NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

WA-II-1112

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Keedysville Historic District (Survey District)

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Main Street, 89 S. Main Street - 84 N. Main Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Keedysville ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Washington code ____ zip code 21756

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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

Keedysville Historic District — Name of Property
N/A — site/inventory number
Washington County, Maryland — County and State

WA-II-112

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
- ☒ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
119	2	buildings
3		sites
2		structures
		objects
124	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Commerce/Trade/special stores
Transportation/road related
Commerce/Trade/restaurant
Social/meeting hall
Religion/religious structure
Industry/Processing/Extraction/
manufacturing facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
Commerce/Trade/special stores
Religion/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival
Late Victorian/High Victorian Gothic
Late Victorian/Italianate
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/
Colonial and Classical Revivals
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American
Movements/American Foursquare & Bungalow
Other/vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone/limestone
walls wood/weatherboard
brick
roof metal
other stone/limestone

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Keedysville Historic District — Name of Property
N/A — site/inventory number
Washington County, Maryland — County and State

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- [x] **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- [ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] **B** removed from its original location.
- [ ] **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- [ ] **D** a cemetery.
- [ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] **F** a commemorative property.
- [ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Transportation
Military

Period of Significance

Ca. 1760-1940

Significant Dates

September 17, 1862
August 5, 1864

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Keedysville Historic District — Name of Property

N/A — site/inventory number

Washington County, Maryland — County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

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:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 30 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1			
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian

organization Preservation Associates, Inc. date December 28, 1993

street & number 19942 Lehmans Mill Road telephone 301-791-7880

or town Hagerstown state Maryland zip code 21742

Keedysville Historic District	N/A	Washington County, Maryland
Name of Property	site/inventory number	County and State

A tional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name multiple owners

s et & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et se

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Although Keedysville was incorporated in 1872, it was developed after 1833 by John J. and Samuel Keedy. Buildings dating from the 1830s through the early 1900s line Main Street, the Boonsboro-Sharpsburg Turnpike. The historic area contains about 125 buildings with contributing support structures such as garages, stables and workshops. The village follows the topography, descending hills at the north and south ends to Little Antietam Creek near the town center. South of the creek is a farm house and mill site, established in 1768. The mill farm, purchased by John J. Keedy in 1833 was subdivided into lots along the highway.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The town limits encompass a rectangular area which is bisected longitudinally by Main Street. Crossing Main Street near the center of town are the Little Antietam Creek and the old bed of the Washington County Branch of the B&O Railroad.

Most of Keedysville's buildings are residential and date from the 19th century, principally 1830-1900. The majority of buildings are of brick or balloon frame construction and there are, as well, several log and stone structures. Most of the older buildings are aligned along Main Street which stretches from southwest to northeast along the old turnpike road from Sharpsburg to Boonsboro. Main Street descends a hill from the south to the Little Antietam Creek, then ascends another as it heads northeast toward Boonsboro. Along North Main Street, the ground slopes upward to the west causing those buildings located on the west side of North Main Street to be constructed into the hillside, with exposed basements and high porches. On the summit of this hill is found the town cemetery.

The Keedysville village is concentrated along Main Street, but, the larger town limits encompass four farmsteads. Also, the very oldest building in town, the Hess House, was the residence for the 18th century farm and mill complex which eventually was subdivided into town lots by the Keedy family. A 1950s post office building occupies the site of the mill. The Hess House, located north of the mill site and facing south, toward the mill is not oriented at all to Keedysville's Main Street, indicating that it predates the establishment of the Sharpsburg-Boonsboro Turnpike. Instead, it faces Coffman Farms Road, the much older route. There is a log house at 11 South Main Street and another on Coffman Farms Road at the entrance to

the cemetery that are said to have been associated with the mill complex, but probably date from Keedy ownership of the mill after 1833, rather than from the Hess era.

By the Civil War, Keedysville seems to have been a village with about 20 houses mostly located between what is now Keedysville Road and the town square. The railroad, in operation by 1867 brought additional construction and encouraged the updating and renovation of older buildings. About the turn of the century, the north section of town was developed, and shops and businesses in the older sections were updated with newer storefronts.

Recent (within the last 50 years) activity in Keedysville has included the end of rail service, loss of the mill, application of manufactured siding and roofing materials to some buildings, and removal of many of the shops and small businesses lining Main Street which gives the town a more residential character. Areas of newer housing have developed along the eastern and western edges of the town and are generally not visible from the historic area. The older section of town, principally along Main Street does remain largely intact and constitutes an historic district. Historic sites include the principal building on each lot along with outbuildings. Most properties have garages, stables or domestic outbuildings over 50 years old which are contributing elements to Keedysville's historic character.

From the standpoint of stylistic influence, most of Keedysville's buildings are vernacular structures with style expressed in details such as trim and door and window treatment. The design of the buildings reflects the town's Germanic heritage and German influence is seen in 18th through late 19th century buildings. The Hess House at 17 South Main Street is one of approximately a dozen surviving 18th century houses in Washington County that display the central chimney continental plan. There were probably many more of these houses in existence at one time locally. By the early 19th century, most German-Americans in Washington County had abandoned this plan for some hybrid designs that incorporated Germanic traditions with more current design elements that were English-derived. From these adaptations evolved the four bay house with two central front doors, combining an effort to achieve symmetry, an English Georgian element, while retaining the interior spacial arrangement that was traditionally German. The Germans who developed this evolutionary type were quite conservative in their architectural expression.

Keedysville's architecture reflects this conservatism. Although

most of its buildings date from the second half of the 19th century, few represent the several High Victorian styles current at the time. Instead the buildings have an older, more traditional appearance, three, four or five bay fronts with side gables, and usually an L to the rear. The window, door, door, window facade arrangement is seen frequently, or its variant, the four bay with off-center front door. Only one brick house was observed to have Flemish bond on the facade (4 North Main Street). This brick work pattern was used in the 18th century and until about 1840-50 when common or American bond replaced it for facade wall construction. This house is one of two which are said to be the oldest brick buildings in Keedysville. The fact that this building is the only brick one in town displaying Flemish bond suggests that it may be older than the other brick structures.

Although they are architecturally conservative, Keedysville's buildings do show influence of current styles. Greek Revival (1830-70) characteristics such as wide frieze boards, low pitched roofs, windows and doors with wide wooden lintels and broad transoms are found on several buildings, but are particularly notable in the block north of the railroad on the west side of Main Street.

Italianate influence (1860-80) appears most notably in commercial structures with display windows beneath bracketed cornices. The large commercial building at 10-16 North Main Street is an Italianate building as is the Line House at 2 North Main Street. Some other buildings show Italianate influence in the use of heavily bracketed cornices.

Perhaps the most prevalent of the styles expressed is the High Victorian Gothic (1870-90). Influence of this style is expressed in the form of steeply pitched cross gables, such as those found at 10 and 12 South Main Street. The cross gables are frequently embellished with gingerbread trim or decorative cut shingles. A row of houses of this period was built at 52, 54, 56 and 58 South Main Street.

The early 20th century Colonial and Classical Revivals are for the most part represented by one story front porches supported by round Doric columns. The 1906 bank building, (19 South Main Street) is a modest example of the Classical Revival style. The more Modernistic movement of the early 20th century is evidenced in the several American Foursquare style houses of the 1910s and bungalows of the 1920s and '30s. These buildings may be catalogue houses purchased from Sears, Montgomery Ward or the many mail order house companies in business in the first half of the 20th century. At 44 North Main Street is a particularly intact example of an American Foursquare.

Bungalows may be found at 68 and 76 North Main Street and 84 and 87 South Main Street.

One of the most visually important aspects of Keedysville is the number of intact storefronts of the turn-of-the-century period. These are among the first generation of such features, since earlier commercial fronts were not particularly distinguishable from residential entrances. Most of these commercial facades remain in original or near original condition.

Non-contributing elements are at a minimum in the historic area. Along Main Street the historic character of the town is interrupted only occasionally by recent infill. This infill consists in most cases of houses or mobile homes. Properties are generally in good condition and well maintained.

WA-II-1112

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA
KEEDYSVILLE, MARYLAND

I. Georgraphic Organization: Western Maryland

II. Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification
Agricultural-Industrial Transition
Industrial/Urban Dominance
Modern Period

III. Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
Social/Educational/Cultural
Religion
Transportation
Education

IV. Resource Type

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: District

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Single Dwelling	Dentist Office
Specialty Store	Multiple Residential
Church	Office
School	Hotel
Meeting Hall	Station
Post Office	Railroad
Bank	Outdoor Recreation
Bridge	Monument
Wagon Shop	Mill
Wash House	Telephone Office
Agricultural Outbuilding	Barber Shop
Agricultural Field	Garage

Known Design Source: Unknown

Photo Reference: Photo #

Form Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian
Preservation Associates, Inc.
19942 Lehmans Mill Road
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Date: 11/93

Meets criteria A, C

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Keedysville is both historically and architecturally significant. It lies at the junction of two roads, crossing South Mountain and leading west as early as the 1730s. The town is laid out along the Boonsboro-Sharpsburg Turnpike, completed in the 1820s. An 18th century farm and merchant mill occupied the site prior to development of the town in the 1830s. The farm house still stands at the center of town. Keedysville's buildings reflect the overwhelmingly German heritage of its residents, and development patterns from the late 19th century. Buildings are vernacular interpretations of various later 19th century styles. Keedysville also has exceptional importance for its role in the Civil War battle of Antietam as a hospital site and for a Cavalry skirmish that occurred at Keedysville in August 1864.

Historic Context

Washington County contains 458.47 square miles and is shaped very much like the state of Maryland. The boundaries are the top of South Mountain on the east, the Potomac River on the south, Allegany County, Maryland, to the west and the Mason-Dixon Line or Pennsylvania border on the north. The county is 50 miles long from east to west and only one mile wide at its narrowest point where the Potomac River arches northward near Hancock. Much of the area included within the boundaries of Washington County is the Cumberland Valley. Its eastern edge is the western base of South Mountain and the valley floor continues westward for approximately 30 miles before it is ended by mountain ridges, the eastern edge of the Appalachians.

Washington County was formed as a political entity in 1776 when it was divided from Frederick County. Hagerstown, the largest town in the new county, located in the center of the valley, was established as the county seat. At the time it was created, Washington County included all of Maryland west of South Mountain. It did not receive its present western boundary until 1789 when Allegany County was formed.

In 1732, Charles Calvert, Fifth Lord Baltimore and proprietor of Maryland, issued a proclamation opening Maryland's frontier to settlement. Shortly thereafter, the first land grant was recorded for what is now Washington County. Most of the land surveys, grants, patents or warrants from the 1730s in Washington County were held by

speculators or developers from Eastern Maryland who laid claim to large tracts of land with hopes of eventual subdivision and profitable resale. Very few of the first land transactions were made by families who intended to work the land and establish permanent farms. As a result of this land speculation, and because many of the settlers who were here fled during the French and Indian War, the major thrust of settlement did not occur until the second half of the 18th century. When it did happen, development was not by people moving west from tidewater Maryland, but rather by settlers from Pennsylvania, most of whom were Germans. These farmers took up lots of 150-300 acres and produced a variety of grains, hay and cattle, unlike tidewater planters who had larger properties with more specialized production. The more flexible characteristics of general farming introduced from Pennsylvania led to an economy where a small proprietor mixed agricultural structure would eventually become dominant over the plantation system that was already established in the eastern part of the state.

The first settlement in Washington County was at the confluence of the Potomac River and the Conococheague Creek, where Israel Friend established a small community at the present site of Williamsport, about 1730. Jacob Rohrer, a German, had a grist mill in operation on the Antietam Creek by the late 1730s, which means that there must have been enough farms being worked at the time to keep his mill in business. Prior to this settlement, the area was visited occasionally by fur traders. Towns in Washington County were established as settlement progressed. Hagerstown and Sharpsburg are the oldest, both having been chartered in 1763, although settlements were in existence on both town sites earlier.

From the initial interests of fur trading and subsistence farming there developed more substantial farms. Grain farming was prominent, and as a result many grist and flour mills were established. The mills took advantage of the ample water power to convert grain into more easily marketable meal and flour. The fast-moving Antietam Creek, which drains the eastern half of the lower Cumberland Valley, was particularly suited to driving mill wheels. Milling was so prevalent that on the portion of the Antietam Creek which passes through Washington County, 15 grist mills operated by the last decade of the 18th century. Germans with such names as Rohrer, Hager, Funk, Newcomer, Orndorff, Stull, Hess and Nichodemus owned most of these 18th-century mills.

The prominence of milling was a significant feature of the local economy. It reflects the influence of Pennsylvania in that the lower

Cumberland Valley in Maryland developed a general agricultural economy with emphasis on wheat and other small grains, rather than the staple economy focusing on tobacco which developed in Eastern Maryland. The long-term dominance of wheat production in the valley is illustrated by records which show that in the 1790s, Frederick, Washington and Carroll Counties were the largest wheat growing area in the United States. By 1870, Washington County had the highest yield of wheat in bushels per acre in Maryland. The county's average yield per acre in that year was 25 3/4 bushels as compared with a statewide average of 14 1/2 bushels per acre.[1]

Another important industry in the 18th century which developed from the emphasis on growing grain was whiskey distilling, a method of transferring bulky grain into an easily marketable product. The early appearance of mills and distilleries indicates that the Cumberland Valley had developed its economic potential beyond subsistence agriculture and to a level of economic specialization with external trade systems by the mid- and late-18th century.

In addition to agriculture, manufacturing interests also developed early in the valley's history. Deposits of iron ore in the mountains of Washington County made iron production feasible there at an early date. The area had all the ingredients for a successful iron operation in the 18th century: vast supplies of wood for making charcoal, limestone for flux, and iron ore. The iron industry in Washington County waned by the early 19th century, however, due to depletion of the forests and advances in the iron production processes which made the 18th-century methods and equipment obsolete.

As the Civil War came to an end, Washington County began to experience a transformation in its social, economic and cultural character. The changes that took place over the next 50 years were not particular to the county but were part of a national trend of urbanization and industrialization.

Since the 1840s, a shift from small craftsman industries to factory mass production had begun to manifest itself in America. Factories would, of necessity, be located near a significant power source, water, and required a large number of workers who would complete one phase of the manufacturing process over and over again under the supervision of a single craftsman. This factory system

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[1] J. Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland. (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882) p. 553, 974.

gradually replaced the old craftsman-apprentice system under which each item manufactured was made in its entirety by the craftsman assisted by apprentices or trainees and more experienced journeymen. The new factory system was much more efficient in the respect that it divided the production operation into a collection of simple tasks which were assigned to relatively unskilled workers. Under the factory system, more goods could be produced in less time and machines could be introduced to complete many of the simplified tasks of production.

Once established, factories required a good labor source and adequate transportation to provide raw materials and to ship out the finished goods. Consequently, the second half of the 19th century in America is marked by an internal migration of people moving from farms to the larger towns and cities to work in the factories. This process was accelerated after the Civil War when a large portion of the labor force returned to work after military service. Also, agricultural depressions in the 1870s encouraged some rural inhabitants to seek a better way of life in the city. In Maryland, by 1914, more people were working in industry than in agriculture, and more were living in urban areas than in rural areas.[2]

Although agriculture remained strong in Washington County, the center of agriculture for the nation had moved west, so that Maryland was no longer a "bread basket" for the nation as it was in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The role of bread basket shifted to the midwest where large grain farms developed in the latter part of the 19th century. By the early 1900s many of Washington County's flour mills had ceased operation or had converted to production of animal feeds and custom work for local farmers. Many found conversion to more modern steam power and roller mills just too expensive.

West of Washington County in Allegany and Garrett Counties, coal mining developed rapidly in the 1840s to 1860s and expanded with the general industrial development of the late 19th century.[3] With the consumption of coal growing in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, transportation systems expanded to get this commodity to eastern markets. While the C&O Canal carried some coal, most coal was shipped by rail.

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[2]Bruchey, p. 396, city U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufactures: 1914, I, 553.

[3]Ibid.

The Mill, known as Hess's was on the Little Antietam and near a fork in a road established as early as the 1730s, with one branch leading to Williamsport and the other to Sharpsburg and then fording the Potomac and on to Shepherdstown in Virginia. Hess's mill was one of at least 15 such industries located along the Antietam or its tributaries in 1794.[5] Within close proximity to Keedysville were five mills, Hess's, Hitt's or Pry's, Nichodemus', Eakle's and Orndorff's. Typically for the area, these were all established by people of German descent. They or their parents had come from Switzerland or the Palatinate to Pennsylvania, and then migrated to the lower Cumberland Valley.

Since the roads approaching Keedysville are among the oldest crossing the county, there is an unusually large concentration of 18th century construction surviving in the vicinity of Keedysville. Particularly along Dog Street Road, near Eakles Mills and on Keedysville Road are such buildings. This group of surviving 18th century buildings is particularly significant when put in context of the population at the time. According to the 1790 census, Washington County's total population was 15,822, and there were only 2452 heads of families. Assuming that each head of house represented a single household, there were less than 2500 houses in existence in the county in 1790. Of course, many of those have since been destroyed or altered beyond recognition. Two of the 18th century properties near Keedysville, the Hitt Mill complex and the Schnebley (Snively) house at Eakles Mill are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

For much of its early history, Centreville was a small mill hamlet with a few houses clustered around Jacob Hess' mill. Jacob Hess was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His father, John "Hans" Hess had emigrated from Zurich Canton in Switzerland before 1729.[6] Jacob Hess came to Washington County sometime before 1767 when he first purchased land in Maryland. A mill wright, Hess was summoned to the area by Christian Orndorff II to oversee the construction of a stone, water-powered mill.[7] In 1768 Jacob Hess was

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[5]Dennis Griffith, Map of Washington County, Maryland, 1794, 1813.

[6]Margaret Burtner Moats, A History of Keedysville to 1890, (Boonsboro, MD: Mason Dixon Press, 1989) p. 21, citing Irvin David Hess et al, "John Hans Hess and His Descendants, 1865-1977," Yuma, AZ, 1977, preface.

[7]Ibid.

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[7]Ibid.

married to Margaret Orndorff, Christian's eldest daughter.[8] Not long thereafter, Jacob Hess purchased 150 acres, a land grant called "Gordon's Purchase" from one Alexander McCollom for £750.[9] Gordon's Purchase, originally patented in 1739 is located on the site of Keedysville. On this property Jacob Hess built his own mill. A stone structure which stood until the 1950s was apparently the second mill on the site and is said to have been built about 1835 which is consistent with its appearance. In the 1783 tax assessment, Jacob Hess is recorded as owning a mill. Other improvements were a swisser barn and a house as well as several secondary houses said to be of log construction.[10] The locality came to be known as Hess's Mill and remained so until Jacob Hess's death in 1815. The mill and property eventually were sold and the money divided among Jacob's heirs.

Also taking up land in the area of Hess's Mill were two cousins by the name of Güding who emigrated from the Palatinate of Germany to Philadelphia in 1752. They both, shortly thereafter acquired land in Washington County, and then moved to the Keedysville vicinity. The first, Johann Heinrich Gutting (anglicized to Henry Keedy) purchased land in the Keedysville area in 1767.[11] His son and grandson were the developers of Keedysville in the 19th century. The other cousin, George Adam Güding (also spelled Geeting) purchased land in the Keedysville area in 1777. George Adam Geeting was influential in the development of the United Brethren denomination from the German Reformed religion.[12]

Henry Keedy's grandson, John J. Keedy, purchased Jacob Hess's mill property from his heirs in February of 1833. Presumably he built the mill that remained into the 1950s. Other members of the Keedy family purchased adjoining land. The turnpike from Boonsboro to Sharpsburg had been completed recently and the Hess's Mill stood at the intersection of the new road with the old wagon road to Williamsport. John Keedy (1805-1868) and his younger brother Samuel then developed most of Keedysville.

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[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid, p. 22.

[11] Ibid, p. 28.

[12] Ibid, p. 29-30.

It was about the time that parcels were being sold off that the town's name became Centreville because if its location on the Boonsboro-Sharpsburg turnpike. The name was changed to Keedysville in 1848 when citizens pressed for a post office and it was found that there was already a Centreville in Eastern Maryland.

Samuel Keedy established one of the town's first stores at the corner of the turnpike and the 1730s road from Crampton and Fox's Gaps (now Dog Street and Eakles Mill Roads). The building is often referred to as the first brick house in Keedysville and is said to have been built in 1836. Another storekeeper was Fred Wyand who opened a store in 1855. In 1862 he completed a new larger building, almost a block long, located just north of the railroad. He claimed in his advertising that it was the largest retail general merchandise store outside of Hagerstown.

Other commercial enterprises in the 1830s-1860s period included a woolen mill, coverlet factory, a wagon maker, furniture making and undertaking, and tinning, stoves and tinware businesses. Meanwhile, the old Hess Mill continued to grind flour and meal, but as a signal of hard times for this industry, it changed hands 14 times between 1833 and 1885.[13]

By the 1860s, the town was well established with houses lining the turnpike on either side of the mill. While most Americans in the 1860s were caught up in the emotional turmoil of the Civil War, some places experienced the devastation of the war firsthand. Keedysville was one of these places. Although Keedysville was not in the line of fire like nearby Sharpsburg it was definitely affected by the Battles of South Mountain and Antietam. After the Battle of South Mountain, both armies passed through Keedysville before establishing positions among the hills east of Sharpsburg. General McClellan chose headquarters for the Union army at the farm of Philip Pry in Pry's 17-year old brick house located just southwest of Keedysville.

Keedysville's main role was as a hospital site. Several buildings were selected as potential sites by the Army of the Potomac's medical personnel prior to the battle. Among these sites was the Mt. Vernon Reformed Church, a school house and Fred Wyand's nearly completed large general merchandise store. Of course with the large number of actual casualties, many more places served as

[13] Susan Winter-Frye, "Mills on the Antietam River and its Tributaries," unpublished thesis, 1982.

hospitals as well, mostly for Union soldiers. The hospitals remained in operation for some months after the battle, taxing the town's food supplies and putting the town at risk for disease from polluted water and unsanitary conditions. Abraham Lincoln visited Keedysville in October of 1862 when he came to Antietam.

The Maryland Campaign of 1862 was not the only Civil War activity seen in Keedysville. Throughout the remainder of the war, occasionally the town was visited by either Confederate or Union troops. On August 5, 1864, there was a skirmish involving Cole's Cavalry, part of the Potomac Home Guard which left 18 dead from one company alone.

In August of 1864, Jubal Early's Confederate forces crossed the Potomac River into Maryland near Sharpsburg. Their purpose was to gather supplies, presumably meat, flour, meal and vegetables and to generally harass the inhabitants. On August 5, they were met and clashed with Cole's Cavalry, part of the Potomac Home Brigade, at Keedysville. According to Daniel Carroll Toomey's The Civil War in Maryland, (Citing C.A. Newcomer's Cole's Cavalry.), "Scouts [from Cole's Cavalry] were sent out that night [August 4] to learn the strength and location of the enemy. They reported a large force of Rebel Cavalry five miles south of Boonsboro at Keedysville.

"The next morning, the regiment moved out and engaged an enemy vedette on the Boonsboro Road. The Confederates exchanged a few shots and fell back, closely pursued by Captain Zimmerman and Company K. At the outskirts of Keedysville, the Union Cavalry encountered a strong Southern picket line. Lieutenant Colonel Vernon heard the fresh outbreak of gunfire and brought up the regiment at a trot. He quickly realized that there were far more rebels north of the river than he had been led to believe. Deploying his men left and right, Vernon ordered a charge that drove General A.J. Vaughn's Brigade of Tennessee Cavalry back across the Antietam Creek." Union losses were considered heavy, and Company K lost over half of its 35 members. No information was found telling of Confederate losses, or where either side took their wounded.[14]

Churches in Keedysville reflect the overwhelmingly German background of the people. The town had three churches, United

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[14] Daniel Carroll Toomey, The Civil War in Maryland, (Baltimore: Toomey Press), p. 138 citing C.A. Newcomer's Cole's Cavalry, (Freeport: 1895), p. 144-151.

Brethren, German Reformed and Lutheran. The United Brethren Church, regarded as the first protestant denomination formed in the United States, was founded by Philip Otterbein who was pastor of the Frederick Charge 1760-1765. George Adam Geeting of Keedysville was a follower of Otterbein. He established the first meeting house of this denomination.[15] The present United Brethren (now Methodist) Church is located near the center of town. It was built in 1870.

The Mt. Vernon Reformed Church at the south end of the town was one of the buildings selected for a hospital for casualties of the Battle of Antietam. Built in 1852 it was only about 10 years old at the time of the battle. According to several accounts, boards were laid across the backs of pews to create operating tables. As was typical of medicine of the day, when a soldier was hit in an arm or leg, the treatment was usually amputation. The severed limbs and other wastes were thrown out a rear window into a pit that had been dug against the wall of the church. Apparently the decaying material over time caused the foundation of the church to fail, and a new structure was built in 1892.

The Lutheran Church was constructed at the northeast end of town in 1871.

The town's Fairview Cemetery was established in 1872 by adding to the existing Reformed Church Cemetery. The Reformed Church Cemetery was adjacent to the Hess family burial ground.

The earliest school near Keedysville was begun by George Adam Geeting sometime after 1760.[16] A school in Keedysville was located in the basement of 33 North Main Street, and the stone building at 55 South Main Street was used as both a school and as a church for the German Reformed congregation from 1835 until construction of their church in 1852. The first public school in Keedysville was built in 1868, on the site of the present structure which was built in 1922. Keedysville also had a separate school for black children.

Keedysville was profoundly affected by transportation systems dating back to the early 18th century. Located on a wagon road from Fox's and Crampton's gaps to Williamsport that was in use as early as 1731, the town has associations with some of the first settlement

[15] Moats, op cit, p. 59.

[16] Ibid, p. 64.

routes in Western Maryland. These early routes include Coffman Farms Road and Mt. Briar Road. Although most historians agree that Mt. Hebron Road was also part of the 18th century network, the 1794 and 1808 and 1859 maps suggest that the road that is now Coffman Farms Road continued straight to the southeast, across what is now Main Street and along the east side of the Little Antietam Creek to link with Eakles Mill Road which was the 1730s route to Crampton's Gap. Although there is now no through road connecting Coffman Farms Road with Eakles Mill Road, the route is in part followed by an old farm lane system. This link, if it exists would be one of the first roads through Washington County.

With the development of turnpikes in the early 19th century, came the Boonsboro and Sharpsburg turnpike which was organized in 1815 and completed shortly before Keedysville was parceled into lots. The perceived importance of the turnpike is evident from the fact that Keedysville is laid out along it rather than along the older established wagon road. Later, in 1867, the railroad came through Keedysville. A spur of the B&O constructed to link Hagerstown with the railroad's main line at Weverton near Harpers Ferry, had, in its heyday three to five trains a day. By 1872, however, the Western Maryland Railway was providing direct service from Hagerstown to Baltimore, and the B&O spur became more of a local service route. The railroad did provide Keedysville with some development, including a station, warehouse and a hotel. The rail line operated until 1953.

Keedysville seems also to have been a strong temperance town. David Wyand's hotel, built in 1874 was advertized as a temperance hotel and the WCTU had a meeting hall constructed in the 1890s at 38 North Main Street, where Carrie Nation is said to have visited.

After the turn of the century, Keedysville maintained its prosperity. It had many small shops, a newspaper, the Antietam Wavelet, a hotel, doctor's offices and a post office. The town grew more slowly with newer development following its course along the turnpike rather than along other roads coming into the town. Most of the 20th century development was residential with retiring farmers building houses in town. The town's several bungalows from the 1920s and '30s reflect this period as well as a few American Foursquare houses, several of which were catalog houses ordered from Sears and Roebuck or one of the many other catalog house dealers.

In recent years, a bypass was constructed to carry traffic on Maryland Route 34 around Keedysville. Housing development from the 1960s-1990s has occurred between the town and the bypass to its west,

and also along its eastern edge of the town. A few newer (post-1945) buildings are at the extreme edges of Keedysville and a scattered few as infill here and there through the historic area of town.

Resource Analysis

Keedysville portrays settlement and development patterns for Washington County and the lower Cumberland Valley from the 1730s through the 1930s. Although the town itself dates from after the 1830s, the roads that converge at or near Keedysville are very important to the understanding of settlement patterns as much as a generation before the French and Indian War.

The Hess mill site and the surviving main house for the mill complex portray the importance of this industry to the economy of the region in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was grain production and processing that gave the counties of mid Maryland their prosperity in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Keedysville also has exceptional importance for its role in the Civil War, both the Battle of Antietam and its aftermath, and for the skirmish that occurred in and around the town in August of 1864. According to the Atlas accompanying the official records of the Union and Confederate Armies, there were eight hospitals within the town limits of Keedysville. It is likely that there were actually more "unofficial" hospitals as casualties mounted after the battle. The social and economic implications of such heavy use for care of the sick and wounded is an area that deserves further study. Some suggestions of the impact survive, such as the story related in Arita Van Rensselaer's "History of Keedysville" that her father, Aaron Snyder climbed to the second floor door of the mill to watch President Lincoln go by in October of 1862, not realizing that Mr. Lincoln would, a short time later stop at Aaron's grandmother's house to ask for a glass of milk. There was, however, no milk for Mr. Lincoln because the soldiers had taken all of the cows. If Aaron Snyder's grandmother, Mrs. Jacob Staub's cows were taken, probably other citizens experienced the same fate and food stuffs, wood and other supplies taken as well. In addition, very little is known about the impact of the 1864 skirmish, such as exactly where it occurred and what affect it had on the town. At least one of the town's citizens, William Carr, was arrested as a Union spy and spent time in Libby Prison.

The town does seem to have recovered, however, because most of its growth and development occurred in the late 19th and early 20th

century. Certainly the railroad was a factor here, as well as continuing prosperity of the local farmers who patronized the businesses in Keedysville.

From the standpoint of its architecture, Keedysville is significant for its expression of vernacular village architecture with Germanic influence. A clear pattern of development can be seen with the mill site as the centerpiece, predating the town and surrounding farmsteads with the town coming later as part of the conscious effort to create a village along a new turnpike highway. The physical characteristics of Keedysville reflect this development theme.

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Schildt, John W. Drums Along the Antietam, Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1972.

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Very helpful was an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ellis, Keedysville residents, on August 31, 1993.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries of the Keedysville Historic District are shown on the accompanying map and include properties facing onto the west side of Main Street from 89 South Main Street to Coffman Farms Road then follows the north edge of Coffman Farms Road to the cemetery entrance lane and continues with the east edge of the lane in a straight line to the north side of the abandoned railroad bed. The boundary then turns east with the old railroad bed to Taylor Drive and follows the east edge of Taylor Drive to Taylor Park and follows the boundaries of Taylor Park to meet the rear boundary of the property located at 75 North Main Street to the edge of the street. Crossing the street the boundary then follows rear property lines of lots facing into the east side of Main Street to 84 South Main Street where it crosses the street diagonally to meet at the place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

This area includes the historic section of town while excluding concentrations of newer construction at the west and east edges of town. Also excluded are some historically and architecturally significant farmsteads which lie within the town's boundaries, but which are visually and physically separated from the main section of town. These could be included as discontiguous elements at the discretion of the nominating offical and the SHPO.

FEET (W. VA.)
42'30"
(FUNKSTOWN)
WA-II-1112
BOONSBORO 1 MI.
40'
Crystal Grottoes
Fairview Cem
Keedysville
Mt Hebron Cem
ANTIETAM CREEK
KEEDYSVILLE ROAD
COFFMAN RD
BALTIMORE
DOG STREET ROAD
NICODEMUS MILL
Dog
Little
AND
Eakles Mills
Mt Olives Cem
Red Hill
GEETING ROAD
Porterstown
Antietam
MARBLE QUARRY ROAD
OHIO ROAD
MOUNT BRIAR ROAD
RED HILL ROAD
PORTERSTOWN ROAD
Flickersville
CHURCHEY ROAD
BRIDGE
Mount Briar Cem

WA-II-1112

Keedysville Historic District
Washington County, Maryland
Map 2

A. A contributing resource with an exceptionally high level of integrity and historic and/or architectural significance to the nomination.

B. A contributing resource with a high level of integrity and historic and/or architectural significance to the nomination.

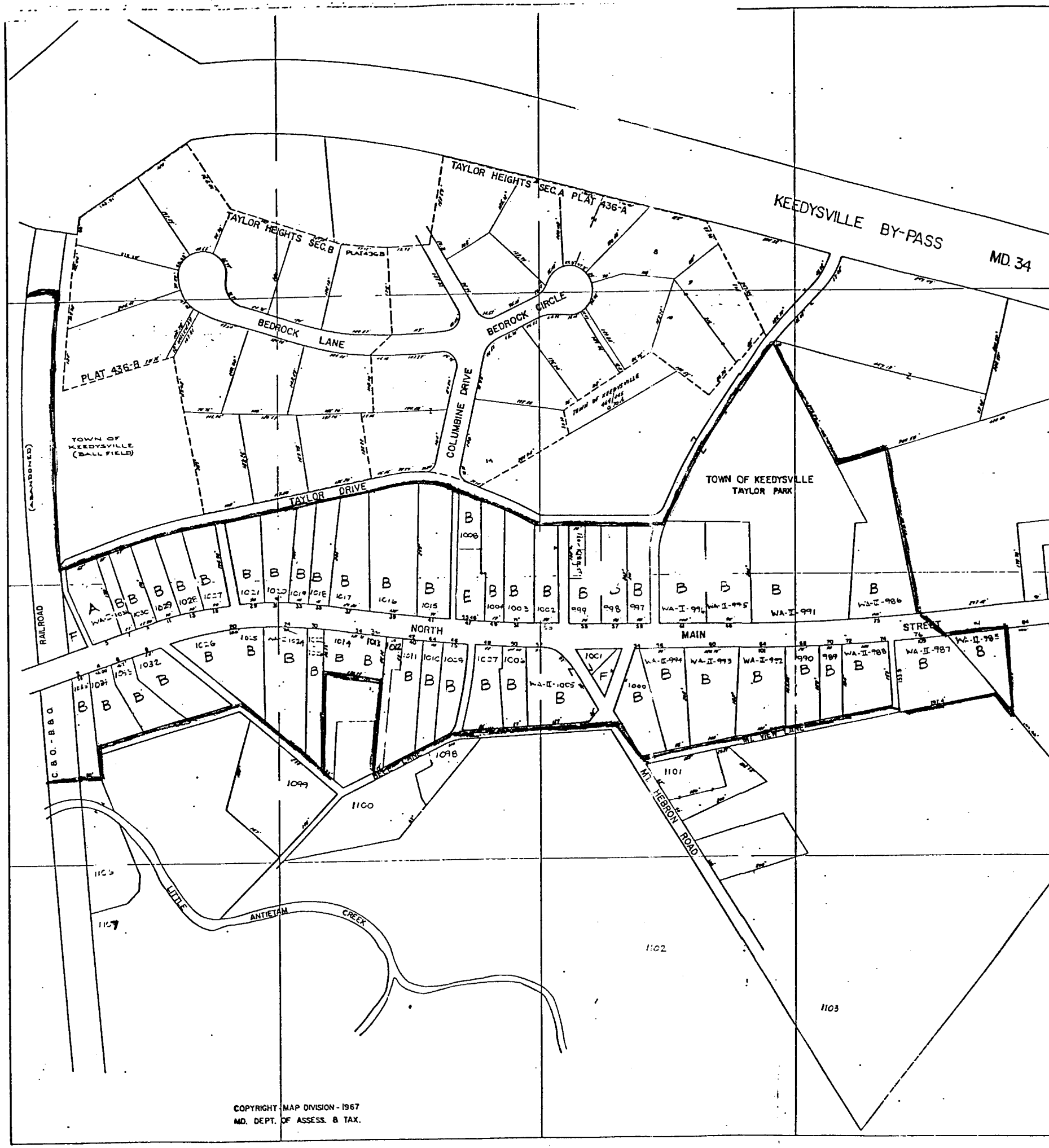
C. A contributing resource with a low level of integrity whose contribution could be enhanced by sympathetic rehabilitation or restoration or by research documenting historic significance unknown at the time of nomination.

D. A resource that does not contribute to the significance of the nomination but may be eligible for listing in the National Register within another historical and/or cultural context.

E. A resource that does not contribute to the significance of the nomination and is not eligible for listing in the National Register, due to recent construction or irretrievable loss of integrity.

F. A contributing open-space of historic or scenic significance to the nomination such as a park, town square, agricultural fields, meadows, pastures, etc.

G. A non-contributing open-space which is of no significance to the nomination and is not eligible for listing in the National Register, such as a parking lot, etc.



DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
MAP DIVISION
REVISED TO: MAR. '91 LINE 986

KEEDYSVILLE
WASHINGTON COUNTY E.D. 19
SCALE 1" = 100'

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET 72-1

WA-II-1117

Keedysville Historic District
Washington County, Maryland
Map 1

A. A contributing resource with an exceptionally high level of integrity and historic and/or architectural significance to the nomination.

B. A contributing resource with a high level of integrity and historic and/or architectural significance to the nomination.

C. A contributing resource with a low level of integrity whose contribution could be enhanced by sympathetic rehabilitation or restoration or by research documenting historic significance unknown at the time of nomination.

D. A resource that does not contribute to the significance of the nomination but may be eligible for listing in the National Register within another historical and/or cultural context.

E. A resource that does not contribute to the significance of the nomination and is not eligible for listing in the National Register, due to recent construction or irretrievable loss of integrity.

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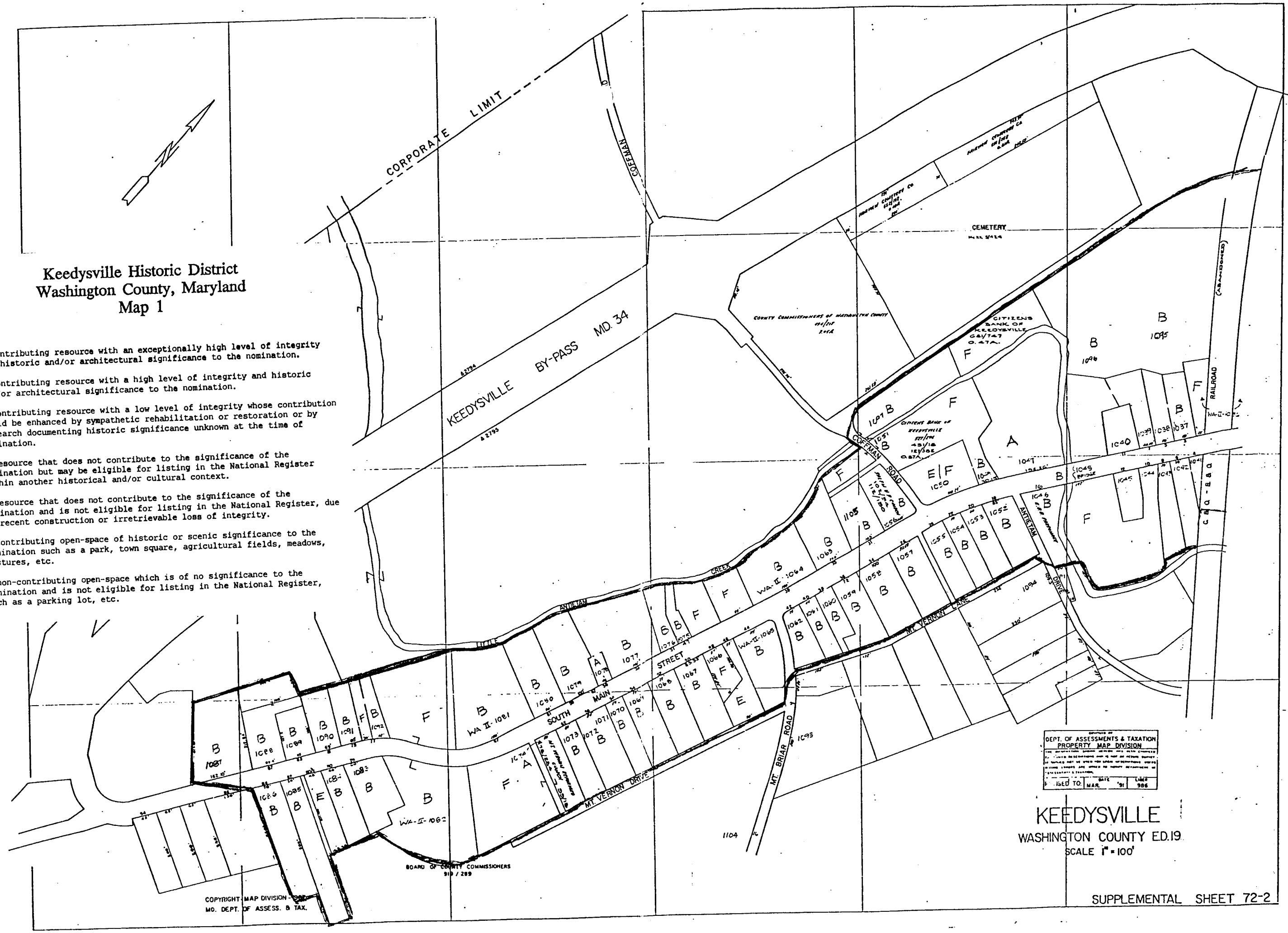
G. A non-contributing open-space which is of no significance to the nomination and is not eligible for listing in the National Register, such as a parking lot, etc.



NO
PARKING
ANYTIME

WA-II-112

Keedysville Streetscape
S. Main St, NE view from bridge
12/93
Photo by P. Reed, Preservation Assoc. Inc.
#98

WA-II-1112

Keedysville Streetscape
N Main St., from Railroad site, NE view
12/93
Photo by P. Reed, Preservation Assoc.
#99

WA-II-1112

Keedysville Streetscape
S. Main St., from Railroad site, S. view
12/93
photo by P. Reed, Preservation Assoc. Inc.
#100