NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Emmitsburg
other names/site number: EMMITSBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT F-6-102

2. Location

street & number: Main Street and Seton Avenue — N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town: Emmitsburg — N/A ☐ vicinity
state: Maryland code MD county: Frederick code 021 zip code 21727

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ private	☐ building(s)	216	14 buildings
☐ public-local	☒ district	1	2 sites
☐ public-State	☐ site		structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure		objects
	☐ object	217	16 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER — Date 1/22/92

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Colonial
Federal
Greek Revival
Gothic Revival
Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation LIMESTONE
walls BRICK, WOOD
roof METAL, ASPHALT
other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Emmitsburg Historic District in northwestern Frederick County includes most of the older area of the town extending along Main Street and Seton Avenue. The character of the district is predominately residential with several commercial buildings and churches interspersed among the dwellings. The majority of buildings are two story sided log or brick dating from the late 18th to the mid 19th centuries. A two-block area of Main Street from the square east to Federal Street was substantially destroyed by fire on June 16, 1863, resulting in some later 19th century buildings in this area, most notably the large Italianate-influenced buildings forming the northeast and southeast corners of the square. In general, buildings are placed against the sidewalk without set-backs with side-gabled roofs. Buildings are influenced by early Maryland Vernacular traditions, as well as the Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate and American Foursquare styles. Other elements which contribute to the historic character include brick walks, cast iron trim, fences and hitching posts, period outbuildings and back lot wood fences. The buildings are in good condition. The basic street plan is a grid.

[X] See continuation sheet No. 1
For GENERAL DESCRIPTION

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture
Commerce

Period of Significance
1785-1941

Significant Dates
1785-1941

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Emmitsburg Historic District is significant because it reflects the growth and development of this northern Frederick County market center and because of the collection of buildings which line its streets reflecting small town interpretations of most of the major styles which characterized American architecture in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and pre World War II period of the twentieth century. Most of the town remains architecturally intact with some buildings remaining from the initial development of the town in 1785. Settlement occurred in the vicinity from the 1730s on with three cultural forces involved: Protestant Germans and Scots-Irish from Pennsylvania who were responsible for the settlement of most of the Piedmont and western part of Maryland, and English Catholics from Tidewater Maryland who established a settlement near Emmitsburg. Their community eventually became one of the largest Catholic educational complexes in America, and although not located in the Emmitsburg Historic District, the presence of this large institution has helped to form and guide Emmitsburg's history. The Emmitsburg Historic District is also significant for the fine collection of 18th and 19th century architecture it exhibits which extends almost uninterrupted through the town. A substantial number of 18th century buildings survive from initial development of the town and are particularly important because of their age. Several of those have been preserved with relatively few alterations, others retain 18th century form and features despite later surface treatments and additions. Also significant are several excellent examples of mid 19th century architecture influenced particularly by the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. These buildings reflect the town's continued growth and prosperity in the mid 19th century and its rebuilding efforts after the fire of 1863.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 4
For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

[X] See continuation sheet No. 11

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- [X] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: Approximately 54 acres
USGS Quad: Emmitsburg, MD

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	299820	4397730
B	18	301120	4397430
C	18	300960	4396930
D	18	299710	4397330

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[X] See continuation sheet No. 12

Boundary Justification

[X] See continuation sheet No. 12

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Paula S. Reed, Ph.D., Architectural Historian
organization: Preservation Associates, Inc. date: July 30, 1991
street & number: 117 S. Potomac Street telephone: (301)791-7880
city or town: Hagerstown state: Maryland zip code: 21740

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Emmitsburg is essentially a main street town, extending in linear fashion along the old Baltimore-Hagerstown Pike, approximately one half mile on either side of the Frederick-Gettysburg Pike or Seton Avenue, now Old U.S. Route 15. These two roads cross to form the public square of Emmitsburg. Most of the early development of the town was along Main Street, rather than along Seton Avenue. In the 1873 Atlas of Frederick County, Emmitsburg's South Seton Avenue was mostly industrial with a tannery, foundry, warehouse and blacksmith shop dominating this approach to the square. Prominent on North Seton Avenue was St. Joseph's Catholic Church, an imposing Greek Revival building situated on high ground overlooking the town. In addition, North Seton Avenue had a hotel and several smaller residences and at the extreme north edge of town, the jail.

Fully developed by the mid 19th century, Main Street remains a cohesive collection of 18th and 19th century structures most of which have received few character-altering changes. The district becomes more fragmented on South Seton Avenue where late 20th century infill has occurred, and, as well in the 400 and 500 blocks of East Main Street.

Several types of buildings are particularly characteristic of Emmitsburg. These include two story, three bay brick or sided log structures with central entrances. Door treatments may be plain with simple transoms or more elaborate with Greek Revival period transoms and sidelights. A member of these are concentrated in the 200-300 blocks of East Main Street. Another variation prominent in Emmitsburg are two story brick houses with end bay entrances. Several of these have elaborate door and window treatments such as Greek Revival sidelights and transoms and heavily molded window heads. The house located at 404 West Main Street follows this window and door arrangement and also has elaborate cast iron window heads as well as an Italianate porch and brackets. This particular building is said to date from 1860.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

A third prominent type in Emmitsburg is a group of log or brick buildings with five bays and central entrances. Among the largest houses in town, they also appear to have been the most refined. Dating from the late 18th through the mid 19th century, their design origins are rooted in the Georgian style with updated detailing consistent with subsequent styles. Several early houses follow this arrangement, notably the brick house at 225-227 West Main Street. Although its windows have been replaced, it retains its original molded brick water table and original brick surface. Another early five bay house is located at 101-103 West Main Street. Built of log or timber frame, it has some remaining early beaded siding. Said to have been constructed 1785-1798 the house is also particularly significant for its intact group of outbuildings and early paling fence on its rear lot. Another early frame or log structure with the five bay central entrance plan is that located at 314 East Main Street. It appears to retain original window sash and frames. Later variants of this plan include houses such as the one located at 115 East Main Street with distinct Greek Revival influence in its trabeated entrance and molded window heads.

Later houses at the extreme east end of the district include examples of the American Foursquare style. These houses, typical of the early 20th century have spacious yards with front lawns, and large porches. The houses are generally frame and two stories in height.

In addition to the prominent types in Emmitsburg, described above, are several unusual examples. Among these is the Queen Anne style VFW building dated 1881, at the northwest corner of the square. It is a three story brick building embellished with extensive corbelling and a polygonal corner tower. Also significant is the temple-form Greek Revival style building located at 304 West Main Street. Corbelled brick pilasters and frieze work suggest Greek columns and beams while decorative corner blocks trim the windows. Like many examples of this style from the mid 19th century, elements from other styles are included as well, such as the pointed Gothic window in the gable and the Italianate paired brackets.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

The district has few intrusive elements. There are a few scattered new buildings, mostly at the east and south ends of town, and an occasional parking lot. The main street area is remarkably intact, although some buildings have been altered by recent surface treatments. Main Street and its curbs and sidewalks were rebuilt in recent years.

Section 3, Classification

1 previously listed resource:

St. Euphemia's School and Sisters' House
De Paul Street
listed 13 September 1984

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period A.D. 1930-present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Type:

Category: District

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
RELIGION/religious structure

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

HISTORIC SETTING:

Emmitsburg is located in northwestern Frederick County about a mile south of the Pennsylvania line. The Catoctin Mountains rise to the west and to the east is the agriculturally productive Monocacy Valley. Located in the Piedmont section of the state, Frederick County extends from Pennsylvania on the north to the Potomac River and Virginia on the south.

Initial Anglo-European migration into the Frederick County area occurred about 1730 with the establishment of the Monocacy settlement. Most of the earliest immigrants were Germans and Scots-Irish who came from Southeastern and South Central Pennsylvania. Frederick County retains much of the cultural heritage from the 18th century German migration in the form of place names, architectural expression, churches and still prominent surnames.

The English planter culture from Tidewater Maryland also had an impact on the development of Frederick County. The English, however, were more likely to be large land holders and many did not reside on their property. There interest lay more in the area of speculation than in establishing farms and villages. Therefore, it was largely the Germans who developed 100-300 acre farms that produced primarily small grain crops. The grain production in the county resulted in a large 18th century grist and flour milling industry powered by the fast moving streams.

In many ways, the settlement of Emmitsburg fits this general pattern. In some respects, however, it does not. The first settler of the Emmitsburg area was William Elder an English Catholic who came here from St. Mary's County in 1734. His land, "Pleasant Level," was just south of Emmitsburg against a mountain knob which he named Saint Mary's Mount. He built a chapel there and his home became a gathering place for Catholics living on the frontier. After Elder, the Emmitsburg area saw the arrival of the more usual mix of Protestant Scots-Irish and German settlers with families by the name of Emmit, Baugher, Shields, Grover, Troxell, Hayes, Welty and Weaver. Meanwhile, the Catholic community at Emmitsburg developed into a nationally known center for education

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

with the establishment of Mt. St. Mary's College and Seminary for men and St. Joseph's College for women in 1808.

RESOURCE HISTORY:

Samuel Emmit, founder of Emmitsburg, took out a patent for 2,250 acres in 1757. This was part of a larger land holding belonging to Charles Carroll, called Carrollsburgh. Emmit began selling off small parcels of the land, forming a community of settlers. The hamlet was known variously as "Poplar Fields" and "Silver Fancy," and was not designated "Emmitsburg" until 1785. Samuel Emmit formally laid out the town in 1785, and then sold to William Emmit 35 acres, his "part of Carrollsburgh where in lots of the New Town called Emmitsburg are laid out" (Frederick County Land Records Liber WR6, Folio 585). According to T.J.C. Williams' History of Frederick County, Maryland, there were seven families in Emmitsburg in 1786. They were headed by the following men: Richard Jennings, merchant; Adam Hoffman, hatter; John Rogers, tavern keeper; Michael Smith, blacksmith; Frederick Baird, carpenter; and James and Joseph Hughes, merchants and architects."[1]

In 1787, William Shields purchased from Samuel Emmit 106 acres adjoining the recently formed town. This tract became, in part, Shields' Addition to Emmitsburg and includes much of the west end of town. Construction of buildings seems to have begun in the 1780s about the time that the town was laid out. Building continued through the 18th and 19th centuries.

Father Bruté of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in 1823 wrote a description of Emmitsburg as it appeared in 1786: "'Emmitsburg was a wood in 1786 when the Hughes came. ...the land was belonging originally to Mr. Caroll of Annapolis, and called Carrollsburgh.... The meeting for giving a name to the town was held at Ockenswith's [Hockensmith's] Farm. Some were for Carrolton, some for Emmitsburg which prevailed.

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[1]T.J.C. Williams, History of Frederick County, Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979. (Originally published, Frederick, Md., 1910) p. 324.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

[In 1823] ...Half the town is Catholic, the rest is chiefly Presbyterian and Lutheran. ...The town numbers about 700 inhabitants. There are four principal taverns and perhaps seven or eight tipling shops, under the sign liquors and fruits; besides these, the principal dry goods and grocery stores, of which there are six, quite considerable, sell drams and whisky to anyone coming.... There are four doctors...

There are many poor families and widows in Emmitsburg. This may in general be attributed to the misfortune of the times for it seems to be a general thing.'"[2] In this last statement, Father Bruté is apparently referring to the nationwide economic depression which occurred from 1819-21.

The town had by the mid 19th century developed rather densely along Main Street, from the fork in the road at the west and to the 400 block of East Main Street. South Seton Avenue was an industrial area with Lewis Motter's tannery, a foundry and a blacksmith shop. North Seton Avenue was sparsely developed north of St. Joseph's church with a few residences and a hotel. In the fork of the road at the west end of town stood a hotel known variously as Blacks Tavern, the National Hotel or Emmit Hotel. North of the Hagerstown Road and west of the Emmit House in the 700 block of West Main Street was another tannery, operated in the 19th century by Jacob Motter.

In addition to tanneries and hotels and taverns, Emmitsburg had a foundry that produced much of the decorative ironwork seen in Emmitsburg. In the early 19th century, John Armstrong was a gunsmith, specializing in long rifles. His guns were of high quality and he is considered by some collectors to be among America's finest gunsmiths.[3]

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[2]James A. Helman, History of Emmitsburg, Maryland. (Frederick, MD: Citizen Press, 1906) p. 20. (reprinted 1976).

[3]Albert Manly Sullivan, "John Armstrong of Emmitsburg," in Emmitsburg History and Society. Emile A. Nakhleh and Mary B. Nakhleh, eds. (Emmitsburg, MD: Emmitsburg Chronicle, 1976) p. 142.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

Although untouched by combat in the Civil War, Emmitsburg was close to action that occurred in Gettysburg and troops passed through town several times in 1862 and '63. Emmitsburg like much of Frederick County was in the 1850s and '60s Democratic, favoring the South. In the presidential election of 1860, Emmitsburg's votes went mostly to John C. Breckenridge, the Southern Democratic candidate, who received 323 votes to Republican Abraham Lincoln's seven votes. The Northern Democrats' Stephen A. Douglas received 18 votes. This voting pattern was reflected in Frederick County and the State of Maryland as well.[4]

A tragic event that impacted upon the town was a fire which broke out in a stable near the northwest corner of the square on June 16, 1863. The fire destroyed or damaged buildings on both sides of Main Street from the square to the 300 block of East Main street. Consequently, many of the buildings in the fire area date from the third quarter of the 19th century or later. It is important to note, however, that the fire did not completely destroy all of the buildings in its path since these blocks of East Main Street do contain pre-1863 buildings. The town was still cleaning up from the fire when soldiers enroute to and from the Battle of Gettysburg, which occurred on July 1, 2 and 3 of 1863, passed through Emmitsburg.

Changes to the appearance of the town since the early 20th century have been few. The fountain in the center of the square has been removed as have large shade trees along the Main Street, but some areas retain old brick sidewalks with stone curbing and very little recent construction has intruded into the historic area.

RESOURCE ANALYSIS:

The Emmitsburg Historic District is significant as portraying the early growth and development of Frederick County and Western Maryland and for its fine collection of late 18th and 19th century residential, commercial and religious buildings.

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[4]Wade Chrismer, "The Emmitsburg Area in the Civil War," History and Society, p. 42.

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

In its early development, Emmitsburg reflects the social and cultural patterns that characterized much of the settlement of the Piedmont and Great Valley south of Pennsylvania. The greatest effective settlement came from Pennsylvania with Germans and Scots-Irish taking up land and establishing farms and industries. The most typical industries were grist and flour milling, tanning, iron production and distilling, all of which were represented in and around Emmitsburg. The town experienced general prosperity throughout the 19th century. The bank, established on the southwest corner of the square in 1881, was the first bank in the county outside of Frederick.

However, Emmitsburg's history is made unique by the fact that in addition to the settlement patterns characteristic of the region, it was also the site of one of the earliest Catholic communities in America. From the time that William Elder established a Catholic Chapel in the 1730s, the settlement has attracted Catholics. Consequently throughout the 18th and 19th century Emmitsburg has had a large population of Catholics in contrast to its region that was settled almost entirely by Protestant Germans and Scots-Irish Presbyterians. The only individually listed National Register property in the Emmitsburg Historic District is the St. Euphemias Catholic School Building on De Paul Street.

The Emmitsburg Historic District is also significant for the fine collection of 18th and 19th century architecture it exhibits which extends almost uninterrupted through the town. A substantial number of 18th century buildings survive from initial development of the town and are particularly important because of their age. Several of those have been preserved with relatively few alterations, others retain 18th century form and features despite later surface treatments and additions. Also significant are several excellent examples of mid 19th century architecture influenced particularly by the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. These buildings reflect the town's continued growth and prosperity in the mid 19th century and its rebuilding efforts after the fire of 1863.

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

Emmitsburg's built environment remains largely intact. Most of its early buildings are present, but as well, there is a superb collection of lot line fences and outbuildings seen from the alleyways that are as much a part of the history of this community as its larger and more conspicuous elements.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Frederick County Land Records.

Helman, James A. History of Emmitsburg, Maryland. Frederick, MD: Citizen Press, 1906.

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

Nakhleh, Emile A. and Mary B. eds. Emmitsburg History and Society. Emmitsburg, MD: Emmitsburg Chronicle, 1976.

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland, Vol. I. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968 (originally published, 1882).

William, T.J.C. History of Frederick County, Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979 (originally published, 1910).

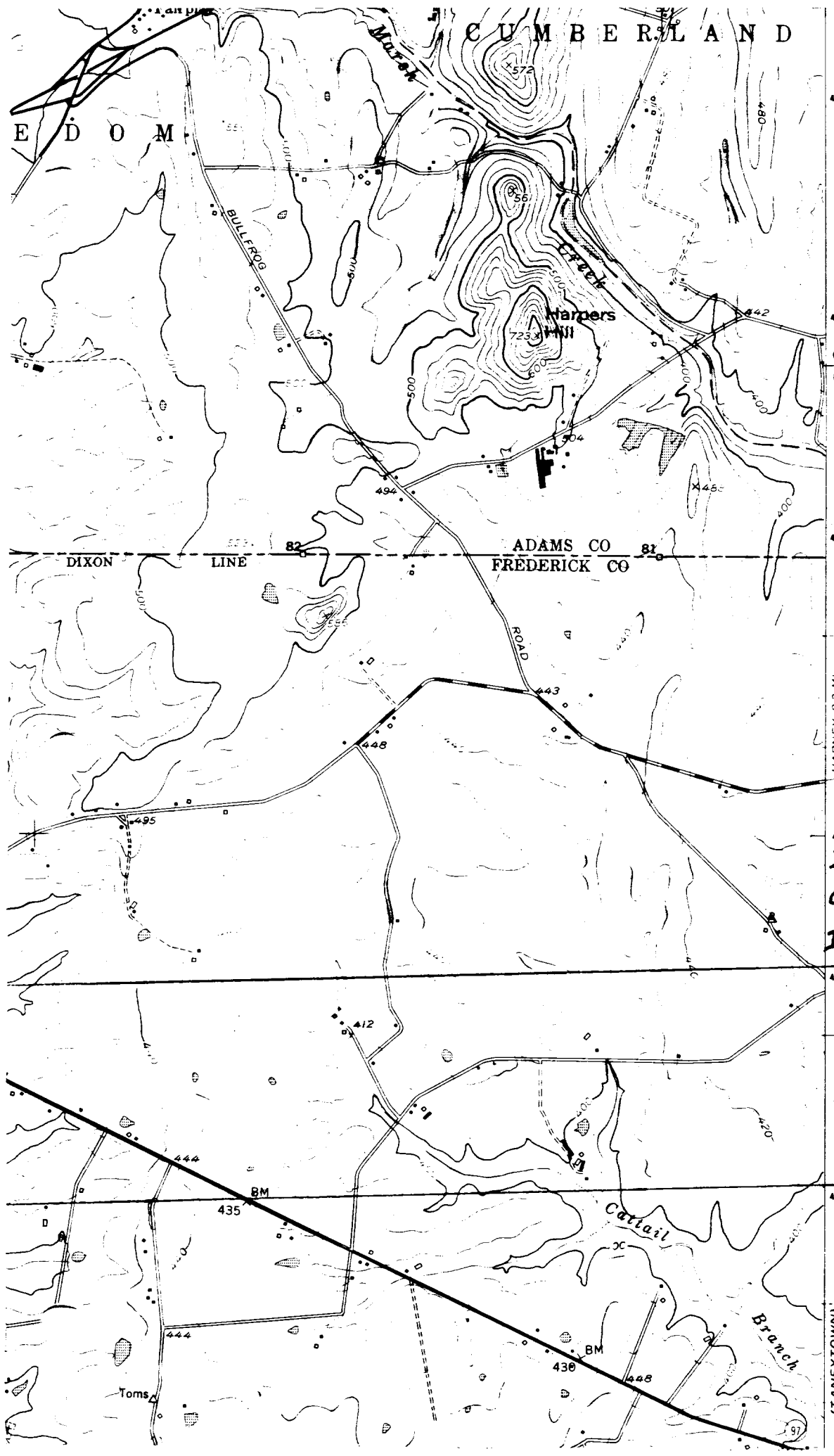
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: Frederick County. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries of the Emmitsburg Historic District are shown on the resource sketch map. The boundaries consist of the indicated parcel and curb lines.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries have been drawn to include the historic area of town and to exclude concentrations of newer development that occurred at the north, east and south edges of town.



Emmitsburg
Historic District

F-6-102

Frederick Co
Maryland

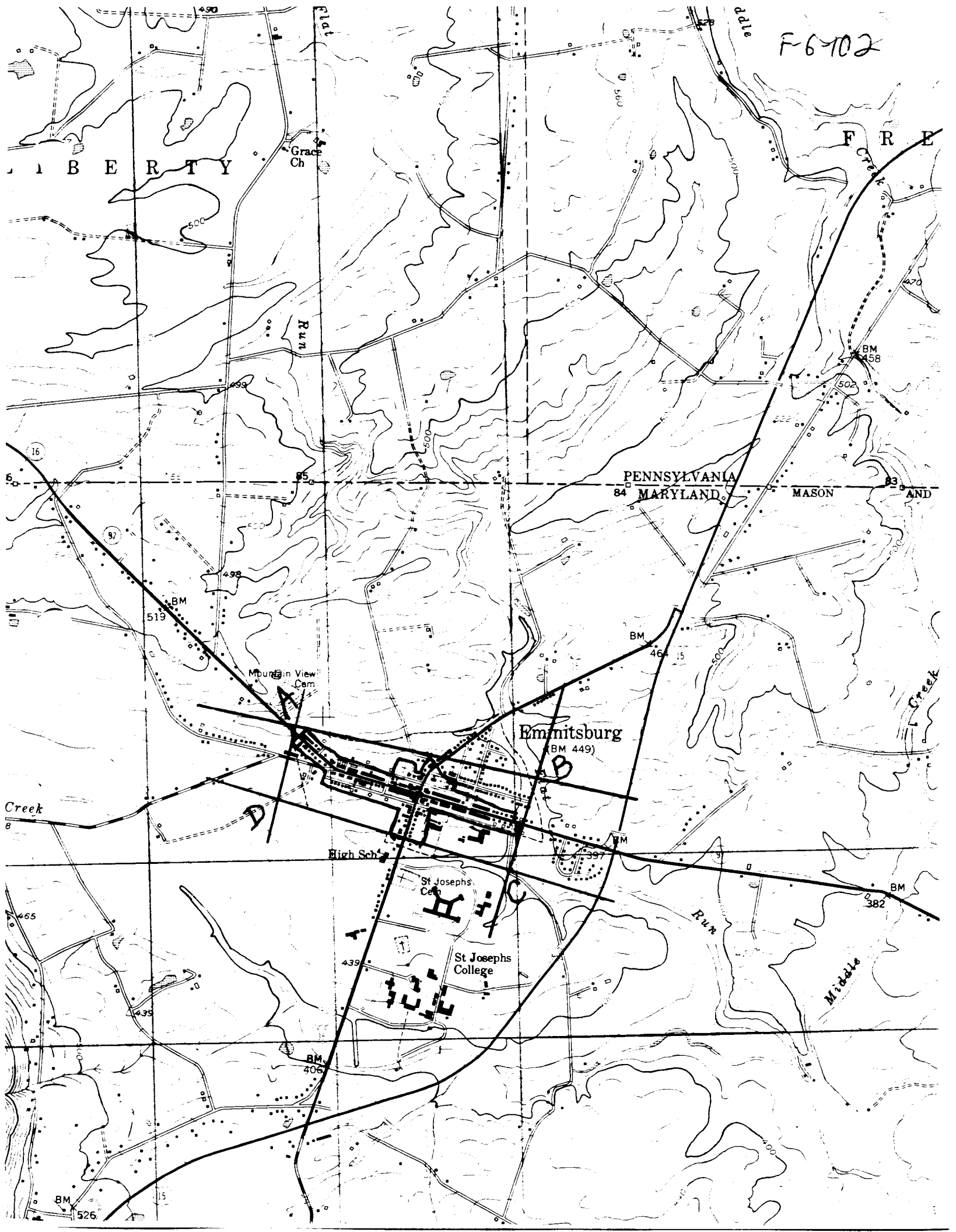
A 18/299820/4397730

B 18/301120/4397430

C 18/300960/4396930

D 18/299710/4397330

Emmitsburg quad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LIBERTY
Grace Ch
Flat
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Creek
FRE
PENNSYLVANIA
MARYLAND
MASON
AND
BM 458
BM 519
BM 464
Mountain View Cem
Emmitsburg
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A
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St Josephs Cem
St Josephs College
BM 397
BM 382
BM 406
BM 526
Middle
Creek
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15

STOP

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DELI &
SUB SHOP

F-6-102

[illegible]

[illegible]

Photo by Paul S. Reed, Preservation Assoc. Inc.

6/91

Neg. Loc., Preservation Assoc. Inc. [illegible]

Sort [illegible] Main St. From Federal St., [illegible]

6/[illegible]

Emmitsburg Historic District
Frederick Co. MD
Photo by Paula S. [illegible], Preservation Assoc. Inc.
6/91
Neg Loc.: Preservation Assoc. Inc., Hagerstown, MD
North Seton Ave., from De Paul St. NW [illegible]
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F-6-102

VFW
POST
6010

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F-6-102

YES!

F-6-102

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