

Survey # WA-II-1047 Approximate date Ca. 1770, 1810
Street Address 17 South Main Street
Town, State Keedysville, Maryland
private X, public

Description

The Hess House, Keedysville's oldest dwelling was built in two parts. The oldest is a two story, four bay log structure with a central chimney. Added to the east end of this is a two story, three bay stone addition dating from 1810-20. The house which faces south is not oriented to Main Street, but rather to the old 18th century road, and to the mill site. The house has been modified, but its small windows and Germanic central chimney represent its 18th century origins. The current finish on the log section is German siding, probably the second generation of siding. Windows have wide, massive frames typical of the 18th century, but the sash were replaced with two over two pane windows. The main entrance to the log section is located in the second bay from the west end of the building. A door into the stone addition is in its west end bay near where it is attached to the log part. It has a transom with fancy curved muntons. The central chimney is a small brick structure and the stone portion has a large inside end stone chimney with a corbel at its top. The roof is of sheet metal. A one story shed roofed porch supported by turned posts extends across the entire front. A one story stone addition extends to the rear.

Other features of the property include a stone out-kitchen, west of the house, and remnants of the mill's head race.

This house was built by Jacob Hess after he acquired this property for his mill in 1768. Jacob Hess was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, but his father Hans had emigrated from Switzerland. The 1783 tax assessment for the Hess property listed a mill, a swisser barn and several log houses. The log portion of this house is all that remains of this collection. Jacob Hess died in 1815, but his heirs continued to own the property until they sold it to John J. Keedy in 1833.

German Reformed Brethren church services were held in the log house during Hess ownership and it is believed that General McClellan dined there prior to the Battle of Antietam.

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

- I. Geographic Organization: Western Maryland
- II. Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
Rural Agrarian Intensification
- III. Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community
Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- IV. Resource Type
Category: Building
Historic Environment: Village
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):
Single Dwelling
Known Design Source: Unknown

Photo Reference: Photo # 43

Form Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian
Preservation Associates, Inc.
19942 Lehmans Mill Road
Hagerstown, MD 21742

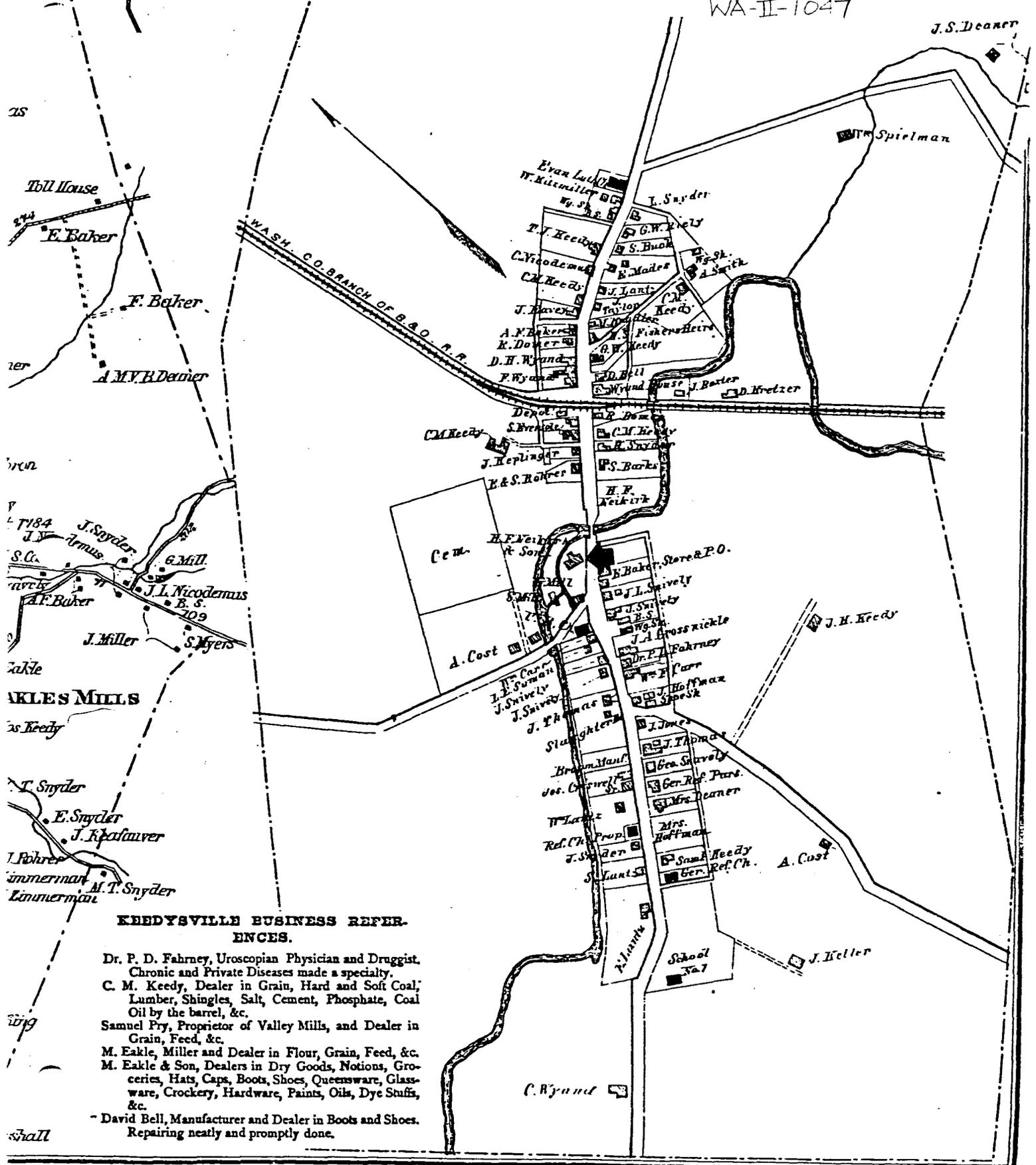
Date: 11/93

H. Ringer
A. Haffer
J.H. Ringer
S. Haffer

KEEDYSVILLE
Scale 30 Rods to an Inch

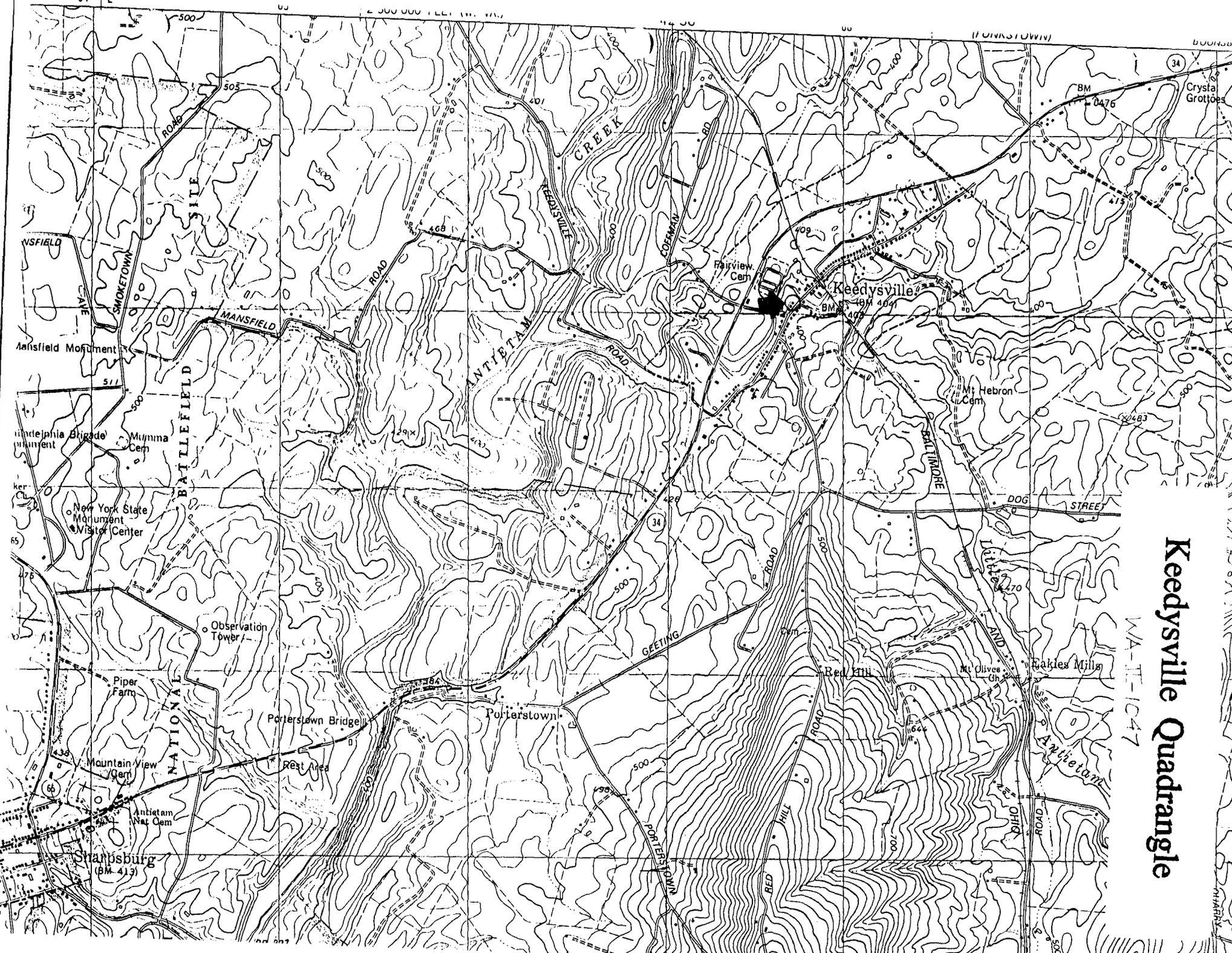
Lake, Griffing and Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas
of Washington County, Maryland. Philadelphia, 1877.

WA-II-1047



KEEDYSVILLE BUSINESS REFERENCES.

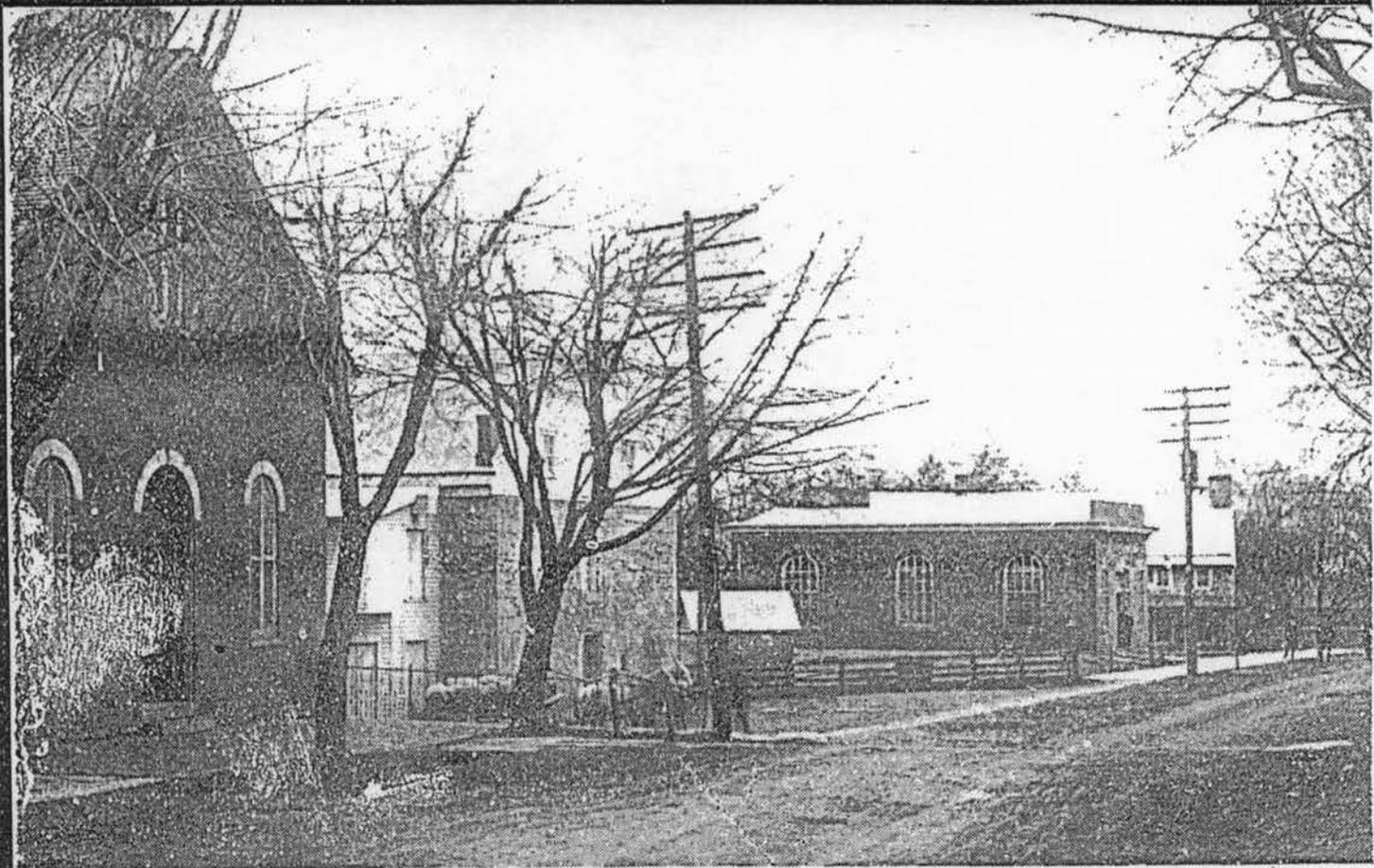
- Dr. P. D. Fahrney, Uroscopian Physician and Druggist. Chronic and Private Diseases made a specialty.
- C. M. Keedy, Dealer in Grain, Hard and Soft Coal; Lumber, Shingles, Salt, Cement, Phosphate, Coal Oil by the barrel, &c.
- Samuel Fry, Proprietor of Valley Mills, and Dealer in Grain, Feed, &c.
- M. Eakle, Miller and Dealer in Flour, Grain, Feed, &c.
- M. Eakle & Son, Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Queensware, Glassware, Crockery, Hardware, Paints, Oils, Dye Stuffs, &c.
- David Bell, Manufacturer and Dealer in Boots and Shoes. Repairing neatly and promptly done.



Keedysville Quadrangle

MA-TT-1047

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



U. B. Church and Bank, Keedysville, Md.

HESS HOUSE (FAR RIGHT, BACKGROUND) WA-II-1047 KEEDYSVILLE, MD CA-1910



Hess House

WA-II-1047

17 S. Main St. Keedysville, MD

NW view, S + E elevations

10/93

Photo by P. Reed, Preservation Assn. Inc.

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