

Thematic Context History – Architecture

Frederick City impresses the casual observer most with its vast array of brick buildings dating from the first half of the 19th century. These represent to various degrees the influence of the Federal and Greek Revival periods, and the buildings of this era dominate the city's streetscape. Certainly there are architectural emblems from before and after the early-mid 19th century, but the dominating idiom is the 1810-1860 period.

Although Frederick was laid out in 1745, and there were buildings present shortly thereafter, the architectural character of the city reflects the 19th century principally, and brick is the material of dominance. This architectural presence from an approximate 50-year time period, roughly 1810-1860 suggests that the city emerged as a prominent and prosperous inland market town during the first half of the 19th century. The prosperity is rooted in the rich agricultural lands surrounding Frederick that produced record harvests of grain and other products, as well as significant amounts of iron ore to feed numerous furnaces and forges. Diane Shaw Wasch writes in her thesis, "City Building in Frederick, Maryland 1810-1860,"

Frederick's fortune had always been linked to the countryside's fruitful agriculture. An eighteenth-century Englishman marveled over the land, "heavy, strong and rich, well suited for wheat, with which it abounds." Fifty years and numerous travel accounts later, a visiting German noted that the "region has the reputation of rare fertility. The agricultural establishments all bear the stamp of prosperity." A resident could not help but notice the impact of agriculture on the local economy.¹

Jacob Engelbrecht a Frederick tailor and observer of just about everything that went on in the town noted in his diary on May 23, 1821 that "as I was coming from Baltimore yesterday I counted one hundred & two waggons, all going to Baltimore with flour. These I counted from morning till 12 o'clock AM [noon]"² Frederick County was not only producing grain, but refining it into flour, which was then transported to Baltimore and other port cities for shipment.

Frederick's Most Visible Time Period, 1810-1860

Frederick thus became attractive to investors, planters, farmers, entrepreneurs and gentlemen. As a result, it was also attractive to craftsmen and laborers. This combined population built houses, shops, churches, taverns, industrial buildings, banks and offices. Shortly after its establishment, Frederick became the county seat for the newly formed Frederick County in 1748. Thus the town also sprouted a courthouse, jail and law offices. Of course it had a market house as well. To be sure, there were and still are plenty of substantial buildings from the 18th century, but Frederick seems to have blossomed and refined itself in the 1810-1860 period.

¹ Diane Shaw Wasch, "City Building in Frederick, Maryland 1810-1860." (Thesis, George Washington University, 1990. Maryland Room, C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, MD.), p. 87, citing John F.D. Smyth, Tour in the United States of America, 2 vols., (London: G. Robinson, 1784), 2:255. Gottfried Duden, Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America...1827, ed. and trans. James W. Goodrich (Elberfeld Germany: 1829; Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1980) p. 31.

² Jacob Engelbrecht, Diary of Jacob Engelbrecht, CD-ROM, (Frederick: Frederick County Historical Society, 2001) p. 40.

Buildings from this period, mostly dwellings, exhibit all economic levels from high style town houses located prominently in such places as Court Square, Record Street and Church Street, to modest representations on the fringes of the central city, as seen on South Street, All Saints Street, East Street and South Bentz Street. Yet these dominating brick buildings are not alone in defining the architectural character of Frederick.

Impressions of Early Frederick

Another notable visual characteristic of the city is the presence of remnants of stone dwellings embedded within the brick walls of later buildings. Throughout the older parts of the city this phenomenon portrays at least to some extent the early appearance of Frederick Town. Stone gables within the walls of larger brick houses are evident on east Church Street, South Market Street and elsewhere throughout the town. In general, the stone buildings were one and a half stories high with steeply pitched roofs, suggesting their 18th century heritage. The 18th century appearance of the town was apparently much more German than English influenced and buildings portrayed that through their stone or log construction, presumably with the characteristic Germanic plan with a central chimney. The most notable remaining intact German house in Frederick is the Schifferstadt museum, a farm dwelling dating from the mid-18th century, now within the city on Rosemont Avenue. Other Germanic houses are scattered through the city, however. A review of the 1798 Frederick County Tax Assessment for Frederick City reveals that most surnames were German. Only a few entries in the tax assessment refer to specific buildings. Of the 332 listings in the assessment, only six make any reference to any kind of buildings. Four of them mention log dwellings, qualified as “new,” “small,” or an “indifferent cabin.” Two brick structures are mentioned, an “addition” and a “brick shop.”³ The fact that over 300 properties appear in the tax assessment shows that the town was substantial by 1798, despite the notation that some of the assessed lots were not improved. The few mentions of specific buildings imply that those called out were in some way noteworthy or distinctive.

Writing in his diary on June 15, 1798, Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, a Polish traveler, recorded his impressions of Frederick:

This is one of the more important towns in the interior of America. It encompasses mainly the length of one street and of another which crosses it. The houses are in general of masonry and rather well kept. Sidewalks for pedestrians are laid out with stones but the streets are not paved.⁴

Other accounts like Elbridge Gerry’s diary notes in 1813 that Frederick “is a very thriving and rich town and a great deal of inland business and merchandise is transacted in it.” In the same commentary, Gerry reported that,

³ Frederick County tax Assessment Records, 1798.

⁴ Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, Under Their Vine and Fig Tree, (Elizabeth, New Jersey: The Grassmann Publishing Co., Inc. 1965), p. 112.

This town is the largest I have seen, and is neat and elegant. Thro' the center run two broad streets at right angles and they are a full half mile in length. The buildings are handsome and the public buildings especially so.⁵

Map maker Charles Varle wrote in 1833 that Frederick was “well stocked with all kinds of stores, some dry and fancy goods, and others with groceries.”⁶ He compared Frederick of 1833 with its appearance in 1808 when he published his map of Frederick and Washington Counties, observing that distinct neighborhoods had developed and that there was a manufacturing area along Carroll Creek, fine court square, a suburban jail and a market house and taverns on the main street.⁷ Also writing in the 1830s was Catherine Susannah Markell who noted Frederick’s metamorphosis from “antiquated” German buildings to “modern” construction.

[Frederick has] the characteristic appearance of a German Provincial town. Though its antiquated dwellings, with their cumbrous chimneys, which seem as if they were the original buildings and the houses constructed around them, the generous fireplaces, narrow, crooked stairways, hipped roofs, peaked gables and chinked wall, the diminutive-paned windows of various shapes and sizes, the transversely-bisected and clumsy wooded “balcons” have given way to the march of progress and been superceded by more modern, though possibly less comfortable structures, a few of the ancient landmarks remain.⁸

The growth in Frederick’s population, which expanded from 2,932 in 1810 to 4,427 in 1830, according to census records, required substantial expansion of the city’s built environment, bringing about the early to mid 19th century architectural character of Frederick evident today.

Early Log Construction

There are, to be sure, remaining 18th century buildings. In the farther reaches of the city, away from the downtown commercial area, numerous modest log dwellings survive. These are generally covered with siding and were so historically. Early sidings might have been beaded weatherboards, or in some cases plain weatherboards of uniform width on the front elevation and random width on the side and rear walls. Sometimes log houses were covered with lath and stucco. Early stucco almost always has a smooth surface struck to resemble cut blocks. Very modest log buildings were left with their log structure showing, but covered with whitewash. Later coverings might be brick casing, a common veneer for log buildings in the 19th century, milled wooden sidings, most frequently German siding, and mid-late 20th century coverings such as Insul, asbestos shingles, artificial stone, aluminum, or vinyl. With these covered buildings, the log construction is discernable from the depth of the walls (which could also indicate timber framing), and a foundation that is stepped up on two opposite walls to accommodate sill logs that notched over the sill logs of the adjoining wall at the corners. Brick-cased log houses generally

⁵ Elbridge Gerry, Diary of Elbridge Gerry, Jr. [1813], (New York: Brentanos, 1927). p. 144-145, Cited in Diane Shaw Wasch, p. 44

⁶ Charles Varle, A Compleate view of Baltimore with a Statistical Sketch (Baltimore: Samuel Young, 1933) p. 124-125, cited in Wasch.

⁷ Varle, *Ibid.*

⁸ Catherine Susannah Thomas Markell Short Stories of Life in Frederick in 1830 (n.p.:n.p.,n.d.) p. 14. Cited in Wasch, p. 124.

have all-stretcher brick work (although not always) and frequently display exposed heads of iron spikes, which held the brick veneer to the underlying log structure. Most remaining log houses in Frederick are small, one and a half or two stories and not larger than four bays in width. According to Diane Shaw Wasch's research, in 1825 there were 122 log houses in Frederick for 28.5% of the total of 428 buildings. A decade later, there were only 99 log houses of a total of 547, showing a trend away from this traditional building material for urban housing in Frederick. In the countryside immediately adjoining Frederick, the trend reversed with an increase in the number of log houses over the decade.⁹

Early Stone Construction

The use of stone construction was probably more common than suggested by the current appearance of Frederick. While Frederick is not in the same limestone belt that Washington County, its neighbor to the west is (where limestone dominated, along with the frequent use of stone construction), there are still plenty of stone buildings in the Frederick County Piedmont. In Frederick City several still stand dating from the 18th century including Schifferstadt, once a farmhouse, but now incorporated into the city. There is also an 18th century stone house on East Patrick Street, east of the intersection with East Street. This building is Georgian inspired with five bays and a central entrance has a stone water table revealing its 18th century origins. From the early to mid 19th century are a group of stone industrial buildings in the vicinity of South Carroll and South Streets, as well as dwellings presumed to be workers housing. According to the 1825 Frederick City tax assessment, there were 25 stone houses in the town; in 1835 there were 28. In both cases that was slightly over 5% of the total building stock. In the surrounding countryside, stone houses represented 12.9 and 16.3% of the building stock respectively.¹⁰ These figures seem to indicate that stone as a construction material was less frequently chosen in the urban environment of Frederick City than in the surrounding countryside. However, there have been no tabulations for earlier tax assessments, and the 1798 tax does not have the detailed information to reveal which building materials were favored. From the extent of existing remnants of buildings, there may have been more stone dwellings and industrial buildings in Frederick in the 18th century than were counted in the 1825 and 1835 assessments.

In assessing the approximate age of stone buildings, the process is similar as for other masonry structures. Eighteenth century stone buildings usually have a projecting water table and often flat jack arches above the openings. Particularly early buildings might have segmental arches above the openings such as those found on the mid-eighteenth century Schifferstadt. Stones used for the wall surfaces tend to be smaller and more regularly coursed than those of later stone buildings. If the stonework is particularly rough and irregular, it is an indication that the building might have been stuccoed originally. After approximately 1810, stone buildings lose their flat arches above doors and windows and instead display a central keystone above the openings. By the same period water tables also disappear. After 1825 or 1830, there is usually no distinguishing masonry feature above doors and windows, and the stones forming the wall surface are larger and less regular than typical of older stone buildings.

⁹ Wasch, p.146

¹⁰ Ibid.

Early Brick Construction

In the 1825 and 1835 Frederick County tax assessments, brick is by far the most prevalent construction material. In 1825, there were 216 brick buildings in Frederick City, which were 50.5% of the total count of buildings. The surrounding countryside showed brick construction lagging far behind with only 20 brick buildings, 16.1% of the total of 124. By 1835, the population of brick buildings in Frederick City had increased to 324, 59.2% of the total of 547. While the number of brick buildings in the surrounding Election District 2 doubled to 41, they were only 15.5% of the total collection of buildings.¹¹ These calculations show that Frederick City by the first quarter of the 19th century displayed a preference for brick construction over other materials traditionally favored in the countryside. Thus Frederick's predominance of early 19th century brick buildings is and was historically distinctive within the larger setting of Frederick County. Brick construction in Frederick seems to have been used as much for modest houses as for large, stylish mansions.

To determine period of construction for brick buildings, the following characteristics serve as identifiers. Eighteenth century brick buildings have principal elevations constructed in Flemish bond. Secondary walls generally have common bond with three or four courses of stretcher bricks between header rows. Molded brick water tables may mark the front and rear or all four elevations. Occasionally belt courses between the first and second stories are present. Upright, flaired courses of brick embellish the tops of openings. The masonry is typically clearly defined with joints often tooled or struck with lines. By the early 19th century, water tables and belt courses disappear as well as common bond with three courses of stretchers. From approximately 1820 to 1860 common bonding featured five stretcher rows between header courses. The appearance of the facades is smoother and less embellished. By the second decade of the 19th century, flat or jack arches are replaced by molded wooden lintels, often with decorated corner blocks with molded concentric circles in a bull's eye pattern. Brick construction transitions again in the mid 19th century. The use of Flemish bonding diminishes until there is almost no use of it on facades after about 1850. Instead prominent elevations are constructed with all-stretcher veneer, or with common bonding. The use of heavy wooden lintels above openings is characteristic, either with a flat surface or with a plain corner block without carving or trim. Nineteenth century brickwork was typically finished with a smooth joint and stained and striped or "penciled" as described by Jacob Engelbrecht in his diary noting the construction of his own new house in the summer of 1826.

Messers. Henry Haller, Henry Hull & Edward Phillips (masons) this afternoon finished the masoning of my house next to the creek, Patrick Street, Fredericktown, Maryland. The cellar was commenced on the 31st of May, but afterwards remained idle for about one month. The brickwork took them about 13 days they are now about painting & penciling it. Thursday July 27, 1826.¹²

Staining and striping or penciling was standard treatment for brickwork throughout the 19th century and even survived to some extent into the 20th century.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Engelbrecht, Diary.

Late 19th century, brick masonry displays common bonding with even greater spans of stretcher courses between header rows. Flemish bonding comes back into style with the Colonial Revival period in the late 19th and early 20th century. Also in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, harder, smoother bricks were available as well as harder mortar with Portland cement, replacing early lime mortar. Sometimes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, mortar joints were so thin that they were barely visible and were often called “butter joints.”

Early Frame Construction

The 1825 and 1835 tax assessment records show that nearly 80% of Frederick’s buildings in either decade were log or brick. The next most frequently found construction system was frame. Framed buildings are difficult to distinguish from log structures when both are sided. Prior to the 1840s, framed buildings were of large timbers, individually fit with mortised and tenoned joints. Not until after the Civil War does light weight dimensioned framing, also known as Balloon framing proliferate. Thus in these tax assessment records, the frame buildings referenced were braced frame or timber framed. There were 67 framed buildings in 1825 and 60 in 1835, making up 15.6 and 10.9 percent of the total buildings respectively. As with brick construction, this was a reversal of the ratio in the countryside surrounding Frederick where frame construction made up 3.2 percent of buildings in the 1825 assessment. The percentage had risen to 4.9 in 1835, still well under the amount of frame construction in the city.¹³ Certainly, given these statistics, Frederick City presented a distinct appearance from the surrounding agricultural region.

In 1835, the most densely built street was Patrick, not surprising, given the fact that it was part of the National Road linkage, a major thoroughfare through the state and points west. Next followed Market Street, the main north-south route. Buildings were significantly sparser on the side streets.

The presence of commercial brick yards in Frederick may well have contributed to the predominance of brick construction in the town, along with the cosmopolitan attitudes that came about as Frederick ranked among the state’s major cities from the late 18th century well into the 19th century. Frederick County had the greatest population of all counties in Maryland in 1790, with a total count of 30,791.¹⁴

Late 19th Century Frederick

For Frederick city and the surrounding region, the economic, social, and political zenith had been in the 1763-1860 period. The area was certainly still prosperous, still continued to grow, but the regional focus had shifted to industrial development in Baltimore, Hagerstown and Cumberland. This was largely due to the multiple railroads directly serving these cities in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The superior transportation routes led to growth of heavy industries and consequently population growth. Frederick’s rail connections were branch or spur lines, which provided access to city markets for lighter agricultural or industrial products

¹³ Wasch, p. 146.

¹⁴ *A Century of Population Growth From the First Census of the United States to the Twelfth, 1790-1900.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1970, p. 272.

but were less useful for heavy industries. While Frederick grew, it did not experience the accelerated growth that the three larger cities did.¹⁵

The slowed but steady growth of the population and economic base of Frederick city by the second half of the nineteenth century encouraged city authorities to look toward expansion and development of municipal facilities. In 1870, the taxable limits of Frederick were extended (See Overview Context, Figure 35, 1870 Plat). The expansion encompassed a number of outlying farms, although all of the additional acreage, plus a great deal more, had been included within the original 1817 corporation boundaries.

The State of Maryland, Frederick County, and the city all began new construction in Frederick during the 1870s. Beginning in 1870, the county almshouse/hospital known as Montevue Hospital was constructed on the almshouse farm, on what is now Rosemont Avenue, just west of the city limits. The impressive brick building was four stories in height with two Second Empire style towers.¹⁶ A second, smaller “Colored” hospital building was located to the rear of the main hospital.¹⁷ In 1867, the Hessian Barracks and grounds were acquired by the State of Maryland on which they began construction of the “Asylum of the Deaf & Dumb” in 1870.¹⁸ Designed in an elaborate Victorian style, Engelbrecht described the plans for the building in May 1871:

The dimensions are 268 feet front, 200 feet deep in center, & 124 feet deep in the wings. The main building 100 feet wide & four stories high with a tower 136 feet high from the ground.¹⁹

Construction of the massive building caused great excitement throughout the city of just over 8,500; Engelbrecht described the June 1st, 1871 cornerstone ceremony in detail saying, “I would estimate the number of people at 5 or 6,000 or more.” Two years later, in 1873, the city of Frederick demolished the old Market House and five adjoining houses in order to build a new City Hall & Market House; and in 1875, the new county jail was constructed on West South Street. Jacob Engelbrecht noted each of these buildings at the time of their construction, noting in 1875:

I asked Mr. Benjamin F. Winchester, yesterday, the number of brick the City Hall & Market House took. He said about eight hundred thousand (800,000) and he told me also that the Deaf & Dumb Asylum (as now finished) took about two and a half millions (2,500,000) and the jail and sheriffs house about eight hundred thousand (800,000). He furnished the whole of the brick.²⁰

¹⁵ Information on regional agricultural history from Paula S. Reed & Assoc., “Mid Maryland Agricultural Context Report,” Chapter 6, (Frederick, MD: Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, 2003).

¹⁶ Engelbrecht, CD-ROM, p. 1075; Cannon, Gorsline, and Whitmore, p. 109.

¹⁷ The Montevue property is first included on the 1897 Sanborn Map, at which time the “Colored Hospital” is shown.

¹⁸ Engelbrecht, CD-ROM, p. 1080.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid, p. 1116; a north wing and second tower were added to the Deaf & Dumb Asylum building in 1874, which necessitated the demolition of one of the two Hessian Barracks buildings. The remaining Barracks building stands today (2003) as a museum. Reimer, p. 36

Commercial Storefronts

Commercial and domestic buildings were also in the process of change during this period. Up until the middle of the century, shops were located within dwellings, indistinguishable except by their signs hung over doors. After the Civil War, the more “modern” storefront appeared in Frederick. The new commercial fronts were clearly that, distinct from residential buildings and they were concentrated in the downtown area with other businesses. Either in new late 19th century buildings, or inserted into the first stories of older buildings, these commercial fronts involved plate glass windows providing a view into the store with its array of merchandise. The storefront also let in light for the interior of the commercial space. The entrances were usually recessed giving even more opportunity for display of merchandise at the sides of the entrance. Storefronts usually were topped with an elaborate cornice often with brackets, reflecting influence of the Italianate style and framing the display to focus the shopper’s attention on the goods for sale. Canvas retractable awnings extended from the storefronts out over the sidewalks. The rhythm of the awnings and their support structures were character defining features of the commercial district of Frederick in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In 1871, Engelbrecht pointedly remarked in his diary about property owners putting in “an open front” for a store or office.²¹ He also commented on a number of buildings being raised to three stories. In the 1880s, the banks began building larger, more elaborate buildings, several located on the “square corner.”²² The decade saw the rise of the commercial furniture business, the East Patrick and South Market Street area became a “furniture alley,” hosting as many as five furniture dealers by the end of the nineteenth century, including C. C. Carty’s, C. E. Cline’s, and Obenderfer & Son.²³ These businesses grew out of the artisan workshops that had long been a part of Frederick’s streetscape. Much of that traditional business remained in the form of milliners, tin shops, carriage and wagon makers, and the grocers and dry goods shops located on nearly every corner.

Frederick and the End of the 19th Century

Despite a changing agricultural climate with the growth of mid-Western production, Frederick remained a thriving market town with a large new Market House and numerous specialty shops catering to the needs of rural as well as city customers. Entertainment in Frederick was still centered on the Agricultural Fair and traveling theater and circuses. But the growing urbanization of the city would justify the establishment of the “Opera House” in the Market House building by the 1890s, providing theater and film entertainment.²⁴

Plans for residential development beyond the established city grid began with the platting of Clark Place on the south end of town in 1894.²⁵ The plan for Clark Place was a sign of the

²¹ Engelbrecht, CD-ROM, p. 1080.

²² Cannon, Gorsline, and Whitmore, p. 116.

²³ 1904 Sanborn Insurance Co. map of Frederick City, microfilm collection, Maryland Room, C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, MD.

²⁴ Cannon, Gorsline, and Whitmore, p. 131.

²⁵ Williams, p. 403; Cannon, Gorsline, and Whitmore, p. 174.

suburban development that would take hold in the early twentieth century, with large single houses on lots with deep setbacks from the street. John F. Ramsburg created the development and named it in honor of James C. Clark a Frederick philanthropist and railroad man.²⁶ Adopting the Late Victorian and Colonial Revival architectural styles, which emphasized larger individualized building forms, these houses signaled a distinctive new appearance in Frederick architecture. West of the city grid, street extensions shown on the 1897 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map reveal significant plans for future subdivision.

The end of the nineteenth century saw a renewed energy in Frederick's development. The city was well established with thriving agricultural markets, particularly the emerging dairy market, as well as a diversified light industrial base, and a growing number of wealthy citizens associated with the railroads, business, and legal community. City streets were paved and lit with electric lights, and telephone service was available to city residents.²⁷

Early 20th Century and Residential Subdivisions

As the population shift from rural to urban took affect in Frederick County during the first decade of the twentieth century, building on Frederick's newly platted subdivisions began in earnest. Connected with the city grid by extensions of West Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Streets, the "Manufacturing and Development Co.'s North-West Addition to Frederick City" was platted but altered somewhat in its execution with the construction of the Frederick City Hospital on Block 8. The relatively modest houses constructed ranged from single dwellings to duplexes to a few row houses, but differed from the older city core houses in their setbacks from the street and Colonial Revival, American Four Square, and bungalow designs. They also stood in stark contrast to the frame vernacular rowhouses and "Negro Tenements" located just a block away on the alleys east of Bentz Street.²⁸

Two blocks to the south, Frank C. Norwood subdivided the Elihue Hall Rockwell estate along the western extension of West Third Street in 1905.²⁹ Large lots with deep setbacks and a remarkable variety of interpretations of the Colonial Revival architectural style identified Rockwell Terrace as an address of wealth and prestige much like the historic Courthouse Square. Even more distinctive were the curving streets of College Terrace, also known as College Park, a western extension of Rockwell Terrace. Architect Emory C. Crum designed it before World War I.³⁰ Housing constructed during these first decades appeared on West Fourth Street extended (Dill or Montevue Avenue), East Third Street extended, Seventh Street, North Market Street extended, and the new northern cross-streets, Eighth, Ninth, etc., all identifiable by their setbacks and design.

The park-like settings of the new residential subdivisions on the west side of Frederick were further enhanced by the development of the expansive Hood College campus around 1913

²⁶ National Register Nomination, "Frederick Historic District (expanded)," 1988.

²⁷ "Frederick Historic District (expanded)," National Register documentation, 1988.

²⁸ The "Negro Dwellings" and "Negro Tenements" show on West Alley (later Kleinhart's Alley) and an alley between W. 5th and W. 6th Sts beginning with the 1887 Sanborn Map of Frederick City.

²⁹ National Register Nomination

³⁰ Ibid.

on Rosemont Avenue (Fourth Street extended) and Baker Park along Carroll Creek in 1928. Around these open areas grew block after block of single houses for middle class families. Similar development was occurring along East Patrick Street extended (Baltimore Pike) across from the Agricultural Society Fair Grounds.

Middle and upper middle class residential development was not the only growth occurring in Frederick during this period. In addition to the smaller traditional houses and “Negro tenements” along the alleys of Frederick, a number of small subdivisions created specifically as housing for employees of local industries began to appear. Of particular note were those located along Water Street between East South Street and B&O Avenue on Mary Welty’s Addition to Frederick, which may have been associated with the nearby packing companies or the with the B&O Railroad.³¹ The Nicodemus Ice Cream Company constructed an enclave of ten bungalows on Pennsylvania Avenue, south of East Patrick Street extended, in 1924.³² Originally platted to include fifty-six lots, the subdivision was never completed beyond the ten original dwellings and was sold to Southern Dairies, Inc. in 1928.

Early 20th Century Downtown Core

The now nearly two hundred-year old historic core of the city was fully developed and remained relatively unchanged after the turn of the twentieth century. However, a few buildings were added that helped define the Frederick streetscape of the twentieth century. Prior to the, in some cases, devastating effect of the Depression of the 1930s on local banks, a number of bank buildings in Frederick were thoroughly updated or rebuilt in the first decades of the new century. The Citizen’s National Bank, which did not survive the Depression, built a heavily columned Classical Revival façade on the southeast corner of Patrick and Market Streets 1908, as did the Frederick County Bank on the northwest corner.³³ The Francis Scott Key Hotel was built in 1922; at five stories high, it was the tallest building in town for many years.³⁴

With Frederick city as a seat of government and market center the place developed a high degree of sophistication, contributing to knowledge of architectural styles and types. Following is a discussion of some of the more frequently seen architectural styles and types in Frederick city.

Architectural Styles and Types in Frederick City

1. Traditional German

While not really a “style” German traditional architecture was among the earliest architectural expressions in Frederick City. Schifferstadt is certainly the most well known and best preserved example of the German architectural influence in Frederick. It however, is unusual in that it has a central passageway rather than the standard three-room plan with central chimney. Other examples of the central chimney plan German

³¹ Frederick Co. Land Record, Deed Book WIP 13, page 376.

³² Frederick Co. Land Record, Deed Book 368, page 240.

³³ Williams, p. 528.

³⁴ No buildings were allowed to be higher than the famous spires however.

plan survive in the city. Diane Shaw Wasch identified one such building at 23 East Fifth Street in 1989, a log dwelling.³⁵ Over time, these dwellings either through modification, or evolving newer construction developed to a type with a four bay wide façade and an off center front door, or its variant with two side-by-side central front doors. German two-front-door houses are not duplexes with two entrances. The traditional German two-front-door house is a single-family residence with one door opening into the kitchen side and the other into the parlor or formal part of the house. These were important and persistent traditions among the German American residents of Frederick County and Frederick city.

2. Georgian Style

Although the Georgian style began in America as early as the 1730s, it didn't become manifest in Frederick until much later, after the 1760s. In central Maryland the style remained in vogue until the early 19th century. An excellent example of high style Georgian architecture in Frederick was the Second Courthouse, built in 1785 and burned in 1861. The Georgian style features hipped or gabled roofs, although gabled roofs were far more prevalent in Frederick and all of central Maryland. Regardless of construction material, Georgian influenced buildings in Frederick City appear massive, formal and have one of the following façade arrangements: five bay with central entrance, three bay with side-front entrance, and in the most modest versions, two bays. If of masonry construction these buildings will have water tables, and jack or flat arches above the openings. Window and door trim if original will be massive, mortised and tenoned with joints secured with pegs. Window sash, if original will be twelve over eight or nine over six panes, although these are frequently replaced with later forms. Doors will have raised panels, usually six and they will be hung beneath either semicircular fanlights or more frequently under multi light transoms. The feel of Georgian buildings, regardless of their size or degree of refinement is one of solidity and massiveness. The basic Georgian form with its symmetry continues through the 19th century with detailing added to reflect current styles.

3. Federal Style

Prominent from the early years of the 19th century, the Federal style dominated Frederick and remained popular into the early 1830s, although at the national level the date range for the style is ca. 1780 to 1820. Like Georgian, the Federal style is formal and symmetrical, but unlike Georgian, it is lighter, and more delicate in its feel. Walls are smooth, either through the manipulation of masonry and removal of projecting features like water tables and belt courses or through the application of stucco or less heavily tooled wood siding. Brick construction dominates, often with parapets on the side gables. Fenestration patterns remain the same as for Georgian with five, three and two-bay-wide examples. However, windows have either flat or jack arches in the early phase of the style or wide wood lintels, often embellished with decorated corner blocks in the later phase. Doorways are surrounded typically with elliptical fanlights and sidelights.

³⁵ Wasch, p. 128

Simpler examples might have only the fanlight, or a rectangular transom with delicate tracery featuring oval motifs. In Frederick, front doors often have oval trim in their panels, a frequently encountered feature. Another important characteristic that distinguishes Federal style architecture in Frederick City is the use of gabled dormer windows with arched upper sash. What makes these dormers particularly distinctive to Frederick is a front stepped parapet of wood construction. Locals refer to these as “Frederick Top Hat Dormers.” They appear on many buildings throughout the city such as the McPherson Houses on Council Street, the Historical Society building on East Church Street and the Schley House in the 400 block of East Patrick Street. While these parapeted dormers are not unique to Frederick, they are a “character defining feature” of the city.

4. Greek Revival Style

Nearly as prominent in Frederick as the Federal Style is the Greek Revival style. With a date range from the late 1820s to about 1860, but with influence that extended even later, the Greek Revival also dominated in Frederick. Like Federal, most examples in Frederick are brick buildings. The use of brick parapets on the side gables remains prevalent. The style projects its influence from high style to modest vernacular examples. Most are brick buildings. Typical features include brick construction, often with Flemish bond brickwork, wide wooden lintels above windows and doors, frequently with plain corner blocks, six over six pane window sash, six panel front doors with rectangular transoms and sidelights. Modest examples have wide wood lintels, no corner blocks and three light transoms over their doors. Winchester Hall on East Church street is an excellent example of the style with its Greek Temple-inspired portico and strongly horizontal elements—frieze, window lintels and transoms. Other Greek Revival buildings are present in the first block of South Market Street and throughout the city. Less high style examples abound in Frederick on Bentz Street, South Street, Fourth Street and elsewhere in the city.

5. Gothic Revival Style

The Gothic Revival, first of the Victorian period architectural expressions has a date range from the 1830s-1870s. The style features vertical, pointed elements. In Frederick, the most prominent examples of the style are All Saints Episcopal Church on West Church Street built in 1855 and designed by nationally known New York architect, Richard Upjohn the Lutheran Church designed by the Baltimore firm of John R. Niernsee and James C. Neilson and also built in 1854 on East Church Street. For domestic buildings, the Gothic Revival is expressed through the use of cross gables, and gingerbread trim, particularly on porches and bargeboard areas.

6. Italianate Style

The Italianate of the 1850s-1870s period is also prominent in Frederick, although not so comprehensively as Federal and Greek Revival. It is essentially a style reserved for the wealthy and for commercial buildings, although its influences are far ranging and popular

at all economic levels. Characteristics of the style are pronounced overhangs at the eaves, brackets, elongated windows, arched elements, and exaggerated cornices. Construction materials are frame, brick or stone. The Trail Mansion on East Church Street is a classic example of the style. City Hall, the former county Court House, built in 1862 is also an Italianate building. There are other Italianate dwellings on East Church Street. On Patrick and Market Streets, the two main commercial thoroughfares in the city especially in the first blocks from their intersection are numerous commercial buildings with Italianate influence. These are evident in elaborate cornices, arched windows and storefronts with cornices at their tops. Dwellings and commercial buildings usually have doors with four panels, sometimes arched, round or segmentally arched transoms or fanlights, two over two or four over four pane windows, often with segmentally arched tops or with shouldered arches. Porches have squared posts, usually with brackets.

7. Queen Anne Style

With examples dating from the late 19th and into the early 20th century, this style was preferred for dwellings of the late Victorian period. Generally of frame or brick construction, these buildings have a variety of surface textures and shapes. A variety of projections, towers and polygonal bays also distinguish Queen Anne style buildings. They are often embellished with decorative shingles, wood trim and molded or corbelled brickwork. Later versions of the style are simpler and often mixed with Colonial Revival style characteristics. Usually a polygonal tower and a wraparound porch mark the influence of the Queen Anne style in its later phases in the early 20th century. A collection of excellent Queen Anne style dwellings are found on Clark Place opposite the Maryland School for the Deaf and in other sections of the city that developed in the late 19th century, particularly residential subdivisions in the northern and eastern sections of the city.

8. Classical Revival Style

Dating from Frederick's early 20th century are several Classical Revival buildings. Most notable among these are banks. Based on the design of ancient Roman buildings Classical Revival examples are monumental, and frequently built of marble or granite, or at least with stone trim. Typical features are large columns, often arranged in pairs, balustrades, and cartouches. Facades are generally symmetrical. The banks located at the intersection of Market and Patrick Streets, the commercial center of the city are particularly noteworthy examples in Frederick. Defining the "Square Corner" as a center of business as well as the center of town, these Classical Revival buildings express conservative prosperity and stability.

9. Colonial Revival Style

While Classical Revival was important for the commercial and business section for Frederick in the early 20th century, Colonial Revival also dominated in the suburban developments of the early 20th century. Brick or frame were the preferred construction systems, with occasional examples of stone buildings. Generally two stories in height,

and with either gabled or hipped roofs, these dwellings feature such early American details such as fanlights, pediments, and symmetrical facades. Character defining features for this period are columned porches, often with a central pediment. Frequently these houses will also retain carry-over features from the Queen Anne style such as polygonal towers. Colonial Revival houses abound in sections of the city where subdivisions and developments date from the early 20th century, such as the area near the Frederick County Fairgrounds and residential areas near Hood College. Colonial Revival continued into the 1940s and 1950s, although late examples tend to be smaller in size and do not have dominating front porches.

10. American Foursquare

A tremendously popular residential style in Frederick and throughout the region in the early 20th century is the American Foursquare. Whether constructed of brick, cast stone or of frame construction, these houses follow a formula with a square plan, hipped roof, front or wraparound porch and one or more hip roofed dormers. These houses were readily available through catalog companies like Sears, Roebuck & Co. and Montgomery Ward. While foursquare houses are scattered throughout the city they are particularly numerous in early 20th century subdivisions on the fringes of the city. Foursquares could be adapted to commercial use as the corner grocery store, or other small neighborhood business, often with the store entrance inserted diagonally across the corner. The versatile foursquare could be divided as a duplex, as well. Most foursquares date from approximately 1910 to 1925. Some may have carry over details from the Queen Anne style, such as polygonal towers or Colonial Revival features such as pedimented porches.

11. Bungalow

Like foursquares, bungalows gained immense popularity in the early 20th century, particularly in the 1920s and 1930s. They, too frequently came from the pages of catalogs. Always one and a half stories high, bungalows had overhanging front porches with massive posts or columns. They could be gable roofed or hip roofed. Most were quite modest, while some bungalows could be large and rambling for more upscale owners. An excellent bungalow subdivision with 10 dwellings remains with few alterations on Pennsylvania Avenue, the Nicodemus Subdivision of ca. 1924. Brick, cast stone and frame were the construction systems most frequently used.

12. Modern

After approximately 1930 Modern or Modern-influenced buildings mark Frederick's landscape. Most evident with industrial and commercial buildings, this period used clean geometric lines with simplicity and symmetry. Brick and concrete or concrete block were favored materials along with structural glass and stainless steel trim. Within the older commercial parts of Frederick, 19th century storefronts were renovated and updated in the 1940s, '50s and '60s with plate glass and aluminum, or structural glass (Carrera Glass). In the outlying industrial areas of the city are buildings constructed in the Modern style such as the Coca-Cola plant on North Market Street Extended. School

buildings also reflect this period, the West Frederick Middle School being a good example.

13. Vernacular Adaptations and Trends

Probably the majority of Frederick's buildings from all periods are vernacular adaptations of various styles and traditions. Elements of traditional Germanic domestic architecture continued even after the old central chimney plan was abandoned. Single family, four bay off-center front door, or two front door dwellings were German adaptations that persisted into the 20th century. Continuing use of log as a structural system perpetuated a vernacular idiom. Even major styles were adapted into the vernacular vocabulary. The formal façade with five, three or two bays, highly simplified became a formula that carried into the 20th century. Its roots are in the Georgian style, however. To these basic types were appended style-influenced details such as window and door treatments, brackets, porches and trim that were popular at the time of construction or renovation. Associated buildings such as stables, garages, smokehouses, summer kitchens and privies also are traditional in form and function and rarely stylistically motivated in their design.

14. Associated Support Buildings

In addition to the principal buildings on properties in Frederick City, there are often supporting buildings, associated with the use of the property. Many of these are historic and reflect the domestic, commercial or industrial uses of the property. Behind the principal building were historically numbers of other buildings which share in the architectural and cultural history of a given property, contributing to the property's character. Typical in Frederick were houses with "back buildings." This was an 18th and 19th century term for an attached rear wing forming an L. The back building usually had a double work/sleeping porch along one side and contained the kitchen and frequently a dining room. Even urban properties had a large number of out buildings of the type usually associated with farmsteads. Typical outbuildings included a smoke house, bake oven, privy, summer kitchen, chicken coops, hog pen, and stable or garage. These buildings are arranged in the back lot. The smoke house and bake oven might be attached to the kitchen in the back building, or they might be separate structures nearby. The chicken houses, hog pens, privy and stable are farther back in the yard. Depending upon their age, these structures might be of brick or frame construction. Occasionally a log or stone outbuilding survives. As the automobile replaced horse and carriage transportation, and dairy products could be purchased at the door or local grocery, stables to house the family horse and milk cow lost their original function. Some were converted to garages to house automobiles; others were removed. Replacing them were 20th century garages. Usually constructed at the edge of a rear alley, and often on the site of a removed stable, garages used "modern" materials, cast stone or concrete block. Often these new buildings were hip-roofed in the idiom of the American Foursquare with which they were contemporary. Other variations were framed structures either shed or gable roofed. Large doors distinguished them, two leafed usually, signaling occupancy by an automobile.

Commercial and industrial outbuildings are rarer, often having been removed as expansion and parking needs required. Warehouses and storage sheds of frame or brick construction, power houses/engine houses, and stables and large-scale garages are examples of commercial outbuildings.

A Preliminary list of Architects and Builders Practicing in Frederick

A growing list of architects and builders is emerging for the development of Frederick City at various periods of its history. Some of them are nationally known, others regional and many local. An opportunity for future research lies in expanding and amplifying this list.

Early 19th century:

- ❖ Andrew McCleery, master builder
 - McPherson House
 - Tyler House
 - All Saints Episcopal Church (Court St.)
- ❖ John Tehan, master builder
 - St. John's Catholic Church

Mid 19th century:

- ❖ Charles Huller, master builder
 - Presbyterian Church
- ❖ David Markey and Henry Hanshaw, master builders
- ❖ George A. Cole, master builder
 - B&O Rail Station
- ❖ Richard Upjohn and Co., NY, architects
 - All Saints Episcopal Church (Church St.)
- ❖ John R. Niernsee and James Neilson, Baltimore, architects
 - Lutheran Church
- ❖ Joseph Wall, Baltimore, architect
 - Evangelical Reformed Church

Late 19th, early 20th century:

- ❖ B. Evard Kepner, architect
 - Pythian Castle
- ❖ Emory C. Crum
 - College Park Subdivision

Temporal Limits

1745-1956. The architectural history of Frederick County continues to evolve. However, Frederick City's role as the market town and processing and distribution center for the region, which began with the platting of the town in 1745, has diminished with modern technology and transportation. The construction of the Eisenhower Defense Highway system (Interstates 70 and 270) beginning in 1956, brought large scale development of

residential, industrial and commercial areas on the fringes of or outside the city limits, drawing traditional uses away from the city's core. While the city has annexed additional land, except for historic farmsteads that were taken into the city in this manner, most of the added areas of the city and development within the outer edges of the early 19th century boundary date from after the region's interstate highway development.

Associated Property Types

- Residential.** House, rowhouse, duplex, garage, summer kitchen, privy, washhouse, smokehouse.
- Industrial.** Mill, warehouse, fertilizer plant, tannery, creamery, dairy, limestone quarry, canning factory, furniture manufactory, brickyard.
- Transportation.** Railroad depot, bus depot, inter-urban railway (trolley) depot, warehouse.
- Agricultural.** Farmhouse, bank barn, privy, out-kitchen, smokehouse, washhouse, springhouse, icehouse, root cellar, woodshed, slave quarter, butchering house, blacksmith shop, stable and/or carriage house, hog shed, chicken house, wagon shed, corncrib, hay barn, loafing shed, silo, metal granary (c.1930), wire corncrib (c.1930).
- Commercial.** Bank, hotel, restaurant/tavern, department store, specialty store, market house, blacksmith shop.
- Government.** City hall, court house, governmental office building.
- Institutional.** School, college, academy, seminary, almshouse, jail, asylum, fire hall.
- Religious.** Church, parsonage, rectory, church school, convent, parish house
- Other.** Fair grounds, park, cemetery architecture, gatehouse.

Locational Patterns of Property Types

- Residential.** Residential properties are located throughout Frederick, even in the commercial core area. Concentrations of residential properties are found in late 19th and early 20th century subdivisions away from the concentration of downtown commercial development and industrial sections along Carroll Creek.
- Industrial.** Industrial complexes in Frederick City were located primarily along the banks of Carroll Creek and along Carroll Street, East South Street, and

B&O Avenue for their proximity to the railroad. Transportation-related properties are generally found in association with industrial activity.

- Agricultural.** Agricultural properties are located on the historic boundaries of Frederick City. As these boundaries have expanded over time, many of the farms that were annexed later became surrounded by development and so may now be well within the city limits. More recent annexations will be closer to the current boundary lines.
- Commercial.** The commercial architecture in Frederick is concentrated in the downtown area in the vicinity of the intersection of Patrick and Market Streets, the historic town center. Small commercial establishments (corner stores, taverns, shops) are scattered throughout the city. Newer commercial enclaves have developed at the edges of the city.
- Government.** Historic governmental architecture is concentrated in and near Court Square, although the original courthouse is now the city hall. A new courthouse is located a block away. The old city hall and market site on North Market Street is now a restaurant.
- Institutional.** Schools are scattered throughout the city, although the oldest were located on Church Street. The Maryland School for the Deaf, established in 1867 is located on South Market Street near the south edge of town. By the mid 19th century, the jail and almshouse were moved to edge locations, away from the commercial and residential core of the city.
- Religious.** Churches are concentrated along Church Street, not surprisingly, with the Catholic dominating the east end of Church Street and All Saints Episcopal the west end. The African American churches were on All Saints and East Third Streets.
- Other.** The “other” properties such as the Frederick County Fairgrounds and Mt. Olivet Cemetery are scattered. The Fairgrounds is at the east end of town and the cemetery at the south end.

Associated Properties

(note: no comprehensive architectural survey has, to date, been conducted to identify properties in Frederick City located outside of the existing historic district; this list is therefore preliminary and incomplete)

- Residential.** Historic (50 yrs old or more) suburban developments: Rockwell Terrace; College Terrace; South side of East Patrick Street; North Market St. extended; Park/Trail Ave. (hospital area).

Industrial. Kemp's Steam Mill/Gambrill Mill/Mountain City Mill (now the Delaplaine Arts Center), warehouses, and fertilizer factories of the Cannon Hill (Carroll Street) area.

Ebert's (Letterio's Italian Restaurant) on Market St. extended; High's Dairy factory complex (may have remnants of the White Cross Milk Company buildings) between East Patrick St. and B&O Ave.

Transportation. B&O Railroad passenger depot, corner of S. Market and All Saints St.; B&O Railroad freight depot, Carroll St.; Greyhound Bus Station, All Saints St.; Frederick & Hagerstown Trolley station (News-Post building, E. Patrick St.

Agricultural. Incorporated farmsteads: Schifferstadt; Rose Hill Manor; Nalin Farm (Fort Detrick); Park Hall (East Patrick St.); Dearbought/Derr House, and others.

Other sites: Frederick Fair Grounds; 1873 Market House (former City Hall, N. Market St./Market Sq.)

Threats to Resources

Many of the Cannon Hill/Carroll St. industrial properties are now adaptively used and therefore relatively protected. Several of the remaining dairy buildings are also being used adaptively. Industrial sites, in general, are threatened by technological changes. These may require dramatic changes to the building while its use retains its historic association.

Annexed agricultural sites such as farmsteads are significantly threatened by modern residential and light industrial development. The City of Frederick is currently experiencing a phase of rapid expansion and so the threat to historic farmsteads and farmland is high. Historic residential developments associated with early suburban expansion into surrounding farmland (such as Rockwell Terrace and East Patrick St.) are relatively unthreatened by further development. However, changing use of neighboring areas, such as farmland conversion to business park or light industrial function could affect the stability of nearby residential neighborhoods. Large single residential properties have been converted to apartments or to office use which while affecting historic associations and function, does allow for preservation of the buildings. Also, only properties located within the historic district have controls over substitute materials and maintenance of historic integrity.

Relative Occurrence

The architectural styles listed above are those that seem to predominate in Frederick City. The most frequently occurring architectural expressions in downtown Frederick are brick dwellings ranging from the very modest vernacular to high style and dating from the early-mid 19th century. The visual impression that Frederick City leaves is brick 2-3 story buildings from

the 1810-1860 period reflecting the Federal and Greek Revival styles. These are common to Frederick's urban scene, but they are not alone. Scattered among them are exceptions, both older and newer. Rarer high style examples like the Italianate Trail Mansion, Gothic Revival All Saints Church and High Victorian period and Classical Revival commercial buildings near the intersection of Patrick and Market Streets provide distinguishing accents to the streetscape. Beyond the downtown core of the old city are suburban developments that have appeared from the late 19th century forward, and continue to expand the city's limits. Very generally, residential subdivisions are located west and north of the old core and commercial and industrial development has expanded to the south and east. However, commercial development has followed US Route 40 west of the City and there is residential development along East Patrick Street near the fairgrounds. Some of this east side residential development, like the Nicodemus subdivision on Pennsylvania Avenue and Schleysville along East Patrick Street, were associated with nearby industries and created for their employees, presumably.

It is difficult to discuss relative occurrence in any detail or make any assessment of styles and types without a comprehensive architectural survey of the city. The above observations are from an informal and brief sweep of the City's architecture.

Survey Needs

First and foremost Frederick needs a comprehensive architectural survey. Even a reconnaissance level survey will help to establish a database of exactly what architectural resources are present and their concentrations and locational patterns. It seems that the general history of the city has been fairly well gathered. Now the material evidence of that history in the form of the architectural environment needs to be recorded. That work will then provide focus for further and more specific research projects. A comprehensive survey could be done on a phased basis geographically, by region of the city, or thematically by resource type, i.e. commercial buildings of Frederick, industrial properties, churches, etc. However, in doing a comprehensive survey thematically, it is easy to overlook bits of history that might link the themes together and miss an overriding aspect of the city's development.

Research Needs

There are a number of avenues for further research into Frederick's architectural heritage. The list begun in this context statement of architects and master builders who practiced in Frederick can be expanded with biographical information about these individuals and a complete list of properties they built.

Another opportunity is to research the history and the buildings of cultural groups within the city. African American housing in historic and current neighborhoods and gathering information about the earliest remaining African-American architecture would be valuable. Other groups deserve attention as well. An area of East 4th Street apparently was known in the mid 19th century as San Domingo for its French Creole population (the area is noted as such in Engelbrecht's diary). This little known aspect of Frederick's history is also worthy of research attention.

Another pursuit would be to locate and record buildings which have 18th century remnants in them and combine this information with a collection of 18th century descriptions of Frederick to try to deepen the understanding of Frederick's earliest appearance prior to the dominant onset of brick construction. Just how German was Frederick?

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