflects the economic and social status of the owner. One section of the 1799 stone house at Still Work (F-5-100) was an earlier brick, side hall house built ca. 1758. (Davis 1994)*

*The 33 original outbuildings represent historic land use functions of this rural landscape. Of the 15 barns in the landscape, the earliest extant example dates to 1870; however, the building is now covered with 20th century siding and is part of a modern dairy farm complex on the Ignatius Dorsey House property (F-5-78). Large timber frame bank barns with vertical wood siding and seamed metal gable roofs represent the most common barn type in this rural landscape. The 1940 dairy barn and milk house on the Wright-Downey Farmstead is a particularly fine example of this barn type. Milk houses and tile or concrete silos from the late 1930s or 1940s attached to the dairy barns indicate the importance of 20th century dairy farming.*



*Six smokehouses [three in this nomination] and two meat houses additionally represent the importance of animal husbandry. The smokehouses,*

*Before Route 75 was built, this roadbed running north from Old National Pike was used by horse-drawn milk wagons on their way through Peace and Plenty to pick up and transport milk from spring houses (where the milk canisters were kept cool) to farm markets in the Town of New Market for sale to local residents.*

*characteristically of stone construction, are substantial buildings with gable roofs and smoke vent slits. The structures were detached from the farm houses where the smoldering fire used to smoke large cuts of meat, particularly ham, could burn without fear of burning the house. Smoking was commonly completed in the winter months. Another outbuilding type common in the Peace and Plenty landscape is the combination corn crib and wagon shed of which six remain [in this nomination there are two]. This building type offered a solution for the storage of corn as animal feed because the grains could be transferred and stored in a sheltered building. Six springhouses [two in this nomination] located near the farmhouses are small stone buildings built over springs. The lower story provided cold storage for*

*dairy products and, in some cases, an upper floor served as a wash house, summer kitchen, or for specialized tasks such as soap making or butchering. Other outbuildings include four chicken coops, two privies, two equipment sheds, two garages, and three sheds [this nomination includes three chicken coops, five milkhouses, and one privy ruin]. There are two family cemeteries, located on high points at a distance from the farmhouses. A stone wall surrounds the Hammond Cemetery dating from the 1780s and located on the lane to the Peace and Plenty farm. The Buckey Family cemetery is situated above Ben's Branch and the Christian Harding Farmstead (F-5-48). [This nomination includes just one family cemetery, the James-Kimmel family cemetery also located on a high point on the Daniel James Farm and surrounded by a stone wall. It contains the oldest substantiated grave in Frederick County dating to 1750]*

*Unpainted split rail fences or board fences painted white or black demarcate property and pasture boundaries in the Peace and Plenty District [as do post and wire fences]. Dry wall stone fences are used as landscape features on the Harding-Keller House, Still Work, [Daniels James Farm], and the Peace and Plenty Farmstead. Reportedly there is one segment of an earlier stone fence forming a property line above the Peace and Plenty farm. Low wire fences surround vegetable and flower gardens located in close proximity to the farm houses.*

*Finally, color is a unifying aspect within this rural landscape. Red brick, dark gray to black shist, and the soft gray of weathered wood are commonly used for both building materials and paint colors for seamed metal roofs, outbuildings and barns. These natural colors integrate the landscape and unify the buildings within their natural environment. (MHT Inventory Form No. F-5-124, p.88)*

The characteristics and components which were described for the Maryland Inventory Form F-5-124 of the Peace and Plenty Rural Historic Landscape can also be applied to the rural district being proposed for designation to the County Register of Historic Places.

**Peace and Plenty Rural Historic District**  
**Summary of Properties**

Property Name	Date of House	Contributing	Non-Contributing
Basil Harding Farmstead (F-5-47)	1815; 1885	9= stone house; smokehouse (c. 1875-1900); chicken house (c. 1900); hog/sheep pen; bank barn, corn crib/ wagon shed, & milk house (c. 1875); springhouse ruins (c. 1800); 2 silos	3= hay storage shed; tractor/equipment shed; feed barn
Still Work (F-5-100)	1758, 1799, 1960s	5= brick and stone house; springhouse (c. 1758, 1900); wagon/corn crib (c. 1890); bank barn (c. 1900); chicken house (c. 1900); milkhouse (1920)	3= Log house (c. 1970); garage (c. 1970)
William Downey House (F-5-83)	1760, 1815-1825, c. 2000	7= brick house; bank barn (1904); Silo; smokehouse (c. 1820); 3 frame sheds	2= hoop hay; hoop shed
Wright Downey Farmstead (F-5-84)	c. 1847	7= house; bank barn (1890-1900); dairy barn (1940); milk house (1940); Concrete block silo;	12= modern house; 4 equipment sheds; 1 barn; 6 modern silos

		meathouse (1890-1900); chicken house (1890-1900)	
Capt. Ignatius Dorsey Farm (F-5-78)	c. 1870	5= brick house; meat house (c. 1870); bank barn on older foundation (1870-1875); stahl; milk house (c. 1900)	7= dairy barn, farm market, chicken coop; 4 equipment / storage sheds
Samuel Dorsey Barn & Milk House (part of F-5-77)		3= bank barn (c. 1890-1900); milk house (c. 1920); Silo	3= 2 modern houses; 1 storage barn; shed
Vernon Dorsey House (F-5-27)	C. 1837, 1980	1= stone house	5= barn; 2 garages; 2 sheds
Higgins-Bennett House (F-5-85)	c. 1790, 1807-1816	4= stone house; smoke house; bank barn on older foundation (1880); metal granaries (1920)	4= modern house; garage; tractor / storage shed; barn
Daniel James House (F-5-39)	c. 1791	4= stone house; barn (1815); stone privy ruins (c. 1791); cemetery (1750)	8= 4 houses; 4 equipment / storage sheds
Walter Burrall Lime Plant (F-5-120)	1915	3= lime plant, two quarries with ponds	

# Historic Farmsteads and Landscapes

## The Basil Harding Farmstead



*The Basil Harding Farmstead is owned by Dana McGolerick Shultz. The Farmstead is located at 6219 B Green Valley Road, New Market, Maryland. Tax Map 0080/Parcel 0033.*

*This farmstead is comprised of an historic stone farmhouse, a bank barn with several attached structures, a smoke house, the ruins of a spring house and associated farm buildings constructed in recent years to replace older buildings destroyed by extreme weather (including a tornado) and deterioration over time.*

## The Stone Farmhouse



*The Basil Harding Farmstead includes a two-story, two-section stone dwelling. It was originally built as a 1-1/2 story dwelling about 1800, which is now the middle section of the rear wing. It was later extended by a main section (with an 1885 date stone) and a two-story extension containing a kitchen, which is now the rear wing.*

## The Stone Farmhouse (Facing East)



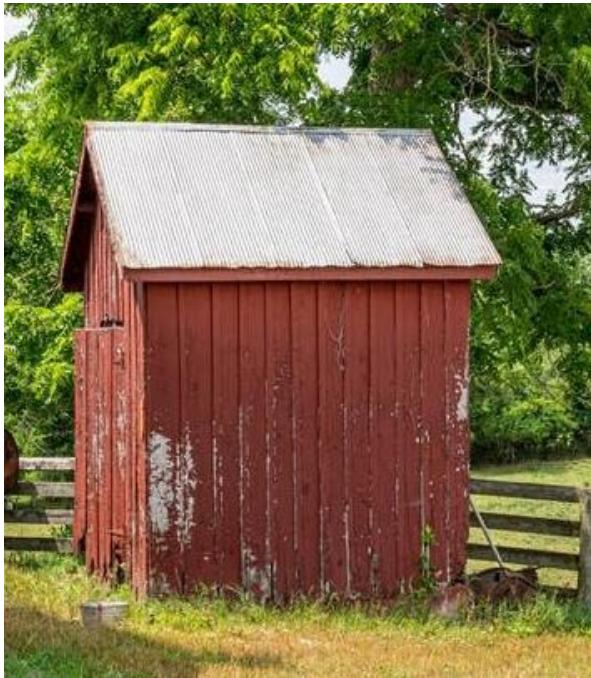
*The farmstead is significant for the multiple building periods evidenced in the structure of the dwelling. (Inventory Form No. F-5-47, Summary Page).*

## The Bank Barn



*The frame and stone bank barn are located east of the dwelling. It has vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof. An attached wagon shed, and corn crib is on the west gable end and a machine shed adjoins the crib on the west. A frame tongue-and-groove milk house is at the northeast corner. The barn probably dates from the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century but may incorporate materials and the stone foundation of an earlier barn.*

## The Smokehouse



*The smoke house has board and batten siding, and a single door of the same material on the south gable end. A screened smoke vent is above the door opening. The smoke house was apparently built in the last quarter of the 18th century.*

## The Spring House



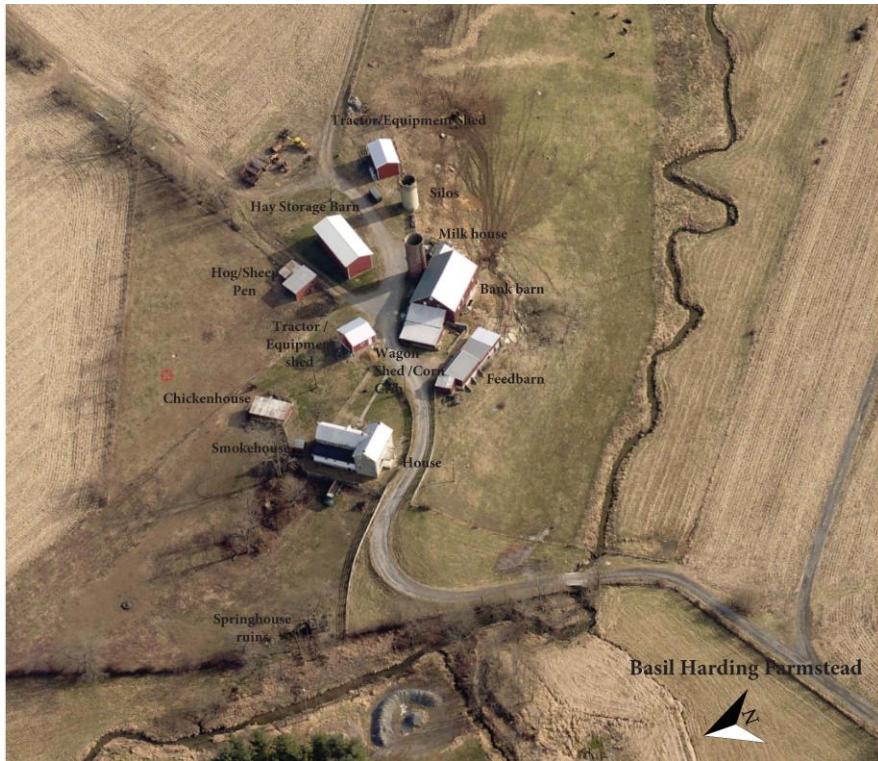
*The stone ruins of a spring house are located west of the dwelling on the northwest side of the driveway. The spring house probably dates from about 1800.*

## Associated Farm Buildings



*Associated farm buildings constructed in recent years to replace older buildings destroyed by extreme weather, including tool sheds, workshops, tractor sheds and storage buildings.*

## Site Plan



## The Walter E. Burrall Lime Plant

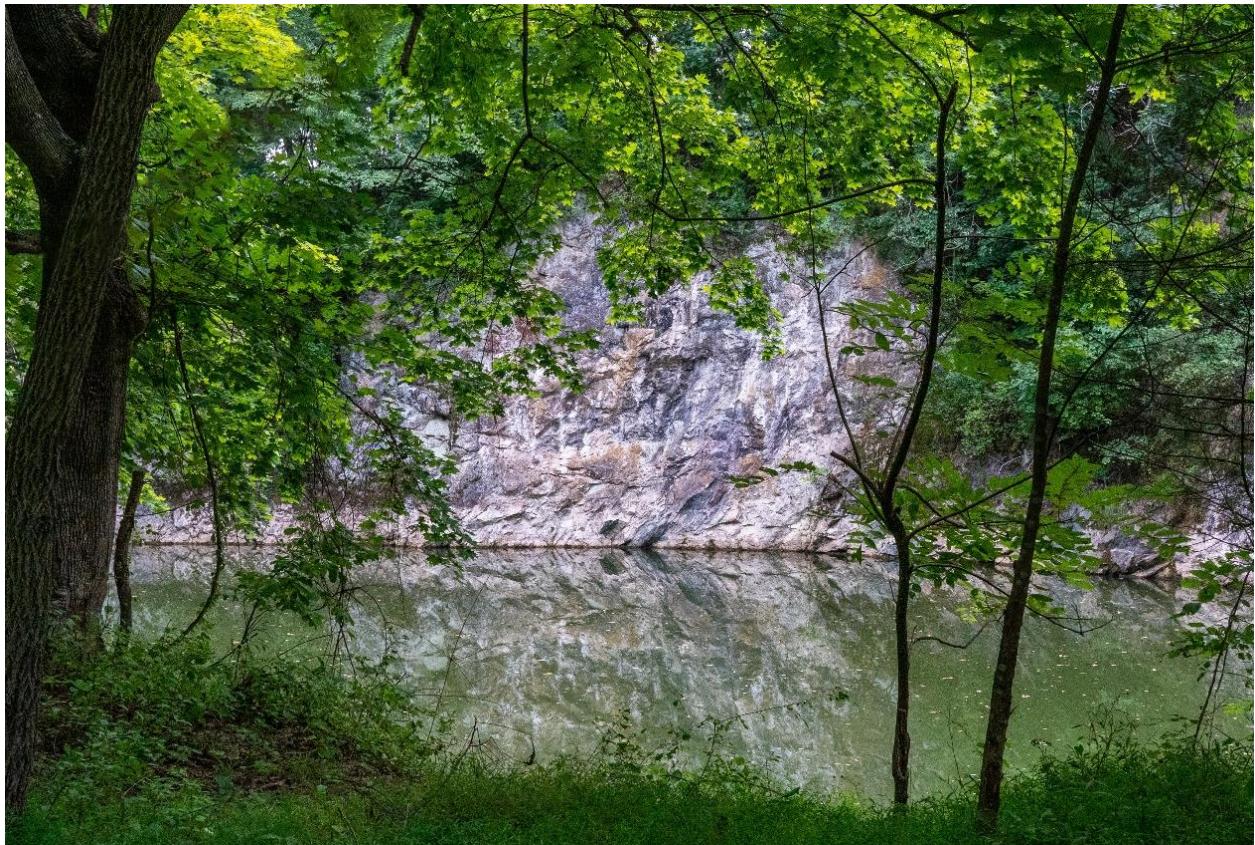
*This lime plant is located on the Basil Harding Farmstead, owned by Dana McGolerick Shultz. The Farmstead is located at 6219 B Green Valley Road, New Market, Maryland. Tax Map 0080/Parcel 0030.*

### The Lime Plant

*Located on the site of a former grist and saw mill, the mill site was converted to lime production circa. 1915... As expensive machinery was required to grind the limestone, local farmers frequently formed cooperatives for this purpose. The Walter E. Burrall Lime Plant was rented to the Farmer's Cooperative Association, an association of local farmers who sold feed, lime and other products. The lime processing industry was significant in Frederick's history from early settlement into the 20th century." (MHT Eligibility Review Form, 1997). As depicted above, the plant has a concrete block foundation, is sheathed in metal sheets and has multiple sections and levels for limestone grinding.*



## The Lime Quarry



*The lime deposit is exposed on the face of this quarry. The lime was dislodged by dynamite, processed at the lime plant, and spread on nearby fields.*

## Still Work



Still Work Farm is owned by Diana H. Jamieson and Heidi Holtz-Eakin. The address of Still Work is 6219C Green Valley Road, New Market, Maryland. Tax Map 0080/Parcel 0001.

This farmstead is comprised of an historic farmhouse, a bank barn with milk house, a spring house, a wagon shed and corn crib, a chicken house, a cabin (circa 1970) and garage (circa 1970)

## The Farmhouse

Still Work has been registered by the Frederick County Landmarks Foundation on its Official Register of Historic Properties.



*“Still Work is a two-section house built about 1758 in its original form as a brick side hall, 1 ½ story house, with a stone addition erected on the east gable end in 1799, according to a date incised in the stone exterior ... Still Work’s interior plan and trim are Georgian in style, but [its] distinctively German elements show the merging of the two cultures in architectural and decoration methods in mid-18th century.” ... Still Work is “highly significant in architecture” and “exemplifies the merging of English and German influences in architecture in Frederick County during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century”. (MHT Inventory Form, No. F-5-100). A 1970 wing addition is located on the west elevation of the main block.*



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## The Farmstead: Wagon Shed, Bank Barn, Spring House



### The Spring House

A two-level spring house is located about 150 feet southwest of the dwelling. It probably dates from about 1760 when the brick section of the farmhouse was built.

### The Bank Barn

The bank barn appears to have a late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century upper frame structure on an older stone foundation. The original barn may have been log, which would have been consistent with the period of the 1750's and 1760's construction. A 1920's concrete block milk house is located near the east gable end.

## The Wagon Shed and Corn Crib

This wagon shed with corn cribs was probably built around 1890. It has vertical board siding with a corrugated metal roof. Sliding doors are on the west elevation.

## The Chicken House



The chicken house has board and batten as vertical siding and a corrugated metal shed roof. It was probably built during the first decade of the 20th century.

## The Log Cabin



A log cabin was built circa 1970 by local craftsmen using traditional methods of construction (e.g., wooden pegs as nails) and hand-hewn logs deconstructed from a loafing shed elsewhere on the farm.

## The Garage

A garage and storage shed for farming equipment was built circa 1970.



## Site Plan



## The William Downey House

### The Farmhouse



The Harshman Farm is owned by Gareth and David Harshman (as the G.W. and H.D. Partnership). It is located on Detrick Road at 5800A [Tax Map 0080/Parcel 0005] and 5800C [Tax Map 0080/Parcel 0005] Mt. Airy Maryland. Tax Map 0080/Parcel 0005. This Farm is comprised of the Downey House and the Wright Downey Farmstead.

The Downey House has been registered by the Frederick County Landmarks Foundation on its Official Register of Historic Properties and is described in MHT Inventory Form No. F-5-83 as follows:

*“One of the earliest brick homes in this area, the [William Downey House] was built about 1760 for Basil Dorsey, Jr. by his father John. Basil Dorsey gave the house to his daughter Cordelia in 1814 when*

*she married William Downey. The House was expanded circa 1815-1825 from a 3-bay side-hall to a symmetrical five-bay house. ...A most unusual feature of the house is a room on the second floor, which was the first meeting place for the Masons in Western Maryland. The room was painted blue and contained a hand carved over-mantel that displayed the chart and emblems of the Masonic Lodge, which met here as early as 1776.” (Pre-1800 Houses of Frederick County, Vol.3, pp.18-19, 2002.) The rear wing was expanded in circa. 2000.*

### The Date Stone



*The original tract on which the Downey House was located was surveyed for 60 acres in 1740 as “Turner’s Forest.” Later, additional parcels were assembled in a tract of 298 acres that was re-named “Peace and Plenty.” This date stone for Turner’s Forest – 1799 - was later relocated to the southwest corner of the Downey House.*

## The Smoke House



Dating from about 1820, the rectangular log smokehouse is a one-story structure located near the dwelling. Interior logs and exposed rafters are smoke darkened.

## The Bank Barn



*The bank barn is frame with a stone foundation. It has an incised stone at the northeast corner reading “JWD 1904”, referring to Jesse W. Downey.*

## Site Plan



## The Wright Downey Farmstead

The Wright Downey Farmstead is part of the Harshman Farm, owned by Gareth and David Harshman (as the G.W. and H.D. Partnership). It is contiguous to the William Downey Farmstead at 5800A Detrick Road, Mt. Airy, Maryland.

### The Farmstead



The Wright Downey Farmstead is historically related to the William Downey House. MHT Inventory Form No. F-8-54 notes that:

*“The Wright-Downey Farmstead is an agricultural complex centered on a circa 1847 log dwelling with artificial siding and its associated outbuildings, including a frame bank barn, a concrete dairy barn and milk house, a meat house, and a chicken house...the outbuildings appear to date from about 1850-1940”.  
(MHT Eligibility Review Form, 1997).*

## The Bank Barn



*This bank barn with a stone foundation was initially built about 1847-1850. Its upper structure was reconstructed about 1890-1900. A frame loafing shed adjoins the barn on the west gable end.*

## The Log Cabin



*Despite the siding, the log cabin retains the basic form of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century log cabin. In its day, it played the central role in the farmstead's internal plan "in which the domestic and agricultural groups are defined by both placement and farm road circulation patterns." MHT Inventory Form F -5-84.*

## The Dairy Barn, Milk House and Silos



## Site Plan



## **The Captain Ignatius W. Dorsey Farm**



The Captain Ignatius W. Dorsey Farm is owned by Jeffrey and Judy L. England. It is located at 5620 Detrick Road, Mt. Airy, Maryland. [Tax Map 0080/Parcel 0138]

This farmstead is comprised of a historic brick farmhouse, bank barns, silos, a farm market and expansive rural landscape.

## The Farmhouse (Facing East)



*“Built around 1870, the two-story brick farmhouse has Italianate features. It is a large house sited on a crest and commands an expansive view over a largely unaltered agricultural landscape.*

## The Farmhouse (Facing South)



“The house is moderately significant for its architecture, an altered example of the basic vernacular house of the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century with details of a popular style, the Italianate, in its porch and window trim, its interior trim and decoration, and its large scale. It reflects the economic and social status of Ignatius Dorsey (1834-1915), who served as Quartermaster in the Maryland Line of the Confederate Army and was later a member of the Board of the House of Correction.” (MHT Inventory Form No. F-5-78, Summary Statement).

## The Bank Barns

Dating from about 1870-1875, this framed barn has an adjoining milk house, distinctive “oil can” shaped vents on the ridge and has been covered with metal siding. The bank barn below is accompanied by a silo and hay wagons.



## The Farm Market



This farm building was adapted for use as a farm market circa 1940

## The Associated Buildings



These metal-sided sheds and workshops provide space for the storage of materials and maintenance of equipment required for farming operations.

## Site Plan



## The Samuel Dorsey Farm Buildings

The Samuel Dorsey Farm Buildings are owned by Jeffrey and Judy England. It is located at 5501 Detrick Road, on the west side of Detrick Road. These farm buildings are associated with the Samuel Dorsey house, located to the east of Detrick Road and on a different parcel. The bank barn was built between 1890-1900 along with a granary. A milk house is also located next to the barn and dates to approximately 1930-1940.

## Site Plan



## The Vernon Dorsey House

The Vernon Dorsey House is owned by James S. and Valerie Marshall. It is located on Lime Plant Road at 12602. Tax Map 0080/Parcel 0136.

The Farmhouse (Facing South)



*The Vernon Dorsey House is a two-story stone farmhouse constructed as the dwelling for a tenant farm in circa 1837. The original log section on the east façade side was badly damaged by fire in the 1980s. A 2-story frame addition was constructed in the location of the former log section. The structure continues to serve as a representative example of a modest farmhouse of that period. MHT Inventory Form No. F-5-27.*

## The Barn



The barn was more recently constructed for equipment storage and workshop purposes.

## Site Plan



## The Higgins-Bennett House

The Higgins-Bennett House is owned by Jason and Sandra Storm. It is located at 12421 Lime Plant Road. Tax Map 0080/Parcel 0123.

The Farmhouse (Facing North)



The Higgins-Bennett House is a two-story, two section stonehouse including a 1 1/2 story summer kitchen. The first section was built in the last decade of the 18<sup>th</sup> century while the second section was built ca 1807-1816 and served as the center of a small farmstead complex. A smoke house is attached to the east side of the house. Lime Plant Road bisects the property with the farmhouse to the south of the road. Bens Branch runs behind the house. The Higgins-Bennet House was purchased in 1807 by the Reverend James Higgins, a Methodist Protestant minister who later founded the Methodist Protestant Church in New Market. MHT Inventory of Historic Sites No. F-5-85.

## The Cattle Barn



This cattle barn (on the right) was recently constructed as a feeding and sheltering structure for livestock.

## The Bank Barn



This stone and frame bank barn was recently renovated on a stone foundation that may date from 1800.

## The Tractor Shed



This structure serves as a storage facility and workshop for farm tractors and equipment.

## Site Plan



## The Daniel James House and James-Kimmel Cemetery

The Daniel James House and James-Kimmel Cemetery are owned by Jason and Sandra Storm. These historic resources are located on the Storm Farm at 12401 Old Annapolis Road, Mount Airy, Maryland, 21771. Tax Map 0070, Parcel 0067.

### The Farmhouse



*The Daniel James House is an important example of a stone residence constructed by one of the early settlers of the New Market area. It reveals both the skill of German or German-influenced builders and the refinement of English style architecture. It features an unusual banked roofed shed stone addition located on the south side of the dwelling and believed to have been used as a summer kitchen. The farmhouse was built in 1791 by Daniel James whose grandfather, John James, was appointed Overseer of the Monocacy-Annapolis Road in 1740. MHT Inventory of Historic Sites No. F-5-39.*

## The Farmhouse (Facing East)



*A stone wall surrounded the front yard of the house. George Washington and General Lafayette visited the Daniel James House. On the day that Emancipation was announced, 42 slaves left the farm. MHT Inventory of Historic Sites No. F-5-39.*

## James-Kimmel Cemetery (Looking South from the Farmhouse)

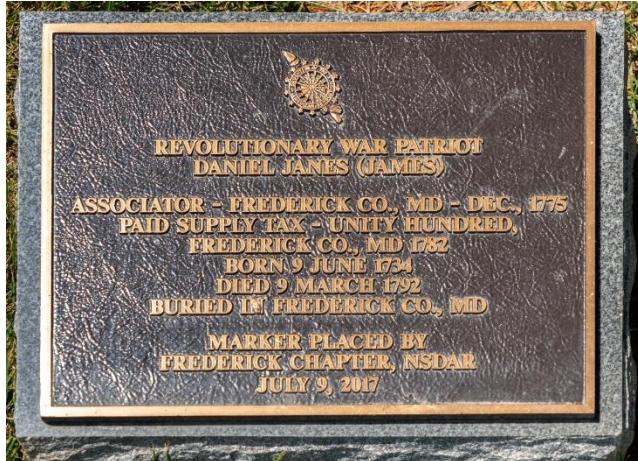


John Daniels is buried in the oldest substantiated grave in Frederick County. His son, Daniel Sr., pledged his service as an “Associator”; took the Oath of Fidelity; and served on a committee at the county level in support of freedom for the American Colonies from the rule of Britain. His grave has been marked as a verified “DAR Revolutionary War Patriot and that of his wife Lucy.” The graves of War of 1812 Major General Anthony Kimmel and his wife Sydney Ann are also marked for their service to their country.

## View of Farmstead from James-Kimmel Cemetery



## The James and Kimmel Gravestones



## The Bank Barn



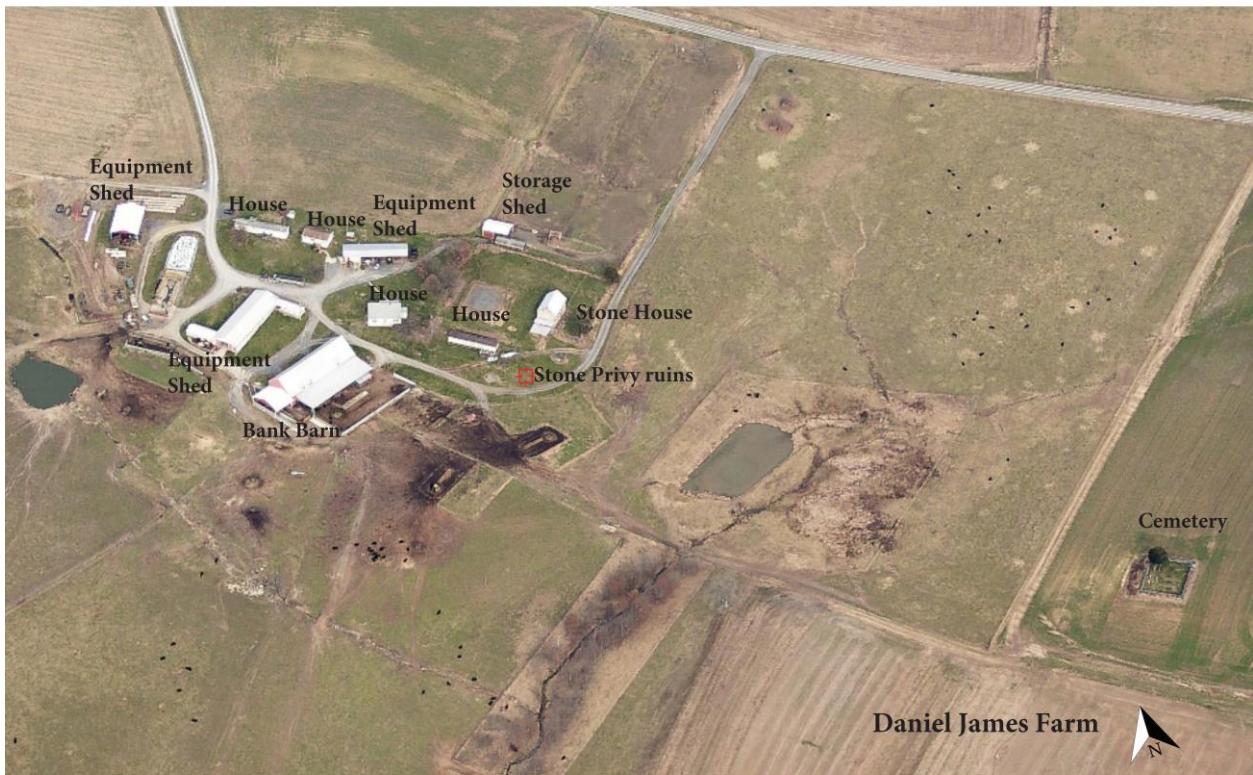
This stone and frame barn probably dates from about 1800. The north gable of the barn is stone with vertical vents. It is in active agricultural use.

## Dairy Barn and Storage Shed



Other modern structures, including residences, are clustered at several locations on the property.

## Site Plan



## **Eligibility for Designation as a “Rural Historic District”**

### **Federal and State Guidelines**

As noted above, Federal and State guidelines define a “rural historic district” as:

*“a geographical area that historically has been used by people or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features.”* See *Federal Guidelines, “Evaluation”*.

These guidelines identify a range of relevant characteristics for use in evaluating rural historic landscapes and districts. These characteristics include:

*“land uses and activity; patterns of spatial organization; response to the natural environment; cultural traditions; circulation networks; boundary demarcations; vegetation related to land use; buildings, structures, and objects; clusters; archeological sites and small-scale elements.”*

In the evaluation of rural historic landscapes, these guidelines further require a description of the “historic context”, an assessment of “historic integrity”, and the selection of boundaries for the district.

Finally, rural historic resources will be deemed “significant” only where they meet one or more of the following criteria, among others:

*Criterion A applies to activities such as “dairy farming” which over time have “made significant contributions to the broad patterns of history” including “the area’s economy, productivity, or identity as an agricultural community.”*

*Criterion C applies to properties which are “distinctive in design, style, or method of construction” and sited in an arrangement of fields and internal road networks illustrating traditional land use patterns and practices unique to the community.*

*Criterion D applies to properties whose surface or subsurface remains may provide historically significant information about agricultural or industrial land uses.*

## **Frederick County's Guidelines**

Under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, the Historic Preservation Commission “[s]hall review all petitions for designation to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places and submit recommendations to the County Council”. (Section 5.A (5). For purposes of this review, a “preservation district” shall mean “a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, structures, or objects united historically, architecturally, archeologically by plan or physical element.” (Section 3.E.)

In conducting its review, the Commission shall consider the following “criteria for designation”, among others, as set forth in Section 6 (B) of the Preservation Ordinance:

*“The property has significant character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the County, state or nation.” (1.a)*

*“The property is identified with a person or group of persons who influenced society”. (1.c )*

*“The property exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political, or historic heritage of the County and its communities.” (1.d.)*

*“The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or architecture.” (2.a.)*

*“The property represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community, or County, due to its singular physical characteristics, landscape or historical event.” (2.e)*

## **The Significance of the Proposed District.**

In its evaluation of Peace and Plenty under these Federal and State guidelines, the 1996 Survey and Evaluation concluded that:

*"The Peace and Plenty Rural Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion A for the continuous role this agricultural district played in the periods of rural agrarian intensification (1680-1815), agricultural-industrial transition (1850-1870) and industrial/urban dominance (1870-1930). These historic contexts were defined for the New Market area as part of the New Market Region Historic Survey. As part of this Survey, all properties included in the Peace and Plenty Rural Historic District were recommended for National Register eligibility under Criterion C for architecture, with the exception of the agricultural lime plant which qualified under Criterion D.*

*The landscape characteristics in Peace and Plenty relate with the evolution of agricultural land use by rural elites, from the importance of tobacco and the use of slaves to the increase in dairy farming. Locally quarried stone provided raw material for many of the buildings. Under Criterion C, the district embodies distinct physical qualities including the locations of farmhouses and fields within the district as well as the distinctive design of the stone and brick houses with associated agricultural and domestic buildings. The extant corn cribs/wagon sheds, dairy barns and smokehouses reflect the change in function to an increase in animal husbandry. The extant lime plant expressed the need for soil improvement through the innovative use of pulverizing machinery. Surrounding the houses are vernacular landscapes with mature trees, gardens and wood or stone fences.*

*This rural historic district has a high degree of historic integrity. The historic vistas with agricultural fields interspersed with wood lots and pastures can be viewed throughout Peace and Plenty. The beautifully maintained stone, wood and brick buildings, limestone lanes and the proximity of meandering streams remain within early property boundaries thus shaping the district and expressing the tradition of a rural elite. The organization of land-use involving woodlots, pastures, and agricultural features associated with prime farmlands is evident. The setting includes ponds, streams, fences, springs, mature trees, and plants that contribute to the Peace and Plenty Rural Historic Landscape. The use of native materials including stone, wood, and clay for red bricks as well as the selection of compatible paint colors strongly contributes to the sense of time and place in the landscape. Mature woodlots, the rows of mature trees along Peace and Plenty's internal roads and lanes, and the variform elms surrounding Still Work convey a scale and visual effect that contributes to the integrity of this*

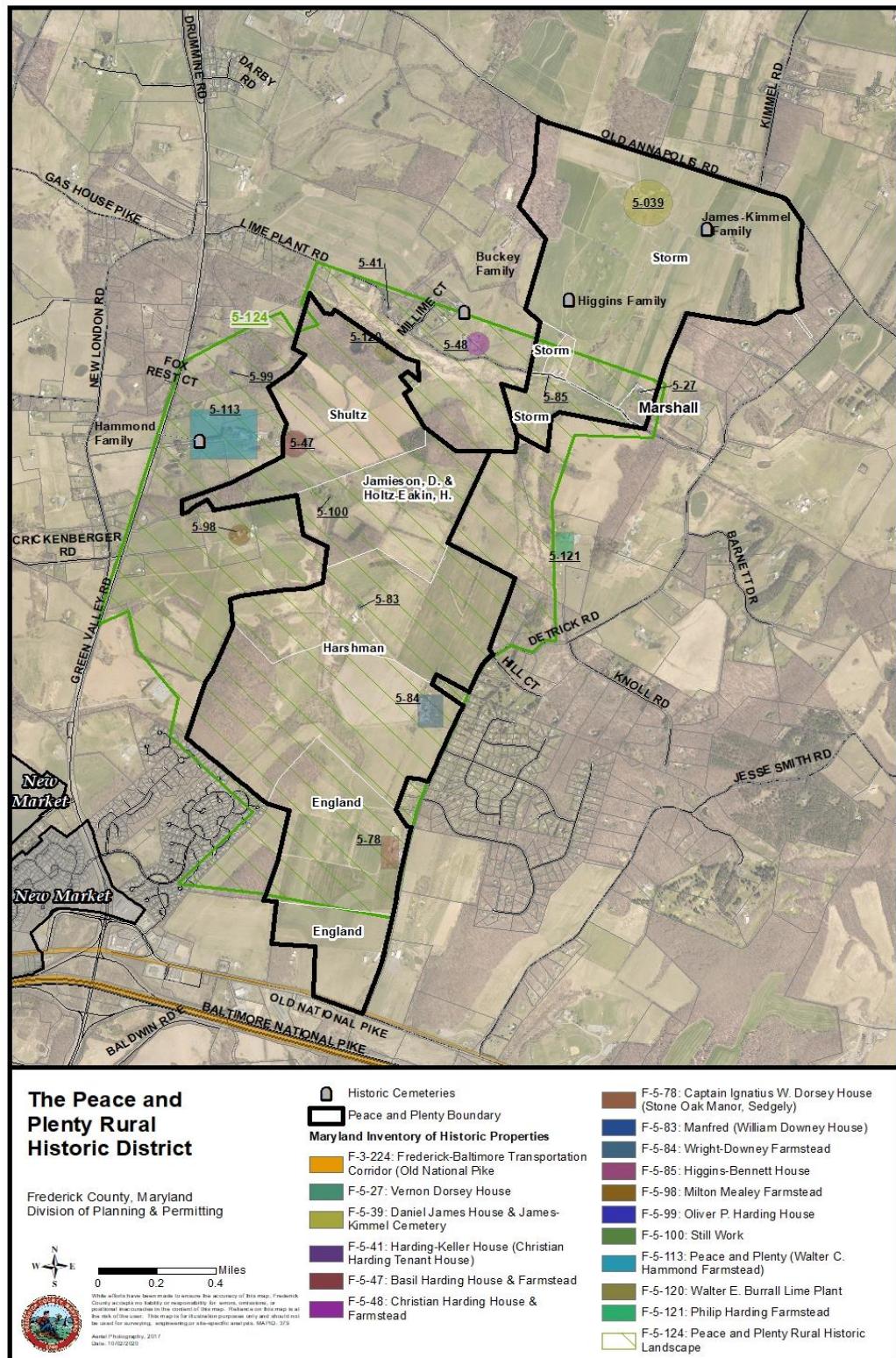
*setting. Patterns of workmanship evident in the buildings, the symmetry of the agricultural fields, the prominent wood fences, and the design of vegetable and flower gardens are significant examples of traditional farming practices. The Peace and Plenty Rural Historic Landscape with over two centuries of agriculture and attendant long-term family ownership of property evokes a clear sense of time and place powerfully linking this cultivated landscape with the past.” (MHT Inventory Form No. F-5-124, “Significance,” p. 093).*

## **Conclusion**

Frederick County’s Guidelines include each of the factors and considerations weighed at the Federal and State level in evaluating rural historic districts. (We were unable to identify any meaningful difference between the two.) For that reason, the preceding detailed explanation for why these farmsteads qualify as a “rural historic district” under Federal and State guidelines would also appear to confirm their qualifications for this status under Frederick County’s Guidelines.

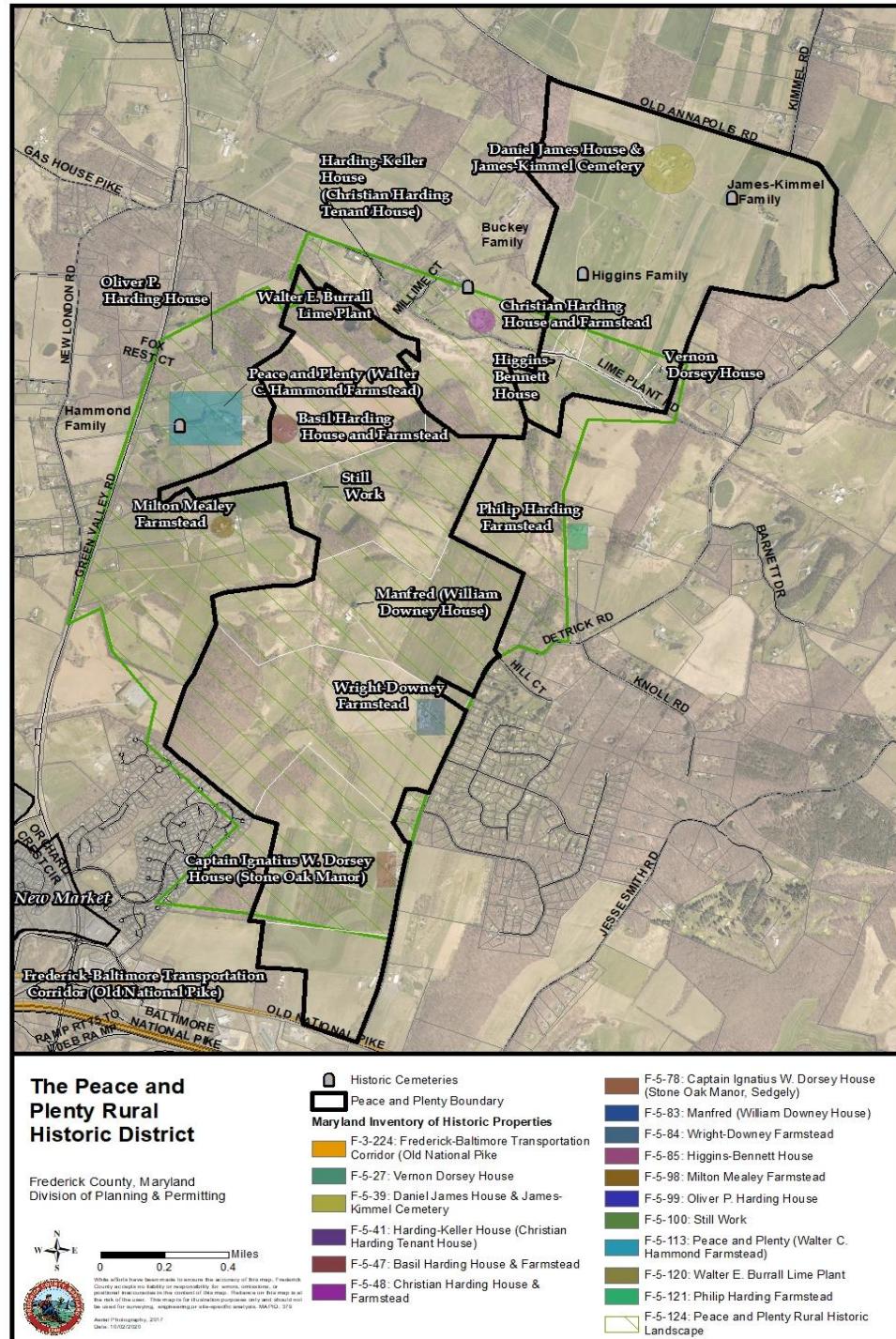
## Boundaries

This map identifies, by owner, the farmsteads included in the proposed district. The boundary of the district aligns with the property lines of these farmsteads.



## Historic Setting

This map identifies the properties within the proposed rural district, by their historic name. The map also identifies other historic farmsteads contiguous to or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed district.



## **Farmland Preservation**

The proposed rural historic district comprises the southernmost portion of the county's Eastern Priority Preservation Area. Comprised of 45,000 acres of farmland, this Preservation Area is the largest one in the county. Each of the farms included in this Petition participate in Frederick County's IPP farmland preservation program.

## **Conclusion**

Despite the prior surveys, evaluations and determinations in relation to Peace and Plenty, the evaluation of its eligibility for the Frederick County Register of Historic Places lies in the first instance entirely within the discretion of the Historic Preservation Commission. In light of its significance to the history, culture and natural beauty of Frederick County, we respectfully request that the Historic Preservation Commission recommend to the County Council that Peace and Plenty, as proposed herein, be designated a "rural historic district" in the County Registry of Historic Places.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason and Sandra Storm  
*Daniel James House*  
*Higgins Bennett House*

James and Valerie Marshall  
*Vernon Dorsey House*

Dana McGolerick Shultz  
*Basil Harding Farmstead*  
*Walter E. Burrall Lime Plant*

Diana H. Jamieson  
Heidi Holtz-Aiken  
*Still Work Farm*

Gareth Harshman  
David Harshman  
*William Downey House*  
*Wright Downey Farmstead*

Jeff and Judy England  
*Captain Ignatius W. Dorsey Farm*

## **Acknowledgements**

Petitioners wish to acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Wilson Coudon, MD and Mr. Ari Fisher to the preparation of this document.

Dr. Coudon is also an accomplished photographer of rural landscapes and historic farmsteads and structures. His creative and beautiful photographs of Peace and Plenty make it possible for those who have never been there to understand the importance of preserving this special place. His photographs also increase our awareness of the county's agricultural legacy and the farming culture that has sustained it for over 300 years.

Mr. Fisher specializes in artistic design and technical support for the production of complex documents. For this petition, Mr. Fisher organized and integrated multiple and diverse sources of information, (including photographs, maps, charts, reports, aerial surveys, census data etc.) into a single and compelling presentation on the historic and natural features of Peace and Plenty. In so doing, Mr. Fisher facilitated the review and comprehension of a complicated and multi-faceted story about the rich history of Frederick County.

## References

The major bibliographical references for the 1996 Peace and Plenty Historic Survey and Evaluation and the 2013 Addendum are listed below.

F-5-124

MARYLAND HISTORIC TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number: 9 Page: 1 Peace and Plenty Rural Historic Landscape

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CONTINUATION SHEETSection Number: 9 Page: 2 Peace and Plenty Rural Historic Landscape

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**Addendum to  
Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Inventory of  
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. F-5-124

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Name of Property: Peace and Plenty Rural Historic Landscape

Location: N/A, vicinity of Ben's Branch Valley, New Market, Maryland

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Date: 4/22/2013