

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Narrative

DESCRIPTION

New Market is a small drovers' town located on what was originally one of the major east-west routes from Baltimore and Frederick to the west. This road, formerly U.S. 40 or the National Pike (now Md. Rt. 144), is the main street of the town. There are a number of cross streets, all designated as alleys on the original plat. Only one of these has been enlarged, this to accommodate Md. Rt. 75.

Along Main Street, the houses are grouped closely together west of Route 75. Many of these have common walls and the rest are generally separated by small side yards. The large majority of houses are set back from the road only by the width of the sidewalk. A few of the detached ones are set back further. Most houses have long, narrow back yards, many of which are heavily planted with trees and shrubs. Only one building, Mealy's Inn, has a parking lot in its rear yard.

Only one major intrusion faces directly onto the Main Street. This is the fire station, a "pseudo-colonial" brick building fronted by a short expanse of macadam. Further west on the south side of Main Street, behind the houses, is a trucking company with a large parking for tractor-trailer rigs. This stands at the western boundary of the district and is not a major intrusion, as it is not easily viewed from the main street.

New Market is set on a slight rise of ground in the rolling countryside of eastern Frederick County. Coming into town from any of the three routes (north, east, and west), the transition from farming country to the town is fairly rapid. Only on the west side of town is there any extensive modern development. This is all outside the historic district boundaries and consists mainly of single homes.

Along the main street, the town has an urban aspect when viewed in relation to the countryside surrounding it. There are few large open spaces. A very small public park of less than one-fourth acre is located east (25 West Main Street). A larger park is planned in the eastern part of town in an area essentially detached from the town environment to the west. The only other open spaces are the yards, many of which are large.

The architectural character of the town is set by the Federal Style buildings that dominate its center. There was only one house built prior to the founding of the town, and it is of a late colonial style. There are Greek Revival buildings of the same scale and proportions as their Federal counterparts. Most of the Victorian buildings are also the same in scale and proportion, an exception being the Ramsburg House. This is a little taller and more elaborately decorated from the surrounding houses, providing an interesting visual relief from the simplified detail of the others. About

90% of the buildings in the historic district date from the nineteenth century, with the remaining 10% from the late eighteenth and twentieth centuries.

New Market contains a good collection of buildings representative of the several styles popular throughout its history. It is especially interesting owing to its rural situation. All of the houses, with the exception of the stone Prosser house, are either of brick or frame construction. Regionally, the craftsmanship of the architecture is of fine quality, being among the best turned out by the country builders of that time.

Along Main Street most of the houses are in good condition, many having been restored for combined use as antique shops and homes.

As a whole, the town holds together extremely well. The scale and proportion of most buildings harmonizes with their fellows, a height of two and one-half stories and width of three to four bays being common. The visual continuity of the streetscape is not obstructed by signboards, and the signs that are evident are on the whole small and in character with the buildings. All are painted in pleasing and subdued colors. There is nothing that overpowers the architectural unity of the town.

The Prosser House, located at 25-27 West Main Street, is a two-story stone house with a brick wing of later date to the rear and one of frame to the east.

The stone main block faces south and is three bays wide at the first floor level. The transomed entrance frames an eight panel door and is flanked by two windows of six over six sash with lowered exterior blinds; above are two windows, small but similar to those of the first floor. The frame east wing is three bays at both floor levels on this same elevation. The five windows with six over six panes have paneled blinds and there is a transom over the entrance. To the east end of the wing is a small one-story one-bay frame extension.

The brick, two-bay rear wing of the main block probably once had a galleried two-story porch on its east front, but the first floor level has been enclosed to provide additional living area. The second floor porch balustrade, however, remains although the second floor posts and porch roof do not.

Each part of the house has a gable roof and simple boxed cornices. There is a single large chimney on the west end of the stone part and smaller flush chimneys on the exposed ends of the two principal wings. The building presently serves as both a private residence and antique shop.

The Ramsburg House, at 33 West Main Street, is a two and one-half-story, late nineteenth century brick house on stone foundations. This basically Federal-style house has been fancifully embellished in Victorian taste and is one of the better examples of its type in New Market.

The street façade of the Ramsburg House is three bays wide. Occupying the west bay of each level is a door on the first, a semi-octagonal bay on the second, and a large brick dormer on the roof. The arched entrance frames a door with over and sidelights; below the multi-paned sidelights are intricately carved under panels. The second floor bay project out over the roof of a first floor porch decorated with elaborately pierced and cut brackets and frieze. The projecting bay has semi-circular headed windows, separated by tapered pilasters with carved capitals. The peaked dormer above has a three-part window under a semi-circular fanlight all of which is set within a predimented blind panel.

The Huff House at 35 W. Main Street is a one and one-half story common bond brick house with a gable façade.

The first floor level of the street façade is three bays across with a centered door flanked by windows of six over six lights; the two second floor windows frame sash of six over three panes. Although all window openings are headed by flat arches of stretcher brick, the door is headed by a plain wood lintel.

At the north end of the gable roof are two flush chimneys. On the east slope of the roof are two dormer windows of later construction. On the north end of the building is a small, one-story, one-bay addition.

The Fehr-Schriess House, 49-51 West Main Street, is a two-story frame house with two brick chimneys and two bay rear wing. The gable roof has boxed cornices with gable returns.

The south or main façade is five bays wide with a door in the center. The openings on the east façade appear to have been changed. There are now three bays across the façade with a door in the south bay. Only two bays on the second floor of the north or rear façade are visible to a shed addition. The western bay stair window, located in the center of the house, is lower than the eastern. The west façade has one bay on the northern end and two attic windows. All windows have six over six-pane sash, most of them with louvered blinds.

The Kemp House at 14-16 West Main Street is a three-part, two-story brick house built on stone foundations. The main façade is laid in Flemish bond. There are two brick chimneys, one on the east end of the earliest section, the other on the west end of the larger center section. The cornices of the two lower sections that flank the center part are the same. Each is boxed and decorated with cyma recta crown and bead moldings and a carpenter's fret. The boxed cornice of the center block is reeded and has coved crown and bead moldings and carved beads.

The first floor windows of the street façade are of nine over nine sash; those of the second floor are of nine over six. All windows have louvered blinds. The first floor openings on the lower sections and the openings on both floors of the center section have stuccoed flat arches with a raised keystone.

The south façade is eight bays wide. Each lower section is two bays wide, with the western section having a door in the west bay. The central block is four bays wide with a door in the east bay. Reeded semi-columns flank this door. There is a semi-circular fanlight over the door and a new pediment above.

The Shotwell House located at 9-11 West Main Street is a two-story brick house with a rear wing of a possible earlier date, and a later addition to the west. The west section has a stepped brick cornice, as does the rear wing. Windows are six over six with gauged flat arches and blinds. There is a large, square, ca. 1900 cupola on the roof.

The Flemish bond main façade is in two distinct parts and is six bays across, each section consisting of three bays. The door of the east section is in its west bay and the door of the west section is in its center bay.

The east façade of the main block has one attic window to the south and one central second floor window. The wing is four bays wide with two doors, one in the south bay and the other in the second bay from the north.

The north façade of the main block has one bay on the east end and two bays on the west side. The rear wing has no openings. The west façade of the main block has one bay on the north and two attic windows. The wing is four bays wide.

East Main Street

1-3 Elinor Low
5-9 Wm. Rosenaur
11-17 C.A. Jackson
19-25 John W. Fossett
27-29 Wm. Lee
31-33 K. Snowden
35-37 Andrew Sewell
39-43 Leroy Simpson
45-57 Ross Brinkley
59-95 Mercurio Parziolo

2-4 Kenneth Brown
6-8 Episcopal Church Parsonage
10-12 Episcopal Church
14-16 W.F. Smith
18-20 Pierce MacNair
22-24 Pierce MacNair
26-30 Simpson Methodist Church
32-40 Town of New Market
42-44 Lodge
46-80 Frinkel-Palmer
82-84 Kenneth Snowden
86-92 Andrew Sewell
94-100

North Federal Street

3-5 Raymond Smith

North Prospect Alley

5 C&P Telephone Company

South 8th Alley

1 Jon Cappalsti
3-5 Marjorie Hoy
7 William F. Smith
8 Norman & Mary Peach

West Main Street

1 Carl & Francis Mealey
3 Carl & Franics Mealey
5-7 Franklin Rappold
9-11 Henry Shotwell
13-15 Edward Sanger
17 Edward Rossig, Jr.
19 Masonic Lodge
21-23 A. Piscapo
25-27 Morris Prosser
29-31 Albert Esworthy
33 Camden Ramsburg
35 Leroy Hoff
37 George Burkett
39 Austin K. Mantz
41 Paul Welty
43 Gordon Kindness
45-57 Monroe Free
49-51 Henry Schriess
53-55 William Cline
57-59 Marion Lawson
61-63 Nancy Morley
65 Norman Lease
67-69 Clarence Bennett
71-77 Esatate-Herman Bavbutz
79-83 Emory Stull

South Federal Street

1 Pierce MacNair
2 Iames
3 Lawrence Brightful
4 W. H. James
5 MCS (Frederick County)
6 Ray Brightful
7 Thomas W. Peach
8 George Davis

2 Paul E. Staley
4 Donald Shimpff
6-8 C.F. Mealey
10-12 Jordan Associates
14-16 Stoll D. Kemp
18-20 Hal Williamson
22-24 F.M. Shaw
26-30 Harrison Metz
32-38 Frank Perham
40-42 Charles Woods
44 Julia Douglas
46-48 George Clooney
50 Catherin Meadors
52-54 Lloyd Boyer
56-58 Howard Schell
60-62 Paul Fogle
64-66 Edward White
68-70 Ollie Bridges
72-74 Fire Department
76-78 Buck Wachter
80
82 Donald Wachter
84-86 Edith Elliott

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of New Market has been relatively unspoiled by the passage of time, remaining much as it was in its beginning, a small drovers town built to service the many travelers going to and from the Baltimore markets. It is in appearance the quintessence of the circa 1800 small town in western central Maryland. It is well preserved and shows more original fabric and a more representative development from the Federal into the Greek Revival and Victorian periods than other towns in the area. Its Federal style buildings are well executed, showing the high level of craftsmanship attainable at the time.

Western Maryland towns such as New Market are different from towns in the Tidewater region in several respects: (1) an economy based on overland commerce rather than on water transportation, (2) the linear layout along a single street instead of a pattern of several streets, and (3) the difference in building design and proportion in the two regions.

New Market had its beginning when land grants from Lord Baltimore were given to John Dorsey and Samuel Plummer in 1743.

In 1747 Nicholas Hall began acquiring land in this area. Hall's estate was known as New Market Plains and consisted of approximately 1080 acres. He is thought to have come from New Market, England.

In 1788, Hall laid out the Town of New Market. This advertisement appeared in several of the local newspapers at the time:

Laid out for a town to be called New Market, on a public road. Grading from Frederick Town to Baltimore, about nine miles from Frederick: Two principal streets in the town are 66 feet, the other 50 feet wide, three others 33 feet wide. Lots are 66 feet front 165 back. There is reserved a lot of ground for a Market House and a Church. The lots are to be sold by Nicholas Hall, living near premises. Lots bounding on Main Street will be sold for 3 pounds current money each. The lots back at forty shillings each, all subject to an annual ground rend of 5 shillings to commence May 5, 1788.

It wasn't until April 3, 1793, that Nicholas Hall recorded his deed for the Town. Two months later, on June 1, 1793, William Plummer also recorded a deed, known as Plummer's part of New Market. This section was laid out along the same plan as Hall's. Hall's part consisted of 134 lots and Plummer's of 36 lots. New Market is laid out longitudinally along what became part of the National Pike in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, with double lots on both sides of the road, called Main Street. Another short street, laid out in Hall's section at right angles to Main Street is called Federal Street.

In 1747 Samuel Plummer's heirs gave land in Frederick County to members of the Society of Friends who built a log meeting house there circa 1780. These Quakers came from near Wrightsville, Pennsylvania, down the Monocacy Road, and many of them settled west of the Monocacy River. Among these early settlers who played an active role in the development of New Market were the Wrights, Davises, Roberts, and Poultners. Other family names involved included Hall, Plummer, Dorsey, Hammond, McElfresh, Moberly, Ballanger, Pancoast, Wood, Smith, Hobbs, and Russell. Many of these families were large landowners and many owned a number of slaves. The town residents were apparently evenly divided between Quakers and Methodists. There was a Friends school situated on the edge of town at one time.

Located approximately eight miles east of Frederick on the route Baltimore and also on the from Baltimore to Cumberland and the west, New Market was a drover's town, depending for its livelihood on the many travelers passing through it. In 1804, the legislature incorporated a company to build the National Pike, and high-wheeled six-horse Conestoga wagons came through the town on their way to Ohio and beyond. The travelers stopped at the many hotels and taverns in town, sometimes sleeping on the floor for 25 cents a night. Behind the hotels were sheds for feeding and watering horses and pens for resting droves of pigs, turkeys, sheep, and cattle being driven on hoof to the markets in Baltimore.

A post office, one of the first in the country, was started in 1798 on Lot 25 in a building known as the "National Hotel," now the Rappold House. Lodgers were billeted upstairs from which the only means of exit was through a small room where the owner or watchman sat. This practice assured the owner of being paid for his services.

Reuben Falconer and Caleb Ogborn Founded the first fire company, known as the "Independent Hose Company" in 1841 on Lot 29. On Lot 21, George Smith had the first tavern. The Quaker Meetinghouse is gone now, but a United Methodist Church (1821), Grace Episcopal Church (1868), and Asbury Methodist Church (1870) remain.

The railroad in Monrovia about one-half mile south of New Market brought the Civil War to the town. Arms were hidden in many homes, and Edward Sanger's house on Lot 27 was used as a Union Army guardhouses. The Linganore Mounted Guard stored guns and ammunition in Carl Mealey's house on Lot 24 until they were seized by the Union Troops.

The first house known in New Market is the Fehr House on Lot 4 in Plummer's part of town. It was built by Plummer and lived in by his family for many years. There were a number of log houses and a few brick ones. One stone house existed which still stands on Lot 30. As the town grew and prospered, additions were added to existing homes and larger houses were built. Although eight or ten buildings have been destroyed, the town has largely escaped the ravages of modern development.

The preservation of the town is important not only because of its many fine examples of early architecture in Maryland, but because it is also a fine example of a small town as a complete unit. The New Market Historic District Commission and the New Market Zoning Ordinance have helped significantly in keeping the restorations or changes being considered by building owners within the historic nature of the town.

There is now a thriving antique business in New Market. The town is incorporated and has a Planning and Zoning Board in addition to its Historic District Commission. Its mayor and its citizens are greatly interested in preserving the heritage of the town for themselves and for future generations.

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