

CARR-842

Belfast Town, site

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 02-04-2016

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-842

Page 1 of 2

Name of Property: Belfast Town

Location: MD 140 and Pleasant Valley Road, Frizzellburg, Maryland

The Site of Belfast Town (CARR-842) is marked at the northwest corner of the intersection of MD 140 and Pleasant Valley Road. Although the site is identified on the SHA-GIS Cultural Resource database, there is currently no documentation on file associated with the MIHP number. CARR-842 marks the location of Belfast Town, a failed real estate venture by Clotworthy Birnie, who named the planned town after the place of his birth Belfast, Ireland.

In 1819, Birnie advertised for sale 3001 acres of property divided into 400 lots as follows: 8 lots of 100 acres, 9 lots of 50 acres, 10 lots of 25 acres, 18 lots of 20 acres, 29 lots of 10 acres, 126 lots of 5 acres, and 200 lots of 1 acre. Streets and improvements were anticipated to occupy the final 21 acres. All lots were offered for sale at \$275. Birnie advertised that downpayments of \$55 would be accepted on February 1, 1819 and the remaining \$220 in installments of \$55 from the first day of April 1819.

The lots were to comprise Belfast Town, located between Westminster and Taneytown along the turnpike constructed by the Westminster, Taneytown and Emmitsburg Turnpike Company – of which Birnie was a stockholder. The route of the turnpike roughly followed present day MD 140. It is not clear if Birnie was attempting to capitalize on his investment in the turnpike or perhaps saw as ripe for growth the nearby fledgling crossroads community around Nimrod Frizzell's tavern. The tavern was likely constructed by Daniel Smith prior to 1800 and is noted on Varle's Map of 1808. In either case, Birnie's investment did not prosper as there were no developments following the advertisement and the small crossroads town came to be known as Frizzellburg by mid-century.

In July 2012, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) conducted a cultural resource study in association with a geometric improvement project along MD 140 at the intersection with Pleasant Valley Road. The property described above is within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed project.

On July 9, 2012, MD SHA Cultural Resources personnel visited the property to conduct an on-site survey. As a result of the survey, a comparison of historic maps and aerial photographs, it was determined that there are no standing structures associated with the Belfast Town site (CARR-842).

Sources:

Graybeal, Jay A. "Belfast, The Town That Never Was." Carroll County Times, May 14, 2000 accessed July 24, 2012 <http://hsc.carr.org/research/yesteryears/cct2000/000514.htm>

Kenny, Hamill. *The Place Names of Maryland: Their Origin and Meaning*. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1984.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Western Maryland* Volume 2. Baltimore: Regional, 1868.

Prepared by: Jon Schmidt, MD SHA

Date: July 24, 2012

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-842

Page 2 of 2

Name of Property: Belfast Town

Location: MD 140 and Pleasant Valley Road, Frizzellburg, Maryland

Section 3: Owner of Property

State of Maryland

SHA right-of-way

Section 4: Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, registry of deeds, etc: Maryland Property Records (SDAT)

City, town: www.mdlandrec.net

Land Records of Carroll County

Section 6: Classification

Category: Site

Ownership: Private

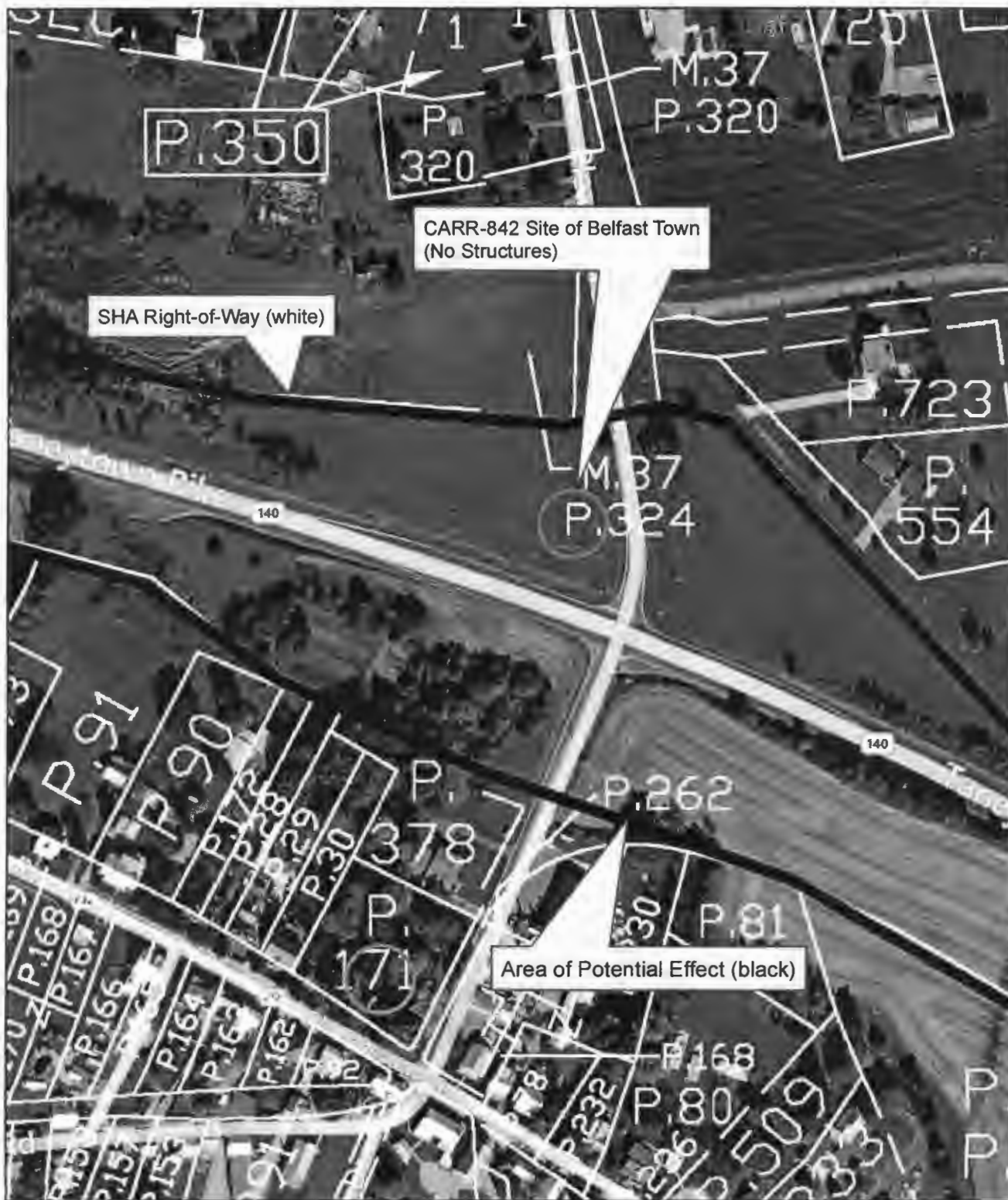
Current Function: SHA right-of-way planted with grass

Resource Count: None

Section 7: Description

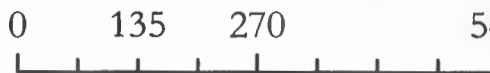
CARR-842 marking the location of Belfast Town is within state owned right-of-way at the northwest corner of the intersection between MD 140 and Pleasant Valley Road. The property is currently open grass, sloping down sharply from the edge of the road toward a pasture to the northwest.

Cultural Resources Map

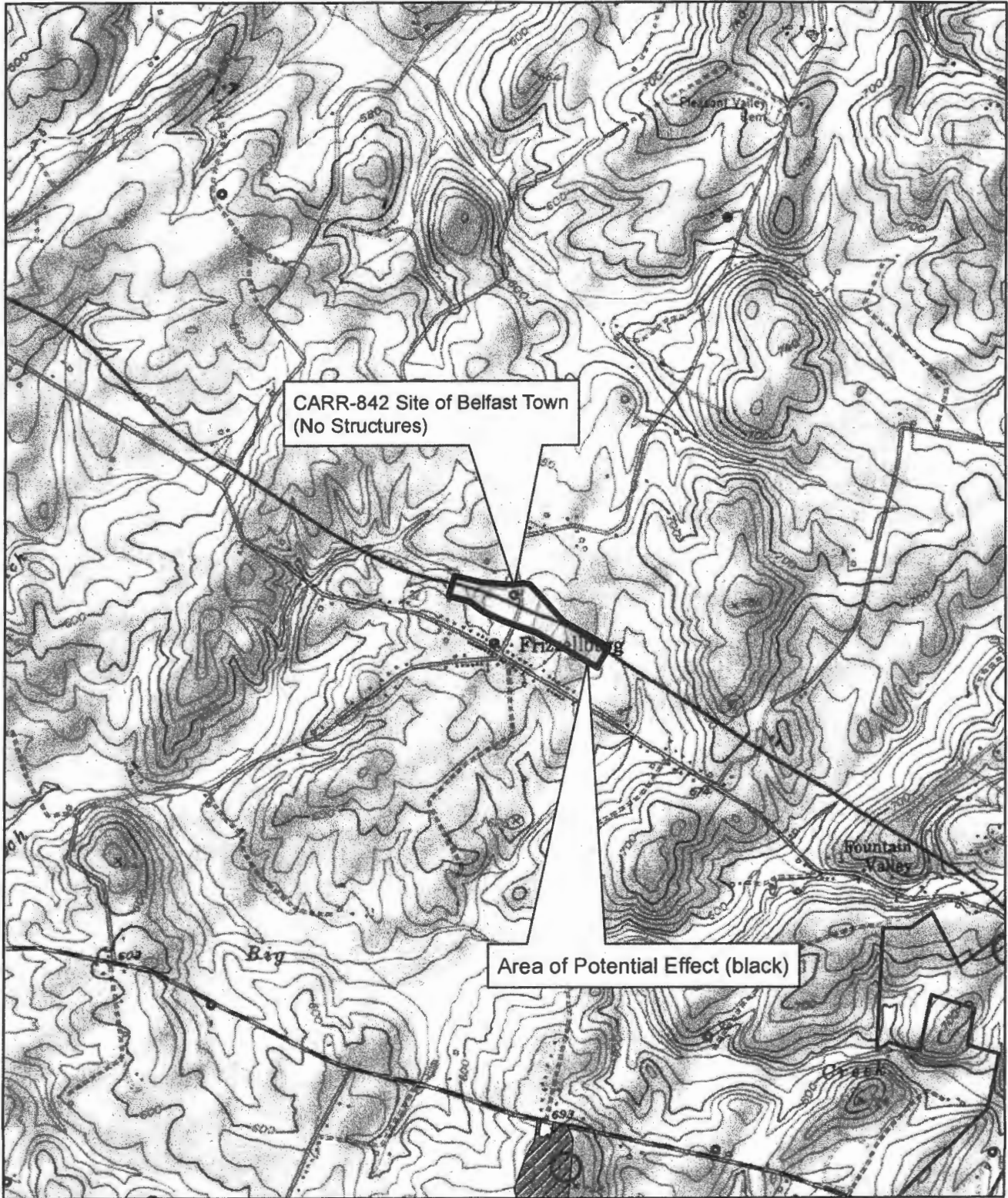


MD 140 at Pleasant Valley Road
 Widening Project
 Carroll County
 USGS New Windsor Topo Quad

July 24, 2012
 1:2,500
 540 Feet



Cultural Resources Map



CARR-842 Site of Belfast Town
MD 140 at Pleasant Valley Road
Carroll County
USGS New Windsor Topo Quad

July 24, 2012

1:24,000

0 1,250 2,500 5,000 Feet