

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED APR 3 1976
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Fat Oxen
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
East side of Md. Route 355, South of Tabler Road *N of Urbana on MD 355*
CITY, TOWN
Urbana VICINITY OF 6th
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Maryland 24 Frederick 021 ✓

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Leisure Tech. Northeast, Inc. ✓
STREET & NUMBER
1 Airport Road
CITY, TOWN
Lakewood
VICINITY OF
STATE
New Jersey 08701

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Frederick County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
North Court Street
CITY, TOWN
Frederick
STATE
Maryland 21701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
_FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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

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

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

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

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

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1)

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FREDERICK COUNTY

CONTINUATION SHEET #1 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

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

The outbuildings as shown on the enclosed small map are all still standing; however, all but one are 20th century, generally concrete block structures with no relationship to the 18th century house. The one older barn is in a state of almost total collapse; it is also the furthest outbuilding from the house. For these reasons and those explained at the end of #8 (Significance), the outbuildings are not included in this nomination.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fat Oxen is significant to Frederick County not only as the residence of many who were influential in the development of the county, but also as a good example of a mid-18th century English farmhouse built in an area largely settled by Germans in the mid-18th century and where the vast majority of surviving structures are of German character.

As early as 1712, Louis Michel, a Swiss explorer, had climbed Sugar Loaf Mountain and made maps of the surrounding region. But it was not until around 1740 that the first English settlers, of which the Beall family was part, located in the area.

Some time before 1754 William Beall, Sr. acquired a 1,000-acre tract of land called "Fatt Oxen." The property stayed in the Beall family, although divided into many parts, until 1800.¹ In 1779 the 285-acre part of the tract which Fat Oxen now stands was sold to Charles Beall by Joseph Beall. The deed states that the land included "a dwelling plantation."²

In 1800 a group of Beall heirs sold Fat Oxen to Capt. Thomas Sprigg of the Sprigg family of Prince George's County for £ 2125.³ After Sprigg's death in 1826 the estate was sold at public auction to John McPherson, Sr. and was then willed to his son John McPherson, Jr. For one hundred years Fat Oxen was owned by the related McPherson, Dennis and Ross families.⁴ The overwhelming contributions of these families to Frederick County and Maryland history include ownership of Catoctin Furnace and Araby Mills, directing plans for the National Pike and numerous state and government positions. The Ross and Dennis families also have the distinction of being direct descendents of Governor Thomas Johnson, first governor of Maryland.

Most recently Fat Oxen has been occupied by farm tenants. Some of the more unusual architectural features of the house include detailed beaded woodwork throughout, four diagonal paneled fireplaces and a partition in the cellar probably used for penning animals. The house presents a strong contrast to Schifferstadt, a German farmhouse of the same period located approximately six miles away on the outskirts of Frederick city.

Fat Oxen is currently occupied by farm tenants and the area surrounding the farm has recently been purchased by a developer. As the property is scheduled for development, only the acre immediately around the house has been included in this nomination to encourage the preservation of the house in the development plan.

See Continuation Sheet #2

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	2 9 6 9 1 0	4 3 5 6 2 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jack L. Finglass/Cherilyn Widell
 ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust DATE _____
Frederick Co. Planning & Zoning Commission 12/76
 STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle TELEPHONE 269-2438
Winchester Hall 663-8300-Ext 266
 CITY OR TOWN Annapolis STATE 21401
Frederick Maryland 21701

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE John N. Pearce 3/28/79
 TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. Shuman DATE 5-21-79
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: Anna Jane Saxe **KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER** DATE 5-21-79
 REGIONAL REVIEW COORDINATOR

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Frederick County,
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

- ¹Frederick County Land Records Liber E, Folio 372
- ²Frederick County Land Records Liber HS3 Folio 89
- ³Frederick County Land Records Liber WR20 Folio 541
- ⁴Frederick County Land Records Liber TG12 Folio 3
Liber CHB 1 Folio 177

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21 1979

Fat Oxen
Frederick County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Description for the 46,550 square feet+ or 1.07 acres+ parcel of land around the farm house of the Patten known as "Fat Oxon", said parcel is part of the land of Ward Development Company, Incorporated, and recorded in the Land Records of Frederick County in Liber 1030, Folio 162.

Beginning for the same of the "Fat Oxen" parcel, here intended to be described, at a point near the center of Maryland Route 355, said point being $S48^{\circ}44'31''E, 795$ feet+ from the western most property corner of the land conveyed by Leisure Technology North-East, Incorporated unto Ward Development Company, Incorporated by deed recorded among the Land Records of Frederick County in Liber 1030, Folio 162, thence by lines of division now made running parallel to an existing crushed stone lane, at a distance of 10 feet from the center, the following nine (9) courses and distances,

- 1) Northeasterly 1,540'+ to a point,
- 2) Northeasterly 170'+, thence leaving said lane for the following four (4) courses and distances,
- 3) Northwesterly 100'+ to a point, thence
- 4) Northeasterly 90'+ to a point, thence
- 5) Southeasterly 135'+ to a point, thence
- 6) Southwesterly 100'+ to a point on the south of said lane at a distance of 10 feet from the center thereof, thence running parallel to and at a distance of 10 feet from the center, the following two (2) courses and distances,
- 7) Southwesterly 175'+ to a point,
- 8) Southwesterly 1,545'+ to a point near the center of Maryland Route 355, thence with said Maryland Route 355,
- 9) $N48^{\circ}44'31''W$ 25 feet+ to the first mentioned place of beginning. Containing 46,550 square feet+ or 1.07 acres+ of land.

Being part of the same tract of land conveyed by Leisure-Technology North-East, Incorporated unto Ward Development Company, Incorporated by deed dated and recorded among the Land Records of Frederick County in Liber 1030, Folio 162.

AT&T MONUMENT
#19 POL

EQUIPMENT BARN

TRAILER

HOUSE

DAIRY BARN

DAIRY HOUSE

BARN

BARN

12150

3500

SECTION I
50 AC ±

1540'

LANE

30900

STONE

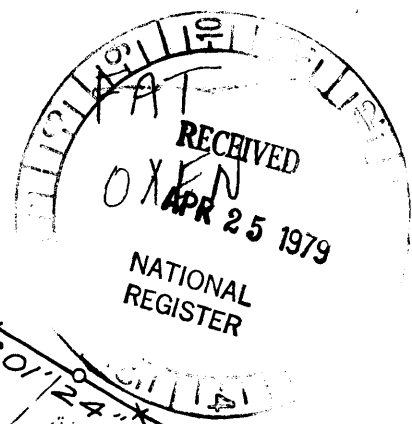
46550 ± or 1.07 AC ±

COMPANY R/W RECORDED
37' E
55

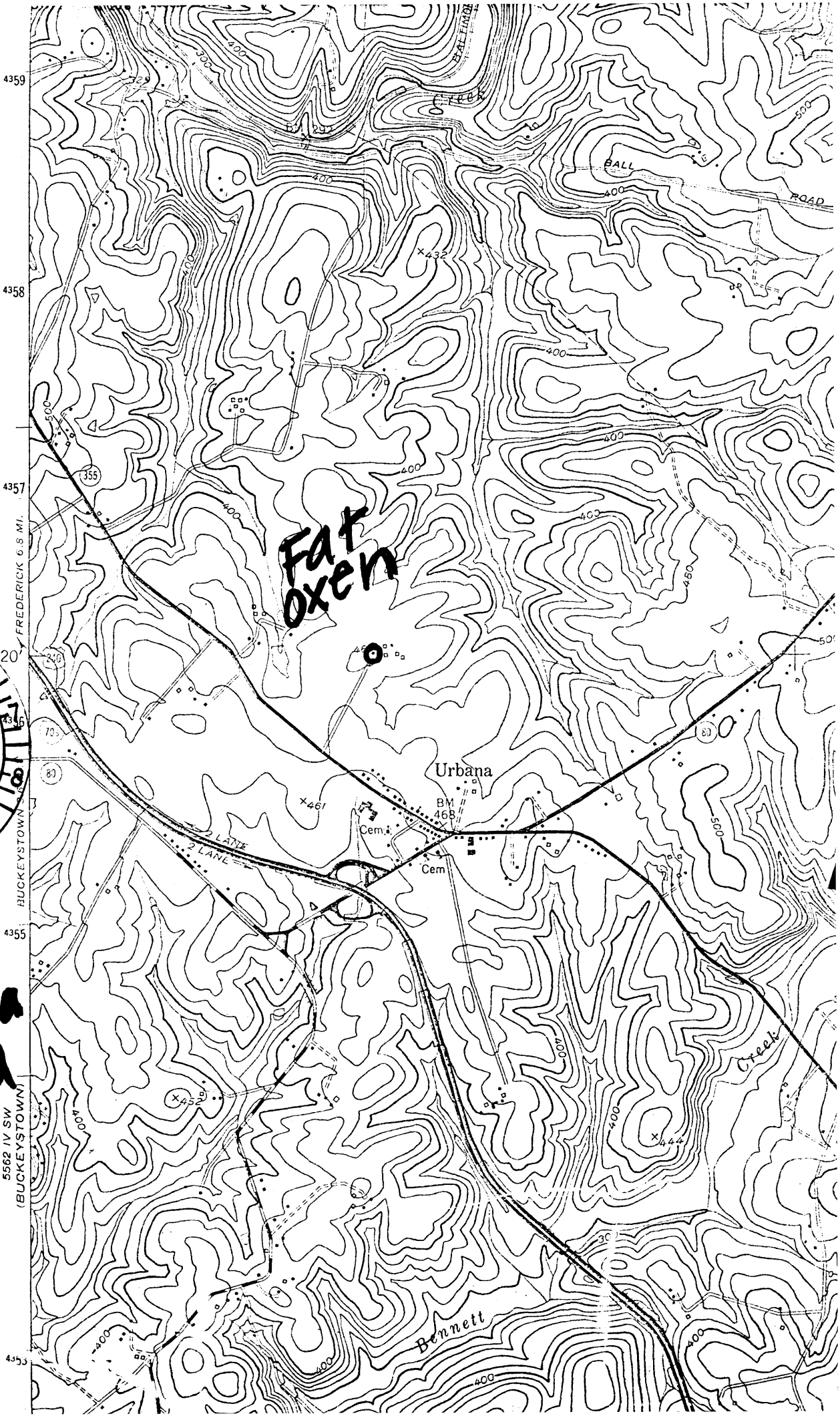
IN 813/588

1072.50' ±
Maryland
Rt 355

50°13'16" E 428'00" S
LAWSON
57°01'24" E
585

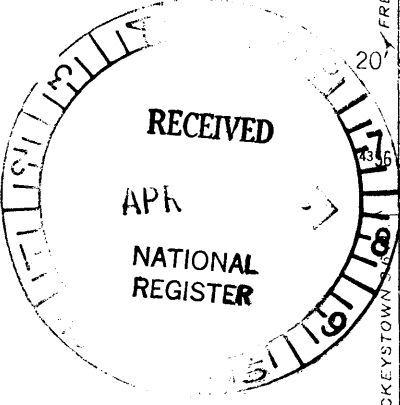


1
acres



4359
4358
4357
20
4355
4353

FREDERICK 6. S. MI.
BUCKEYSTOWN
BUCKEYSTOWN
5562 IV SW (BUCKEYSTOWN)



Urbana Quad