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AL-VII--A-043

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Frostburg Historic District

and or common Frostburg Historic District

2. Location

street & number N/A N/A not for publication

city, town Frostburg N/A vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland code 24 county Allegany code 001

3. Classification

<p>Category <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> object</p>	<p>Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> public <input type="checkbox"/> private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both Public Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> in process <input type="checkbox"/> being considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable</p>	<p>Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress Accessible <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> no</p>	<p>Present Use <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> military</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> museum <input type="checkbox"/> park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious <input type="checkbox"/> scientific <input type="checkbox"/> transportation <input type="checkbox"/> other:</p>
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4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Public and Private (over 50 owners)

street & number N/A

city, town Frostburg N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21532

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany County Courthouse

street & number 30 Washington Street

city, town Cumberland state Maryland 21502

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

file Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

AL-VII-A-043

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Frostburg Historic District comprises 356 contributing resources within the city of Frostburg in Allegany County, Maryland. Main Street, the old National Road (U.S. Route 40) runs through the town from east to west, forming the main axis of the district. A collection of early 20th century commercial buildings, primarily of brick construction, two or three stories tall, showing the influence of the Commercial/Functional style, lines Main Street at the center of the district. Broadway and Water Streets, areas of mixed commercial and residential use, extend to the south from Main Street's commercial core. West of the commercial area, West Main Street is characterized by houses, generally of a high level of architectural elaboration, reflecting the influence of mid-to-late 19th and early twentieth century styles including Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival. Frost Avenue, which parallels West Main Street three blocks to its south, is also characterized by relatively high-style late nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings, as is Beall's Lane, which extends north from West Main Street near the western end of the District. North of the central commercial core, the Water Street and Depot Street area reflect the initial development of the town through several mid-nineteenth century vernacular houses of log or heavy timber construction, 1½ or 2 stories tall, with 3-bay, symmetrical facades. Later nineteenth and early twentieth century infill housing - popular-level interpretations of prevailing architectural fashions - completes the streetscapes in these areas. Depot Street also contains several reminders of Frostburg's importance as a center of transportation and industry in the latter half of the nineteenth century, including a ca. 1867 iron foundry, 1880s Queen Anne railroad depot, and mid-nineteenth century railroad tunnel. East Main Street, east of the commercial core, boasts several of Frostburg's earliest residences, exemplifying Greek Revival characteristics and the Greek Revival/Italianate transition. Further east, East Main Street takes on the character of a late nineteenth-early twentieth century residential neighborhood composed of vernacular "I-houses" and dwellings showing the influence of the Queen Anne, Bungalow, and "Foursquare" trends of the turn of the twentieth century. Several Gothic-influenced church buildings, dating from the last third of the nineteenth through the turn of the twentieth, also contribute to the character of the district. The district is highly cohesive with relatively few intrusions; alterations to buildings within the district are generally minor and reversible. Of 381 total buildings within the boundary, 356, or 88% contribute to the significance of the district.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Frostburg Historic District comprises approximately 350 buildings within the city of Frostburg, an urban area which developed along the old National Road (U. S. Route 40) in the mountainous region of Allegany County, Maryland, approximately eleven miles west of the county seat of Cumberland. The National Road (Main Street) runs east-west through the district.

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AL-VII-A-043

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received

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Continuation sheet	Frostburg Historic District Allegany County, Maryland	Item number	7	Page	1
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The geographic center of the Frostburg Historic District, as well as the economic and social center of the town, is a core of brick commercial buildings lining Main Street between Water Street and Depot Street and extending south of Main Street for about one block along Water and Broadway Streets. The majority of the buildings in the commercial area were constructed to replace structures destroyed in a devastating fire in 1917. These early twentieth century commercial buildings are unified by their brick construction, two or three story height, and pressed-metal cornice detailing. The influence of the Commercial/Functional style is evident in their horizontal ranks of windows spanning each upper story, tied together by continuous bands of stone, concrete, or brick at sill and lintel. Alterations to these buildings are primarily confined to the ground story, and generally consist of mid-twentieth century plate-glass storefronts.

Survivors of the 1917 fire include the Lyric Building, a three-story, five-bay brick structure with two-story, two-bay wings on either side, segmental window heads, and bracketed cornices; built in 1876, it is probably the earliest commercial building remaining in the business area. The Gunter Hotel is a 3½ story masonry building constructed in 1897; its overscaled features, multiple hipped dormers, and second- and third-story balconies make it a landmark on Main Street.

Adjacent to the Lyric Building on the east is a complex of Gothic-influenced brick structures comprising Saint Michael's Church, rectory, school, and convent, all constructed between ca. 1870 and the turn of the twentieth century.

East of Main Street's primary business district is a significant concentration of smaller commercial buildings, two or three stories high with shed roofs or gabled facades. Like the larger buildings to their west, these structures are predominantly of brick construction, but some frame buildings occur as well. Although many of their storefronts have been altered, and artificial siding has been applied in some cases, these buildings nevertheless retain integrity of form and scale as well as considerable decorative detailing at the upper stories and cornice level. The store located at 109-111 East Main Street retains an unaltered, early twentieth century storefront as well as a pristine interior with a marble soda fountain and golden oak display cabinets and backbar.

Some of the smaller commercial buildings employ locally-produced glazed brick on their facades; examples include 74 and 113 East Main Street.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

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National Park Service

AL-VII-A-043

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet	Frostburg Historic District Allegheny County, Maryland	Item number	7	Page	2
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The area of the district north of Main Street contains several vernacular dwellings which reflect the first phases of Frostburg's development. Simple 1½ or 2-story, 3-bay houses of log or frame construction, such as the one adjacent to #46 Depot Street on the east, typify mid-nineteenth century vernacular dwellings in rural Maryland. An unusual early house stands at the intersection of Depot and Water Streets; its gable-roofed 1½ story form is elaborated by a pair of floor-to-ceiling 3/15 windows in the gable end, and label moldings over its window openings. A three-light transom and narrow sidelights frame the entrance.

Other mid-nineteenth century houses in the area include the three-bay brick house, two stories over a high basement, which stands on the south side of Depot Street opposite the intersection of Legislative Road; it reputedly functioned as a hotel for the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad, whose ca. 1880 Queen Anne depot is located diagonally across the tracks to the northeast. Beyond the depot, further northeast, a three-bay, gable-fronted house with deep bracketed eaves and cross-set second-floor window surrounds adjoins the former Thomas H. Paul and Sons Iron Works foundry. Both the foundry and the adjoining residence date to ca. 1867.

Later nineteenth century resources in this area include #26 Depot Street and its neighbor to the south; both are frame houses with complex massing reflecting Queen Anne influence. A group of Queen Anne houses overlooks the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Depot from Mt. Pleasant Terrace to the east. More modest late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses, showing varying degrees of alteration, line Uhl, Welsh, and Water Streets, which extend north from First Alley (paralleling Main Street) into this area. An early twentieth century frame rehearsal hall used by the Arion Band is located on the east side of Uhl Street; it is a one-story, gable-fronted building with a bracketed hood over its central entrance.

The fine Queen Anne railroad depot mentioned previously, of frame construction with a slate-clad hipped roof with broad overhangs supported on stick-style brackets, is located on the north side of Depot Street, adjacent to the Cumberland and Pennsylvania railroad tracks which run southwesterly through an arched stone tunnel constructed under Main Street in 1857.

Also located in this area is the Miners' Hospital. A Colonial-Revival building designed by architects Holmboe and Lafferty and constructed in 1913, the hospital stands two stories high over a basement, by thirteen bays wide. A two-story portico is centered on the facade. The building is constructed of red brick elaborated by quoins, pilasters, horizontal bands, lintels, and cornice picked out in locally-produced white glazed brick. Fishscale shingles clad the gables.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Frostburg Historic District
Allegany County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

West Main Street west of Water Street, and Frost Avenue between Pine Street and Broadway, have the most consistently high-style residential buildings in the district. Because of its earlier development, West Main Street possesses several buildings of earlier date than those which occur on Frost Avenue, which was primarily developed after 1871. The houses on West Main Street (and on Beall's Lane which extends north from West Main Street) include representative examples of each succeeding fashion in architecture from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth.

Number 53 West Main Street is a two-story five-bay frame house which exhibits Italianate influence in its shallow hipped roof crowned with a low cupola. Four brick chimneys with paired terra cotta chimney pots rise from the perimeter of the roof. Sheltered under a broad porch with fluted columns, tall 4/4 windows flank the central entrance, which has a diamond-pane transom.

Other notable buildings include 68 and 73 West Main Street, whose symmetrical facades and broad cross gables with deep bracketed cornices manifest Italianate influence; #73 is of additional interest for its Colonial Revival detailing which reflects a turn of the twentieth century renovation. Number 43 West Main Street is a mid-nineteenth century brick house which also displays Colonial Revival alterations in its gambrel roof and dormers, diamond-pane windows, entrance with leaded beveled-glass transom and sidelights surrounding a paneled Dutch door, and broad porch supported by fluted columns with volute capitals.

The Nelson Beall house at 49 West Main Street is a Second-Empire influenced brick building with a mansard roof. Fine craftsmanship is evident in the narrow mortar joints of its principal (south) and east facades, laid in common bond, as well as in the carpentry of the broad porch, whose chamfered posts are tied together by arched spandrels. Three-sided bays project from the first story of both the front-facing ell and the east end. A cast-iron fence enhances the integrity of this property.

The Hitchens house at 66 West Main Street is a ca. 1890 Victorian Gothic structure. A steeply pitched gable roof with a slight kick at the eaves and narrow vergeboards with scroll-cut ends emphasizes the two-story building's tall, vertical proportions. A front-facing, gabled ell has triple 1/1 sash on both stories. All windows are tall and narrow and have colored-glass transoms.

The Queen Anne fashion is represented by 55 West Main Street, a fine frame example whose slate-clad hip-roofed main block is enlivened by a round corner tower, a three-sided oriel projecting from the front facade, and multiple pedimented dormers. Double outer doors with oval beveled glass lead into an oak-paneled vestibule. The inner door is also of oak, with an elaborate colored-glass panel. Other Queen Anne-influenced buildings on West Main Street include #75 and #79; #92 is an unusual example with a tall gambrel roof.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AL-VII-A-043

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Frostburg Historic District

Continuation sheet Allegany County, Maryland

Item number

7

Page

4

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

An excellent example of the Colonial Revival is the frame house at 39 West Main Street, which has an imposing two-story pedimented portico across its facade. Adjacent to this building on the east is the Frostburg Post Office, a fine Georgian Revival brick building erected in 1910 to the design of architect James Knox Taylor.

West Main Street also boasts two late nineteenth century, Gothic influenced churches, and numerous dwellings reflecting Vernacular interpretations of late nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural styles. The area as a whole retains a remarkable degree of integrity, and exhibits very few intrusions. Houses are set back from the street in yards of varying sizes; sidewalks are mostly of brick and lined with mature trees. Several properties retain cast-iron or wrought-iron fences and gates. While the land use in this area is overwhelmingly residential, the tile-roofed, early twentieth century brick garage at the western edge of the district makes a positive contribution to the streetscape, as it is consistent in period, scale, and materials with the nearby houses.

The Beall's Lane area of the District is a residential neighborhood comprised of frame houses dating primarily from the mid-nineteenth through early twentieth century. Number 6 Standish Street, a two-story frame house on a stone basement, five bays wide by two bays deep, reflects Italianate trends of the mid-nineteenth century in its symmetrical massing, deep cornice and vertical proportions. Several buildings in the neighborhood exemplify the Queen Anne style, such as 31 Beall's Lane, an elaborate composition with a unique two-tiered porch, and the group of four nearly identical houses on the east end of Tarn Terrace, which were reputedly constructed at the turn of the Twentieth century by the Consolidation Coal Company. Other early twentieth century resources in the area include a fine bungalow at 40 Beall's Lane, and the brown brick, Tudor influenced house at the end of the lane, designed by local architect R. Holt Hitchins.

Development of Frost Avenue mainly occurred subsequent to the addition of the area to the city in 1871; the houses which line the avenue reflect this period, and are predominantly Queen Anne in character, with multiple gables and projecting bays, fishscale shingles and broad porches with turned and scroll-sawn details. Notable examples include #30 and #38 Frost Avenue. Later buildings show the influence of early twentieth century styles, including the Colonial Revival, represented by #36, a large gambrel-roofed frame building with dentilled cornices over its windows, supported on consoles, #64, cubical in form with a wraparound porch and pedimented dormers, and #78, a gambrel-roofed house with an overscaled two-story portico. An outstanding early twentieth century resource is #91 Frost Avenue, an eclectic structure of yellow brick with an overall Mission Style/Tudor Revival feeling, attributed to architect R. Holt Hitchins.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AL-VII-A-043

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

Frostburg Historic District

Continuation sheet Allegany County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 5

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The oldest building in the Frost Avenue area is the Frost Mansion, a ca. 1846 classical-influenced brick structure with a late nineteenth century mansard roof, located within the grounds which occupy almost the entire block of Frost Avenue between Locust and Chestnut Streets; it was built for Meschach Frost, founder of the town.

The buildings on Frost Avenue are set back from the street on spacious, shaded lots. Intrusions and incompatible alterations are negligible.

Water Street and Broadway link Frost Avenue to Main Street, spanning a distance of three blocks. The two blocks closest to Main Street are primarily commercial in character, forming an extension of the Main Street business center. Buildings in this area share the characteristics of masonry construction, two or three story height, and early twentieth century period and style with their neighbors on Main Street. Notable within this area is #37 Broadway, an eclectic two-story corner building constructed of rock-faced concrete block with Colonial Revival detailing in its dentilled storefront, 9/1 and 12/2 windows, and broad keystone arch over the recessed side entrance. Two three-sided oriels project from the side elevation. The brick commercial building at 20-22-24 Broadway has a pressed-metal cornice above its storefronts, seven evenly spaced 1/1 windows in segmental arched openings across the second story, and an elaborate bracketed pressed metal building cornice with a garlanded frieze. An early twentieth century garage, one story high with a paneled brick cornice and tiled pent roof over the entrance, is located on Water Street at the corner of West Mechanic Street, diagonally opposite an automobile showroom of the same period.

Located just south of Main Street, #26 Broadway is a well-preserved example of a mid-nineteenth century house type uncommon in rural Maryland, which shows classical influence in its "temple" form; the main two-story, three-bay block of the building is dominated by a pedimented gable with a deep bracketed cornice; an earlier 1½ story, two-bay gable-fronted section is attached alongside, its facade set back slightly from the plane of the larger section. The entrance, of double doors enframed in a transomed Classical surround is located in the right-hand bay of the main block. First-floor windows of the main section are french windows with transoms and crossetted surrounds. (Another temple-form house is located at 177-179 East Main Street.)

A concentration of late nineteenth century and early twentieth century dwellings characterizes Water Street and Broadway south of the commercial area. Several of these retain considerable integrity, and are included within the district, such as the two mid-nineteenth century brick houses on the west side of Water Street between Orman Street and Frost Avenue. These are small two-story dwellings, three bays wide and one room deep with an ell to the rear. Also located in this area is the Hamill Mansion at 69 Broadway, a ca. 1853 Italianate-influenced building with early-twentieth-century brick veneer; this was the home of the daughter of Frostburg's founder and her husband, a superintendent of the Frost Coal Mines.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AL-VII-A-043

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Frostburg Historic District Item number 7 Page 6
Allegany County, MarylandGENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

St. John's Episcopal Church, a Gothic-influenced stone building constructed in 1890, is located at 52 Broadway; an earlier frame building, formerly a private school, was moved to the rear when the present church was erected. Other buildings in this area are relatively modest vernacular structures from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. An increasing proportion of incompatible alterations defines the boundary of the district here.

East of the commercial district, between Center Street and the District boundary at Sleeman Street, East Main Street is lined with houses. Occasional small-scale commercial enterprises occur in this area, particularly on the south side of East Main Street between Center and Bowery Streets and between Lee and Mt. Vernon Streets, but the predominant character of this area is that of a residential neighborhood of the late nineteenth- early twentieth-century. Many of the buildings in this area conform to the vernacular house type that characterizes rural Maryland throughout the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth: the "I house," two stories high, three or five bays wide, one room deep, and generally of frame construction. Their traditional form is sometime elaborated by tall Victorian windows or scroll-sawn ornament. Several of these houses adorn the hilltop on the north side of East Main Street between Grant and Cemetery Streets; #214 East Main is a little-altered, typical example.

While it is primarily characterized by late nineteenth-early twentieth century vernacular houses, the residential area of East Main Street boasts several notable buildings of higher style and earlier date. The Elks Home at 126 East Main Street is a gable-fronted, Classical influenced brick structure reputedly dating to ca. 1820 and, as such, the earliest house standing in Frostburg. Another fine early building is 171 East Main Street, a 2½ story, three-bay brick building whose entrance surround and attic story reflect the Greek Revival. The Hocking House at 144 East Main Street is a finely proportioned transitional Greek Revival-Italianate building of brick, 2½ stories tall with a low hip roof and a wide, three bay symmetrical facade. Extremely tall paired 4/6 window flank the entrance. A shallow cross gable marks the central bay of the front facade; the projecting box cornice is supported by decorative brackets. The Hocking House is listed individually in the National Register. The brick house at 156 East Main Street is somewhat similar in form and decoration to the Hocking House. Tall 4/6 windows flank its transomed central entrance; on the second story, 4/4 windows occupy each of the building's three bays, and the central bay is emphasized by expressed brick pilasters rising to a small cross-gable which interrupts the bracketed cornice.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #7

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National Park Service

AL-VII-A-043

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Frostburg Historic District
Allegany County, Maryland Item number 7 and 10 Page 7

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Farther east along East Main Street, between Grant Street and the district boundary, a collection of closely-spaced houses shows the influence of various architectural styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Vernacular interpretations of the Queen Anne style are exemplified by 270 and 275 East Main Street, which feature multiple gable forms and three-sided bays.

An excellent frame bungalow, expressing the distinctive characteristics of its type in the stylized plate and ridge members which protrude from its shallow-pitched Oriental gables, is located at 278 East Main Street; a stuccoed example is #273, which features deep roof overhangs and exposed rafter ends. Another bungalow, with rough red brick at the first story and stucco above, is #263; next door at #265, built of the same rough red brick, is a typical example of the neorationalistic or Foursquare house popular in the first third of the twentieth century, taking the form of a two-story cube with a hipped roof. Both 263 and 265 have unusual entrances reflecting Mission influence in their transom and sidelights framed in varnished oak.

Beyond Sleeman Street, an increasing intensity of mid to late twentieth century commercial development defines the eastern edge of the District.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Frostburg Historic District encompass the highest concentration of significant resources which meet National Register criteria and retain integrity of form, materials, construction, feeling, and association. Excluded from the District are areas characterized by high concentrations of recent construction and infills, such as the areas northwest of West Main Street and north of East Main Street, and the mid-to-late twentieth century commercial development east of Sleeman Street. Also excluded from the district are areas whose integrity has been compromised by an overwhelming degree of incompatible alterations and infills, such as Orman Street northwest of Water Street, and the area southwest of Frost Avenue and southeast of Water Street and East Main Street.

8. Significance

AL-VII-A-043

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 19th & 20th centuries Builder Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criteria: A and C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Frostburg Historic District is significant for its cohesive collection of mid-to late-19th and early-20th century domestic, commercial, and industrial buildings which collectively reflect the town's development and importance as the center of the George's Creek coal mining region. A wide variety of resources contribute to the District, exemplifying the many phases and aspects of Frostburg's growth and prominence: among these are mid-19th century vernacular dwellings reflecting the area's initial development; elaborate Italianate and Victorian residences indicative of Frostburg's increasing prosperity, brought about by the expansion of the coal, iron and transportation industries in the latter half of the nineteenth century; and early twentieth century commercial buildings which attest to the town's continuing importance as a trading center for the George's Creek region. Houses within the district represent the succession of architectural fashions from the mid nineteenth through early twentieth centuries, and their varying levels of elaboration reflect the economic pluralism which characterized the town throughout the period. The district derives additional significance from its association with the development of the coal industry in Western Maryland; this industry was first established in the George's Creek valley in the 1830s and, despite considerable decline from the boom levels of the turn of the twentieth century, continues to figure prominently in the economy of the Western Maryland region.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Frostburg's development stems from the Frost family, early land owners and settlers in the area. According to standard secondary sources, sometime after 1794, Josiah Frost, Sr. acquired the land in and around Frostburg from the estate of Robert Clarke, Sr., an early settler in the vicinity. (Clarke's land was bequeathed to his daughter and son, Mary and Robert, at his death in 1794. Mary Clarke and her husband, George McCulloh, settled on a portion of the land within the present boundaries of Frostburg in c. 1806. Two parcels of the Clarke estate were sold to a John Compton, Jr. who in turn sold it in 1809 to Josiah Frost, Sr., a settler in the Mt. Savage vicinity.) This land was subsequently inherited by Frost's sons, Meshach, Isaiah and Josiah, Jr., in 1819.¹

Primary documents suggest that Frost acquired the land by somewhat different means: the schedule of military lots in the Maryland Hall of Records at Annapolis shows that Military Lot #3629, which lay in the path of the National Road and included the site of the present town, together with the adjacent Military Lot #3628, were patented to Josiah Frost, Sr., as original owner in 1810.²

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AL-VII-A-043

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Frostburg Historic District

Continuation sheet Allegany County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 8

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

As the first settler, Meshach is credited for founding the town in 1812, then known as Mt. Pleasant. The house he and his wife, Catherine, occupied, was located on the present site of St. Michael's Catholic Church Rectory (44 East Main Street). The town was laid out and lots were offered for sale; however, the first lot was not sold until 1817.³

In 1820, the name Frostburg was given to the town, with the establishment of a U. S. Post Office.⁴

Josiah Frost, Sr.'s decision to acquire land in Frostburg and lay out a town was linked to the fact that he knew of the planned construction of the National Road (present Route 40). He calculated correctly that a successful business could be made from its traffic. Taverns such as Meshach Frost's Highland Hall, the McCulloh House (formerly located on the southwest corner of Main and Center Streets), and Mr. Beall's Franklin House (formerly located at 1 East Main Street), all became popular stopping places for stages and other travelers on the National Road. This led to the initial growth of the town of Frostburg.

The real impetus to Frostburg's growth, coal mining, came later. The first coal mined in the area was on what was known as the "Sheetz Farm", just one and one-half miles east of the town.⁵ The Frost family began mining as early as 1813. By 1820 Frostburg coal was sent east as far as Georgetown, D. C. It was hauled by wagon to Cumberland and then transported on keel boats down the Potomac River.⁶ There were a number of mining companies in George's Creek, the first being Maryland Mining Company located in nearby Eckhart, incorporated in 1828. Mining, however, did not really begin to grow in the region until after 1835. In 1845, the Frost family applied to the Maryland legislature to incorporate the Frostburg Coal Company.⁷

A few years prior to this, in 1842, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was completed to Cumberland, followed in 1853 with the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Both provided easier and faster coal transport. It was a symbiotic relationship: the transport systems and coal industry depended on each other for growth. Shortly after the establishment of the Frostburg Mining Company, numerous other coal companies opened up in the Frostburg area.

The most prominent coal company in the George's Creek region, Consolidation Coal Company, was organized in 1864. By 1871, through its control over the local railroads (they eventually came to own all stock in the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad), and through the buying up of numerous smaller coal companies, Consolidation Coal Company dominated the coal industry in George's Creek. By 1900, they had an office, as did many other coal companies, in Frostburg. Because Consolidation Coal Company was the largest eastern bituminous coal company in the United States, and due to the town's centralized location, Frostburg became the center of the coal industry in the George's Creek Region.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AL-VII-A-043

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Frostburg Historic District

Continuation sheet Allegany County, Maryland Item number

8

Page 9

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Coal production increased and the city saw its most prosperous years between 1880-1920.⁸ Frostburg had all the essentials for growth; cheap fuel, plentiful water, good transportation facilities, low taxes, and plenty of cheap building land.⁹ Periodic labor disputes disrupted the steady growth of the coal industry. Most important to the growth of the coal industry was the completion of the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad system by 1863 with freight service linking the town to major cities. In addition, the Cumberland and Westernport electric railway which ran through Frostburg provided easy transport between towns in the George's Creek area, both transporting miners to and from the mines and adding to the social and commercial opportunities of the people in the area.

The increase in coal production around the turn of the century brought many immigrants to the Frostburg area to work in the mines. These newcomers, mostly Scots, Irish, English, Welsh, and Germans, made up a good percentage of the growing population of Frostburg. This was due to the fact that the Scots, English, and Welsh, already skilled in mining, were encouraged, and even imported to work in the Maryland mines.

1900-1910 were especially good, steady years for the coal industry in the area, peaking in 1907.¹⁰ However, after 1920, the last truly prosperous year, there was a steady decline.¹¹ Due to competition with cheaper coals elsewhere and continuous labor disputes, the coal industry declined considerably. Although mining continued in some areas of Western Maryland, its peak years in the George's Creek region were over.

In addition to coal there were other industries in Frostburg, including brickmaking (Savage Mt. Firebrick Works, on Bowery Street), iron works (Thomas H. Paul & Sons Ironworks on Depot Street), and lumber (A. J. Willison's Steam Planing Mill & Sash Factory formerly on Bowery Street). Savage Mountain Firebricks Works was started in 1865 by its owner, L. M. Gorsuch. Mr. Gorsuch employed approximately 40 men and boys producing ten thousand bricks per day from the clay banks on Savage Mountain.¹² Thomas H. Paul & Sons Ironworks was established in 1855 and was originally located on Broadway Street (on the site of the present Presbyterian Church). It was at this site that Paul's built, in 1864, the first narrow gauge locomotive in the country.¹³ They relocated near the depot in 1867 where a foundry, residence and outbuildings were constructed. In addition, Paul's built the inclined plane machinery and a number of small-gauge engines for the mines in the region.¹⁴ A. J. Willison's Steam Planing Mill and Sash Factory was one of the oldest industries in Frostburg. Willison's sashes, doors, shutters, mouldings, brackets and flooring added fine architectural finishes to many houses in Frostburg.¹⁵

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Continuation sheet Frostburg Historic District Item number 8 Page 10
Allegany County, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Due to Frostburg's centralized location it became the center of trade in George's Creek. Many department, grocery, and dry goods stores, saloons, and theaters were constructed in town. The Cumberland Daily News said of Frostburg in 1908, "so complete is the array on exhibition and sale along the line of Main Street that the city draws a large trade from the towns and villages in the George's Creek region."

Frostburg was not an average coal mining town; it was better developed, wealthier and cleaner than most coal mining towns. This was due to the fact that the miners in Frostburg did not migrate to seasonal jobs. They were settled members of the community; skilled in their trade and established for many years in town. Furthermore, the Frostburg miners were not plagued with the threats of a company owned town as most other mining towns were. Miners could buy their own land and build their own houses.

In the late nineteenth century, Frostburg was also considered a resort town, at 2,200 feet above sea level. City promoters boasted splendid mountain views and healthy air. The Gladstone Hotel (presently the Gunter Hotel, 9-15 West Main Street), opened in 1897, is a surviving example of the many hotels and rooming houses which served business travelers and tourists of the period.

Footnotes

- ¹Frostburg Mining Journal, February 13, 1915; (quoted in Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1969, p. 517)
- ²Personal communication, Mrs. Betty Van Newkirk, researcher, 1983.
- ³Thomas and Williams, p. 519
- ⁴Ibid.
- ⁵Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland, Vol. II, Philadelphia: Louis Everts, 1882.

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Continuation sheet Frostburg Historic District
Allegany County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 11

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

⁶Jacob Brown, Brown's Miscellaneous Writings, Cumberland: J. J. Miller,
1896, p. 22.

⁷Thomas and Williams, p. 524.

⁸Stegmaier et al, Allegany County - A History, Parsons: McClain Printing Co.,
1976, p. 223.

⁹Thomas and Williams, p. 558.

¹⁰Stegmaier et al, p. 528.

¹¹Ibid., p. 319-320.

¹²Scharf, p. 1487.

¹³Ibid., p. 1489.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 1488-1489.

¹⁵Ibid., p. 1489.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Continuation sheet Frostburg Historic District Item number 9 Page 12
Allegany County, Maryland

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9. Major Bibliographical References

AL-VII-A-043

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #12

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 125 acres (approximately)

Quadrangle name Frostburg, Maryland-Pennsylvania

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 8	6 7 7 8 0 0	4 3 9 2 0 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 8	6 7 8 9 0 0	4 3 9 0 9 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 8	6 7 6 9 4 0	4 3 9 1 4 1 0

D	1 8	6 7 7 3 4 0	4 3 9 2 0 6 0

E			

F			

G			

H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the Frostburg Historic District are indicated by a solid line on the attached map. The borders of the district consist mostly of the back property lines of the properties and curb lines of the streets indicated. For boundary justification see CONTINUATION SHEET #7.

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

state	code	county	code
MA			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert E. Kurtze and Catherine A. Crawford

organization Maryland Historical Trust date Aug. 1981, revised Feb. 1983

street & number Shaw House, 21 State Circle telephone 301-269-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] date 8-1-85

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

For HCRS use only

date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

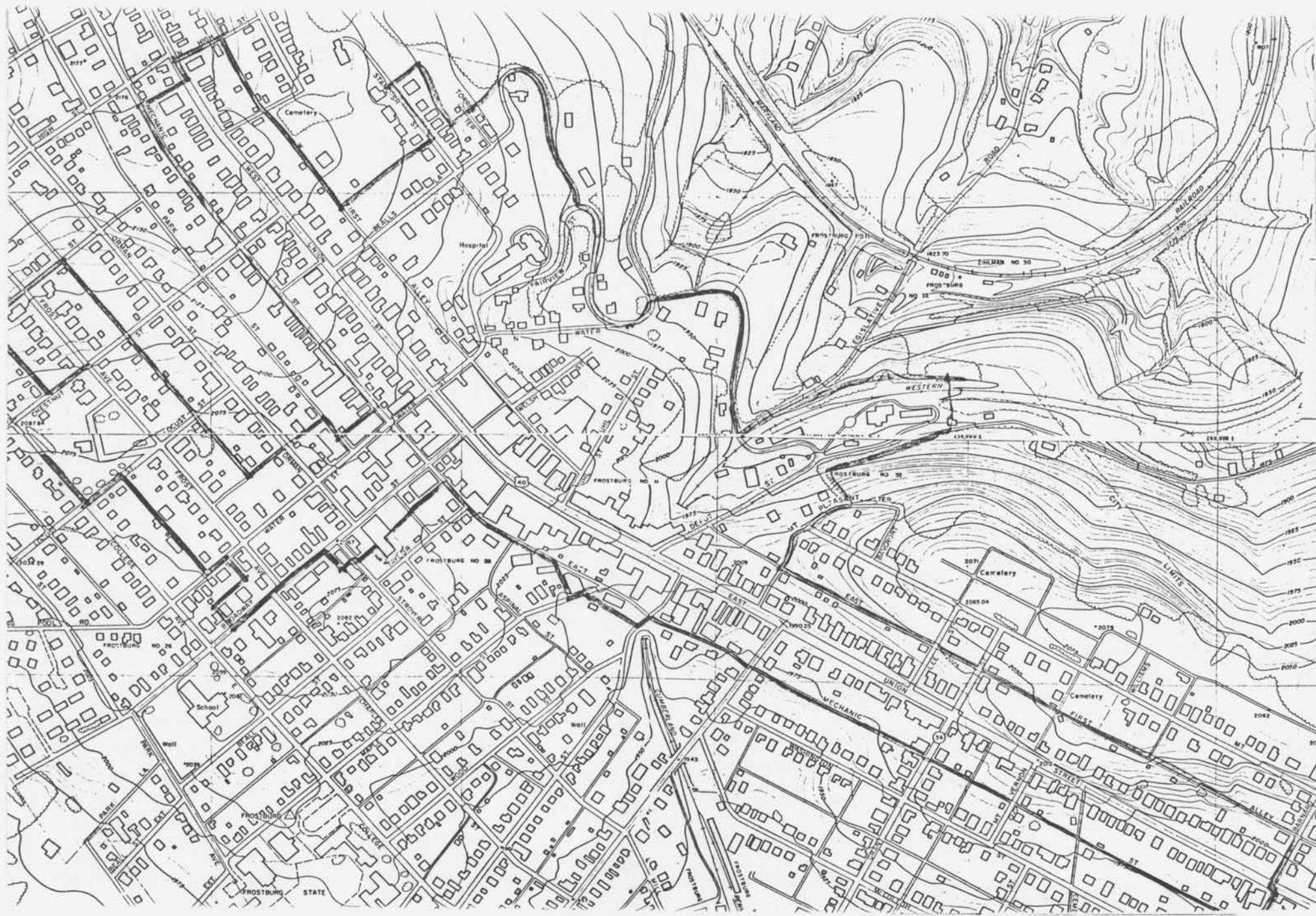
Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date



AL-VI-7A-043



AL-VII-A-043

FROSTBURG
HISTORIC
DISTRICT

ALLEGANY
COUNTY, MD

A: 18-677800 -
4392050

B: 18-678900 -
4390960

C: 18-676940 -
4391410

D: 18-677340 -
4392060

4394
4393
40'
4392
4391
4390
ALLEGANY GROVE 24 MI
CUMBERLAND 77 W



1
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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 6/81

Main nr. Broadway fc. SE

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E Main nr. Broadway St. fc. SE

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1937

THE DURST CO.

G. C. MURPHY

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Frostburg Historic District

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6-8-10 E Main, SW elev.

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F I N E

F U R N I T U R E C O M P A N Y

House & Home

Furniture • Carpets • Kitchens & Bath Items
Draperies • Accessories • Professional Interior Design

APR 915
NEW YORK

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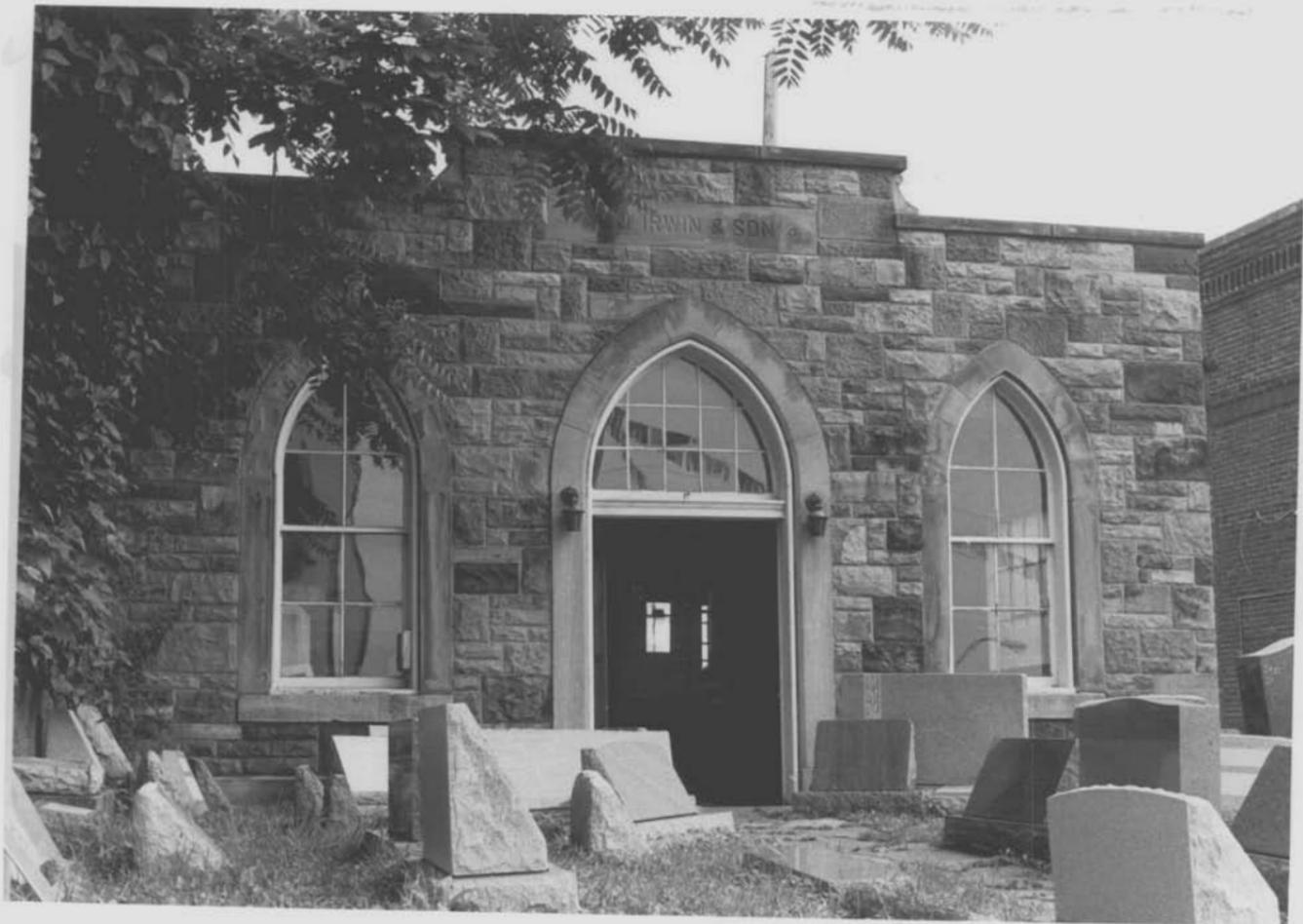
Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

27-31 E Main, NE elev.

neg at MHT #7/43



AL-VII-A-043

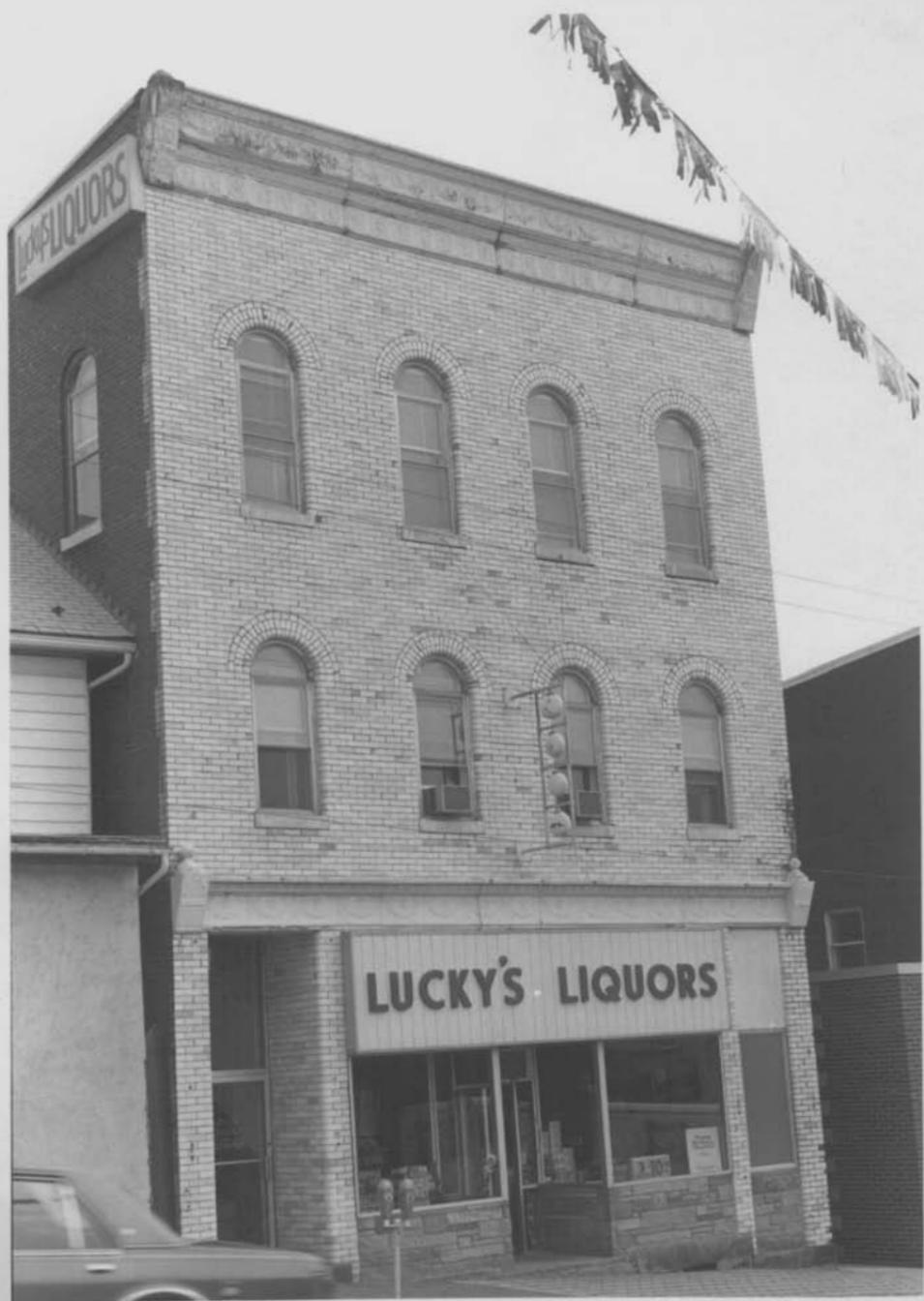
Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

60 E. Main St., SW elev.

neg at MHT #8/43



LUCKY'S LIQUORS

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76 E Main St., SE elev.

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7

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Frostburg Historic District

Allegheny Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

111 E Main, NE elev.

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Frostburg Historic District
Allegany Co., MD
Catherine Crawford 7/81
113 E Main, NE elev.

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E Main nr. Uhl St. fc. NW

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Frostburg Historic District

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E. Main nr. Depot St. fc. SE

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183 E Main, NE elev.



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198 E. Main, SW elev.

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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

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E Main nr. Cemetary Rd. fc. SE

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Frostburg Historic District

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275 E Main, NW elev.

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Allegany Co., MD

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278 E Main SW elev.

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E Main nr. Sleeman St. fc. SE

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W Main nr. Broadway fc. NW

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Frostburg Historic District

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55 W Main St., SW elev.

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W Main nr. Bealls la. fc. SE

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73 W Main St., SW elev.

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89 W. Main, SW elev.

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Catherine Crawford 7/81

93 W. Main, SW elev.

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FROSTBURG AUTO CO

REGULAR
127
SUPER
134
DIESEL
129

Dodge Cars

Dodge

Dodge Trucks

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114 W Main St., NE elev.

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CHEVROLET
SERVICE
OLDSMOBILE
SERVICE


CHEVROLET
OLDSMOBILE

CITY
PARKING
LOT
→

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Catherine Crawford 7/81

45 Water St., NE elev.

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Frostburg Historic District
Allegany Co., MD
Catherine Crawford 7/81
20-22-24 Broadway, NW elev.

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Allegany Co., MD

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28 Broadway St., NW elev.

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Frostburg Historic District
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Catherine Crawford 7/81
37 Broadway St., SE elev.

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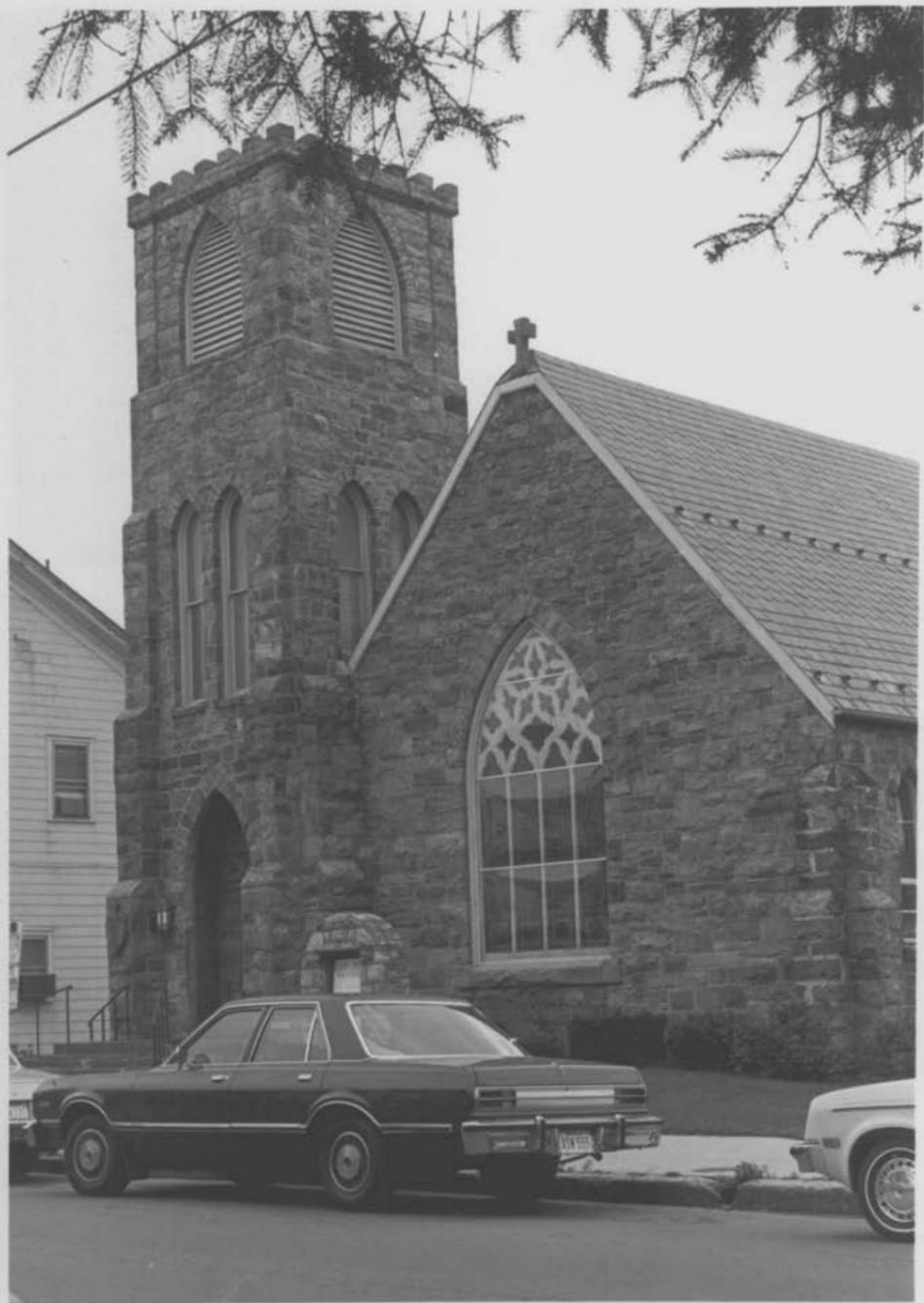
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Frostburg Historic District

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51 Broadway St., SE elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

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74-76 Broadway St. NW elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

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Catherine Crawford 7/81

31 Beall St. SE elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

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Catherine Crawford 7/81

41 Maple St., SE elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

119 Maple St., SE elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

134 Maple St., NW elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

150 Maple St., NW elev.



Coca-Cola

Giuseppe's

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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

13 Bowery St., SE elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

35 Bowery St., SE elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

88 Bowery St., NW elev.

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W Mechanic fc. SE



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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

70 W. Mechanic St., NE elev.



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Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 6/81

W Mechanic St. fc. NW



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Frostburg Historic District
Allegany Co., MD
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44 W Mechanic St., NE elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

30 Frost Ave., NE elev.

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Catherine Crawford 7/81

38 Frost Ave., NE elev.

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51

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Frostburg Historic District
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Catherine Crawford 7/81
91 Frost Ave. SW elev.

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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany County, Maryland

C. Crawford, 7/81

102 Wood St., N.W. elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

103 Wood St., SE elev.



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Frostburg Historic District
Allegany Co., MD
Catherine Crawford 7/81
111 Wood St., SE elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

144-146 Wood St., NW elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

153 Wood St., SE elev.



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Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

50 E. College Ave., NE elev.



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Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

38 W College Ave., SE elev.



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Frostburg Historic District
Allegany Co., MD
Catherine Crawford 7/81
50 W College Ave. NE elev.

*Can you darken
left side of home*



AL-VII-A-043

Frostburg Historic District

Allegany Co., MD

Catherine Crawford 7/81

50 W College Ave. NE elev.