

WI-105
Dr. Greensbury Freeny's House and Office
Pittsville
Private

c. 1880-90 and earlier

Centered in the town of Pittsville on the corner of Main and Maple streets is a prominent two-and-a-half story frame dwelling formerly owned and occupied by Dr. Greensbury Freeny and his family. The multiple gabled frame dwelling with pointed arch windows is estimated to date around 1880-90, although the property was owned by Freeny by the early 1870s. Her purchased several parcels of land in Pittsville following the construction of the Wicomico and Pocomoke Railroad in 1867-68. His initial house on the property now stands on the south side of Main Street and was moved to his location when the present house was erected in the 1880s. (See WI-504) The 1877 Pittsville town map bears witness to this relocation. The map indicates the presence of an ell-shaped dwelling and office in 1887, while the land on the south side of the street is vacant. The date of the first dwelling is estimated around 1870, while the second house was erected after the publication of the atlas in 1877.

Dr. Freeny's second house outdistanced the first in size by at least two-fold and it has more obvious associations with prevailing architectural taste in the romantic Gothic Revival for the late nineteenth century. The new asymmetrically planned ell-shaped main block was designed with multiple gables pierced by pointed arch windows, and the porches were enriched with turned posts and decorative sawn brackets. Many of the window openings carry pointed arch lintels. Piercing the roofline are three internal brick chimney stacks featuring paneled faces. While Dr. Freeny replaced his house with a stylish new structure, he maintained his medical practice in the 1870s structure that still stands along Maple Street. The single-story, pyramidal roofed frame office is defined by wide paneled pilasters on each corner. The squarish office is lighted by six-

over-six sash windows. The house and doctor's office complex is a rare survival of combined late nineteenth-century domestic and professional architectural forms.

Dr. Greensbury W. Freeny retained ownership of this property until his death, and then the property passed to his widow Ella Freeny by rights of her dower. In 1938 the Freeny children sold their parents house and acreage to Leamon G. Tingle.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-105

Name Dr. Greensbury Freeny's House and Office
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-105

Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
	good	ruins
x	fair	altered

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

Dr. Greensbury Freeny's house and office are located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Main and Maple streets in the center of Pittsville, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, Victorian frame house faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1880-90, the two-and-a-half story, ell-shaped main block is supported by a continuous stretcher bond brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with a combination of vinyl siding and plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-and-a-half story service wing. Located in the side yard along Maple Street is a single-story, square frame office that dates around 1870. The weatherboard frame structure is supported on a pier foundation, and a low pitched pyramidal roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The south (main) elevation of the house is an asymmetrical facade with a projecting two-a-half story pavilion that stands forward of the entrance wall. The pavilion is defined by paired single pane sash windows on the first and second stories, and a pointed arch window lights the attic. Each of the window openings have molded lintels. Extended eaves trim the edge of the roof, and the bottom corners have returns. The entrance wall of the south facade is three bays across with the sidelighted front door fixed in the easternmost bay. The front door is also topped by multi-pane transom. The adjacent bays are defined by two-over-two sash windows features molded window lintels. The second story is lighted by three window openings, two of which are fitted with two-over-two sash and the third has single-pane sash. A cross gable marks the center of the steeply pitched roof, and the gable is pierced by a pointed arch window. Rising through the main block are interior brick stacks featuring inset panels on each face. A late nineteenth-century turned post front porch with decorative sawn brackets has been removed from the front of the house.

The west gable end of the main block features a single-story bay window fitted with single-pane sash windows, paneled knee walls, and a wood shingled roof. Above the bay is a paired set of single-pane sash windows fitted with a pointed arch lintel molding. The gable end has a pointed arch window as well. A set of three triangular panes fill the pointed arch. The edge of the roof has extended eaves and returns at the base of the roof.

The north (rear) wall of the ell-shaped main block is largely covered by a two-and-a-half story service wing that appears contemporaneous to the main block. Lighted by two-over-two sash windows, the rear wing has a pointed arch gable on its

(Continued)

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-105

Name Dr. Greensbury Freeny's House and Office
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

west side and the gable end is pierced by a pointed arch attic window like the front gables. A center brick chimney stack protrudes through the roof, and each side has an inset panel. The rear wing has a side entrance sheltered by a turned post porch featuring sawn corner brackets. The rear (north) elevation of the wing is partially covered by a single-story rear addition that joins a single-story frame structure to the house. The second floor of the rear service wing is defined by a pair of two-over-two sash windows, and the attic is lighted by a single two-over-two sash window.

The doctor's office is a single-story, weatherboard frame structure of square dimensions. The pyramidal roofed structure features paneled corner pilasters and six-over-six sash windows which have been boarded over. The Maple Street elevation is defined by an boarded over entrance fitted with a four-panel door. The window and door headers have a slight crown molding. The edge of the pyramidal roof is enclosed with a boxed cornice and a plain frieze board wraps around the structure.

The interiors of the house and office were not seen.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-105

Name Dr. Greensbury Freeny's House and Office

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-105

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
x1800-1899	x architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
1900-1999	art	entertainment/ recreation	landscape architecture	religion
2000-	commerce	ethnic heritage	law	science
	communications	exploration/ settlement	literature	social history
	community planning		maritime history	transportation
	conservation		military	other:

Significance dates

Architect

Specific dates

Builder

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Centered in the town of Pittsville on the corner of Main and Maple streets is a prominent two-and-a-half story frame dwelling formerly occupied and owned by Dr. Greensbury W. Freeny and his family. The multiple gabled frame dwelling with pointed arch windows is estimated to date around 1880-90, although the property was owned by Freeny since the early 1870s. He purchased several parcels of land in Pittsville following the construction of the Wicomico and Pocomoke Railroad in 1867-68.¹ His initial house on the property stands on the south side of Main Street and was moved to this location when the present house was erected during the 1880s. (See WI-504) The 1877 Pittsville town map bears witness to this relocation. The map indicates the presence of an ell-shaped dwelling and office in 1877, while the land on the south

¹ Wicomico County Land Records, TF, Jr. 3/33, 20 June 1871; TF, Jr., 3/419, 10 June 1872; TF, Jr. 3/323, 27 March 1873; SPT 2/211, 30 May 1876; SPT 2/466, 20 December 1877.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-105

Name Dr. Greensbury Freeny's House and Office

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

side of the street is vacant.² The date of the first dwelling is estimated around 1870, while the second house was clearly erected after the publication of the atlas in 1877.

Dr. Freeny's second house outdistanced the first in size by at least two-fold and had more obvious associations with prevailing architectural taste in the romantic Gothic Revival style. The new asymmetrically planned ell-shaped main block had multiple gables pierced by pointed arch windows, and the porches were enriched with turned posts and decorative sawn brackets. Many of the window openings were designed with pointed arch lintels. Piercing the roofline were three internal brick chimneys stacks featuring paneled faces. While Dr. Freeny replaced his house with a stylish new structure, he maintained his medical practice in the 1870s structure that stands along Maple Street. The single-story, pyramidal roofed frame office is defined by wide pilasters on each corner that rise to a plain frieze, and the squarish office is lighted by six-over-six sash windows. The house and doctor's office complex is a rare survival of combined late nineteenth-century domestic and professional architectural forms.

Dr. Greensbury W. Freeny retained ownership of this property until his death, and then the property passed to his widow Ella Freeny as her dower rights. In 1938 the Freeny children sold their parents house and acreage to Leamon G. Tingle.³

² John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, The Wicomico County Bicentennial Committee, p. 15.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 213/143, 20 January 1938.

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-105

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area
Acreage surveyed
Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
organization	Private Consultant
street & number	P. O. Box 5
city or town	Westover, Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-105

Name Dr. Greensbury Freeny's House and Office

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type: Standing Structures

Category: Dwelling

Historic Environment: Residential Neighborhood

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Residence and Office

Known Design Source:

WI-105
Dr. Greensbury Freeny House & Office
34654 Main Street
Pittsville, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 301, Parcel 1232

991/806

William H. Parsons

to

6/9/1983

Charles Thomas Parsons
Patricia Ann Parsons

JWTS 436/260

Herman E. Perdue, trustee

to

8/14/1957

William H. Parsons
Radia M. Parsons

IDT 213/143

Alice W. Freeny, et al. (John Greensbury Freeny, Lawrence
C. Freeny and Lucille Freeny, Alice Freeny Gillis and Woodrow
Gillis, etc.)

to

1/20/1938

Leamon G. Tingle
...and which upon the demise of the said Dr. Greensbury W.
Freeny, intestate, descended unto the said Lawrence C. Freeny
with dower rights to his widow Ella Freeny

SPT 2/466

Ritchie Fooks, et ux.

to

12/20/1877

Dr. Greensbury W. Freeny
\$30

WI-105

Page 2

Dr. Greensbury Freeny House & Office
34654 Main Street
Pittsville, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

SPT 2/211

Henrietta Byrd

to

5/30/1876

G. W. Freeny
\$25 26 square perches

TF, Jr. 3/419

Joseph J. Hayman and wife

to

7/10/1872

Dr. Greensbury W. Freeny
...all that part of a lot of ground which we purchased of
Henrietta Byrd...it is a portion of the original tract called
'Gift to My First Son' and a part of Lot No. 10 which adjoins
Lot No. 9

TF, Jr. 3/323

Joseph J. Hayman
Rebecca C. Hayman

to

3/27/1873

Dr. G. W. Freeny
Lot No. 10

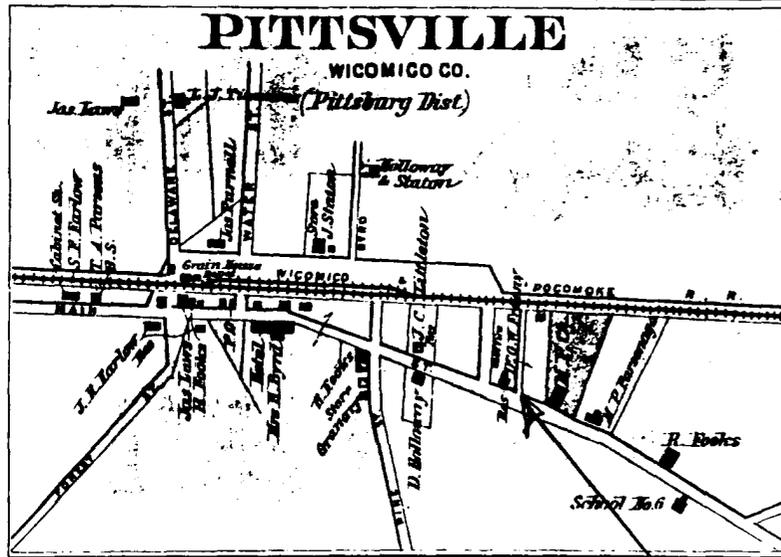
TF, Jr. 3/33

Henrietta Byrd

to

6/20/1871

G. W. Freeny
\$80 "A Gift to My First Son" adjoining the lot of J. J. Hayman
on the east side..."



PITTSVILLE BUSINESS REFERENCES. **SAMUEL F. FARLOW**, Cabinet-maker and Undertaker. All kinds of Work in my line done with neatness and dispatch.

J. W. DAVIS, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Drugs, Dye-stuffs, Patent Medicines, Fancy Articles, Notions, &c.

HOLLOWAY AND MEZICK, Dealers in, and Manufacturers of all kinds of Fine Lumber. Orders promptly by Rail or otherwise. Mill near Salisbury. P. O. and Lumber-yard, Pittsville, Md.

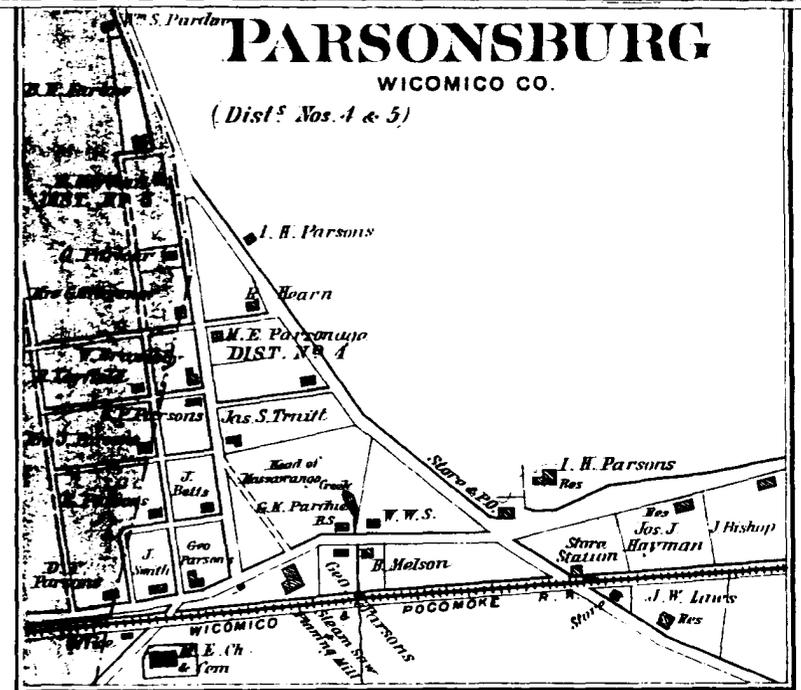
GEORGE P. CAMPBELL, Dealer in, and Manufacturer of all kinds of Lumber. Mill in Baltimore Hundred, Delaware. P. O., Pittsville.

WEST AND ROUNDS, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Millinery, Perfumery, Drugs, Patent Medicines, Confectioneries, Notions, &c.

RITCHIE FOOKS, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Drugs, Medicines, Patent Medicines, Toilet Soaps, Harness, Saddlery, Furniture, Notions, &c.

J. H. WEST, Manufacturer of all kinds of Lumber. Orders for lumber promptly filled. Lumber of all kinds kept on hand, and for sale at all times. Mill and yard on Maryland and Delaware line near West's Corner. P. O., Pittsville.

G. W. FREENY, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Res., Pittsville.



PARSONSBURG BUSINESS REFERENCES.

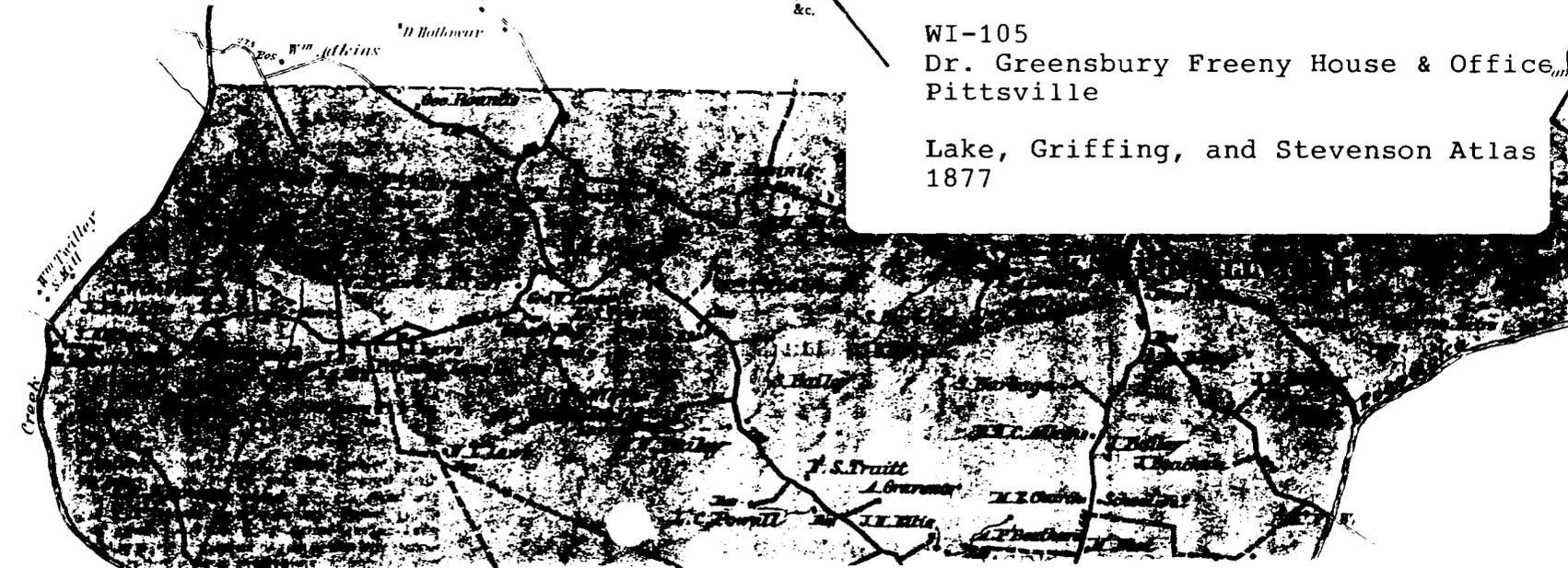
JOHN W. LAWS, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Drugs, Medicines, Patent Medicines, Notions, &c.

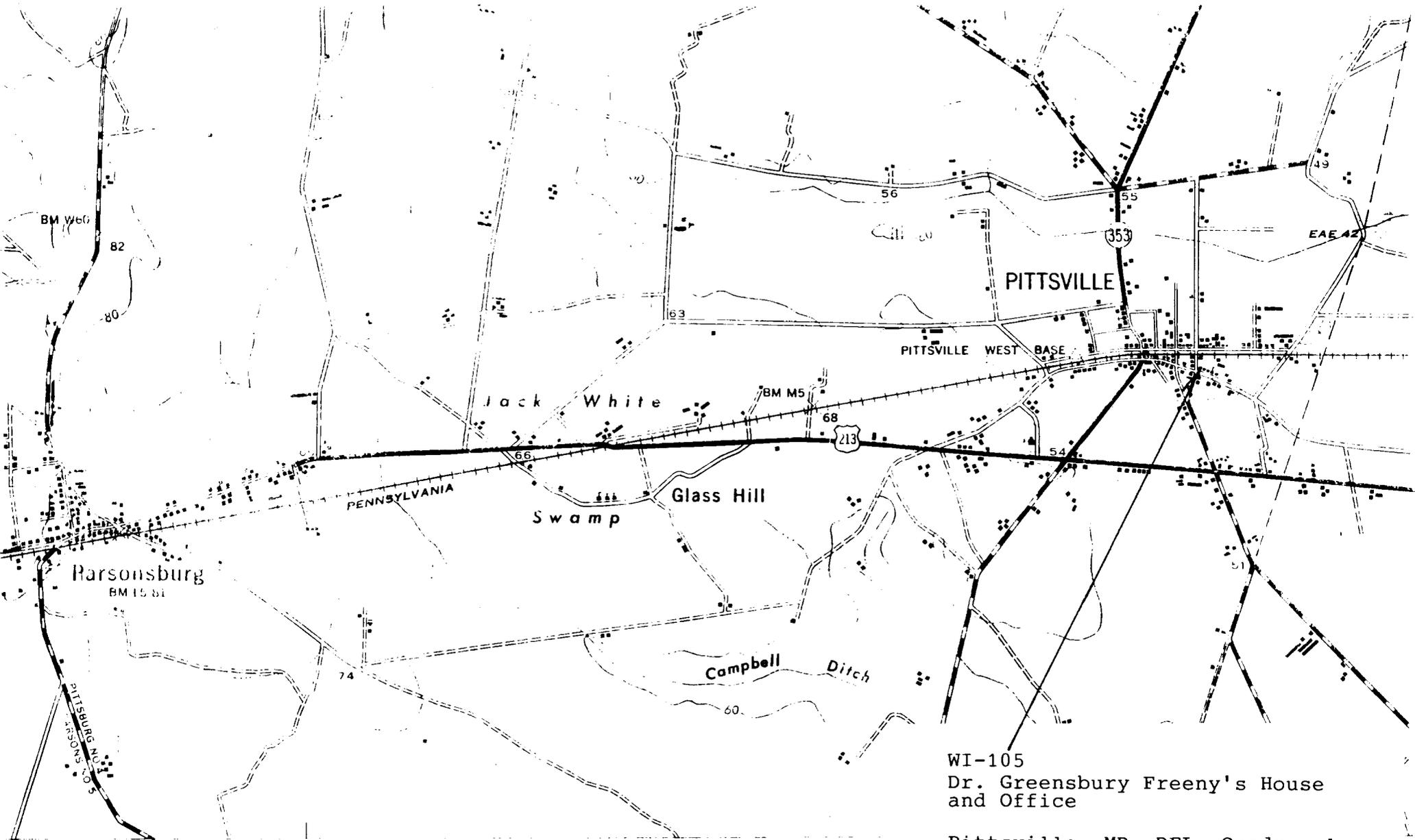
J. J. HAYMAN, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Drugs, Dye-stuffs, Medicines, Patent Medicines, &c.

PARSONS, LAWS AND CO., Manufacturers of and Dealers in all kinds of Lumber. Orders for all kinds of lumber promptly filled. P. O., Parsonsburg.

JOHN D. PERDUE, Dealer in all kinds of Live Stock, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Horses, Mules, &c. Stock bought, sold and exchanged. All persons wanting stock or having it for sale will do well to give me a call. P. O. Address, Salisbury or Parsonsburg.

WI-105
 Dr. Greensbury Freeny House & Office,
 Pittsville
 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
 1877

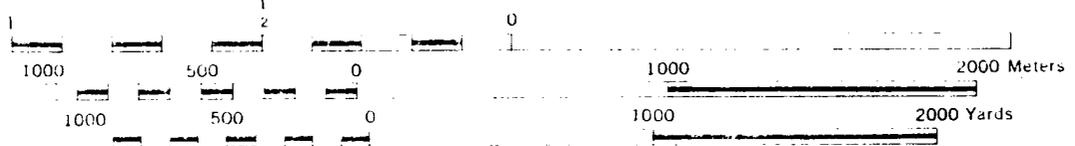




WI-105
 Dr. Greensbury Freeny's House
 and Office
 Pittsville, MD. DEL. Quadrangle

SHADY 1.4 MI
 WASTE GATE 2.4 MI
 27 30'

SCALE 1:24 000



(AM), U. S. Army.
 V NW, 1942.
 phy by plane
 urveys by

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

POLYCONIC PROJECTION



W1-105

DR GREENSBURY FREEMAN'S HOUSE AND OFFICE
PITTSVILLE, WICOMICO COUNTY, MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

5/2000, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / NP. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 3



W1-105

DR. GREENSBURY FREEMAN'S HOUSE AND OFFICE
PITTSVILLE, WICOMICO COUNTY, MD.
NORTHWEST ELEVATION

5/2000, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
2 of 3



WI-105

DR. GREENSBURG FREEMAN'S HOUSE AND OFFICE
PITTSVILLE, WICOMICO COUNTY, MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION OF OFFICE

5/2000, PAUL TONER, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

3 of 3



WI-105 Dr. Freney's House and Office, Pittsville.

PHOTO —
O. N. WOOTEN
323 F. BRISTON DRIVE
SALISBURY, MD.