F-2-72
Levin West House
Petersville vicinity
Private

Ca. 1815

The Levin West House is a two-story stone house with a 1-1/2 story brick rear wing originally built about 1815 and containing both Federal and Greek Revival decorative details. Located on the former road between Petersville and Berlin (later Brunswick), the house was partially used as a doctor's office by Dr. Levin West, the grandson of the builder in the late 1880's. The house is significant for its representative transitional stylistic details and building technology, which combines both stone and brick materials and interior moldings and mantels of the Federal and Greek Revival periods.

F-2-72
Levin West House
Petersville
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Georgraphic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Buildings

Environment: Village

Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Known Design Source: None

M 92 P 148

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-2-72

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Levin West House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1331 C Jefferson Pike ___ not for publication

city, town Petersville _X_ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	_X_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_X_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	_X_ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Phillip W. & Prudence B. Kesther

street & number 1331C Jefferson Pike telephone no.:

city, town Knoxville state and zip code Maryland 21758

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1160

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 234

city, town Knoxville state Maryland 21758

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-2-72

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Levin West House is a two-story rubble stone dwelling built about 1815 located on the west side of a driveway running south off Jefferson Pike (Maryland Route 180) just west of Petersville, Frederick County, Maryland. The drive was once a public road connecting Petersville and Berlin (later Brunswick), but is now a dead end just south of the Levin West House. The house faces east toward the drive.

The house has two sections, a two-story stone main part with three bays facing east, and a 1-1/2 story brick rear wing with additions and alterations made in the mid-20th century. The main part is partially plastered on the south gable end, the north elevation, and the west elevation above the roofline of the rear wing. The principal entrance is in the southern bay of the three, with a transom and sidelights. The partial plastering of the exterior is mostly around the doorway on this elevation. Wood lintels and sills are at the door and window openings and the sash is 6/6, flanked by louvred shutters. The cornice is brick and is corbeled. The roof is composition with interior end brick chimneys. On the north elevation is a one-story brick addition near the junction of the two sections of the house. The brick is painted white, as is the rear wing. The date of this addition is unknown and the projection has only a single small room with a trap door in the floor, suggesting a room for safekeeping of valuables, a need that may have arisen during the Civil War.

The rear wing has 4:1 bond and a corbeled cornice. Two dormers are located in the north and south slopes of the composition roof; these are apparently 20th century additions. On the west end of the wing is an exterior brick chimney enclosed by a screened porch which is also a later addition. On the exterior wall above this porch is the outline of a gable roof, indicating a further addition which has been demolished. On the south side of the wing was an open porch which was enclosed during the mid-20th century as a kitchen. The stone foundation visible on this elevation suggests that the enclosed area may possibly have been a separate structure, such as a summer kitchen, that was linked to the main section and brick wing by infill segments over several time periods. The link between the main structure and the kitchen area shows a concrete block foundation on the south side, clearly a modern addition which contains a bathroom. The exterior of the enclosed kitchen section is german siding.

The floor plan of the main house is a side hall type, with a single large parlor on the north side of the hall in the main section. Bull's eye corner blocks and simple wood moldings in the hall suggest the transition between Federal and Greek Revival influences. A dentil cornice in the parlor is likely a late Federal feature, while the mantel is a columned Greek Revival style. The first floor room in the wing, now the dining room, also has a Greek Revival mantel. This room is said by local tradition to have been a doctor's office, possibly referring to the 1880's period when Dr. Levin West, the grandson of the builder Levin West, had his practice in Petersville. The projecting room referred to in the exterior description is entered from this room, suggesting the safekeeping of medical

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-2-72

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates C. 1815 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B X C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Levin West House is important for its architectural details and design, which indicate its construction during a period of transition in both stylistic and technological methods in the first and second quarters of the 19th century. The stone structure and side hall plan of the main section are typical of the late Federal period and have much in common with similiar structures built around 1800. The brick wing with its successive extensions and alterations are similar to alterations made on the majority of Frederick County dwellings during the middle third of the 19th century and later. The Greek Revival and Federal moldings and mantels in the house are also indicators of a transitional house.

The house may have been built by Levin West, a son of one of the early settlers of the Petersville district, Joseph West. The original homestead of the West family may be the George W. West Farmstead (F-2-73) on the north side of Jefferson Pike. Levin West is described in Williams and McKinsey's History of Frederick County as a farmer. Bessie West, whose 1848 inscription is in the bedroom of the main section of the house, was the youngest daughter of Levin West. One of his sons, Patrick McGill West (1825-1904), was the father of Dr. Levin West (born 1864). Dr. West first studied medicine under his uncle, George W. West, and later graduated from the University of Maryland in 1886. He practiced in Petersville from 1886 to 1890, when he took special training in New York. This four-year period is probably when the association of local tradition with the first floor room in the wing with the doctor's office was established.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-2-72

Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858.
Frederick County Landmark Foundation Registry File #123
Land Records of Frederick County
Titus, C.O., Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.
(Continued on separate sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Point of Rocks, Md. - Va. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Concurrent with Tax Map 92, Parcel 148

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 Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. **date** October, 1991

street & number 12 E. Church Street **telephone** 696-2958

city or town Frederick **state** Maryland 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

7.1 Description (continued)

equipment and pharmaceuticals as its purpose. A second stairway to the upper level of the wing is enclosed next to the fireplace, indicating that this may have been the original kitchen of the house and later was given more refined finish for use as the dining room or doctor's office. The western end of the wing is occupied by a small room now serving as an office. Its original use is undetermined.

On the second floor of the main section is a single bedroom separated from the upper level of the wing by a cross hall with a curved wall near the main staircase, a feature seen in early 19th century rowhouses in Baltimore, but as yet unresearched in Frederick County dwellings of the period. The Frederick County Landmarks Foundation registry information submitted in the early 1970's stated a dated wall inscription of 1848 with the name Bessie West exists in this room, but was unobserved during the survey. Bessie West was probably Elizabeth West, one of the children of Levin West and an aunt of Dr. Levin West (Williams and McKinsey, History of Frederick County, p. 872). The original hardware in the bedroom on the early closets is of a high level of craftsmanship not usually associated with rural blacksmiths, indicating they may have been acquired elsewhere.

No outbuildings presently exist on the property, but the stone foundation of a probable smokehouse or springhouse are located southwest of the rear wing near a grove of trees.

9.1 Bibliography (continued)

Williams, T.J.C. and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, Vol. II. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979 (originally published Frederick: L.R. Titsworth & Co., 1910), p. 872.

#95 1331C Jeff Pike M92 P148

LIBER/FOLIO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1160/234 30 Oct 81	Philip M. & Prudence B. Kestner	Alan S. & Flavil T. Boyd	.41 a.		
1126/548 1 Oct 80	Alan S. & Flavil T. Boyd	C. William Nicol, Jr.			
766/169 26 May 67	C. William Nicol & Kathryn A. Nicol wife	Austin B. Jr. & Suzanne J. Middleton			
655/482 21 Jul 61	Austin B., Jr. & Suzanne J. Middleton	Samuel L Suter	P.1: 333/141, 10 Aug 20 P.2: 342/461, 4 Oct 20		
P.1: 333/141 10 Aug 20	Samuel L. & Anna M. Suter	Howard M. & Mabel C. Jones			
P.1:	Howard M. & Mabel C. Jones	Jane C. Claggett (widow)			
P.1: HWB 306/377 30 Oct. 13	Samuel & Jane C. Claggett	Vincent S. Kepler	9 a.		
P.1: HWB 304/384 19 Feb 13	Vincent S. Kepler	Emma S. & Solomon V. Blessing			

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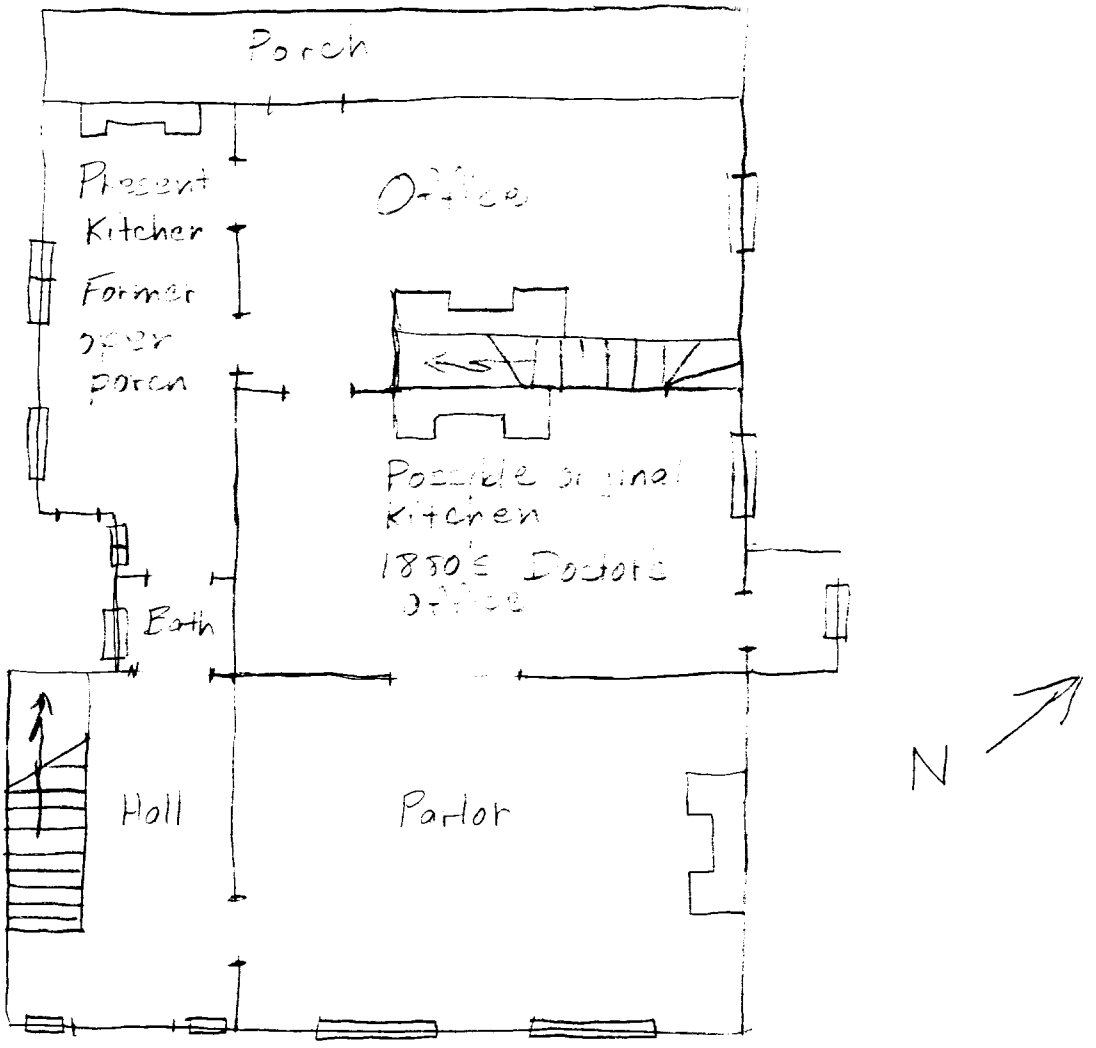
#95 Page 2

LIBER/FOLIO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
P.1: STH 287/238 8 apr 09	Emma S. & Solomon V. Blessing	Margaret S. Zecher widow	9a.		
P.1: STH 274/369 31 Mar 06	William C. & Margaret S. Zecher	Emma & Solomon Blessing	9a.		
P.1: DHH 5/520 9 Mar 1900	Emma & Solomon Blessing	Patrick M. West & Eleanora A. West, wif.	9a.	$1,000	
P.1: AF 2/701 12 Feb 1881	Patrick M West	James H. & Mary F. (Giddings) Blake and Alice J. Giddings			
P.1: TG 9/15 5 Feb 1878	Mary F. ~~Blake~~ Giddings (~~formerly~~ Giddings) and Alice J. Giddings	Sarah McGill West & Susan West	9a.	$2,500	
P.1: CM 9/496 19 Dec. 1872	Sarah McGill West & Susan West	Patrick McGill West & Eleanoa A. West & Samuel Claggett & wife Elizabeth Tobias B. & Ellen W. Johnson Erasmus West & Maria L. West		$266.66	

F-2-72

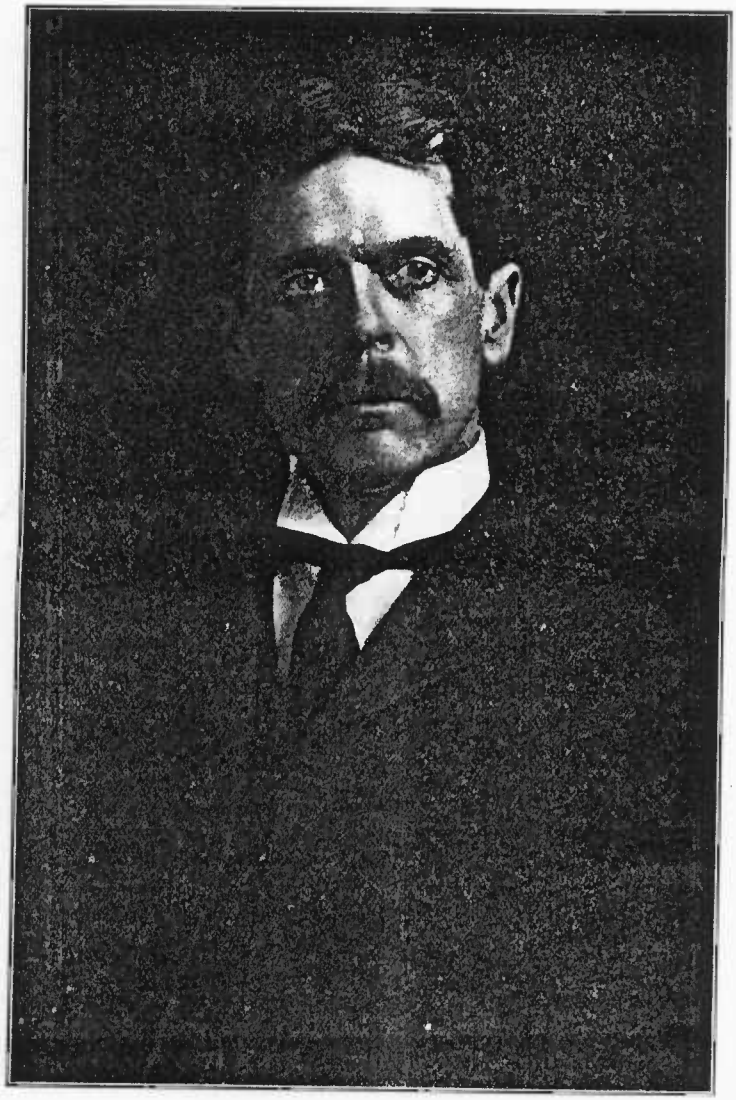


F-2-72
Levin West House
Frederick County

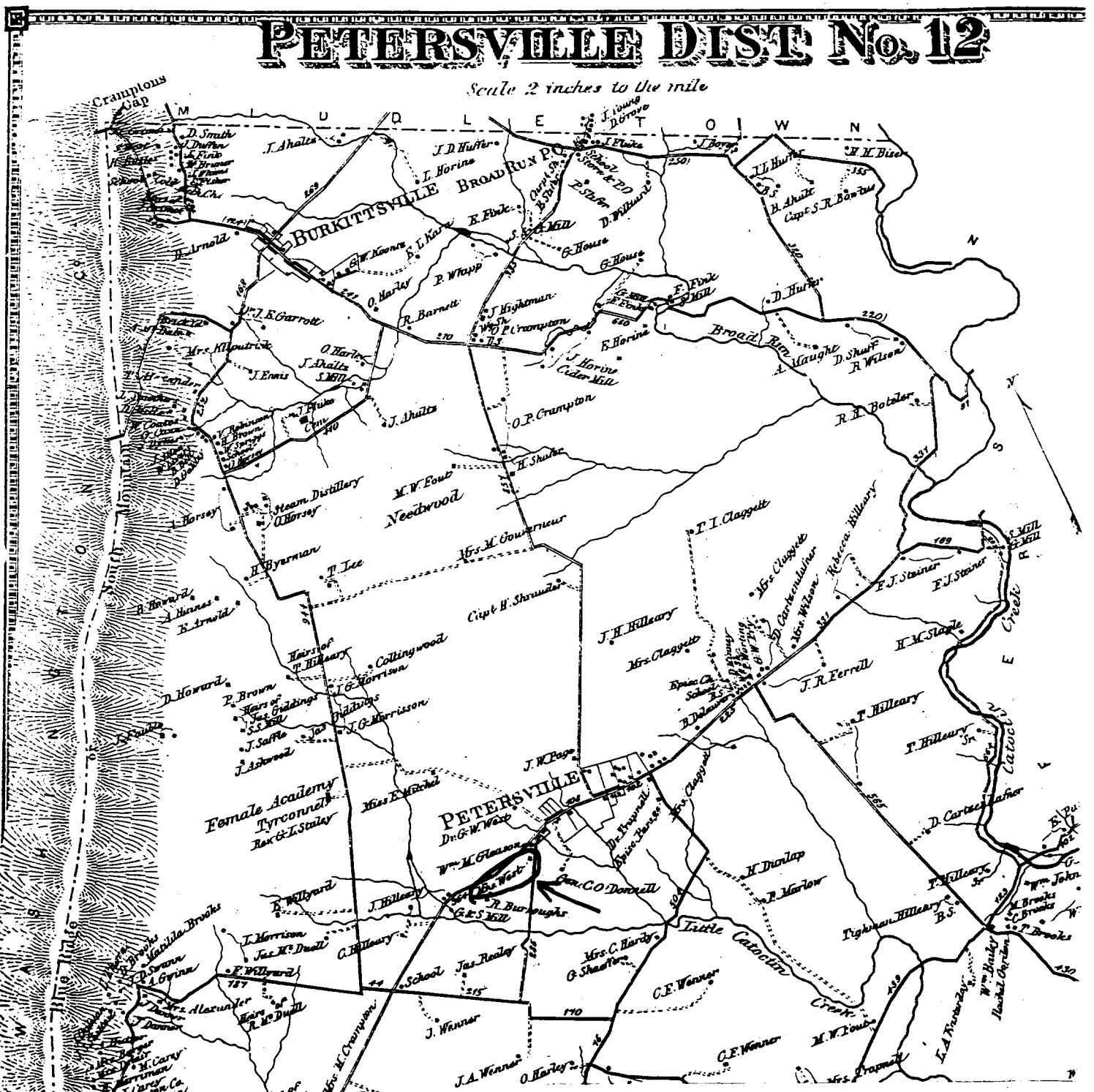
Janet Davis
October 28, 1991
Not to Scale

From Williams & McKinsey, History of Frederick County, 1910
Dr. Levin West (born 1864)

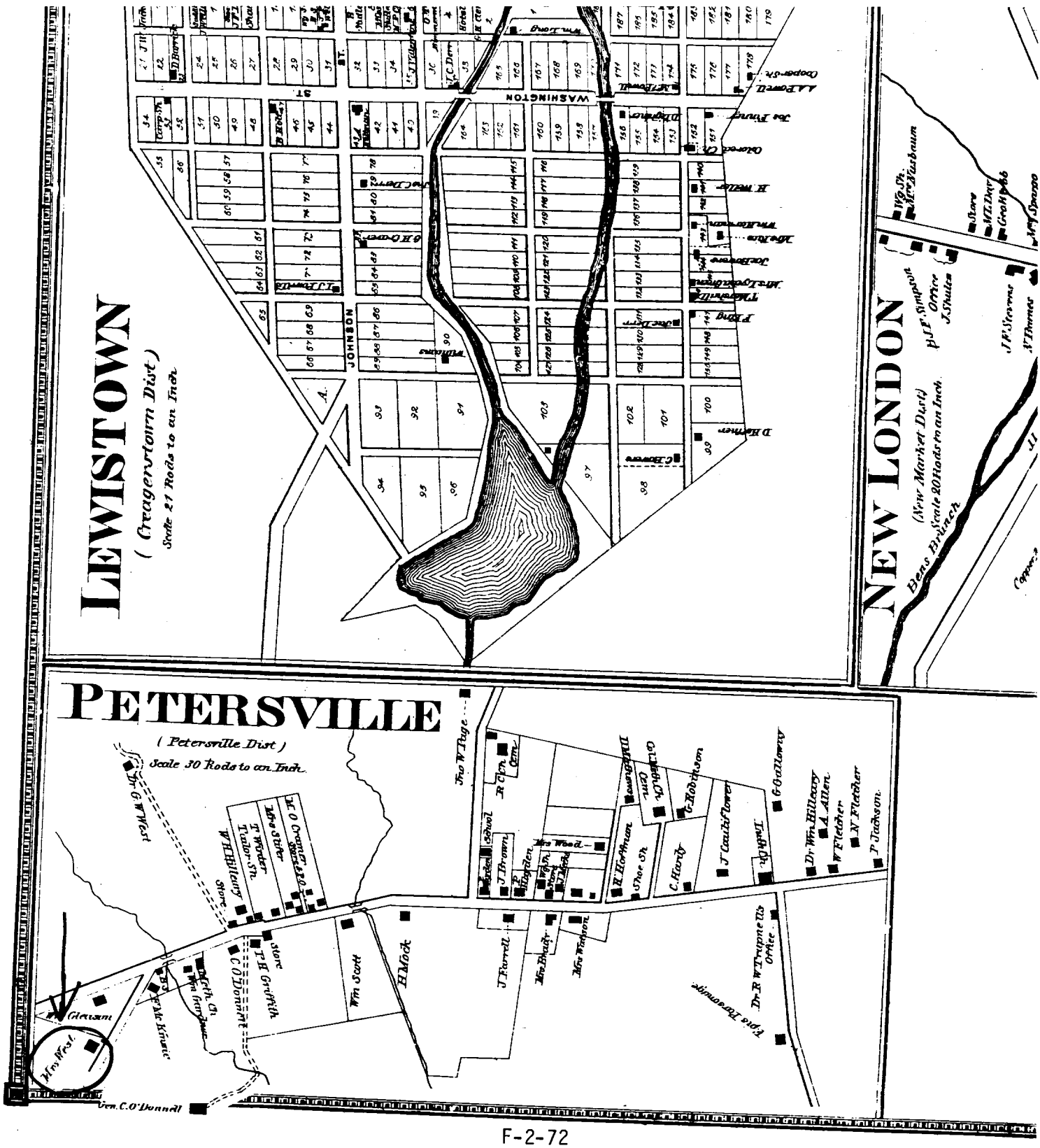
F-2-72



Levin West



F-2-72
Levin West House
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.



F-2-72
Levin West House
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.
Detail of Petersville Map

F-2-72
Levin West House
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County, 1858.

SURFACE, SOIL, &c.

Districts Nos. 10 and 6, and the northwest parts of 2, 4, 5 mountainous, producing little but timber, except in the rich tiful Harbaugh and Eyler Valleys, about Wolfsville and Wol and in a few other spots.

Nos. 16, 3, 12 and 14, form the hilly but productive and

mountainous, producing little but timber, except in the rich and beautiful Harbaugh and Eyler Valleys, about Wolfsville and Wolf's-tavern, and in a few other spots.

Nos. 16, 3, 12 and 14, form the hilly but productive and picturesque Middletown Valley. All the foregoing predominate in Epidote, Mica Slate, or Sandstone, interspersed with Iron, Copper, &c.

East of the Cotoctin Mountain come the "Red Lands,"—a narrow strip through Nos. 1 and 2, containing much Calico Marble; but extending over all the eastern parts of Nos. 4, 5 and 15, the northwest parts of 11, 17 and Carroll County, and formed from Red Clay Slates or Shales; rolling or hilly, and variable in productiveness, with Limestone near Mechanicstown, and rich Iron ore three miles south..

The eastern portions of 1 and 2, with the northwest of 13 and southwest of 11, form a rich and level or beautifully rolling Limestone valley.

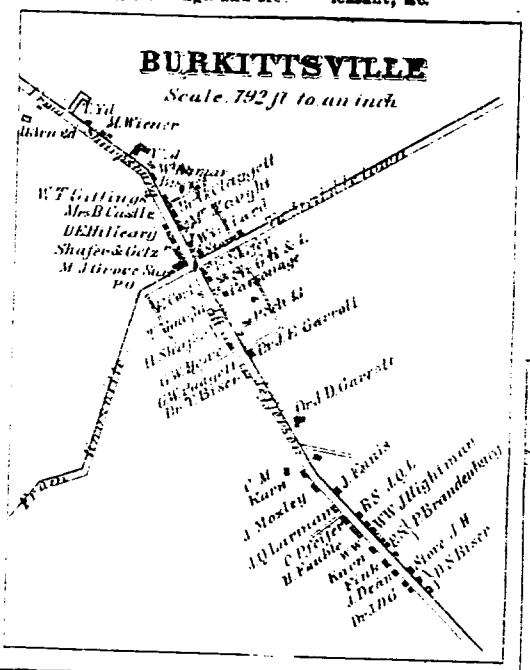
The remainder of the County is hilly or very hilly, composed of various kinds of Slate, interspersed with Limestone, Iron, Sandstone, &c., with Copper near Liberty. It is of every grade of fertility, from the unsurpassed valleys of Linganore, Beaver Dam, Pipe Creek and Sam's Creek, to the sterile hills east of Israel's Creek and [illegible] the rugged Sugar Loaf Mountain, and [illegible] of Parr's.

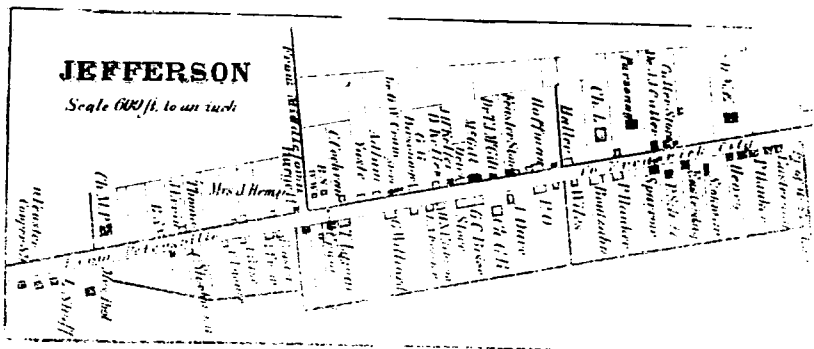
An almost unbroken ridge [illegible] passes east of Emmitsburg, west of Woodsborough and [illegible] Pleasant, &c.

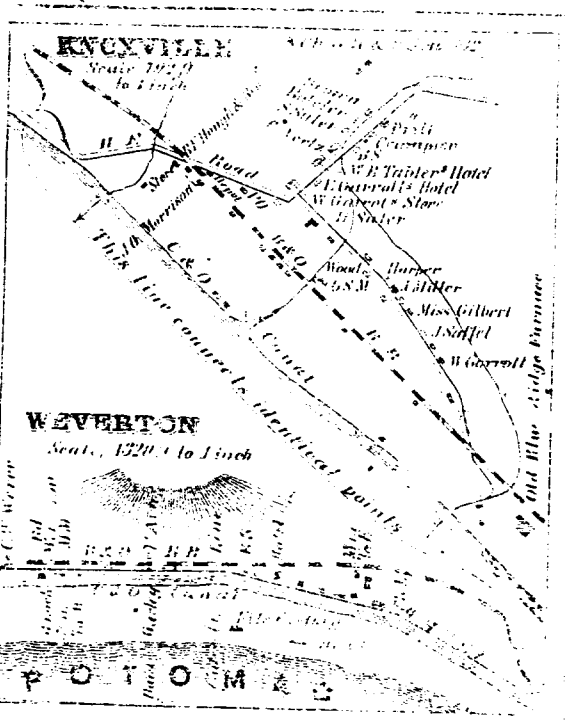
FOR CHILDREN'S FIRST LESSONS ABOUT HOME.—Spread the map upon a table or clean floor, with the right hand side toward the sunrise, and the left hand side toward the sunset, to make it correspond with the country. The bottom and top may be rolled up to within 6 inches or a foot of *home*, to admit of getting near that part

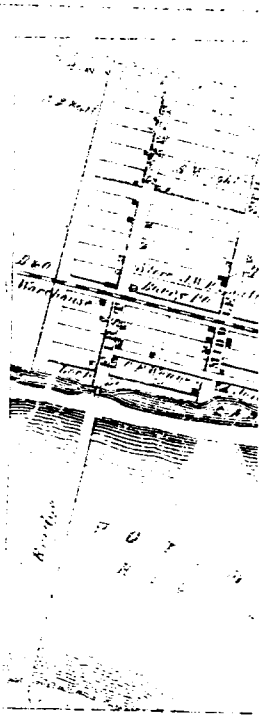
Then the learners should look over the map in a line with *home and every place* they notice, and thus learn to point out its *direction from home, &c.*

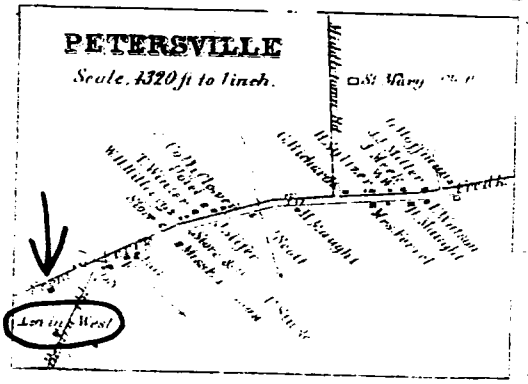
They should not be worried with long lessons, but should dwell upon a few things at a time, till they are well fixed in the mind; remembering that 5 new facts or clear ideas every day, will amount to more than 1500 in a year, or 15000 in 10 years, while scarcely 5000 important ones are found in the school geography of the whole world.











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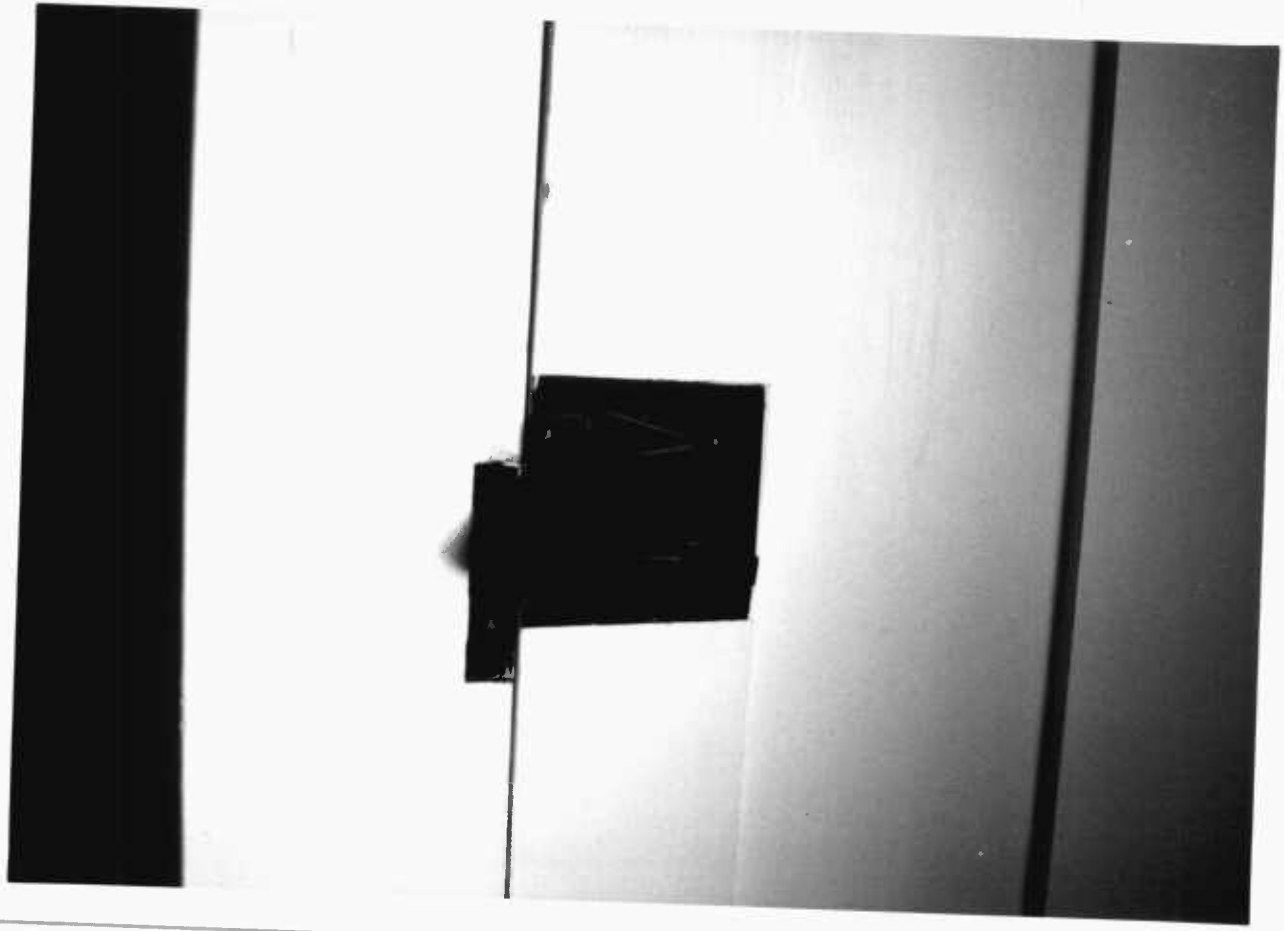
F-2-72
Levin West House
Frederick County
USGS Point of Rocks, Md. - Va.
1:24000