

CARR-1493

Dorsetown (Survey) Historic District  
Mt. Airy (vicinity)

**Summary:**

Dorsetown was apparently founded by Grafton "Nick" Dorsey, who settled in the area in the late nineteenth century. The 1877 map shows no buildings in this vicinity, but by 1917 there were apparently half a dozen. One of these was a shop owned by an "N. Dorsey," probably the founder. The other identified resident was an "A. Gassoway." Its development is of interest because it employs the beginnings of a grid plan, with a street (Ellis) that parallels the main road (Ridge Road), despite its very small size. Most villages in Carroll County did not develop on the grid plan until after settlement had stretched a great deal over the main road. It remains a small African-American community north of Mount Airy, but nothing more is known of its history at this time.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Dorseytown (Survey) Historic District

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Main Street (Ridge Road) & Ellis Road

not for publication

city, town Mt. Airy

vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Carroll

## 3. Classification

### Category

district  
 building(s)  
 structure  
 site  
 object

### Ownership

public  
 private  
 both  
**Public Acquisition**  
 in process  
 being considered  
 not applicable

### Status

occupied  
 unoccupied  
 work in progress  
**Accessible**  
 yes: restricted  
 yes: unrestricted  
 no

### Present Use

agriculture  
 commercial  
 educational  
 entertainment  
 government  
 industrial  
 military  
 museum  
 park  
 private residence  
 religious  
 scientific  
 transportation  
 other:

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

name

street & number

telephone no.:

city, town

state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex

liber

street & number 55 North Court Street

folio

city, town Westminster

state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

# 7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1493

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Contributing Resources: 9

The Dorseytown (Survey) Historic District is located at the northern end of the town of Mt. Airy in southwestern Carroll County, Maryland. The district runs along Main Street (Ridge Road), which runs roughly north-south along the top of a ridge, and the land drops off steeply on both sides of the road. The district is also located along Ellis Road, which is a U-shaped road on the west side of Main Street and connects to Main Street at the northern and southern ends of Dorseytown. Ellis Road runs down the ridge and is very wooded and primarily unpaved. The buildings are all freestanding, tend to be set close to the road, but with a great deal of space between them.

On the west side of Main Street, at the corner of Ellis Road, is a bungalow with diamond-pattern, green asphalt shingles. It is a 1½-story, three-bay by three-bay structure, with a recent addition on the rear elevation. It has a center door with nine lights over a cross buck, and a 3/1 sash to either side. The porch has CMU's and four Doric columns. The house has a gable roof and a shed roof dormer that has three four-light sash.

1205 Main Street is a 2½-story building that is four bays on the first story and three bays on the second story. It is two bays deep. It is a Pennsylvania farmhouse-plan building with aluminum siding and new 1/1 sash. It has a gable roof with a north-south ridge, and a central gabled wall dormer with a pentagonal light. There is an ell on the rear, or east, elevation.

The building at 1187 Main Street is set on brick piers with concrete and CMU infill between the piers. It is a one-story, three-bay by two-bay structure with the gable end to the street. The gable roof has an east-west ridge and is covered in corrugated metal. The walls are covered with weatherboards that appear to be made of masonite. There is a shed-roof porch on the front, or west, elevation. This elevation has a new six-panel door in the center, with a 6/6 sash to the north, and large paired 6/6 sash to the south.

There are two separate structures associated with 1116 Main Street. The northern building is a one-story, three-bay by one-bay structure, with a one-bay addition on the rear, or west, elevation. The front, or east, elevation has aluminum siding, while the side elevations are covered with narrow weatherboards. The east elevation has a center door with four lights over two panels. This is flanked on either side by a large four-light sash with a six-light transom. The building has a CMU foundation and a shed roof that slopes to the west. The side elevations have 4/4 sash.

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

The southern building at 1116 Main Street is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay structure with a gable end to the street. It is now covered in asbestos-shingle siding, but beneath it is German siding on the front, or east, elevation, and narrow weatherboards on the side elevations that are identical to its neighbor. The gable roof has an east-west ridge and has corrugated metal. The first story has a center entrance with one light in the door and a 2/2 sash on either side. There is a shed-roof porch with two turned columns. The second story has a 2/2 sash in each of the end bays, and the gable end has a four-light sash. The north elevation has two 2/2 sash on the first and second stories. There is an addition on the south elevation and on the rear, or west, elevation.

202 and 1307 Ellis Road are both two-story, two-bay by one-bay buildings that have an enclosed porch on the first story and a gable roof with a north-south ridge. There are also later additions on the rear elevations of both of them. 202 has aluminum siding, new 1/1 sash, and a corrugated-metal roof with a steeper pitch than that found on 1307. The latter has aluminum siding and asphalt shingles on the roof. Both structures have interior brick chimneys.

The house at the north bend of Ellis Road is a two-story, two-bay by one-bay structure very similar to the previous two, but it has an enclosed porch on the west and north sides of the first story. There is aluminum siding and a gable roof of corrugated metal, with a north-south ridge. It has an interior brick chimney.

1313 Ellis Road has a two-bay by one-bay, two-story section on the east end, and a two-bay by one-bay, one-story section on the west end. All of it is covered with brick-pattern asphalt shingles over weatherboards. Both sections have asphalt shingle gable roofs with east-west ridges. The east section has 6/6 sash, and the west section has 2/2 sash. The east section had a porch on the north elevation. The west section has a rubble stone foundation on the north and south sides, with brick infill on the west end.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-1493

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes: Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Types: Rural vernacular, Village plan

Dorseytown was apparently founded by Grafton "Nick" Dorsey, who settled in the area in the late nineteenth century. The 1877 map shows no buildings in this vicinity, but by 1917 there were apparently half a dozen. One of these was a shop owned by an "N. Dorsey," probably the founder. The other identified resident was an "A. Gassoway." Its development is of interest because it employs the beginnings of a grid plan, with a street (Ellis) that parallels the main road (Ridge Road), despite its very small size. Most villages in Carroll County did not develop on the grid plan until after settlement had stretched a great deal over the main road. It remains a small African-American community north of Mount Airy, but nothing more is known of its history at this time.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1493

Michael Stetz, "Resident: Let Dorseytown people decide." Carroll County Times,  
15 November 1989, p. A1.  
1877, 1917 maps

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Libertytown

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner

organization Carroll County Planning

date February 14, 1996

street & number 225 North Center Street

telephone (410) 857-2145

city or town Westminster

state MD

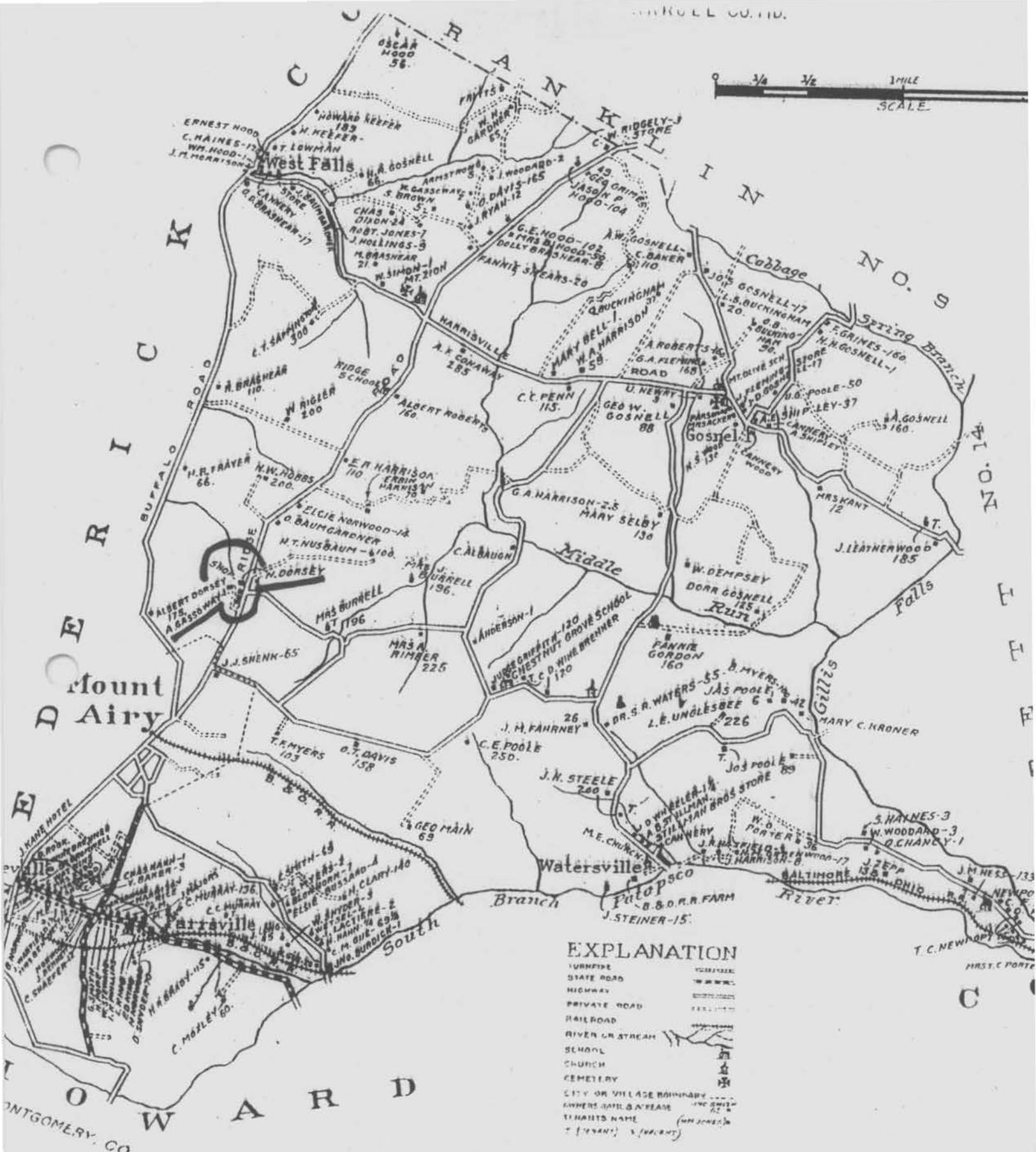
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
-514-7600

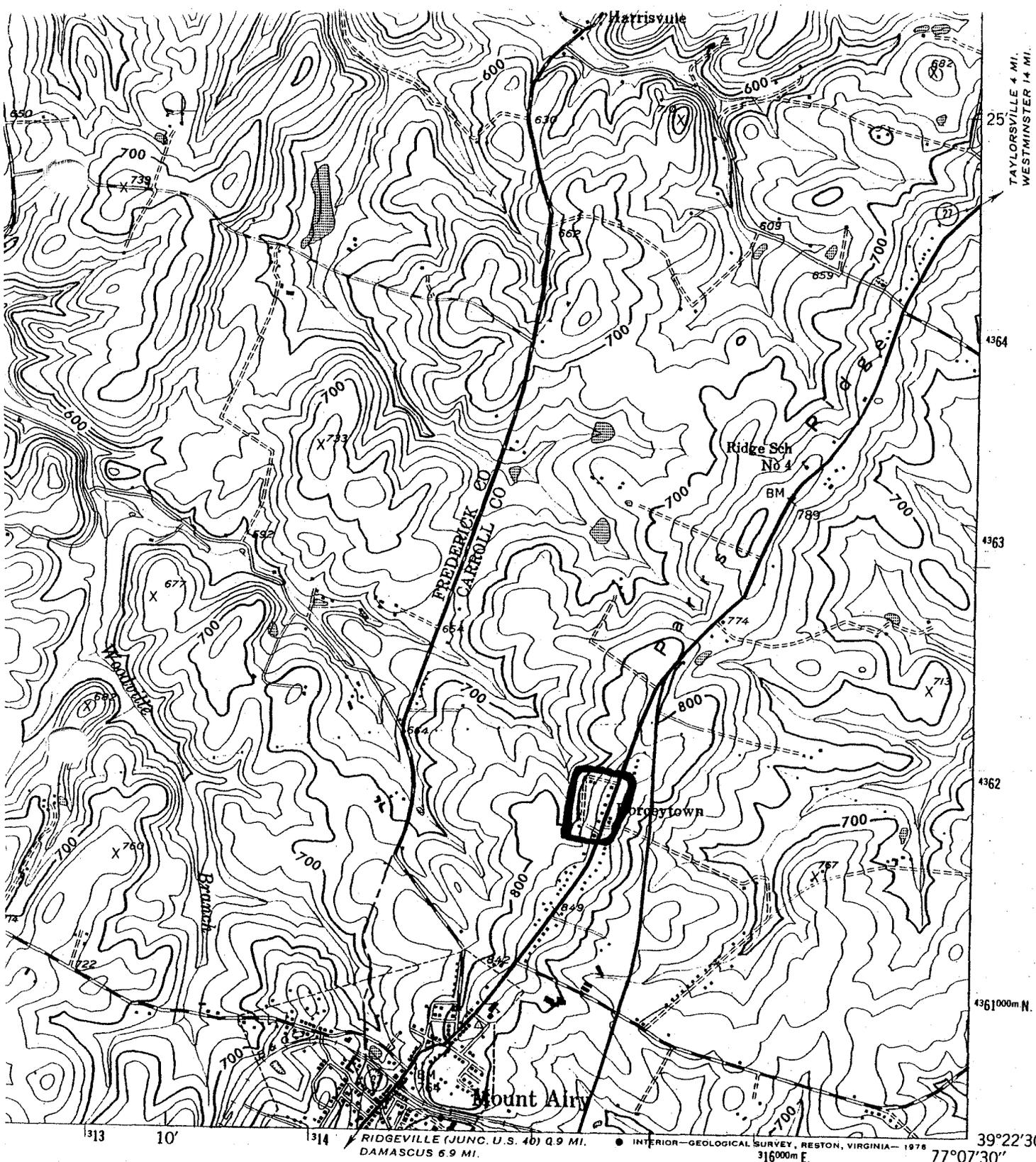




EXPLANATION

- TURNPIKE
- STATE ROAD
- HIGHWAY
- PRIVATE ROAD
- RAILROAD
- RIVER OR STREAM
- SCHOOL
- CHURCH
- CEMETERY
- CITY OR VILLAGE BOUNDARY
- OWNERS MAIL BAG NAME
- TRAFFIC NAME

CARR-1493  
 Dorseytown Historic District  
 Rand McNally map 1917



TAYLORSVILLE 4 MI.  
WESTMINSTER 14 MI.

RIDGEVILLE (JUNC. U.S. 40) 0.9 MI. DAMASCUS 6.9 MI. INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1978 316000m E.

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

HARD-SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS      DRY WEATHER ROADS  
 Heavy-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE Improved dirt         
 Medium-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE Unimproved dirt         
 Unimproved dirt, graded, or narrow hard-surface         
 Interstate Route        U. S. Route        State Route       

CARR-1493  
 Libertytown Historic District  
 Libertytown quad

**LIBERTYTOWN, MD.**  
 NW/4 MOUNT AIRY 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N3922.5-W7707.5/7.5

al 1944 PHOTOREVISED 1971

(WOODBINE)  
 5562 I SE



CARR-1493

N. end of Main & Ellis Streets

Dorseytown Historic District

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: Jan. '96

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

view southwest

1/5



CARR-1493

1205 & 1187 Main St.

Carroll County, Maryland

Dorseytown Historic District

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: Jan. '96

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

View NE

3/5

FEB 1996 RV



FEB 1996 RV





CARR-1493

1116 Main St.

Carroll County, Maryland

Dorseytown Historic District

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: Jan. '96

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

View SW

3/5





CARR-1493

202 & 1307 Ellis St.

Carroll County, Maryland

Dorseytown Historic District

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: Jan. '96

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

view NW  
4/5

FEB 1996 RV



FEB 1996 RV





CA 1493

1313 Ellis St.

Carroll County, Maryland

Dorseytown Historic District

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: Jan. '96

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

N. 9 W. elevs.

5/5