

WALKERSVILLE HISTORY 1872-2014

The Old Room School House

The property where the American Red Cross building now stands, at the intersection of Frederick Street and Crum Road, was first owned by Messrs. Graham and Engler. In 1872 they sold the 1.37 acre lot to Daniel Burrier.

In 1878 Daniel Burrier sold the 1.37 acre lot to the Frederick Board of County School Commissioners.

A two-story building (66'x34') was built, containing four classrooms, (see picture above). My father, Robert N. Nicodemus, Sr. attended the school in the first decade of 1900. There was a "potbellied" stove in each school room. My father said the boys would put fire crackers in the stove and blow open the stove door. The Principal, Mr. Frank Harshman, would find the guilty persons and spank them until they screamed.

On May 26, 1924 the Board of Education of Frederick County sold the school property to my father, Robert Nelson Nicodemus, Sr. After buying the property, a 200ft x 66ft addition was added to the back of the old four room school building. When the addition was completed, a contract sewing operation became the Robert Terry Garment Company. BVD pajamas were made for a number of years. In 1948 the factory began sewing shirts for Marlboro Shirt Company in Baltimore, Md.

On June 18, 1950, my brother, Bob and I graduated from Johns Hopkins University and the two of us took over management of the sewing factory.

In 1951 we secured a contract from McGregor Sportswear located in Dover, NJ. The business flourished and we hired 110 employees and made men's sport shirts for six years, each week 600 to 800 dozen shirts were completed and shipped. The business closed in 1957, being unable to secure contracts from any manufacturing company.

The property was sold in 1958 to Standard Electric Magnetics who in turn sold the property in 1961 to the Walkersville Development Company. The partners in the Development Com-

pany were Charles Hoke, Teresa Hoke, Glenn Eaves, and Charles Nicodemus. The building was rented for 35 years to different businesses.

In 1996 the Walkersville Development Company sold the property to the American National Red Cross USA Corporation, which still owns the property today.

That concludes the 1872 to 2014 history of the property located at the intersection of Frederick Street and Crum Road. If you would enjoy learning and sharing information about the people and events of Walkersville, please contact the Walkersville Historical Society. The society can be located on Facebook and e-mail: walkersvillehistoricalsociety@comcast.net.

Charles A. Nicodemus

Walkersville Historical Society