

The Formation of the Village of Walkersville

In the early years of the nineteenth century, many persons traveled the dirt road from Frederick to Pennsylvania. Weary travelers stopped in the quaint towns along the way to rest, purchase supplies, and tend to the needs of their horses. Before the Village of Walkersville existed, travelers had little option for supplies between Woodsboro and Ceresville.

In 1831, Isaac Walker purchased land from his father, John Walker, who was the owner of the current Walker Farm on Route 194. Isaac paid his father \$5,100, cash in hand, for 58 acres, 1 rood, and 31 perches of land. The land was part of the original land grant, Federal, and was located along the dirt road between Frederick and Woodsboro, which is Frederick Street today.

Isaac Walker laid out twenty lots to form the Village of Walkersville on either side of the well-traveled dirt road. Within a few years, Isaac sold several of the lots in the new village. In a short period of time, homes and businesses were built forming a new community and serving the needs of travelers.

In 1832, John Walker acquired lots one and two located on the north side of the village road at the corner of Frederick and Main Street. He built a two-story home for he and his wife Mary. John passed in 1841 and Mary passed in 1846. Their sons, Isaac and Jacob were the executors of their estate and sold their parent's home in the village. Simon Stauffer purchased the home, expanded the structure, and opened a dry goods store, S.W. Stauffer, to serve townspeople and travelers.

The second purchaser of town lots was William Rinehart. In 1832, he purchased lots fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen located on the south side of the village road. He built a two-story brick home for he and his family and outbuildings to operate a blacksmith and harness shop. In addition to operating a business, Mr. Rinehart was selected as the U.S. Post Master for the Village of Walkersville in 1833. His sixteen-year-old son, William, followed in his father's footsteps and worked in the family business as a blacksmith, as noted on the 1850 U.S. Federal Census. For many years the home remained in the Rinehart family. Today, this two-story white brick structure is considered the oldest standing home in Walkersville.

Jacob Bowersock purchased part of lot four and all of lot five in 1835. The lots purchased by Jacob Bowersock were located at the intersection of Fulton and Frederick Street, on the north side of the village road. Several sales occurred and in 1857 John Spurrier purchased part of lot 4 for \$350. Based on the price paid for the lot, I assumed that a house did not exist. However, John Spurrier is noted on the 1858 Frederick County Bond Map, owning land and a structure in the Village of Walkersville. In 1869, John Spurrier sold the property to the new town doctor, Dr. Maynard for \$1,500; he resided in the town for several years before relocating to the City of Frederick. In 1879, Dr. John L. Nicodemus acquired the property for his residence and medical practice that he operated for many years addressing the medical needs of the village.

Isaac Walker made his final sale of village lots to his father, John Walker, in 1839. Mr. Walker purchased lots eighteen through twenty, located on the south side of the village road at the intersection of Frederick and Crum. Mr. Walker sold the property to his daughter, Mary, and son-in-law, Edward Beck. The property housed a home, stable, and a wagon maker shop. Edward and Mary Beck both passed away in 1845. Today, Royal Chicken restaurant is located on a portion of the three original lots.

Isaac Walker sold the remaining lots, three and six through fourteen to David Kemp in 1851 for \$4,000, who sold to Thomas Bisner in 1852 for \$5,000, and Roseanne Bisner sold to John L. Nicodemus in 1860 for \$7,000. It is difficult to determine exactly where these lots were located as the stated drawing is not in the Maryland Archival records and was probably not submitted to Frederick County Courts when drafted in 1831. Subsequent sales of the land do not refer to the lot numbers drafted by Isaac Walker.

The quaint village of Walkersville situated along the well-traveled dirt road from Frederick to Woodsboro grew steadily through the decades. After the Civil War, several large additions were made to the village and many lots were sold to new towns people who brought their skills, services, and trades to the growing community.

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