



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING

Livable Frederick Planning & Design Office

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

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FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION **STAFF REPORT**

Request: Certified Local Government Evaluation of Boundary Increase to the Emmitsburg National Register District

Addresses: Various

Meeting Date: August 9, 2023

Report Date: July 20, 2023

A boundary increase to the Emmitsburg National Register District is being proposed to expand the district's significance to include Ethnic Heritage, Black history, eligible under National Register Criterion A.

Criterion A: Criterion A concerns properties associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The approximately 1.5 acres of the proposed boundary increase represents the African American community of Emmitsburg that started to be established in the early 1860s and continued through the late 1950s along the 400 block of West Lincoln Avenue.

The proposed boundary increase includes six houses, four of which are considered contributing due to their association with Black ownership or tenancy. This area contained the highest and densest concentration of Blacks in Emmitsburg. At one time the neighborhood included a "Colored School." The period of significance for the historically Black community is 1858 to 1958, with 1858 being when the first African American purchased a lot in the neighborhood.

Staff notes that additional information regarding the closure of the "Colored School" under the Black Institutions section of the nomination would help in illustrating the evolution of this community. However, the information contained within the National Register form is enough to convey the proposed area's significance to Emmitsburg.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Historic Preservation Commission recommend the boundary increase to the Emmitsburg National Register District to the County Executive and the State Historic Preservation Officer.