

260-5001

VLR 3/19/03  
NPR 0/28/03

(Rev. 10-90)  
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name MIDDLETOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number DHR File no. 260-5001

**2. Location**

street & number Main Street (U.S. Rt. 11), Church Street, Senseney Avenue, and First, Fourth, Sixth and Third Streets.

not for publication N/A

city or town Middletown

vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Frederick code 069 Zip 22645

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official

Date

5/7/03

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:  other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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### 5. Classification

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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  233  </u>	<u>  63  </u>	buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	objects
<u>  233  </u>	<u>  63  </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   1  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)N/A

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### 6. Function or Use

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Sub: single dwelling; multiple dwelling; secondary structures</u>
<u>COMMERCE</u>	<u>specialty store; restaurant; inn; warehouse</u>
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>school</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>religious facility</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>town hall</u>

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Sub: single dwelling; multiple dwelling; secondary structure</u>
<u>COMMERCE</u>	<u>specialty store; restaurant; inn; warehouse</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>religious facility</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>town hall</u>

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

GREEK REVIVAL, GOTHIC REVIVAL, ITALIANATE, QUEEN ANNE, COLONIAL REVIVAL,  
BUNGALOW/CRAFTSMAN,

OTHER: I-HOUSE, VERNACULAR (18<sup>h</sup> CENTURY LOG DWELLINGS WITH LATE-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY FOLK VICTORIAN DETAIL)

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone; Concrete: Block; Brick; Cinderblock  
roof METAL: Tin; ASPHALT: Shingle; Composition; STONE: slate  
walls WOOD: Weatherboard; Brick  
other SYNTHETICS: Aluminum or Vinyl Siding

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

**Period of Significance** 1794-1952

**Significant Dates** 1794  
1796  
1864

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

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Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** approximately 100 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1_17	735380	4323780_	2_17
			736100
			4323780_
3_17	735360	4322480_	4_17
			735010
			4322810_
			____ See continuation sheet.

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary of the district is shown on the accompanying map derived from the Frederick County tax maps.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary of the district is drawn to include all those contiguous properties that contribute to the historic and architectural development of the Town of Middletown, and to exclude as many non-contributing resources as possible.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Tess Klimm, President  
Helen Lee Fletcher, Guy M. Jones

Organization: Middletown Heritage Society  
Date November 8, 2002

street & number: 7875 Church St. telephone (540) 667-9308

city or town Middletown state VA zip code 22645

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name see attached property owner list

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

The Middletown Historic District is located in southwest Frederick County in the lower Shenandoah Valley. The town developed along the great wagon road, later called the Valley Pike and now designated U.S. Rt. 11 or Main Street within the town limits. Although oral tradition suggests other names, the town was established as Middletown (or Middleton) by the General Assembly on May 4, 1794 at the request of Dr. Peter Senseney, who laid out the original sixty-acre plan of half-acre lots. Middletown was chartered by Frederick County in 1796 and incorporated in 1878. Unlike neighboring towns, Stephens City, five miles to the north and Strasburg, five miles south, Middletown is not at an intersection of important trade routes, which may account for its limited commercial development. The Historic District takes in all eligible properties within the original platted town, plus a large area on Main Street north of First Street almost to the town limits, an area of approximately 100 acres. The boundaries include most of three north-south streets, Church, Main and Senseney, and buildings on some east/west cross streets which are numbered First through Sixth. Alleys run parallel to the north/south streets along the rear property lines. The majority of contributing resources in the historic district are houses and their associated buildings. The non-residential historic structures include four specialty shops, a theater, four churches, the Town Hall, two former schools, three warehouses and an inn. Resources include more than a dozen buildings that incorporate late-eighteenth century vernacular log construction. In addition, there are examples of nineteenth century and early twentieth century buildings, generally vernacular I-houses, most with Folk Victorian, Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, and Queen Anne style additions and details. As the original lot size was a half-acre, large yards are the rule rather than the exception, and many have one or more outbuildings including board-and-batten sheds, a few barns, some meat houses and almost a dozen privies. One property, St. Thomas Chapel (260-5001-0007), a Gothic Revival style church built around 1836 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Building styles represented include American Foursquare, Bungalow/Craftsman, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Italianate. Non-contributing resources within the historic district include eight houses, a strip mall, two low-level multi-family buildings, four commercial establishments, and the fire department. The remaining non-contributing resources are outbuildings. Houses were sited well back along the portion of Main Street that was within the sixty-acre original village, creating a broad thoroughfare. Thus they were undisturbed as heavy usage on U.S. Rt. 11 forced its widening. Minimal loss of resources, diversity of styles and limited commercial growth present an accurate picture of Middletown's long history and development as a cultural and educational center.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In 1809 Charles Varle said of Middletown that it is “situated on the road to Staunton, and in a fine and fertile county, partly limestone land; it contains about 50 houses and 150 souls. Here several taverns and stores are kept. A number of mechanics reside here”. Middletown is still a small town. Unlike others along the Valley Pike, it has experienced minimal commercial growth within the core of the old town, and limited commercial growth along its northern and southern town limits. New residences are for the most part in subdivisions east and west of the historic district and do not intrude visually. Rather glimpses of the Blue Ridge and Massanutten Mountains are seen to the south and east and the Allegheny Mountain range is clearly visible from most of the resources on the west side of the district. Interstate 81 precludes further development on the eastern town limits. Cedar Creek Battlefield and other open space, including the National Trust property “Belle Grove”, protect the town’s southern approach. Some commercial buildings are at the north entrance to Middletown, where an exit from Interstate 81 intersects with Rt. 624. In contrast to the early description of the town, Middletown has few stores and only two businesses that serve food and beverages. Only one of these, The Wayside Inn, is within the historic district. Rather, the Middletown Historic District is made up primarily of homes, churches, and support facilities such as the Town Hall and the Fire Department.

The only resource in the Middletown Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places is the Gothic Revival-style St. Thomas Chapel built around 1836. It was restored in the 1960s and retains its original architectural integrity. Methodism appears to have been the popular religious choice among early residents, and they built the first church in Middletown, around 1800. The building later became the Middletown Mission Church (260-5001-0136) when it was conveyed to an African-American congregation in 1872. The present Grace United Methodist Church (260-5001-0098), built in 1897, is an unusual Romanesque Revival-style structure with a seventy-five-foot tower containing a hand-played carillon. It replaced the former Grace United Methodist Church, built around 1852, which is depicted as very similar to St. Thomas Chapel in *The James E. Taylor Sketchbook*. Mt. Zion Church (260-5001-0137) was built around 1880 for the African-American community, but was converted to a residence in the 1990s.

There are currently no active public or private schools in Middletown. However, three buildings that were previously used for education are in the historic district. Now used as a residence, the Middletown School (250-5001-0059) is a Colonial Revival structure, constructed in 1909 and

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used as a school until 1984. When it opened, children from all grades were taught there. A

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school for African-American children, built around 1939, has also been converted to residential use, (260-5001-0134). Town Hall (260-5001-0010), the first school in Middletown when it was built around 1880, was used for public education until 1912 when it was deeded to the town and the International Order of Odd Fellows. The Lodge conveyed its interest in the building to Middletown in 1965, and it continues to house the town government.

The most imposing structure in the historic district is the town's oldest continuously operated business, The Wayside Inn (260-5001-0076). Together with adjoining Larrick's Tavern (260-5001-77) and a former residence (260-5001-0071), the property covers most of the 7700 block on the west side of Main Street. At the north end is a former residence built around 1870. It is representative of the many vernacular I-houses built in the town during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with two stories, weatherboard cladding, a brick chimney and standing-seam metal roof. Presently used as an office for the inn, this building has a Colonial Revival porch with Tuscan columns. Across a wide paved parking area sits the main building of the inn. Originally a five-bay, two-story brick structure it was added to in the nineteenth century and again in the early twentieth century. The interior was completely renovated by the current owner after a fire in 1985, and an early American atmosphere is maintained throughout the two-story brick structure. Rocking chairs and decorations on the porch greet guests dining at the large restaurant or lodging in the inn. Adjacent to the inn is Larrick's Tavern, which probably pre-dates the inn. It is two stories, brick and frame on a stone foundation. Substantial alterations to both Larrick's Tavern and the Wayside Inn have caused the loss of design integrity, materials and workmanship.

Church Street, within the historic district, has all single-family dwellings excepting Town Hall and St. Thomas Chapel. It is a quiet, tree-lined street with only a few twentieth-century buildings.

The log cabin on a stone foundation, located at 7805 Church Street, was probably built by its first owner, Ezer Ellis, in 1804 (260-5001-0002). After passing through eight owners it became the property of Sarah A. Willey who sold it to Abraham Jenkins in 1872. His wife, Caroline Jenkins, presumed to be a freed slave, died there in 1907 without direct descendents. A nephew inherited the property and his descendents still retain title to the V-notched log, single-story cabin that is virtually unaltered.

Other Church Street houses that began as log structures but have been considerably altered are 7945 Church Street (260-5001-20), which may have a log rear section and 7948 Church Street (260-5001-0021), a two-story wood frame and log house with weatherboard siding built around 1820.



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Three brick houses on Church Street are contributing resources (260-5001-0003, 260-5001-0006, and 260-5001-0030). All are five-course America-bond, two-story, vernacular dwellings, built in  
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the first half of the nineteenth century. The house at 7845 Church Street (260-5001-0006) is the only example in Middletown of a brick/log house with an attached brick kitchen. In 1846, Achilles G. Willey bought parts of two original town lots and almost certainly built the brick house at 8030 Church Street (260-5001-0030) himself. Family members were long-time masons. The Achilles Willey family sold the house in 1888 to Amos B. Ludwig who kept it until 1910. The Emma Andrews House at 8043 Church Street (260-0051-0031) is an excellent example of a vernacular Queen Anne-style house with German lap siding. It features a cross-gable form with a large two-story cut-away bay. Another Queen Anne-style house, the Larrick House at 7919 Church Street (260-5001-0017) is in close to original condition and has Gothic windows that came from the 1853 Methodist church. Both were built in the last quarter of the nineteenth century

The Middletown Town Hall (260-5001-0010) was built as the first town public school in 1880, probably on the site of an earlier multi-purpose log building. Renovations took place after the town became sole owner in 1965 and the vernacular, brick-veneer, two-story building retains structural features including a pedimented central front gable and protruding central front square bay with segmental arch.

Trustees for the St. Thomas Chapel (260-5001-0007), the only property in Middletown listed on the National Register of Historic Places, have recently replaced windows that were installed during a 1960s interior restoration. The Gothic Revival, brick and stucco Episcopal church, built around 1835, is used for private religious functions.

Fifth Street has one building within the historic district. Located at 2310 (260-5001-0032), the vernacular, two-story log house built around 1852, faced Main Street until it was moved to face Fifth Street probably when a commercial building was built on Main Street.

First Street has fourteen contributing resources - three commercial structures and eleven houses - and one non-contributing house on the west side of the Historic District. Route 11 Potato Chips maintains the building at 2325 First Street (260-5001-0033) as a warehouse. Built around 1940, it is immediately behind the factory and sales operations that are on Main Street. At the opposite end of First Street immediately before the western town limits are the other two commercial structures. A two-story wood frame former store at 2465 First Street (260-5001-0045), built around 1880, has been abandoned for several years. A second warehouse at 2493 First Street (260-5001-0047), built around 1900, is a one-story, wood frame building with weatherboard siding.

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The oldest house on First Street is located at 2458 (260-5001-0044). Known as the Lafalette House, it was originally a log structure built around 1800, but has experienced several additions and alterations. There is one Craftsman-style house at 2385 (260-5001-0037) built around 1940.

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The Ridings house is located at 2349 First Street (260-5001-0034) It sits on part of the land owned by James Ridings, who was known for his invention of a threshing machine. His machine shop located on this site, was used as the meeting hall for the IOOF until it was destroyed in a 1903 fire. The largest house on First Street (260-5001-0041) was built in the first half of the twentieth century and converted for use as a nursing home around 1930, although it has now reverted to a single-family dwelling.

Fourth Street has two properties within the Historic District (260-5001-0048 and 0049). Both 2190 and 2191 are vernacular, two-story, wood frame buildings, with standing-seam metal roofs, a feature common to almost all Middletown houses. Another common feature is that both of these houses still have outhouses on the property.

Main Street is the center of and has the majority of contributing resources in the Middletown Historic District. Just beyond the original north town limits are eleven vernacular bungalows, built for workers at a viscose plant in Front Royal. Raymond "Happy" Long built the tenant houses and a dance hall between 1935 and 1945. The dance hall is gone and some of the houses have been destroyed for commercial development.

Next to the bungalows on the east side of Main Street is the Middletown School (260-5001-0059) built in 1909. This Colonial Revival-style, two-story brick building on a coursed ashlar foundation. The top course of the basement acts as a water table. When the building was sold and converted for residential purposes in the late 1990s, the hip roof received a new covering of shingles replacing the original standing-seam metal. A brick one-story outbuilding remains intact. The school sits well back from the road and the exterior is in excellent condition.

On the west side of Main Street is a Colonial Revival-style, two-story dwelling at 7695 (260-5001-0060). It is a wood frame foursquare structure with aluminum siding, and a central front gable and standing-seam metal roof. A Colonial Revival-style primary porch has Tuscan columns on square paneled wood piers and an unusual v-groove solid balustrade. This house is north of the original town limit and probably one of those moved back when Rt. 11 was widened. However, several frame outbuildings of interest survive, including a meat house, chicken coop, garage and shed.

One of only two examples of American foursquare design in Middletown is next to the school on the east side of Main Street (260-5001-0061). Traditionally called the Schoolmaster's house, it was built around 1891, and is wood frame and stucco, 2 ½ stories with a front dormer, and has

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protruding one-story bays on each side.

Also one of only two duplexes in Middletown is the building at 7701 and 7703 Main Street.  
Used

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earlier as a feed store and at one time a restaurant, the early twentieth century house is another that was moved and possibly turned when Rt. 11 was widened. The concrete block foundation under the two-story, wood frame house with weatherboard siding adds evidence of such a move.

A fine example of an early Folk Victorian-style house is also in this block of Main Street (260-5001-0070). It is two-story, wood frame building with stucco clad and has a slate gable roof. The vernacular primary porch has chamfered columns, sawn brackets, a paneled entablature, sawn pendants, chamfered balusters and a plain handrail.

In this block is one of few remaining buildings in Middletown used for commercial and residential purposes, (260-5001-0074). The house is vernacular Queen Anne in style and has an unusual T-plan with a two-story front protruding bay. There are one-story porches on each side of the bay. Fish scale shingles are on the front gable and there are two scroll brackets at the eaves.

The building at 7805 Main Street is at the beginning of the original 1796 north town limits and houses the business known as The Carpet Bagger (260-5001-0078). It is as close to an original storefront as any in Middletown. Built around 1870, the vernacular building is, two stories with German lap siding. When the building was renovated, probably after an early-twentieth-century fire, the original façade was left intact and can be seen inside the shop. The building has minimal updates, no plumbing except a first floor-lavatory, and is in dilapidated condition. Previously used as a general store, it had living accommodations upstairs; however, now much of the building is vacant except for a small area used for the shop.

Two other commercial resources on the west side of Main Street in the 7800 block were built in the twentieth century. The former Middletown State Bank (260-5001-0087) has been converted for restaurant use, but retains its façade with the addition of a handicap access ramp. Built around 1910, it is a one-and-a-half-story, six-course American bond brick structure. Large windows flank a central double-door entrance. A decorative band of egg-and-dart molding is between the first story and the attic. Three decorative brick panels are on the attic level. Vacant and for sale at this time, the building was a bank until 1985 and has had several owners since its conversion.

The Wayside Theater (260-5001-0090), built in 1946 was known as the Bordon-Lee Theater until 1961. Live performances have been presented since that time and the very popular company should be active well into the future. The two-story brick building has a decorative metal spiral

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staircase cutting through the porch roof from the street to the second level. At the street level the entrance to the theater and box office is through French doors. An adjacent one-story addition houses a café where light refreshments can be purchased at performance times. In the late nineteenth century, the Shenandoah Normal School operated at this site.

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Next to the theater is the Middletown Fire Department, one of the few non-contributing resources in the historic district. The brick structure was built in two sections, the first in 1962 and the most recent in 1992. Two historic houses were torn down to allow for the expansion, however, they were documented in a 1990 architectural survey of the county (260-46 and 260-47).

Outstanding among the residences on Main Street is the Hoffman House located at 7827 (260-5001-0082). One of the town's oldest properties, it was probably built as a single-story log house in 1797 by the first owner, Isaac Klotz. Owned by members of the Hoffman family since 1852, it has been carefully maintained and remains without plumbing. According to the oral history, during the Civil War a cannonball passed through one of its walls. The cannonball and other artifacts are in the possession of the current owner John Hoffman.

Another residence of note is the Colonial Revival-style brick, two-and-a-half-story house with a hipped composition-shingle roof at 7780 Main Street (260-5001-0075). The front gable window has a three-light lunette over two rectangular vent windows. Virtually unaltered and in excellent condition, the house has a Colonial Revival style, one-story, flat-roofed porch of brick and wood with Tuscan columns and an entablature with dentils. The brick porch foundation has a decorative pattern of missing bricks in diamond shapes. A second "close to original house" in this block is a wood frame and log structure probably built in two sections (260-5001-0083). The 1800s V-notch log kitchen section is on a stone foundation with a cellar. The two-story frame and weatherboard house has a Greek Revival-style porch with Tuscan columns, a pedimented portico, a wide entablature, turned balusters and a round handrail.

Notable because it was the home of Jacob Danner, a famous eighteenth-century clockmaker, is the house at 7846 Main Street (260-5001-0089). Many modern alterations have been made to the original two-story log house which has a Folk Victorian-style porch with chamfered columns, a solid balustrade and a paneled frieze.

Two structures were joined at 7849 Main Street (260-5001-0089) to create a building used for residential and commercial purposes. An early Middletown post office was in the left three-bay section. The most altered, it was probably a single-story, flat or gabled roof store, while the right three residential bays are much the same as when rebuilt after a 1902 fire. Both sections have stone foundations and boxed cornices. A clipped hipped pyramidal standing-seam metal roof and

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vertical siding cover the combined structures, and a Colonial Revival-style, one-story porch with Tuscan columns wraps around two sides of the building.

A Craftsman bungalow, built in 1920 on the site of the 1852 Methodist Church, at 7895 Main Street is perhaps the best example of this style in Middletown (260-5001-0100). It is a one-and-a-half story, wood frame building with weatherboard siding and a standing seam-metal gable roof

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with a gable dormer. The Craftsman porch with square Doric columns is on brick piers.

Across Main Street at 7896 is a mid-nineteenth-century vernacular Greek Revival-style wood frame and log house (260-5001-0101) Tax records give the date of construction as 1779, which is probably correct for the rear ell. The Greek Revival-style porch has paired, square, Doric columns and details in the cornice. This property has a frame washhouse in the back yard.

An example of the Colonial Revival-style house in vernacular form at 7960 Main Street (260-5001-0115) is virtually unaltered. Two houses in the 8000 block of Main Street have porticos, an unusual feature in Middletown. The James L. Willey house, (260-5001-0124) built around 1880-1910, is a Folk Victorian-style, two-story, wood frame building with weatherboard cladding. The one-bay portico has chamfered supports, a flat roof and cement steps with coursed stone side walls. To the south at 8046 (260-5001-0126) is another house with a portico. It is a Colonial Revival/Craftsman-style, two-and-a-half story, wood frame building with aluminum siding and a pyramidal hipped, composition-shingle roof. The one-bay entrance portico has square Doric columns on stone piers and concrete steps with stone side walls.

Although The 1810 Rhodes Tavern Antiques and Collectibles shop (260-4001-0125), incorporates the date in its business name, the house was probably built around 1830-1850. The vernacular two-story house has German lap siding. A wraparound porch has Tuscan columns and is used to display items for sale. An outstanding collection of outbuildings on the large lot includes a fine log one-and-a-half-story meat house, a spring house with v-notched and a corners stone basement, several frame sheds and a chicken coop as well as a meat house and spring house that could date from the eighteenth century.

A house on property that straddles the south town limit is the last house on Main Street and the southernmost in the historic district. (260-5001-0127). One of two American foursquare examples in Middletown, the large house was built around 1900-1920. (The other example of American foursquare is on the north end of Main Street at 7700.) The Colonial Revival-style primary porch has Tuscan columns on paneled square piers, three grouped at the corners and a v-groove solid paneled balustrade. This resource also has an unusual wrought-iron fence on a concrete pad across the front of the property.

Senseny Avenue, the third of the north-south streets in the historic district is one block west and

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parallel to Main Street. It has thirteen contributing resources, ten of which are single-family dwellings. The other three are representative of the long history of African-Americans in Middletown.

Probably the oldest houses on Senseney Avenue are in the 7800 block (260-5001-0128 and 260-

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5001-0129). Both have log sections built around 1800. Two later vernacular houses also began as log structures; 7942 and 7948 are two-story dwellings with vinyl siding and asphalt shingle roofs (260-5001-0138 and 7948 250-5001-0139).

One of the Middletown Historic District's best examples of the Vernacular Craftsman style is at 7857 Senseney Avenue. (260-5001-0133). Built around 1900-1930, the one-and-a-half-story wood frame house with German lap siding has a boxed cornice on the north side and exposed rafter ends on the south side.

Middletown's first church, (260-5001-0136), was built by a Methodist congregation in 1818. It was used until 1852 when a new church was built on Main Street. In 1872 the building was conveyed to the African-American congregation and became known as the Middletown Missionary Church. Log on a stone foundation, the one-story building has cello-tex cladding and a standing-seam metal gable roof. Late in the nineteenth century the congregation built a new structure at 7913 Senseney Avenue, called Mt. Zion Methodist Church (260-5001-0137). It served as a church until 1985, but was converted to a residence in the early 1990s. It is a one-story, wood frame building with weatherboard siding and a standing-seam metal gable roof. The rear elevation has a fine Gothic-arched colored glass window.

From 1939 until 1960, the vernacular one-story building at 7883 Senseney Avenue (260-5001-0134) was an elementary school for African-American children. An earlier school once stood to the west on First Street, outside of the town limits.

Sixth Street has three houses on the east side of Main Street that are resources in the Middletown Historic District. One is a vernacular, two-story, wood frame house at 2149 (260-5001-0141) built around the turn of the century and used as a tenant house of Maplewood (260-5001-0143). With a view of the mountains on three sides, and surrounded by open fields, Maplewood is an imposing structure. It is the only example of the Italianate style in Middletown. Built around 1856, the house was originally known as the Wright House. It is a two-story, wood frame dwelling with aluminum siding and has an enclosed, one-story side porch on a rear wing. The vernacular, one-story primary porch has Doric chamfered columns and fluted square columns with brackets. West of the house is a large post-and-beam barn with a pyramidal cupola. It appears to date to the construction period for the house.

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The Middletown Historic District has a wide variety of building styles and building dates spanning its 200-year history, but the quiet residential quality of the town remains, even when crowded with Civil War buffs who come from all over the country to participate in or witness the reenactment of the October 1864 Battle of Cedar Creek that takes place just south of the town each fall. Several drawings in *The James E. Taylor Sketch Book* depict the town as it was during

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the Civil War years of constant skirmishing along the Pike. However, damage within the town limits appears to have been minimal and while several historic structures have been lost, the town's large number and variety of remaining resources is extraordinary. 1

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1 Guy M. Jones, Jr. did extensive research on Middletown properties, including a chain of title for many in the original town. His notes provided the historic information in these descriptions. A DHR survey was completed in 1990 by a team led by architectural historian, Maral Kalbian, and a resurvey was completed by members of the Middletown Heritage Society in the spring of 2002. Architectural details are from these sources.

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INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

260-5001-0001 7800 Church St. 1900-1930. House is vernacular craftsman, 1½ -stories, frame with vinyl siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. It has a side one-story wing included under a new porch, with Tuscan columns on brick piers. There is a rear one-story wing. One small shed is non-contributing.

260-5001-0002 7805 Church St. Weaver-Jenkins house (historic name), Caroline Jenkins cabin (common name), ca 1790-1810. Cabin is log construction, v-notched, one-story, with an asphalt shingle, gable roof. West of the cabin is the ruin of a coursed limestone chimney, possibly the site of an earlier or associated structure. Earliest building on this street, the cabin is in fairly original condition, the only extensive alterations being the brick chimney and new roof. It may possibly have been a dwelling for slaves and associated with the Wright house (260-5001-142). Also on the lot is a modern trailer home (non-contributing). Abraham Jenkins, a free black man, bought the cabin in 1872.

260-5001-0003 7813 Church St. Carper House (common name), ca 1820-1830; ca 1950-1970. House is vernacular, two-story, five-course American-bond brick with standing-seam metal, gable roof. It has a side, one-story, five-course American-bond brick addition that is a kitchen and rear, one-story shed wing. The house has a star tie-rod in front and rear. The wrap-around porch has turned spindles.

260-5001-0004 7822 Church St. ca 1820-1840 ca 1850-1860. House is vernacular, two story, brick and frame with aluminum or vinyl siding and standing-seam metal gable roof. It has a frame rear ell addition and side brick addition, both of the mid-nineteenth-century. Brick is laid in five-course American bond. Craftsman porch has square Doric columns on brick piers with a standing-seam metal, hipped roof. Frame garage is non-contributing. Barn and icehouse are contributing resources.

**260-5001-0005** 7825 Church St. 1880-1910. This is a vernacular, two-story, frame house with weatherboard siding and a standing seam metal gable roof. It has a central, rear, two-story wing with porches on north and south sides. The vernacular primary porch is on brick piers and has turned supports and pilasters with square chamfered ends. Outbuildings include a frame chicken coop, one-story gabled shed with lean-to attachment on rear and a 1½-story frame and weatherboard garage that are contributing resources.

**260-5001-0006** 7845 Church St. George Wright House (historic name), ca 1790-1800; ca 1820-1840. House is



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vernacular, brick laid in five-course American-bond and log on stone foundation. It is two-story with standing-seam metal, gable roof, built in several stages. The front section is two story, log with stone basement. To the rear of the log portion is a two-story frame section with exterior wide beaded shiplap siding. To the rear of that is a two-story, five-course American-bond brick wing. Attached to it is an unusual two-story addition. The first floor was used as a meat house and the second was a bedroom. All the brick sections have jack arches. House has boxed cornice except kitchen which has a stepped cornice. One large frame shed and a frame well, no longer in use, are contributing resources. This house is the only example of a log house with an attached brick kitchen in the district.

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**260-5001-0007** 7854 Church St. St. Thomas Protestant Episcopal Chapel (historic name), ca 1836 from records of St. Thomas Trust. Building is a Gothic Revival-style church, coursed ashlar and brick original exterior. It has a rear one story chancel with lean-to addition that houses a side entry and rear window. Gable end parapet walls flank the gable, standing-seam metal roof. It has a wood cupola with Gothic vents, an octagonal bell tower with Gothic arches and is topped with a pyramid roof and wood cross. In excellent condition, the interior was restored ca 1960s; windows from that date were replaced in 2001; old ones placed in storage. The church functioned as hospital during Civil War, and is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**260-5001-0008** 7864 Church St. Non-Contributing, 1 ½ story Cape Cod, with vinyl siding, built after 1990.

**260-5001-0009** 7874 Church St. ca 1870-1890. House is vernacular, two story, frame with weatherboard and standing-seam metal, hipped pyramidal roof. It has two-story wings with one-story porches on north and south side. Decorative details on front and addition porches have turned supports and pilasters with square chamfered ends. The front porch is on brick piers. The frame chicken coop, frame gabled one story shed with lean-to attachment on rear, and 1 ½ story weatherboard garage, are all early twentieth-century and contributing resources.

**260-5001-0010** 7875 Church St. Middletown Town Hall. ca 1880; ca 1960-1970. Building is vernacular, two-stories, with pedimented central front gable and protruding central front square bay with segmental arch. There is a one-story rear gable addition. It is brick veneer over wood frame. Gable roof is standing-seam metal. The building was used as a public school until 1908 and was deeded to the town in 1912 with the stipulation that the International Order of Odd Fellows be allowed to use the top floor. In 1965, the IOOF deeded its interest to the town.

**260-5001-0011** 7883 Church St., 1890-1910. House is Folk Victorian style, two-story, wood frame, synthetic siding with standing-seam metal central front gable roof. A rear two story wing has enclosed two story porches. The primary porch has chamfered columns, sawn brackets and balustrade.

**260-5001-0012** 7884 Church St. 1880-1910. House is vernacular, two-story, frame with synthetic siding with standing-seam metal, gable roof. It has a two-story ell and two enclosed rear porches. Primary porch has square

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chamfered supports with square balusters and handrail on left and right of entrance. A frame shed and aluminum gambrel shed are non-contributing resources.

**260-5001-0013** 7893 Church St. Margaret J. Rogers house (historic name) ca. 1870-1910; ca. 1850. House is vernacular, two-story, wood frame, synthetic siding, with standing-seam metal roof. Owner believes that house was one room and later divided into two and has land tax receipts dating from 1850-1898 in the name of Mrs. Margaret J. Rodgers that were found in the attic of the house. However architectural evidence indicates that the house was built in the late 19th or early 20th century. It has a rear two story central wing with enclosed two story porches, one story

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protruding bay on east side of original house. The primary porch has wrought iron supports, a shed roof and aluminum entablature. Outbuildings include a frame meat house on stone foundation, cement cistern and two frame sheds, all contributing resources that probably date from the early twentieth century.

**260-5001-0014** 7894 Church St. ca 1870-1890. This is a vernacular house with unusual Folk Victorian decorations. It is two-story, frame with weatherboard siding and standing seam metal, gable roof. It has a rear one-story wing. The Folk Victorian style porch is in the corner of the original section and wing. It has turned spindles with a hipped roof. Outbuildings are a modern wood shed, (non-contributing) and board-and-batten shed (contributing resource).

**260-5001-0015** 7907 Church St. ca 1870-1900. House is vernacular two-story, wood frame, weatherboard and vinyl siding, with standing seam metal roof. It has a rear ell with a two-story porch and a one-story porch on the right side. A Colonial Revival style primary porch and the others have Tuscan columns, paneled cornice and decorative trim. A frame shed covered with sheet metal is non-contributing.

**260-5001-0016** 7916 Church St. Parsonage for the Episcopal Church (historic name), R. C. Stickley house (common name), 1870-1900. House is vernacular, two story, frame with asbestos shingle cladding and standing seam metal, gable roof. An unusual form of house, it is extremely long and wide. The chimneys are oddly placed. Side one story entrance portico, rear two story porches, partially closed in. Porch has square supports and entablature with horizontal cut outs. Modern concrete block garage is a non-contributing resource.

**260-5001-0017** 7919 Church St. Dr. G. W. Larrick house (historic name), ca 1882;ca 1968;ca 1978. House is vernacular Queen Anne style and has two stories. It has German lap weatherboard siding. A rear two-story wing was added ca 1900. The house has some Gothic windows that came from 1853 Methodist Church. It has a gable, asphalt shingle roof. Porch has chamfered columns, decorative brackets and lattice. Frame stable and board-and-batten shed are contributing resources.

**260-5001-0018** 7927 Church St., Non-contributing, 1 ½ story brick ranch-style dwelling built ca.1960

**260-5001-0019** 7935 Church St. ca 1920-1940. This one-story house is wood frame with weatherboard siding. It has a gable, cat-slide, standing-seam metal roof. The vernacular porch has squared supports, handrail and balustrade. A rear, enclosed porch has a shed roof.

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**260-5001-0020** 7945 Church St. common name McDonald house. Ca. mid 19th century;ca 1910-1930. House is vernacular, two-story, log and frame and has standing seam metal, gable roof. Rear of house could be log and was built earlier than the front section causing the east gable to stick up above the front. House has wooden fish scale shingles in the east gable. Porch has chamfered columns and decorative brackets. Garage and modern aluminum shed are non-contributing resources.

**260-5001-0021** 7948 Church St. Gordon-Sperry house (common name), ca 1820-1840; ca 1870. House is vernacular, two story wood frame and log with weatherboard siding and side, two-story ell. It has a gable and cross-gable, standing-seam metal roof. There are two front doors, one in original section and one in addition. It has a closed in rear side porch

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and one story rear shed-roofed wing. The primary porch has turned spindles, sawn brackets and pendants. A frame shed is non-contributing.

**260-5001-0022** 7957 Church St. 1895. This was the home of Alfred [Amos & C. Viola] Wiley, a stonemason, according to owner Arreta Sperry. Vernacular, with Victorian details, two story with central front gable, frame with standing-seam metal roof. One story rear enclosed porch with recessed entrance, rear/side two story enclosed porch. Gothic attic windows, some with colored glass. House has an entrance portico with gable roof, stone steps and wrought iron handrail with twisted balusters. A chamfered stone horse post by curb has date 1895 at base and iron ring.

**260-5001-0023** 7967 Church St. Andrews house (common name),ca. 1890-1900; 1970-80. Originally used as the Methodist parsonage, this is a vernacular, two-story house with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof on a coursed stone basement. There is a one-story, protruding bay with German lap siding on the street front. It has a finial in the gable ends, brackets in the eaves of the gable end. It has enclosed two story porches, and a side/back, one-story, shed roof wing. The primary porch has chamfered columns and decorative brackets. Outbuildings are a board-and-batten frame shed, a half stable-half hen house, a frame meat house and outhouse. They are all contributing resources.

**260-5001-0024** 7977 Church St., Non-contributing, 1½ story brick ranch-style dwelling built ca.1960

**260-5001-0025** 7983 Church St., Non-contributing, 1½ story brick ranch-style dwelling built ca. 1960

**260-5001-0026** 7995 Church St. ca 1880-1910. House is vernacular, two story, frame with synthetic siding, and has a composition shingle, gable roof. It has a rear, two-story wing with enclosed porches and side/rear porches. The Colonial Revival style, primary porch with Tuscan columns on concrete pad has a vinyl handrail and newel post. A small barn shed is a contributing resource.

**260-5001-0027** 8007 Church St. 1880-1910. This is a vernacular, two-story, wood frame house with vinyl siding and composition shingle, gable roof. It has a rear two-story ell with shed roof and porch. There are two, side/rear one-story shed-roof additions. The porch is a concrete slab with an aluminum awning. There is a stone meat house that

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may predate the house (contributing resource).

**260-5001-0028** 8019 Church St. ca 1880-1910. House is vernacular, two story, wood frame, with a composition shingle, gable roof. It has a two story cross gable addition, a rear two story addition with enclosed porch and a one story shed addition. The Folk Victorian style primary porch has decorative brackets in eaves, pendants, chamfered columns on wooden square piers and molded cornice.

**260-5001-0029** 8022 Church St. Lock [Lauck] House (historic name), Dicks house (common name). ca 1890-1920. This is a vernacular, Colonial Revival style, two-story, frame with aluminum siding house. It has a composition shingle, gable and cross-gable roof. The wrap around porch has Tuscan columns with chamfered bases, turned balustrade and complex handrail. There is a two-story rear addition with shed roof. A frame shed with gabled shed addition is probably early twentieth century and a contributing resource.

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**260-5001-0030** 8030 Church St. Achilles G. Willey house (common name), Cooley House (common name) ca 1840-1860; ca 1870-1900. House is vernacular, two story, five-course American bond brick with standing-seam metal roof. It has a two-story ell of board-and-batten with central flue on stone basement. There are enclosed rear, two story porches with board-and-batten siding. House has an unusual semi-exterior end, brick flue. A Folk Victorian style primary porch has Tuscan columns on paneled wood piers. There is an unusual two-story shed with lean-to garage and a German lap sided shed; both are contributing resources.

**260-5001-0031** 8043 Church St. Emma Andrews house (common name), ca 1870-1910. House is vernacular, Queen Anne style, two story, wood frame with German lap siding that has a gable and cross gable, standing-seam metal roof with rounded wood shingles in gables. There is a one-story, protruding bay in cross gable. East end of house is a two story protruding bay with pediment overhang. It has a rear, one story shed roof, wing on brick foundation. The Folk Victorian style primary porch has a shed roof and gable roof, sawn brackets and pendants, beaded spindle work and fringe entablature. A modern concrete block garage is non-contributing resource but a board-and-batten shed appears to date to the house and is a contributing resource.

**260-5001-0032** 2310 Fifth St. ca 1820-1850 ca 1920-1950. House is vernacular, two story log with standing-seam metal, gable roof and has synthetic siding. There is a one-story rear shed addition. The vernacular porch has a hipped roof, chamfered supports, sawn pendants; brackets missing except in pilasters. A modern shed with gable roof is a non-contributing resource. House previously faced Main St. and was moved to face Fifth St. about 1940.

**260-5001-0033** 2325 First St. Route 11 Potato Chips warehouse (common name), ca. 1930-1940. This vernacular 1½-story, wood frame with vertical siding building has a shed roof and a wood ramp to a central service door. There is one large service door. It is on a poured concrete pier foundation. Building is one story in the rear.

**260-5001-0034** 2349 First St., Ridings house (historic name), ca 1870-1890; ca 1880-1900. Folk Victorian style, two story, wood frame, standing-seam metal roof. Rear two-story ell with side porch similar to primary porch. Side of house now used as main entrance. Closed-in two story porches on ell. Board and batten, one-story bay on north side. Primary porch comes out at an angle, and has turned spindle work frieze, turned balustrade and chamfered

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columns. Board-and-batten meat house with overhang, frame chicken coop with bricktex, frame garage with gable roof and shed addition, all are contributing resources.

**260-5001-0035** 2371 First St. ca 1880-1910; ca 1900-1930; ca 1940-1960. This Folk Victorian style house has two stories, is wood frame with weatherboard siding and has an asphalt shingle, gable roof. There is a one-story square protruding bay on the front with chamfered trim and paneling under paired 2/2 windows. Also there is a one-story, protruding bay on the west side of the house that has matching trim. There is a rear two-story flat roof wing and a one-story shed addition on cinder block stone foundation. The Colonial Revival style primary porch with chamfered columns, stylized capitals and pilasters and half pyramidal roof, is situated in the corner between the house sections. Outbuilding is a non-contributing aluminum shed.

**260-5001-0036** 2376 First St. ca 1880-1910. This is a vernacular, two-story wood frame house with weatherboard siding. It has a standing-seam metal, gable and cross gable roof. There is a two-story shed roof wing on the east side and **Section 7 Page 16**

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rear two-story enclosed porches. The Folk Victorian style primary porch has turned spindles and fretwork. A frame chicken coop, frame outhouse, and board-and-batten meat house on raised stone basement are contributing resources.

**260-5001-0037** 2385 First St. ca 1930-1940. This is a vernacular Craftsman style, 1½ story house with brick sides. It has a standing-seam metal, gable roof. There is a one-story, side frame addition. There is a connected brick garage with a small square cupola on pyramidal roof.

**260-5001-0038** 2408 First St. ca 1915-1930. This house is vernacular, two story frame with bricktex siding and has a standing-seam metal, front gable roof. There are two rear one-story wings. The primary porch is Colonial Revival style and original Tuscan order is still evident in the pilasters but the supports have been replaced with modern aluminum fluted columns. A meat house, chicken coop and shed are contributing resources; a modern shed is non-contributing.

**260-5001-0039** 2416 First St. ca. 1900-1920. Colonial Revival style house is 2½-story, wood frame with weatherboard siding and has a standing-seam metal, hipped, pyramidal roof. There is a rear one-story wing partially enclosed. A wrap-around porch has Tuscan columns. A frame meat house with overhang and a frame shed that date to the house are contributing resources; a modern garage is non-contributing.

**260-5001-0040** 2432 & 2434 First St. ca 1910-1930. House is vernacular, Colonial Revival style, 2½-story, wood frame with vinyl siding and has a standing-seam metal roof. Roof has front gable and is hipped, clipped, pyramidal. There is a one-story rear porch. The primary porch has Tuscan columns, plain square balusters with molded handrail, lattice below and a cast iron balustrade that divides the porch in half. This is one of two duplexes in Middletown. A row of six two-story townhouses has been built on the back of the lot. They are a non-contributing resource.

**260-5001-0041** 2435 First St. 1920-1940. House is vernacular, 1½ story, frame with synthetic siding. It has a standing-seam metal roof. The porch has chamfered columns on square piers with arched molding, solid paneled balustrade and exposed rafters in the eaves. Two major expansions altered the size and changed the residential character of the original part of the house. A concrete block chicken house and two-story concrete block garage are

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non-contributing. A two-hole frame outhouse is a contributing resource. The property has a stone fence across the front.

**260-5001-0042** 2449 First St. Non-contributing, 1½ story vinyl siding, bungalow dwelling, rebuilt in 1997

**260-5001-0043** 2457 First St. 1890-1920 This is a vernacular, two-story wood frame house with standing-seam metal, end gable roof. There is a rear two-story wing with a door on the second story. The house has a far rear one-story wing. A frame outhouse and small barn are contributing resources.

**260-5001-0044** 2458 First St. Lajolette house (common name), ca 1800; ca 1820-1840; ca 1970-1990. House is vernacular, log, two-story with wood frame additions and standing-seam metal roof. Rear log ell may be the original section. Vernacular primary porch with chamfered columns. Enclosed rear/side porch and attached garage, and wings on both sides of the rear log ell. House has new windows, siding and shutters.

**260-5001-0045** 2465 First St. Klines store, Carpers store (historic names), Larricks store (common name). 1880-1910. **Section 7 Page 17**

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Commercial, vernacular, two-story wood frame building has a standing-seam metal roof. Right three bays are original. First floor is boarded up but originally was a storefront. Building has an interior side flue, 1½ story shed-roofed wing, rear two-story wing and one-story shed-roofed wing off of it with German lap siding; some windows have metal bars.

**260-5001-0046** 2470 First St. 1890-1920. House is vernacular, two story wood frame and has a standing-seam metal roof. It has a modern exterior end flue and synthetic siding. There are enclosed rear two story porches on the main part of the house and ell. The Colonial Revival style primary porch, with Tuscan columns has pressure treated wood floor, balusters and handrail. A frame outbuilding, possibly a summer kitchen, is a contributing resource and a frame garage is non-contributing.

**260-5001-0047** 2493 First St. 1900-1930. Commercial, wood frame building is one story with shed roof and has weatherboard cladding. Rear, one story frame addition, modern metal interior flue, wood steps and handrail up to side door. 1½ story frame barn with one story shed addition is a contributing resource; one story garage with shed addition is non-contributing.

**260-5001-0048** 2190 Fourth St. ca 1870-1900; ca 1970. This is a vernacular, two story wood frame house with a standing-seam metal roof. It has a rear, one-story shed-roofed wing with a porch on a concrete block foundation. Colonial Revival style primary porch has Tuscan columns on a concrete pad. Frame outhouse and shed are contributing resources and garage is non-contributing.

**260-5001-0049** 2191 Fourth St. ca 1890-1910. Vernacular, two-story, wood frame, standing-seam metal roof house has a screened-in one story shed-roofed porch on the north side of an ell. There is a screened-in one story shed-roofed porch on south side wrapping around east side of the ell on cement block piers with German lap siding. The vernacular primary porch has turned spindles, with a flat roof and rests on the ground. Two modern aluminum sheds are non-contributing resources; a frame outhouse with brick-tex siding is a contributing resource.

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**260-5001-0050** 7616 Main St. 1941. Vernacular, one story, wood frame house, with weatherboard siding. End gable, standing-seam metal roof. Lines up with similar houses, a series of eight houses and three across Main St. still standing that were built for the workers at the Viscose plant in Front Royal. Two were demolished in 1990 to make room for a Highs store.

**260-5001-0051** 7624 Main St.-notes the same as 260-5001-0050

**260-5001-0052** 7625 Main St. Dellinger house (common name). 1935-1950. House is vernacular, brick, 1½-story, with composition shingle, gable roof. It has a wrap around porch on square brick columns, stepped brick piers and pedimented gable on side. House was burned and rebuilt ca 1950.

**260-5001-0053** 7632 Main St.-notes the same as 260-5001-0050

**260-5001-0054** 7640 Main St.-notes the same as 260-5001-0050

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**260-5001-0055** 7648 Main St.-notes the same as 260-5001-0050

**260-5001-0056** 7656 Main St. -notes the same as 260-5001-0050

**260-5001-0057** 7664 Main St. -notes the same as 260-5001-0050

**260-5001-0058** 7665 Main St. Present use commercial, original use residence. ca 1910-1930. Craftsman, 1½ story, wood frame building has aluminum siding, with standing-seam metal, gable roof.

**260-5001-0059** 7688 Main St. Middletown School (historic name). Present use is residential. 1909 (date stone is at basement level NW corner) Colonial Revival style, two-story brick laid in six-course American bond, on coursed ashlar foundation, top course of basement acts as water table, hip shingle roof, with Colonial Revival style, porch with paired Tuscan columns with square capitals, large entablature and modillions. Built as one of the first agricultural high schools in Virginia and first high school in Frederick County, used as an elementary school from 1950-1983. Outbuilding is one story, hipped roof, with standing-seam metal roof on concrete foundation, stretcher bond brick (contributing resource).

**260-5001-0060** 7695 Main St Rinker house (historic name), Cooper house (common name) ca. 1890-1920. Colonial Revival style house, has two stories, wood frame with aluminum siding and central front gable, standing-seam metal roof. Enclosed rear porch, one story rear shed addition. Colonial Revival style primary porch with Tuscan columns on square paneled wood piers and v-groove solid balustrade. Frame meat house; frame chicken coop, frame garage; frame tool shed, all are contributing resources that probably are early twentieth century. Owner's son says house was moved thirty feet back when Route 11 was widened, possible since house is not in area of original village.

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**260-5001-0061** 7700 Main St. Schoolmaster's house (historic name). ca 1891. American foursquare, 2½ story, wood frame with stucco, hipped standing-seam metal roof, with front dormer. Protruding, one story bays on south and east sides. Craftsman style, wood and brick porch with hipped roof, plain wood balusters and complex handrail, square Doric columns on brick piers, large entablature, lattice underneath. Board-and-batten chicken coop with attached shed is a contributing resource. Previously used as the schoolmaster's house for Middletown School.

**260-5001-0062** 7701 and 7703 Main St duplex (present use), feed store, restaurant, (original use) 1880-1910 Vernacular, two-story wood frame, weatherboard siding with standing-seam metal, gable roof. Tenant in 1990 said house was turned 90 degrees and that original south side was once the front. There is a new foundation (concrete block) so it does appear that the building was moved but. that was due to the widening of Rt.11. Two front doors in center of one story vernacular wood porch with square supports, plain balusters and handrail, with square newel posts with caps.

**260-5001-0063** 7705 Main St. ca 1930-1950. House is vernacular, one-story wood frame with standing-seam metal, gable roof. House is very similar to 260-5001-0050. One story vernacular wood porch has squared supports, square balusters and handrail, lattice under the porch.

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**260-5001-0064** 7708 Main St. Evans house (common name). ca 1890-1910. House is vernacular, two-story wood frame, standing-seam metal, gable roof. One-story shed addition on L-shape rear side wing. Rear of main section clad in German lap siding, rear entry in shed addition. Vernacular one-story, primary porch with chamfered columns, shed roof. Appears that house was moved because it is on concrete block but is obviously from an earlier period; probably moved when Rt.11 was widened as it was not in original village.

**260-5001-0065** 7709 Main St. 1930. House is vernacular, 1½ story, wood frame with aluminum siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. It has an enclosed porch on the rear. The vernacular one-story primary porch has square supports, plain square handrail and balustrade and lattice under the porch. One of several houses built for the workers at the viscose plant in Front Royal, Virginia, it is very similar to 260-5001-0050

**260-5001-0066:** 7713 Main St. 1930. House is vernacular, 1½ story, wood frame, with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. It has an enclosed porch on the rear. The vernacular, one-story primary porch has square supports, square handrail and balusters and concrete steps. One of several houses built in this area for workers at a viscose plant in Front Royal, very similar to 260-5001-0050.

**260-5001-0067:** 7723 Main St. 1940. House is vernacular, 1½ story, wood frame, with standing-seam metal, gable roof with front dormer. It has an enclosed rear porch and a Craftsman style, one-story wood primary porch with square battered Doric columns on wood piers clad in weatherboard. Two bays of porch have been screened-in. Frame chicken coop is non-contributing.



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**260-5001-0068** 7729 Main St. 1940. Identical to 260-5001-0067. Rear deck instead of porch. Fame garage and shed are non-contributing.

**260-5001-0069** 7735 Main St. Non-contributing two-story, frame commercial building built in 1989

**260-5001-0070** 7745 Main St. Mid-19th century, early 20<sup>th</sup> century. House is Folk Victorian style, two-story wood frame with stucco, slate, gable roof. Enclosed two-story rear porch. Vernacular, one story wood porch with chamfered columns, sawn brackets, paneled frieze, sawn pendants, chamfered balusters, plain handrail. Four frame sheds are contributing resources. One of few Folk Victorian style houses found in Middletown with a slate roof.

**260-5001-0071** 7751 Main St. Wayside Inn Office (common name), original use was residential. Ca. 1870-1910. Vernacular, two-story, wood frame with weatherboard cladding, standing seam metal roof, brick chimney, fine stone coursed foundation, sits below grade. Rear two-story ell with enclosed porch with bulkhead basement entrance. Colonial Revival style, one-story, primary porch has Tuscan columns.

**260-5001-0072** 7752 Main St. ca 1880-1910. House is vernacular, two-story, wood frame with standing-seam metal,

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gable roof. One-story frame gable central rear wing and enclosed side porch. The Colonial Revival style, one-story, primary porch with Tuscan columns and a plain entablature; has lattice underneath. Outbuildings are a frame shed with pyramidal asbestos shingle roof with decorative wood peak at top (contributing resource) and a modern garage (non-contributing).

**260-5001-0073** 7760 Main St. Everly House (common name) ca 1870-1900. House is vernacular, two-story, wood frame, standing-seam metal, gable, roof. Two-story wing and enclosed rear two-story porches. Folk Victorian style primary porch with chamfered columns, paneled frieze. Unusual shed with double door entry (contributing resource) probably dates to house.

**260-5001-0074** 7772 Main St. Den of Antiques (common name). ca 1880-1910. House is vernacular, Queen Anne style and has an unusual T-plan. It is two-story, wood frame, with weatherboard siding and has a two-story front protruding bay, with gable/cross gable, standing-seam metal roof. There are vernacular, one-story porches on each side of bay, with chamfered columns and entablature. Fish-scale shingles on attic front gable, two scroll brackets at eaves. Enclosed rear porches.

**260-5001-0075** 7780 Main St. 1931. Colonial Revival, brick or possibly brick veneer over frame, 2½ stories with split level basement. Hipped, composition shingle roof. Front gable with three-light lunette window over two rectangular vent windows. House has Colonial Revival style, one-story porch of brick and wood with Tuscan columns, entablature with dentils, flat roof, brick porch foundation with decorative pattern of missing bricks in diamond shape.

**260-5001-0076** 7783 Main St. The Wayside Inn (common name) Larrick's Hotel, Wilkinson's Tavern (historic names). 1797; ca 1820-1840; ca 1900-1920; 1985-1986. Original use was an inn, present owner Leo M. Bernstein is

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source of earliest date. Brick walls on stone foundation. Gable roof has standing-seam metal, center section built possibly 1797, right bay built ca 1820-1840; third and fourth frame addition built 1900-1920. Building underwent a major restoration after a 1985 fire. Colonial Revival porch the length of the first floor, two-stories with two levels, the second floor being three bays with a pedimented portico and round balusters with capitals and bases. The nineteen-bay, first-floor porch has Tuscan columns, some on concrete piers, and a protruding pedimented portico, with dentils in the cornice. Large brick and paved area for tent erected for large gatherings. Grass area behind brick patio enclosed with wood fence. Oldest continuously used inn in Frederick County.

**260-5001-0077** 7793 Main St. Larrick's Tavern (historic name), 1750-1760; ca 1780-1810; ca 1870-1900. Two-story brick and frame on stone foundation with standing-seam metal roof. Rear one-story frame wing. Porch is Folk Victorian style with chamfered columns on short wood piers, sawn brackets, scrolls in its eaves, and plain entablature, with hipped, standing-seam metal roof. Substantial alterations to the building have caused lost integrity of design, materials and workmanship.

**260-5001-0078** 7805 Main St. Catlett-Owings-Long house (historic name), Miller store (common name), currently, The Carpet Bagger. 1890. Vernacular, two-story, wood frame, with German lap weatherboard siding, gable, cross gable, standing-seam metal roof, has wide overhang with brackets in gable end and exposed decorative rafters in eaves. Recessed entrance centered between two protruding bays.

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**260-5001-0079** 7815 Main St. Non-Contributing. Route 11 Potato Chips (common name) built after house was demolished in 1997, (historic name was Emma Everly Colfelt house; see DHS file # 260-39). Current commercial building is one-story, standing-seam metal, potato chip making factory and sales room.

**260-5001-0080** 7820 Main St. 1911-1915. Vernacular, two-story, wood frame with stucco and standing-seam metal, gable roof. Two shed additions in rear. Vernacular wood porch on concrete block with square supports, shed roof, exposed rafters and iron handrail and balustrade. Frame meat house with overhang and German lap siding probably dates to the house (contributing resource). House rebuilt after 1915 fire.

**260-5001-0081** 7824 Main St. Non-Contributing, two-story, brick and frame building built ca. 1960

**260-5001-0082** 7827 Main St. Hoffman house (historic and common name) ca 1800-1820 ca 1820-1840. House is vernacular, two-story log with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. Built in at least two sections. Rear two-story frame ell with side one-story enclosed porch, rear shed, one-story addition. Two frame sheds, frame outhouse are contributing resources, concrete block shed is a non-contributing resource.

**260-5001-0083** 7828 Main St. Jacob Rodes house (historic name). ca 1800; ca 1830-1850; early 20th century, tax records give date of 1841. Vernacular, two-story, wood frame and log with weatherboard siding. Probably built in two sections. House has a standing-seam metal, gable roof. Greek Revival style, pedimented portico, has paired, Tuscan columns, wide entablature, turned balusters and round handrail. V-notch log kitchen on stone foundation

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with cellar is a contributing resource, three frame sheds are contributing resources. House and outbuildings in deteriorated condition.

**260-5001-0084** 7837 Main St. Yates house (historic name), Sherwood house (common name). 1890 (owner has deed) 1905 (according to tax records). House is Colonial Revival style, 2½ story, wood frame, with weatherboard siding and has a hipped, pyramidal-cut off, standing-seam metal roof with one dormer. Rear one-story frame addition on wooden piers. Primary porch is Colonial Revival style with turned supports solid paneled balustrade, and turned pilasters. Board-and-batten meat house probably dates to the house (contributing resource).

**260-5001-0085** 7840 Main St. Danner house (historic name) Bugarski house (common name). 1891, with mid 19<sup>th</sup>-mid-20th century additions and alterations. Vernacular, log original building with wood frame additions, house has standing-seam metal, gable roof. Central part of house is log, with second story central protruding bay. Two-story shed addition with weatherboard siding, two-story shed addition covered by asbestos shingle, one-story shed addition in rear of right two-story addition. Primary porch enclosed with vinyl siding. Non-contributing frame shed.

**260-5001-0086** 7841 Main St. Hite-Edmonson house (historic name), Bailey house (common name), ca 1880-1910, tax records give date of 1921. Vernacular, two-story, wood frame with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. Two-story, Colonial Revival style, porch has Folk Victorian details; Tuscan columns on concrete piers on first level. Turned spindles and solid balustrade on second floor. First story storefront is made up of a four-light picture window with paneled base; double doors with canted sidelights and two-light transom; left bay is three-paneled door - **Section 7 Page 22**

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with light transom. One-story shed with covered entrance is non-contributing. Owner says building was once a hardware store with a movie theater on second floor. House rebuilt after 1901 fire.

**260-5001-0087** 7843 Main St. Middletown State Bank (historic name), recently site of several restaurants. ca 1910-1915; tax records give date as 1890. Commercial, six-course American bond brick, 1½ story with standing-seam metal, shed roof. Four-light large windows on either side of double door; large single-light transom over door; attic story has three brick panels; decorative band of egg-and-dart molding between first and second story; decorative gable motif at ends, segmental-arched windows; side has painted red brick; front is painted. Large egg-and-dart molded cornice with decorative gable motif. Shed addition in rear with brick veneer and louvered windows on concrete block foundation with basement entrance; cement tile deck in rear enclosed by wooden fence. Middletown State Bank until 1967 when it merged with F & M National Bank, closed in 1985.

**260-5001-0088** 7846 Main St. Jacob Danner house (historic name), Wiley-Crouse house (common name). 1780-1800, mid 19th to late 19th century. Vernacular, two-story, log with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. Rear two-story wing with enclosed porch. Many modern alterations have been made to the house. Folk Victorian, one-story wood porch with chamfered columns, solid balustrade, paneled frieze. Jacob Danner was famous 18th century clockmaker.

**260-5001-0089** 7849 Main St. Rhodes store & house, Post Office (historic name), Goode house (common name). ca 1880-1910. House is vernacular, two-story, wood frame with synthetic siding and has a clipped hipped pyramidal, standing-seam metal roof. Colonial Revival style, wood, wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns and pilasters with

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neck ring molding, sit on boxed, paneled wooden piers, box paneled wood balustrade, entablature. Covered with new vertical siding, house results from two individual structures joined into one. Right three bays originally residential, left three bays originally commercial; both sections have stone foundations and boxed cornices.. Most unique extensive adaptation of separate structures in Middletown; left commercial section is the more altered of the two original buildings. It was probably a one-story flat or gabled roofed store. Building was completely destroyed about 1902 in a fire and rebuilt on the same foundation. Frame garage or shop with hipped roof is a contributing resource, probably dates to first decade of twentieth century.

**260-5001-0090** 7851-53 Main St. Bordon-Lee Theater (historic name) Wayside Theater (common name since 1961) Built in 1946 on the site of late 19<sup>th</sup> century Shenandoah Normal School that was destroyed by fire in early 1940s. Commercial, brick building, two-stories on split-level basement, six bays asymmetrical, flat metal roof. Porch is vernacular one-story, wood on concrete pad with Tuscan columns with molding under column head on concrete piers, central two columns closer together, metal spiral staircase cuts through porch roof. Double fifteen-light French doors on first floor with twelve-light sidelights and two, fifteen-light doors; right two bays have wooden panels at top with a continuous brick flat arch. French doors have incomplete pedimented molding and architrave trim surrounds. There are four entrances on the east side. Two-story shed addition; first floor is concrete block, second is brick. One-story brick rear addition. Two-story brick rear addition to left of one-story addition. Two concrete block outbuildings behind theater are non-contributing resources.

**260-5001-0091** 7855 Main St. Middletown Fire Company, Non-contributing one and two story brick building built in a

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couple of sections; first in 1962, the latest in 1992.

**260-5001-0092** 7858 Main St. Non-contributing two-story, six-unit brick town houses, brick; built after 1960.

**260-5001-0093** 7864 Main St. Edmonson house (historic name), Mercer house (common name). ca 1870-1900. House is vernacular, two-story, wood frame with weatherboard siding and has a standing-seam metal, gable roof with central front gable. Colonial Revival style porch with Tuscan columns on wood paneled piers with solid balustrade. Rear two-story shed roof wing and two-story enclosed porches. Board-and-batten meat house probably dates to the house and is a contributing resource.

**260-5001-0094** 7868 Main St. Jacob Brookover house (historic name), Snyder house (common name). ca 1800; ca 1820-1840; ca 1970. Vernacular, v-notch log with standing-seam metal, gable roof house built in two sections. Left bay first then right three bays, two front entrances, one in each section, front stoop, rear, one-story shed addition. Aluminum siding on sides and rear, front siding removed to expose log.

**260-5001-0095** 7875 Main St. ca. 1870; tax records give date as 1800. Commercial vernacular, two-story, wood frame with weatherboard siding, standing-seam metal, front gable roof. House has two front doors with large window between. Door on north side leads to enclosed stairs to second-floor apartment. Door on south side opens into first-floor apartment, previously used as a shop. Skylights have been installed. Rear two-story porch has steps from first

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floor but not the second floor. One-story vernacular primary porch has been floored since 1990 survey.

**260-5001-0096** 7876 Main St. Ludwig House (historic name) Furr house (common name) ca 1880 - 1910. House is vernacular, two-stories, wood frame with aluminum siding, standing-seam metal, gable roof. Two story ell in rear, with gable roof. Folk Victorian, wood porch with square supports; brackets and pendants in eaves, flat roof; iron handrail with twisted balusters leading up to and around porch; lattice under porch. Frame shed and meat house are contributing resources.

**260-5001-0097** 7881 Main St., Mowery House.(historic and common name) ca 1900 - 1920. This is a vernacular, two-story, wood frame house with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. Rear two-story wing with shed roof and a one-story shed-roofed wing beyond that. House has a vernacular porch with square columns, balusters and handrail.

**260-5001-0098** 7882 Main St. Grace Methodist Church, Cornerstone inscribed "M.E.C.S. 1852 1882 1897". Stone in ground in front yard states "ME 1852.1897 - 1989". Romanesque, 1½ stories with raised basement of random rubble, ashlar rock faced with slate in gable end. Seven front bays, three side bays, cross-gable slate roof. There is a large one-story rear brick wing. An earlier Methodist church was sited across Main Street and was similar to St. Thomas Chapel on Church Street

**260-5001-0099** 7889 Main St. Dellinger-Shull house (historic name), Woods-Berent house (common name), ca 1890 - 1910 Vernacular, two-story, wood frame with weatherboard and standing-seam, gable roof. Rear two-story ell with side two-story porches. Vernacular, one-story porch with chamfered supports, exposed rafters in eaves and concrete floor. **Section 7 Page 24**

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**260-5001-0100** 7895 Main St. Dellinger-Ambrose house (historic name) Hartley house(common name). 1920. Craftsman style, 1½ story, wood frame with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. House has a gable dormer with three 3/1 windows. Craftsman porch with three bays and battered square Doric columns on brick piers. Note: Site of 1852 Methodist Church.

**260-5001-0101** 7896 Main St. Cirrani House(common name) ca 1820 - 1850; tax records give date as 1779. Vernacular Greek Revival style, two-story, wood frame and log with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. Rear ell appears to be log, probably built earlier as a three bay, 1½ story log house. Greek Revival porch with paired square, Doric columns and details in cornice. Frame washhouse is a contributing resource.

**260-5001-0102** 7907 Main St. ca 1865 - 1880; tax records give date as 1910. Folk Victorian, two-story, wood frame with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. Protruding bay on north gable end has chamfered-like trim and architrave entablature. Two-story wing and one-story frame shed addition with German lap siding in rear. Folk Victorian wood porch with square supports with square boxed base on cement pad; flat roof, sawn balusters with complex handrail; cut panels give arched effect to porch bays. Frame chicken coop with asphalt shingles is a contributing resource.

**260-5001-0103** 7913 Main St. Gladys Lantzer Nursing Home (common name). 1910. House is vernacular, two-story, wood frame with composition shingle, gable roof. Enclosed side and rear two-story porches, two-story rear

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shed-roofed wing on concrete block basement and one-story side wing. There is a Colonial revival/Craftsman style primary porch with Tuscan columns on brick piers. Unusual shed with trellis is probably mid-twentieth century (contributing resource).

**260-5001-0104** 7916 Main St. Non-contributing, single-story brick strip mall built in 1977.

**260-5001-0105** 7924 Main St. ca 1790-1810 ca 1830-1850. House is vernacular, two-story log with weatherboard and composition siding, and standing-seam metal, gable roof with a protruding second story dormer. Rear two-story wing appears to be log. It appears that there was a separate building behind the house with an end stone chimney that was then attached to the house with a covered breezeway giving the appearance of a continuous wing. House appears to have been remodeled in mid 19th century and also in late 19th century. Greek Revival, one-story wood porch with square Doric columns paneled frieze and turned spindles.

**260-5001-0106** 7927 Main St. ca 1820 –1830; ca 1880- 1910; tax records give date as 1850. Folk Victorian, 2 story, log with weatherboard cladding and composition shingle, gable roof. Rear ell with 2 story integral enclosed porches. Folk Victorian porch, with compound columns, brackets in eaves and cornice and unusual sawn balustrade. Board-and-batten garage on stone foundation with pyramidal roof is a contributing resource.

**260-5001-0107** 7930 Main St. Huddle house (historic name), ca 1810-1830. Vernacular, two-story log with beaded weatherboard and standing-seam metal, gable roof. Rear two-story ell with enclosed two-story, side porches. Primary porch is vernacular on a stone foundation with chamfered columns, square balusters and plain handrail; lattice under porch. Frame outhouse and board-and-batten meat house are contributing resources that probably are early twentieth century.

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**260-5001-0108** 7936 Main St. Non-contributing, 1-story frame dwelling built in 1956.

**260-5001-0109** 7939 Main St. ca 1830 – 1850; ca 1910 - 1930. House is vernacular, two-story, log with stucco and has a standing-seam metal, gable roof. Rear two-story concrete block addition. Front of house is log, top right side of log section leans into rear addition. Vernacular, wrap around porch with chamfered supports, molded cornice rests on concrete block and stone piers, shed roof.

**260-5001-0110** 7948 Main St. ca 1890-1920. Vernacular, two-story, wood frame with slate, gable roof on stone basement. House has a central second-story bay and a protruding one-story bay to left of door under porch. Rear two-story ell with side protruding one-story bay. Enclosed rear, two-story porches, side/rear one-story shed-roofed wing has vinyl siding. Modern guesthouse is non-contributing. Both houses are on the site of former Kercheval house and former workhouse according to old town map.

**260-5001-0111** 7949 Main St. Handy Mart, Non-contributing, 1-story, frame and block commercial building.

**260-5001-0112** 7952 Main St. ca 1810-1830; ca 1890-1910; ca 1960-1980. Vernacular, two-story, log with aluminum or vinyl siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. House has a one-story frame wing with gable roof

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on side and a two-story frame ell in rear with two-story enclosed porches on sides. Vernacular primary porch with chamfered columns, decorative brackets and wood entablature.

**260-5001-0113** 7957 Main St. Evans-Hodson House (common name), ca 1810 – 1840; ca 1880 - 1920. House is vernacular, two-story, with log front section and a frame rear section. Both sections have weatherboard siding. Pyramidal hipped roof of standing-seam metal. The house has a rear, one-story shed addition, and a rear, two-story addition with two-story side protruding bay. Folk Victorian wraparound porch with turned spindles. The stone meat house is a contributing resource. It appears to be 19th century but remodeled and added to in the 20th century.

**260-5001-0114** no street number on west side of Main street, common name is Stuble's Garage. Commercial, one-story, wood frame, with vertical siding, building that was a garage ca. 1910-1930. Shed, parapet, standing-seam metal roof. Central of three bays is double garage door. Building is neglected with vines and other vegetation concealing much of it. Surveyed independently in 1990.

**260-5001-0115** 7960 Main St. ca 1900-1930. Vernacular Colonial Revival, two-story, wood frame with German lap siding, standing-seam metal, gable roof. Two-story rear ell and two-story shed addition with two-story porch. Colonial Revival style primary porch with Tuscan columns on square wood plinths, paneled wood frieze, and a flat roof. A frame meat house with front overhang has German lap siding under the overhang and a frame garage with decorative vergeboard are contributing resources.

**260-5001-0116** 7968 Main St. Non-contributing, two-story, brick, single-family dwelling built after 1960.

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**260-5001-0117** 7969 Main St. Munzing-Cave House (common name), ca 1800, ca 1820-1840. Vernacular, two-story, log covered in stucco with standing-seam metal, gable roof. Rear one-story shed addition. Primary porch is Colonial Revival style with Tuscan columns and wide entablature. Interesting combination of two log houses, rear appears to be older. There is a stone chimney with external fireplace on south end of front of house. Frame meat house covered with asphalt shingles is a contributing resource.

**260-5001-0118** 7979 Main St. Jacob Willey house (historic name), ca 1800-1810; ca 1830-1850; ca 1870-1900. Vernacular, two-story log house on stone foundation with a standing-seam metal, cross gable, hipped roof and frame addition. House was built in several stages; two-story, two-bay exposed log section is the oldest, possibly originally a one-story log house which was later expanded to two stories and then given a frame two-story Victorian cross-gabled addition. Hipped roof on the log portion is unusual. Rear, two-story frame ell and a two-story frame wing perpendicular to the house form the cross gable. Enclosed side porches on ell.

**260-5001-0119** 7985 Main St. Mid-nineteenth century. House is vernacular, two-story, log front structure with weatherboard cladding and a standing-seam metal, gable roof. Two front protruding bays are under the one-story

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primary porch that has chamfered columns, plain entablature and a shed roof. There is a two-story frame ell with enclosed two-story side porches. Frame outhouse and frame shed with gable roof are contributing resources that probably date to the house.

**260-5001-0120** 7994 Main St. ca. 1890-1920. House is vernacular, two-story, wood frame, covered in aluminum siding with a standing-seam metal, gable roof. It is on a coursed stone foundation, and has a two-story rear ell and enclosed two-story porches. The Folk Victorian porch has turned wood supports, sawn balustrade and brackets and a flat roof. It sits on brick piers and has concrete steps leading up to the porch and lattice underneath. There is a board-and-batten meat house with overhang that is a contributing resource and a frame shed with corrugated metal roof that is non-contributing.

**260-5001-0121** 7995 A&K Car Wash Non-contributing, concrete block commercial structure with large paved lot; built after 1970.

**260-5001-0122** 8004 Main St. Jacob Willy house (historic name), ca. 1800-1810-1830-1850-1870-1900. The vernacular house was built in several stages; the two-story, two-bay exposed log section is the oldest. It could have been a one-story log house that was later expanded to two stories, and given a frame two-story Victorian cross gabled addition. Hipped roof on the log portion is unusual. Two-story rear ell and two-story frame wing perpendicular to house forms the cross gable. Enclosed, two-story side porches on ell.

**260-5001-0123** 8026 Main St. Will Willey house (historic name) Coverstone-Robertson house (common name), ca 1870-1900. Folk Victorian style house is two-story, wood frame with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof on stone basement. It has a two-story wing with two-story open porches and exterior staircase, rear one-story shed-roofed wing. Folk Victorian style porch has chamfered columns, sawn balustrade and brackets on brick piers. **Section 7 Page 27**

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Frame meat house with flu is a contributing resource.

**260-5001-0124** 8034 Main St. James L. Willey house (historic name). ca 1880-1910. House is Folk Victorian style, two-story, wood frame, with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. Rear, two-story, frame gabled ell with two-story porches on side, two-story shed-roofed wing has rear porch with external stairway. Folk Victorian style, one bay portico (unusual for Middletown) with chamfered supports plain handrail on sides, flat roof, cement steps with coursed stone side walls. Board-and-batten meat house on stone foundation and a frame outhouse are contributing resources. A modern aluminum shed is non-contributing.

**260-5001-0125** 8043 Main St. Isaac Rhodes house (historic name), Dalby house (common name), currently 1810 Rhodes Tavern Antiques & Collectibles store. ca 1830-1850; ca 1890-1910. Vernacular, two-story wood frame with German lap siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. Rear two-story ell with enclosed porches, side two-story protruding bay on ell, rear one-story shed-roofed wing, wraparound porch on front has been made into a glassed-in porch with door and windows. Colonial Revival style primary story porch has Tuscan columns. A fine 1 ½ story, log meat house and spring house with v-notched corners and stone basement could be eighteenth century and are contributing resources. Three frame sheds & chicken coop are non-contributing



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**260-5001-0126** 8046 Main St. ca 1910-1930. This Colonial Revival/Craftsman style, 2½ story, wood frame house has aluminum siding and a pyramidal, composition shingle, roof. It has a one-story side enclosed porch with balustrade on roof and protruding bay window. There are two enclosed, rear, two-story porches. An entrance portico with square Doric columns on stone piers, and concrete steps is similar to 260-5001-0123.

**260-5001-0127** 8049 Main St. Campbell house (historic name), ca 1900-1920 1980, 1990. American Foursquare, 2 ½ story wood frame, weatherboard siding with standing-seam metal, hipped roof. A rear two-story frame porch is enclosed, seven rear porch bays added to wraparound porch ca. 1980. Colonial Revival style, one-story porch has Tuscan columns on paneled square piers, three grouped at the corners and v-groove solid paneled balustrade. Porch sits on brick piers. Frame washhouse and frame shed have been modernized and are non-contributing resources An unusual wrought-iron fence on concrete pad is across much of the front of the property.

**260-5001-0128** 7816 Senseney Ave. ca 1800-1820 ca 1920-1950. House is vernacular, two-story, log covered with stucco with a standing-seam, gable roof. It has a rear, two-story, wood frame addition, with two-story enclosed porches. Folk Victorian, one-story wood porch with turned spindles and balusters, dentils in cornice, lattice under porch.

**260-5001-0129** 7826 Senseney Ave. ca 1800-1830; ca 1870-1910. House is vernacular, two-story, log and wood frame; right three bays are log, probably the original house. This section is on a stone basement. Left two-story section is a frame addition. Front and sides covered in bricktex, weatherboard in rear. Both have a standing-seam metal, gable roof. Rear one-story wing and unusual side/rear shed roof building attached to house, may have been original kitchen. Chicken coop and woodshed probably from the early twentieth century are contributing resources.

**260-5001-0130** 7836 Senseney Ave. ca 1910-1940. Vernacular, two-story, split-level house of wood frame with aluminum siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. Rear one-story porch is under two-story addition. Vernacular

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primary porch has square supports. Frame shed and meat house are contributing resources. Frame garage and concrete block shed are non-contributing.

**260-5001-0131** 7844 Senseney Ave. Ralph Carper house (common name) Vernacular, two-story, wood frame house with bricktex siding and a standing-seam metal, gable roof on coursed stone foundation. House has a two-story rear, shed-roof wing on concrete block foundation. Folk Victorian style porch with turned supports on wood piers has decorative corner brackets and a shed roof.

**260-5001-0132** 7848 Senseney Ave. Lewis A. Gossard house (common name), ca 1890-1920. House is vernacular, two-story, wood frame with standing-seam metal, gable roof on a stone foundation. There is a rear two-story ell with two-story side porches. The primary porch is Folk Victorian style with a shed roof that has brackets under the eaves, turned supports, plain handrail, and a cross rail balustrade with sawn decoration in center. A board-and-batten, one-story wash house with exterior brick flue, side overhang and a one-story frame shed addition is a contributing resource.

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**260-5001-0133** 7857 Senseney Ave. 1900-1930. This vernacular Craftsman-style house is 1½ story, wood frame, with German Lap siding and standing seam metal, gable roof. It has a one-story rear addition on concrete pad and weatherboard siding. House has boxed cornice on north and exposed rafters on south. The primary porch is vernacular, with new wrought-iron balusters and handrail. A frame shed is non-contributing.

**260-5001-0134** 7883 Senseney Ave. Senseney-Middletown Colored Elementary School 1939-1960 (historic name). ca. 1880-1910; ca.1930-1970. Converted to a residence, this vernacular, one-story, wood frame building is covered in bricktex and has a standing seam metal, gable roof. It has a rear, one-story, shed-roof wing. A frame chicken coop and shed are contributing resources.

**260-5001-0135** 7890 Senseney Ave. ca 1890-1920. House is vernacular, two-story, wood frame, covered with aluminum siding, and has a standing-seam metal, gable roof. It has a rear, two-story ell with enclosed side porches. The Colonial Revival style, one-story wood porch has Tuscan columns and the balustrade is made up of square panels with sawn circles surrounded by a clover motif. A frame outhouse is a contributing resource.

**260-5001-0136** 7893 Senseney Ave. 1818 Methodist Church or Middletown Missionary Church (historic names). ca 1800-1820. Vernacular building is one-story, log on stone basement, with cellotex cladding and standing seam-metal, gable roof. First church built in Middletown. It originally was a white citizen's church until 1852, and was conveyed to the "Colored People's Church" in 1872. A new church has been built between this building and the house at 7883 Senseney Avenue but is part of this property, and a non-contributing resource.

**260-5001-0137** 7913 Senseney Ave. Mt. Zion Methodist Church, ca 1880-1900. Converted to a residence ca 1992, building is vernacular, one-story, wood frame with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. Rear elevation has door into basement and fine Gothic-arched colored glass window. It was conveyed to African-American Methodists in 1892, abandoned as a church before 1985.

**260-5001-0138** 7942 Senseney Ave. ca 1810-1850, ca 1900. House is vernacular, two-story, log with vinyl siding and **Section 7 Page 29**

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asphalt shingle, gable roof. It has a rear, two-story frame wing with shed roof and rear one-story shed roof wing. Modern shed is non-contributing.

**260-5001-0139** 7948 Senseney Ave. ca 1880-1910. House is vernacular, two-story, log with vinyl siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. It has a side, one-story wing. First floor appears to be constructed of log, but second-floor construction material is questionable. Frame shed and frame garage are non-contributing.

**260-5001-0140** 7965 Senseney Ave. Mitchell House(common name) ca 1880-1910. This is a vernacular, two-story, wood frame house with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. It has an unusual rear, two-story hipped-roof wing with a one-story lean-to rear wing and attached meat house, with a side one-story porch. Folk Victorian style primary porch has square beam supports. Example of house in Middletown with attached outbuilding.

**260-5001-0141** 2149 Sixth St. ca 1890-1910. House is vernacular, two-story, wood frame with aluminum siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. It has a two-story rear central wing and one-story rear enclosed porch. The primary

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porch is vernacular, with turned supports and has pilasters against the house. Frame chicken coop, outhouse, shed and meat house, all appear to date to the house and are contributing resources. House used as a tenant house for Maplewood (260-5001-142)

**260-5001-0142** 2150 Sixth St. ca 1870-1900. This is a Folk Victorian style, two-story, wood frame house with weatherboard siding and standing-seam metal, gable roof. It has a central front gable, hanging pendants in gables and exposed decorative rafters. There is a two-story rear ell with similar trim and two-story porches. Primary porch is Folk Victorian style with decorative brackets under eaves. There are two protruding one-story bays under porch roof. Frame shed, outhouse, garage and barn seem to date to the house and are contributing resources.

**260-5001-0143** 2239 Sixth St. Wright House (historic name), Maplewood (common name) ca 1856. The only example of Italianate style in Middletown, this two-story, wood frame house has aluminum siding and a standing-seam metal, gable roof. There is an enclosed side one-story porch on a rear wing. The primary porch is vernacular with Doric chamfered columns, fluted square columns with brackets, and shed roof at front door. Two modern sheds are non-contributing resources. A meat house with pyramidal roof and a frame wash house/kitchen are contributing resources as is the large post-and-beam barn with pyramidal cupola that appears to date to house.

**260-5001-0144** 2375 Third St. Non-contributing frame ranch house built after 1970.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Middletown Historic District encompasses most of the Town of Middletown, which is located in southwestern Frederick County in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Established by an act of the Virginia General Assembly in 1794 at the request of Dr. Peter Senseney, who laid out the original sixty-acre plan of half-acre lots, the community developed along the Great Wagon Road, later known as the Valley Pike, and today's U.S. Route 11. Frederick County's third oldest town, Middletown represents a typical planned community of the late eighteenth century with a main thoroughfare (Main Street) flanked by parallel streets (Church and Senseney Streets) and intersected by shorter cross streets. Unlike towns to the north and south of Middletown along the Valley Pike, Middletown was not located at the intersection of important trade routes and the railroad did not arrive in town until 1870, which may account for its limited commercial development. Nonetheless, the Valley Pike was important to the town's economic development as evidenced by one of Middletown's most noted landmarks, the Wayside Inn, originally a tavern dating to the 1790s. Middletown is also significant for its variety of architectural styles and forms from the 1790s to the 1950s and ranging from late-eighteenth-century vernacular log dwellings to mid-twentieth-century Colonial Revival buildings. Other styles represented include the Italianate, Gothic Revival, Folk Victorian, Shingle Style, Queen Anne, and Bungalow/Craftsman styles. The town boasts an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style in St. Thomas Chapel, built in 1836 and individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The district includes dwellings, outbuildings, commercial structures, a theater, four churches, a town hall, two former schools, three warehouses, and an inn. Middletown is a good example of a well-planned Valley Turnpike town with an impressive array of architecture from all periods of the town's development.

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**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Middletown, Frederick County, Virginia, is located on land that was a part of that obtained by Valley pioneer Jost Hite in 1731 in addition to being in the Fairfax Proprietary. The land had been a 40,000-acre grant to the Van Meter brothers who conveyed it to Hite.<sup>1</sup> He had taken possession of and conveyed considerable quantities of this grant before Fairfax arrived and became active in the area. Fairfax's ownership claims and Hite's refusal to deal with that led to the well known lawsuit, initiated by Hite in 1749 and settled in 1786 after both principals had died. The land that later was developed into Middletown was a part of a 2168 acre specific grant to Hite in 1734 among other specific grants as part of his overall 40,000 acre grant.<sup>2</sup> He conveyed parts of that grant to a man variously noted as George Harris or George Harrison among other grantees, and to Harrison's son-in-law Robert Warth, also noted as Robert Dfwarfe.<sup>3</sup> Through several conveyances the Harrison land conveyed to Robert Warth was settled in 1737. It had been occupied and was actively farmed for many years before Fairfax arrived and became insistent on having titles come from his office. There is no indication that Harrison or Warth ever complied with the demands although Warth did have two additional tracts granted from the Proprietor's Office adjacent to his Hite acquired land.

The Harrison-Warth land was held by the Warth family for two generations until Robert Warth's sons conveyed it in several transactions from 1776 to 1787 to Dr. Peter Senseney, an apprentice trained physician from Pennsylvania.<sup>4</sup> A few years after his arrival, Senseney moved to Winchester, Virginia, leaving the land in the hands of his children, the older of whom set up farming and hide tanning operations. Senseney had a grist or merchant mill built about 1792 on Meadow Brook a short distance off the old Indian Trail, called the old Wagon Trail, later the Winchester—Staunton Turnpike and at present U.S. Route 11. Senseney hired Jacob Danner, an accomplished mechanic in many trades, to survey and mark off the 126 lots of the proposed town during 1794.<sup>5</sup>

With a six-man board of trustees, Senseney petitioned the 1794-1795 session of the Virginia General Assembly to approve the creation of the town he called both Middleton and Middletown, perhaps through confused concepts of spelling.<sup>6</sup> Being approximately half way between Strasburg or Stoverstadt and New Town or Stephensburg, the town has long been assumed to have been given the name Middletown because of its location but Senseney had relatives in

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Middletown, Maryland, which may be a more correct reason for the name. Various accounts claim the village Section 8 Page

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was called Senseney Town or Clock Town but these are later day references not supported by contemporary records.

If there was an original sketch or drawing of the layout it has not been located. A reconstructed plat has been prepared.<sup>7</sup> Along with seven other towns Middleton officially came into existence in late 1794.<sup>8</sup> Peter Senseney and Jacob Danner had laid off the proposed town into 126 lots before preparing the petition, and began offering them for sale in the spring of 1796. Sales moved fairly well for the first few years but by the time of Peter Senseney's untimely death in September of 1804 over half had not been sold. A few more were conveyed but the bulk of unsold lots remained in Senseney's estate until that was settled in 1817 and the property divided between the ten children and Peter's widow.<sup>9</sup> In lieu of property the widow, Mary Magdalene Senseney, signed away her rights to property in return for yearly payments from the children. Almost all of the early buildings were constructed of logs, with some evidence of stone construction. Brick buildings began appearing in the mid-1830s and a fair number of the older log buildings still are in existence, although many have been altered extensively.

With the strong presence and character of Jacob Danner the village stabilized and slowly built up into a thriving community with a number of businesses, churches and schools.<sup>10</sup> Danner served as the unofficial, unelected but very real leader for years until his 1850 death. There is no indication that the original Board of Trustees was ever active in village affairs or had ever been replaced by other people. The village location between a number of fairly large slave work force plantation operations made it in part similar to an English manor town surrounded by large estates, and being mutually beneficial to the related parties. Most of the village residents themselves were small tradesmen who, to a large extent, could not afford slave helpers. Being on an active emigration route some portion of the population was fairly fluid, slowly changing as some residents joined the throngs moving further south and west.

The village early was associated with the Wesleyan Methodist Church and its German speaking counterpart, the United Brethren in Christ. The mix of languages is difficult to pinpoint precisely but early lot buyers with obvious English and German backgrounds were a roughly equal mix. Frederick County had an equivalent situation with perhaps more of an English speaking population, so the tendency to operate in English was natural. Early in the nineteenth century the village had two common schools, probably one for each language.<sup>11</sup>

The Methodist presence resulted in a log church being built in 1818 on land bought from or donated by John Senseney, eldest son of the village founder. This building still is in existence at

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what is now Senseney Avenue and Third Street. The church grew with the village and in 1852 a larger, brick church building was built on the north corner of Main and Third Streets. This served

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until 1897 when the present stone Grace United Methodist Church was built diagonally across Main Street from the 1852 brick building, which was dismantled and some of the bricks used in the back part of the new church. A number of additions and modifications have been made since the first part was erected. The original 1818 log building was conveyed to the village black Methodists in 1872, and perhaps had been used by them before that time. The African Americans in 1890 built a larger frame structure, still on Senseney Avenue, just a short distance south of the 1818 building, naming it Mt. Zion. That congregation used the church for about half a century until the attendance fell off and the building reverted to the state Methodist organization which sold it for use as a private residence.

Despite the striking presence of St. Thomas Chapel, the Anglican or Episcopal Church was not supported by many village residents. The congregation, to a great extent, was made up of the large landowners outside town. There may have been an Episcopal chapel somewhere in the general vicinity earlier, perhaps built of logs, but that cannot be stated with any assurance. The Anglicans may have met in the combination meeting house-school-church for some time before deciding to build St. Thomas. They bought half of a village lot on Slate Street, now Church St., and about 1835 had the handsome building erected. St. Thomas was also the name of the parish, which covered a large area in south Frederick County and in Warren County. The building was heavily damaged, as was the brick Methodist Church, during the Civil War and, over a long period was restored by its impoverished congregation. It remained a viable house of worship with periodic services until about the 1930s before being abandoned. It became a public nuisance and dangerous by mid-century, and during the 1960s was conveyed by the state parent organization to a private group, after a considerable amount of legal maneuvers, and was converted to a non-denominational chapel. An extended period of renovation produced the present chapel. The group who rebuilt and administer the building is the St. Thomas Chapel Trust and they are responsible for its use for special events such as weddings and concerts.

Other churches have appeared in town, such as the Middletown Presbyterian Church, whose congregation during the latter part of the twentieth century bought and enlarged what had been the Middletown Grange building. The congregation formerly owned the Cedar Cliffs Presbyterian Church located outside town. Several other churches of more recent vintage have established themselves in town, one even finding a use for the old original 1818 Methodist log building.

Among the many industries that have been a part of the Middletown scene the one that is

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mentioned most often is the James Ridings' threshing machine factory. Ridings was a son of an earlier resident of the vicinity, Dr. Peter Ridings, who probably also became a doctor by apprentice training, after being a mill operator and farmer. A member of this talented family James Ridings, while still quite young, bought land in the village in the 1820s and 30s and introduced his **Section 8 Page**

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improved threshing machine. At the time it was quite revolutionary in its ability to process grain in larger quantities than had been done manually. Later improvements were made by other mechanics. The factory building was converted to other uses and was destroyed in a 1903 fire. One of the original Ridings houses still is in existence on the north end of Senseney Avenue.

By the time of the onset of the Civil War the village was a vigorous, busy small trading center for inhabitants and people from the nearby farms. Being in the Shenandoah Valley, called the breadbasket of the Confederacy, there was much military activity in and around the small village, causing major disruptions to ordinary village life, culminating in the Battle of Cedar Creek in October of 1864. With the scorched earth tactics of Union General Philip Sheridan and the Cedar Creek battle occurring in and around Middletown, the village was affected by one of the deciding battles of the war, with the Union victory effectively shutting off a major source of food supplies for the Confederate Army.

Recovering from the war was not done rapidly, but life slowly returned to a pace that reflected the changes the war had forced on the inhabitants. Types of labor and businesses became more complicated than they previously had been. The War had accentuated the fact that there was a gap in the expanding railroad system. The missing link between the rail hubs at Winchester and Strasburg was installed about 1870 and Middletown became a stopping point in a larger transportation system. Work for some village residents came from the new rail connection.

Jacob Danner and his son, Jacob S. Danner, had held the parts of the village together with their knowledge of the original lot numbering system, although most people were confused about where they lived in a legal sense. The two Jacobs died in 1850 and 1877, respectively, and there was no knowledgeable person to offer help. With the Danner connections to the past gone village leaders determined to improve their building identification. They developed a new plat with a somewhat more advanced numbering system, petitioning the Virginia General Assembly for an incorporated status. Acts in 1880 and 1882 established the village as an incorporated town with a mayor and council.<sup>12</sup> One of the first actions taken by the newly recognized village leaders was to have a plat drawn with the new lot designations, which assigned odd and even numbers on opposite sides of each street, plus giving each street a new name, except for the central street which remained as Main Street. The selected system was not perfect but it was an improvement over the old lot numbers. It has survived the test of time and provided the basis for the current tax



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map. The drawing was approved by the mayor and council in 1880 and admitted to record in Frederick County in 1881. It can be noted that, for some, the new numbers soon became as confusing as the old. Little changed until the 1980s when county wide individual street address numbers were assigned to aid in 911 responses.

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Shortly after the creation of the new town plat another one was prepared as a part of the Atlas of Frederick County produced in 1885 by the Lake Company of Philadelphia. The plat was fairly close to the one in the county deed book but was drawn more professionally, turned ninety degrees and was more readable as well as more easily accessible to all those who bought the atlas.

Almost from the date that lots were first sold, perhaps by 1800, the community had sponsored a common school in a log building where the Town Hall is now located, on the lot that Peter Senseney had originally dedicated for meeting-school-church use. When the federally mandated primary school system was implemented about 1870, the county and state authorities took over the old property about 1880 and demolished the log building, replacing it with a two-story wood structure, which was the first Middletown Public School, offering the required primary grades. That building was used until 1909 when the Middletown Agriculture High School was built, largely with local funding and labor, on a lot north of the then village limits. All grades up to the eleventh were offered.

The former Middletown Public School was used for various purposes, finally being renovated in the 1970s, when it became the present Town Hall. Nearby educational facilities now include a new Middletown Elementary School and the Lord Fairfax Community College, both located just north of the present town.

Believing that they finally had arrived as a commercial center, the villagers began to make plans to expand. A group was formed about 1889 or 1890 called the Middletown Land Improvement Company. These expansion plans were not unique to Middletown; other valley towns set up their own expansion organizations during the 1890s. Middletown, however, pursued their plans more diligently than most of the others. A plat was drawn of New Middletown marked off into streets and blocks, mostly to the west of old Middletown.<sup>13</sup> Blocks were divided into lots, all much smaller than the original lots. An elaborate selling scheme was worked out, partially dependent on chance lot distributions. Recording deeds during the buying frenzy took up an entire deed book, plus a lot of space in others. Several other organizations were formed to provide the support for the hordes of people who were expected to arrive to find jobs at the planned new factories. Partly because of a nationwide financial panic in 1893, the boom collapsed when none of the planned events took place. Many people lost a good portion of their assets as the whole

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effort fizzled to a stop by the mid-1890s. Lots bought on the rosy promise of quick profits were lost because of non-payment of taxes. A few people bought up what they could for a pittance, acquiring many pieces of paper representing unidentified spaces in pastures, most not easily found in the open spaces. Many later buyers in the general area had to go through complicated legal hurdles to receive a clear title. Occasional deeds sometimes still come up with references to New Middletown lots. The Middletown boom and bust provided many jokes for those who were not **Section 8 Page 36**

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financially involved.<sup>14</sup>

Settling down to a more prosaic lifestyle village residents struggled on. The Mount Carmel Cemetery was chartered before the turn of the century, giving a name to a cemetery that had been in use possibly since the village began. A smaller cemetery north of town partially was moved to the newly designated site.

A well known secret society service organization, The International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) opened a chapter in town and many villagers joined. It prospered into the 1960s. Other organizations have been formed since the beginning of the 1900s.

Middletown followed a slow progression of modernization, receiving telephone service and electric power early in the twentieth century. State responsibility for the Valley Turnpike toll system took place about 1920 with no buildings in the old village having to be moved for the widening of then Route 33, now U.S. Route 11 (Main Street). Shortly after the beginning of the new century a series of good-sized fires, spread out over a three- or four-year period, caused considerable damage. They were fought with the traditional bucket brigade and sparked talk of forming a fire company. After a large fire on Main Street in 1941, a serious movement was started to form a volunteer fire company. Hampered by the Second World War it did not come into being until 1943. The brick Fire Hall was built in 1962 and added to in 1992. Fighting fires required water in a hurry, plus the modernization of many plumbing installations, prompting the erection of a central water tower about 1950, giving the village central indoor running water. Natural gas came through town in the late 1950s and a central sewer system served by the local sewage treatment plant became a reality in the 1960s. Just before that the town water supply was connected to the Winchester supply line. The abandoned water tank stood for years next to Town Hall but was dismantled in the 1990s.

The mayor-council governmental arrangement offers a responsive, stable central contact point for the citizenry. In a 2002 survey of all residents of Middletown, conducted by the town government to increase citizen participation, the vote was 90% in favor of creating the locally designated Middletown Historic District. This included the newest parts of the town, subdivisions on the east between the old town limits and Interstate 81 and on the west of Senseney Avenue.

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**ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup> Conditional "Crown" grant of 40,000 acres from Council of Virginia to John & Isaac Van Meter 17 June 1730, *Vol. 13, Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*. The land later was found to be within Lord Fairfax's Northern Neck Proprietary. John & Isaac Van Meter to Jost Hite, 40,000 acre conditional grant, 5 August 1731, listed in *From the Neckar to the Shenandoah* by Ralph Conner. A discussion of the dates involved is covered to some extent in the *Virginia Historical Magazine, Volume 13, 1906*, pages 115, 133, 283, 351, 354 and Virginia Land Patent Book 15, pages 319-537.

<sup>2</sup> Land Patent Book 15, specific patent for 2,168 acres of the 40,000 acre conditional grant, to Jost Hite, 3 October 1734, *Volume 24, The Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*. Deeds between Warth family members and Peter Senseney; details omitted here, Deed Books involved, all in Frederick County: Deed Book Superior Court 4 page 138, 12 November 1776; Deed Book 17 page 222 (lease) page 223 (release), 8 March 1777 (lease) 29 March 1777 (release); Deed Book 17 page 219 (lease) page 220 (release) 28 March 1777 (lease) 29 March 1777 (release); Deed Book 16 page 516, 7 June 1774; Deed Book 21 page 46, 31 May 1785; Deed Book 21 page 841, 4 March 1787. Hite to George Harris, Harrison; 444 acres of 2,168 acre patent, 25-26 March 1736, Orange County Deed Book 1 page 472. Related documents: Jost Hite to George Harrison, 150 acres, 31 August 1747.

<sup>3</sup> Frederick County Deed Book 1 page 313; Jost Hite to Robert Dwarfe, Wharff, Warth; 300 acres, 25-26 March 1736, Orange County, Virginia Deed Book 1 page 465; George Harrison to Robert Warth, 150 acres, 25 May 1743, Orange County Deed Book 7 page 217; The Northern Neck Proprietor's Office to Robert Warth, 400 acres, 1751/1752, Grant Book H page 203; The Northern Neck Proprietor's Office to Robert Warth, 230 acres, 1751/1760, Grant Book K page 198; George Harrison Will, 5 August 1772, Frederick County Will Book 4, page 177.

<sup>4</sup> Deeds between Warth family members and Peter Senseney; details omitted here, Deed Books involved, all in Frederick County: Deed Book Superior Court 4 page 138, 12 November 1776; Deed Book 17 page 222 (lease) page 223 (release), 8 March 1777 (lease) 29 March 1777 (release); Deed Book 17 page 219 (lease) page 220 (release) 28 March 1777 (lease) 29 March 1777 (release); Deed Book 16 page 516, 7 June 1774; Deed Book 21 page 46, 31 May 1785; Deed Book 21 page 841, 4 March 1787.

<sup>5</sup> A comprehensive chain of title search during 1990-2000 of all of the original lots has been conducted in the Frederick County, Virginia Deed Books held at the County Clerk's Office, The Judicial Center, Winchester, Virginia. The result has been compiled into a 59 page Chain of Title section to be issued as a part of the Appendix of a book on the history of Middletown currently being prepared by Guy M. Jones, Jr. For additional information contact the author.

<sup>6</sup> Shepherd, Samuel. *The Statutes at Large of Virginia from October Session 1792, to December Session 1806, a Continuation of Hening*. Reprint of the Richmond, VA 1835 Edition. New York, N. Y.: AMS Press, Inc., 1970, November 1794: Page 322, Chapter 44 (8).

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<sup>7</sup> 1794 Plat of village layout--The map with the earliest date is a reconstruction of how Peter Senseney and Jacob Danner planned to arrange their proposed village. No record of what the original layout showed has been found. The 1794 date is somewhat arbitrary since it was prepared in the 1970s by this writer and changed a number of times to arrive at the present 1991 revision date. Over a period of several years with numerous examination of deeds recorded at the Frederick County Clerk's Office, and tax records, the lot arrangement shown has been established to be accurate in each lot placement. While there is always the possibility of errors in interpretation of some of the old legal language, successive references tend to reinforce the conclusions shown. The original objective in preparing the old town plat was to determine where the various Rhodes family lot holdings were. Using the 1885 Lake Atlas layout and some conjecture a preliminary layout was made. Painstaking deed examination slowly worked out the more puzzling identifications, resulting in a complete plat, to be shown as the frontispiece of the Middletown history book now in progress.

<sup>8</sup> Shepherd, Samuel. *The Statues at Large of Virginia from October Session 1792, to December Session 1806, a Continuation of Hening*. Reprint of the Richmond, VA 1835 Edition. New York, NY: AMS Press, Inc. 1970, November 1794: Page 322, Chapter 44 (8).

<sup>9</sup> Superior Court Chancery Order Book Number 1--1812-1818, Pages 346-349.

<sup>10</sup> Frederick County Clerk's Office, The Judicial Center, Winchester, Virginia.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Middletown, Virginia article: Martin, Joseph. *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia and the District of Columbia, 1836*. Charlottesville, VA: Moseley & Tompkins, Printers, 1835.

<sup>13</sup> *Acts and Joint Resolutions Passed By The General Assembly of the State of Virginia During The Session of 1879-80*, Richmond, 1880, page 262, Chapter 271, (1)-(12) and *Acts and Joint Resolutions Passed By The General Assembly of the State of Virginia During The Session of 1881-82*, Richmond, 1882, page 160, Chapter 156, (1)-(10).

<sup>14</sup> Map of New Middletown, Frederick County Deed Book 107, page 300.

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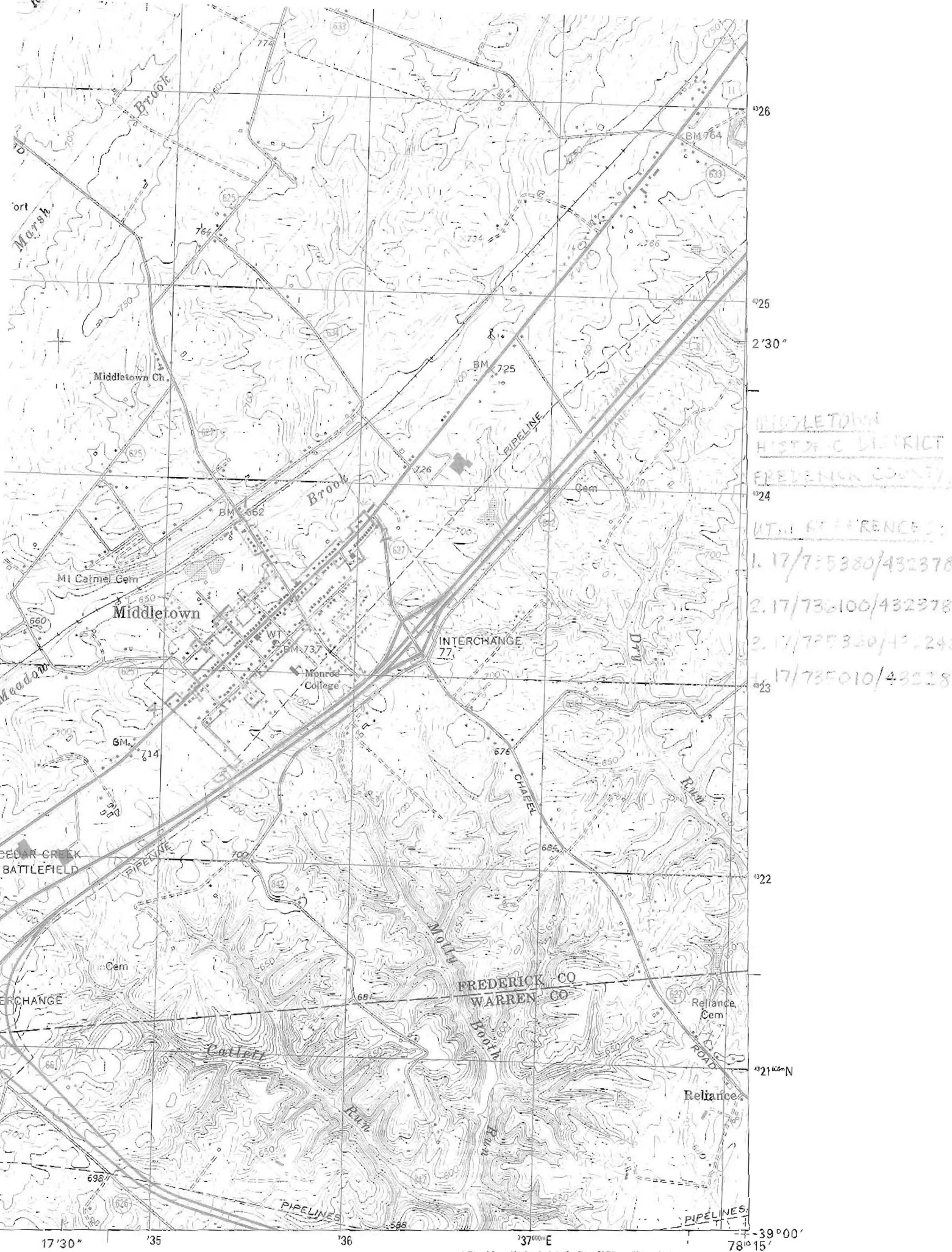
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The following information is common to all photographs.

NAME OF PROPERTY: Middletown Historic District, File No. 260-5001  
LOCATION: Frederick County, VA  
LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
PHOTOGRAPHER: Helen Lee Fletcher  
DATE: April 2002

- Photo 1: Corner of First and Main Streets. View looking northwest. Negative No. 20096:19.
- Photo 2: Corner of First and Main Streets. View looking southwest. Negative No. 20096:18.
- Photo 3: The Wayside Inn on Main Street. View looking northwest. Negative No. 20096:35
- Photo 4: Main Street from the south town limit. View looking northwest. Negative No. 20096:13
- Photo 5: The Wayside Theater on Main Street. View looking north. Negative No.20096: O
- Photo 6: Outbuilding at 1810 Rhodes Tavern, Main Street. View looking northwest. Negative No. 20096:10
- Photo 7: Church Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets. View looking south. Negative No. 20096:7
- Photo 8: Church Street and Second Street. St. Thomas Chapel in foreground. View looking northeast.  
Negative No. 20096:5
- Photo 9: Methodist Church on Senseney Avenue. View looking northwest. Negative No. 20096:24
- Photo 10: Corner of Second Street and Senseney Avenue. View looking northeast. Negative No. 20096:22
- Photo 11: Corner of Sixth and Main Streets (south town limit). View looking east. Negative No. 20096:12
- Photo 12: Main Street. View looking northeast. Negative No. 20096:15





426

425

2'30"

424

423

422

421 00m N

17'30" '35 '36 '37 00m E 78° 00' 78° 15'