

CAPSULE SUMMARY**Emmitsburg Historic District; F-6-102****MIHP#: F-6-102-3****A portion of the south side of the 400 block of West Lincoln Avenue, from Patterson Avenue 365' west****Emmitsburg, Maryland****Date: c.1858-1945****Access: Private**

The nominated district boundary increase represents approximately 365' of the south side of West Lincoln Avenue from its intersection with Patterson Avenue to a point west of Survey Building # 6 (Figure 1). The area includes six homes, of which four are associated with African American ownership, dating from roughly the 1860s to the present. The recommended extension holds approximately 1.5 acres, including all the land historically associated with the homes.

The nominated boundary increase area is significant for representing the African American community of Emmitsburg, starting in the 1860s and continuing to the present. Following the Great Emmitsburg Fire of 1863, formerly enslaved people moved to this section of town, purchasing property and establishing homes. While small, the West Lincoln Avenue neighborhood had the highest and densest concentration of Blacks in Emmitsburg. At one point, it included an African American-operated school. The small collection of vernacular homes represents this history and is significant to the community. For this reason, a portion of the 400 block of West Lincoln Avenue is recommended as a boundary increase to the Emmitsburg Historic District (NRHP#92000076). The increase and resulting additional documentation expand the existing nomination's area of significance to include Ethnic Heritage, Black history, eligible under Criterion A, at the local level of significance.

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: EmmitsburgOther names/site number: Emmitsburg Historic District; F-6-102

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: A portion of the south side of the 400 block of West Lincoln Avenue, from Patterson Avenue 365' westCity or town: Emmitsburg State: MD County: FrederickNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide ___local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

☒

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Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

These four additional Contributing and two Noncontributing resources in the boundary increase on West Lincoln Avenue.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register see previous nomination

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Vernacular

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property stucco, wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The nominated district boundary increase represents approximately 365' of the south side of West Lincoln Avenue from its intersection with Patterson Avenue to a point west of Survey Building # 6 (Figure 1). The area includes six homes, of which four are associated with African American ownership, dating from roughly the 1860s to the present. The recommended extension holds approximately 1.5 acres, including all the land historically associated with the homes.

Narrative Description

The Emmitsburg Historic District is situated at the northern tip of Frederick County, near the west end of Emmitsburg, a town of roughly 2,800 people, located 0.3 miles south of the Pennsylvania border. The existing district boundary follows Main Street, a historic east-west artery populated with 18th and 19th-century residences, and a portion of Seton Avenue, an intersecting north-south street fronted by commercial and institutional buildings. Paralleling Main Street to the south is Lincoln Avenue, a lightly populated street made of a mix of dwellings and historic outbuildings associated. The north side of Lincoln Avenue was included in the district to capture these resources.

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West Lincoln Avenue

The 400 block of West Lincoln Avenue is a historically Black neighborhood encompassing four homes associated with African American ownership. Black settlement along the street began in the late 1850s and represented a pattern of formerly enslaved people creating small enclaves in northern Frederick County. Differing from other Black communities in the area, it developed in an urban context, surrounded by a predominately white population.

From Patterson Avenue to its west terminus, West Lincoln Avenue is an approximately 600'-long block populated with a few residences and outbuildings (Photo 1). Like other areas of the district, the south side of the block (included in the boundary increase) has residences set close to the sidewalk. Behind the homes are large backyards with lawns. Several of the backyards have foundations of earlier structures. The 165'-long lots back into a lightly wooded area. Beyond, to the southwest, are agricultural fields.

Housing is concentrated on the south side of the avenue, with a string of vernacular homes set close to the street. The street, which at one point included a "Colored School," remained a majority-African American neighborhood through the mid-20th century. Two of the surviving homes historically associated with Blacks are still owned by descendants, maintaining the neighborhood's continuity.

The residences are a mix of side- and front-gabled plans, ranging from one to two and a half stories in height. They are composed of log, brick, or frame construction; all are clad in vinyl siding. While several have received rear additions, from the public view they retain their original form and communicate their historical period and association. In this way, they are like other contributing residences in the district.

The north side of the street (included within the existing district) contains several historic outbuildings that help establish the street's historical context. The street has a few more residences beyond the proposed boundary increase. The buildings are of recent construction and not associated with the African American community that developed on Lincoln Avenue.

Buildings

413 West Lincoln Avenue, Brown-Weedon House, (Building 1, Contributing)

Likely constructed before 1885, 413 West Lincoln Avenue is a one-story, side-gabled dwelling with a rear addition built in the 1970s (Photo 2). The house sits back from the street, with its original portion aligned on a north-south axis. The older section is made of brick and faced with stucco, and has a medium pitch roof bookended by brick chimneys. It originally had a one-room-deep plan. The property slopes to the south; its backyard is mainly lawn and includes an older wood outbuilding moved to the site.

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The street-level façade of the older building has two openings. The right (east) holds 6/6 wood sash windows covered with a storm unit. A smaller opening to the west is fitted with a 2/2 wood sash with horizontally divided lights. The windows are set deep within the wall and terminated with brick sills. The sills, representing a Ranch or Contemporary style treatment, were likely added in the 1970s to tie in with the south addition constructed around the same time. The stylized cornice returns above signal the same period. In the gable is a small wood window at the attic.

The east elevation has two entry doors sheltered by a non-historic, shed-roof porch. The entry to the older portion holds a ½-light wood door with four lights and lower raised panels. To the right (north) is a more recent 2/2 sash window. Giving entry to the addition is a ¼-light wood panel door. Both doors open onto a concrete-floored porch edged by a low block wall.

The west elevation has symmetrical fenestration, consisting of what appear to be original openings, but holding more recent windows dating from the addition.

Appending to the historic core is a concrete block addition, resting on a raised foundation of the same material. The addition has a low-pitch Ranch type roof with pronounced overhangs. Its elevations are fenestrated with 2/2 horizontal light wood windows as found at the front of the house. The south elevation, facing the yard, includes an entry holding a ¾-light wood door. The door faces a small concrete landing approached by exterior steps. The structure holds a pair of metal cellar doors leading to a finished basement. The south and west elevations each have a set of cellar windows.

415 West Lincoln Avenue, Wallace-Chase-Smith House, (Building 2, Contributing)

Constructed in the late 1880s, 415 West Lincoln Avenue is a two-and-a-half-story residence with a one-room deep, side-gabled plan (Photo 3). It sits at the front of its lot and is roughly 864 square feet. Made of frame construction and clad with wood siding, a more recent vinyl treatment covers the original material. It rests on a rubble foundation that encloses a concrete cellar. It has two full floors and a half-floor attic space. The backyard is landscaped with a lawn and includes foundations of older outbuildings.

The front, street-facing elevation is divided into three bays with an offset entry. The windows are 1/1 vinyl sash units, likely fitted into original openings. The entry holds a modern metal panel door. It is sheltered by a roughly 84-square-foot shed-roof porch. The porch rests on replacement posts, but its wood structure and ceiling appear older. Its beams are boxed with facing boards; its ceiling is made of bead board siding.

The short, side elevations have one window per floor. These, like the other elevations, are 1/1 vinyl sash. The attic windows are wood and likely original. A concrete block exterior chimney rises at the west elevation, breaking through the roof.

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The south elevation faces the yard and has a small, non-historic porch. The upper level only shows only one window, potentially indicating a companion opening was removed or covered with siding. Attached is an approximately 58-square-foot shed-roof porch of modern vintage. Opening onto the porch is a modern ½-light, wood-panel door. The building's black Piedmont siltstone foundation rises about 3' above grade at its highest point.

425 West Lincoln Avenue, (Building 3, Noncontributing)

Potentially dating to before 1885, the building is a roughly 1,553-square-foot frame house with multiple additions (Photo 4). The oldest portion is the single-story, front-gabled section adjacent to the street. The house is not known to be associated with African American ownership or tenancy.

429 West Lincoln Avenue, (Building 4, Noncontributing)

This two-story mixed frame and brick residence may date prior to 1885. The gable-front house encloses roughly 1,540 square feet and includes and includes a two-story block addition appended to the rear. The house is not known to be associated with African American ownership or tenancy.

437 West Lincoln Avenue, Brown-Williams House, (Building 5, Contributing)

Potentially erected as early as the 1860s, 437 West Lincoln Avenue is a two-story, side-gabled dwelling with a modified two-story rear addition forming a cross gable (Photo 5). Its original side-gable portion is one room deep and assumed to be of log construction. The house holds roughly 1,200 square feet. It is clad with vinyl siding and has replacement windows. It sits at its north lot line, directly on the sidewalk. Its backyard is landscaped with a lawn.

The north (front) elevation displays a traditional arrangement of a centered entry flanked by symmetrically placed windows. The entrance, holding a modern steel panel door, is sheltered by a small pedimented porch. This type of façade is found elsewhere in the Emmitsburg Historic District, with several homes on Main Street. The windows are vinyl, 1/1 sash units, likely installed with the siding.

The west elevation reveals the building's evolution. It consists of the gable-end of the original dwelling with an extension bumping the footprint southward. Based on Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, the house began as a one-and-a-half story, side-gabled volume with a lower one-story section across part of the south elevation. Between 1890 and 1904, both the front and rear sections had been increased to two stories.

Like the home's façade, the gable portion has vinyl sash windows.

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A modern, shed-roof porch characterizes the east elevation. The roughly 138-square-foot porch has a recently poured concrete floor, and all of its components are non-historic. The house is entered from the porch through a modern ½-light metal panel door. Flanking the doorway are vinyl sash windows of the same light pattern found on the other elevations. The intersecting gable gives the appearance of a cross-gabled house. Based on Sanborn maps, the porch and cross-gable post-date 1945 — however, the alterations were in 2006, when the current property owner remodeled the back side of the house to expand the kitchen and add a bedroom to the second floor.¹ The porch was extended to match the new design.

The short south elevation of the cross-gable section is the newest part of the house. It sits on a poured concrete foundation, continuous with the porch. Wood, 1/1 sash, and small casement windows penetrate its wall. The changes to the elevation reflect the 2006 remodeling.

439 West Lincoln Avenue, Brown-Williams House, (Building 6, Contributing)

Starting with the earliest Sanborn map of 1885, a two-story frame ice house occupied this site until at least 1924. Replacing the ice house is the current residence, moved to the site in the 1940s.

Holding approximately 1,300 square feet, the two-and-a-half-story log and frame building has a dominant, gable-front plan of rigid symmetry (Photo 6). A one-story addition is attached to the rear. The property includes a few non-historic outbuildings; its backyard is mostly undeveloped and fades into a wooded area.

The tall-looking house sits back from the sidewalk and at a deeper setback than its neighbors. Being arranged on its lot at a north-south axis allowed for additional front yard area. A concrete driveway courses along the east elevation; an informal side yard, planted with shrubs, forms the west area.

The street (north) façade has a gable front, organized by a symmetrical arrangement of openings. The ground floor is entered through an off-center door bracketed by large, 1/1 sash windows with decorative shutters. Like other houses on the street, the windows are composed of vinyl and may have been installed with the siding. The entrance is fitted with a ¾-light and panel door.

A roughly 108-square-foot, hipped roof porch shelters the entry. The porch shows older components, with board-faced beams trimmed with decorative wood molding. The remainder of the façade is divided into rigid arrangement of window openings. These hold two sizes of vinyl sash units, with smaller windows at the attic.

¹ “Notes from June 9, 2022 interview with Marie Williams.” is the owner-resident of 437 West Lincoln Avenue.

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Along the driveway, the east elevation has a regular arrangement of windows. A door, protected by a wood canopy, gives to the back of the house. The west elevation is looser but has the same type of windows in different arrangements.

Attached to the rear is a 106-square-foot, one-story bump out. The addition has only one window: a small sash on the south elevation.

Integrity

While some buildings have been altered with rear and side additions, they continue to communicate their overall original design and history, especially when viewed from the public right-of-way. As such, they relate the story of African American agency and post-enslavement community building.

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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.)

- ☒ 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.
- ☐ 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.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic-Black History

Period of Significance

1858-1958

Significant Dates

1858

1958

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The nominated boundary increase area is significant for representing the African American community of Emmitsburg, starting in the 1860s and continuing to the present. Following the Great Emmitsburg Fire of 1863, formerly enslaved people moved to this section of town, purchasing property and establishing homes. While small, the West Lincoln Avenue neighborhood had the highest and densest concentration of Blacks in Emmitsburg. At one point, it included an African American-operated school. The small collection of vernacular homes represents this history and is significant to the community. For this reason, a portion of the 400 block of West Lincoln Avenue is recommended as a boundary increase to the Emmitsburg Historic District (NRHP#92000076). The increase and resulting additional documentation expand the existing nomination's area of significance to include Ethnic Heritage, Black history, eligible under Criterion A, at the local level of significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Burket, Duncan, Lucket, colored people lived on the alley.
James A. Helman, 1906

Seeded in the 1860s in the immediate post-emancipation period, West Lincoln Avenue, as it is now known, is an area of historic African American settlement. In traditional human geography terms, it is a small ethnic neighborhood, representing at one time a majority-Black street in an otherwise white-dominant town. The block included the hallmarks of an African American community: a Black school and, while not Black-owned, a church that served the Black population.

The 1860 Emmitsburg census district, including the town of Emmitsburg, had the largest free Black population in northern Frederick County, with 26 independent households representing 168 people.² Emmitsburg was then still mainly rural, with a population of 973, of which 97% were native-born.³ The census identifies at least three Black landowners in the southwest section of town, which included future Lincoln Avenue: John Burkett, P. Funy (or Furry), and Abraham Beaty. A decade later in 1870, 30 African Americans were recorded in Emmitsburg, representing

² The following historical overview is based on a context prepared for the survey: Edith B. Wallace, "African American History of the Monocacy-Catoctin Region, Northern Frederick County, Maryland," created for the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society et al., March 8, 2022, Draft. At different points, the author of the MIHP has provided additional research, interpretation, and text.

³ Robert M. Preston, "The Great Fire of Emmitsburg Maryland: Does a Catastrophic Event Cause Mobility?" *Maryland Historical Magazine* (Vol. 77, No. 2, Summer 1982), 172.

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eight separate households. Many of these households were located on Lincoln Avenue, where a “Colored School” was situated.

The settlement of West Lincoln coincided with the gradual filling in of 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 had 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 most significant growth. North and south of this principal artery were small alleys, which initially saw little development.

With his purchase, William Shield, who was the brother-in-law of Emmit’s father, Samuel, extended the west side of town into what would be known as the Shield’s Addition. Shield hoped to spur development by widening an alley on the south side of Main Street (future West Lincoln Avenue) and adding residential lots along it.⁴

Based on the Isaac Bond map of 1858, West Lincoln had experienced only modest growth. Between today’s Patterson Avenue and Lincoln Avenue’s end to the west, four small buildings were standing, two of which potentially connect to African American homes (Figure 3). The south side of the street would eventually fill in with a few additional houses.

Black Institutions

An essential component of a post-emancipation community, whether rural or urban, was the presence of a Black-run church and Black-operated school. As stated by historian Richard Paul Fuke, “As the only totally-owned Black institutions in their communities, [churches] provided a vital source of group strength and mutual support; places where worshippers could meet relatively free of white influence.”⁵

Distinct from other post-emancipation Black communities in Frederick County (including Lewistown), the Emmitsburg neighborhood did not establish its own church. Instead, in the heavily Catholic community, African Americans attended the churches of their former enslavers. In Emmitsburg, that came down to St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, an imposing Greek Revival building situated on a high point at the center of town.

Interestingly the 1890 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map designates a Methodist Episcopal chapel on Lincoln Avenue as “Colored” (Figure 4). There is, however, no evidence that an independent Black Methodist Episcopal Church existed. It could be that the local Black community leased the building without establishing a formal congregation.

⁴ James A. Helman, *History of Emmitsburg, Maryland* (Frederick, Md.: Citizens Press, 1906), 50.

⁵ Richard Paul Fuke, *Imperfect Equality: African Americans and the Confines of White Ideology in Post-Emancipation Maryland* (New York: Fordham University Press, 1999), 94.

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But — remarkably for its small population — the West Lincoln Avenue community gained a Black school, the second pillar of autonomy.

While the new state constitution in 1864 called for abolishing slavery and, for the first time, created a public school system, the Unionist legislation did nothing, as stated by Fuke, “to compel local school boards to establish institutions for blacks.”⁶ This task fell upon a unique effort between a Baltimore aid society, the federal government, and northern philanthropists.

Founded in 1864, the Baltimore Association for the Moral and Educational Improvement of the Colored People had as its principal goal the education of Blacks. The goal, however, was based on the self-interest of the white population, who feared the state would lose out on attracting emigrants if the emancipated population was not educated.⁷ Despite its questionable motivation and paternalistic view, the Baltimore Association, in conjunction with the Freedmen’s Bureau, greatly enabled Black elementary education during the Reconstruction period.

The Freedmen’s Bureau, a federal agency established by Congress in 1865 to enforce Reconstruction policies, worked to finance new school construction in Maryland, including the Lincoln Avenue schoolhouse. Efforts initially focused on Baltimore, rural southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore. Two years after the Freedmen’s Bureau joined the effort, the association and the bureau had seeded over 50 schools, with an enrollment of 6,000 pupils.⁸ These included schools in Frederick County, in the communities of Middletown, Burkittsville, Mount Pleasant, and Liberty. In 1869, when the Lincoln Avenue school opened, Frederick County had ten Freedmen’s Bureau-sponsored schools in operation, attended by 325 students, ranking fifth in the state.⁹

The Lincoln Avenue building deviated from the usual coordination of school construction. Typically, the Freedman’s Bureau provided the lumber, often salvaged from a military facility, to the local community, which would erect the structure. In this case, the bureau and the Baltimore Agency worked with a local lumber dealer to construct the school.¹⁰

Also unusual is that William Ulrich, the lumber dealer, purchased the lot for the school, apparently on his own. In most circumstances, the bureau encouraged the local Black community

⁶ Ibid., 88.

⁷ As stated by the organization, if potential emigrants learned they were to be “surrounded by an illiterate, ignorant population, whose ignorance and vice are to be daily increased by withholding all instruction in the arts of labor, all educational improvement and every teaching of morality which would lead them to higher ideas of duty to God and to their neighbor.” Quoted in “Circular of the Association for Improvement of the Cultured Race in Maryland,” *Baltimore Sun*, January 11, 1865, 1.

⁸ Fuke, *Imperfect Equality*, 89.

⁹ M. A. Newell, *Report of the Principal of the State Normal School Shewing the Condition of the Public Schools of Maryland, with the Reports of the County School Commissioners, for the Year Ending September, 30, 1869* (Annapolis: WM. Thompson, of R., Printer, 1870), Table F, 25.

¹⁰ Dean Herrin, “Post-Civil War African American Schools in Emmitsburg and Lewistown, Frederick County, Maryland, Summary of Important Dates,” Unpublished manuscript, (April 2021), 1.

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to establish a board of trustees to purchase land for the school, often through a subscription process.¹¹ The unusual circumstance in Emmitsburg led to a dispute between Ulrich and the bureau and the community over payment, delaying the school's completion.

Despite the setback, the school was completed two years later, receiving its first students in November 1869. As it was known then, Lincoln School had an average of 20-25 students during its first year.¹² The low enrollment led the Freedmen's Bureau the following year to reassign its sole teacher to another county.¹³ In 1872 Congress retired the Freedmen's Bureau, refusing to renew its legislation. Frederick County continued to operate the Lincoln Avenue School. During the 1881-1882 academic year, the school (now Lincoln Hall) had 46 students. However, according to the state's annual report, the average attendance fluctuated between twelve and 22 pupils.¹⁴ By 1887, Emmitsburg's Lincoln Hall student population dwindled to 15.

With its revised name, the school evolved into a social center for the African American population, hosting community events. As one of the larger buildings on the street, the one-and-one-half-story structure had sufficient capacity to hold community-wide events. In August 1880, Francis E. Harper, a contemporary of Sojourner Truth, and Dr. Daniel P. Seaton, a noted African Methodist Episcopalian minister, lectured at the hall.¹⁵ Additionally, the town's volunteer fire department used it regularly for their meetings in the mid-1880s.

The Sisters of Charity (later Daughters of Charity), which had operated St. Euphemia's School in Emmitsburg beginning in 1886, picked up some of students formerly attending Lincoln Hall. A 1908 newspaper account indicates that of the 143 students enrolled at St. Euphemia's School that year, eight were African American.¹⁶ One resident recalled his experience attending the school in the 1940s, explaining that Black students entered it through a separate door, and were segregated to a classroom in the attic.¹⁷

A Small Community

In 1880, Emmitsburg's Black population rose to 59, spread across eleven households. The majority lived, as before, in the Lincoln Avenue neighborhood, known then as "Africa" or "South Africa."¹⁸ The short street had seven Black households, reaching perhaps its zenith. According to the census, most men on the street worked as laborers. Several others — Samuel

¹¹ Fuke, *Imperfect Equality*, 93-94.

¹² Herrin, "Post-Civil War African American Schools in Emmitsburg and Lewistown," citing Freedmen's Bureau records: Maryland and Delaware, Field Office Records, 1865-1872, and Records of the Superintendent of Education and of the Division of Education, 1865-1872, District of Columbia Office.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland, Vol. I* (Reprint, Westminster, Md.: Clearfield Company & Willow Bend Books, 1995), 588.

¹⁵ Announcement, *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, July 31, 1880, 3.

¹⁶ "St. Euphemia's School," *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, September 11, 1908, 6.

¹⁷ William VanBrakle, Notes of telephone interview with Elizabeth Comer, April 26, 2022.

¹⁸ Lincoln Avenue is designated "Africa" on the 1885 Emmitsburg Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map.

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Park, Will Offord, and Momar Williams — were employed as barbers. Barbering was a practical occupation for Black men, as in some cases they could have both Black and white customers. Several women on Lincoln worked outside the home. Maria Sims toiled as a washerwoman; Lucinda Snell as a cook. Laundering and cooking for private homes were typical jobs for African American women.

The 1890 Sanborn map of Emmitsburg provides a sense of the Lincoln Avenue neighborhood's physical presence (Figure2). The previously discussed Methodist Episcopal chapel, a brick building with a south-facing portico, sat at the southeast corner of Lincoln and Broad Alley, now Patterson Avenue. A few structures lined Broad Alley, consisting of stables and a butcher shop. The latter would soon dominate the alley's west side. The butcher business would eventually include a slaughterhouse facing the alley. One can imagine the pools of liquid refuse, piles of offal, stacks of hides, the sights and smells of a slaughterhouse, a so-called "noxious industry" that, before zoning, was typically located in the less desirable parts of town.

To the southwest stood Emmitsburg's iron jail cage. Hauled down from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, in the 1880s, it initially met with resistance, and was vandalized before being secured to its foundation. Outdoor jail cages, a common feature of villages and small towns, were meant to elicit public humiliation. In the estimation of the town's historian, James A. Helman, the cell was "simply to scare evil doers or for a night [drunks] of safe keeping."¹⁹ Still, it must have been unpleasant, and one could question why town officials placed it in the Black neighborhood.

Six houses, most positioned directly on the street, lined the south side of Lincoln. All but one were frame dwellings. The buildings included Lincoln Hall, labeled "FREE COLORED SCHOOL." The street terminated at the west with an ice house. Nine buildings, including a large barn, populated its south side.

The north side had more buildings, mostly stables of various sizes and other small structures. The sound of stamping hoofs, the smell of manure, and the irritation of flies, were likely a daily occurrence for residents. Some of these structures had attached dwellings, which may have been servant quarters. All of these were supporting buildings for the bigger houses on Main Street. Oral history reveals that some Black residents on West Lincoln had jobs working for white families occupying the front homes: cooking, ironing, and taking care of children.²⁰ Beyond the ice house, to the west, the lots remained undeveloped, moving to farm fields.

Like elsewhere in northern Frederick County, the Emmitsburg African American community struggled with population loss, but a significant percentage of the Black residents remained.

¹⁹ Helman, *History of Emmitsburg*, 104.

²⁰ "Notes from April 26, 2022 interview with William VanBrakle."

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Employment opportunities were undoubtedly better in town, and devotion to the Catholic Church and the Sisters of Charity likely played a role in retention.

In 1900, 47 African Americans in twelve households remained in town. Of these, five families were homeowners. Overall, Emmitsburg's population, at 849, had only grown a small percentage after its first significant spurt in 1880. By this time, the Black neighborhood on Lincoln had evolved. Broad Alley began to fill in with additional buildings, including several new stables and a storehouse. As recorded on the 1904 Sanborn map, the buildings along the south side of Lincoln remained constant, but with the Lincoln Hall school removed (Figure 5).

The last glimpse of the Black neighborhood, using census information, is found in the 1950 enumeration. This impersonal data, along with the memory of a boy, William VanBrakle, who grew up on the street, provides a snapshot of its residents and the neighborhood character at the middle of the 20th century.

The street then had four households headed by African Americans. The largest, the VanBrakle home at 439, had eight members.²¹ Headed by Clarence A. VanBrakle, the son of John and Mary Clarence A. VanBrakle, the house included his wife, Doris, and six children, ranging in age from three to 16, including William R., then 13. The VanBrakles could trace their heritage to colonial Dutch New York.²² They arrived on the street as latecomers, moving onto their property in the early 1940s.

The VanBrakle home was initially a log cabin Clarence had moved to the site. He acquired the cabin from the Allison family, a white family in Emmitsburg, who ran a butcher shop where Clarence would learn his trade. Using a VA loan, he upgraded the cabin, increasing its height to two stories, and installing an indoor bathroom. It had the first indoor toilet on the street, as recalled by his son William "Willie" VanBrakle.

Clarence became an expert butcher, going out on his own to start a meat-cutting business on wheels. Preparing the meat on the property, he would deliver the product in a converted pickup truck to his mostly white customers around the area, and up to Gettysburg. As the only Black man in town with own his own business, he was well known and well respected.

In another house (437) were brothers Roger and Carroll Chase. They lived in the house owned earlier by John and Jane Burkett, African American pioneers of the Lincoln Avenue community. Sons of the late John Chase, the elder brother Roger worked as a butler in a private home. Carroll was employed as a plumber at Mount St. Mary's, where his father was employed until his death.

²¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 1950, Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790-2007; Record Group Number: 29; Residence Date: 1950; Home in 1950: Emmitsburg, Frederick, Maryland; Roll: 2380; Sheet Number: 9; Enumeration District: 11-39.

²² "Notes from April 26, 2022 interview with William VanBrakle." The following description of West Lincoln Avenue is based on VanBrakle's memories.

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Carroll played guitar and, at one time, was part of Count Basie's rhythm section. Their widowed mother, Alice C. Chase, lived in another home (415) with three adult-age children.

Richard and Mildred Weedon and their two children owned the home closest to Broad Alley. The youngest head of household on the block, Richard, worked at Camp Detrick (Fort Detrick) near Frederick.

William VanBrakle remembers the street to have still been a dirt alley in his childhood, later to be blacktopped. Lincoln was considered a back street and saw less traffic than Main. Neighborhood children — both Black and white — played and danced in the alley. West of the VanBrakle home at 439 was an informal baseball diamond, where neighborhood youth would congregate. Several homes had smokehouses in their backyards. The VanBrakle front yard had a fence and was planted with flowers.

Of the neighborhood, VanBrakle recalls that families, Black and white, got along. But there was still prejudice in the air. While he and his family could shop at almost any store in town, he recalled seeing a sign reading "White Trade Only" in front of a restaurant on the highway near Taneytown. In town, Blacks were segregated to a few rear pews when worshiping at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Most of the Blacks on West Lincoln left after this period.

Continuity and Change

The long history of African American presence on West Lincoln Avenue, and its post-war change, is illustrated with Building 1, the Brown-Weedon House. With its original construction likely dating to the mid-19th century, the property first came under African American ownership in 1858, when Peter Brown acquired the land from David Gamble, an Irish immigrant. It traded hands three more times after Peter Brown sold it to Alfred Brown in 1897. It remained in African American ownership until the late 1950s. Its last Black owner, Richard T. Weedon, and his wife, Mildred, sold it in 1959 to Morris Eyler, who later installed an addition to the back of the home.

Today, the street has a mix of white and Black residents. Two of the four Contributing homes are owned by descendants of original Black owners. Representing post-emancipation settlement, the neighborhood is significant to Emmitsburg and northern Frederick County. As such, West Lincoln Avenue is nominated as a boundary increase to the Emmitsburg Historic District, under Criterion A, Ethnic, Black History, at the local level of significance.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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.

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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency

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☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property app 1.5

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | | |
|---------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. (NE) | Latitude: 39.705001 | Longitude: --77.331158 |
| 2. (SE) | Latitude: 39.704551 | Longitude: -77.331353 |
| 3. (SW) | Latitude: 39.704782 | Longitude: -77.332360 |
| 4. (NW) | Latitude: 39.705218 | Longitude: -77.332196 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary increase is depicted in Figure 1. It follows the parcel lines of the six historic houses added to the historic district.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary increase encompasses the houses and landscape in the current tax parcels. It includes the known extant historic resources associated with the African American West Lincoln Avenue neighborhood.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John W. Murphey, Architectural History Services, for
organization: Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.
street & number: 12610 Catoctin Furnace Road
city or town: Thurmont state: MD zip code: 21788
e-mail: ecomer@catoctinfurnace.org
telephone: 240-288-7396
date: July 31, 2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

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Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Emmitsburg Historic District (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

City or Vicinity: Emmitsburg

County: Frederick

State: MD

Photographer: John W. Murphey

Date Photographed: February 27, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 6. West Lincoln Avenue streetscape, camera facing southeast.

2 of 6. 413 West Lincoln Avenue, Building 1, east and north elevations, camera facing northwest.

3 of 6. 415 West Lincoln Avenue, Building 2, north and west elevations, camera facing southeast.

4 of 6. 425 West Lincoln Avenue, Building 3, south and east elevations, camera facing northwest.

5 of 6. 435 West Lincoln Avenue, Building 5, north and west elevations, camera facing southeast.

6 of 6. 437 West Lincoln Avenue, Building 6, east and north, camera facing southwest.

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1 of 6. West Lincoln Avenue streetscape, camera facing southeast.



2 of 6. 413 West Lincoln Avenue, Building 1, east and north elevations, camera facing northwest.

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3 of 6. 415 West Lincoln Avenue, Building 2, north and west elevations, camera facing southeast.



4 of 6. 425 West Lincoln Avenue, Building 3, south and east elevations, camera facing northwest.

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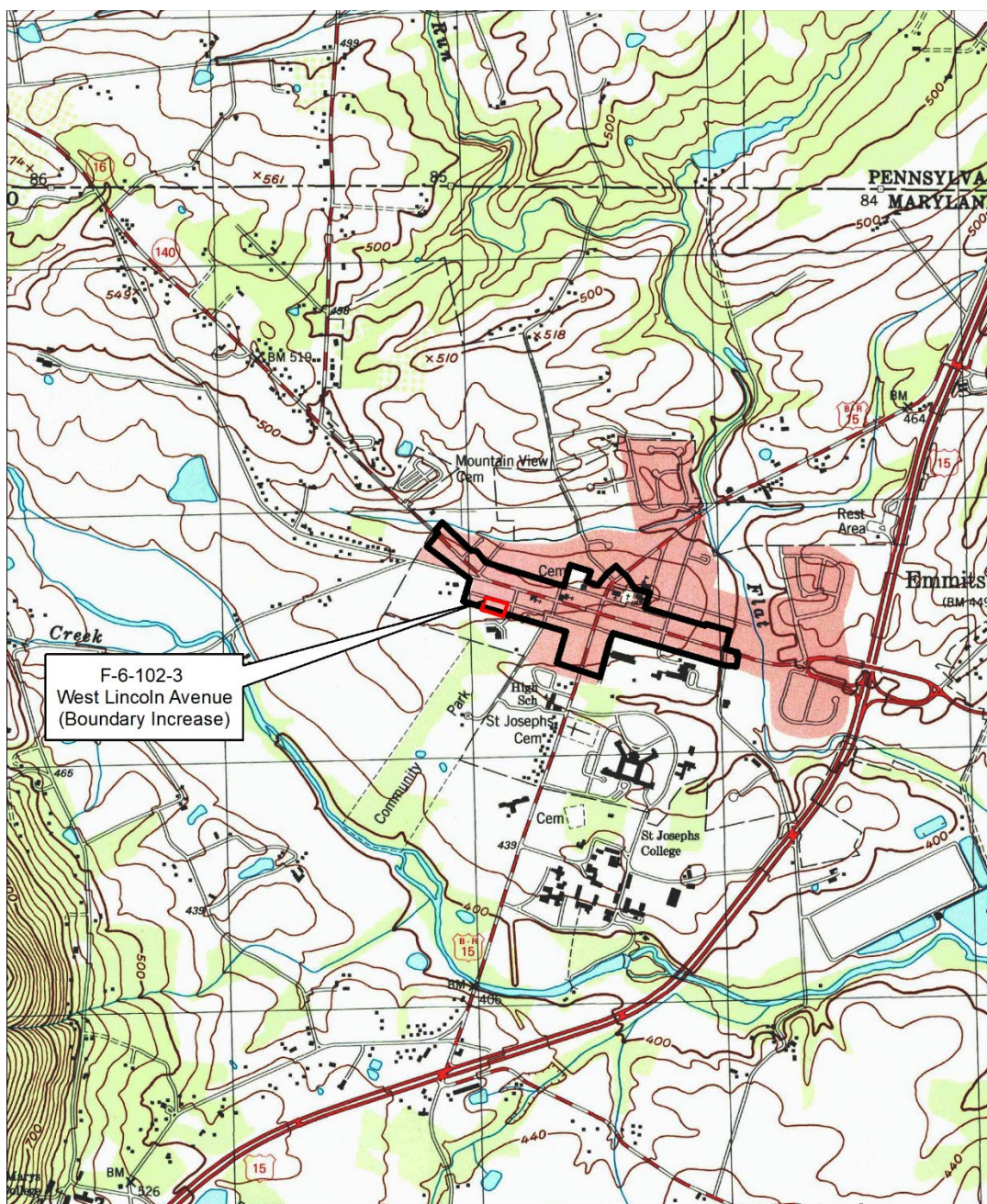
5 of 6. 435 West Lincoln Avenue, Building 5, north and west elevations, camera facing southeast.





6 of 6. 437 West Lincoln Avenue, Building 6, east and north, camera facing southwest.

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West Lincoln Avenue
(Boundary Increase to
Emmitsburg Historic District)
USGS 1999 Topographic Quad,
Emmitsburg, MD

 Boundary Increase
 Emmitsburg Historic District

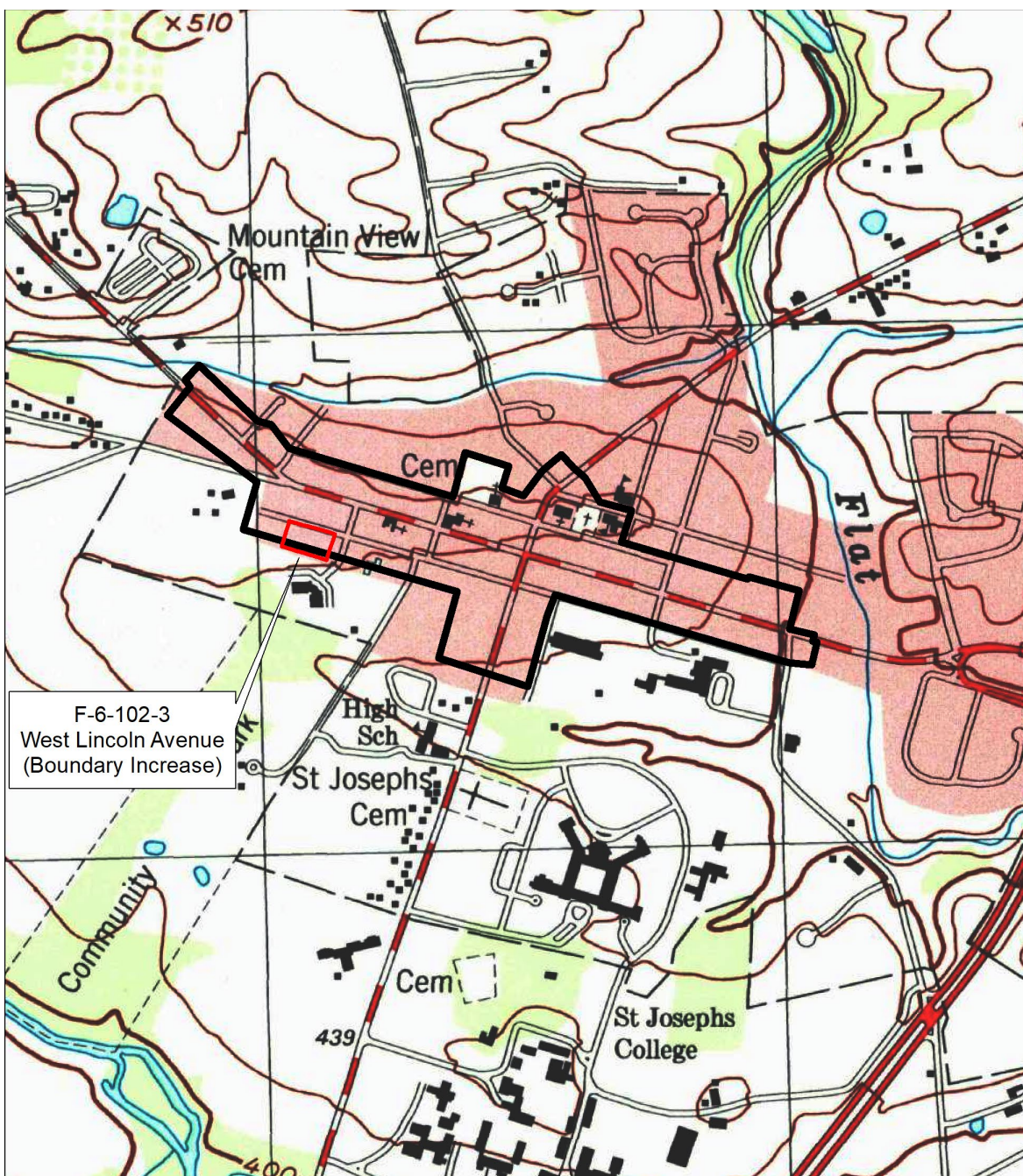
0 1,000 2,000
Feet





Figure 1: District Boundary Increase Map.

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F-6-102-3
West Lincoln Avenue
(Boundary Increase to
Emmitsburg Historic District)
USGS 1999 Topographic Quad,
Emmitsburg, MD

 Boundary Increase
 Emmitsburg Historic District

0 500 1,000
Feet



Figure 1A: District Boundary Increase Map (1:12,000).

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F-6-102-3
West Lincoln Avenue
(Boundary Increase to
Emmitsburg Historic District)
Photo map

■ Building Footprint
□ Boundary Increase
--- Emmitsburg Historic District

0 50 100
Feet



Figure 2: Photo Angle Sketch Map.

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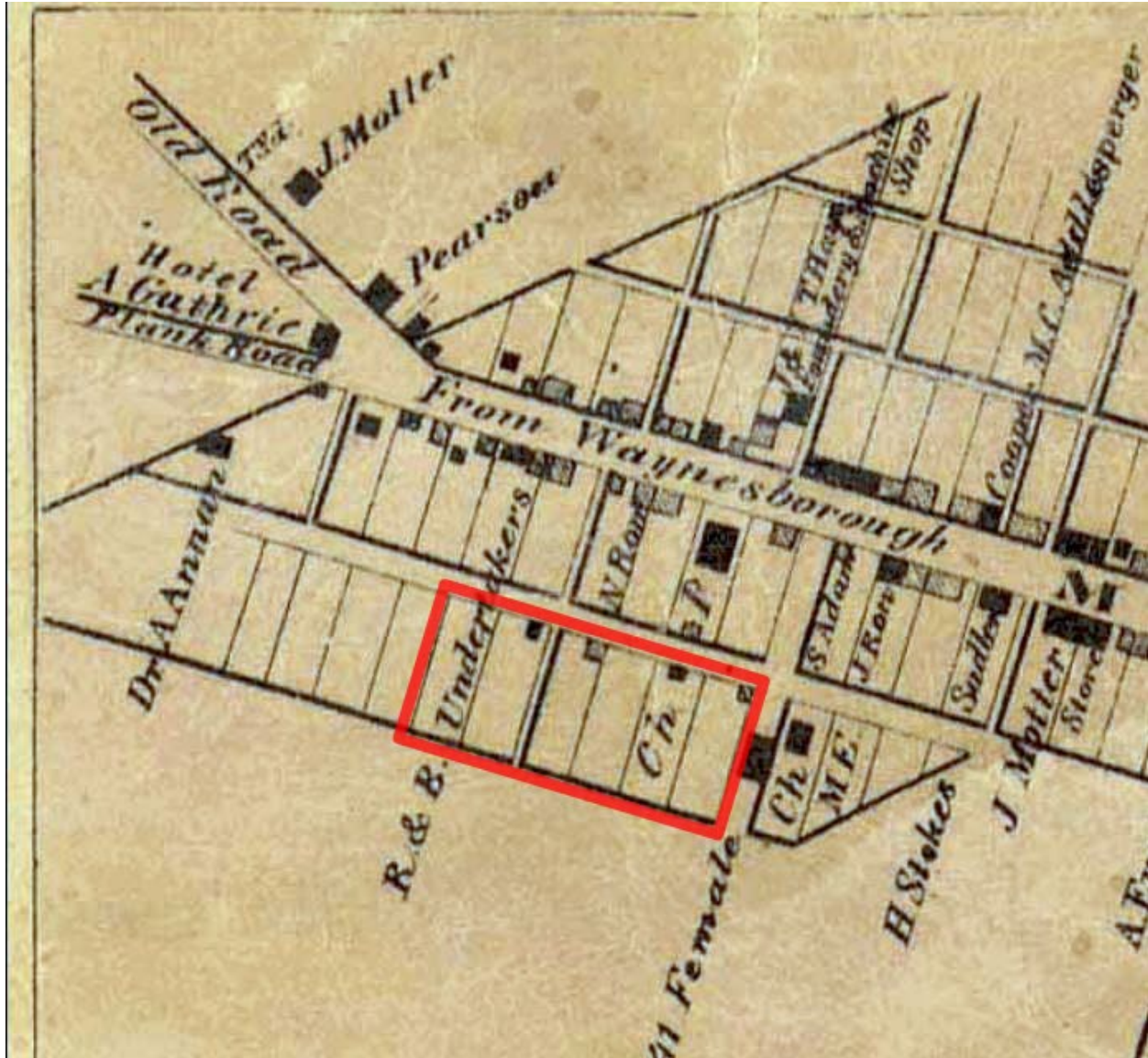


Figure 3: 1858, "Map of Frederick County, Maryland," Emmitsburg.
Area of boundary increase highlighted.

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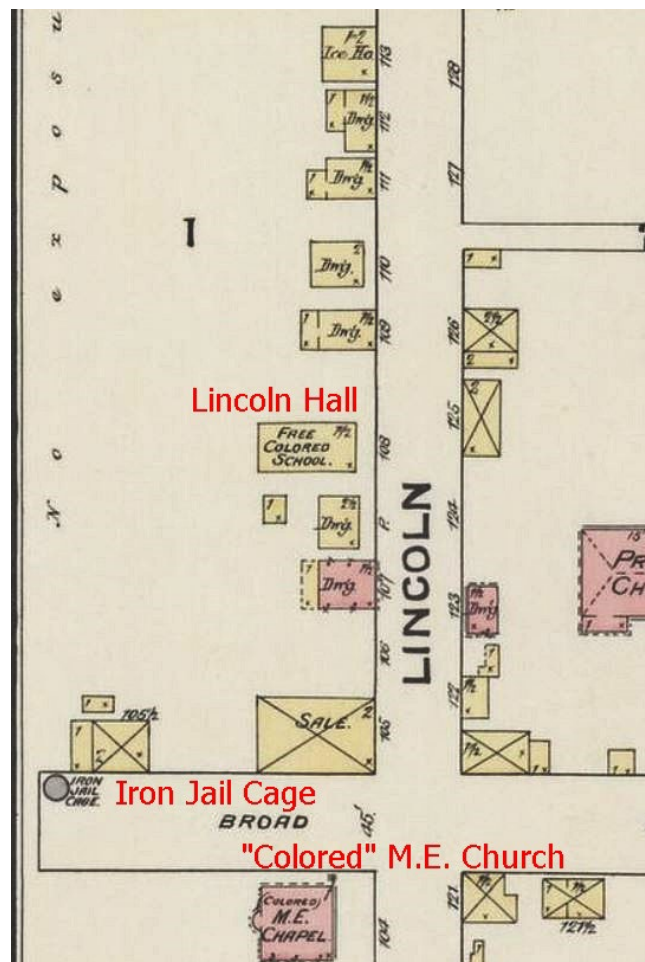


Figure 4: 1890, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Emmitsburg.

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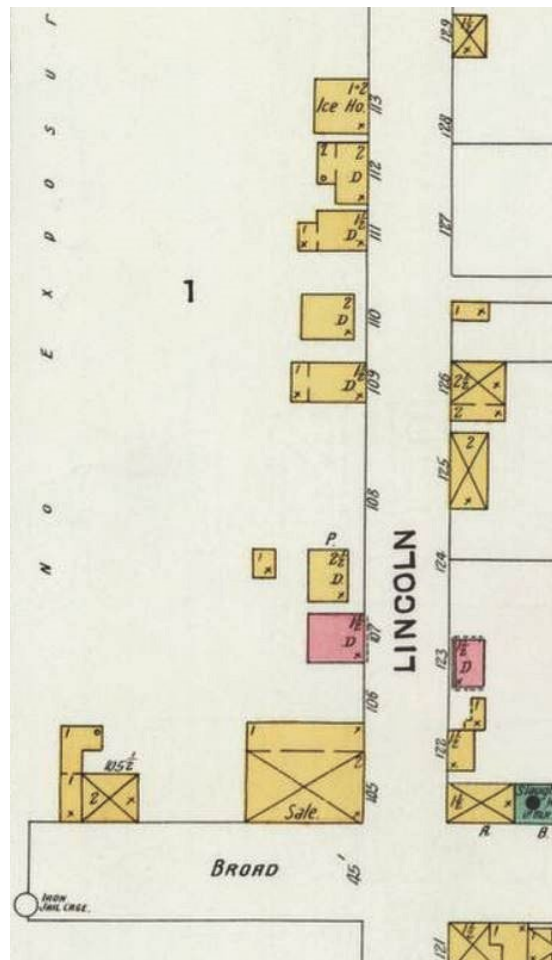


Figure 5: 1904, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Emmitsburg.