

120 EAST SOUTH STREET
(Kemp's Blacksmith Shop)
120 East South Street
Frederick
Frederick County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1093

HABS
MD
11-FRED,
24-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

120 EAST SOUTH STREET (GARAGE)
(Kemp's Blacksmith Shop)

HABS No. MD- 1093

HABS
MD
71-FRED,
24-

Location: 120 East South Street
Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland

USGS Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18.292700.4364830

Significance: The building exemplifies the mixed industrial and residential development on the periphery of Frederick, Maryland at the turn of the twentieth century and is a contributing element in the Frederick National Register Historic District.

Description: The building at 120 East South Street was constructed between 1922 and 1930 as a blacksmith shop/garage. The one-bay, one-story, irregular shaped, concrete block building is oriented on a north-south longitudinal axis. The building incorporates a front facing gable roof over the main block, and a shed roof over a three-bay rear wing. All roof planes are covered with standing-seam metal. All windows are original, six-over-six light, double-hung, wooden sash. All doorways and window openings are surmounted by painted wooden lintels.

The one-bay principal elevation of the main block is north facing and is accessed through a sliding track wooden door. A stepped concrete block parapet wall rises above the roof plane of the principal elevation. The east and west walls of the main block are punctuated by two evenly spaced windows, with security bars. A brick interior chimney punctuates the lower center portion of the east elevation of the gable roof; this chimney vented the blacksmith's forge.

The one-story, three-bay rectangular rear wing is connected to the south wall of the main block. A modern metal door with window is located on the north elevation of the rear wing, which projects eastward beyond the corner of the main block. The three-bay east elevation has a central, board-and-batten door with windows on either side. The three-bay south facing rear elevation is punctuated by three evenly spaced windows. A hinged board-and-batten wooden door is centrally located on the west elevation of the rear addition.

The interior of the building is utilitarian in design, with a poured concrete floor and painted concrete block walls. The main block and rear addition are free of partition walls, creating an open floor plan. The remnants of the chimney that vented the blacksmith forge is located against the interior east wall of the main block of the building. All the equipment associated with the blacksmith shop has been removed.

History: The city of Frederick, with its abundance of surrounding farmland and its strategic location on established transportation routes in central Maryland, prospered during the late nineteenth century as a regional center for commerce, trade, and industry. A large portion of Frederick's early economic and industrial growth was related to the region's agricultural resources. A cannery, built in 1866 by Louis McMurray, was one of Frederick's earliest industries. By the 1890s, several other independent canneries, which preserved locally grown vegetables and fruits for shipment abroad, had been established in Frederick. Most of these canneries were concentrated along the north side of East South Street and Commerce Street, near the B&O Railway Yards. This area, located on the undeveloped

southeastern periphery of city, was characterized by open farmland prior to its residential and industrial development. Three canneries were located on East South Street: the Monocacy Valley Canning Co., the Frederick City Packing Co., and the Colt Dixon Packing Co. The canneries operated seasonally; their work was supplemented in the off season through the manufacturing of boxes and packaging. Other industries located on East South Street were the Frederick Brick Works and the Farmers Co-operative Association, which supplied feed and fertilizer to local farmers. In conjunction with the industrial growth, a residential area comprised of a mixture of duplexes, rowhouses, and detached single-family houses developed along the south side of East South Street at the turn-of-the century. These houses reflect vernacular interpretations of Italianate and Second Empire architectural styles. Most of the houses were constructed of brick, as required by fire insurance codes. Most of the neighborhood residents were local laborers and tradesmen.

Following the Great Depression, industrial and residential development ceased on East South Street. By the 1940s, all the canneries in the area had closed, and had been replaced by other light industries. East South Street is characterized by a blend of light industrial and residential occupation. The area appears much as it did at the turn of the century, with few modern intrusions.

During the 1920s, the building at 120 East South Street was constructed as blacksmith shop/garage on the northwest corner of the property owned by George D. Moore (Frederick County Land Records STH 269:84). At the time of its construction, 120 East South Street was located directly across from the Frederick City Packing Co., and was surrounded by residential dwellings. The 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate that the building originally had a dirt floor; the floor has since been covered with a concrete slab. The building was occupied from 1946 to 1971 by Kemp's Blacksmith Shop. The blacksmith shop, operated by Howard and James Kemp, performed automotive body repair work and welding. During the early 1980s, the building was occupied by the City Cab Company. In 1989, Dorsey's Towing and Repair occupied the building. The building currently is vacant.

The building at 120 East South Street is scheduled for demolition in the spring of 1994 in preparation for the construction of five residential dwellings for the Way Station Project. 120 East South Street is situated within the boundaries of the City of Frederick National Register Historic District. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has determined that the demolition of this building will have an adverse effect upon the City of Frederick National Register Historic District. This recordation has been completed in behalf of Way Station, Inc., in compliance with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) prior to the building's demolition.

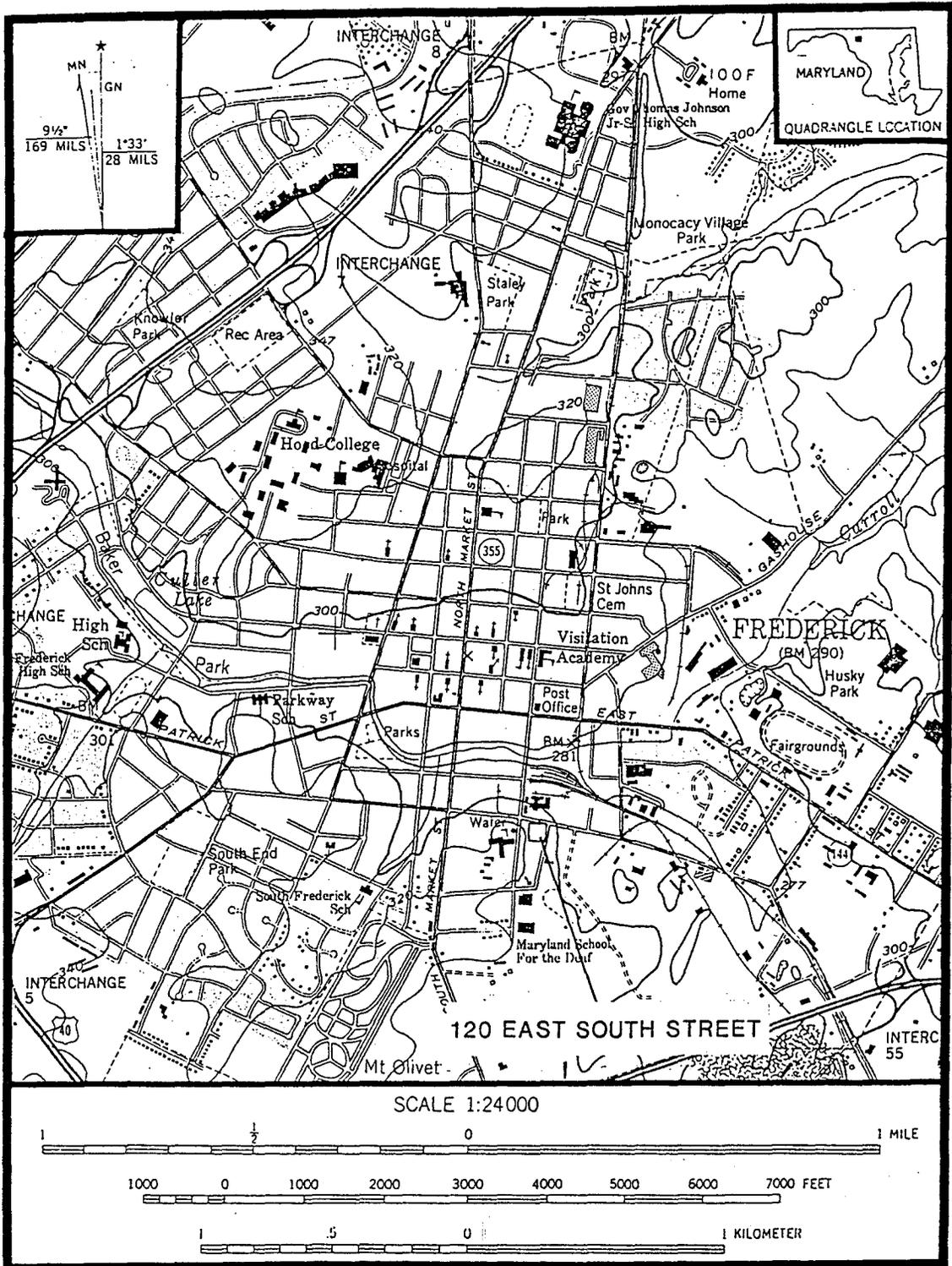
Source: Frederick City Directories (various publishers) assorted years 1924-1991. Maryland Room, C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, Maryland.

Bowlin, Lauren L. "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Frederick Historic District (expanded)." MSS, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Sanborn Map Co. Insurance Maps of Frederick, Maryland. 1887, 1892, 1897, 1904, 1911, 1922, 1930, 1933. Library of Congress.

Whitmore Nancy, F. and Cannon, Timothy L. *Frederick A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, VA:
Donning Company Publishers, 1981.

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Photocopy of excerpt from 1985 Frederick, Maryland 7.5' quadrangle, showing approximate location of 120 East South Street.