

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Wolfe House

MIHP#: F-3-290

10918 Powell Road

Thurmont, Maryland

Date: c.1900-1916

Access: Private

Approached by an earthen lane and reached only by crossing a wooden footbridge, the Wolfe House sits apart from the linear settlement of Powell Road. The house, almost on its own island, is surrounded by wetlands and flanked by small cleared fields. Constructed in the early 1900s, of wood frame, it is sheathed in German siding and sheltered by a medium pitch roof. Attached to the main dwelling are two additions, one older and another more recent. Ancillary structures sprinkled around the property include a garage, a collapsed storage shed, and a single-seater privy. Large mature trees and the surrounding woodland setting lend character to the house. The home was likely constructed by Calvin R. Wolfe, an African American farmer. The original house and its first addition retain historic integrity and communicate their period and historical association.

The Wolfe House is likely the second dwelling on a property owned by the Wolfe family since 1870, and probably built by Calvin R. Wolfe. The Wolfe property was part of a historic Black enclave along future Powell Road. While seeded before emancipation, the Powell Road enclave represented a period when newly freed Blacks began establishing homes, farms, and businesses around the county. At the height of its population in the 1880s, the Powell Road and the Lewistown area had 85 residents and included a Black church and school. By the turn of the 20th century, its population plummeted as younger families left to find work in more urban areas. By 1940, only seven African Americans, representing two households, were left in Lewistown. And only the Wolfe family stayed on Powell Road. The Wolfe House, representing at least three generations of Wolfe ownership, is significant for its association with the Powell Road African Community. It is the most prominent and best-preserved example of resources

CAPSULE SUMMARY**Wolfe House****MIHP#: F-3-290****10918 Powell Road****Thurmont, Maryland****Date: c.1900-1916****Access: Private**

representing this period. For this reason, the house is deemed eligible under Criterion A, Ethnic, Black History, at the local level of significance.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. F-3-290

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Wolfe House

other	N/A
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2. Location

street and number 10918 Powell Road _____ not for publication

city, town Thurmont _____ vicinity

county Frederick

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Calvin R. Wolfe, c/o Patricia Snowden

street and number 11024 Powell Road telephone

city, town	Thurmont	state	MD	zip code	21788
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Circuit Court, Land Record liber 382 folio 156

city, town	Frederick	tax map	0040	tax parcel	0362	tax ID number	406143
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
_____ district	_____ public	_____ agriculture	_____ landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> x </u> building(s)	<u> x </u> private	_____ commerce/trade	_____ recreation/culture	<u> 3 </u>	<u> 1 </u> buildings
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ defense	_____ religion	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
_____ site		_____ domestic	_____ social	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> structures
_____ object		_____ education	_____ transportation	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
		_____ funerary	_____ work in progress	<u> 3 </u>	<u> 1 </u> Total
		_____ government	_____ unknown		
		_____ health care	<u> x </u> vacant/not in use		
		_____ industry	_____ other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				0	

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary

Approached by an earthen lane and reached only by crossing a wooden footbridge, the Wolfe House sits apart from the linear settlement of Powell Road. The house, almost on its own island, is surrounded by wetlands and flanked by small cleared fields. Constructed in the early 1900s, of wood frame, it is sheathed in German siding and sheltered by a medium pitch roof. Attached to the main dwelling are two additions, one older and another more recent. Ancillary structures sprinkled around the property include a garage, a collapsed storage shed, and a single-seater privy. Large mature trees and the surrounding woodland setting lend character to the house. The home was likely constructed by Calvin R. Wolfe, an African American farmer. The original house and its first addition retain historic integrity and communicate their period and historical association.

Setting

The Wolfe House is situated approximately 350' north of Powell Road in Lewistown, Frederick County. Powell Road, a local collector leading from Lewistown to U.S. 15, developed during the 19th century as a linear settlement of homes placed close to the road. These homes sit on a ridge above Fishing Creek, a stream originating in the Catoclin Mountains. Built later than others in the area, the Wolfe House sits on lower ground, surrounded by wetlands.

The house is approached by a built-up earthen path that terminates at an older frame garage. From here, a visitor must walk across a narrow wooden footbridge over Fishing Creek to get to house. Once across the bridge, the Wolfe House — shrouded by tall spruce trees — comes into view. To the west is a level cleared area shaded by giant sycamore trees. This area once contained a chicken yard and hog pen¹. Beyond the house, to the east, is a huge yellow poplar, and beyond that, a rectangular field once planted with corn, potatoes, turnips, pumpkins, and other garden crops (Photo 1)². Sitting behind the house is a wood-sided privy and a tumbled-down shed.

Past these structures, the landscape returns to woodlands, with a remnant of an old mill race running parallel to Fishing Creek. The landscape is idyllic though prone to flooding and close to the roar of U.S 15, the Catoclin Mountain Highway, some 650' to the west.

¹ Patricia Snowden, conversation with Recovering Identity team, March 1, 2022, Wolfe House, Lewistown, Maryland. Snowden is the granddaughter of Calvin Wolfe and grew up in the house.

² Ibid.

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House (N 39.534338°/W -77.421160°)

Built of frame construction, the house is a two-story, side-gabled plan, one room deep and two rooms wide (Photo 2). Following Kniffen's definition, it is a late period I-House reflecting modern construction and regional details. The side elevations have thick barge boards and boxed gable returns. Low brick chimneys rise from each gable end. The house is sheathed with German siding with a 3½" exposed face. It is fastened to the frame by 2½" common wire nails, indicating its later period of construction, and joined at the corners by 4⅞"x5½" milled boards. A rusted standing seam metal roof caps the house.

It faces directly onto Fishing Creek and is graced with a nearly full-width porch. The façade is divided into four openings of a roughly symmetrical pattern. At the center are narrow double entry doors. Each is a ¾-glass unit divided into eight panes. Flanking the entries are 2/2 single-hung sash windows with ¼" exterior muntins. The openings terminate with slanted wood block sills. These same windows repeat at the second story and side elevations.

A hipped roof porch shelters the entries and creates a pleasant place to watch the stream. The structure has a poured concrete floor ornamented along its south edge with hand-molded figures. Projecting in relief is what appears to be shields. Molded chamfered concrete posts support the porch roof. These, too, are decorated with handmade designs in relief. They include stars, snake-like figures, concentric circles, and a stalk entwined with a vine and topped with what seems to be a flower. Perhaps most significant are the molded numbers, "1916," potentially indicating the construction of the house, or at least the porch (Photo 3). The handmade concrete posts connect with a wood beam garnished with flat jigsaw trim, common to Victorian folk homes (Photo 4). Its ceiling is covered with recent oriented strand board painted light blue.

The original frame portion of the house is 16' deep. It has two large rooms on the first and three bedrooms on the second. The gable elevations have a pattern of two windows on the ground floor and one on the upper story (Photo 5). A tall vertical metal louver vents the attic. The house's rubblestone foundation is visible at this elevation, rising 6" above grade.

Additions

Attaching to the original house, at a lower height, is a roughly 12'x17' asphalt shingle-faced addition (Photo 1). The low, side-gabled structure worked as a kitchen. It is entered by exterior from the south elevation through an older ½-glass-and-wood-panel door. Wood 2/2 sash penetrates its south, east, and north elevations. V-crimp metal roofing covers the structure. An old handpump stands near the front door; a clay-lined cistern sits near its east elevation.

A collapsed shed-roof appendage sticks out from the older building's north elevation (Photo 6). The frame structure is sheathed with white asphalt shingles and has few windows. The space was used as a summer kitchen and canning area. It was built over an earlier structure that may have been the earliest building on the

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site. As recalled, it consisted of a one-room structure holding a table and stove. The latter was used to heat water in a large kettle.³

An older tongue-and-groove wood door penetrates the original building behind it. The north wall of the older building has a number of homemade mending plates, likely nailed over pieces of rotted siding.

Ancillary Structures

Several structures spread across the property are associated with the Wolfe family.

Outhouse (N 39.42304°/W -77.19924°)

Behind the house stands a wood outhouse, its door facing south toward the home (Photo 7). The roughly 49½"x49½" structure is faced with 5" board siding. A shed roof, tacked with fascia, slants down to the north. Wood 2"x3" rafters support the roof and create a 4½" overhang over the door. The door is of the same material as the walls and hung with rusted "T" hinges. Inside is a low, one-seat toilet made of wood.

Shed (N 39.534403°/W -77.421319°)

Nearby and partially encapsulated in vines is a collapsed shed (Photo 8). The structure's only surviving wall is the south elevation. The rough façade is sheathed in patterned asphalt siding and penetrated by two pedestrian doors (covered with siding) and a wood barn sash window. The structure is in poor condition.

Garage (N 39.534144°/W -77.420874°)

Across the creek to the south stands a one-bay, wood frame garage (Photo 9). The roughly 11'x16' structure has a steeply pitched roof and is clad in German siding. Its interior is approached by sliding wood doors hung on a steel track extending beyond the building. There is no other fenestration. A low, shed-roof addition attaches to the rear. The garage sits on a concrete block foundation and is protected by a V-crimp metal roof.

³ Patricia Snowden, telephone conversation with Elizabeth Comer, July 14, 2022. This structure may represent a dwelling identified in early tax assessments.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates	1870; 1880; 1932	Architect/Builder	Unknown
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Construction dates	c.1900-1916
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Evaluation for:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Register	<input type="checkbox"/> not evaluated
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Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary

Erected in the early 20th century, the Wolfe House is likely the second dwelling on a property owned by the Wolfe family since 1870. The two-story frame I-house was probably built by Calvin R. Wolfe, a farmer whose two sons, Eli and Harry, would raise goldfish, representing an industry that swept through the area in the first decades of the 20th century. The Wolfe property was part of a historic Black enclave along future Powell Road. While seeded before emancipation, the Powell Road enclave represented a period when newly freed Blacks began establishing homes, farms, and businesses around the county. At the height of its population in the 1880s, the Powell Road and the Lewistown area had 85 residents and included a Black church and school. By the turn of the 20th century, its population plummeted as younger families left to find work in more urban areas. By 1940, only seven African Americans, representing two households, were left in Lewistown. And only the Wolfe family stayed on Powell Road. The Wolfe House, representing at least three generations of Wolfe ownership, is significant for its association with the Powell Road African Community. It is the most prominent and best-preserved example of resources representing this period. For this reason, the house is deemed eligible under Criterion A, Ethnic, Black History, at the local level of significance.

Powell Road Community

Starting at Hessong Bridge Road at the east, Powell Road rambles along for approximately half a mile before halting at U.S. 15, the Catoctin Mountain Parkway. The two-lane county road keeps a level course, passing through a landscape populated with older homes on the south set close to the road. Fishing Creek tumbles down Catoctin Mountain, paralleling the road to the north. The waterway, prone to flooding and historically surrounded by wooded marsh, was an ideal environment to raise fish. Starting in the early 20th century, its course through Lewistown was flanked by fishponds; many used to grow goldfish. The road likely takes its name from the Powells — one of the pioneer goldfish farming families in the area.

Originally named Bowers Road after a local family, the street was laid across a grid created by Daniel Funderburg, Lewistown's founder. It is depicted on the 1873 Frederick County atlas, moving westward from Federal Street (now Hessong Bridge Road) to the town's west edge (Figure 2). Flanking it were long, rectangular lots, a few populated with homes.

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The road kept its local function until the early 1960s. In 1961, U.S. Highway 15 shifted from its route along Hessong Bridge Road to the west. The so-called Lewistown Bypass, completed in 1962, turned Bowers Road into a shortcut to reach the highway.

Founded in 1841, Lewistown was originally an area settled by Hessian soldiers who had been captured during the Revolutionary War and quartered in Frederick. Individuals associated with these pioneering families played a role in Lewistown's early industries.

In 1815, Daniel Fundenburg, a Maryland native and future doctor, laid out a town west of the Frederick to Emmitsburg Road. The plat was a grid of 204 lots arranged north and south of Fishing Creek. Local history holds that Fundenburg agreed to award lots to settlers if the town was named in honor of his son, Lewis.⁴

In 1824, John Brien, then-owner of Catoctin Furnace and an enslaver, established a saw and a grist mill near the Frederick to Emmitsburg Road bridge over Fishing Creek. With this, the town began to expand north of the mills and along present-day Powell Road. Brien's investment was followed in 1830 by a woolen mill started by John Cronise (sometimes Cronice), a relation of one of the Hessian settlers. But the village never achieved a town-scale density. At the year of village's founding, George Schlosser, a white farmer and enslaver owned the surveyed property.⁵ It is unclear if it included any improvements or was held as an investment.

The 1873 Frederick County atlas map shows a lightly populated area (Figure 2). Most of the settlement was on the west side of Federal Street, north of Fishing Creek. Here was a small commercial cluster, including the Clem Hotel and a few stores. Future Powell Road is the second most densely settled area on the map but is hardly built out.

From Federal Street westward, only 13 of its 36 lots had buildings, with most of the lots remaining empty. Two buildings are owned by the Bowers, another by a Powell. There is also a house owned by Jacob Derr, a family that took over the Brien mills, and Weller, a name attributed to the town's harness maker. The Derrs owned subject lot of the survey. It appeared to have a house set close to the road. A building on the road's southside (Lot 152) is important to the study. It is identified as "Colored Ch.," signifying a Black congregation church.

The small farming village received an infusion when the Washington, Frederick, & Gettysburg Railway built tracks through Lewistown in 1908 for a line connecting Frederick and Thurmont. The steam railroad was followed in 1910 by Hagerstown & Frederick Railway, an electric interurban line. Lewistown experienced an immediate, if modest, upswing in growth like other small villages on the trolley line.⁶

⁴ Joe Eisenhower, "Lewistown Community Honors Service Tomorrow of Two Wars at Memorial Dedication Personnel," *The News*, July 22, 1950, 3.

⁵ Ben Fischler, "Results of Research July 8, 2022, 10918 Powell Road, Wolfe House," (Revised July 30, 2022), 1.

⁶ Janet L. Davis "Lewistown Survey District," Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (Annapolis, March 1993), 8-1.

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The U.S. Geological Survey map of 1911 reveals a more populated community but nothing close to the appearance of a town (Figure 3). As before, based on buildings, most of the population fronted Federal Street above Fishing Creek. However, Powell Road had gained additional structures; these are concentrated on the south side of the road, especially at a high point on a little hill. Here, at a location historically called Bunker Hill, was a tight line of nine houses, several associated with African Americans.

African American Settlement

The 1820 census indicated that most of the enslaved population in northern Frederick County were located in the rural areas of the Creagerstown District #4, where 170 enslaved persons were recorded, and the Emmitsburg District #5 (including the area around Mount Saint Mary's Seminary/College), where 262 were recorded.⁷ A striking number of the bondsmen in District #4 (109) were concentrated in the Lewistown area, including Catoctin Furnace and the mansions of Auburn and Springfield, each with large enslaved populations.

In 1852, Henry Williams, who in 1850 was living in the Hillery Norris household, purchased a one-quarter acre parcel that was part of Lot 103, "with a house upon it," north of Fishing Creek. In 1861, Williams sold the tract to Sarah Kee [sic], wife of "Oskee Kee" (likely Asher Key).⁸ Williams also owned a smaller parcel measuring 16' x 30' that adjoined Lot 146, on the south side of current Powell Road.⁹

The free Black households in the Lewistown-Utica area were, by 1860, consolidating in and around Lewistown. The census of that year recorded several proximate households, including Clem Norris, Hillery Norris, Cecelia Williams, Charles Johnson, and Asher Key. All were listed as property owners, though only a few deeds reflected their ownership.

A House of Worship

In the 1860 census, Robert Hall (designated as mulatto), who gave his occupation as "Minister M.E.,"¹⁰ appeared to be living in or near Lewistown, probably on the 2.5 acres of "Millers Chance," purchased by

⁷ The following historical overview is based on a context prepared for the survey: Edith B. Wallace, "African American History of the Monocacy-Catoctin Region, Northern Frederick County, Maryland," created for the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society et al., March 8, 2022, Draft. At different points, the author of the MIHP has provided additional research, interpretation, and text.

⁸ Frederick County Land Records, DB ES 5/36, Henry Williams to Sarah Kee, 1861.

⁹ Williams' original purchase of the lot appears to be unrecorded. The lot is first identified in an 1869 deed for Lot 146 and the 16 x 30-foot lot adjoining "conveyed by Henry Williams and wife to the aforesaid John H. Thompson;" Frederick County Land Records, CM 4/1, John H. Thompson to Thomas Marshall, 1869. The house now standing at 11019 Powell Road appears to be on the Williams parcel and probably dates from this period.

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, Year: 1860, Census Place: Creagerstown, Frederick, Maryland; Roll: M653_475; Page: 1079; Family History Library Film: 803475.

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Richard Hall in 1826. Robert Hall's identification as an M.E. minister and the use of Lot 132 as a cemetery¹¹ indicate that the Black community of Lewistown was large enough to support a congregation.¹²

Entries in the Moravian Diaries in the first half of the 19th century note Methodists were in contact with the enslaved population in the region. By the middle of the century, African Americans in the Creagerstown District, including Catoctin Furnace and Lewistown, appear to have turned to the Methodist church for religious service. Hall and his congregation were likely supported by Reverend Flowers, given the Maryland law requiring a white minister's involvement with Black religious gatherings.

The congregation gained use of a log church building from the white Methodist Protestant congregation in about 1857. The "Colored Church" building appeared as part of Lot 152 on the county atlas map of 1873. It was purchased in 1859 from the Methodist Protestant trustees, according to a deed by Singleton Hughes, John Sanders Sr., John Hall, William Standon, and James Woolf (Wolfe), trustees of the ME Church, "for the use of the colored population of Lewistown."¹³

The old building was still in use by the "Colored Methodist Episcopal Church" in 1882, according to J. Thomas Scharf in his 1882 *History of Western Maryland*. The Maryland Board of Education annual reports indicate that it continued as a church and school through 1908. It is unknown how long the Methodist congregation used the church beyond 1908.

After Maryland's emancipation in November 1864, the 16 enslaved people living in the district were free to choose where they would live and work. Several "new" names appeared in the 1870 census for the Creagerstown District. Some were working and living on white farms, including Henson Brown and William Waters, both 23, on the George Ogle farm. Others represented independent households, including tenant Serene Dorsey with her daughter Caroline and grandson William; and Milley Dorsey, aged 60. Milley Dorsey owned real estate valued at \$150 and shared her home with Ann Liles, aged 70.¹⁴

Despite these additions, the Black population in the Creagerstown District (including Lewistown) fell from 96 in 1860 to 77 in 1870. Robert Hall, the minister, was no longer living in the district. Other families present in 1860 but not recorded in the 1870 count include Stanton, Dowing, and Reed, all of whom were landowners in 1860. As the town lots owned by free Blacks in the 1850s were sold to white buyers between 1860 and 1869, it is unclear where the 1870 Black Lewistown community was centered.

¹¹ Research indicates that a cemetery occupied a narrow strip bordering the east side of Lot 131, where a road or lane appears on the original town plat separating Lots 131 and 132. No trace of the cemetery remains today; a gravel driveway covers the area.

¹² Hall was listed in Creagerstown District, page 76, near George Clem and William Long, both of whom appear on the 1873 atlas map in Lewistown.

¹³ Frederick County Land Records, DB BGF 4/377, Frederick Cronise et al trustees to trustees of Colored ME Church, 1859. This building once stood at 11045 Powell Road.

¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 1870, Census Place: Creagerstown, Frederick, Maryland; Roll: M593_586; Page: 226B.

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Those that appear to be living in Lewistown in 1870 include Charles Johnson, 31, and his wife, Elizabeth, 24, and four children; Edward, 29, and Anna Jerick, 31, and five children; James, 47, and Emely (sometimes Emily), 50, Wolf (Wolfe); and Hilary 68, and Mary, 53, Norris, with their two adult sons. All the male heads of households were recorded as day laborers. None of the householders listed were identified as landowners on the 1873 atlas map.

Of these, James and Emely Wolfe's land represents the embryo of the surveyed property. Deed and tax assessments indicate that James Wolfe acquired the property in 1870 from Sally Kerney (elsewhere identified as Sarah Carney), an African American woman.¹⁵ Kerney was assessed in 1866 for a lot and house valued at \$80.¹⁶ Reflecting a change in taxing procedures, data from 1876 presents a clearer picture of James Wolfe's holdings. That year's assessment recorded a 2½-acre lot valued at \$125 and "improved with one log house & stable" valued at \$100.¹⁷ Complicating a more precise understanding of the early Wolfe property is that James owned other lands, including what appears to be a large farm in another part of the district.¹⁸

A Black School

Like nearly all post-emancipation communities, the Black population on future Powell Road had a school.¹⁹ According to teacher Lewis Miller's report to the Freedmen's Bureau, the "Lewistown Colored School" opened in January 1870 with 29 students. Miller noted that the school was held in the "colored people's church," located on a portion of Lot 152, and was funded solely by \$21 in tax money raised from the county.²⁰ As with the Lincoln School in Emmitsburg, the Lewistown school lost its federal support in 1870 with the demise of the Freedmen's Bureau education department.

The Frederick County School Commissioners had already begun furnishing minimal allocations to a few of the established "Colored schools," including Emmitsburg's Lincoln School. Following the 1872 law, the Commissioners laid out a plan for 18 "Colored schools" across the county.²¹ The Creagerstown District # 4 school was most likely still in Lewistown where the Black community was concentrated. It had as many as 35 students throughout the school year. No "colored" school was identified on the 1873 atlas map of Lewistown or in the Creagerstown District, indicating it probably continued to be held in a Black church as it was in 1870. In

¹⁵ Frederick County Land Records, CM 5/419, Sarah Carney to James Wolf, 1870. The deed for a part of Lot 103. Seven years earlier, Emely had acquired a separate parcel from the George Schlosser estate, representing Lots 19 and 20, connected to present-day 11122 Hessong Bridge Road; Frederick County Land Records, BGF 8/595. Peter G. Schlosser exr. of George Schlosser decd., 1863.

¹⁶ Ben Fischler, "Results of Research of July 8, 2022, 10918 Powell Road, Wolfe House," (Revised July 30, 2022), 1.

¹⁷ Ibid., 4.

¹⁸ Another complication is that the two-acre is identified during period as Lot 103.

¹⁹ There is no evidence found to date that the Black population used the school building at 11031 Powell Road.

²⁰ Dean Herrin, "Post-Civil War African American Schools in Emmitsburg and Lewistown, Frederick County, Maryland, Summary of Important Dates," Unpublished manuscript, April 2021, 1-2.

²¹ Ibid., Note that only 14 schools were recorded to be in operation during the 1872-73 school year.

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1887, when “rents paid” were recorded in the state’s annual reports, the county allocated \$15 in annual rent for the Lewistown school.

Like the Lincoln School in Emmitsburg, Lewistown lost students through the 1880s. Student enrollment continued to plummet, down to 14 at the end of 1900 — and by 1901, only 12 pupils remained. The school closed in 1903, then reopened briefly from 1906 to 1908, when it was permanently shuttered.²²

Population Gain and Loss

By 1880, the Lewistown District Black population had grown to 85, living in twelve independent households. But by 1900, the population had fallen significantly, down to 45 people residing in nine households, and by 1910, just 35 people in five households.

Five of the eight heads of household who remained in 1910 were elderly: John Sanders Sr., 78, William Ricketts, 78, Charles Bouey, 66, Anie Juricks, 72, and Calvin Wolf (Wolfe), 60. The two other heads were sons of older residents: William Hall, 25, a carpenter like his father, and William Wolf, 30. Alice Sappington, 40, worked as a laundress, while her daughter Fannie, 12, was a servant to a private house.²³ As noted earlier, these changes were reflected in the Lewistown “Colored” school. By 1901, as younger families left to find work in more urban areas, there were just twelve students in attendance before the school closed.

The Wolfe House

By the early 1900s, Calvin Wolfe, the son of James and Emely Wolfe, owned the property. Born around 1849, Calvin R. Wolfe worked as a farmer. The 1900 census recorded Calvin, then 50, living with his wife, Ruth, 41, in a large household of nine children, ranging in age from one to 20. Calvin is listed as a farm laborer, with his oldest son, William, doing the same work.²⁴ Two other sons worked as day laborers, and the oldest daughter, Amy, was a laundress. The remaining children of academy age were attending school. All but the youngest were noted as being able to read and write.

Tax records for the 1918-1922 period lists what appears to be the same two-acre parcel recorded in the 1860s. The assessment identified a dwelling, likely the present house, outbuildings, household furniture, and cattle, at a value of \$430. The valuation went up from \$260 in 1911 to \$390 in 1918, possibly indicating the construction of the present house.²⁵

²² J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland, Vol. I* (reprint, Clearfield Company & Willow Bend Books, 1995), 588; various Maryland State Board of Education *Annual Reports*, as collected in the Hathi Trust Digital Library, <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000057122>, accessed May 25, 2022.

²³ After Lewistown District #20 was created in 1878, Creagerstown District #4, including the town of Creagerstown, became an all-white district from 1880 to 1910 (in 1900 there was one Black servant in a white household).

²⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 1900, Census Place: Lewistown, Frederick, Maryland; Roll: 622; Page: 8; Enumeration District: 0033; FHL microfilm: 1240622.

²⁵ Fischler, “Results of Research of July 8, 2022,” 9.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. F-3-290

Name: Wolfe House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 6

Two of Calvin's sons, Eli and his older brother Harry, would go on to raise goldfish, representing a growing number of Frederick County farmers who added pisciculture to their agricultural pursuits. Lewistown was at the center of that trend, beginning in the 1890s on the Ramsburg and Powell farms.²⁶

As characterized by newspaper accounts, the "goldfish fad" started as a hobby for the well-to-do who collected and traded rare breeds of the colorful Asian carp.²⁷ Though breeding carp for their red-gold mutation dated back thousands of years to Imperial China, America's fascination started during the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, with rare goldfish breeds displayed by the Japanese government. Though few survived, there were plentiful ordinary goldfish at the Fisheries Building aquarium that, in one account, were "so numerous that they seemed to touch each other."²⁸

In the early 1900s, the Aquarium Society of Philadelphia began importing rare specimens of fantail goldfish from Germany. The society sponsored goldfish breed competitions, with some fancy goldfish fetching as high as \$1,000 a pair.²⁹ The less fanciful goldfish — those given to children as Christmas presents — were raised by thousands in farm operations.

Two years before Eli Wolfe purchased his land and goldfish farm, the Lewistown State Fish Hatchery began operations on adjoining property with "16 goldfish ponds".³⁰ In 1928, Wolfe enlarged his farm with the purchase of 17 acres from Luther Leatherman, located on the south side of Fishing Creek.³¹

According to the census, Eli Wolfe was still occupied on his farm as a "goldfish culturist" in 1930.³² It was just one year after the 1929 Stock Market crash that sent the U.S. economy into a chilling recession that manifested as the Great Depression. Because farmers were already suffering from depressed prices in the 1920s — and in Frederick County, a severe drought was underway in 1930 — the deepening recession would prove disastrous for many.

²⁶ James Rada, Jr., "Gone Fishin' – Frederick County Once the Largest Producer of Goldfish," *The Catoctin Banner*, May 26, 2017, <https://www.thecatoctinbanner.com/gone-fishin-frederick-county-once-the-largest-producer-of-goldfish>, accessed May 25, 2022. Harry Wolfe's goldfish farm was in Buckeystown District and later became part of the Thomas Fisheries, today's Lilypons Water Gardens; see Paula S. Reed and Edie Wallace, "Lewistown State Fish Hatchery (F-3-203)," Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form (Annapolis, March 11, 2003).

²⁷ "How The Goldfish Holds St. Louis," *St. Louis-Post Dispatch, Sunday Magazine*, April 23, 1916, 8.

²⁸ "World Fair Notes," *The Melvern Review*, December 28, 1893, 2.

²⁹ William T. Innes, *Goldfish Varieties and Tropical Aquarium Fish* (Philadelphia: Innes & Sons, 1917), 39-46.

³⁰ "Report of Fish Hatcheries, 1918." J.P. Snyder, U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, Acting Superintendent, addressed to the Conservation Commission of Maryland, 512 Munsey Building, Baltimore, Maryland, 47. In 1918, the Conservation Commission of Maryland purchased the Milton Ramsburg property and ponds they had leased the previous year.

³¹ FC DB 368, page 425, Leatherman to Wolfe, 1928, see also FC DB 356, page 465 (Eliz. Bowers to Leatherman, 1924).

³² U.S. Census Bureau, 1930, Census Place: Lewistown, Frederick, Maryland; Page: 4A; Enumeration District: 0044; FHL microfilm: 2340609.

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Inventory No. F-3-290

Name: Wolfe House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 7

Eli Wolfe lost his fish farm in the Great Depression of the 1930s.³³ In 1932, Calvin Wolfe deeded the property, including the house, through adverse possession, to his son Elmer and daughter May N. Wolfe, as joint tenants. The deed, the first representing the descendant's ownership, implied that Calvin had lived on the premise for 20 years.³⁴

By 1940, Eli was unemployed and residing in the Wolfe House with his younger brother Elmer. A multi-generational family would continue to live in the house for at least another ten years. The 1950 census recorded the household, headed by Eli, to include his brother, Elmer, and his wife May, his daughter Murhle and her husband Joseph Holliday, and their nine-year-old daughter, Patricia.³⁵ Joseph and Murhle would soon leave to build a house on the other side of Fishing Creek (MIHP# F-3-291).

Conclusion

What remained of the Lewistown Black community were a few families that had resided there for decades. By 1940, only seven African Americans, representing two households, were left in Lewistown. And only the Wolfe family stayed on Powell Road. The Wolfe House, representing at least three generations of Wolfe ownership, is significant for its association with the Powell Road African Community. It is the most prominent and best-preserved example of resources representing this period.

³³ "Notes from April 9, 15, and 19, 2021 interviews with Patricia Snowden." Snowden, who was born in 1941, said she recalled her grandparents Eli and Mae Wolfe catching and shipping goldfish.

³⁴ Frederick County Land Records, EGH 382/156, Calvin R. Wolfe, with reserve of life estate, to May N. Wolfe and Elmer G. Wolfe, joint tenants, 1932.

³⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790-2007; Record Group Number: 29; Residence Date: 1950; Home in 1950: Lewistown, Frederick, Maryland; Roll: 2381; Sheet Number: 6; Enumeration District: 11-69.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. F-3-290

See Continuation Page.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>app. 2</u>
Acreage of historical setting	<u>app. 2</u>
Quadrangle name	<u>Catoctin Furnace, MD</u>

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The selected survey boundary is depicted in Figure 1. It encompasses the house and outbuildings located within the current tax parcel. The boundary includes all the property historically associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	John W. Murphey, Architectural History Services, for:		
organization	Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.	date	July 31, 2022
street & number	12610 Catoctin Furnace Rd	telephone	240-288-7396
city or town	Thurmont	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-697-9591

Maryland Historical Trust

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Inventory No. F-3-290

Name: Wolfe House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

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Inventory No. F-3-290

Name: Wolfe House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2

_____. 1900, Census Place: Lewistown, Frederick, Maryland; Roll: 622; Page: 8; Enumeration District: 0033; FHL microfilm: 1240622.

_____. 1930, Census Place: Lewistown, Frederick, Maryland; Page: 4A; Enumeration District: 0044; FHL microfilm: 2340609.

_____. 1950, Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790-2007; Record Group Number: 29; Residence Date: 1950; Home in 1950: Lewistown, Frederick, Maryland; Roll: 2381; Sheet Number: 6; Enumeration District: 11-69.

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. F-3-290

Name: Wolfe House
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 1

PHOTO LOG

Name of Photographer: John W. Murphey
Date of Photograph: February 28, March 1, and March 2, 2022, as noted
Location of Original Digital File: Maryland SHPO

Photo 1 of 9:
East setting, camera facing east. March 2, 2022.
F-3-290_2022-03-02_01.tif

Photo 2 of 9:
South (front) elevation, camera facing northwest. March 2, 2022.
F-3-290_2022-03-02_02.tif

Photo 3 of 9:
Porch detail, camera facing north. February 28, 2022.
F-3-290_2022-02-28_03.tif

Photo 4 of 9:
Porch detail, camera facing up. February 28, 2022.
F-3-290_2022-02-28_04.tif

Photo 5 of 9:
Wolfe House, west elevation, camera facing east. February 28, 2022.
F-3-290_2022-02-28_05.tif

Photo 6 of 9:
North elevation, camera facing south. February 28, 2022.
F-3-290_2022-02-28_06.tif

Photo 7 of 9:
Privy, camera facing north. February 28, 2022.
F-3-290_2022-02-28_07.tif

Photo 8 of 9:
Shed, camera facing north. March 2, 2022.
F-3-290_2022-03-02_08.tif

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

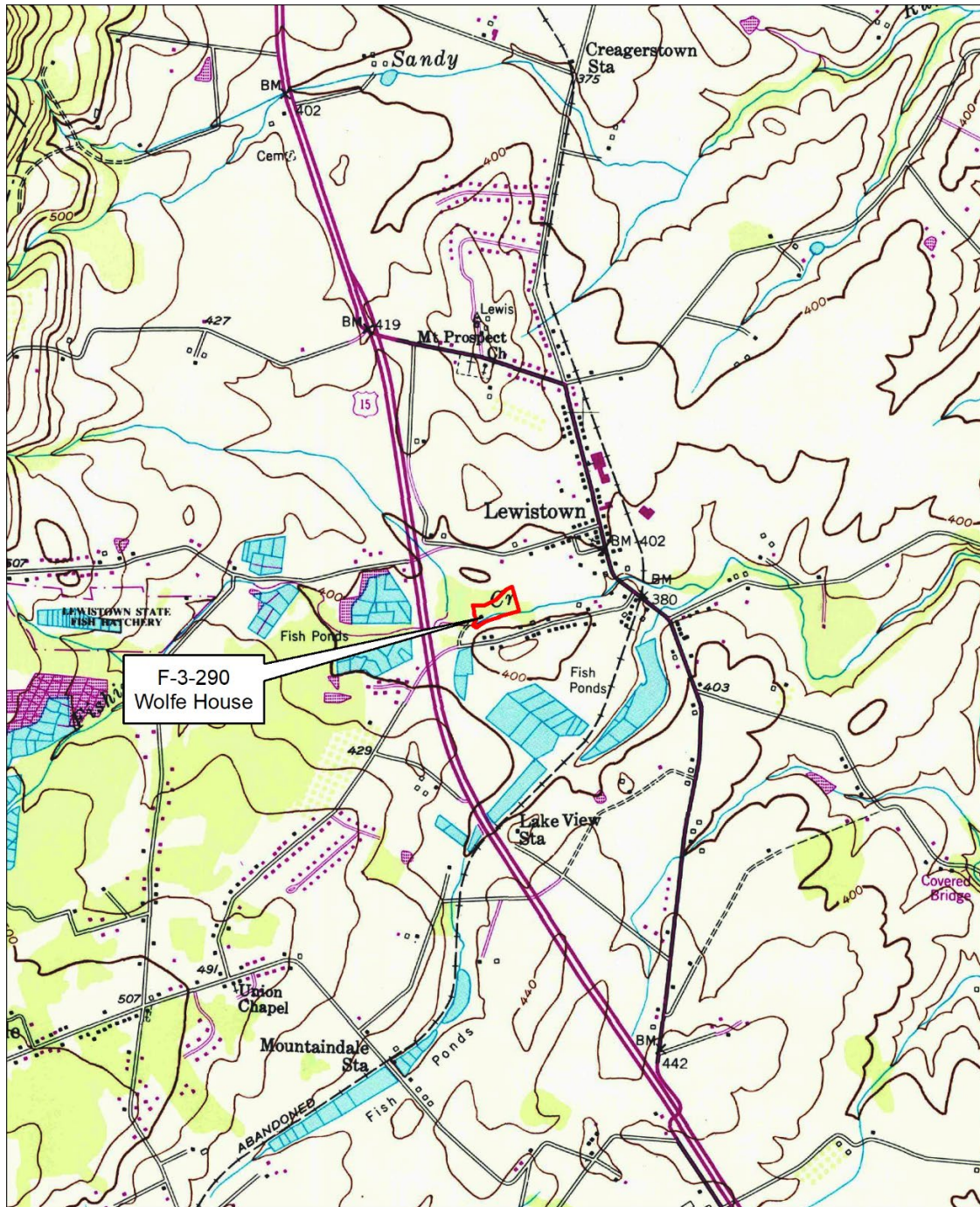
Inventory No. F-3-290

Name: Wolfe House
Continuation Sheet


Number Photos Page 2

Photo 9 of 9:
Garage, camera facing southeast. March 1, 2022.
F-3-290_2022-03-01_09.tif

MIHP#: F-3-290
Wolfe House
Thurmont
Frederick County



F-3-290
Wolfe House
10918 Powell Road
USGS 1985 Topographic Quad,
Catoctin Furnace, MD

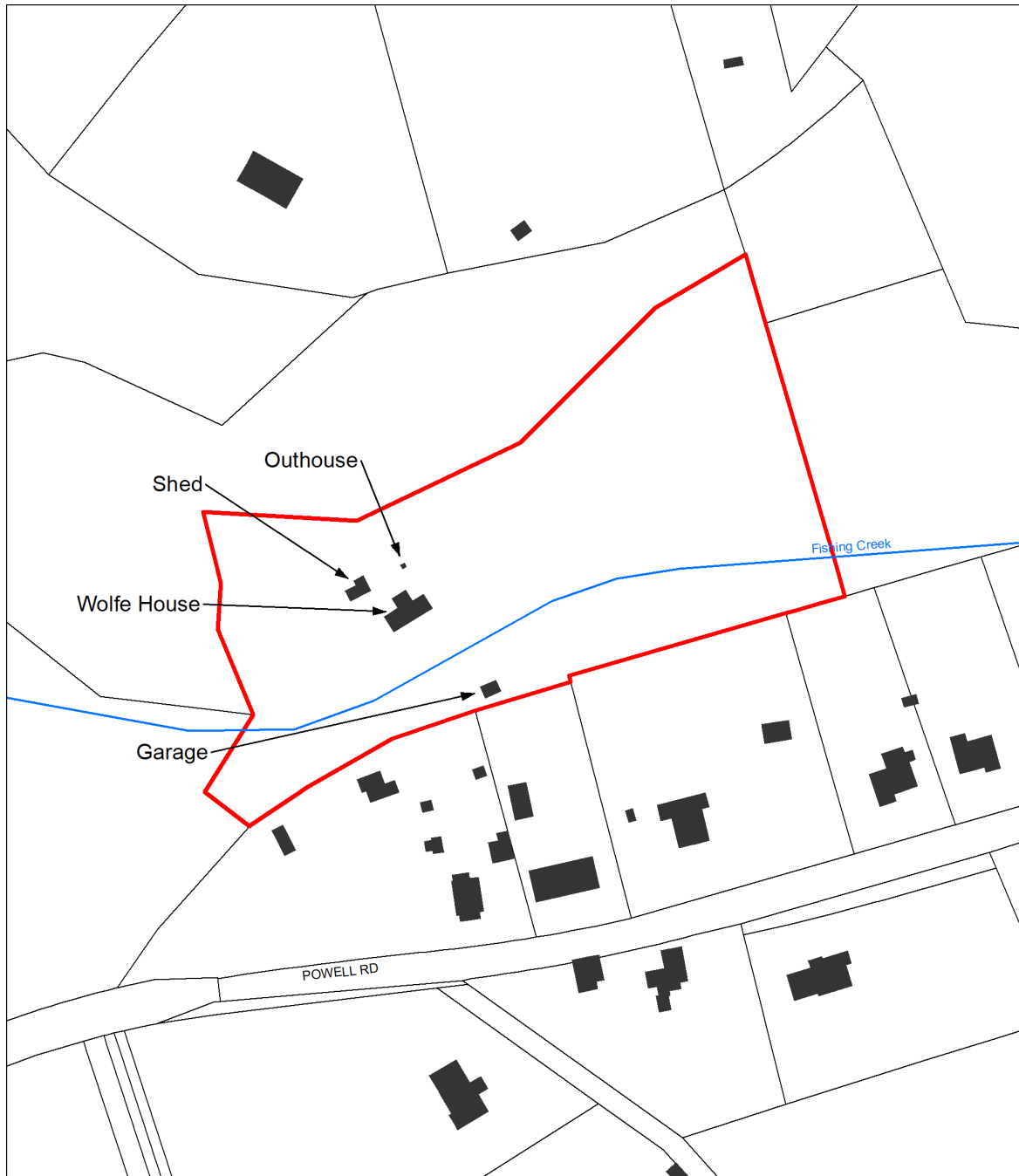
 Property boundary

0 1,000 2,000
Feet





Figure 1: Survey Boundary Map.

MIHP#: F-3-290
Wolfe House
Thurmont
Frederick County



F-3-290
Wolfe House
10918 Powell Road
Plan of property

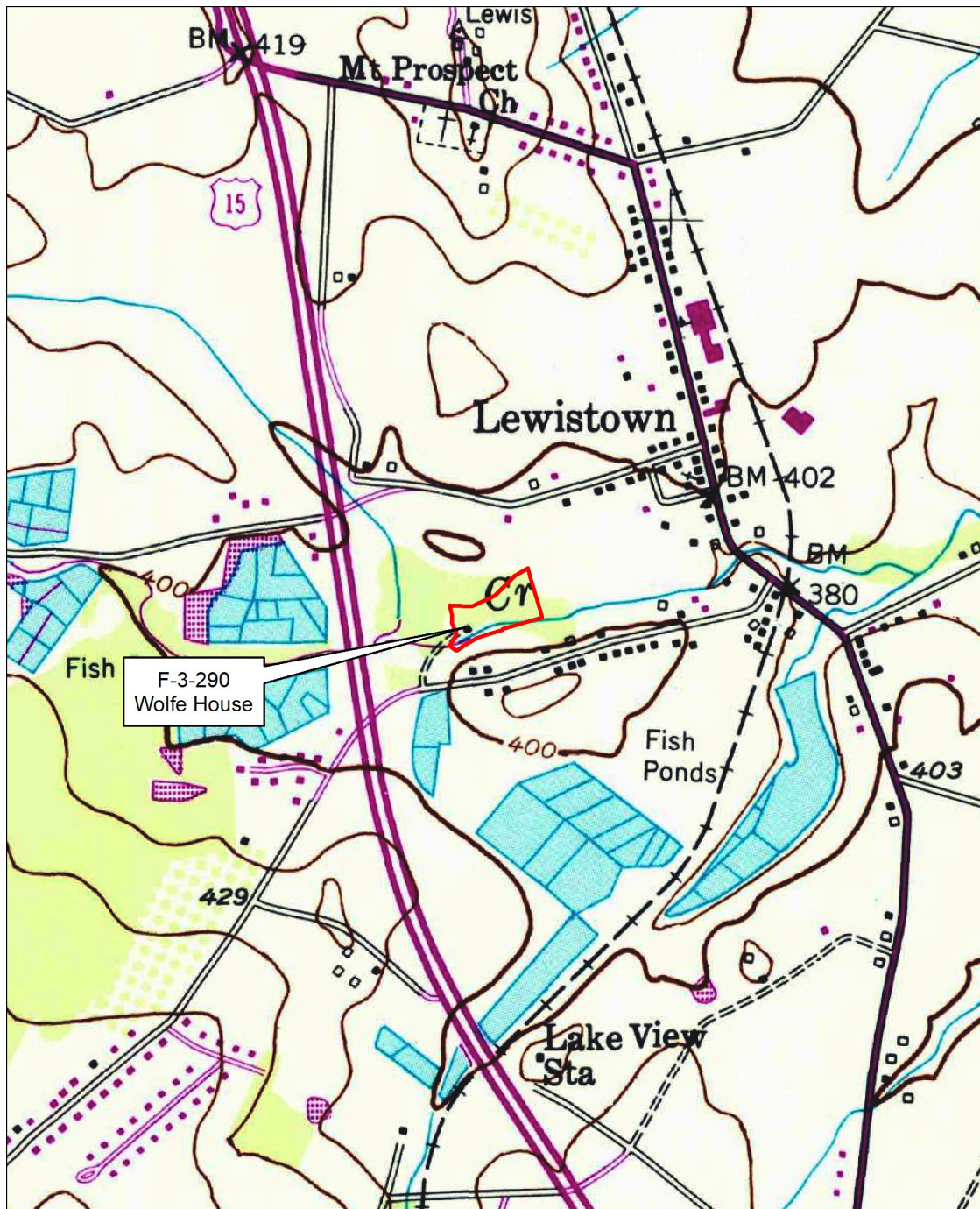
 Building Footprint
 Property boundary

0 100 200
Feet



Figure 1A: Plan of property.

MIHP#: F-3-290
Wolfe House
Thurmont
Frederick County



F-3-290
Wolfe House
10918 Powell Road
USGS 1985 Topographic Quad,
Catoclin Furnace, MD

Property boundary

0 500 1,000
Feet



Figure 1B: Survey Boundary Map (1:12,000).

MIHP#: F-3-290
Wolfe House
Thurmont
Frederick County



Figure 2: North section of Lot 103 highlighted.

Source: D. J. Lake, Atlas of Frederick County Maryland. Philadelphia: C. O. Titus & Company, 1873.

MIHP#: F-3-290
Wolfe House
Thurmont
Frederick County

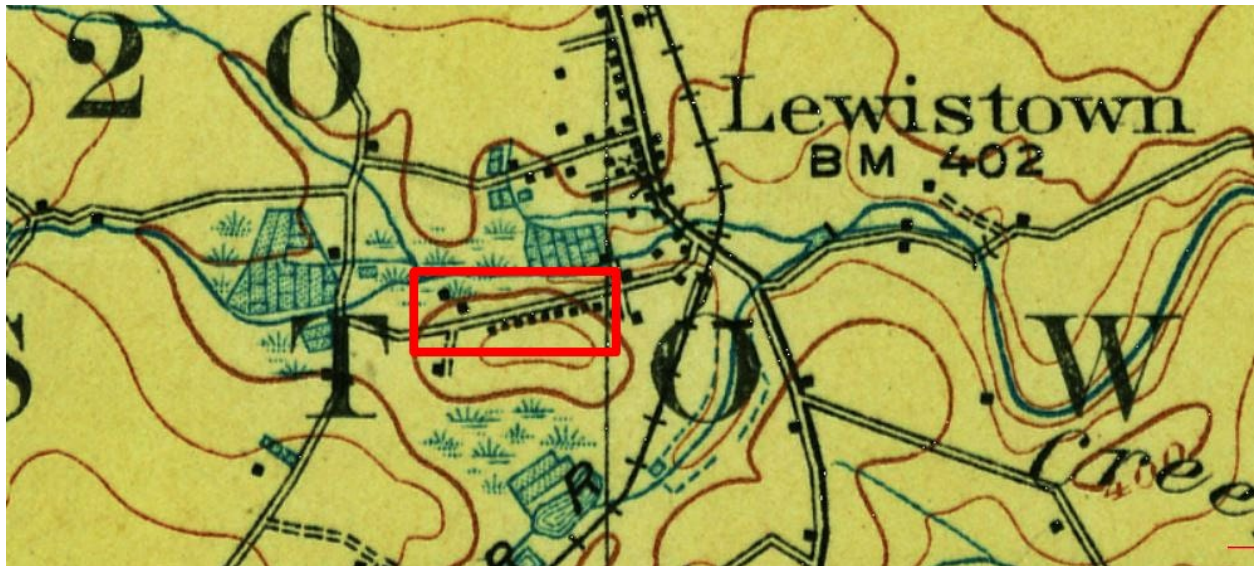


Figure 3: 1911 USGS quadrangle map.

MIHP#: F-3-290
Wolfe House
Thurmont
Frederick County

Chain of Title

Book EGH 382/Page 156, 1932, Calvin R. Wolfe, with reserve of life estate, to May N. Wolfe and Elmer G. Wolfe, joint tenants

Book CM 5/Page 419, 1870, Sarah Carney (colored) to James Wolfe; part of Lot 103 in Lewistown. The same lot that was conveyed by George Green to Henry Eaton (ES 8/655 1854, rec ,1856) and by Eaton to Sarah Carney JWLC 2/94 1864

Book JWLC 2/Page 94, 1864, Henry Eaton to Sarah Carney, part of Lot 103, it being the same lot conveyed by George Green to Henry Eaton in 1862 (sic)

Book ES 8/Page 655, 1854, George Green to Henry Eaton, part of Lot 103 being the same lot conveyed by George Schlosser to Josiah Black in 1841 and since conveyed to George Green in 1842

Book HS 17/Page 306, 1843, Josiah Black to George Green

Book HS 16/Page 63, 1842, George Schlosser to Josiah Black

Wolfe House Photo Log

MIHP No.: F-3-290

MIHP Name: Wolfe House

County: Frederick

Photographers: John W. Murphey

Dates: February 28, March 1, and March 2, 2022, as noted

Ink and Paper Combination: Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink on Epson Premium Semimatte Photo Paper

Image File Name	Image Description
F-3-290 2022-03-02 01.tif	East setting, camera facing east. March 2, 2022.
F-3-290 2022-03-02 02.tif	South (front) elevation, camera facing northwest. March 2, 2022.
F-3-290 2022-02-28 03.tif	Porch detail, camera facing north. February 28, 2022.
F-3-290 2022-02-28 04.tif	Porch detail, camera facing up. February 28, 2022.
F-3-290_2022-02-28_05.tif	Wolfe House, west elevation, camera facing east. February 28, 2022.
F-3-290 2022-02-28 06.tif	North elevation, camera facing south. February 28, 2022.
F-3-290 2022-02-28 07.tif	Privy, camera facing north. February 28, 2022.
F-3-290 2022-03-02 08.tif	Shed, camera facing north. March 2, 2022.
F-3-290 2022-03-01 09.tif	Garage, camera facing southeast. March 1, 2022.



F-3-290_2022-03-02_01.tif

East setting, camera facing east. March 2, 2022.



F-3-290_2022-03-02_02.tif

South (front) elevation, camera facing northwest. March 2, 2022.



F-3-290_2022-02-28_03.tif

Porch detail, camera facing north. February 28, 2022.



F-3-290_2022-02-28_04.tif

Porch detail, camera facing up. February 28, 2022.



F-3-290_2022-02-28_05.tif

Wolfe House, west elevation, camera facing east. February 28, 2022.



F-3-290_2022-02-28_06.tif

North elevation, camera facing south. February 28, 2022.



F-3-290_2022-02-28_07.tif

Privy, camera facing north. February 28, 2022.



F-3-290_2022-03-02_08.tif

Shed, camera facing north. March 2, 2022.



F-3-290_2022-03-01_09.tif

Garage, camera facing southeast. March 1, 2022.