

# RUSTIC ROADS COMMISSION FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

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**CASE NO. 25-01-01**

**NOMINATION TO RUSTIC ROADS PROGRAM  
STAFF REPORT**

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**SUMMARY**

**Road: Wilhide Road (North)**

**From Stevens Road to Blacks Mill Road**

**Applicant: Joel Anderson and Brigitta Shroyer**

This public meeting is for the consideration of placing Wilhide Road (North), from Stevens Road to Blacks Mill Road, into the Rustic Roads Program. The nomination was submitted by Joel Anderson and Brigitta Shroyer, nearby residents.

The public meeting for designation to the Frederick County Rustic Roads Program will be held at 6:00 p.m., or thereafter, on August 13, 2025.



*Image 1: Aerial of Wilhide Road, Courtesy of Frederick County GIS, Property Explorer*

## **SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

The applicants, Joel Anderson and Brigitta Shroyer, submitted a nomination form with the required attachments along with eight letters of support from Wilhide Road (North) residents and users. The entire nomination is attached to this staff report.

## **ROAD SPECIFICATIONS**

Wilhide Road (North) is a 0.72-mile tar and chip road located in Maintenance District 1. The road runs from Stevens Road to Blacks Mill Road. Wilhide Road (North) is 16 feet wide without shoulders. The posted speed limit is 30 miles per hour and has an annual average daily trip of 153 trips, last studied in 2022. The road is classified as a local road with a very low traffic range.

## **SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE**

The narrow tar and chip road, located just over a mile southwest of Creagerstown, is surrounded by a densely wooded corridor set amongst primarily agricultural land and rural residences. Wilhide Road (North) runs parallel to Big Hunting Creek and crosses Little Hunting Creek.

## **ZONING AND LAND USE**

The nominated road is not in a Community Growth Area. The closest Community Growth Areas are Woodsboro (3.7 miles away) and Thurmont (2.7 miles away). The surrounding land is zoned Agricultural, and the land use designation is Agricultural and Natural Resource.

## **LAND PRESERVATION**

There are no adjacent properties to Wilhide Road (North) that have some form of land preservation program. The road is not in a Priority Preservation Area.

Properties within a 1-mile radius of road that have some form of land preservation program are:

Critical Farm Easement: 1

Installment Purchase Program (IPP): 1

MALPF Easements: 7

Maryland Environmental Trust (MET): 1

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The first depiction of Wilhide Road (North) on a historic map appears on the 1858 Isaac Bond *Map of Frederick County, Maryland* (attached, page 7). This makes the current alignment of Wilhide Road (North) at least 167 years old.

There is one surveyed historic property on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties on Wilhide Road (North):

F-6-66 “Ridge House,” an 1850 vernacular two story frame/log I-House.

The Ridge House is representative of a common house form used throughout the country in the mid-nineteenth century. Examples of this house form can be found throughout the county, but many are extant or have been altered obscuring the original form. Ridge House was named for the Ridge family who owned the property between 1858 and 1873. Adjacent to the home along Wilhide Road is a vertical sided barn with two smaller sheds attached to either side of the structure. The 1858 Bond Map also shows the Ridge House, labeled as C. Ridge (see page 7).

Several mills also previously existed along Wilhide Road (North) drawing power from the confluence of Big Hunting Creek and Little Hunting Creek. These mills appear on the 1808 Charles Varle *Map of Frederick and Washington Counties* (attached, page 8), however only archeological remains of these structures exist today.

Additionally, there are several surveyed historic properties on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties where Wilhide Road (North) terminates at Blacks Mills Road:

F-6-1 “Blacks Mill Road Bridge,” a 1914 single-span steel truss bridge (attached)

F-6-70 “Black’s Mill Survey District,” an early industrial community that operated from the late eighteenth century through the nineteenth century (attached)

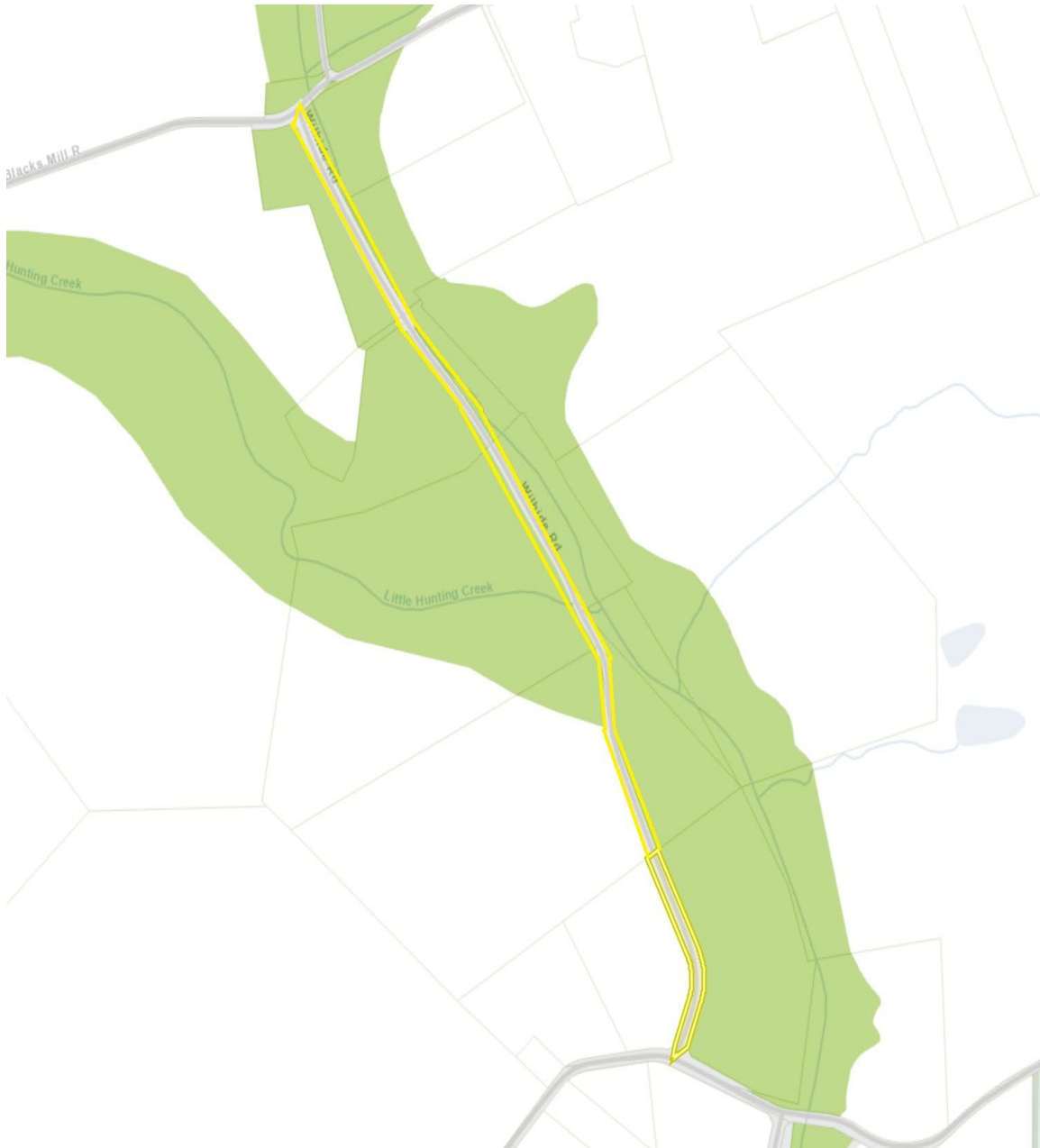
## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the historic, agricultural, and natural characteristics of Wilhide Road (North) and its context, Staff recommends that the Commission **RECOMMEND** the nomination of Wilhide Road (North), from Stevens Road to Blacks Mill Road, to the Frederick County Council for inclusion into the Rustic Roads Program.

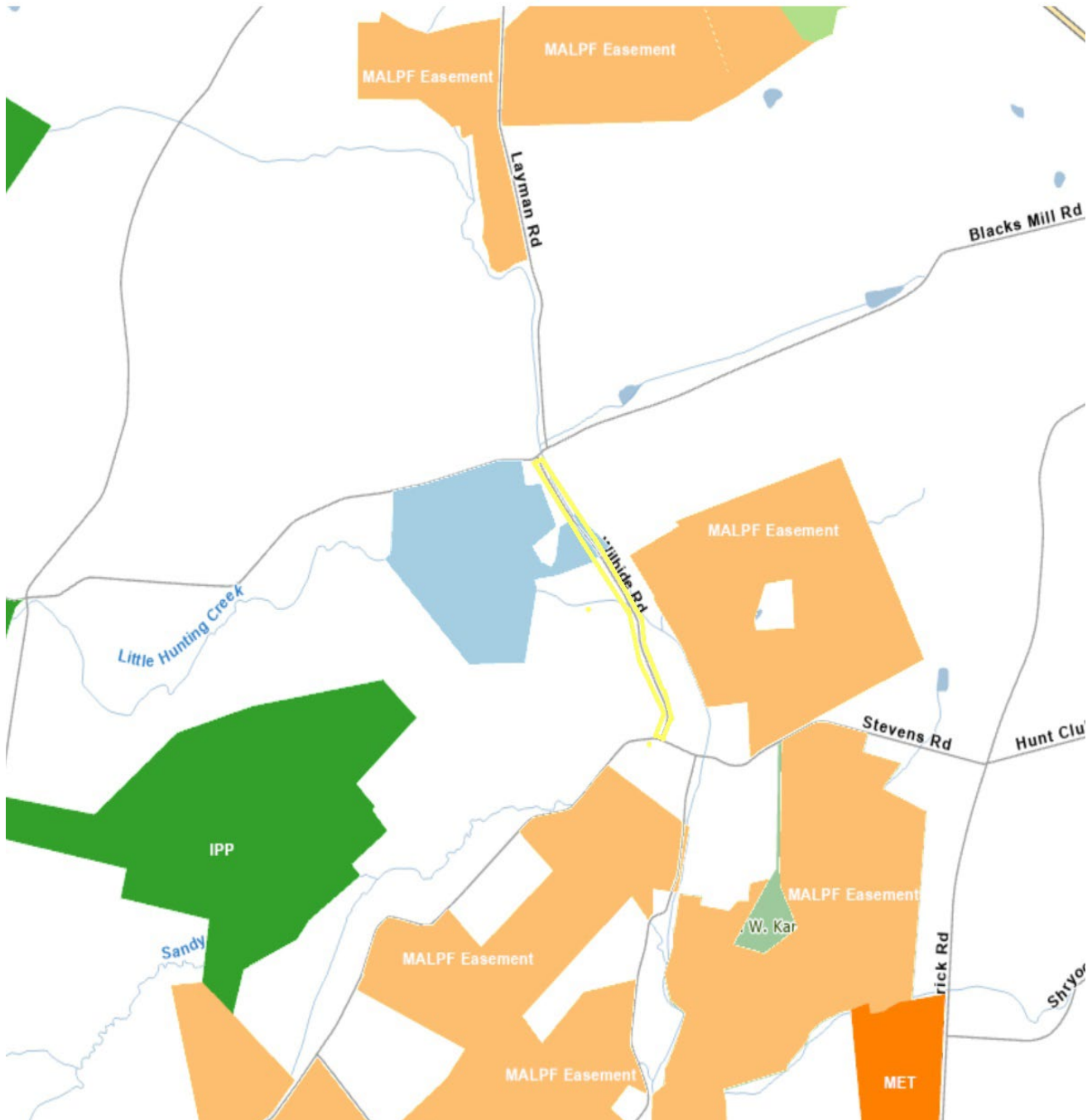
## Surrounding Land Use Map of Wilhide Road (North)

Light Green: Natural Resource

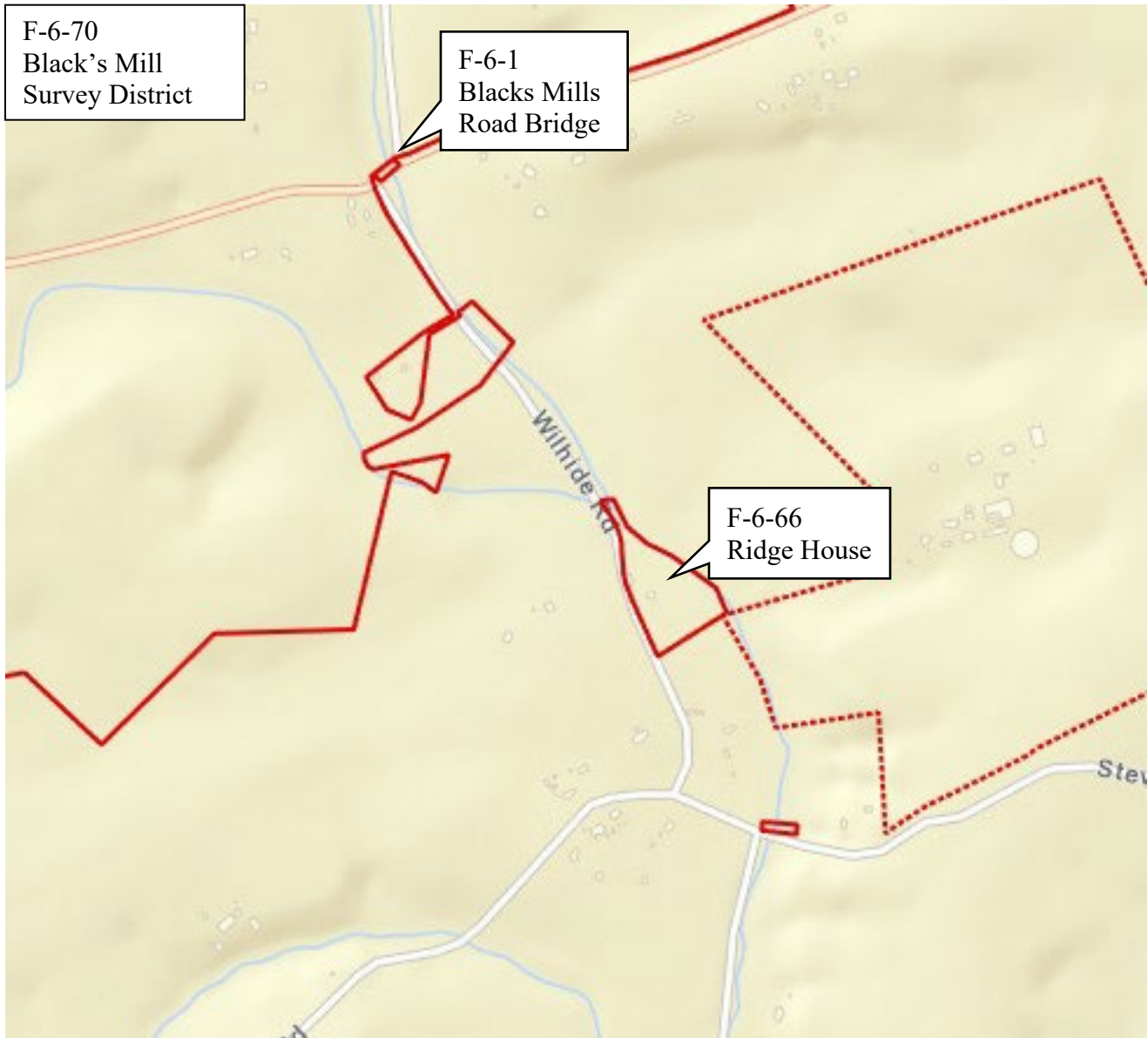
White: Agricultural



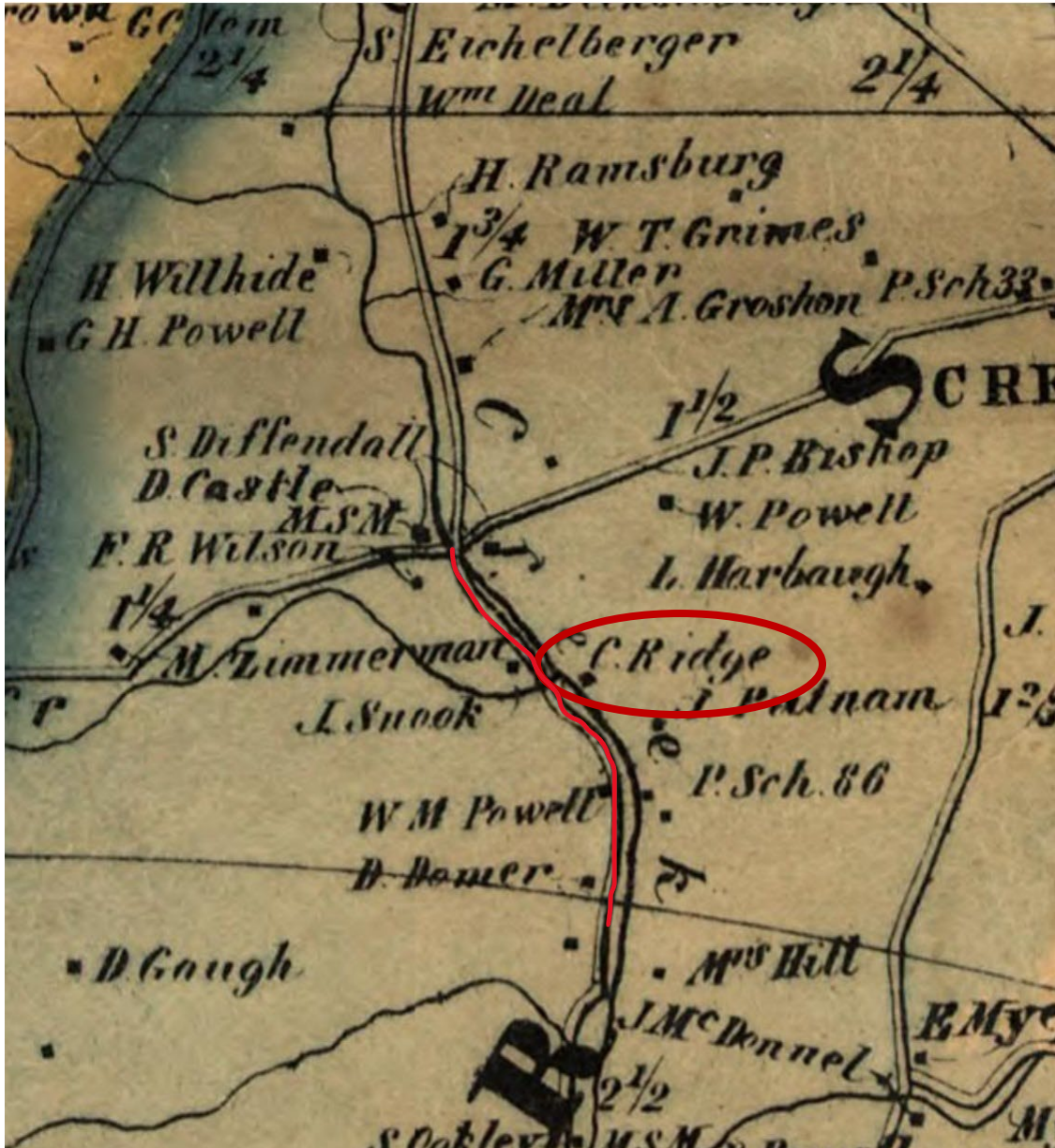
## Land Preservation Map Surrounding Wilhide Road (North)



### MIHP Map of Wilhide Road (North)

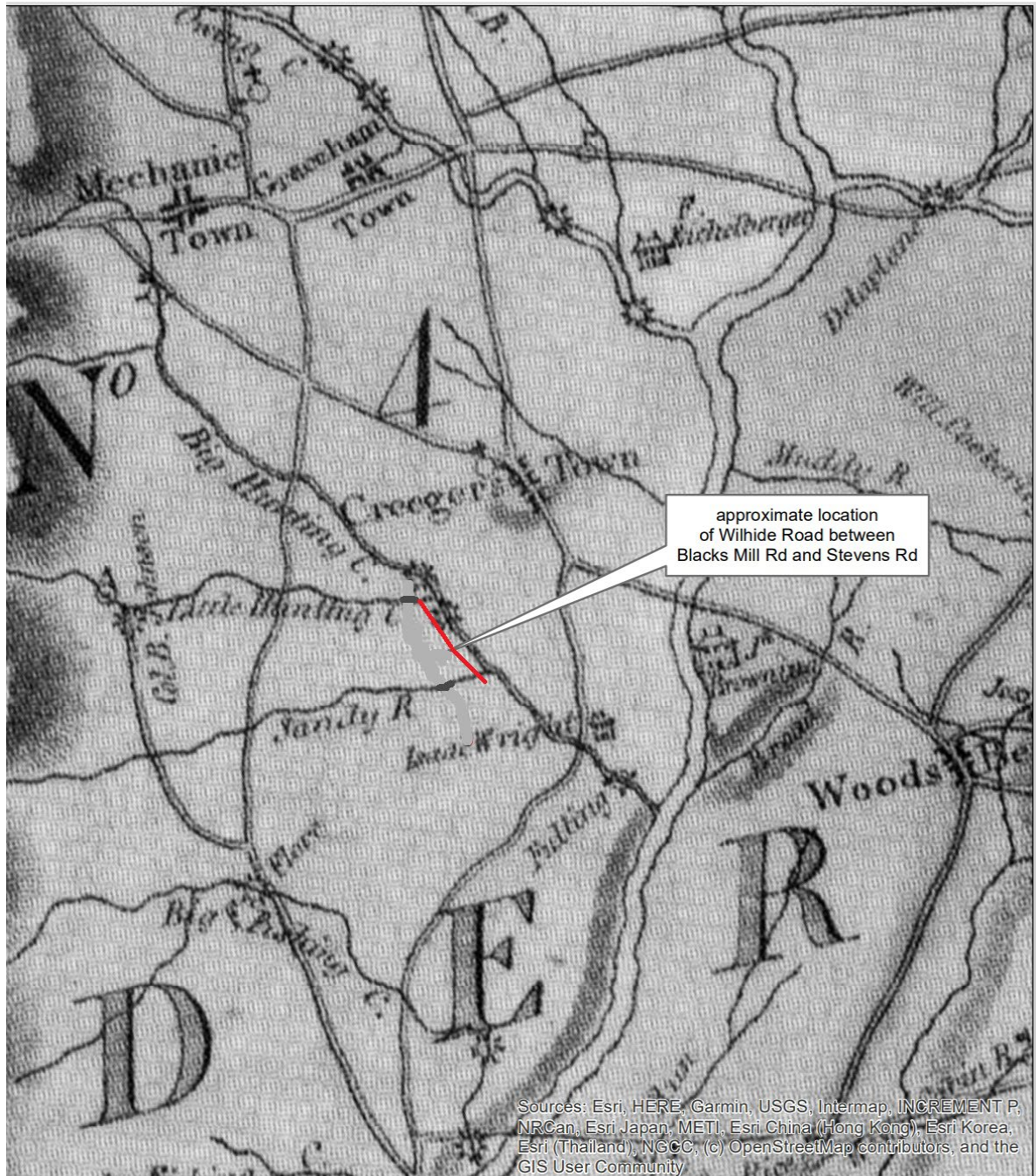




**Map of Frederick County Maryland by Isaac Bond, 1858**

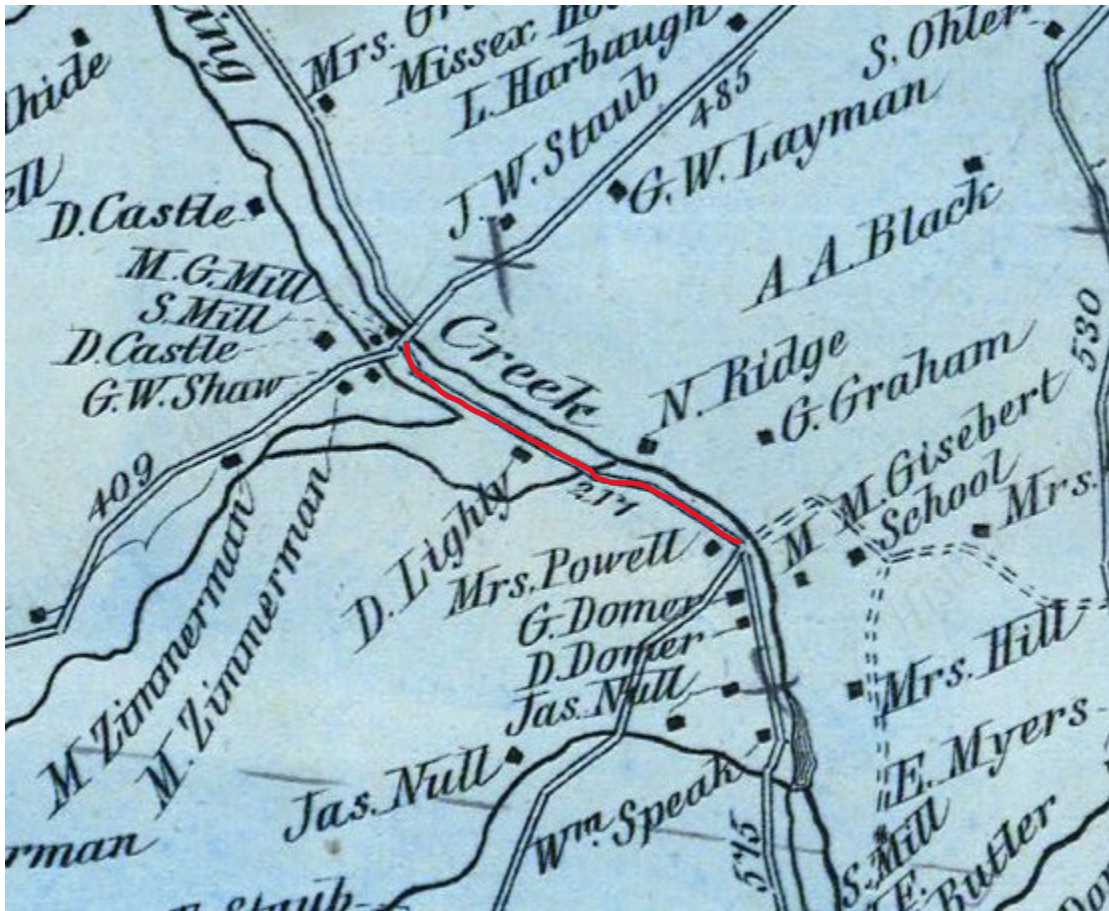
The 1858 Isaac Bond Map is the earliest map to depict the modern alignment of Wilhide Road (North) running parallel to Big Hunting Creek. The Ridge House can also be seen on this map.

## Map of Frederick and Washington Counties by Charles Varle, 1808



The 1808 Map shows the location of mills where the Little Hunting Creek meets the Big Hunting Creek (yellow). Wilhide Road (North) does not appear on this map (red).



**Atlas of Frederick County Maryland by C.O. Titus and Co., 1873**

The 1873 Atlas shows Wilhide Road in more detail than the Bond Map and shows the mills at the intersection of Wilhide Road and Blacks Mill Road.