

F-2-73

## Dr. George R. West Farmstead (Westhill Farm)

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 11-21-2003***

F-2-73

Dr. George W. West Farmstead  
Petersville vicinity  
Private

Ca. 1800

The George W. West Farmstead is an agricultural grouping centered on a circa 1800 stone dwelling with a large two-story frame modern addition, a circa 1830's stone springhouse, a frame wagon shed/corn crib of about 1875-1900, a frame chicken house of the first quarter of the 20th century, and a frame bank barn, possibly built about 1875, with a concrete block milk house of the 1920's or 1930's. The stone house is significant for its early 19th century vernacular design and stonemasonry. Possibly built by Thomas West about 1800, it became the property of his son, Dr. George Washington West, in 1832 in a property division among his heirs. Dr. West occupied the property for almost 50 years.

F-2-73

~~F-2-83~~

Dr. George W. West Farmstead  
Petersville  
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:  
Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Buildings

Environment: Rural

Function and Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Domestic/single dwelling/other dependencies  
Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/barn  
Agriculture/Subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Dr. George W. West Farmstead (preferred)

and/or common Westhill Farm

## 2. Location

street & number end of Weston Drive  not for publicationcity, town Petersville  vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Howard W. &amp; Irene G. Speaks

street &amp; number R.F.A. Box 600 telephone no.:

city, town Harpers Ferry state and zip code W. Va. 25425

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1128

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 289

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-2-73

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

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 5

The Dr. George W. West Farmstead is an agricultural grouping centered on a two-story stone dwelling house built about 1800 with a large frame addition dating from the early 1980's with a stone springhouse of about the 1830's, a frame bank barn possibly rebuilt in the early 20th century on the foundation of an earlier barn, with a concrete block milk house of about the 1930's, a frame wagon shed/granary of the last quarter of the 19th century, and a frame chicken house of the first quarter of the 20th century. The farmstead is located on the north side of Jefferson Pike at the end of Weston Drive near Petersville, Frederick County, Maryland.

The dwelling house has a three-bay principal elevation facing east with the frame addition of two stories adjoining on the north and the west elevations. The addition leaves visible only two bays on the west or rear elevation of the original rubble stone section. The stone house has a one-story entry porch with rebuilt columns on the main elevation. The fenestration on this facade has three-part windows on each level with corner blocks and fluted mullions. The design of the windows suggests a later date than 1800, possibly the 1820's. Louvred shutters flank the openings. The cornice is corbeled brick and the gable roof has interior end chimneys. The north chimney is enclosed by the addition. The roof is pressed metal. The door is a four-panel type. The addition has yellow vinyl siding and 6/ sash. The interior was not accessible for this survey. Dating of the house was based on the vernacular form of the three-bay original section and the 1808 Varle map, which shows a house indicated "B. West" in the approximate location of the Dr. West house.

Outbuildings:

**Springhouse:** Located southwest of the stone house at a distance of about 15 yards, the stone springhouse is whitewashed and has an extended gable roof over the entrance door on the north elevation. The roof is corrugated metal and the door is vertical flush boards. Single 6/6 windows are in the side elevations. The springhouse may date from the 1830's.

**Wagon shed/granary:** The frame pull-through wagon shed with double corn cribs on each side has board and batten siding and a corrugated metal roof. It probably dates from 1875-1900.

**Chicken house:** The frame chicken house may date from the same period as the wagon shed or from the early 20th century. It has a rectangular form with horizontal flush board siding and a shed roof.

**Bank barn and milk house:** The frame bank barn's interior was inaccessible and the dating of the structure based on its exterior is tentative. The forebay is located on the east elevation and has lattice enclosure of the lower level. The vertical

(Continued on separate sheet)

# 8. Significance

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** C. 1800 **Builder/Architect**

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Dr. George W. West Farmstead is significant for the early 19th century vernacular stone structure of the dwelling house, which has evidence in the three-part windows of the main elevation of later alterations, possibly in the 1820's, to improve the stylistic appearance of the house. Associated with the setting of the house are the domestic and agricultural outbuildings, which range in date from about the 1830's to the 1930's. Other outbuildings undoubtedly existed, but are unlocated and not visible above ground. Possibly built about 1800 by Thomas H. West, the house passed to his son, Dr. George Washington West (1803-1888), in an 1832 partition of real property following his death. Dr. West was a prominent local physician, a graduate of the University of Maryland in 1825. Dr. West owned the farm for more than 50 years and his name is shown on both the 1858 Bond and 1873 Titus maps of Frederick County.

The Dr. West house is of moderate integrity because of the large addition which engulfs a considerable part of its exterior. Interior documentation must determine the final judgement of its character retention. Other stone houses of the first quarter of the 19th century exist in the lower Middletown valley which have more exterior original materials, form, and details intact. A nearby example, although of a smaller scale, is the Levin West House (F-2-72). The outbuildings are also moderate in significance and integrity, as many farms in the valley have more numerous and varied surviving outbuilding groups.

A mansion identified as "B. West" appears on the 1808 Varle map of Washington and Frederick Counties in the approximate location of the Dr. West House. Although the title search does not confirm identity, the B. West house is probably the original section of the Dr. West House, based on approximate age, vernacular form, and association of the West family with the Petersville area.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-2-73

Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858.  
Cordell, Eugene F., Medical Annals of Maryland 1799-1899, Baltimore: Medical and Chirurgical Society of the State of Maryland, 1903. p. 616.  
Land Records of Frederick County  
(Continued on separate sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5 acres  
Quadrangle name Point of Rocks, Md. - Va. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres centered on the main dwelling house on Tax Map 83, Parcel 16.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date November 1991

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick state Maryland 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2000

Dr. George W. West Farmstead  
Frederick County

Survey No. F-2-73

7.1 Description (continued)

siding shows considerable circular saw markings, leading to the theory that it is a rebuilt structure in the early 20th century on older foundations. The concrete block milk house is definitely a building of the 1930's. It is located south of the barn.

Dr. George W. West Farmstead  
Frederick County

Survey No. F-2-73

9.1 Bibliography (continued)

Titus, C.O., Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

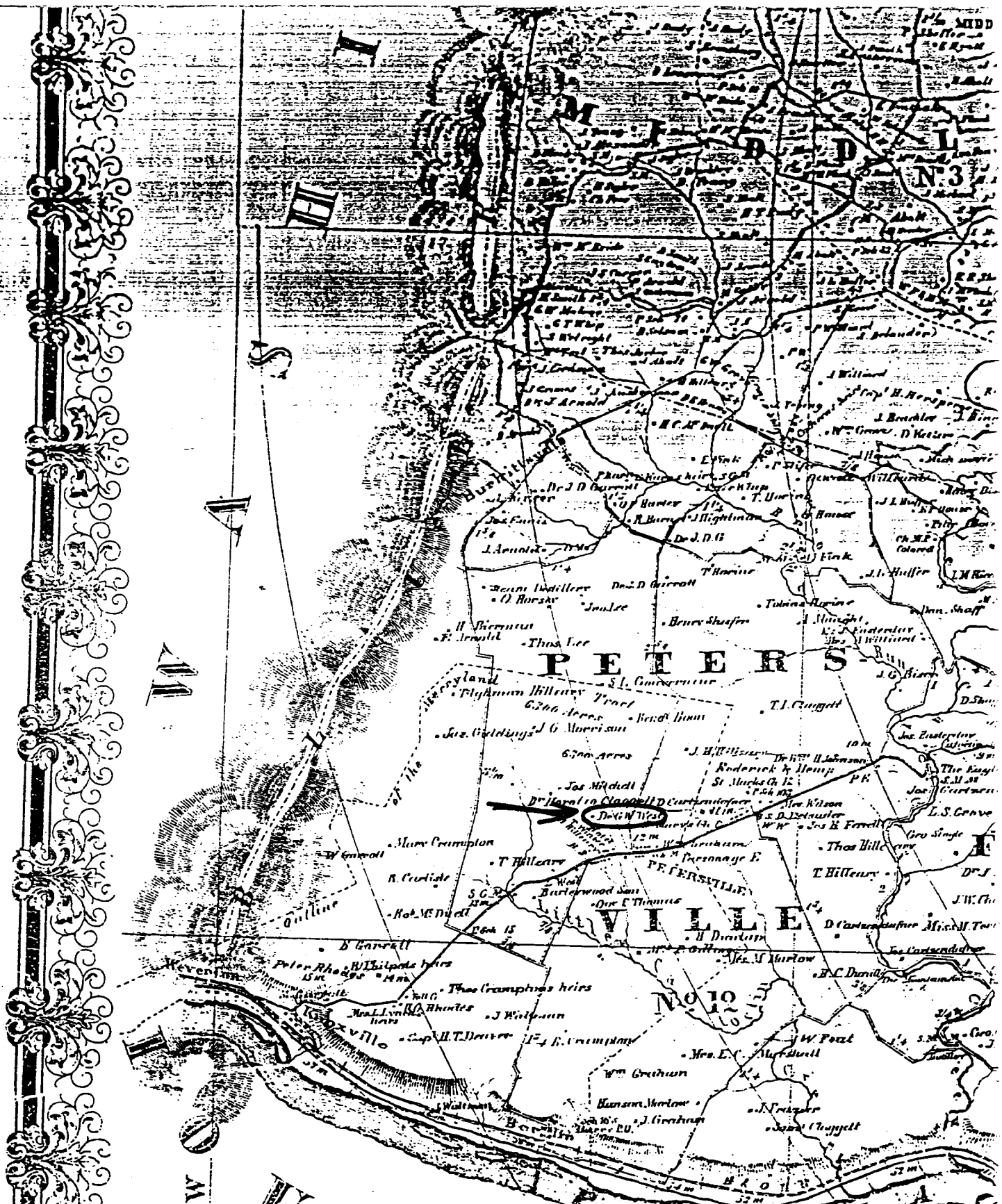
Varle, Map of Washington and Frederick Counties, 1808.

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County, 1910.  
Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979.

#97 LIBER/FC. 10	M83 P16 GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1123/289 16 Oct 80	Howard W. & Irene G. Specht	David M. Suggenheim, assignee of Allstate Bank of Md. mortgage, John L. Eaton, mortgage in default	23.3A.	\$275,000	
1092/359 16 Aug 79	John L. Eaton	Margaret M. Miller, widow	23.3A.	\$240,000	
712/602 20 Oct 64	Robert J. & Margaret M. Miller	William S. & Charlotte B. Blessley	3 parcels 110 a.		
501/306 31 Mar 52	Wm. S. & Charlotte B. Blessley	Obed A. & Mannie Dettenleuw	3 parcels 110 a.		
360/79 26 Oct 26	Obed A. Dettenleuw et al.	Eugene Sponseller, widower	110 a.		
330/165 1 Apr 20	Eugene Sponseller	Charles S. Willard & Goldie S. Willard	127 a.		
324/333 3 Apr 18	Charles S. Willard	J. Ernest Magaha & Est. M. Magaha.	<del>127 a.</del> 33 a. + 11 a. + 83 a. 127 a.		F-2-73
HWB 294/595 9 Mar 11	J. Ernest Magaha	George M. S. Magaha & Mary E. Magaha	127 a.		

LIBER/FL NO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
STH 267/576 1 Mar 05	George W. S. Magaha	John M. Abalt of Joshua	33A + 83A + 11A.	\$7,680	
<del>JLS 11/747 8 apr 1896 (Curong?) paid</del>	<del>John M. Abalt of Joshua</del>	<del>Vincent S. Kefler &amp; Anne A. Kefler</del>	<del>Resurvey on "Maryland" 33A</del>	<del>\$1485</del>	
JLS 13/268 22 Oct 1892 ( <del>also</del> mortgage)	John M. Abalt of Joshua	James R. & Eliza Lee Roche	"Resurvey on Maryland land" 83A. + 11A. Resurvey on "Maryland"	\$4732.50	
JLS 3/252 31 Oct 1892	John M. Abalt of Joshua	James R. & Eliza Lee Roche			
AF 9/15 2 apr 1884	James R. Roche	George W. West	83A. Resurvey on Maryland	\$8,000	
JS 40/38 24 apr 1832 JS 38/53 23 apr 1832	George W. West	Joseph & Mary Henrietta West	11A; refers to division of land between Levin West, Joseph West & George W. West Property of Thos H. West, dec. 203A Resurvey on Maryland	\$400	

F-2-73



F-2-73  
 Dr. George W. West Farmstead  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County, 1858.

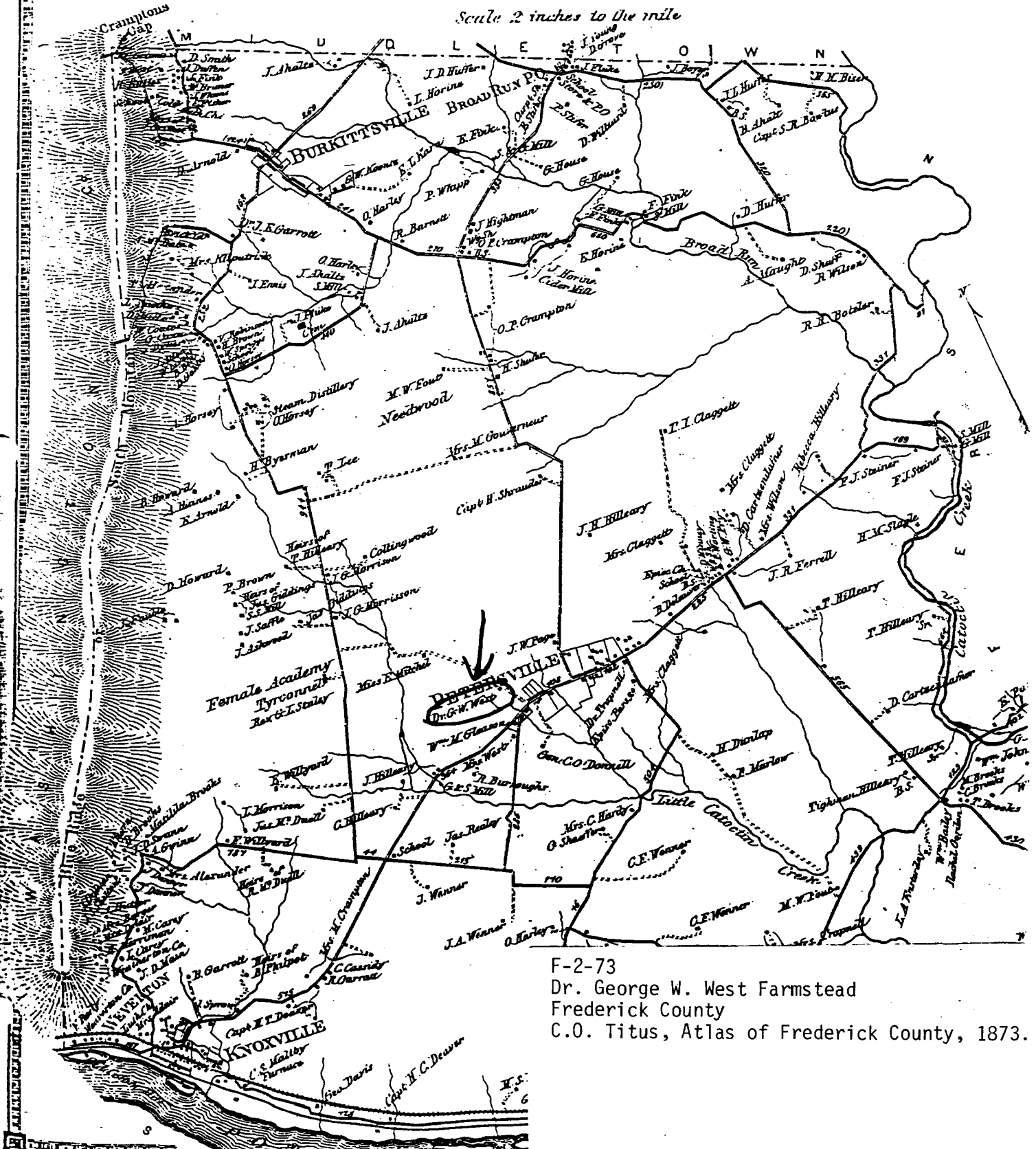
**SURFACE, SOIL, &c.**

Districts Nos. 10 and 8, and the northwest parts of 2, 4, 5 & 6, are mountainous, producing little but timber, except in the rich and fertile Harbough and Eyler Valleys, about Wolfsville and Wolf and in a few other spots.

Nos. 16, 3, 12 and 14, form the hilly but productive and pasture...

# PETERSVILLE DIST No. 12

Scale 2 inches to the mile



F-2-73  
Dr. George W. West Farmstead  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

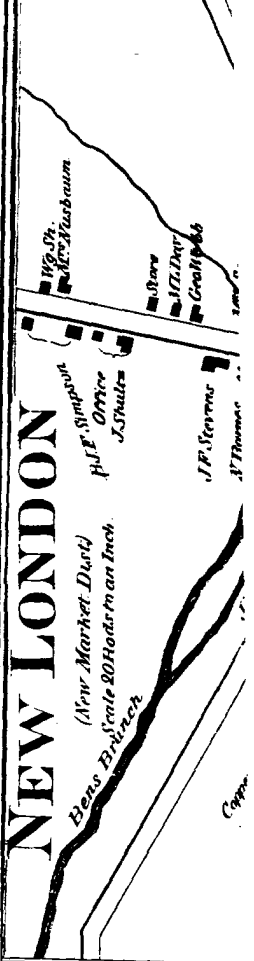
# LEWISTOWN

(Greagerstown Dist)  
Scale 27 Rods to an Inch



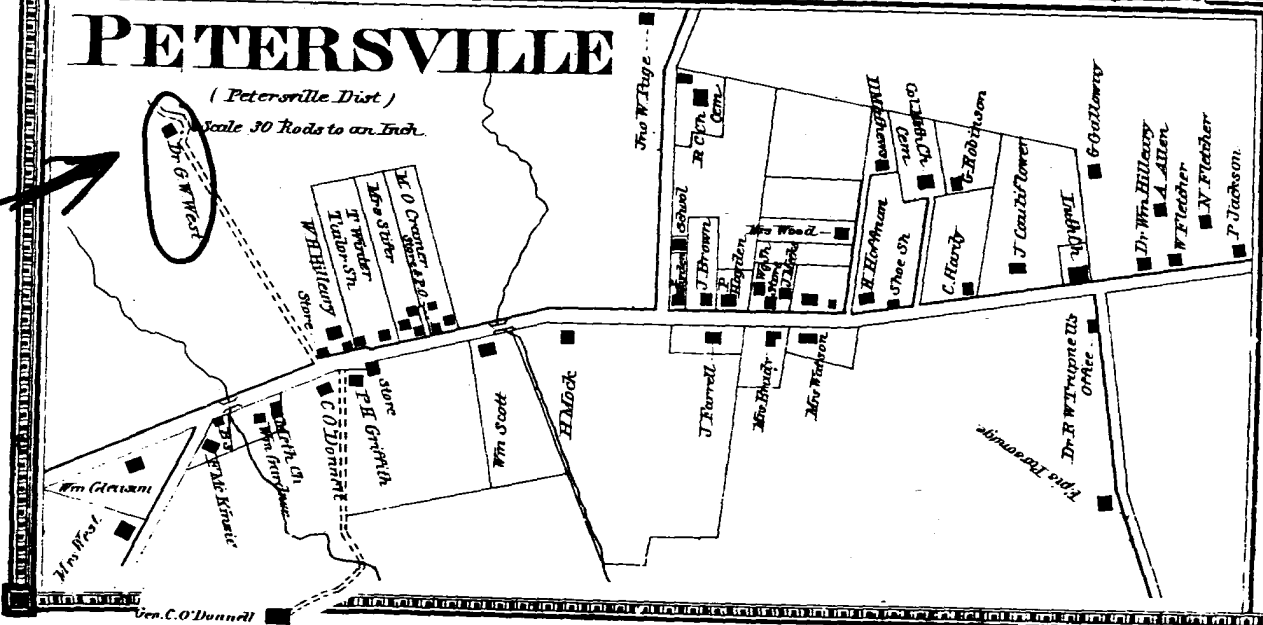
# NEW LONDON

(New Market Dist)  
Scale 80 Rods to an Inch  
Ebens Branch

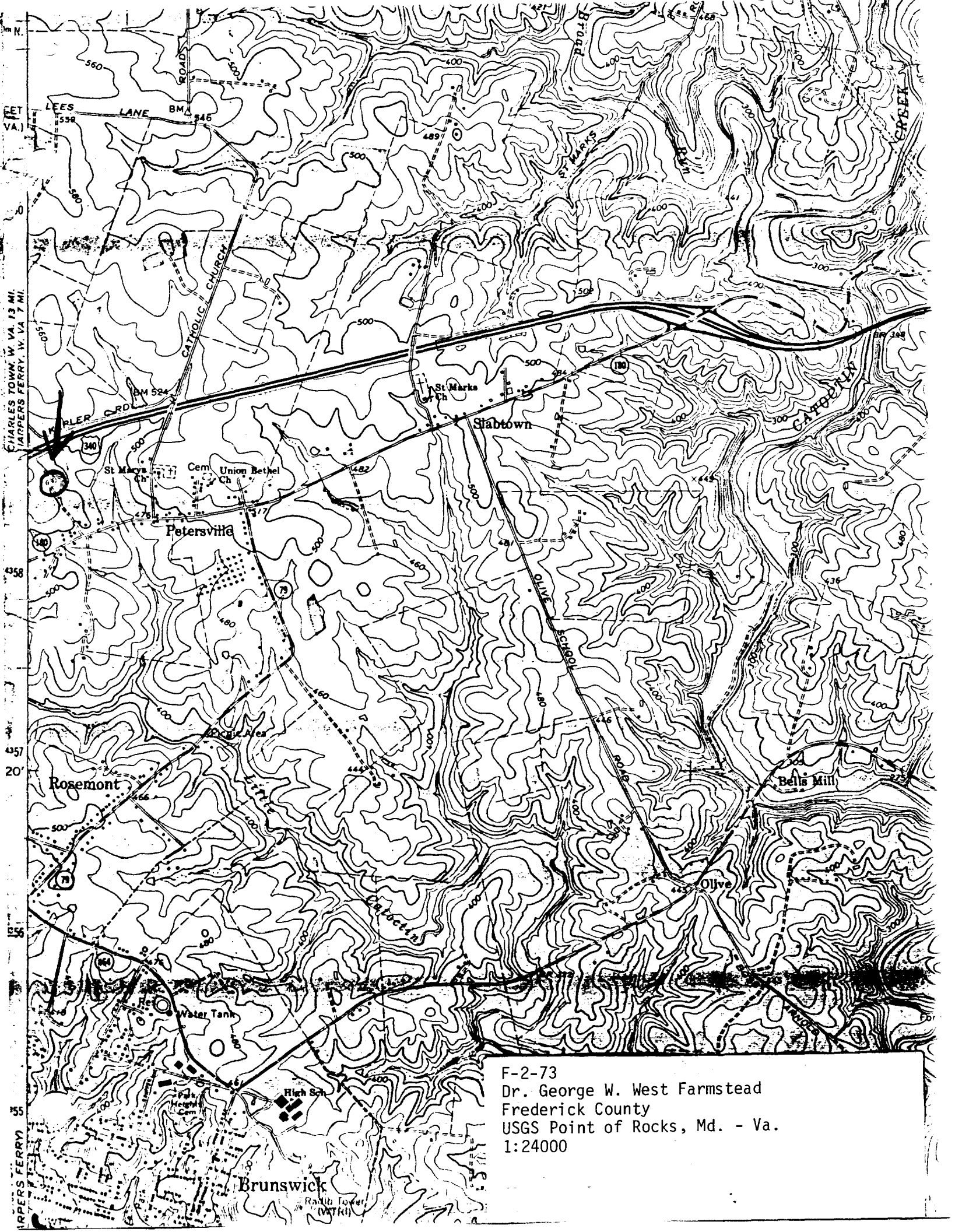


# PETERSVILLE

(Petersville Dist)  
Scale 30 Rods to an Inch



F-2-73  
Dr. George W. West Farmstead  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.  
Detail of Petersville Map

















8  
7

