

CAPSULE SUMMARY
David and Harriet Hill House
MIHP#: F-6-102-1
812 West Main Street
Emmitsburg, Maryland
Date: c.1870s
Access: Private

Built around the turn of the 20th century, 812 West Main Street is a two-story, free-standing, side-gabled house constructed of frame with vinyl siding. It is arranged as a rectangle on a relative north-south axis. It sits over a basement and encloses approximately 1,072 square feet. The house stands near the north edge of the property line and back from the street. Its backyard is populated with a few plantings and a manufactured shed. Its interior is updated, including a reconfiguration of rooms.

Likely constructed in 1904, the two-story frame side-gabled house was acquired the same year by Harriet Hill, an African American woman. Harriet and her husband David Hill lived in the home, which formed a small Black cluster neighborhood along West Main Street, until the late 1910s. Improvements to the house, including its full façade porch, were made during their ownership. The African American cluster soon disappeared, with only the neighboring Downey family, staying beyond 1920. Unlike Emmitsburg's Lincoln Avenue African American neighborhood, the West Main Street cluster did not sustain. Still, the Black-associated homes are important for reflecting African American settlement in northern Frederick County. For this reason, 812 West Main Street is recommended as a Contributing resource to the Emmitsburg Historic District, eligible for Criterion A, Ethnic, Black History, at the local level of significance.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. F-6-102-1

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic David and Harriet Hill House

other N/A

2. Location

street and number 812 West Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town Emmitsburg ___ vicinity

county Frederick

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

name Jessica Munson

street and number 812 West Main Street telephone

city, town Emmitsburg state MD zip code 21727

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Circuit Court, Land Record liber 15024 folio 337

city, town Frederick tax map 008C tax parcel 1572 tax ID number 167914

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Current Function | | Resource Count | |
|---|---|--|---|----------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture | 1 | 0 buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> defense | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | 0 | 0 sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic | <input type="checkbox"/> social | 0 | 1 structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | 0 | 0 objects |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | 1 | 1 Total |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> health care | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | | |

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory*

0

*Located within boundary of Emmitsburg Historic District (NRHP 92000076)

7. Description

Inventory No. F-6-102-1

Condition

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |

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

Summary

Built around the turn of the 20th century, 812 West Main Street is a two-story, free-standing, side-gabled house constructed of frame with vinyl siding. It is arranged as a rectangle on a relative north-south axis. It sits over a basement and encloses approximately 1,072 square feet. The house stands near the north edge of the property line and back from the street. Its backyard is populated with a few plantings and a manufactured shed. Its interior is updated, including a reconfiguration of rooms.

Setting

Historically associated with African American owner Harriet Hill, the house is situated near the traditional west end of the settlement of Emmitsburg, Frederick County. This area was the stopping point of Emmitsburg's historic settlement. Adjacent houses are free-standing and have more room than similar buildings in the downtown core. These residences, however, are still set close to the street, reflecting a historic pattern. A narrow alley runs behind the house, and beyond is a shallow tributary of Flat Run. The alley is populated with a few historic outbuildings, including wood-frame stables. Past the willow-lined stream are former farm fields, recently converted into a residential tract.

Building

The home's principal (west) façade shows a traditional three-bay composition (Photo 1). The ground floor, protected by a porch, has an off-centered entry holding a modern ½-light door. The entrance is flanked by large windows consisting of vinyl, 1/1 sash, bracketed with narrow, decorative shutters. The porch components reveal no original material. The windows on the second story follow the same pattern as the ground level.

The south side of the home opens to a wood deck and reveals its development. The short elevation of the side-gabled portion has one window per floor (Photo 2). These are arranged vertically near the elevation's west edge and are the same type of windows and shutters found on the façade. The second half of the elevation consists of a lower, two-story volume (Photo 3). Based on Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, it began at a one-story height and increased to its current configuration before 1924 (Figure 6). Appended to this is a small, one-story, shed-roof extension. Premised on Sanborn maps, this feature was added by 1945 (Figure 7).

The east elevation looks over the backyard with a modern combination window at the kitchen (Photo 4).

The pre-1924 look of the house is maintained on the north elevation (Photo 1). The simple façade is penetrated by three windows, which appear to be in their original position. Here, too, a stone foundation is visible. Composed of blue-green metamorphized basalt, it reaches a height of roughly 34" above grade at the northeast corner.

The house is clad in gray German vinyl siding. The siding came with a new soffit system and likely introduced the current windows and shutters. The side-gabled portion of the house has "Victorian" patterned metal roofing shingles of recent vintage.

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Name: David and Harriet Hill House
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Integrity

The house retains a sufficient degree of historic integrity, especially from the public view, to communicate the period of its African American ownership. The major changes, involving a height increase of the back portion, probably occurred during or soon after Harriet Hill's ownership. Other changes, namely the installation of vinyl siding and replacement, are ubiquitous and do not affect the building's overall plan, design, and appearance.

8. Significance

Inventory No. F-6-102-1

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Specific dates | 1904; 1919 | Architect/Builder | Unknown |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------|---------|

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Construction dates | c.1904, with additions |
|---------------------------|------------------------|

Evaluation for:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Register | <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Register | <input type="checkbox"/> not evaluated |
|---|--|--|

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary

Likely constructed in 1904, the two-story frame side-gabled house was acquired the same year by Harriet Hill, an African American woman. Harriet and her husband David Hill lived in the home, which formed a small Black cluster neighborhood along West Main Street, until the late 1910s. Improvements to the house, including its full façade porch, were made during their ownership. The African American cluster soon disappeared, with only the neighboring Downey family, staying beyond 1920. Unlike Emmitsburg's Lincoln Avenue African American neighborhood, the West Main Street cluster did not sustain. Still, the Black-associated homes are important for reflecting African American settlement in northern Frederick County. For this reason, 812 West Main Street is recommended as a Contributing resource to the Emmitsburg Historic District, eligible for Criterion A, Ethnic, Black History, at the local level of significance.

Historical Overview

Historically located at the far west extent of Emmitsburg, the area along the Waynesboro Road saw little development beyond the National Hotel, an informal demarcation of the west end of town. The name of the alley behind the house, Tannery Drive, reflects its early use. Opened in the late 18th century, the tanyard continued to operate until its third owner, Jacob Motter, shut it down in 1880. The tannery and its beam house are depicted on the 1873 atlas map for Frederick County as a large L-shaped building (Figure 2). Tanneries were typically located on the outskirts of town, on less valuable land. The treating of hides, and the odor they created, relegated them to less populated areas.

With the closure of the tannery and selling of lots from Jacob Motter's property, residential development in Emmitsburg began to shift west.¹ This development coincided with the Shield's Addition, a large area making up Emmitsburg's "west end." In 1787, William Shield purchased 106 acres from William Emmit, who had platted the town only two years earlier. Emmit created a grid of town lots, divided into quadrants by a principal intersection. The plan resulted in a linear community, with Main Street experiencing the main growth. North and south of this principal artery were smaller alleys, which initially saw little development.

¹ James A. Helman, *History of Emmitsburg, Maryland* (Frederick, Md.: Citizens Press, 1906), 50.

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Number 8 Page 1

The subject area was platted in 1877 by John S. Shields, and sold to Isaac S. Annan, a prominent Emmitsburg merchant and banker, and his brother. Based on deed transactions, the subject lot was later part of a lumberyard. The 1890 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, the first to cover the area, does not indicate the presence of the house (Figure 3). The site was an undeveloped lot.

In 1904, Annan sold the property to John T. Florence, a white carpenter.² Florence likely built the house that year before selling it to Harriet Hill, a 56-year-old Black woman.³ The dwelling appeared on the 1904 Sanborn map (Figure 4).

Hill was one of three Black residents who formed a short-lived African American cluster along West Main Street in the early 20th century. Born in Pennsylvania in 1847, Harriet married David Hill, a Maryland native five years her senior around 1874. The 1900 federal census documented the couple living in Emmitsburg's Precinct 1, surrounded by white homeowners.⁴ Their household included three children – Stella, Charles, and David – all in their teens. David Sr. worked as a farm manager.

The 1910 census places David and Harriet Hill on West Main Street. By this time, they were of retirement age: David, 70, Harriet, 65. Yet David still worked doing “odd jobs.”⁵ They lived alone but were surrounded by two other Black families making up a small African American community. A younger widowed Black man, George W. Abey (sometimes Aby), lived to the south with his seven children. On the other side was a renter named Hettie Parker — an older Black woman whose house is a subject of another survey.

Based on the Sanborn map of the same year, the Hill house had gained a full façade front porch (Figure 5). Missed in the next census, it is unclear what happened to David and Harriet Hill. It is assumed, given their age, that they died within that decade.

Like Hettie Parker's daughter, one of the Hill's children had moved to Monmouth County, New Jersey. During World War I, New Jersey and its host of war-related industries attracted Blacks from throughout the South, who moved to the state for better-paying jobs. By 1930, New Jersey's African American population had nearly tripled compared with before the war.⁶

In 1919, Ambrose Hill, the executor of Harriet's estate, transferred the West Main Street property to Joseph Francis Kreitz, a young house painter who was already living on the street.⁷ At this point, the land went out of Black ownership.

² Land Records of Frederick County, 265/364, Isaac Annan to John T. Florence, 1904.

³ Ibid., 265/65, John T. Florence to Harriet Hill, 1904.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 1900, Census Place: Emmitsburg, Frederick, Maryland; Roll: 622; Page: 12; Enumeration District: 0012; FHL microfilm: 1240622.

⁵ Ibid., 1910, Census Place: Emmitsburg, Frederick, Maryland; Roll: T624_564; Page: 13A; Enumeration District: 0059; FHL microfilm: 1374577.

⁶ Giles R. Wright, *Afro Americans in New Jersey: A Short History* (Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1980), 54.

⁷ Land Records of Frederick County, 326/478, Ambrose Hill to J. Francis Kreitz, 1919.

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Name: David and Harriet Hill House
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Conclusion

The African American cluster of homes on West Main Street disappeared in the early part of the 20th century, with only the Downey family, who had purchased Hettie Parker's house, remaining. Unlike the Lincoln Avenue African American neighborhood, it did not sustain itself. Still, the two Black-associated homes are important and should be recognized.

For this reason, 812 West Main Street is recommended as a Contributing resource to the Emmitsburg Historic District, eligible for Criterion A, Ethnic, Black History, at the local level of significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. F-6-102-1

See Continuation Page.

10. Geographical Data

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Acreage of surveyed property | <u>0.169</u> |
| Acreage of historical setting | <u>0.169</u> |
| Quadrangle name | <u>Emmistburg, MD</u> |

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The selected survey boundary is depicted in Figure 1. It encompasses the house its immediate setting, located within the current tax parcel. The boundary includes all the property historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared by

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|---------------|
| name/title | John W. Murphey, Architectural History Services, for: | | |
| organization | Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. | date | July 31, 2022 |
| street & number | 12610 Catoctin Furnace Road | telephone | 240-288-7396 |
| city or town | Thurmont | state | MD |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-697-9591

Maryland Historical Trust

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Number 9 Page 1

Bond, Isaac. "Map of Frederick County, Maryland." Baltimore: E. Sachse and Company, 1858.

Frederick County, Maryland. Land Records: various entries, 1904 to 2021.

Helman, James A. *History of Emmitsburg, Maryland*. Frederick, Md.: Citizens Press, 1906.

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

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Western Maryland. Vol. I-II*. Philadelphia: L.H. Everts, 1882.

United States Census Bureau. 1900, Census Place: Emmitsburg, Frederick, Maryland; Roll: 622; Page: 12; Enumeration District: 0012; FHL microfilm: 1240622.

_____. 1910, Census Place: Emmitsburg, Frederick, Maryland; Roll: T624_564; Page: 13A; Enumeration District: 0059; FHL microfilm: 1374577.

Wallace, Edith B. "African American History of the Monocacy-Catoctin Region, Northern Frederick County, Maryland. Historic context prepared for the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society et al, March 8, 2022, Draft. Context on file with the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society.

Wright, Giles R. *Afro Americans in New Jersey: A Short History*. Trenton, N.J.: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1980.

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name: David and Harriet Hill House
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 1

PHOTO LOG

Name of Photographer: John W. Murphey
Date of Photograph: March 2, 2022
Location of Original Digital File: Maryland SHPO

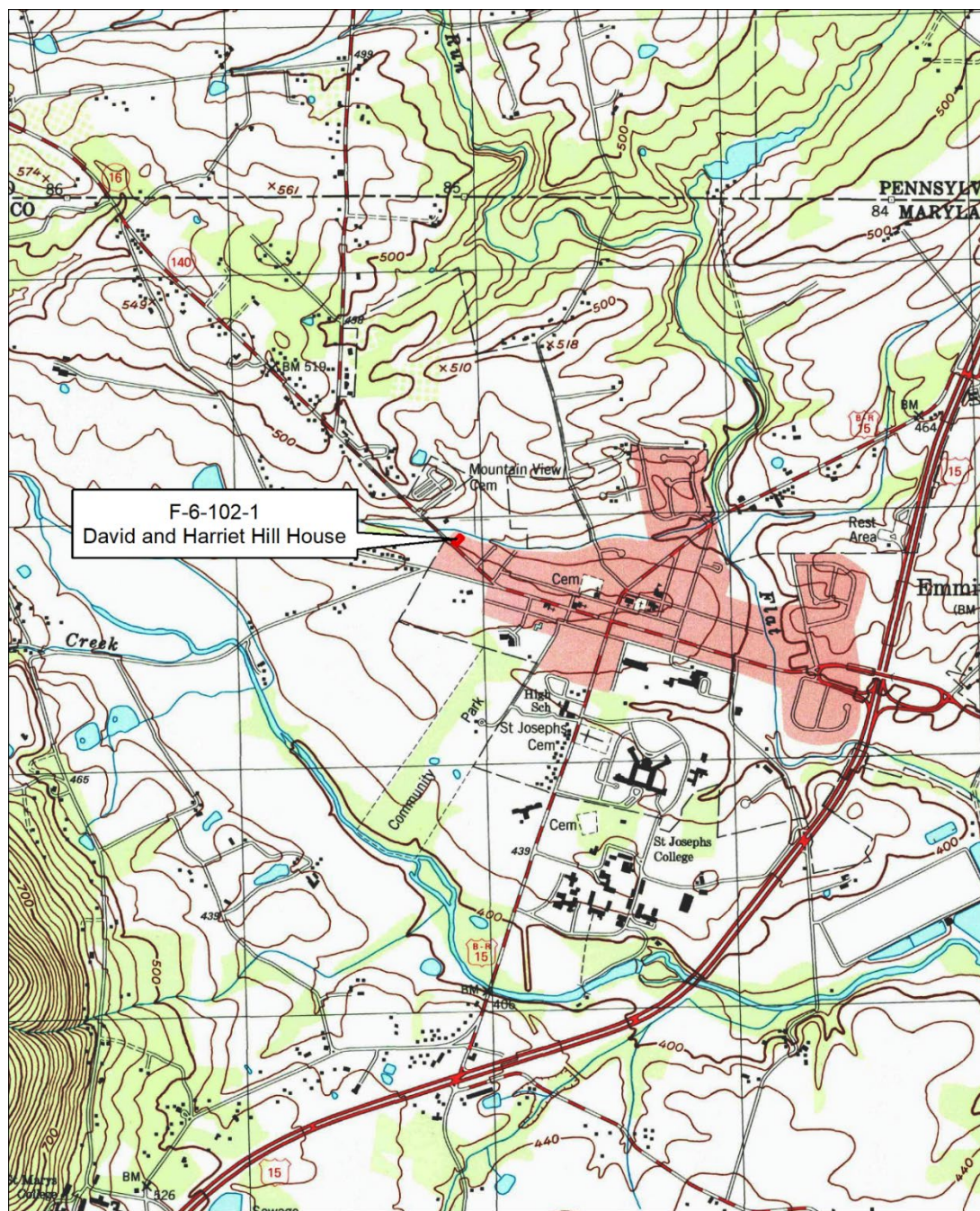
Photo 1 of 4:
West elevation, camera facing southeast.
F-6-102-1_2022-03-02_01.tif

Photo 2 of 4:
South elevation, camera facing northwest.
F-6-102-1_2022-03-02_02.tif

Photo 3 of 4:
South elevation, camera facing northwest.
F-6-102-1_2022-03-02_03.tif

Photo 4 of 4:
East elevation, camera facing southwest.
F-6-102-1_2022-03-02_04.tif

MIHP#: F-6-102-1
David and Harriet Hill House
Emmitsburg
Frederick County



F-6-102-1
David and Harriet Hill House
812 W. Main Street
USGS 1999 Topographic Quad,
Emmitsburg, MD

 Property boundary

0 1,000 2,000
Feet



Figure 1: Survey Boundary Map.

MIHP#: F-6-102-1
David and Harriet Hill House
Emmitsburg
Frederick County



F-6-102-1
David and Harriet Hill House
812 W. Main Street
Plan of property

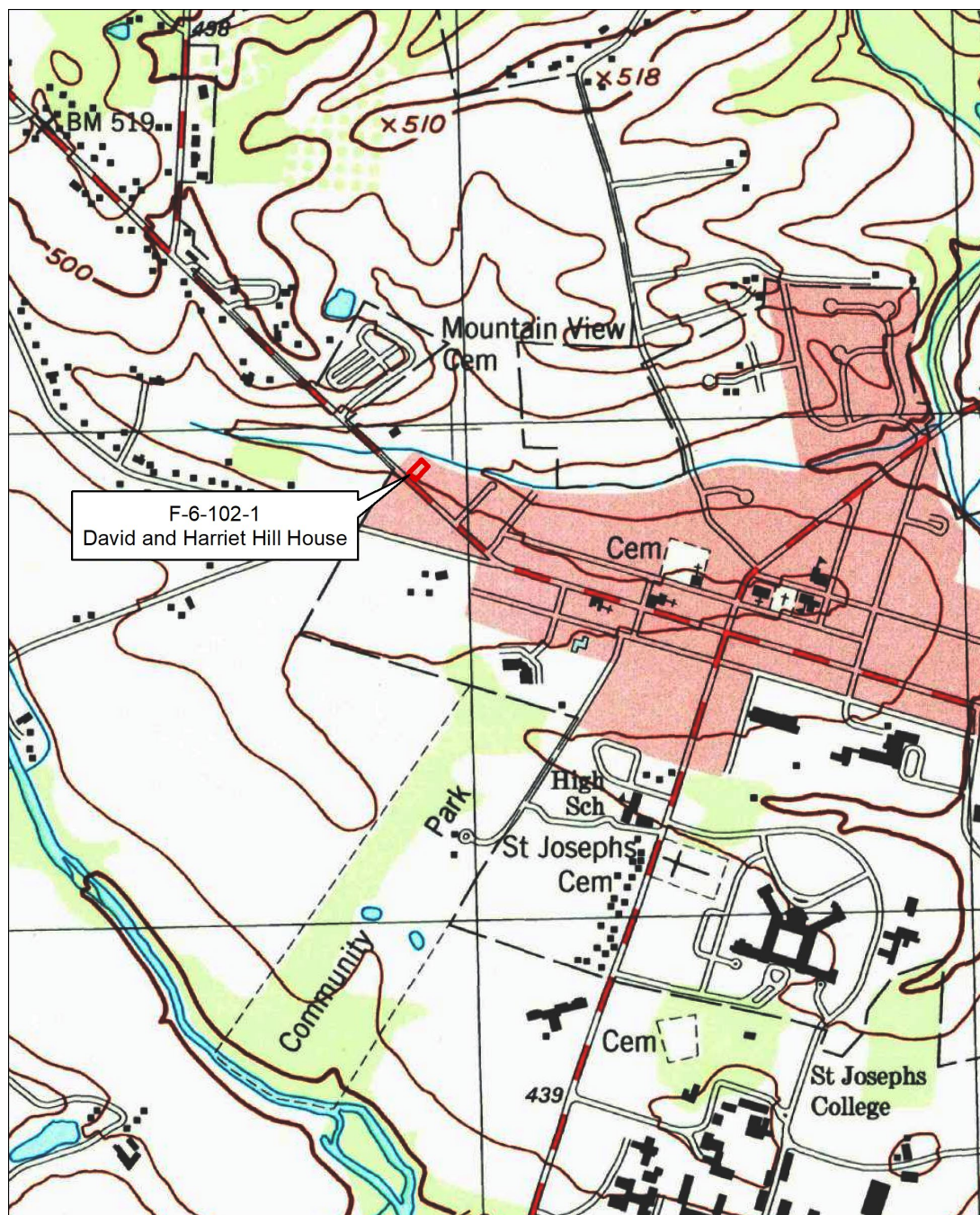
■ Building Footprint
□ Property boundary

0 50 100
Feet



Figure 1A: Plan of property.

MIHP#: F-6-102-1
David and Harriet Hill House
Emmitsburg
Frederick County



F-6-102-1
David and Harriet Hill House
812 W. Main Street
USGS 1999 Topographic Quad,
Emmitsburg, MD

 Property boundary

0 500 1,000
Feet



Figure 1B: Survey Boundary Map (1:12,000).

MIHP#: F-6-102-1
David and Harriet Hill House
Emmitsburg
Frederick County

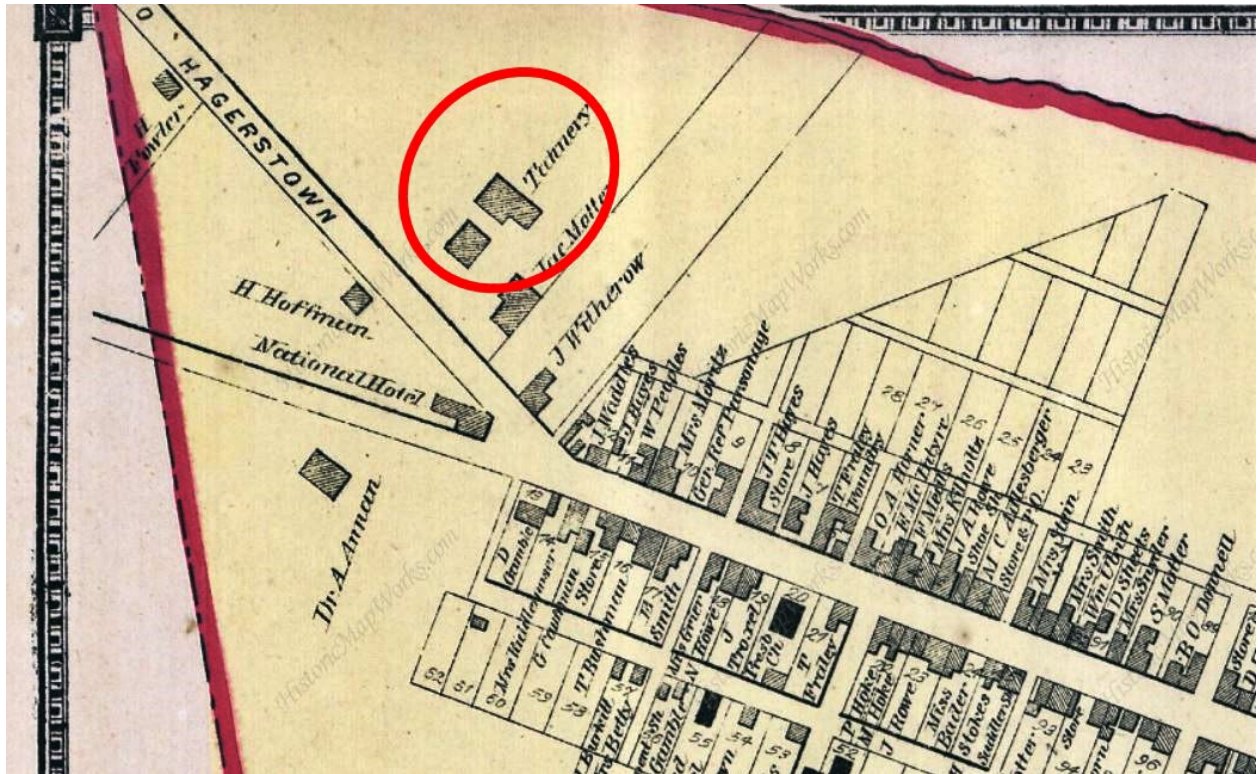


Figure 2: Emmitsburg, 1873 Atlas of Frederick County Maryland. Tannery circled.

MIHP#: F-6-102-1
David and Harriet Hill House
Emmitsburg
Frederick County

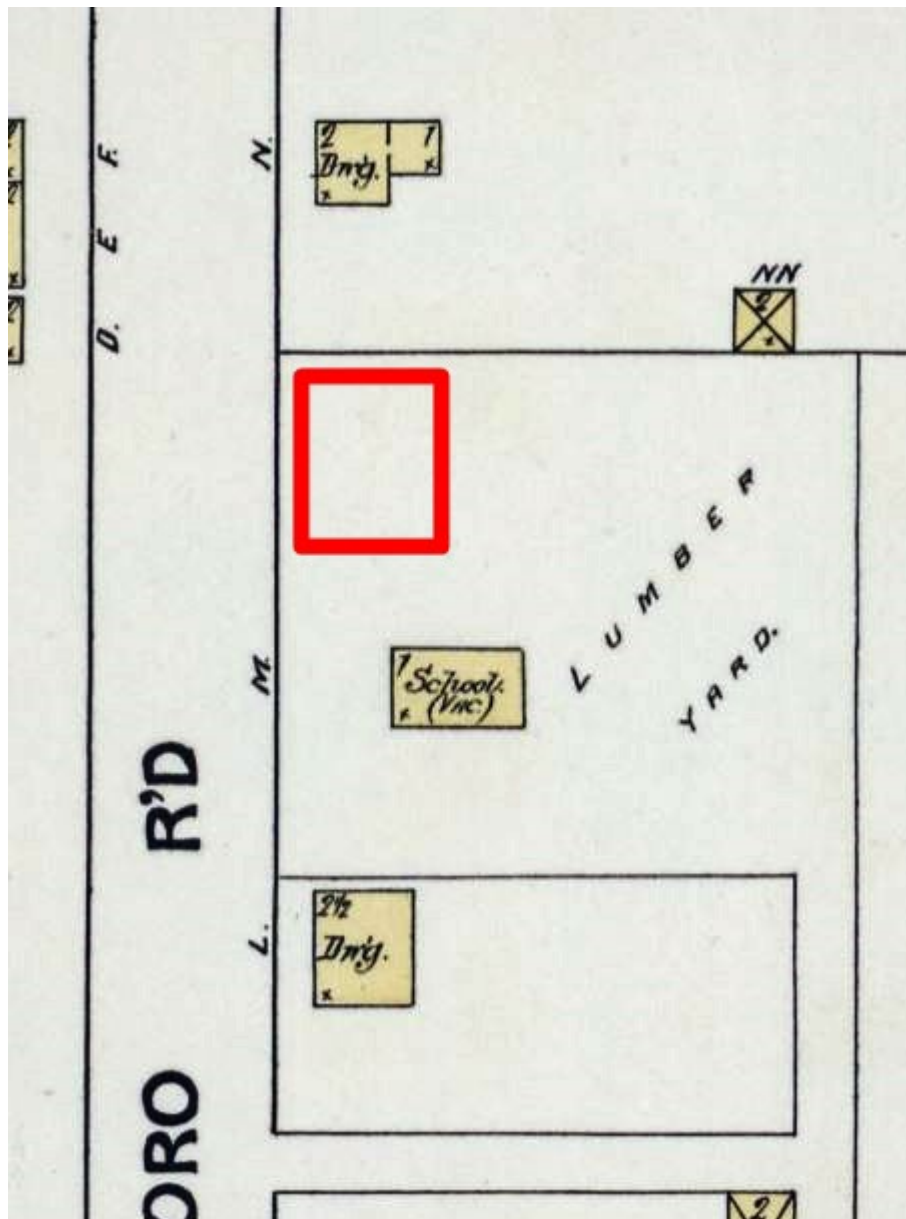


Figure 3: 1890 Emmitsburg Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.
Red rectangle indicates location of future house.

MIHP#: F-6-102-1
David and Harriet Hill House
Emmitsburg
Frederick County

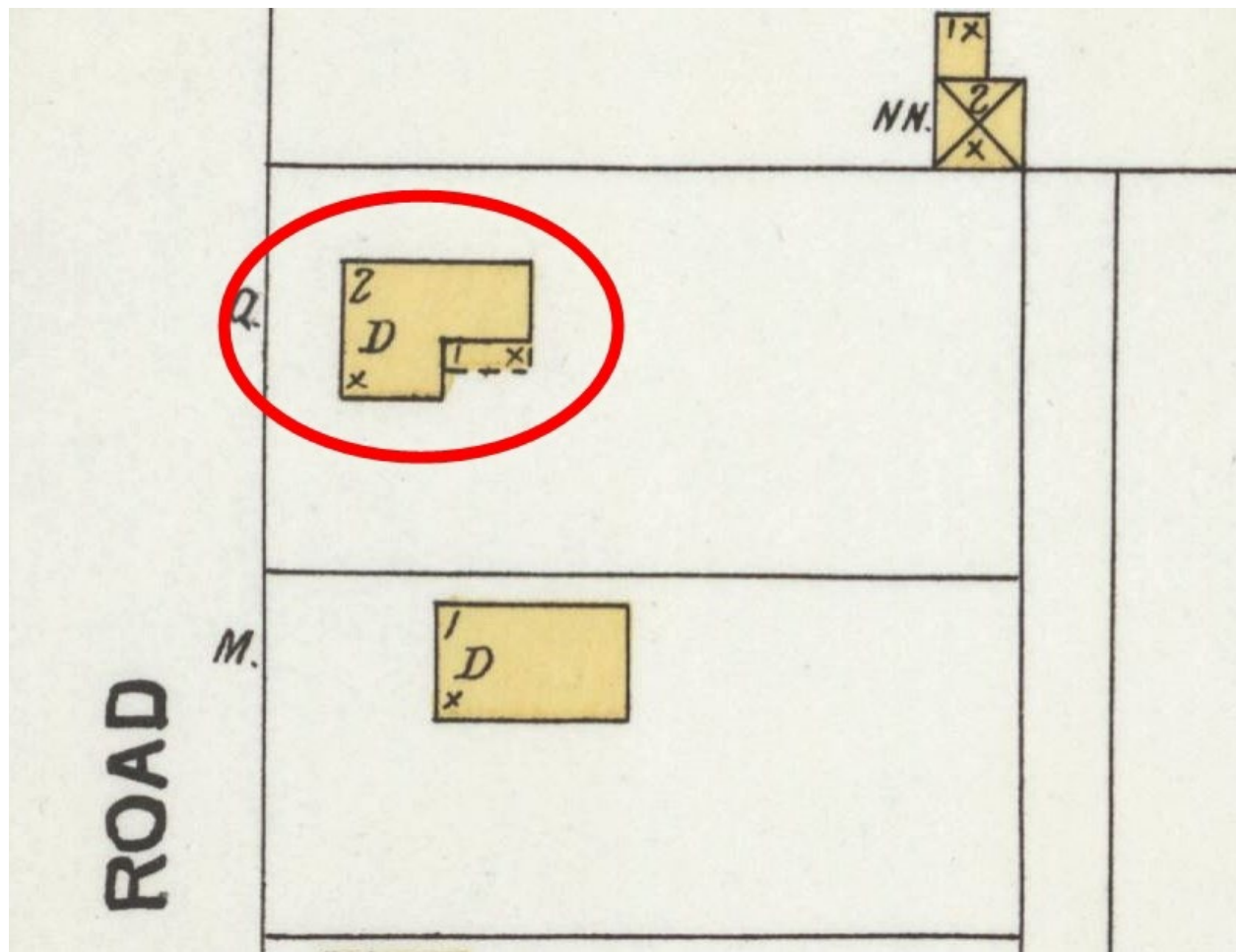


Figure 4: 1904 Emmitsburg Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.
House present with one-story porch across south elevation.

MIHP#: F-6-102-1
David and Harriet Hill House
Emmitsburg
Frederick County

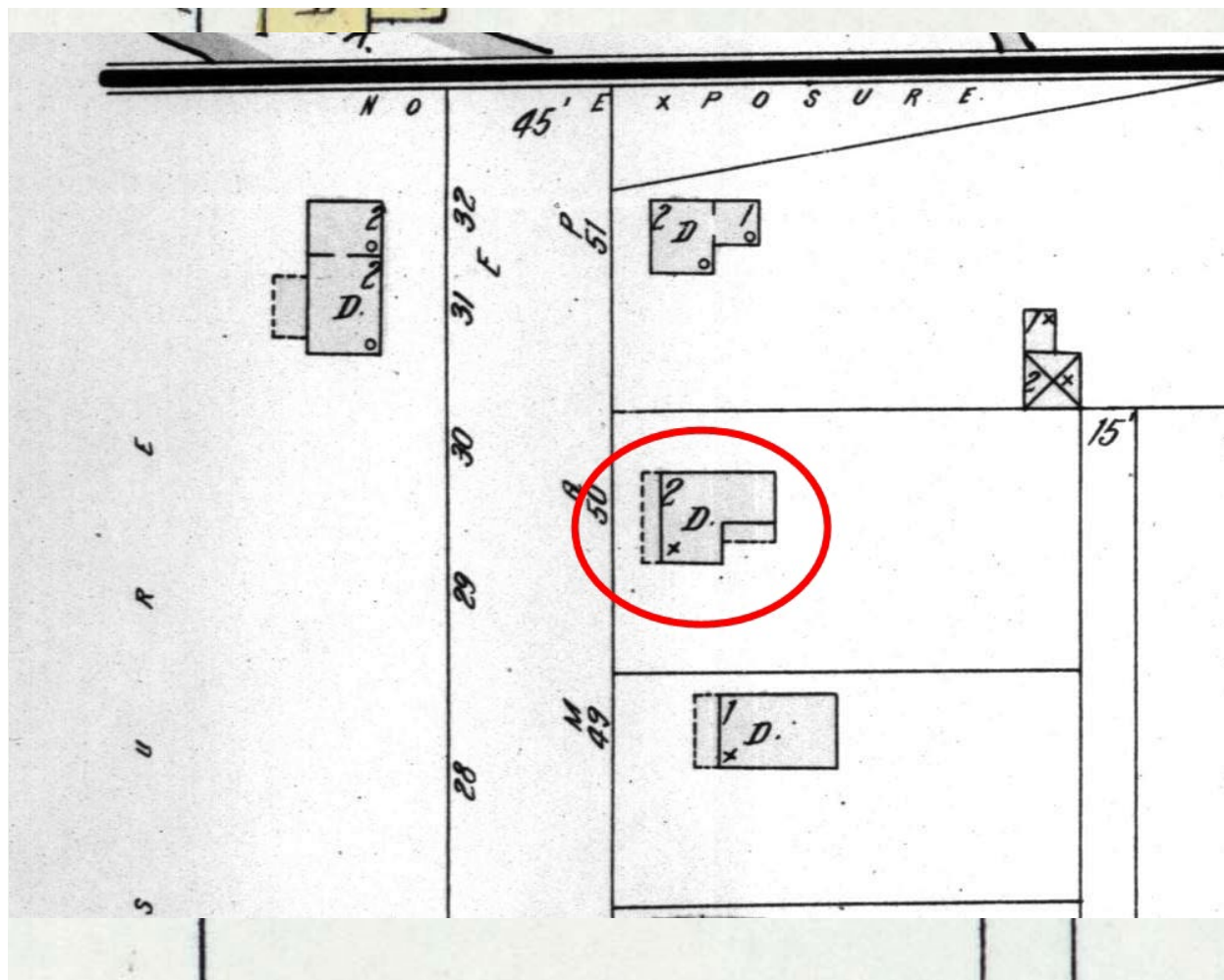


Figure 5: 1910 Emmitsburg Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.
House present with one-story porch added to west elevation.

The map shows a property with the following features:

- Top Boundary:** Labeled "N O 45' E X P O S U R E".
- Left Boundary:** Labeled "S U R E".
- Vertical Dimensions (Left Side):** 28, 29, 30, 31, 32.
- Horizontal Dimensions (Top):** 49, 15.
- Buildings:**
 - Top left: A building labeled "D." with a dashed line indicating a smaller structure to its left.
 - Top right: A building labeled "D." with a dashed line indicating a smaller structure to its left.
 - Middle right: A building labeled "D." circled in red, with a dashed line indicating a smaller structure to its left.
 - Bottom right: A building labeled "D." with a dashed line indicating a smaller structure to its left.
 - Far right: A small structure labeled "X" with a dashed line indicating a smaller structure to its left.
- Other Labels:** "P 51" is written near the top right building, and "M 49" is written near the bottom right building.

Figure 6: 1924 Emmitsburg Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

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David and Harriet Hill House
Emmitsburg
Frederick County

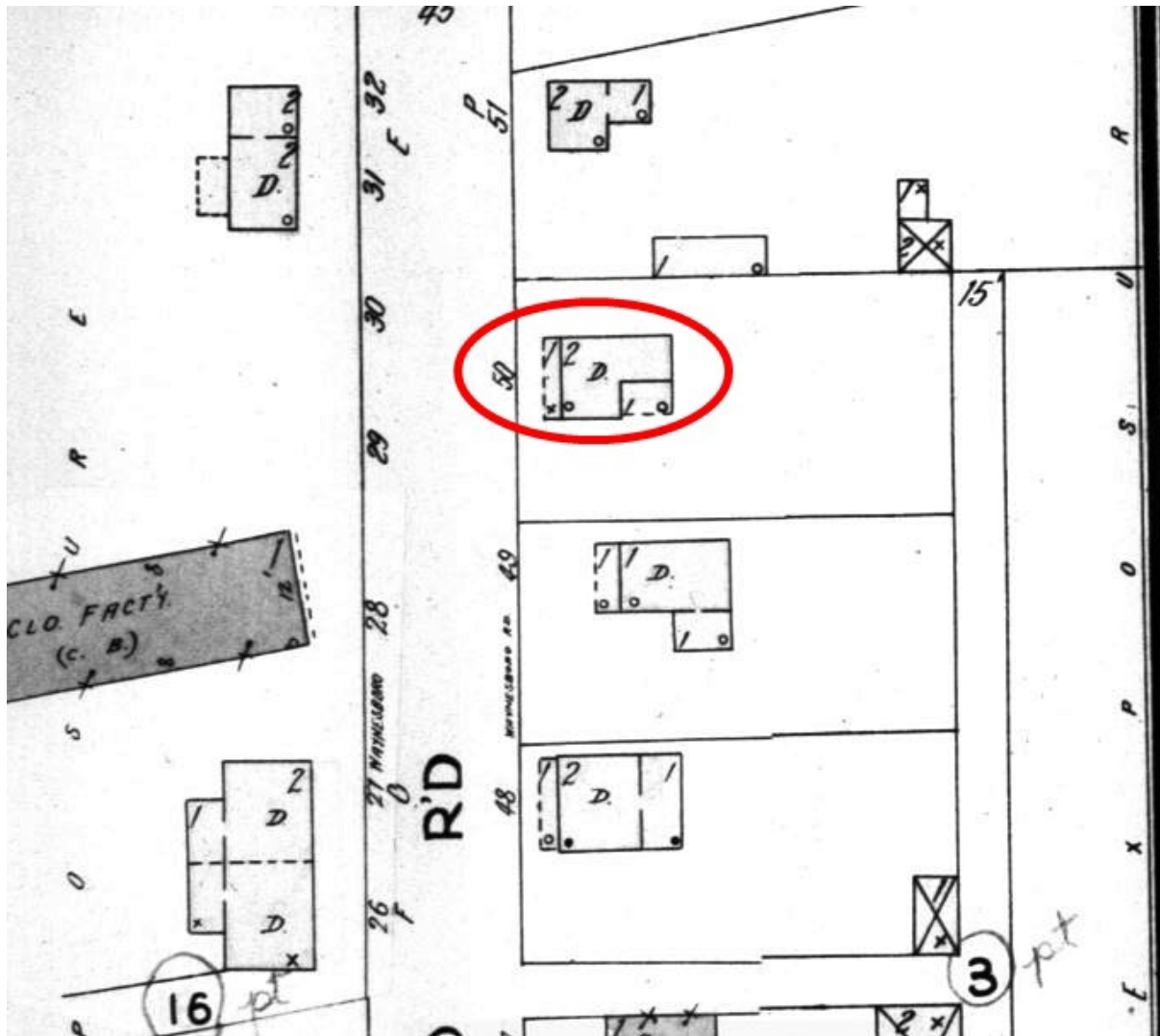


Figure 7: 1945 Emmitsburg Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

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Emmitsburg
Frederick County

Chain of Title

Book 15024/Page 337, Joy Julian to Jessica Munson, 2021

Book 14179/Page 256, Elizabeth Myers to Joy Julian, 2020

Book 4414/Page 291, Brian Baker to Elizabeth Myers, 2004

Book 2963/Page 143, Joseph Keilholtz to Brian Baker, 2001

Book 2351/Page 1077, Virginia McLaughlin to Joseph Keilholtz, 1997

Book 1110/Page 716, McLaughlin to McLaughlin, 1979

Book 916/Page 64, Ralph Long PR of Grant Long to G. Donald McLaughlin, 1973

Book 649/Page 569, Marie Kreitz, widow to Grant Long, 1961

Book 535/Page 271, Edward Storm to J. Francis Kreitz (reconveyance) 1954

Book 326/Page 478, Ambrose Hill, exr. of Harriett Hill, to J. Francis Kreitz, 1919

Book STH 265/Page 365, John T. Florence to Harriett Hill, 1904

Book STH 265/Page, 364 Isaac Annan to John T. Florence, 1904

David and Harriet Hill House Photo Log

MIHP No.: F-6-102-1

MIHP Name: David and Harriet Hill House

County: Frederick

Photographers: John W. Murphey

Dates: March 2, 2022

Ink and Paper Combination: Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink on Epson Premium Semimatte Photo Paper

| Image File Name | Image Description |
|-----------------------------|---|
| F-6-102-1 2022-03-02 01.tif | West elevation, camera facing southeast. |
| F-6-102-1 2022-03-02 02.tif | South elevation, camera facing northwest. |
| F-6-102-1 2022-03-02 03.tif | South elevation, camera facing northwest. |
| F-6-102-1 2022-03-02 04.tif | East elevation, camera facing southwest. |
| | |



F-6-102-1_2022-03-02_01.tif West elevation, camera facing southeast.



F-6-102-1_2022-03-02_02.tif South elevation, camera facing northwest.



F-6-102-1_2022-03-02_03.tif South elevation, camera facing northwest.



F-6-102-1_2022-03-02_04.tif East elevation, camera facing southwest.